



NMHH

Nemzeti Média- és Hírközlési Hatóság  
Médiatanács

Reference no.: MN/3634-4/2021.

Subject: Notification

Attachment: DVD, Inspection  
report, copy of the report

Rada pro rozhlasové a televizní vysílání (RRTV)  
(The Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting)

To President Bc. Ivan Krejčí

Skretova 44/6  
120 00 Prague 2  
Czech Republic

Dear Mr President,

<b>ÚŘAD RADY</b> 1	
pro rozhlasové a televizní vysílání	
Jednoznačný identifikátor RRTV-400499	
DOŠLO DNE:	- 7 -04- 2021
Číslo jednací RRTV/	4819/2021-100
Počet listů: 1	Počet příloh: 2
Počet listů příloh: 4	
Druh příloh:	1 + DVD

The Media Council of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority (hereinafter referred to as: the **Media Council**) inspected the programme entitled "The Eye" broadcast on the Film Café channel of the AMC NETWORKS CENTRAL EUROPE, S.R.O. (hereinafter referred to as: **Media Service Provider**) from 7.10 pm on 9 February 2021. The inspection was conducted based on a report under the examination of the programmes of the media service providers available in Hungary but being under foreign jurisdiction.

During the official inspection, the Media Council found that the programme contained several realistic depiction of violent media content and its consequences, as well as long-lasting and increasingly intimidating programme segments accompanied by music and sound effects. It also found that a suicide was featured in detail in the programme, with close-up images.

The Media Service Provider broadcast the objected programme without age rating; however, in view of the topic and the way it was processed, the Media Council considered that the programme could have endangered the physical, intellectual or moral development of minors.

If the Media Service Provider were under Hungarian jurisdiction, the programme would be in age category IV (not recommended for persons under the age of 16) and would have had to be broadcast between 9 pm and 5 am.

The recording of the programme at issue in the present case, the inspection report and a copy of the report shall be sent by the Media Council as an attachment for information and in order to carry out the necessary procedure.

Budapest, "21" March 2021

Yours sincerely,

  
Dr Monika Karas  
President



## FINDINGS OF THE INSPECTION REPORT

<i>Title of the programme:</i>	A szem
<i>Original title:</i>	The Eye
<i>Date of broadcast:</i>	9 February 2021
<i>Time of broadcast:</i>	19:10:12-21:00:06
<i>Channel's name:</i>	Film Café
<i>Original running time:</i>	93 minutes
<i>Edited running time:</i>	86 minutes (without credits)
<i>Media Service Provider's rating:</i>	no rating
<i>Genre:</i>	horror

### **Contents of the programme:**

Violinist Sydney Wells has been blind since she was five years old. Thanks to a special ophthalmic procedure in which the cornea of a dead man is implanted, Sydney sees again. The young woman has a hard time recovering her sight. Although the initial blurry images begin to clear up, Sydney is tormented by visions in which she sees dead people or finds herself in another space. Her environment does not believe her, her doctor, dr. Paul Faulkner, suspects that Sydney was shocked during the surgery. Sydney, on the other hand, assumes that the horror images may be related to the original cornea donor, so she begins researching who may have been this person. Formerly sceptical, Faulkner helps his patient find out that the eye belonged to a young Mexican woman, Ana Martinez. In order to learn more about Ana and the circumstances of her death, Sydney and Faulkner head to the border to visit the girl's still-living mother in Mexico. While Sydney is still haunted by otherworldly shadows, they manage to find out that a fire broke out in the village of Ana in which several people died. Ana, who foresaw the events, made herself responsible for not saving more people. The constant presence of spirits and self-recrimination eventually led to Ana ending her life with her own hands. During the visit of the Americans, Ana's mother has a heart attack, which she later dies of. Faulkner and Sydney head back when the young woman envisions a mass catastrophe at the border. Learning from Ana's story, Sydney does her best to save all the lives in danger. Eventually, only the protagonist is injured in the explosion. A flash of lurid flames burns her eyes, forcing her to live blindly again, but without demons.

### **Results of the inspection:**

In the programme "*The Eye*", the ghosts of dead people appear in the form of so-called *jump scares* that abruptly flash and co-occur with intense musical and sound effects. In addition, the programme also features bleeding eyes, flaming bodies, dying screams of victims and the suicide of a young girl.

