

EVENT DETAILS: Tuesday 8th May, double bill of Best F(r)iends and The Room to play organised by the Pilot Light TV Festival, Manchester. US based Actor/Writer Greg Sestero will attend to introduce the screenings.

THE ROOM

DETAILS: 2003, US, 99mins

SYNOPSIS: Johnny is a successful banker who lives in a San Francisco townhouse with his fiancée Lisa, who has become dissatisfied with their relationship. She seduces his best friend, Mark, and the two begin an affair. As their wedding approaches and Johnny's influence at his bank slips, Lisa alternates between glorifying and vilifying Johnny to her family and friends, making false accusations of domestic abuse and defending Johnny against criticisms. Meanwhile, Johnny, having overheard Lisa confess her infidelity to her mother Claudette, attaches a tape recorder to their phone in an attempt to identify her lover.

Denny, a neighbouring student whom Johnny financially and emotionally supports, has a run-in with an armed drug dealer, Chris-R, whom Johnny and Mark overpower and take into custody. Denny also lusts after Lisa, and confesses this to Johnny, who understands and encourages him to instead pursue one of his classmates. Johnny spirals into a mental haze and calls upon Peter, his and Mark's psychologist friend, for help. Mark also confides in Peter on the roof, where Mark feels guilty about the affair. Peter questions Mark if the affair is with Lisa, causing Mark – who is using marijuana to cope with his melancholy – to briefly try to murder him, but they reconcile a few seconds later.

At a surprise birthday party for Johnny, one of his friends catches Lisa kissing Mark while the other guests are outside and confronts them about the affair. Johnny announces that he and Lisa are expecting a child, although Lisa later reveals she lied about it. At the end of the evening, Lisa flaunts her affair in front of Johnny, who attacks Mark.

After the party, Johnny locks himself in the bathroom in despair. When he leaves, he retrieves the cassette recorder that he attached to the phone and listens to an intimate call between Lisa and Mark. Outraged, Johnny berates Lisa for betraying him, prompting her to end their relationship and live with Mark. Johnny has an emotional breakdown, destroying his apartment and committing suicide via gunshot. Hearing the commotion, Denny, Mark, and Lisa rush up the stairs to find his body. Mark blames Lisa for Johnny's death, admonishes her for her deceitful behaviour, and tells her to get out of his life. Denny tells Lisa and Mark to leave him with Johnny, and they step back to give him a moment, but ultimately stay and comfort each other as the police arrive.

ADVISED CERTIFICATE AND REASON: We would suggest an certificate would be suitable for this film. There is some use of bad language, the film also features multiple sex scenes and references to sex but there is no graphic detail. Similarly, there is some violence but it is not overly graphic and the effects use are very low in quality. In many ways a 15 certificate would be suitable but we are advising that this is raised to an 18 because the film deals with suicide in an unsophisticated manner.

The filmmakers behind this film are not skilled, it is considered internationally to be one of the worst films of all time and this is the appeal behind it. This is reflected in an unsophisticated handling of the interpersonal relationships within the film but it is important to show that the film will be viewed within the context of being a terrible film.

BEST F(R)IENDS: Volume 1

DETAILS:2017, US, 99mins

SYNOPSIS: When a drifter befriends a quirky mortician, an unlikely business partnership is formed. Paranoia soon develops, however, and both men are forced to come to terms with the fragility of friendship and loyalty.

ADVISED CERTIFICATE AND REASON: This is a much newer title than *The Room* which has played extensively across the globe. However *Best F(r)iends* has just completed a two week run at the Prince Charles Cinema in London's Leicester Square where it received an 18 certificate.

As with *The Room* the film features bad language, sex and references to sex and some violence though I would stress none of these are overly graphic and the film is not strictly a genre film (ie. Horror). Since this film would play within the context of a double bill with *The Room* I would suggest it similarly has an 18 certificate. While the actual content sits more closely with the BBFCs 15 guidelines it similarly suffers from clumsy storytelling.