

WRITTEN REASONS FOR DECISION SECTION 12

TITLE OF PUBLICATION: House Of Wax

OFLC REF:500951

HEADNOTE

Type of Publication:	Film 35mm
Title of Publication:	House Of Wax
Other known title:	Not Stated
OFLC Publication Reference No:	500951
Decision:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
Display Conditions:	Nil.
Descriptive Note:	Contains horror scenes. Contains violence.

The publication *House Of Wax* is classified as objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years. This restriction is mainly due to the publication's treatment of matters of horror, violence and cruelty.

The publication is a contemporary horror/splatter film. Six university students in two vehicles take a country back road on the way to a college football game. They include Carly Jones, her boyfriend Wade, her twin brother Nick, and friends Paige and Blake. After an encounter with a country bumpkin whose job it is to collect road-killed animals, equipment goes missing and one car is immobilised. The bumpkin leads Wade and Carly to a strange small town where they meet garage owner Bo Sinclair. Bo and his twin brother Vincent had grown up in the town. They had been Siamese twins until their father, a disgraced doctor, had surgically separated them, causing disfigurement to Vincent. As a child Vincent had been physically abused by his parents especially his deranged mother Trudy, who ran an exhibition called the House of Wax. The twins were unstable and eventually killed all the members of the small town and made wax statues from their bodies. The university friends are systematically killed until Nick and Carly eventually overcome Bo and Vincent. The film is over-the-top and formulaic but contains some genuinely scary moments, mainly through the state-of-art special effects.

Under s3(1) of the FVPC Act the publication deals with matters of horror, violence, cruelty and sex. The film deals with sex in a very limited manner. There are occasional sexual references, one of which leads to a pre-coital scene. Blake tells Dalton and Nick that he wants to "fuck" Paige and sends them in his car to pick up Wade and Carly. Paige does a striptease in her underwear for Blake. They are disturbed by Vincent who eventually kills them both. The sexual content in the film is mildly titillating and just a part of the tense horror and violence context discussed below.

Specifically considered under s3(3)(a)(i) of the FVPC Act are the extent and degree to which, and the manner in which, the publication describes, depicts, or otherwise deals with acts of torture, the infliction of serious physical harm and acts of significant cruelty. Nothing in this film falls under s3(2) of the FVPC Act.

The film contains a number of depictions of acts of horrific cruelty and violence that escalate in degree as the film progresses. The horror context is conveyed by stock-in-trade techniques and some clever special effects. Characters are pursued and attacked suddenly, and the audience is aware of the horrible consequences of their capture. Special effects are used to show people who have been turned into wax figures while still alive. In one early scene the process is shown in detail as Wade is prepared and sprayed in wax while injured, but alive. Later his face is grabbed by Carla who notices his moving eyes and the wax comes off with his skin revealing facial organs and teeth. All of the violent acts are preceded by eerie music and accompanied by loud sound effects.

Much of the violence is gory with elements of cruelty. It is presented in an over-the-top manner that is conventional for its genre. People are suddenly stabbed, impaled, and decapitated with stakes or knives. Prosthesis and props representing bodies, carcasses and encased embryos add to the gruesome ambience. While typical of this genre some presentations seem excessive. In the opening scene Vincent as a child is strapped to a highchair and struggles to the extent that his wrists are cut and bleeding. In another scene Bo captures Carly and straps her to a chair. When he hears Nick arriving he superglues her lips together. She attempts to signal Nick by wiggling a finger through a vent but Bo cuts it off with side-cutters. Blood oozes from the wound. In the penultimate scene Carly smashes Bo about the head numerous times and until he is a bloody pulp. Most of the violence is conveyed through slick editing and loud special effects. In fact the most notable impact of the latter scene is the incredible special effects that show Nick and Carly attempting to escape from the melting wax building.

The publication is a predictable and formulaic horror film with some eye-catching special effects. The regular depictions of thoughtless violence and cruelty are likely to distress children, and injure them, and impressionable young persons to this type and degree of violence. While in the context of a standard horror film made for the older teen market some presentations seem particularly gruesome and gratuitous. Older teenagers and adults are more likely to be familiar with the genre conventions and be less affected by these contrived presentations. Therefore the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good unless it is restricted to persons over the age of 16 years.

