

**Report of the Head of Licensing and Registration**

**Report to the Licensing Sub Committee**

**Date: 20 October 2014**

**Subject: Certification of Films - Leeds International Film Festival**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name of Ward: City Wide		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

**Executive Summary**

To advise Members of an Application for the certification of films to be shown at the Leeds International Film Festival.

**1.0 Purpose of this report**

1.1 This report informs Members with the background, history and issues of an application made under the Licensing Act 2003 (“the Act”) for the certification of films that do not currently have a BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) certification. Finally, this report informs Members of the options available to them when considering an application for the certification of films.

**2.0 Background information**

2.1 The Licensing Act 2003 applies to premises which provide film exhibitions. At present there are a total of 7 cinemas licensed in the Leeds District.

2.2 The majority of films shown in Cinemas will carry a Certificate from the BBFC the categories of which are as follows:

Category ‘U’ Passed for general exhibition

Category ‘PG’ Passed for general exhibition but parents/guardians are advised that the film contains materials they might prefer children under fifteen years not to see.

Category `12`	Passed as suitable only for exhibition to persons of twelve years and over. When a programme includes a `12` film, no persons under twelve years can be admitted.
Category `12a`	Passed as suitable for children under the age of 12 if accompanied by an adult.
Category `15`	Passed as suitable only for exhibition to persons of fifteen years and over. when a programme includes a `15` film, no persons under fifteen years can be admitted.
Category `18`	Passed as suitable only for exhibition to adults. When a programme includes an `18` film no persons under the age of eighteen years can be admitted.

2.3 In addition to licensing premises for film exhibitions, the Licensing Authority has a duty under Section 20 of the Licensing Act 2003 to categorise a film which is absent of a Certificate from a film classification body such as the BBFC. The Licensing Authority may also reject or modify a film which has received a Certificate from the BBFC.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

3.1 Application has been received from the Leeds International Film Festival office to have a number of films certified by the Licensing Sub Committee.

3.2 Details of the films which require certification including a brief synopsis and a recommended category in line with the BBFC classifications is attached at **Appendix A** for Members information.

3.3 A representative from the Leeds International Film Festival office will attend the hearing to give additional details of the films.

3.4 The films are to be shown at a number of venues throughout the city all of which have the benefit of a Premises Licence with the provision of films.

### **4.0 History**

4.1 This is an annual request for the Leeds International Film Festival. The initial request of this nature was in 1986.

### **5.0 Implications for council policy and governance**

5.1 There are no implications for Council policy and governance in respect of determining this application.

## **6.0 Legal and resource implications**

6.1 The applicant can appeal any decision made by committee. Any appeal would be to the Magistrates Court.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 Members are requested to consider this request for the certification of the films as attached hereto.

7.2 Members may take the decision to view any of the films prior to the issue of a certificate

## **8.0 Options available to Members**

The Licensing Authority has a duty to create conditions or restrictions, and does have the authority to categories a film which is absent of a Certificate from the BBFC.

## Appendix A

### Leeds International Film Festival 2014: Licensing Notes

The following list is all the feature films showing at this year's festival which do not have a certificate from the British Board of Film Classification as they have not had a full release in this country. All the certification advice below is based on the BBFC guidelines. The festival audience is almost entirely an adult audience and most films are aimed exclusively at adults in theme, even if there is no specific content which would generate an adult certificate. We present a special Young People's Film Festival dedicated exclusively to under 18s at a different time of year.

**#chicagoGirl - The Social Network Takes on a Dictator** Fascinating perspective on activism and social media as a Chicago student helps organise Syrian resistance online. Includes some strong language and violent scenes, recommended cert 15.

**1991: The Year Punk Broke** – Nirvana and Sonic Youth concert documentary from the early 90s. Includes some strong language. Recommended Cert 15.

**ABCs of Death 2** Anthology sequel of 26 short horror films, all based on letters of the alphabet and directed by different filmmakers. BBFC cert 18 (tbc)

**Alasdair Gray: A Life in Progress** A playful documentary tribute to the unique Scottish renaissance man, Alasdair Gray. Includes some strong language, recommended cert 15.

**Appleseed Alpha** The intense post-apocalyptic prequel from the director of the original anime feature Appleseed. Recommended cert 15.

