

WRITTEN REASON FOR DECISION SECTION 12

TITLE OF PUBLICATION: *Species*

OFLC REF :9501305

Submission Procedure:

This 35mm film was submitted to the Office of Film and Literature Classification (OFLC) by the Labelling Body for classification under s.12 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (the Act).

Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the film is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years, or who are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Descriptive Note:

Contains sex scenes.

Display Provisions:

Nil.

Contents of the Film:

The film entitled *Species* has a total running time of 109 min 19 seconds. Set in Los Angeles, it is a science fiction action movie with elements of horror and suspense. The plot revolves around "Sil", an alien in human form, and the hunt for her by a specially selected group of people.

A covert American research programme called SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) has made contact with an intelligent alien race. The race gives the researchers an altered sequence of DNA which they in turn place into a human ovum. The result is a being who grows into a prepubescent girl in a short space of time. When the director of the organisation, Fitch (played by Ben Kingsley), decides to terminate the experiment by gassing the girl, she escapes. Fitch calls in a special agent, two scientists and an empath (a person

who has the power to project their personality into another, comprehending their emotions) to help him track down and kill the alien called Sil.

The group follow the trail of destruction left in Sil's wake. Now a fully grown woman, this involves Sil killing several people in both her human and alien form. It soon becomes apparent that Sil is attempting to mate with a human male in order to reproduce. In making a selection she kills two men. These scenes involve female nudity including views of the female actor's breasts. Sil stages her death by cutting her finger off, placing it inside a car with a kidnapped woman, and then blowing up the car. The group believe Sil has been killed, but when she engages in sexual intercourse with one of the scientists in the group and kills him, the chase begins in earnest. They locate the alien form of Sil in the sewers under a hotel. After she gives birth, she and her baby are killed with the use of a flame thrower and a shotgun by the special agent. The film ends with the implication of a rat developing into some mutant form of the alien after eating the remnants of one of Sil's tentacles.

The soundtrack of the recording includes dialogue and music. The music is evocative of suspense and atmospheric in style. The dialogue is in English language.

Relevant Criteria:

All criteria under Section 3 were considered and the following criteria were found to be relevant to the decision.

s.3(3)(a)(i) Acts of torture, the infliction of serious physical harm, or acts of significant cruelty:

In consideration of this section scenes depicting the infliction of serious physical harm are noted. These include the following:

- The attempted gassing of Sil as a young girl.
- Sil killing various characters in both her human and alien forms including: throwing a man against the inside wall of a railway carriage, pulling a female railway attendant into a pulsating cocoon, her tongue breaking through the back of a man's head as he tries to kiss her, drowning a man in a hot tub, crashing and exploding a gasoline filled car occupied by a kidnapped female passenger.
- Sil cutting her thumb off with a pair of secateurs.
- Sil and her baby being killed with a combination of a flame thrower and shotgun.

These scenes involve a medium level of violence. Often, the violent acts involve Sil in her human form attacking a victim with the alien parts of her body. The most intense depiction of the infliction of serious physical harm involves the attempted gassing of Sil as a young girl and her cutting her thumb off with a pair of secateurs as a fully grown woman. In the first instance the viewer sees the distress of a young girl as she is being gassed. The director of the research team is crying because of the activity. At this point in the feature the viewer does not know that the young girl is an alien being. The girl suddenly breaks through the glass and escapes. The scene is several minutes long and tension is built up with shots of men in white coats approaching the girl's hexagonal glass cage carrying cyanide gas. While the viewer sees the distress on the girl's face, the degree of intensity is offset by the emotion expressed

by the research director as her death approaches and by her escape. The scene is later placed within a science fiction context when the viewer is told that the girl is in fact an alien. The scene is presented in a manner where the viewer sees the realistic depiction of a young girl's fear at being gassed, though, the purpose of the act is placed within a certain context later in the film.

In the second instance the viewer sees worm-like filaments grow out of Sil's thumb and form into a new digit, after she has severed it with a pair of secateurs. Though special effects are evident, the activity has considerable impact upon the viewer due to the deliberate nature of the act and the focus placed upon the activity. This scene is presented in a manner to shock the viewer as well as demonstrating the lengths to which Sil is willing to go in order to achieve her objectives during the feature.

