

Report of the Head of Licensing and Registration

Report to the Licensing Sub Committee

Date: 1st October 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): City & Hunslet & Headingley		
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 2012 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 Leeds International 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 following venues, the Town Hall, Hyde Park Picture House, the Vue Cinema in the Light, the City Varieties, the Cottage Road Cinema and the Hi Fi Club.

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 venues have the benefit of a premises licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 which allows the exhibition of a film.

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.

Appendix A

Leeds International Film Festival 2012

Licensing Notes on all features to be screened not certified by the BBFC (some titles still to confirm as of 20/9)

½ Revolution

Camcorder documentary filmed during the Arab Spring in Cairo, includes some footage of street riots and violence. Recommended Cert 15.

11 Flowers

Chinese political drama set during the end of the Cultural Revolution. Some adult themes and mild language. Recommended Cert 12.

90 Minutes

Norwegian satirical drama about violence in society with three parallel storylines about the effects of violent acts by people in different moral circumstances. Includes graphic depictions of the violence. Recommended Cert 18.

13 Eerie

Horror. Candidates for a job at the FBI as a crime scene analyst are taken to a remote disused asylum for a test but zombies are loose and soon they are under attack from the undead horde. Contains strong language and strong bloody violence and gore. Recommended cert 18

Ambassador, The

Documentary about a man who poses as a white businessman/entrepreneur in Central Africa to expose corruption. Includes some discussion of adult themes and strong language, recommended cert 15.

Apocalypse: A Bill Callahan Tour Film

Documentary about the American singer-songwriter on tour. Includes some strong language. Recommended Cert 15.

Art of Negative Thinking, The

Norwegian black comedy about a man who tries to deal with his new disability after a serious accident.

Asura

Japanese animation about an orphaned boy who becomes a notorious criminal. Recommended 15.

Asya's Happiness

Russian 60s drama about life in a remote village. No contentious content. Recommended Cert PG.

Avalon

Swedish drama about an aged playboy trying to recapture his youth. Also screened at Cambridge Film Festival. Recommended 15.

Back to the Square

Documentary about life in Cairo since the Arab Spring following characters from various social backgrounds. Includes some adult themes, recommended Cert 12.

Beauty is Embarrassing

Documentary about a satirical artist Wayne White. Includes some strong language. Recommended Cert 18.

Before Dawn

Horror. A couple trying to patch their relationship up at a remote cottage are attacked by zombies. Strong bloody violence. Picked up for UK distribution by Metrodome & awaiting BBFC classification. Recommended cert 18

Behind the Screen

German documentary about the environmental and human rights abuses resulting from high tech and IT industries around the world. Includes some adult themes, recommended Cert 12.

Berserk 1 + 2

Two 'Berserk' Japanese anime films, war-themed adventures set in a medieval Europe. Beyond the Black Rainbow SciFi. A woman tries to escape from Arboria, a quasi-futuristic commune where she is being held captive by a mad scientist who may or may not be a cyborg. Contains some violence and drug use. Recommended cert 18

Better Things: The Life and Decisions of Jeffrey Catherine Jones

Documentary about fantasy and comic book artist who changed gender in later life, Jeffrey Catherine Jones. Includes some strong language. Recommended cert 15.

Beyond Time – William Turnbull

Documentary about the British sculptor William Turnbull. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

Big Night, The

Belgian comedy about two brothers, one a punk, the other a salesman. Recommended 15.

Black Brush

Black comedy from Hungary about the mis-adventures of four chimneysweeps. Recommended 15.

Blood of My Blood

Portuguese family melodrama. Includes strong language, moderate violence and sexual scenes. Recommended Cert 18.

Boy Eating the Bird's Food

Greek social realist drama about a young man struggling to make ends meet when he loses his job and apartment. Includes one graphic sexual scene. Recommended Cert 18.

Butterfly Room, The

Horror Thriller. A lonely old woman who collects butterflies begins a strange relationship with a twelve year old girl, whom she begins to treat like her daughter. When the relationship breaks down the woman's true murderous character is revealed. Contains strong violence and language. Recommended cert 15

Charles Bradley: Soul of America

Documentary about an American soul singer who achieved fame in his 60s. Includes some strong language. Recommended Cert 15.