**Asmodexia** An exorcist travels towards Madrid with his granddaughter to try and stop the arrival of the antichrist. Contains scenes of violence and has a strong horror theme. Recommended cert 18

**Because I Was a Painter** An unprecedented investigation into artwork secretly created in the nazi concentration camps. Includes disturbing depictions and descriptions, recommended cert 15.

**Bird People-** An enchanting story about two strangers in a hotel, one of which turns into a bird. An adult film but no contentious materials, recommended cert 12A.

**Boy and the World, The** Hand drawn animation and a kaleidoscopic parable of the globalised economies of the modern world. No contentious material but maybe too abstract for younger children, recommended cert PG.

**Brasil Bam Bam Bam: The Story of Sonzeira** - A documentary looking at the making of a new record in Brazil. No contentious materials, recommended Cert PG

**Canal, The** A man starts to lose his sanity when he discovers his house was the location of gruesome murders at the turn of the last century. Recommended cert 18 due to violence and horror theme.

**Cartoonists Foot soldiers of Democracy-** Documentary showcasing the humorous and often subversive work of political cartoonists. Adult themes, recommended Cert 15

**Catch Me Daddy** A visceral Yorkshire-set chase thriller about a girl on the run from her violent family. Recommended cert 18.

**Corn Island** A beautiful and poetic film about a farmer and his daughter on an island in wartorn Georgia. Adult themes but no contentious material, recommended cert 12A.

**Creator of the Jungle-** Documentary looking at an eccentric recluse, who built beautiful and unbelievable works of engineering in the Spanish Forest. No contentious materials, recommended Cert PG

**Creeping Garden, The** Documentary devoted to the world myxomycetes, or 'slime moulds', and the people who work with them. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Deadbeat at Dawn** A gang member tries to quit and go straight but is forced to seek revenge when a rival gang murder his girlfriend. Strong language and violence. Recommended cert 18

**Death of a Cyclist** Satirical melodrama of guilt, infidelity and blackmail about a rich couple who hit a cyclist and run. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Dragonball Z: Battle of the Gods** The first new Dragonball Z anime feature in seventeen years, an epic sci-fi adventure. Recommended cert 15.

**Drew: The Man Behind the Poster** Documentary about the artist who created some of the most iconic film posters of all time, including Star Wars, Back to the Future, Indiana Jones, ET and more. No contentious content, recommended cert PG

**Everybody Street-** Documentary capturing the excitement and perseverance of iconic street photographers in New York City. Mild references to photographs that include gang crime and drug culture, recommended Cert 12

**Executioner, The** A Spanish tragicomedy and social satire about a reluctant executioner. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Fårö Dokument 1969** Documentary about life on the Swedish island of Fårö in the late 60s. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Fatal Assistance** A masterful documentary which interrogates the complex reconstruction process in post-earthquake Haiti. Includes some disaster reportage, recommended cert 12A.

**Fighting Down in Bethlehem** A feature documentary about the Bethlehem Boxing Club in Leeds, run by Irish boxing champion Lee Murtagh. Recommended cert 15.

**Film on the Front Lines: British Propaganda from WWI** First World War newsreel footage. Recommended cert PG.

**Final Cut Ladies and Gentlemen** Collage film experiment using tiny clips from hundreds of films to tell a typical big screen love story. Includes brief scenes of nudity and non-explicit sexual contact, recommended cert 15.

**Free Fall** A black comedy from Hungary featuring a series of surreal stories set in an apartment block. Recommended cert 18.

**Free to Play** Valve Software's fascinating documentary about the phenomenon of e-sports. Recommended cert 15.

**From Bedrooms to Billions** The first feature documentary about the remarkable success story of the British video games industry in the late 70's and early 80's. Recommended cert 12A.

**Giovanni's Island** An award-winning Japanese anime feature about the struggles of the Japanese in the immediate aftermath of their defeat in World War II. Recommended cert 12A.

**Green Prince, The-** The film uses a mix of archive footage and constructed scenes to tell the true story of the son of a Hamas founder, who is persuaded to spy for the Israeli security service Shin Bet. Adult themes and violence, recommended Cert 15

**Hard Day, A** A new action thriller from South Korea about a man on the run from the police after committing an accidental crime. Recommended cert 18.

