



22 May 2003

NEWS RELEASE

CLASSIFICATION BOARD REFUSES CLASSIFICATION FOR *KEN PARK*

The Classification Board has classified the film *Ken Park*, by directors Larry Clark and Ed Lachman, Refused Classification (RC). The classification means the film cannot be legally sold, hired, advertised or exhibited in Australia.

The film is about four teenagers as they struggle with family dysfunction and uncertain futures in suburban California.

In a 6 to 1 split decision, the majority of the Classification Board found this film warranted refused classification "RC". In the minority view the film could have been accommodated in the "R18+" classification.

In the Classification Board's view, this film deals with matters of sex in such a way that they offend against the standards of morality, decency and propriety generally accepted by reasonable adults to the extent that it should be refused classification.

In the Classification Board's view, the film contains scenes of actual sexual activity involving characters who are portrayed as minors that could not be accommodated within the "R18+" classification. The "R18+" classification permits material that is high in impact. The intensity, cumulative effect, tone and treatment of the scenes of actual sexual activity exceeded this impact test.

The Classification Board is an independent statutory body responsible for the classification of films, videos, computer games and some publications. The Board has representatives drawn from communities across Australia and includes members with children.

Media Contact:

Tricia Flanagan

0408 489 946