

## SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR DECISION

Under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act)

### HEADNOTE

<b>Title of publication:</b>	Piranha 3DD
<b>Other known title(s):</b>	Not stated
<b>OFLC ref:</b>	1200834.000
<b>Medium:</b>	DVD
<b>Classification:</b>	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
<b>Descriptive note:</b>	Contains horror, violence, sex scenes and offensive language.
<b>Display conditions:</b>	None

The DVD contains *Piranha 3DD*, a 2011 exploitation comedy/horror feature. It is the sequel to *Piranha 3D*. The DVD also contains a set of extra material, most of it related to the feature; this includes an audio commentary, outtakes, promotional segments, and behind-the-scenes material. The feature is about a previously extinct, particularly vicious type of piranha infesting Texas waterways. The lascivious owner of a water park called 'Wet and Wild' attempts to turn the park into an adult-themed water park by employing female strippers as life guards, and encouraging revelry. The swimming pools at Wet and Wild become infested with the relentlessly vicious piranhas. David Hasselhoff humorously plays himself, where he has hit 'rock bottom' by doing promotional work at Wet and Wild, and signs autographs in his *Baywatch* uniform. Christopher Lloyd plays the role of a type of scientist, as he did in *Back To The Future*.

The main matters the DVD deals with under s3(1) of the Act are sex and horror, as well as some crime and violence.

In terms of sex, the DVD deliberately attempts to be both sordid and humorous. It contains matters of sex by way of substantial and lingering shots of nudity, and frequent crass sexual references. The water park owner refers to his 'cooch cam' for instance, which shows women's naked bodies in close up on a large TV screen as they climb out of the water. Women lounge naked in and about the swimming pools. Women tell each other that a boy (man) "is going to pop her cherry". Numerous sordid double meanings refer to women being "wet". The camera focuses on women's nudity with female characters' breasts, buttocks and groin depicted. Gratuitous breast nudity features particularly prominently throughout the film. The women characters appear willing to expose themselves, with their breasts focussed upon in lingering close-up shots. As a whole, the viewer is strongly encouraged to view the female nudity as sexually arousing. Various crass sexual references are made. There are also non-explicit depictions of sexual activity. The main sex scene involves a woman weeping after her friend has died. She herself was bitten by a piranha, which lays its eggs inside of mammals. In a bedroom, she asks her boyfriend to have sex with her, saying "I don't want to die a virgin...cum inside of me...I'll do whatever you say after that". Most of their bodies are shown as he thrusts on top of her and

moans enthusiastically, and appears to nearly climax. This is interrupted when her belly contorts and she vomits. He screams and a piranha is attached to the end of his penis, which is briefly shown in detail. He cuts the end of his penis off. She steps on the fish in horror, and the severed end of the man's penis is propelled from the fish's mouth. Sexual material is frequently combined with bloody horror in this way. For example, the sleazy owner of the water park tries to make away with the money he's made when his park has turned into a bloodbath. He drives away on a motorised cart, accidentally severing his own neck as he drives through a suspended string of flags. When the car suddenly stops, his severed head flies through the air and lands between a woman's heavily bloodied breasts during a piranha attack. The camera lingers on the woman's bloody breasts jiggling while the man's severed head is nestled between them as she screams in a silly, contrived way. Degrading, dehumanising and demeaning elements to the women performers, and the manner of depiction, are discussed under s3(3)(c).

The feature contains frequent and gratuitous horrific images, including mutilated bodies that have been partially eaten by piranhas. The film's atmosphere of campy, tongue-in-cheek horror is compounded by various scenes that are filmed in a way to heighten tension in the viewer, with eerie music and sudden occurrences used to create a menacing atmosphere.

Crime is shown by way of fleeting marijuana use and police corruption. A policeman samples the marijuana, he drinks on duty, and demands bribes to turn a blind eye to events at the water park. The material has limited effect in the unrealistic, absurd context of the comedy/horror.

There is little violence directed at people in the feature, although accidental harm is caused, and people are savaged to death by piranhas, with numerous gruesome scenes. This is discussed further under s3(3)(a)(i) below.

No matters are raised in a way that is relevant to s3(2) of the Act.