**Heaven Adores You-** An intimate and meditative documentary looking at the life and music of Elliott Smith. Mild references to drug taking, recommended Cert 12

**Horse Money** A dreamlike film set in a crumbling infirmary about a Portuguese immigrant worker looking back on his life. Adult themes and strong language, recommended cert 15.

**House at the End of Time, The** A woman returns to the house where she allegedly killed her husband 30 years before. Some scenes of violence and scary theme. Recommended cert 15

**Housebound** When a teenage tearaway is sentenced to house arrest she discovers that the family home has something unnatural living in it. Comedy horror with some strong scenes of violence and strong language. Recommended cert 18

**How I Filmed the War** Documentary about the First World War film Battle of the Somme. Recommended cert PG.

**Is the Man Who is Tall Happy?** Animated conversation between filmmaker Michel Gondry and philosopher Noam Chomsky. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**J'accuse** French silent film about two friends fighting in the trenches during the First World War. Recommended cert PG.

**Journey to the West** Tsai Ming Liang's filmic meditation on a spiritual quest in a modern city. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Kebab and Horoscope + Frozen Stories** A Polish comedy about two misfits who decide to become marketing executives. Recommended cert 15.

**Kingdom of Dreams and Madness, The** Documentary about Japanese animation production company Studio Ghibli. Recommended cert PG.

**Last Circus, The** Black comedy about a sad clown who joins the circus and falls in love with his rival's wife. Some scenes of violence, recommended cert 15

**Led Zeppelin Played Here** – Documentary about a Led Zeppelin gig in a high school gymnasium in 1969. Includes some strong language. Recommended Cert 15 but screening in a venue where 14-17 year olds must be accompanied by adults.

**Lessons of Darkness** A documentary on the oilwell fires in Kuwait after the Gulf War. Adult themes and images of conflict. Recommended Cert 15.

**Letters from a Dead Man** – Russian apocalyptic sci fi made in the 80s. General sense of threat and horror. Recommended Cert 15.

**Love Steaks** A comic love story with some strong language and non-explicit sex scenes. Recommended cert 15.

**Maidan** A remarkable, cinematic first hand depiction of the Maidan protests in Kiev. Includes some footage of civil unrest and injured people, recommended cert 15.

**Masque of Madness (Notes on Film 06-B, Monologue 02)**, A Experimental film using only scenes from Boris Karloff movies to create a montage story. Recommended cert 15

**Modris-** A touching coming of age drama from Latvia, mild scenes of sex, gambling and bad language. Recommended Cert 15

**Mr Somebody-** A documentary looking at the world of Yorkshire eccentric Jake Mangle Wurzle. Mild language, recommended cert 12

**No One's Child** The remarkable true story of a child who was raised by wolves and found by hunters in the Bosnian woods in 1988. Includes some strong language, recommended cert 15.

**Nocturna** A beautifully-animated and wildly inventive family from Spain, Nocturna explores the mysteries of the night in a sweeping nocturnal adventure. Recommended cert PG.

**One Rogue Reporter** A hilarious documentary about an ex Daily Star reporter who turns the tables on some of the editors on Fleet Street. Recommended cert 12A due to theme.

**Paris of the North** An intimate relationship drama from Iceland featuring dry and biting humour next to moments of absurdity. Recommended cert 15.

**Patch Town** Dark comedy sci-fi fantasy musical about a factory worker who wants to track down his human mother from when he was a cabbage patch doll. Recommended cert 15

**Placido** A classic black comedy about a christmas 'sit a poor man at your table' dinner in a small Spanish town. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Point and Shoot-** Extraordinary documentary about how a shy man with OCD from Baltimore who found himself joining the Libyan rebel army. Strong footage of violence, recommended Cert 15

**Poverty Inc** An eye opening documentary which asks some difficult questions about the attempts to alleviate poverty. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Propaganda Toons!** Selection of short animations made as propaganda films during the Second World War. Recommended cert PG.

**Refugiado** Argentine drama about a mother and son on the run after an incident of domestic violence. Includes some strong language. Recommended Cert 15.

**Rocks in My Pockets** The debut feature from Latvian animator Signe Baumane in which she explores the origins of her depression with brave honesty and humour. Recommended cert 18.

**Rurouni Kenshi 2: Kyoto Inferno** The second in the trilogy of live-action adaptations of the celebrated manga about fearsome but violence-averse warrior-assassin. Recommended cert 18.