The remainder of the scenes of violence that depict the infliction of serious physical harm are brief, are not overtly focused upon by the camera, and are presented in a fast paced editing style. This often involves the camera initially focusing on a victim, cutting away at the point of impact, and then returning the focus onto the dead body. Special effects synonymous with science fiction, such as computer animated images, models, and sound effects, also feature prominently with these violent acts. These involve the character of Sil attacking a victim in both her human and alien forms. These factors tend to lessen the degree of intensity from the depictions involved due to locating the acts within a science fiction context lacking in realism. The music accompanying these scenes is dramatic and suspenseful in nature, adding to the viewer's sense of danger.

The violent actions of Sil are placed within the context of her character being an alien creature who resorts to violence when threatened in any way. The violent actions of the group of people organised to kill Sil are given the context of them protecting both themselves and the human race from the dangers of an alien creature let loose on society. Given this context the depiction of the infliction of serious physical harm is presented in a manner to develop the malevolent character of the alien, and advance this theme in terms of the plot of the film. The violent actions are also used to provide a sense of action and suspense to the viewer.

s3(3)(a)(i) Sexual violence or sexual coercion, or violence or coercion in association with sexual conduct:

Three scenes in the feature involve the depiction of sexual violence and/or violence in association with sexual conduct. The first involves Sil killing a man using her tongue to break through the back of his head while he is kissing her. Prior to this, the man has told Sil to undress. She does so, and the viewer sees views of her breasts. The man then forces himself upon Sil. She indicates at this point that she wishes his advances to stop, but the man grabs her head and kisses her. She then kills him as described above. This scene contains elements of sexual violence by the man, and violence in association with sexual conduct by Sil. The scene is several minutes in duration with a build up of tension achieved through the man's treatment of Sil which culminates in her violent retaliation. The use of special effects at the end of the scene tends to lessen the degree of harshness of the man's death. The scene is presented in the manner of a realistic depiction of a man forcing himself upon a woman without her consent.

In the second scene Sil drowns a man in a hot tub, while trying to engage in sexual intercourse with him following preliminary sexual activity. The viewer sees tentacles come out of her body, surround the man, and enter his mouth. Eventually, the man drowns and blood is visible in the hot tub. The scene is a few minutes long and while there is some focus on the man's body in the water, this is interspersed with shots of the group of people chasing after Sil approaching the house. This builds up tension in the scene as the people approach the house only to find out that they have arrived too late. The scene is presented in a manner to advance the theme of Sil wanting to procreate.

The final scene involves Sil engaging in sexual intercourse with one of the scientists from the group chasing her, before killing him. After intercourse Sil immediately becomes pregnant as is evidenced by the tentacles coming out of her body. As the scientist realises his predicament, Sil places her hand over his mouth, and the camera cuts away. His body is found by the remainder of the group in the hotel room. The scene is less than a minute long and, in terms of degree, the depiction is not presented as excessive or harsh due to the cut away nature of the action. The scene is again presented in a manner to advance the theme of Sil's character wanting to reproduce.

Special effects feature heavily in each of the above scenes. For example in the second and third scenes the tentacles are seen protruding from Sil's human body during the activity. Each scene is placed within the context of Sil's character wanting to find a mate in order to reproduce. The first man is killed because of his treatment of Sil and his unsuitability as a mate, the second dies after she tries to unsuccessfully copulate with him in the manner of her own species, and the third is killed after the scientist realises that Sil is pregnant. The scenes depicting sexual violence and/or violence in association with sexual conduct are presented in a manner to develop this reproductive theme in the plot rather than endorsing such behaviour.

s3(4)(a) The dominant effect of the publication as a whole:

The dominant effect of the publication is the presentation of a science fiction action movie with elements of horror and suspense. This includes scenes of violence and the depiction of female nudity including views of breasts.

s3(4)(b) The impact of the medium in which the publication is presented:

The 35 mm film format of the recording will allow the material described above to be viewed on a large screen intended for public viewing. It is technically well-produced and has high quality audio-visuals. The use of sophisticated editing and amplified dolby sound that accompany the feature intensify the impact of the images presented to the viewer.

s3(4)(c) The character of the publication, including any merit, value, or importance that the publication has in relation to literary, artistic, social, cultural, educational, scientific, or other matters:

It is considered that the film has some artistic and technical merit in that it is well produced, uses high quality audio-visuals and state of the art special effects, and evocative music.

s3(4)(d) The persons, classes, or age groups of the persons to whom the publication is intended or is likely to be made available:

It is considered that the film is intended or likely to be made available to teenagers and adults.

s3(4)(e) The purpose for which the publication is intended to be used:

It is considered that the film would be viewed for the purpose of entertainment and is intended for cinematic release.