Under s3(3)(a)(i) the DVD contains frequent depictions of the infliction of serious physical harm where the viewer is clearly invited to revel in the gruesome and detailed but tongue-in-cheek horror. The harm is usually absurd as well as gory and bloody, with exaggerated, tongue-in-cheek acting and scenarios. This creates a comedic effect in the manner of a b-grade splatter movie. The infliction of serious physical harm is predominantly inflicted by flesh eating piranhas that swarm a victim lay eggs inside them which later hatch, or by eating flesh from the victim. The ineptitude of rescuers and the far-fetched absurdity of the situation is a source of hammy humour, which is combined with the tension and threat of danger. While the actual infliction of serious physical harm is usually implied by plumes of blood in the water, or a wide angle shot of masses of fish swarming a victim, partially devoured bodies and gory wounds are graphically depicted. A piranha from a vagina latches onto a penis during intercourse, discussed above. A festering cow's corpse explodes from the gaseous buildup after a man holds a lighter to it to see. It was infested with piranha eggs, and the man is shown with numerous small piranhas embedded in his face, tails sticking out. Although these gory depictions are presented in a contrived and at times ridiculous context, the images have a strong impact on the viewer. For example, severed limbs are shown floating in the water, and people scream and thrash to get away from the killer fish. A boy's head is eaten off in one bite by a piranha that takes to land, and blood sprays from where his head was. A man wades from the water holding a largely eaten corpse, with only some flesh remaining on the bones. A man is accidentally and graphically speared through the eye.

Under s3(3)(c) the manner in which women and men are presented demeans and dehumanises them to a degree. Nudity, particularly the numerous crass, ogling shots of women, and crass sexual references made by men, has a demeaning and dehumanising effect because it reduces

women to mere sexual objects for the benefit of the male gaze. Men are shown to be sexually opportunistic and slightly exploitative, and this is presented as funny. Many of the depictions reinforce dehumanising stereotypes, where women do not mind being presented only as sexual objects, and men taking advantage of this is presented as humorous. However, the extent of the demeaning and dehumanising effect is reduced by the film's self-consciously facile humour and positioning as a light-hearted exploitation comedy/horror with an absurd premise and farcical treatment of other elements such as horror and gore.

Under s3A the feature and other material on the disc contains frequent use of highly offensive language, including the term "fuck" and its derivatives, which are usually employed as jocular slang or colloquial superlatives.

The dominant effect of the feature is a gory, tongue-in-cheek exploitation comedy/horror that emphasises gruesome deaths, humorously ridiculous scenarios and horror alongside gratuitous female nudity and an irreverent treatment of sex.

The unrestricted availability of the DVD is likely to be injurious to the public good. This is due to how it deals with sex, horror and depictions of serious physical harm, and combines this with a somewhat demeaning and dehumanising treatment of sex and women's nudity. It is likely that children and younger teenagers will be disturbed by the film's many gory and horrific images. It is also likely that the images could desensitise children and teenagers to violence due to the high degree and extent of the infliction of serious physical harm depicted. The frequent, demeaning and dehumanising shots of female nudity and crass sexual references, as well as one of the sex scenes, are likely to adversely affect teenagers' attitudes. The material is likely to influence their attitudes by creating unrealistic and negative expectations of women, and have a negative impact on their attitudes towards about themselves, others and sexuality. Adults are able to put the mildly demeaning and dehumanising elements of the DVD into context. They will appreciate the DVD as a puerile, tongue-in-cheek exploitation comedy/horror, because of experience and maturity that younger people do not possess. Therefore the DVD is restricted to an audience that is at least 18 years of age.

**Note:**

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Work Items - 23

Menu

Publication Search Screen - Publication

Reset

Outline Requests Addresses Related Publications Versions Decisions History

## Publication Outline for Piranha 3DD

Print Summary Add Record

Publication Number: 1200324.000

\* Publication Title: Piranha 3DD

Other Known Titles:

\* Submission Channel: s12(1)

\* Medium: DVD

Is Associated Advertising?:

Language:

Abkhazian  
Afar  
Africans  
Albanian

Add >>  
<< Remove

English

Country of Origin:

Afghanistan  
Albania  
Algeria  
American Samoa

Add >>  
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United States

Film Festival Name:

Add

CRN:

Date of Court Order:

Publication Status: Complete

Assigned To:

Examination Transcript No: 414

ISBN:

Record Source: CDA

### File Notes

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Date:

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File Note:

### Fee Details

Expected Fee (\$): 1124.40

Base Fee (\$): 1124.40

Less (-)

Plus (+)

Fee Waiver:

Urgency Amount (\$):

Recovery (\$):

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Menu Back

Publication Search Screen > Publication Reset

[Outline](#)
[Requests](#)
[Addressees](#)
[Related Publications](#)
[Versions](#)
[Decisions](#)
[History](#)

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Menu Back


Publication Search Screen > Publication Reset

[Outline](#)
[Requests](#)
[Addressees](#)
[Related Publications](#)
[Versions](#)
[Decisions](#)
[History](#)

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- [Film & Video Labelling Body](#) Applicant
- [Roadshow Entertainment \(NZ\) Ltd](#) Applicant to Labelling Body, Distributor
- [Mark Canton](#) Producer
- [Marc Toberoff](#) Producer
- [John Gulager](#) Director

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Menu

Publication Search Screen • Publication

Reset

Outline

Requests

Addressees

Related Publications

Versions

Decisions

History



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Work Items = 23

Menu v



Publication Search Screen - Publication

Reset

- Outline
- Requests
- Addresses
- Related Publications
- Versions
- Decisions
- History

## Publication Versions for Piranha 3DD

1200834.000 DVD

Add Version

Clone Version

Remove

Version 1

Publication Copied:  Date Copied: 06/09/2012

Add Excision

Add Component

Remove

* type	* Description	Running Time	
		Mins	Secs
<input type="checkbox"/> Feature(s)	Piranha 3DD	79	18
<input type="checkbox"/> Timed component(s)	Deleted Scenes	2	21
<input type="checkbox"/> Timed component(s)	The Story Behind The DD	7	32
<input type="checkbox"/> Timed component(s)	The Hofftastic World Of David Hasselhoff	2	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Timed component(s)	Busey's Sloopers	1	57
<input type="checkbox"/> Timed component(s)	Wet And Wild With David Koschner	1	33
<input type="checkbox"/> Timed component(s)	A Lesson With John	3	44
<input type="checkbox"/> Untimed component(s)	Commentary		

Total Running Time

98:30

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Menu

Publication Search Screen > Publication

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Outline Requests Addressees Related Publications Versions **Decisions** History



## Decisions for Piranha 3DD

#100834.000 DVD

### Decision Summary

Clone Con Sheet

Create Date	Body	Classification	Type	Excision Status
3/10/2012	<u>OFLC</u>	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.	No Excisions	

### Consultation

Consultation Required:

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Consideration Sheet



s12 Summary of Reasons



Direction to Issue a Label



Register Page



Reset

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Publication

Welcome S9(2)(a)

Work Items = 23

Menu

Publication Search Screen > Publication > Decision

Reset

Delete

Outline



## Decision for Piranha 3DD

1200834.000 DVD

\* Classification type:

Standard  Customized

Publication Status: Complete

No Exemptions Decision

Classification Body:

DFLC

Version Number:

1

\* Standard Classification:

R18

Descriptive Note:

Honor, violence, sex scenes and offensive language

Summary of Reasons for Classification (Register Page):

Not applicable

Date Decision Registered:

08/10/2012

Additional Information:

### Display Conditions

s27(5) Display Conditions:

Add

s27(5) Display Conditions on any film poster:

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Menu

Publication Search Screen > Publication

Reset

Outline Requests Addressees Related Publications Versions Decisions **History**

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1200834.000 DVD

### Status History

Status	User Name	Date
Complete	S9(2)(a)	07/11/2012
Decision Registered		08/10/2012
Classified & Signed		05/10/2012
Decision Affirmed		05/10/2012
Draft Complete		03/10/2012
Drafting Decision		02/10/2012
Examined		02/10/2012
Examining		02/10/2012
Queued		05/09/2012
Logged		05/09/2012

### Publication Movements

Add

Movement	User Name	Date	Notes
<u>Pub Received</u>	S9(2)(a)	05/09/2012	
<u>Pub Dispatched</u>		08/10/2012	Returned to labelling body
<u>Final Docs Dispatched</u>		08/10/2012	
<u>Disposal Action Destroy</u>		08/10/2012	

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