Citadel

Supernatural Thriller. An agoraphobic man teams up with a priest to retrieve his newborn baby which has been kidnapped by a group of feral children living in a disused tenement building. Contains scenes of violence and scary theme, some strong language. Recommended cert 18

Crazy and Thief

Experimental drama by a musician/filmmaker about the experiences of his two children. No contentious content but showing in a club venue for over 18s only with live music afterwards by the filmmaker.

Crossways

Japanese silent melodrama from 1928. No contentious content. Recommended Cert PG.

Death of a Man in the Balkans

Black comedy from Serbia about the events in an apartment after a composer has committed suicide. Includes some moderately strong language and adult themes. Recommended Cert 15.

Deep, The

Icelandic drama based on a true story, about a fishing boat that sank with just one survivor. Recommended 15.

Eddie the Sleepwalking Cannibal

Horror comedy. A burnt out artist befriends the local town misfit who has a habit of killing and eating people in his sleep. These gory scenes enable to artist to paint again, so he encourages Eddie to keep killing with devastating (and funny) consequences. Contains strong bloody violence. Recommended cert 18

Electric Man

Comedy Drama. Two hapless comic shop owners get embroiled in a plot to steal one of the world's rarest comics. No contentious issues. Recommended cert PG

Eternal Breasts, The

50s drama from Japan based on the life of a female poet who was diagnosed with breast cancer. Adult themes but no contentious content. Recommended Cert 12.

First Teacher, The

Russian 60s drama about a teacher sent out to a remote village after the Revolution. Some adult themes but no contentious content. Recommended Cert 12.

Fourth Dimension, The

Three short stories on the subject of the fourth dimension and time travel. Includes some strong language, recommended Cert 15.

Frost

Two young scientists on an expedition to Iceland wake up to discover the rest of the team is missing and there is something alien under the ice. Picked up for UK distribution by Momentum & awaiting BBFC classification. Recommended 18 cert

Girls of Dark, The

Japanese drama from the 60s about the struggles of women working as courtesans. Some adult themes but no contentious content. Recommended Cert 12.

Golden Slumbers

Documentary about the film industry in Cambodia, destroyed by the Khmer Rouge. Includes some adult themes, recommended Cert 12.

Grandma Lo-Fi

Documentary about an Icelandic home recording musician who started in her 70s. No contentious content. Recommended cert U.

Grave Encounters 2

Friends of a reality TV show that went missing in a disused mental institution follow in their footsteps and encounter poltergeists, ghosts and demons as they are picked off one by one. Contains strong violence and scary theme. Recommended cert 18

Great Flood, The

Found footage documentary about the Great Flood in Mississippi in 1927. No contentious materials, recommended cert PG.

Hen in the Wind, A

Japanese drama from 1948 about a man who returns from the war to find out his wife had to resort to a night of prostitution to pay their son's medical bills. Adult themes but no contentious content. Recommended Cert 12.

Here Comes the Devil

Supernatural Thriller. A married couple lose their children while on a family trip near some caves. The kids eventually reappear without explanation, but it becomes clear that they are not who they used to be, Contains strong physical and emotional violence and sex scenes. Picked up for UK distribution by Metrodome & awaiting BBFC classification. Recommended cert 18

Heretic

Horror. Independent Leeds made film about a priest trapped in a house haunted by the ghost of a young woman that he failed to save. Scary theme and some violence. Recommended cert 15

In Another Country

Korean comedy drama about a French woman on different holidays in South Korea. Recommended 15.

History of Future Folk, The

Scifi Comedy. An alien sent to earth to kill humankind has a change of heart when he hears music for the first time and becomes a musician. Recommended cert PG

Hyperwomen, The

Documentary about the preparations for a dance performance in an indigenous Brazilian tribe. Includes some frank discussion of sexuality. Recommended cert 15.

In My Mother's Arms

Documentary about an orphanage in Baghdad. Includes some adult themes, recommended cert 12.

In Search of Blind Joe Death: The Saga of John Fahey

Documentary about the eccentric American folk guitarist. Includes some strong language. Recommended cert 15.

Jai Bhim Comrade

Indian documentary about the experiences of Dalit culture, people deemed 'untouchables' in the traditional caste system. Includes some adult themes and news footage. Recommended cert 12.