Reason for Decision:

The feature presents a science fiction action movie with elements of horror and suspense including scenes of violence and the depiction of female nudity involving views of breasts. The scenes of violence involve people being killed by an alien creature in both its human and extraterrestrial form, and the use of a flame thrower and shotgun. Three scenes also present violence in association with sexual conduct involving the alien creature killing men while in the process of choosing a mate for reproductive purposes. The depictions of violence are not explicit, are brief in extent, are not overtly focused upon by the camera, and involve the use of special effects. The scenes depicting violent actions are used to heighten the viewer's sense of danger and suspense. These scenes are not presented in a manner or to an extent and degree that warrants further concern other than the restriction given to the recording. After consideration of the relevant criteria under Section 3 of the Act, the film is classified as objectionable except if the availability of the film is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years, or who are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Decision dated: 21 October 1995

Signed (classification officer)

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.

DATE 2 / 8 / 95	COMPUTER NO. 9501305
TIME EXAMINATION COMMENCED 9-25	TIME EXAMINATION FINISHED
TITLE (ON SCREEN) SPECIES	
COMMON TITLE (IF ANY) Not Stated	
CAST Ben Kingsley, MICHAEL MADSEN, ALBERTO MOLINA	
DIRECTOR ROGER DONALDSON	LANGUAGE ENGLISH
SYSTEM/FORMAT FILM 35MM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN USA
EXCISIONS	DATE CLEARED
DECISION/CLASSIFICATION R P 16	
REMARKS	
TOTAL RUNNING TIME 109:19	TOTAL RUNNING TIME AFTER EXCISION

PROD: FRANK MANCUSO JR.
DENNIS FELDMAN

00-00

Swan as SPECIES

Frank Mancuso

Roger Donaldson FILM.

SPECIES.

0017

BEN KINGSLEY

MICHAEL MADSEN

ALBERTO MOLINA

FRANK MANCUSO JR.

1.2a: CEMENTS CWT.

1.4: ANSON

2.0: CEMENTS CWT.

2.4: WADAN USAGE

3.0: SUPER W.

FROM MOUSE IN

DONNS ANSON P

ROGER POWERS

3.3: SPT. SPT. FOR H2 1 - 30 WADAN W.
ROOMS.

3.5: R/M CWT - IN SPT.

4.0: CWT IN CEMENT - NEW CEMENT W.

4.5: SPT CEMENT ROOM

1:57: Man in (door) down corridor. about 12:00.

2:15: Arrive 30 mins - Man says 1 M song -
all started.

3:47 - 6:15 into room - Man comes

5:47: All cars - other new car down

6:00: call in monitor - all night

6:20: animals minus man, some car, non from own

6:40: 9:10 runs.

6:50: car to car¹² 1 down, 11:45: 11:45 - Man in
room.

7:10: 5:00 5:00 - Sounds as cars + 11:45: 11:45

7:30: 11:45 11:45 - 11:45, 11:45, 11:45
11:45 11:45

8:00: 11:45 11:45

8:15: 11:45 11:45 → 11:45 11:45

8.11: Gena ad napa - napa napa - napa ad.

9.11: Gena n sapa - napa n napa n napa n napa n.

10.11: Gena napa napa napa napa napa napa napa n.

11.11: napa n napa napa n

12.11: napa napa napa n napa napa napa n napa napa n

13.11: napa napa napa n napa n napa n - napa n.

14.11: napa napa napa n napa n napa n napa n napa n napa n.

15.11: napa napa napa n napa n napa n.

16.11: napa napa napa n napa n napa n.

17.11: napa napa napa n napa n napa n napa n napa n.

18.11: napa napa napa n napa n napa n napa n.

19.11: napa napa napa n napa n napa n napa n.

20.11: napa napa napa n napa n napa n.

11:30 AM, 2:30 PM → 2:30 PM

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM → 12:30 PM

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM → 1:00 PM

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM → 1:30 PM

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM → 2:00 PM

15:00 - 15:30 → 15:30
ROOM - 1001

15:30 - 16:00

M/C

16:00 - 16:30 → 16:30

16:30 - 17:00 → 17:00

17:00 - 17:30 → 17:30

17:30 - 18:00 → 18:00
18:00 - 18:30 → 18:30

18:30 - 19:00 → 19:00

18.44: am 5 curve, lms noon

18.45: 2M Wilson, various cases - Brown

18.46: am 602 W, Sam - various US.

