



File No: T16/1167

Australian Government
Classification Board

Decision Report

Classification decisions are made in accordance with the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* (the Act), the National Classification Code and the Classification Guidelines.

Production Details:

Title: X-MEN: APOCALYPSE
Alternate titles:
Producer/s: SIMON KINBERG / LAUREN SHULER DONNER / BRYAN SINGER / HUTCH PARKER
Director/s: BRYAN SINGER
Year of Production: 2016
Duration: 144 MINUTES
Version: ORIGINAL
Format: DCP 2D+3D
Country/ies of origin: USA
Language/s: ENGLISH
Application type: FPE3
Applicant: TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM DIST. PTY LTD

Dates:

Date application received by the Classification Board: 02 May 2016
Date of decision: 11 May 2016

Decision:

Classification: MA 15+
Consumer advice: Strong science fiction themes and violence

Synopsis:

The third instalment in the X-Men science fiction series, X-Men: Apocalypse, follows Apocalypse, the first and most powerful mutant awakening after thousands of years, as he attempts to rid the world of humankind.

Reasons for the Decision:

In making this decision, the Classification Board has applied the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (the Classification Act), the National Classification Code (the Code) and the Guidelines for the Classification of Films 2012 (the Guidelines).

In the Board's view this film warrants an MA 15+ classification as, in accordance with item 4 of the films table of the Code, it is unsuitable for viewing by persons under 15.

Pursuant to the Guidelines, this film is classified MA 15+ as the impact of the classifiable elements is strong. Material classified MA 15+ is considered unsuitable for persons under 15 years of age. It is a legally restricted category.

The classifiable elements are themes and violence that are strong in viewing impact.

The examples described below do not represent an exhaustive list of the content that caused the film to be classified MA 15+.

THEMES and VIOLENCE

The film contains strong science fiction themes and violence that are justified by context. The themes and violence are inextricably linked within the narrative of the film. The film features mutants who have various super powers including abilities such as teleportation, telepathy, super speed, weather control and magnetism. They use these abilities during fight sequences that include gun battles and martial arts style combat. The frequent depiction of injury detail imparts an impact that exceeds moderate, warranting an MA 15+ classification. Examples include but are not limited to: (times are approximate)

At 38 minutes, Apocalypse uses his mutant powers and expels sand from a nearby wall. The sand, acting as a blade, decapitates three men. The men's heads fall backward from their bodies and fall to the ground with a thud.

At 54 minutes, Apocalypse uses his powers to transform another mutant, Angel, into one of his four 'horsemen'. Angel's ribs are viewed explicitly bursting through his skin as he morphs from a stereotypical angel with white wings, to a 'dark angel' with black metallic wings; the feathers of which have become sharp blades. As his ribs protrude from his abdomen, crunching sounds are heard and Angel screams in apparent agony.

At 91 minutes, Wolverine escapes his steel confine with claw-like steel blades outstretched from his hands. An extended and frenetic fight scene implicitly depicts Wolverine stabbing and slashing at his enemies abdomens, necks and faces using his claw-like blades. Post-action visuals of multiple dead bodies are viewed with accompanied blood splatter on the walls and a dead male viewed in close-up with a blood pool beneath his face. In the following slow-motion close-up Wolverine is depicted removing two bloodied steel spikes from his abdomen.

At 118 minutes, a female character uses a glowing sword-like object to explicitly slice Apocalypse's throat, as he summons her to kill Quicksilver. A fleshy open wound is viewed before Apocalypse uses his powers to heal it.

OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED OR NOTED

The Board notes that the film contains coarse language that can be accommodated within a lower classification.

A minority of the Board is of the opinion that the impact of the themes and violence in the film does not exceed moderate. In the minority of the Board's opinion, the film therefore warrants an M classification with consumer advice of science fiction themes, bloody violence and coarse language.

The majority of the Board is of the opinion that depictions of injury detail cumulatively exceeds moderate in impact and therefore warrants an MA 15+ classification.

Decision:

This film is classified MA 15+ with consumer advice of strong science fiction themes and violence.