



# The Movie Ratings System: A Tool for Parents

The following presentation explains how everyone – parents, kids, and theatre owners – use ratings.

# What are movie ratings?

- A voluntary system established in 1968 by the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc., in conjunction with the National Association of Theatre Owners.
- The ratings system gives advance cautionary warnings and information to parents so that parents are better prepared to make movie-going decisions for their children.

# Why We Have Ratings

- The current system replaced an outdated code that prohibited specified content rather than assisting individual parents in making the decisions about what movies their children should see.
- Theatres voluntarily enforce the ratings as part of their role in the communities they serve.

# How Ratings Help Parents Choose Movies

- Parents can use ratings to make informed decisions about what their child sees and hears.
- The ratings system helps parents decide which movies are appropriate for each child's age.
- Film ratings urge parents to find out more about a movie before they allow their young children to see specific films.

# What Ratings Mean

## What Everyone Should Know About The Movie Rating System.

**GENERAL AUDIENCES**  
**G**



Nothing that would offend parents for viewing by children.

G GENERAL AUDIENCES  
All Ages Admitted

**PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED**  
**PG**



Parents urged to give "parental guidance." May contain some material parents might not like for their young children.

PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED  
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

**PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED**  
**PG-13**



Parents are urged to be cautious. Some material may be inappropriate for pre-teenagers.

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED  
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

**RESTRICTED**  
**R**



Contains some adult material. Parents are urged to learn more about the film before taking their young children with them.

R RESTRICTED  
Under 17 Requires Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian

**NO ONE 17 AND UNDER ADMITTED**  
**NC-17**



Patently adult. Children are not admitted.

NC-17 NO ONE 17 AND UNDER ADMITTED

# What Ratings Mean



Signifies that the film rated contains nothing most parents will consider offensive for their younger children.



# What Ratings Mean



Signifies that the rated film may contain some material to which parents might not like to expose to their younger children. Parents should inquire about such materials before allowing their children to attend the film.



# What Ratings Mean



Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. Parents should be especially careful about letting their younger children attend.



# What Ratings Mean



Signifies that the rated film contains some adult material. Parents are urged to learn more about the film before taking their children with them to see it.



# What Ratings Mean



Signifies that most American parents would feel that the film is patently adult and their children age 17 and under should not be admitted to it.

## What Everyone Should Know About The Movie Rating System.



# Who Decides on Ratings

- A specially designed committee called the Film Rating Board of the Classification and Rating Administration.
- The committee is made up of parents: men and women just like you.
- Together they decide, considering the totality of the film, which rating most American parents would consider the most appropriate.

# The Rating System Is Working

- Nationwide scientific polls, conducted each year by the Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, NJ, have shown that parents throughout the U.S. use the system and find it highly valuable.
- Ratings continue to evolve: in 1984, the PG category was split into PG and PG-13, with the new rating indicating a higher level of intensity than was to be found in a film rated PG. Also, rating reasons have been individually applied to each film to give parents more specific information about that film.



# The Rating System Is Working

- The rating system has succeeded by providing useful service to parents. It meets the expectations of those whom it is designed to serve – the parents of America.



# Other Resources Available to Parents

Official ratings website is [www.filmratings.com](http://www.filmratings.com).



**Reasons for Movie Ratings**  
from The Classification And Rating Administration (CARA) [www.filmratings.com](http://www.filmratings.com)

[Movie Search](#) [Ratings Guide](#) [Ratings Posters](#) [Questions & Answers](#)

### Movie Rating Search

**?** To find the rating on a specific movie, type all or part of the movie title in the box below, then press **Enter** or click on **Search**.  
**Do not use "The", "A", or "An" at the beginning of a title.**

This database contains movies rated since 1968. For complete information on how to use the movie rating database, see our [Guide To Searching For Movies](#).

Enter a Movie Title Below:

Rating:

# Other Resources Available to Parents

- Watching and listening to all available information is the best way for parents to decide which movies are suitable for their children.
- Ratings information is available from local theatres.
- Film reviews in newspapers and online provide ratings information, detailed explanations of content and recommendations on appropriate age levels.
- Other parents are a valuable source of information.

# Your Local Theatre's Website

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(insert your local theatre's website)