The Film Café thematic film channel is operated by a member of the Czech-based media service provider, AMC Networks. The film in question was broadcast by the media service provider without age rating. The international classification associations primarily recommended the programme for a more mature audience with a more serious media experience. According to data from IMDB (Internet Movie Database), the film was rated "PG-13" in the United States for its disturbing and unsettling images, scary scenes and violence. In Germany, the FSK (Freiwillige Selbstkontrolle der Filmwirtschaft) recommended the production for those over the age of 16. The BBFC in the UK did not recommend the film under the age of 15. The British Board of Film Classification justified its decision by the constant threat in the film and the intensity of the hanging sequence. The DVD version of the film in Hungary was placed on the market with a rating not recommended for those under 16 years of age.

The programme is characterised by a long-lasting and increasingly intimidating atmosphere created by various musical and sound effects. The recurring horror images (19:48:40-19:48:51) and the appearance of ghosts (20:03:50-20:04:34 or 20:04:53-20:05:50) as well as the fear of death on the protagonist's face are present throughout the film. In the case of thrillers and horror films, it is typical that danger is presented through the behaviour of the main characters, in which case the actual threat does not have to be explicit, the fear felt by the protagonist is enough to fill the viewer with dread. Works whose dramaturgical tools and everyday world reflect a realistic way of depicting, whose depicted life situations can be connected to everyday life, and whose relevance to reality is high can be worrying from the point of view of arousing fear. Sydney often encounters the object of her visions on the street, in the elevator, in the hallway leading to her apartment, or in her bedroom.

In the programme entitled "*The Eye*", the consequences of aggression were depicted in a direct natural way on several occasions. Such programme segments included, for example, when Sydney suffered a burn injury to her arm during one of her visions (19:52:50-19:54:34) and when her image in the mirror forced her to staple her own eyes open (20:25:50-20:26:33). The most problematic is the dramaturgically highlighted programme segment in which the suicide of the protagonist, Ana, who donated her eyes to the protagonist, was presented. The suicide of the young Mexican girl was realistically depicted in detail in the film, with close-ups: Ana's body shook as she kicked her legs in the air. The camera showed her bulging eyes close-up as she tried to untie the rope around her neck with her hands. Sydney tried to free the girl, but by the time she managed to untie the rope, Ana was dead. The camera showed close-ups of bruised injuries to the girl's neck caused by the rope. The shocking mode of presentation followed the young girl's suffering throughout and recorded the details of the hanging. (20:48:30-20:50:27).

Violent content has accumulated in the programme, but the visual world and the way it was presented can be considered restrained within the genre. The intensity is reinforced on the one hand by the ominous, tension-inducing sound effects, on the other hand by the emotional reactions that appear on the characters' faces, as well as the clichés characteristic of the genre.

### **The contents and scenes in question:**

*19:48:40-19:48:51*

In a short montage, horror images of a burning house appear, followed by a screaming child in the flames. The camera shows the child in a close-up, and then the protagonist's face appears up close in the next shot. Sydney stares straight in front of her, blood flows from her eyes.

*19:52:50-19:54:34*

Sitting in her bedroom, Sydney notices smoke in the stairwell. She looks out of the door when, suddenly, a roaring black figure slams into the door. Loud roar and obscene words can be heard ("*Open the door! You can't escape, damn slut! [...] Open it now! Open it, you fucking bitch!*"). Shortly after the flames and smoke cover the room, Sydney begins to choke. A little girl screams. The camera shows a close-up of the child's face and then how flames flare up around her. Burning bodies appear in the room. One roars at Sydney. She screams, then the flaming figure grabs her by the arm. The camera shows a close-up of the injured body of the burning man. His hands are bloody and his skin is covered with severe burns. Sydney screams in pain. Waking up from her sleep, she looks at her arm and sees burn marks on her skin. Breathing loudly in fear, she looks again at her wounds, which are slowly beginning to heal.

*20:03:50-20:04:34*

Sydney is about to get into the elevator when she sees a frightening figure appearing in the corner. The man turns to the wall, standing speechless in the elevator, and then the camera

shows a close-up of his naked foot. His body floats unnaturally above the ground, later slowly moving forward towards Sydney. For a short time you can see the sunken, scarred, bloody head on which the facial features cannot be read. Sydney tries to escape, desperately pushing the elevator buttons. The figure approaches her more and more, then rises above her shoulders. Then the woman manages to leave the elevator. The strong sound effects and the appearance of the dead man are increasingly frightening.

20:04:53-20:05:50

Sydney is on her way home. Stepping out the elevator door, the little boy she had seen before appears. The child searches for his gradebook and unhesitatingly interrogates Sydney. The woman leaves the boy standing in the hallway alone, but when she looks back at him, the little boy sits in the window of the multi-story house, then looks farewell to Sydney and throws himself into the deep. She runs desperately after him, but can only bang on a closed window. Breaking the glass with her elbow, she looks down at the street, but sees no trace of the boy's body. She heads for her room with a bleeding hand when the little boy unexpectedly shows up behind her and chases her with quick steps, repeating the same question. Sydney is getting away from the ghost in agitation.

