

WRITTEN REASON FOR DECISION SECTION 12

TITLE OF PUBLICATION: Me, Myself & Irene

OFLC REF:903

HEADNOTE

Type of Publication: Film 35mm

Title of Publication: Me, Myself & Irene

Other Known Title: Not Stated

OFLC Publication

Reference No: 903

Decision: Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 13 years.

Display Conditions: Nil.

Descriptive Note: Contains offensive language and sexual references.

The film entitled *Me, Myself & Irene* is classified as objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 13 years. This classification is due to the high level of offensive language and the presentation of matters of sex.

The film is a comedy about "Charlie", a friendly and rather non-assertive member of the Rhode Island State Police (played by Jim Carrey). Charlie develops a multiple personality disorder after years of bottling up his feelings and avoiding confrontation. His alter personality "Hank" is aggressive and obnoxious. As a state trooper Charlie is ordered to escort "Irene" to an upstate police station. The couple go on the run after it becomes evident that Irene is in danger from a former associate of hers. Charlie inadvertently leaves behind his medication causing Hank to intermittently surface. Both personalities are attracted to Irene resulting in a battle for her affections. The feature ends with the couple safe and in love.

Base level humour features throughout the film with a range of behaviour that although quite amusing is in rather poor taste. Examples of the type of schoolboy humour presented include a man asking for a price check on vaginal cream over a supermarket's loud speaker, a man

sucking on the breast of a lactating woman, a man defecating on his neighbour's lawn after the neighbour's dog defecates on his, and a man with a chicken's head up his anus (this latter depiction is clearly fake and does not promote or support or tend to promote or support bestiality in any way). A black little person, who has the IQ of a genius, and an albino waiter are also the subject of a certain amount of ridicule.

Offensive language of a strong nature features throughout the film.

Although there are no actual depictions of sexual activity, references of a sexual nature feature on a number of occasions. These references primarily take the form of comments by Hank to Irene, for example "do you swallow?" (presumably a reference to fellatio). Sexual activity using a dildo is implied via a colloquial reference to Hank inserting it into his own anus. The language used is at times of a vulgar and coarse nature.

Nothing in this publication falls under s3(2) of the FVPC Act. The Classification Office has considered all the matters in s3(3) of the FVPC Act. Of some relevance is s3(3)(a)(i). The infliction of serious physical harm is presented on one main occasion. The depiction, which is of limited overall impact, presents the main character having his thumb shot off. The depiction is unrealistic and has a humorous context to it.

The dominant effect of the film is of a comedy starring Jim Carrey. Much of the humour is immature and over-the-top. Offensive language and references of a sexual nature have a strong impact on the overall tone of the publication.

In view of the level of offensive language and the presentation of matters of sex, the Classification Office finds that the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good unless its viewing is restricted to teenagers and adults.

Written reason for decision is not required for section 12 submissions. It is the policy of the Classification Office to provide written reasons for section 12 submissions.