

No 9 (1978)

ANDOR FILMS LIMITED

11th September 1978

Mr. James Ferman,
British Board of Film Censors,
3 Soho Square,
London W. 1.

Dear Mr. Ferman,

As you may know our practice has been to submit our screenplays to the British Board of Film Censors prior to production.

'Clash of the Titans' is attached, herewith, and is intended to be a 'Dynarama' film for Columbia Pictures Corporation.

We make our pictures for world audiences and have always been able to secure a general audience certificate.

We would appreciate your comments on this screenplay toward our achieving that end in the U.K.

Very truly yours,

Charles...
...ner

BRITISH BOARD of FILM CENSORS

3 Soho Square, London W1V 5DE

President: THE RT. HON. THE LORD HARLECH K.C.M.G.

N09(1978)

Secretary: James Ferman

Telephone: 01-437 2677/8

Telegrams: CENSOFILM, PHONE, LONDON

2nd October 1978

Dear

Thank you for sight of the script of the film CLASH OF THE TITANS. I have already spoken to your secretary, Miss , listing the points for consideration and this letter is to confirm that conversation.

As the script stands, I cannot see that the film will receive a 'U' certificate, and in fact certain scenes would appear to be unacceptable for the 'A' category although, of course, treatment is all important in this type of film. The following list contains those sequences or shots which will give difficulties for the lower categories:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| * <u>Page 30</u> | Man burning. |
| <u>Pages 47-48</u> | The lair of Calibos. |
| <u>Page 48</u> | Claw of raven dripping with fresh blood. |
| <u>Page 51</u> | The description of Calibos. |
| * <u>Page 52</u> | Creature's throat slashed open by whip. |
| <u>Page 58</u> | Amputated hand. |
| * <u>Page 96</u> | Attack by two-headed wolf dog. |
| * <u>Page 97</u> | Blood pours from man's arm. |
| * <u>Page 98</u> | Blood gush from severed head. |
| <u>Page 101</u> | Shock close-up of Gorgon and cutting open of forearm. |
| <u>Page 102</u> | Killing of an officer. |
| <u>Page 106</u> | The severing of the Medusa's head from her body. |
| <u>Page 110</u> | The pool of Gorgon's blood which becomes a writhing, squirming pool of blood-bloated maggots, etc. |
| <u>Page 113</u> | |
| * <u>Page 115</u> | The face of the huntsman, a raw bloody pulp. |
| * <u>Page 118</u> | Shots of the naked Andromeda as she is about to be sacrificed. |
| <u>Page 119</u> | The shock shot of the Kraken. |
| * <u>Page 122</u> | The Kraken tearing Pegasus to pieces. |

Continued

2nd October 1978

-two -

To confirm, the 'A' category means that children can attend without their parents, but that parents or guardians are advised that the film contains material they might prefer children under fourteen years not to see.

Yours sincerely,

ANDOR FILMS LIMITED

5th October 1978

Assistant Secretary,
British Board of Film Censors,
3 Soho Square,
London W1V 5DE.

*Telephoned Columbia
script being re-
turned today
CFLM 11/10/78*

Dear

We acknowledge receipt with thanks your letter dated October 2nd concerning your review of the screenplay of 'Clash of the Titans'.

It is unfortunate you have listed so many scenes which precludes our receiving a 'U' certificate. We just do not know what to say about this as we are endeavouring to put on the screen the classic Greek myth of 'Perseus and Andromeda'. It is necessary, of course, that we are able to secure an 'A' certificate if the Board is unable to consider a 'U'.

We would ask you to review your letter and advise us how we can ensure at least an 'A'. We well realise that much depends on the method and manner of how the scenes are portrayed.

We appreciate your further guidance in this matter so that our Director can be guided accordingly.

Your cooperation in this matter would be very much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Charles [unclear]

REG. NO. 1151269, LONDON, REGISTERED OFFICE: 26 TOWER CLOSE, EMMER GREEN, READING, BERKS.

Continued

BRITISH BOARD of FILM CENSORS

No 9 (1978)

3 Soho Square, London W1V 5DE

President: THE RT. HON. THE LORD HARLECH K.C.M.G.