Jobriath AD

Biographical documentary about a struggling musician/performer. Includes some sexual references and strong language. Recommended cert 15.

John Dies at the End

Comedy fantasy horror. A pair of college drop outs fail to save the world from an alien invasion when users of a new out of body drug return as non-human. Contains nudity, drug taking, strong violence and language. Recommended cert 18

King of Comics

Documentary about a satirical gay cartoonist from Germany including some strong language and graphic cartoon depictions of sexual scenes. Recommended Cert 18.

King Kong vs Godzilla

Classic Japanese monster film. Recommended 12A.

Leviathan

Nature documentary filmed on board an American fishing boat. Recommended 12A.

Lint The Movie

Mockumentary about a make believe pulp author/artist, whose career is discussed by a series of luminaries fro the world of graphic art, comedy and literature. No contentious content. Recommended cert 12

Little Bit Zombie, A

Horror comedy. An engaged couple head to a remote cottage to plan for their wedding but when the groom turns into a zombie, the bridezilla is not going to let that get in the way of her big day. Some fantasy violence. Recommended cert 15

Low Definition Control

Documentary about surveillance culture, CCTV and high tech cameras in public arenas. Some adult themes but no contentious content. Recommended cert 12.

Maniac

Horror Thriller. A serial killer who owns a mannequin shop develops a dangerous obsession with a young artist and goes on a killing spree. Has screened at London Frightfest and has been picked up for UK distribution by Metrodome & awaiting BBFC classification. Recommended cert 18

Matango: Fungus of Terror

Classic Japanese fantasy about the survivors of a shipwreck who transform into mushrooms.

Metelitsa: Winter of the Dead

Horror. Russian zombie film in which a ragtag band of survivors must fight against both the undead horde and the harsh Russian winter. Contains strong bloody violence and strong language. Recommended cert 18

Michel Petrucciani

Documentary about French jazz pianist Michel Petrucciani. Recommended 12A.

Modus Anomaly

Horror thriller. A man must save his two children after they disappear during a holiday in the woods. Contains strong violence. Recommended cert 18.

Morgan Spurlock's Comic Con

Documentary about the San Diego Comic-Con, the world's biggest comic convention. Recommended PG.

Mother

Japanese 50s drama about a woman struggling to keep her family together in difficult economic circumstances. No contentious content. Recommended Cert PG.

My Island

Documentary about a Leeds man who lives most of the year on a deserted Scottish Island. Includes some adult themes and moderately strong language. Recommended Cert 12.

Nekromantik

Horror love story. A member of an accident clean up crew steals a corpse and takes it home. His girlfriend falls in love with the corpse and leaves him alone, distraught and suicidal. Contains nudity, sexual scenes, gory violence, once use of strong language and the documentary footage of a rabbit being killed. Advice from BBFC being sought but recommended cert 18. Has previously screened in London and Manchester.

Nest of Gentlemen, A

Russian literary adaptation from the late 60s about a fading aristocrat. No contentious content. Recommended Cert PG.

Now Forager

American indie drama about a couple who make a living by picking wild mushrooms and selling them to gourmet restaurants in New York. Includes some strong language. Recommended Cert 15.

Painless (Insensia)

Horror scifi. Following the unlikely survival of a car crash a man delves into his past only to discover he had been the subject of a medical experiment as a child which has left him impervious to pain. Contains some violence and disturbing scenes. Recommended cert 15

Persistence of Vision

Documentary about the failed plans to make an epic, independent animated family film in the 80s-90s. No contentious content, recommended cert PG.

Pervert's Guide to Ideology, The

Documentary in which cultural critic and philosopher Slavoj Zizek deconstructs film and popular culture. Includes some strong language. Recommended cert 15.

Post Tenebras Lux

Mexican experimental drama about a couple living in a forest and the community of people and animals existing around them. Recommended 18.

Radio Unnameable

Documentary about the pioneering, radical New York talk radio host Bob Fass. Includes some strong language. Recommended cert 15.

Revolution Blues

Documentary about a busking tour by musician Julian Cope. Includes some strong language, recommended cert 15.

Rise and Fall of the Clash, The

Documentary about the punk band The Clash. Includes some strong language. Recommended cert 15.

