

Report of the Head of Licensing and Registration

Report to the Licensing Sub Committee

Date: 10 September 2012

Subject: Certification of Films

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Chapel Allerton		
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 Jewish Film Festival 2012 at the Seven Arts Centre 31A Harrogate Road Leeds 7 between the 1st and 18th November 2012.

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 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 Application has been received from the UK Jewish Film Festival organization to have a number of films certified as they are not currently certified by the BBFC. The films are to be shown within the Seven Arts Centre 31A Harrogate Road Leeds 7.

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 The Seven Arts Centre has the benefit of a premises licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 which allows the exhibition of a film between the hours of 09:00hrs and 01:00hrs every day.

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 categories a film which is absent of a Certificate from the BBFC.

Appendix A

16th UK JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL – 1-18 November 2012.
Seven Arts Centre - Leeds

My Dad is Baryshnikov (PG)

Russia 2011 | Feature 111 mins | Dir Dmitry Povolotsky

PG certificate would be recommended as some scenes might contain:

- **Mild discriminatory language and/or behaviour (in educational and historical context)**
- **Mild bad language.**

Moscow, 1986, the heat of Perestroika. Borya is an average clumsy teenager who is miraculously admitted to the legendary Bolshoi Ballet School... a scrawny, underdeveloped 14-year-old whose Jewish surname sets him slightly apart from his peers at his performing-arts academy. He lives with his mother, Larissa, who tutors others in English and Russian and occasionally sleeps with some of her clients. One of his mother's American "students" gives Boris a banned VHS copy of "White Nights," the 1985 thriller starring Mikhail Baryshnikov, who was at the time still a persona non grata in the Soviet Union owing to his defection. Mesmerized, Boris watches the ballet scenes repeatedly and tries to copy Baryshnikov's moves. Half out of childish fantasy, half out of a desire to impress, he tells his classmates he's really Baryshnikov's illegitimate son, and when his pirouettes begin to improve, everyone starts to believe him. His stock rises even further when he starts dealing in black-market goods acquired through a sideline he runs with his older friend Vovan (Mark Ganeev). But if he were to get caught, it would spell curtains for his placement at the Bolshoi Theater. This charming movie sits somewhere between 'Billy Elliot' and 'Good Bye Lenin!'

The Matchmaker (15)

Israel 2010 | Feature 112 mins | Dir Avi Nesher

15 certificate would be recommended as some scenes might contain:

- **Moderate language**
- **Moderate nudity (without strong detail)**

A hugely pleasurable film that succeeds in weaving together many facets of life in Israel in 1968 that shed light on the country as it is today. When Haifa teenage Arik Burstein (Tuval Shafir) meets his friend's rebellious cousin Tamara, who has grown up in America, he is seduced by her stories of free love and rock 'n roll. But the world that opens up when he gets a summer job working for a most unusual matchmaker, Yankele Bride, (Adir Miller) is bizarre beyond belief. And, since Arik's father knew Yankele back in Romania, he trusts him and allows his son to become part of his sleazy empire around the Haifa port. The scars of Nazi Europe hang over this bizarre community and those ghosts are never far away, and yet there is some real comedy and a lot of charm in this powerful new film by Avi Nesher, one of Israel's most renowned directors.

The Price Of Kings: Simon Peres (12)

UK/ Israel 2011 | Documentary 80 mins | Dir Richard Symons

12 certificate would be recommended as some scenes might contain:

- **Moderate language**
- **Mature themes (war)**
- **Moderate violence scenes (no emphasis on injuries or blood)**

On Friday May 14th 1948 Simon Peres was with the first Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben Gurion, as he declared Israeli independence. Watching the celebrations afterwards he turned to the young Shimon Peres, future Prime Minister and current President of Israel and predicted the Middle East conflict that followed. Neither of them could have predicted the bloody conflict would still be appearing in the world news today. Simon Peres has quite literally spent a lifetime at the seat of power since that very day and with a seven-decade-long career in politics at the heart of the Middle East conflict. Through two days of interviews with the President of Israel UK-based director Richard Symons asks Peres what price he paid for being a leader. Narrated by Helena Bonham Carter.

David (PG)

USA 2012 | Feature Drama 80 mins | Dir Joel Fendelman

PG certificate would be recommended as some scenes might contain:

- **Mild discriminatory language and/or behaviour (in educational and historical context)**
- **Mild bad language.**

David tells the story of Daud, an eleven year old Muslim boy growing up in Brooklyn. As the son of the Imam of the local mosque, he has to juggle his father's high expectations, the dynamics of a conservative family, and being different – even from his peers in the Muslim community. Through an innocent act of good faith, Daud inadvertently befriends a group of Jewish boys who mistake him for being Jewish and accept him as one of their own. While working together on a summer project, a genuine friendship is formed between Daud and Yoav, one of the Jewish boys. Unable to resist the joy of a camaraderie that he has never felt before, David, as he is known to the Jewish boys, gets drawn into a complicated situation that is based upon both the best of intentions, and youthful deceit.