



4 June 08

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Prince Caspian: not just a pretty story

The newly released movie *Prince Caspian* is distinctly child-unfriendly, says Young Media Australia. YMA's child-friendly movie reviewers who create the popular *Know Before You Go* movie reviews have found that "The film is based on the timeless and beautifully crafted children's story by C. S. Lewis, but has been made unsuitable for children by violence which is continuous from beginning to end."

Jane Roberts, YMA President, cautioned parents today saying, "Please be aware that *Prince Caspian*, while it has the beautiful scenery and outstanding special effects that will be enjoyed by many older teenagers and adults, is not a film for young children. It was given an M rating by the Classification Board for 'frequent battle violence'. It is disappointing that the story, with appealing characters and engaging plot, has been reduced to a formula of violent battle scenes and scary villains at the expense of other elements of good storytelling."

Elizabeth Handsley, YMA Vice President, agreed. "Young Media Australia has noted that in the last couple of years there has been a trend for movie-makers to turn children's books into M rated movies. The most worrying aspect of this is that busy parents may be caught off guard and assume that these movies will be suitable for their young children."

Ms Roberts concluded "We wonder why movie makers are making fewer movies rated G and PG, when there are still substantial profits to be made from movies that provide enjoyable viewing experiences for the whole family."

There is help available for parents who want to make an informed decision about whether or not it is appropriate for their children to see this and other movies. The YMA review of *Prince Caspian* is one of more than 390 reviews on YMA's award-winning *Know Before You Go: Movie Review Service*, accessible via the YMA website ([www.youngmedia.org.au](http://www.youngmedia.org.au)) or the YMA Helpline (1800 700 357) (national, freecall, 24/7).

Young Media Australia is the trading name of the Australian Council on Children and the Media, a unique national community organisation with a strong interest and expertise in the role that media experiences play in the development of Australian children. It is committed to promoting healthy choices and stronger voices in children's media. Parents, caregivers and the general community can access information and advice about the impact of the media on children by calling the YMA Helpline (1800 700 357, national, freecall, 24/7) or visiting the YMA Website ([www.youngmedia.org.au](http://www.youngmedia.org.au)).

*For more information or to arrange an interview,  
please call Jane Roberts (WA) on 0410 509 685, or  
Elizabeth Handsley (SA) on 08 8201 5256 (bus.)*