18.48: lms, various, wno to R. B. B.

19.01: new 1974 2211 - structure w- RNA, Sam

19.06: 3M 1973 - various masses, Sam

19.08: 3M various from M..., new structure w DNA

19.31: new DNA structure, low w..., 7...

19.51: am 602 W, SU, cases with...

20.14: a/m new down - curve, am 602 W, new structure, - Pe...

20.18: 3 cases - 602 W, - various - structure...

20.20: return to various cases - new structure - new...

25:15: 9th ISLME - WOV.

25:00: Man ... SIC - ...

25:31: ...

25: ...

25: ...

25: ...

25: ...

25:30: ...

25: ...

26:15: ...

26:53: ...

27.30. 2nd year program was in LA.

27.40. A/M was was on 2nd - 1st year process, current
0 min.

28.12. 2nd's R/M's program - was on 2nd - 1st year

28.40. CAS - program was on 2nd - 1st year

29.12. current program (1st and 2nd) - was on 2nd - 1st year

29.40. A/M was on was on 2nd - 1st year program of 1st
year.

30.12. was on 2nd - 1st year - was on 2nd - 1st year

30.40. A/M was on was on 2nd - 1st year - was on 2nd - 1st year

31.12. was on 2nd - 1st year - was on 2nd - 1st year

31.40. was on 2nd - 1st year

31.50. was on 2nd - 1st year

32.00. was on 2nd - 1st year

32.10. was on 2nd - 1st year

alc.

32.17: 15th commences - E commences.

32.18: Annals of...

32.19: D... - ...

32.20: ... → ...

32.21: ... - ...

32.22: ... - ...

32.23: ...

32.24: ...

32.25: ...

32.26: ...

32.27: ...

3776: \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans - \sqrt{m} ans - \sqrt{m} ans - \sqrt{m} ans
A ans. - \sqrt{m} ans

3777: \sqrt{m} ans on \sqrt{m} ans - \sqrt{m} ans on \sqrt{m} ans

3778: \sqrt{m} ans \rightarrow \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans - \sqrt{m} ans

3779: \sqrt{m} ans \rightarrow \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans

3780: \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans

3781: \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans - in \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans
 \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans

3782: \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans - \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans

3783: \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans, \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans

3784: \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans - \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans - \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans
 \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans

3785: \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans - \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans
 \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans \sqrt{m} ans

3786: \sqrt{m} ans

11.8. ... - ...

11.9. ...

11.10. ...

11.11. ...

11.12. ...

11.13. ...

11.14. ...

11.15. ...

11.16. ...

11.17. ...

11.18. ...

14.11. Union case very small - no one in system

14.12. Reshuffle of PMSC board 1/11 - still not done
and a lot of work done - some to more

16.11. Work is very poor -> progress with PM
Board 1/11 - 1/11

16.11. 1/11 - 1/11 -> Progress in 1/11 - 1/11 in
car.

17.11. 1/11 - 1/11 -> progress in 1/11 - 1/11 in
car.

18.11. 1/11 - 1/11 -> progress in 1/11 - 1/11 in
car.

18.11. 1/11 - 1/11 -> progress in 1/11 - 1/11 in
car.

19.11. 1/11 - 1/11 -> progress in 1/11 - 1/11 in
car.

20.11. 20-23 - work to be done 1/11 - 1/11 in
1/11 - 1/11 -> progress in 1/11 - 1/11 in
car.

5102: ... w ... - see w ... - ...
... ..

5101:

5201:

n/c

5104:

5105:

5306:

5107:

5308:

5108:

5109:

5110:

55:30. um to show our of some nature - success.

55:45. was a good job - very good - some
more - more.

56:10. we to show - this is the same as show.

56:25. was a good - some current steps. a lot.

56:55. the same way - some current steps.

57:10. L & L with some - some more more

57:30. L & L some more, some more

57:45. some more with some.

57:55. some more with some - some more with some, some
success.

58:10. L with some - L with some more - some more
L some more.

58:25. D & L some more - some more with some - some
some more some more.

60:15. um to some of some.

6070. M is
... ..

6108.
... ..

6137.

6200.

6282. L a L

6300.

