

BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Tuesday 10 January 2023

Present

Natasha Kaplinsky	President
Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Dave Barrett	Deputy Chief Executive
Chris Davies	Compliance Manager (for items 3 and 4)
Sarah Peacock	Compliance & Education Manager (for item 3)
Faye Harcourt	Director, Marketing and Outreach (for item 3)
Emma James	Compliance Officer (for item 4)
Dan Sareen	Compliance Officer (for item 4)
Matt Tindall	Senior Policy Officer (minutes)

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes of the November and December meetings were agreed.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

Snuff Tapes

3. The Board discussed the classification of *Snuff Tapes*, a Chilean horror thriller in which an investigative journalist tries to track down the man responsible for raping and torturing multiple women. The Board considered the film's scenes of sexual violence and abuse in relation to the BBFC's strict policy on sexual and sadistic violence and agreed that it should be classified 18 with the ratings info 'sexual violence, sadistic violence, gore'.

Compliance show & tell

4. Emma and Dan joined the meeting to present two recent clips depicting borderline 15/18 violence. The Board considered these clips in light of the BBFC's upcoming consultation on its Classification Guidelines, which will – among other issues – explore public expectations around violence at the 15/18 border.
5. Dan shared a scene from the seasonal horror film *Nutcracker Massacre* in which a fantastical villain attacks a man in his kitchen, severing his testicles with the eponymous weapon. The film was classified 18 for strong violence and injury detail. The Board considered whether the scene could have been defended at 15 given the comic tone and the lack of realism, but ultimately agreed that the lingering focus on the victim's mutilated genitals meant that the film was appropriately classified at the lower end of 18 rather than the upper end of 15.
6. Emma presented a clip from an 18-rated episode of the post-apocalyptic sci-fi series *See* in which the protagonist played by Jason Momoa uses swords to dispatch a series of enemies. The extended sequence features multiple bloody slashes and throat cuts before Momoa forces a sword down an opponent's gullet. The Board considered arguments for 15 – including the fantastical context, the mitigation provided by the focus on the Momoa character's combat skills, and the lack of both strongest gore and meaningful sadism – but again concluded that the level of bloody violence was best classified at a low 18.
7. The Board will look to the findings of the Guidelines consultation for a clear steer from the public as to how the BBFC should classify such content in the future.

AOB

8. There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: 2 February 2023