20:25:50-20:26:33

Sydney does not see her own reflection in the bathroom mirror, but Ana appears in it. She asks the ghost to show her how she can help her. Then Sydney's hands start to tremble and visibly rise against her will. The woman tries to fight them but cannot control her body. Tightening her eyelids with her hands, she protrudes her eyes. The camera gives a very close view of the eyeball. Sydney tears in pain, clenching her teeth to fight the force. At that moment, sudden horror images flash in front of her. A desperately screaming little child is seen surrounded by flames. Sydney manages to break the ghost's will and then crushes the mirror in rage.

20:37:38-20:37:45

The camera shows Sydney's eyes close-up as tears start to come out of them. Suddenly her face changes and we can see the gaze of poor Ana, blood flowing from her eyes instead of tears.

20:48:30-20:50:27

Sydney ventures into the basement, where she hears voices. Descending the stairs, Ana's memories come to life in front of her. You can see the girl fleeing from the ghosts torturing her, she takes out a chair, then stands on it and throws a rope through the iron pipe. In the following series of pictures you can follow the young girl begging for help (Ana: *"Please help me, I can't take it anymore! Don't hurt me!"*), then the camera shows a close-up of her foot as she stands on tiptoe in the chair. Later, a close-up shot can also be seen of the rope over her neck. Sydney turns on the lights, then the figure of Ana appears in the background as she stands on the chair. Then a roar is heard, and Ana kicks the chair under her feet. Sydney screams and hurries to her aid. Ana's body shakes as she kicks her legs in the air. The camera shows her bulging eyes close-up as she tries to untie the rope around her neck with her hands. Sydney unsuccessfully tries to free the girl from the loop; eventually, Ana chokes to death. The camera shows close-ups of bruised injuries to the victim's neck caused by the rope. Sydney is talking at length to the corpse of the girl in her arms. The camera shows the girl's lifeless gaze and then at a point you can see Ana's pupils unexpectedly widening, which is accompanied by frightening musical effects. Then Dr. Faulkner appears, the events are shown from his point of view, and it turns out that only Sydney can see Ana's death.

Data of the report:

Case type: TV Content > Protection of minors, pornography, violent content, age rating >

Service Provider: other

Problem description: The Film Cafe channel broadcasts the thriller entitled The Eye between half past eight and nine o'clock in the evening without any age rating. Please investigate whether this is against the law. I am convinced that the film can disturb the peace of mind of 12 and even 16-year-old children.

Reporter's name:

Reporter's e-mail address:

Reporter's address:

The reporter requests the confidentiality of their data: yes



**RADA  
PRO ROZHLASOVÉ A TELEVIZNÍ  
VYSÍLÁNÍ**

Rada pro rozhlasové a televizní vysílání

Škrétkova 44/6, 120 00 Praha 2

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Jedn. identifikátor 409053-RRTV

Naše č. j. RRTV/7035/2021-loj  
Sp. zn. RRTV2021/445/LOJ

Michaela Fuchsová, Voršilská  
130/10, 11000 Praha 1

Vyřizuje: Analytický odbor  
Datum, místo 28. 5. 2021, Praha

## **Poskytnutí informace v souladu se žádostí podle zákona č. 106/1999 Sb., o svobodném přístupu k informacím**

Vážená paní Fuchsová,

Radě pro rozhlasové a televizní vysílání (dále jen Rada) byla dne 25. 5. 2021 pod č.j. RRTV/6941/2021-vra doručena Vaše žádost o poskytnutí informace, resp. o poskytnutí „stížnosti a kompletní analýzy, kterou obdržela Rada pro rozhlasové a televizní vysílání od maďarského regulátora (Media Council of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority – NMHH), a kterou eviduje pod č.j.: RRTV/4719/2021-vac“.

Rada přezkoumala náležitosti Vaší žádosti v intencích zákona č. 106/1999 Sb. a konstatuje, že jí vyhovuje bez dalšího. Rada dodává, že identifikovala Vámi žádaný dokument, kterýžto zasílá v příloze tohoto písemného přípisu. Požadované informace jsou přiloženy v podobě, v jaké byly Radou obdrženy.

**Ing. Dagmar Zvěřinová**  
místopředsedkyně Rady  
pro rozhlasové a televizní vysílání  
elektronicky podepsáno