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'Angel Heart' X Rating Sustained After Hearing

The X rating applied to Alan Parker's film "Angel Heart" has been sustained after a hearing Feb. 13 in New York of the Classification and Rating Appeals Board.

Parker made a statement on behalf of the film, seeking a less restrictive rating for the Tri-Star Pictures release, while the Motion Picture Assn. of America's Classification and Rating Administration, which had given the X rating, was repped by its chairman, Richard D. Heffner. Tri-Star has requested a rehearing before the board.

In the early years of the MPAA ratings systems, many major features, including subsequent Oscar winners, were released with X ratings, such as "Midnight Cowboy," "A Clockwork Orange," "The Damned," "The Devils" and "Last Tango In Paris."

More recently, due to policies of some newspapers and theater chains prohibiting the booking or advertising of X material, distributors receiving an X rating usually have returned the rating to the MPAA and released the films with no rating instead, such as Cannon's "Bolero" and "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre Part 2."