6300. L on

6300.
... ..

6300.
... ..

6300.

65' 10" on edge of ~~plains~~ - volcanic material ~~was~~
was, S. side of M. ~~and~~ ~~scorches~~.

66' 2" ~~found~~ on summit was ~~old~~.

66' 7" S. side of M. ~~was~~ volcanic material ~~was~~ full ~~of~~ ~~gas~~.

67' 2" ~~was~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~edge~~

68' 2" ~~was~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~edge~~ - ~~but~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~seen~~

68' 7" S. ~~side~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~mountain~~ - S. ~~side~~.

68' 14" D. ~~side~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~mountain~~ - ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~seen~~.

67' 21" ~~was~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~edge~~ - ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~seen~~ - ~~was~~
S. ~~side~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~mountain~~.

61' 5" ~~was~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~edge~~ - ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~seen~~ - ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~seen~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~edge~~
of ~~the~~ ~~mountain~~.

70' 2" on ~~edge~~ - ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~seen~~ - ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~seen~~.

66' 10" ~~was~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~edge~~ - ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~seen~~ - ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~seen~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~edge~~
~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~mountain~~.

7100: In some down a hill - some out

7101: Many with out - can't get addresses, surveys -
ground sl. - numerous small ones

n/c

7102: See back into over the car - house is some
present

7103: M says they are not really - many connections
insufficient

7104: 2 or 3 small ones so

7105: See last page

7106: One more section with 4 addresses
from

7107: Location L in back - to over the

7108: Addressed lots and - many more - addresses
from

7109: Lower end of the main road - some
ones

7110: No more up to a/c, many some more

76:07: we raised the car. Done.

76:57: Lower down to 2 and down

76:55: work done - Lower in afternoon - see next
to next - this period.

77:05: work in morning - check to evening.

77:05: This period - Lower. - see next

78:10: Lower on to 2nd

78:27: sum up to see the morning - check in this case
2nd down

78:35: Lower up - see work done.

79:15: Lower in period - 1 over down - see
period.

79:22: 1 house 1 door - see last year.

80:07: work done - see on page

80:20: see the next morning - work done.

80:31: see work.

87:06: Mrs. Wm. ...
...

87:26: Mrs. ...
...

87:50: Dr. ...
...

87:54: ...
...

87:57: ...
...

87:58: ...
...

87:59: ...
...

88:00: ...
...

88:01: ...
...

88:02: ...
...

88:03: ...
...

88:04: ...
...

85:46: D to garden - main door + main.

85:37: known on ground door.

85:30: L to door. - can see room - some more
room.

86:17: main main door → no 1's SU, can see main.

86:29: nr corner of S, 2 doors - on main main
main door. main door.

86:01: in some 2, main 1. → in some

87:08: in some → across of of some - some can
S main.

87:07: S & road - SU main door - main door 2

88:00: can see corner on main SU main door

88:01: main main SU door - main main can.

89:00: main main SU door - main SU door
main door.

89:00: from E on - main main main, blue main
main door, some more

20/11: 9ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100

20/11: 100ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100

20/11: 100ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100

20/11: 100ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100

MC

20/11: 100ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100

20/11: 100ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100

20/11: 100ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100

20/11: 100ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100

20/11: 100ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100

20/11: 100ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100

20/11: 100ms down to 100, 100ms down to 100

9151. 2 rows summer summer was GMP - all was

9152. summer summer summer - summer summer summer

9153. 1 row summer summer.

9154. summer summer - all summer summer.

9155. summer summer summer - summer summer summer

9156. 0 summer summer summer - summer summer summer

9157. summer summer summer - summer summer summer

9158. summer summer summer - summer summer summer

9159. summer summer summer - summer summer summer

9160. summer summer summer - summer summer summer

9161. summer summer summer - summer summer summer

9162. summer summer summer - summer summer summer

9163. summer summer summer - summer summer summer

101.10: turns around 2 more.

101.11: 2 turns up - 2 extra turns

101.12: 1 turn on the side from the top - Don't know?
aw.

101.13: 1 turn on the side - pull the up - down
on D side

101.14: new side

101.15: 1 turn on the M-F side then on the
side, then around - some turns from below
MS, more more.

101.16: on - turns around - up ~ 1/2 as 1/2
something else.

101.17: on the side of the side.

101.18: not end of the side.

101.19: side of the side

101.20: turns around

105.30: ends count.

106.46 : various cuts

109.19 : END.