

MPAA

Continued...



Directions

- ◆ Text in **RED** is for your notes
- ◆ Text in GREY is extra information
- ◆ YOU WILL NEED THIS INFORMATION!!!

The Hays Code

- ◆ In the past, film content was closely censored and controlled.
 - ◆ Hays Code – guidelines for what was acceptable in films.
 - ◆ Adopted in 1930
 - ◆ Used until 1968 until the new MPAA ratings system came out.
- ◆ Set of industry censorship guidelines that the vast majority of movie studios followed.

Hays Code 3 “General Principles”

- ◆ No picture shall be produced that will lower the moral standards of those who see it. Hence the sympathy of the audience should never be thrown to the side of crime, wrongdoing, evil or sin.
- ◆ Correct standards of life, subject only to the requirements of drama and entertainment, shall be presented.
- ◆ Law, natural or human, shall not be ridiculed, nor shall sympathy be created for its violation.

Specific Restrictions

- ◆ Nakedness, suggestive dances
- ◆ Ridicule of Religion – ministers of religion could not be villains or comic characters
- ◆ Illegal drug use
- ◆ Methods of crime
- ◆ Reference to sexual perversion or STI's or childbirth
- ◆ Murders must be filmed as to discourage imitation
- ◆ Sanctity of marriage to be upheld

Specific Restrictions

- ◆ Portrayals of miscegenation (mixed races, marriage, romance)
- ◆ Scenes of passion not essential to the plot
 - ◆ “excessive and lustful kissing” that might “stimulate the lower and baser element”
- ◆ Vulgarity must be the “subject to the dictates of good taste”
 - ◆ Capitol Punishment, cruelty to children, torture, animals and prostitution and surgical operations to be handled with sensitivity

Journal

- ◆ Do you think that it is ok for the previously mentioned to be banned from all films? Explain

1950's and 1960's

- ◆ Studios began to face serious competition from Television
- ◆ Studios needed to create an attraction to their films
 - ◆ They needed to offer something viewers couldn't get on T.V
- ◆ Audiences became exposed to foreign films which didn't follow the Hays Code
- ◆ Studios started ignoring the Hays Code

Changes Begin....

- ◆ The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) was taken over by Jack Valenti in 1966
- ◆ U.S.A films were no longer censored by the studios or self-censored.
 - ◆ Reflecting social changes (civil rights, political protest, drug culture, general questioning and distrust of institutions...)
 - ◆ Films reflected the abovementioned social climate

MPAA reaction

- ◆ The MPAA revised the code in 1951
- ◆ Revisions were to make the code more rigid
 - ◆ More banned words, scenes, subjects etc
- ◆ Film studios kept on ignoring, creating new problems for the MPAA
 - ◆ MPAA reluctantly approved of films with nudity and use of banned subjects

MPAA

- ◆ Finally the MPAA stopped trying to ban or censor films and instead created a rating system in 1968
- ◆ The system allowed film makers and studios to make films as they pleased
- ◆ System only gives ratings

Initial Rating System

- ◆ Nov 1, 1968 the first rating system came out:
 - ◆ G – general audiences
 - ◆ M- mature audiences (like our current PG and PG-13)
 - ◆ R – Restricted
 - ◆ X – No one under 17 allowed

Changes made to the system

- ◆ M sounded too severe so it became GP, which was then changed to PG
- ◆ PG was split into two categories, PG and PG-13 in 1984
- ◆ X was changed to NC-17 for clarity.
 - ◆ Some people assumed X = Pornography, which is sometimes the case but not always (could be violence or just material that only adults are ready for)

MPAA Current Ratings

- ◆ G- A G-rated motion picture contains nothing in theme, language, nudity, sex, violence or other matters that, in the view of the Rating Board, would offend parents whose younger children view the motion picture.
- ◆ PG - A PG-rated motion picture should be investigated by parents before they let their younger children attend. The PG rating indicates, in the view of the Rating Board, that parents may consider some material unsuitable for their children, and parents should make that decision.

MPAA Current Ratings

- ◆ PG-13 - A PG-13 rating is a sterner warning by the Rating Board to parents to determine whether their children under age 13 should view the motion picture, as some material might not be suited for them. A PG-13 motion picture may go beyond the PG rating in **theme, violence, nudity, sensuality, language, adult activities or other elements**, but does not reach the restricted R category.

MPAA Current Ratings

- ◆ **R - An R-rated motion picture**, in the view of the Rating Board, **contains some adult material**. An R-rated motion picture **may include adult themes, adult activity, hard language, intense or persistent violence, sexually-oriented nudity, drug abuse or other elements**, so that parents are counseled to take this rating very seriously

MPAA Current Ratings

- ◆ An NC-17 rated motion picture is one that, in the view of the Rating Board, most parents would consider patently too adult for their children 17 and under. No children will be admitted. NC-17 does not mean “obscene” or “pornographic” in the common or legal meaning of those words, and should not be construed as a negative judgment in any sense.

Temple of Doom Rating Assignment

- ◆ According to what you wrote down during the film “Temple of Doom” which rating you would give it.
- ◆ You MUST give reasons to defend why you chose a rating
 - ◆ List kinds of violence/language/graphic scenes you observed and how they effected your choice
 - ◆ **Be prepared to defend your rating on the Quiz, you will turn in you list of “Not appropriate of PG” items along with the quiz.**