**Samurai, The** A local police officer must try and stop a psychopath from killing the local residents. Contains strong bloody violence and nudity. Recommended cert 18

**Satellite Girl and Milk Cow + Wolf Daddy, The** An animated love story from idiosyncratic Korean animator Hyung-yun Chang. Recommended cert 12A.

**Scrapyard** A patiently revelatory documentary set amongst the immigrant workers in a huge scrapyard in France. Includes some strong language, recommended cert 15.

**Second Game, The** Footage from an 80s football match in Romania a year before the revolution, a voiceover with the referee, the director's father. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Seth's Dominion** A deft portrait of Canadian cartoonist Seth, one of the world's great storytellers in the form. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Short Peace** An acclaimed anthology of dystopian anime shorts, conceived by Katsuhiro Ôtomo, the creator of Akira. Recommended cert 15.

**Silent Holy Stones, The** Tibetan drama set in a mountain monastery about young lamas trying to balance strict training with explorations of the outside world. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Silvered Water, Syria Self Portrait** A powerful mosaic documentary of amateur footage taken during the civil war in Syria. Contains disturbing footage of civil war, recommended cert 18.

**Sound of Noise** A Swedish musical crime comedy caper. Recommended cert 15, screened at LIFF twice before.



**Stray Dogs** A Taiwanese drama about a single father and two young children struggling to survive in modern Taipei. An adult film but no contentious materials, recommended cert 12A.

**Symbol** Symbol is a sublime feat of surreal comic fantasy from cult Japanese filmmaker and performer Hitoshi Matsumoto. Recommended cert 15, screened at LIFF twice before.

**Taking, The** Violent thriller set in Yorkshire about two market stall holders that fall foul of a loanshark. Contains strong bloody violence and strong language. Recommended cert 18

**Testament of Youth** The first big screen adaptation of Vera Brittain's iconic and powerful WW1 memoir. Recommended cert 12A.

**That Happy Couple** Berlanga and Bardems' joint debut, an engaging, bittersweet comedy about a young couple who win a soap opera sweepstake. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Titli** A vital indie crime drama set in the badlands of Delhi's underbelly featuring some violent scenes and strong language. Recommended cert 18.

**To Hell with Culture** An epic hip-hop gangster musical based on a Japanese manga. Recommended cert 18.

**Trespassing Bergman-** Documentary in which an eminent array of filmmakers discuss the legacy and influence that the legendary Swedish director Ingmar Bergman had on their work. No contentious material, recommended Cert PG

**Trouble with Money, The** An unusual tragicomedy about a falsely accused collecting clerk. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**Tusk** New comedy horror film from Kevin Smith about an elderly man who kidnaps a young reporter with the intention of turning him into a walrus. Recommended cert 18.

**Vessel-** captures the brave and sometimes dangerous efforts of the abortion-rights group Women on Waves. Strong references to sex and use of abortion drugs. Recommended Cert 15

**Visitor to a Museum** – Russian apocalyptic sci fi made in the 80s. Includes some nudity. Recommended Cert 15.

**We are Mari Pepa** A Mexican teen drama about a 16 year old boy trying to get his friends together in a rock band. Includes strong languages and sexual scenes, recommended cert 18.

**Welcome Mr Marshall** A razor sharp satire set in a small Castilian village expecting a visit from American benefactors after the war. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

**What Now? Remind Me** A remarkable diary film made by Portuguese cinematographer Joaquim Pinto who has been living with HIV for almost 20 years. Includes some strong language, recommended cert 15.

**What We Do in the Shadows** Comedy mockumentary about 4 vampires who houseshare in New Zealand and the issues that face their daily lives. Some bloody violence, recommended cert 15.

**When Animals Dream** Danish coming of age tale about a teenage girl whose awakening sexuality coincides with her discovering she's a werewolf. Some strong language and scenes of violence

**Witching and Bitching** Comedy horror about a gang of jewellery thieves who hide out in a town populated by witches who want to sacrifice them to their goddess. Contains strong language, scenes of fantasy violence and nudity. Recommended cert 18

**X+Y**- A charming coming of age drama surrounding the challenging relationship between an autistic teenager and his mother. Recommended Cert PG