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Family Safe Movies – Editing Hollywood To Create Clean Films For All The Family

By Mark Falco

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The declining moral standards of society, fuelled in some large part by the television media and mainstream movie industry, has been much bemoaned by parental groups, religious organisations and other guardians of our collective morality but without an awful lot of impact being made. The perceived decay of traditional values and weakening of moral fibre continues daily to a point where things which would have made a dock worker blush 30 years ago now proliferate into mainstream network media channels and even into children's programming slots with sensory-numbing regularity.

There can be few parents reading this who haven't sat through a movie they would have loved to have shared with their children but for one or two unsuitable scenes. Or who have been simply unable to enjoy a movie everyone is talking about due to the level of sexual content, violence or other unsavoury content. Renting a Hollywood movie is almost guaranteed to ensure you an unhealthy dose of sex and violence and with the censorship boards becoming increasingly liberal, the PG rating bar allows more and more questionable content to limbo under it.

Well now, all that is starting to change with the help of a few of society's good guys. We've all heard of the slogan "sex sells", but hey guess what? "NO sex" sells just as well and has opened up a whole new industry for DVD rental and retail sales.

Family Edited movies are the new 'big thing' to hit the entertainment world with a few pioneers such as Cleanfilms.com stepping up to scrub Hollywood clean!

A family edited movie is basically exactly the same movie you find on the shelves of your local rental store but with all the offensive content edited out. Edited scenes typically include the removal of foul and offensive language, including non-religious reference to deity, the removal of graphic violence, nudity and sexual/overly suggestive imagery and reference to them and basically anything which is liable to cause offence on moral or religious grounds.

The editing is akin to that seen on network television channels with professional editors ensuring there are no obvious breaks in the flow of the movie, so that the only clue the viewer has that they are watching a family edited DVD is that there is no offensive content. Of course, you will not find every movie can be edited in this way, so choices are limited, simply because a lot of movies will not longer be watchable after the adult content has been removed!

Surprisingly, considering a whole new market has been opened up for their movies and a demand has been shown, Hollywood is not too happy about such services and rather than jumping on the bandwagon, has actually voiced opposition to the perceived dismemberment of their 'art'. However, under copyright laws, so long as the editing company holds a copy of the original, unedited movie in their offices for each one they sell, or the customer owns a copy, then the editing process is both legal and irreproachable. Score one for the good guys!

Unfortunately, this kind of messing around does mean that family edited movies do cost more than

their unedited counterparts . As edited DVDs can not be sold as edited DVDs, you basically pay for the original DVD movie plus the cost of editing it. Effectively this amounts to a few dollars more on top of the normal retail price of a movie. However, for those who do not wish to pay more, there are a number of family safe DVD rental services around which are just like say, Netflix, but offering nothing but movies with edited content for rental.

Despite the inflated prices of family edited movies, these kinds of services are invaluable for anyone who yearns for the golden age of movies, is tired of having their entertainment spoiled by questionable scenes, or for parents who seek to protect their children from Hollywood's often dubious standards of morality. If that's not worth paying out an extra dollar or two, I don't know what is!

Useful Links:

- Edited movie retail and rental.
- Independent review of cleanfilms.com and past/present customer comments.
- Online movie rental services compared and contrasted.

Mark Falco is a part-time webmaster and owner of the <http://www.dvdrentalservices.co.uk> web site. Permission is granted to reuse this article so long as no modifications are made and this author byline remains intact somewhere on the same page as the published article.

Hollywood - Gone To The Dogs?

By Kirsten Hawkins

There is no question that people in America love dogs. One look at popular culture in our country will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that Americans have a love affair with dogs. Movies and TV shows

about dogs go in and out of popularity and stories like Old Yeller and Where the Red Fern Grows are considered timeless classics. Only in America, however, do dogs manage to achieve celebrity status.

Rin Tin Tin

Rin Tin Tin was Hollywood's first recognizable canine star. The German Shepherd was featured in 26 films for Warner Brothers Pictures and is generally credited with having saved the studio from bankruptcy during the silent film era. The original Rin Tin Tin died in 1932 at the age of 13, but his bloodline and his fan club exist to this day.

Lassie

Ask someone to name a famous dog and you will probably get the name Lassie every time. The star of several television series, many movies, and the subject of countless books, Lassie is probably the most recognizable canine star in American TV and movie history. Interestingly, all of the dogs to portray Lassie over the years have been male. The original collie to portray Lassie was actually named Lad and was the star of the memorable original television series as well as several movies, most memorably the original version of Lassie Come Home.

Benji

In the 1970's a would-be filmmaker named Joe Camp started pitching a "dog movie" around Hollywood. He was told repeatedly that the film would never work, so he decided to produce the film independently. Once the film wrapped Camp had new troubles because no distribution company would release the film. Again, Camp relied upon himself to distribute his family movie worldwide. Camp's gamble paid off and Benji, starring a lovable mixed breed dog that was adopted from an animal shelter (the original Benji was the dog Higgins who had worked on the TV show Petticoat Junction) became a huge hit. Over the years there have been five Benji movies, television programs and specials, comics, and a ton of Benji merchandise.

Kirsten Hawkins is a dog lover and animal expert from Nashville, TN. Visit

for more information on dog health, the care of dogs, and dog travel.



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