Written reasons are not legally required for section 12 submissions, but it is the policy of the Classification Office to provide them.

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Date	13/6/05	OFLC Ref	500951
Applicant	FURS		
Applicant to Labelling Body	Roadshow Film Distributors		
Title (On Screen)	House of Wax		
Other Known Title	Not stated		
Director/s	Jaume Collet-Serra		
Producer/s	L. Levin, Susan Levin, Joel Silver, Robert Zemeckis		
System Format	Film 35mm	Country of Origin	USA.
Language/s	English		

Classification	R16	Closed	16/6/05
Descriptive Note	Contains horror scenes. Contains violence.		
Excision/s	N/A	Date Cleared	
Total Running Time	175.49	Total Running Time after Excisions	N/A

6.00

Werner Bros Pictures
 Village Roadshow
 Dark Castle Entertainment

hot wax in sawdust
 - found into mould of face -> F
 white lip

kid splinter pit
 high heels
 - bloody on edge of high chair
 - rubbing on edge - stains mae/le brother
 House of Wax

Present Day
 Diner - Paris Hilton + other F

3.46

o -> road trip
- brother has to come. Blake - part his
head

Blake - GP in car

Yacht course

♀ please don't film me

Nick - shaved head

Page (Paris) in car - video film

6.24

- rock music

Wade - long hair

detail / "short cut" - back country road

implied fidgets - deep lip balms

cell phones

8.18

- college game

Trudy's Hours of Wax

- Nick problem with sister Corly

Page + Corley

- pregnant

- not going to marry you - parent want let

him - Blake

Park by side of road - Nick - nice arm

- scratches

"asshole"

11.28

Nick steals car - kick off football team

- surrounded by idiots

- evil turn

head smell

Bo / Unsent "caps pants"

head full video images

Blake & Nick - rush to steal car

Paige dresses Vincent up

15.20 - tents on ground - large 4WD arrives
- creepy

Nick smokes headlight with beer bottle

asleep - tent

- loud noise

Samara watching

Carley awake Wade

RC

18.19

- I brief shorts - hears noise
- scary moment

morning / Early afternoon 2.30 - was the damn game

Bo - camera missing

Car cable broken - Samara feeling with me

Carley & Paige - pit of dead animals - hand in pit

pick up truck dead deer carcass - badly decomposed

- pulls at hand in pit - cryes need a hand

Wade

22.44

back country access

Garrett - Bo - station in Ambrose

15" Garrett

Wade & Carley go with Lillibilly

Carley changes shirt - " " watches

Nick

"clean shirt for a living"

Carley pickup - Hillbilly - looks furiously at Carley
no truck ~~door~~ handles / window

blood splatters on rear window - roadkill

348

animals

- fancy knife
- Large Bowie knife - steps suddenly
- bloody
- 'Waltz Horse of Airway'
- hillbilly upset
- feel like an asshole

Wade
Wade in heavy traffic

30.20

Miss Ambrose Beauty Pageant

- petrol station - nobody in town
- cell call
- nobody in street - had movie camera
- go to church
- funeral

30 James station - Judy fan belt
- someone very special to me kissed

Wade - jealous - Justice asshole

34.21

House of Wax

- malds body
- breasts
- dermid mask

RC

'Closed' sign
- made of wax - floor/walls/models

Trudy & husband - House of Wax
- N/A decisions
- real day scenes Wade

Vincent on artworks
- a little weird

38.28

→ at window

C. sees Wade outside

- trying to open cellar
- kitchen
- knock on window Carla screams
- run off
- Wade's brother/Dad go

41.33

Nick friend - Doctor

- Bo - grabbed at house - delirious
- everything unlabeled - Trudy artist
- one of Trudy's keys - father Doctor medical problems
- Trudy - cyst in brain wet crazy
- Dr St Clare - blew his head right off

Wade + Bo go inside house

45.19

- have dash - low lights

Nick covered for Doctor - place Ambrose not on GPS

- animal embryos in jars - files
- Dr Sinclair
- surgical instruments - drill - bed with steps
- motor headlight