Room 205 of Fear

Horror. A young girl moves into a university dorm room and is haunted by the previous occupant who was killed there. Contains strong horror and violence. Recommended cert 18

Room 237

Documentary. The film explores the numerous theories about the hidden meanings with Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece The Shining. Recommended cert 18

Seven Signs

Documentary about Southern culture in the US. Includes some strong language. Screening in a club venue for over 18s only anyway.

Shadows of Liberty

Documentary about freedom of the media in the US. Includes some discussion of adult themes, recommended cert 12.

Shine of Day, The

Austrian drama about a theatre actor and his reconciliation with a long estranged relative. Includes some strong language. Recommended Cert 15.

Shock Head Soul

Docudrama about a Dutch lawyer who wrote of his experiences of mental illness in the early 20th Century, helping challenge traditional attitudes. Some emotionally disturbing scenes. Recommended cert 12.

Siberiade

70s Russian drama about the history of a forgotten village in Siberia during the 20th Century. Some adult themes, recommended cert 12.

Somi, the Taekwon-do Woman

An epic historical martial arts co-production between Japan and North Korea. Recommended 15.

Stormland

Icelandic drama about a teacher whose mission to change the world gets him the sack. Recommended 15.

Sushi Girl

Thriller. 5 gangsters meet up 6 years after the heist they did together went wrong. Assuming one of the group has double crossed them they turn to torture to try and extract the truth. Contains strong language and strong bloody violence. Recommended cert 18

Tai Chi 0

Chinese action epic about a martial arts trainee who comes to a village and becomes its hero against a menacing threat. Recommended 15.

Thale

Fantasy Horror. A clean up crew discover a woman kept captive in an underground room, but she is actually a mythological creature and her own kind want her back. Contains violence. Recommended cert 18

Thieves, The

Korean action blockbuster about a gang of thieves and their criminal adventures. Recommended 15.

This Band is so Gorgeous

Documentary about punk band Sham 69 touring China. Includes strong language. Recommended cert 15.

Thursday Till Sunday

Chilean family road movie in which the parents fall out, seen through the eyes of the two children. Includes some strong language. Recommended Cert 15.

Tiger's Mind, The

Experimental-theatrical crime drama about various characters role playing in a villa. No contentious content. Recommended cert PG.

Una Noche

Cuban drama about young people trying to emigrate to America. Includes some strong language and a graphic sexual scene. Recommended Cert 18.

Uncle Vanya

Russian 70s adaptation of the classic Chekhov play about an aristocratic landowner and his household. No contentious content. Recommended cert PG.

Woodsman and the Rain, The

Japanese comedy about a filmmaker who goes to a remote village to make his next film and encounters a disruptive lumberjack. Recommended 12A.

V/H/S

Horror. A group of thieves are paid to break into a house to steal a VHS tape. They discover a collection of tapes and watch them only to find horrific stories on each tape. Contains strong bloody violence, scary themes and strong language. Picked up for distribution in the UK by Sony & awaiting BBFC classification. Recommended cert 18

Vanishing Waves

SciFi. Scientists create an apparatus that allows a subject to enter the mind of a coma patient. But in this virtual world the subject falls in love with the patient. Contains some mild violence. Recommended cert 15.

Voice of My Father

Turkish political drama about a son finding out about his late father's covert history as a political activist. Adult themes but no contentious content. Recommended Cert 12.

War Witch

Civil war drama set in sub-Saharan Africa about the struggles of a girl soldier. Includes some violence and harrowing subject matter. Recommended Cert 15.

Winter Nomads

Documentary about Swiss shepherds herding their sheep through countryside and the edges of suburbia. No contentious material, recommended cert PG.

Wither

Horror. A group of friends staying at a cabin in the woods release a demon that possesses them one by one and turns them into zombies. Contains strong bloody violence, gore and strong language. Recommended cert 18

Wolf Children Ame and Yuke

Major Japanese anime adventure about two children born as half human / half wolves. Recommended PG.

Wrinkles

Spanish animated comedy about an old man put into a retirement home by his family. Recommended 12A.

You're Next

Thriller. A family are held captive in their own home by a gang of robbers, but the son's girlfriend is a 'weekend warrior' and turns the table on their captors. Contains strong language and violence. Recommended cert 18