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**FINAL AWARD: 100% WOLF**

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**Chairperson: C Mamathuntsha**

1. The Appellant, Gravel Road Distribution launched an appeal on the 9 November 2020 with the Films and Publications Board in terms of Section 20 (1) of the films and publications Amendment Act of 2009, against the classification of the film 100% Wolf against an age classification of 7-9 PG V given by the Respondent, (The Films and Publications Board). The basis of the appeal by the appellant was to seek a lower rating of PG as contained in its Notice of Appeal.
2. In its grounds of appeal, the appellant argued that the age Rating given by the classification committee is harsh when compared to similar movies recently classified by the FPB, e.g. The Lion King as PG. They argued that it has similar themes to 100% WOLF.
3. It is noteworthy to state that both classifiers agreed that the themes were of low to mild impact and that violence is thematic in the storyline.
4. The Respondent argued that it is enjoyed to assess the themes appropriately even though the movie is light hearted and fantastical. It maintained that the themes are matured and therefore the viewers and parents should be advised accordingly to avoid potential harm. Furthermore the Respondent agreed that the content warrants PG. They further argued the advisory V has to be included in the classification and as such it is mandatory even though there is no visible effects of the violence as it is implied in the scenes.
5. The Respondent argued and submitted in its closing arguments that the themes have mild sense of threat and menace but cause no moral harm, the content is not threatening, disturbing or harmful as it is overall positive and reassuring.
6. With regard to the classifiable elements/themes in relation to Violence, the Respondent submits that violence is fairly frequent and at low to mild impact and that it is fantastical with no visible effects.
7. Furthermore the Respondent argued that when considering the classifiable elements such as substance abuse, language, Nudity and Violence, regardless of the level of age restriction, the Public must be alerted to the occurrence of the classifiable element of a mild, moderate, strong or very strong impact.

It is the collective observation of the Tribunal that based on the submissions made by the Parties that the movie which they have agreed is suitable for ages 7-9, warrants parental guidance.

The only issue which stand or stood to be decided at the end of the hearing by the Appeals Tribunal in this appeal is the “Violence” theme as proposed by the FPB Classifiers and argued by the Respondents.

In this regard we make the following observations and comments:

- a) The Classification Committee conceded that Violence presented in the Film was fairly frequent and at a low to mild impact and that it was fantastical violence with no visible effect.
  
- b) A cursory look at some of the scenes considered to be violent shows the following:
  - (i) Hotspur being jealous of his brother who was the high howler and leader of the pack – jealousy is a life reality which simply requires parental guidance to avoid possible negative effects in the future.
  - (ii) The leader falls down a cliff – another life reality which can be dealt with through parental guidance as a lesson of caution in life and your surroundings.
  - (iii) Hotspur being captured by dog catchers and locking him up in a secret facility with silver bands around him to prevent him from changing between a werewolf and a human – this is clearly fictitious and even a child of seven years knows that it cannot happen in real life.
  - (iv) Placing a silver band around the neck of the protagonist so that he remains being a dog to ensure the antagonist remains the high howler - this is clearly fictitious and even a child of seven years knows that it cannot happen in real life.
  - (v) Hotspur instructs a character at a facility to put the protagonist in a machine that will kill him and turn him into a wig - this is clearly fictitious and even a child of seven years knows that it cannot happen in real life however parental guidance may be required just to assure the child that hurting others in anyway, even worse with weapons or machines and should not be done by real humans.
  - (vi) Fighting scenes between a housekeeper and another character at a facility – fighting is part of real life, children lower than 7 do fight, parental guidance is however necessary to discourage it as much as possible.
  - (vii) Hotspur chases after the protagonist to kill him – Whilst an attempt to kill someone is bad, the fantastic nature of the movie mitigates the adverse impact and again this can be dealt with through parental guidance, therefore the impact remains low and does not warrant a classification of “Violence”.

Section 18(3)(d) of the Films and Publications Act states that there should be an age restriction that is appropriate if there is a scene that may be disturbing or harmful to children . From the Film and the submissions made by the Appellant, the tribunal is persuaded that in this current Film such theme do not exists and therefore agrees with the arguments presented by the Appellant.

#### **DECISION OF THE TRIBUNAL**

After considering all evidence and the closing arguments as presented by both parties, the Tribunal has unanimously found that the Film 100 % WOLF should be classified and be given an age rating of 7-9 PG.

We are satisfied that applying the guidelines in terms of section 3 (3), the classifiable elements are mild to moderate.

The Tribunal thanks the contributions of all parties in this appeal.

**DATED THE 25 January 2021**

**Tribunal Members Present**

**Nonkoliso Sigcau**

**Muke Nondunduzo Khanyile**

**Manko Buffel**

**Adv Lihle T Mapipa**

**Adv Nonkoliso Sigcau**