48.45

- lights go out
door locked - Wade

- Slicer used to cut artery above ankle
- stabbed in chest artery as
- very bloody / dark tries to crawl away
- kick to head in floor

Carley on cell phone

- Bo angry - get damn doc
- break car window - grabs Carley's leg
- tries to escape with her back - runs off

Wade dragged away - Carley forgotten

- injection in skin - clothes cut off
- skin stretched
- Stuffed on bed - head mark - strips hair from face

Carley lower lit up
preening / meowing needles
- spray wax over body

55.53

350

Camera pans back

RC

56.40

Carley in church
- all wax models

hand breaks off

Trudy Snelter - sense

58.08

Bo at door Chris cigarette
- sorry mamma - people have no respect

Carley hides

under cushions of front - caught by
Carley - someone at window - what are you
going to do to me!

Dalton + Nick arrive

60.43

Carley strapped in chair
- scanner Bo's hand - in basement
- knife at throat
Mamee's going there - warns

63.14

Bo - Superficial on lips - blows drug
- taped on door left
Nick threatens Bo

finger snipped off with side-cutters

bleeding profusely
- tries to hit back with
struggle with Bo - runs off after punch
blood oozes from finger

67.15

Dalton
Dan (Bo) at house of War.
- Wadd at piano

eyes more
 - looks off one to reveal more.
 - shee ~~to~~ face - side of face fall of
 Dutton - head cut off
 long-level insect lenses Leadless body

70.05 waxed alive Dutton / Ben
 - turns them into wax.

woman at curtain
 TV on - was rigged body
 - "at least 20 more"

Blake & Paige in tent
 - discharges to underwear.

'Sassy' song
 - music stops
 - message on piece of celery

Vincent in tent

74.34
 - Blake knife in neck - large knife - bloody
 - Paige runs off - loud sound effect
 - Paige discovers all all places - large.
 - stabbed in leg - knife through groin
 - runs off hides in car with
 roof
 - Vincent walks by - hides in car hits the
 face vase
 red thorns through head - very
 bloody returns to same sweater
 - driver hole through head - sucking noise
 - cross

Re

78.50 Bo with shotgun

- runs into crime - was figures
 - whatever happened to Baby Jane
 - audience - Bo counts heads of
 audience - 50
 - Bo shot in arm with crowbar -

80.58

Shells Bo dead? through heart
- empty shells - ammo
check

84.12
Nick Ambrose
- Nick to get all three
- phase out seat of WWS - gone
- go in quick

Nick pauses at door
- a casing disintegrates
seeds for key
- Simone must search at both

88.28
Bo comes - wounded but alive
comes through body - remains face
can slowly very bloody

Nick finds cellar
Bo vomits
- cuts off arrow shaft

Pick up arrows - threat with Page & Ricketts
bodies "Thought I told him"

9.20
Bo a Jim
- fuzzy fresh
- spoon over candle - melts wax as
see
- what good took away from you

2 more
Bo discovers break-in

Nick finds Cely
- go into the cellar
- large fan/generator - runs bus

DC
Bo realizes unless Nick is
- better on wax machine
- breaks off head

95.40

Vincent with knife
- fight large fire breaks out

Wade - fire uses
Bo vs Wade

- punches C. - large fire breaks out
- head butt
- stragles
- pulls at crows in
- W. stabbed in eye
- baseball bat very bloody - kind effect

Smarter face

99.25

Vincent run to bath
- wax stairs
- models melt

100.20

- steam melt
- roof - cut wax begins
- not a fresh Lewis
- Wade struggles up stairs
- reverses hallway
- shackle end slung in side 400dy
- falls multistage fire
- tandy melts

rip down ^{wax} wall well

great speed effect - try to

crawl through sludge

large explosion

105.00

bodies dangle in flames

- Police/ambulance site
- forensic camera

106.00

Shelf hooks from fire
- stole video camera

Smadar Gandy has 3.00 - waves self
Neha Galy

108.08

credits

rock music

354

109.00

Stylus cules
10 long - eye
3 or 4 branches - actin / pedes
Quercus

2005

113.44

Handwritten notes in a cursive script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is mostly illegible due to fading and overlapping lines.

2005