Secretary: James Ferman

Telephone: 01-437 2677/8

Telegrams: CENSOFILM, PHONE, LONDON

19th October 1978

Dear

Further to my previous letter regarding the script for CLASH OF THE TITANS, I have had other examiners read the script and they have expressed similar views regarding those sequences I considered unsuitable for the lower categories.

A further breakdown showing those shots unlikely to be acceptable for the 'A' category is as follows:-

<u>Page 30</u>	Man burning.
<u>Page 52</u>	Creature's throat slashed open by whip.
<u>Page 96</u>	Attack by two-headed wolf dog.
<u>Page 97</u>	Blood pours from man's arm.
<u>Page 98</u>	Blood gush from severed head.
<u>Page 115</u>	The face of the huntsman, a raw bloody pulp.
<u>Page 118</u>	Shots of the naked Andromeda as she is about to be sacrificed.
<u>Page 122</u>	The Kraken tearing Pegasus to pieces.

Episodes which depend particularly on treatment, but carefully handled would be acceptable at 'A' although not 'U' are as follows:-

<u>Pages 47-48</u>	The lair of Calibos.
<u>Page 48</u>	Claw of raven dripping with fresh blood.
<u>Page 51</u>	The description of Calibos.
<u>Page 58</u>	Amputated hand.
<u>Page 101</u>	Shock close-up of Gorgon and cutting open of forearm.
<u>Page 102</u>	Killing of an officer.
<u>Page 106</u>	The severing of Medusa's head from her body.
<u>Page 110</u>	The pool of Gorgon's blood which becomes a writhing, squirming pool of blood-bloated maggots, etc.
<u>Page 113</u>	Sword in stomach of Calibos.
<u>Page 119</u>	The shock shot of the Kraken.

Yours sincerely,

10598.

13.11.

10585 5
12 11

Clash of the Titans -

Episodes still likely to be unacceptable at A Category

- p 30 Alive man seen burning in the middle of a fire
- p 52 Where a throat is described as being cut open by a whiplash
~~and x s i s e x w h e r e x i t e x m e b r a t t a c k~~
- p 96 Continued attack of wolf-hound on fallen soldier; wolf chewing on soldier's arm; wolf ravaging fallen man
- p 97 Blood pours from wounded arm of man
- p98 Blood gush from severed head
- p II5 Face of huntsman as a 'raw bloody pulp'
- pII8 Struggling and screaming of naked girl
- pI22 Where the Kraken tears Pegasus to pieces and rips it to death

Episodes which depend particularly on treatment, but carefully handled would be acceptable at A although not at U

~~p 10 Naked back of woman long-shot~~

p47 Skulls - probably okay

p48 Dripping claw - with blood

p 52 mob attacking animal

Calibos's hand going down Andromeda from arm to thigh

~~p~~p58 Amputated hand - treatment here very important

pI01 Medusa's face

Medusa cuts own arm

pI02 Arrow in back of soldier

pI06 Spinning shield severs Medusa's head

pII2 Where Calibos and Pegasus fight last round throat and lashes on shoulder
and chest

pII3 Sword in Calibos's stomach

pII9 full view of Kraken

16 Oct 78.

Continued

CLASH OF THE TITANS

12th March 1981

CIC (UK)

Category: 'A'

Cuts: 13 feet (9 seconds)

