

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

**Report to the Licensing Sub Committee**

**Date: 23 March 2015**

**Subject: Application for the Certification of Films**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	Hyde Park & Woodhouse	
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 Young Film Festival in April 2015.

This festival is to be held in a number of cinemas in the Leeds area. The films which require certification are to be shown at the Hyde Park Picture House 71-73 Brudenell Road Leeds LS6 1JD.

**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 or over. When a programme includes a `12` film, no persons under twelve 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 person under the age of eighteen 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 categories 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 A request has been received in respect of the Leeds Young Film Festival which intends to hold the festival in the Leeds area. The films requiring certification will be shown at the Hyde Park Picture House. This will be the 16<sup>th</sup> year this festival has been held.
- 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.

3.4 The Hyde Park Picture House has the benefit of a Premises Licence with the exhibition of films as a licensable activity.

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

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

#### **5.0 Legal and resource implications**

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

#### **6.0 Recommendations**

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

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

#### **7.0 Options available to Members**

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

### **Moomins on the Riviera BBFC Rating U (TBC)**

The loveable Moomins set sail for the Riviera where, after a journey fraught with danger, Snorkmaiden is dazzled by the attentions of a playboy and Moominpappa befriends an aristocrat and adopts the name 'de Moomin'. An animated comedy for the whole family.

**Awaiting BBFC classification – likely to be a U certificate, suitable for all ages.**

### **Fiddlesticks**

When the parents in a small town try to keep it as average as possible to attract a consumer brand testing company, the town's young children rebel with a series of stunts to make the town stand out in this madcap comedy.

**Recommended U as suitable for all ages.**

### **Song of the Sea BBFC Rating PG (TBC)**

A beautiful (Oscar nominated) animation based on Irish folklore, the legend of the selkies who live as seals in the water and humans on land. Six year old Saoirse finds a magical shell flute that brings the ancient stories to life.

**Awaiting BBFC classification – likely to be a PG certificate due to some scary scenes.**

### **A Letter to Momo BBFC Rating PG (TBC)**

A Japanese fantasy adventure about 11 year old Momo who moves to the country from the city after the death of her father. Here she is befriended by three spirits who help her understand the unfinished letter from her father.

**Awaiting BBFC classification – likely to be a PG certificate due to some scary scenes.**

### **The Christmas Family**

Pixy the elf is abandoned by Santa and must survive a whole year in the human world. Befriended by Hugo, whose father hates Christmas, Pixy must stay hidden but a year is a

long time for an elf who has magical powers and can't stand the summer heat. A magical comedy.

**Recommended PG due to one use of mild bad language and one moderately offensive gesture.**

### **Ulysses and the 10,000 Moustaches**

Nine year old Ulysses and his friends pride themselves on going unnoticed by their teachers and bullies until one day when Ulysses wakes up with a full moustache. His new found fame brings him to the attention of a secret moustachioed society in this highly amusing comedy from Mexico.

**Recommended PG due to age of characters**

### **Lola on the Pea**

In this comedy drama Lola lives on a houseboat with her mother who has just started dating new boyfriend who Lola doesn't like. She befriends a new boy at school who turns out to be a Kurd living illegally in Germany. When his mother becomes ill Lola must overcome her prejudices and ask her mother's boyfriend to help.

**Recommended PG due to one scene of natural nudity and one use of mild bad language.**

### **Havana Curveball (documentary)**

13 year old Jewish American Mica wants to send baseball equipment to Cuba to help those less fortunate than him. When his plans are thwarted by government bureaucracy he decides to find out more about the country.

**Recommended 12A due to theme and infrequent moderate bad language.**

### **Shana - The Wolf's Music**

Drama about First Nations girl Shana, a gifted musician who has not come to terms with the death of her mother. A new teacher at school helps her with her grief and encourages her to apply for music school.

**Recommended 12A due to theme of parental loss, infrequent use of moderate bad language and scenes of peril.**

### **The Legend of Longwood**

Drama about a 12 year old girl who moves to Ireland from her native New York to a large country estate. When she discovers the fiancée of the estate's owner plans to have a herd of rare white horses killed she decides to take matters into her own hands.

**Recommended 12A due to theme, infrequent use of moderate bad language and scenes of peril.**

### **I Am Big Bird: The Carroll Spinney Story (documentary)**

Fascinating documentary about the puppeteer who has played Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch on Sesame Street since it's very beginning.

**Recommended 15 due to strong language and themes of abuse and suicide.**

### **About A Girl**

Charleen is a 15 year old girl who failed suicide attempt makes her, her family and her friends reassess their relationships. This blackly comic drama looks at the effects our actions have on those around us and the fact that life is always worth living.

**Recommended 15 due to infrequent strong language and theme of teenage suicide.**

### **When Animals Dream BBFC Rating 15 (TBC)**

A nineteen year old girl tries to come to terms with the fact that her diagnosis with a potentially crippling genetic disease may in fact be something far more supernatural in this coming of age horror/drama.

**Awaiting BBFC classification – likely to be 15 due to theme and tone of film, some strong violence and language. Screened in LIFF 2014.**