Country of origin: USA

Footage: 10,585 feet + 5 frames

Running time: 117 minutes

The film opens with King Argus casting his wife and her illegitimate son Perseus (Harry Hamlin) on the sea in a large wooden coffin. In fact, Perseus is the son of the great god Zeus (Laurence Olivier), who is not above turning himself into an earth being and descending from Olympus for a little fun and games. When Zeus realises what has happened he is furious and rouses the enormous monster, the Kraken, from the depths of the sea to destroy Argus and his country. He also protects Perseus and his mother and the coffin floats to the shores of Joppa where Perseus grows to manhood. Queen Cassiopeia (Sian Phillips) rules Joppa and has a daughter Andromeda (Judi Bowker), who is due to marry Calibos, the son of goddess Thetis (Maggie Smith) and Zeus (resulting from another of his indiscretions). But in another moment of anger Zeus has turned Calibos into a monster. Now Andromeda is up for grabs, but the suitor must answer a riddle or die. The riddles are given to Andromeda by Calibos who, still in love with her, summons her sleeping spirit to him each night, which is carried by an enormous bird. Perseus sees Andromeda and decides to try his luck but, fortunately for him, Zeus has equipped him with a magic helmet, shield and sword. The helmet can make him invisible, and it is in this state that he enters the sleeping Andromeda's chamber and sees her spirit being taken away by the large bird. He tells his trusty friend Aemon (Burgess Meredith) about this, and he advises him to catch Pegasus, the flying horse, and use this to follow the bird. He does, and later follows Andromeda and sees Calibos give her the riddle which, of course, he is later able to answer, thereby winning Andromeda. He has, however, a confrontation and fight with Calibos during which he chops off Calibos's hand, taking it with him to show Queen Cassiopeia. Perseus and Andromeda marry, but Thetis is furious about this and says that in thirty days Andromeda must be taken as a virgin to the sacrificial rock and offered to the Kraken or the country of Joppa will be destroyed. Perseus asks Aemon for advice and he tells him to go to the three blind Vestigian witches (Flora Robson is the leader). As they are very evil and like human flesh, Zeus is worried as Perseus has lost his magic helmet. He therefore sends him a mechanical owl called Bubo to help and guide him. Perseus duly confronts the witches and outwits them, getting from them the advice that the only way to kill the Kraken is to cut off the head of Medusa who has hair of writhing snakes and whose eyes can turn victims into stone. Perseus crosses the river Styx on the ferry of death controlled by the Skeletal Charon and after a tremendous fight cuts off the Medusa's head which he takes back to save Andromeda. On the way he is attacked by Calibos, who wants his revenge. Perseus is carrying the bag with Medusa's head in it

CLASH OF THE TITANS

(Continued - two)

and when Calibos stabs at it, blood runs out. First the blood turns into maggots and then into giant scorpions which kill some of Perseus's escort. After much fighting, Perseus vanquishes the scorpions and kills Calibos with his trident. With the help of Bubo, he also recovers Pegasus, whom Calibos had captured, and on the horse he flies to save Andromeda, who by now is tied to the sacrificial rock. As the giant Kraken advances, Perseus flies above and after much derring-do he finally turns the Kraken into stone by shining the eyes in the Medusa's severed head at it. All ends happily with Zeus saying there will be no revenge.

Freely adapted from Greek mythology, this is another film from producer Charles Schneer which again utilises the talents and effects of monster-maker Ray Harryhausen. Although their earlier work was quite stunning at the time, modern audiences used to the superb effects work in films such as STAR WARS and SUPERMAN may find this a little old hat. Nevertheless, it is well done and will give a lot of entertainment to audiences of all ages. A strong cast is also used to sell the film, but some of them, such as Ursula Andress and Claire Bloom, merely grace it by their presence.

I worked on the script of this film as the makers wanted an 'A' category, and in its earliest form it would have been at least an 'AA'. They have taken account of the advice I gave them and most of the unacceptable horror and nudity has been eliminated. For example, Andromeda would have been naked during the whole of the sacrificial climax as the Kraken threatens her. Now we only see a brief breast and back shot as she climbs from her bath. The horror shots are now reasonably acceptable for the 'A', but I am somewhat worried by the sequence of the killing of Medusa and the killing of Calibos, plus the menace of the Kraken. Other examiners are seeing Reels 5 and 6 to confirm the category.

EXCEPTIONS

CLASH OF THE TITANS

At 1.32.37 Remove cu shot of 3 pronged fork embedded in man's back.

1.33.39 After Calabos falls to knees with sword in his ~~tummy~~ ^{Stomach} remove all sight of him writhing in agony. Scene may resume at 1.33.47 just as he collapses to the ground on his ~~tummy~~. ^{Stomach}

Resubmit.