



REPORT OF:	██████████ Head of Cinema for Leeds Heritage Theatres (Hyde Park Picture House) ██████████
TO:	Leeds City Council Licensing Committee ██████████ Principal Licensing Officer Entertainment Licensing - Leeds City Council Tel: 0113 378 5029 ████████████████████████████████████████
SUBJECT:	Film Certification – Queer East Film Festival
DATE OF REPORT:	19/09/2024

1.0	DETAILS OF PROPOSED FESTIVAL OR SEASON
When	Festival/season dates followed by screening dates; Film 1 <i>Bye Bye Love</i> - Sun 27th Oct, 2.30pm Film 2 <i>The River</i> - Sun 17th Nov. 2pm Film 3 <i>The Last Year of Darkness</i> – Wed. 20th Nov. 6pm
Where	Hyde Park Picture House
Context	Queer East is a cross-disciplinary festival that showcases LGBTQ+ cinema, live arts, and moving image work from East and Southeast Asia and its diaspora communities. The festival primarily takes place in London every Summer with a smaller touring programme shared in a range of cinemas across the country in the Autumn. For more info: https://queereast.org.uk/
2.0	SCREENER AVAILABLE?
No	Due to the nature of this festival we are unable to supply screeners for any of the three proposed screenings to accompany this report.
3.0	ABOUT THE FILMS
3.1 Film One	<i>Bye Bye Love</i> (Japan, 1974, 85mins) Director: Isao Fujisawa Synopsis: Until the 2018 discovery of a film negative in a warehouse, <i>Bye Bye Love</i> was long considered lost: a new print gives audiences a rare chance to revisit this radical work from 1974. Following two young people, Utamaro and Giko, on a doomed summer road trip through Japan, Isao Fujisawa's poetic, surreal work reflects on the

	dissipating promise of 1960s counterculture and free love. The film is stylistically influenced by the French New Wave and American New Cinema, notably Jean-Luc Godard and Arthur Penn. Yet the main character's name – Utamaro – also suggests a rethinking of Japanese artistic traditions, especially male perspectives on feminine beauty. Here, romantic love transcends gender, sexuality, and even the body; a queer challenge to conventional understandings of relationships that adds to the political charge of this rediscovered classic.
3.2 Film Two	The River (Taiwan, 1997, 115mins) Director: Tsai Ming-Liang Synopsis: In director Tsai Ming-Liang's shockingly subversive family drama, Hsiao-Kang gets roped into participating in a film shoot, in which he plays a dead body floating in the Tamsui River in Taipei. But the polluted, dirty water provokes a health crisis, as Hsiao-Kang is suddenly struck by debilitating neck pain. His concerned parents attempt various ways of alleviating his discomfort, but to no avail and soon, the son's misery causes the troubled family unit to further disintegrate. Unveiling domestic secrets and repressed emotions, this uncomfortable work of slow cinema offers a sly, queer critique of the nuclear family and the values it represents. Shot in Tsai's signature minimalist style and starring his muse Lee Kang-Sheng, this controversial work repelled some audiences and confirmed the director's place as a uniquely rebellious voice in queer cinema.
3.3 Film Three	The Last Year of Darkness (China, 2023, 95mins) Director: Benjamin Mullinkosson Synopsis: As the city of Chengdu changes, the future of Funky Town, a beloved queer-friendly techno club, is unclear. For a vibrant group of DJs, drag performers, artists, lovers, ravers, and skaters, the club is a sanctuary for underground partying and allows them to thrive after the sun sets. It's the one place that accepts them for who they are, while during the day they battle depression, question their sexuality, and struggle to make a living. But with construction cranes looming as a metro station encroaches, the partygoers are forced to face what brought them to the club in the first place – and make the most of their remaining time there. A love letter to the Chengdu underground scene, The Last Year of Darkness is a coming-of-age documentary that celebrates the ephemerality of youth.
7.0	CLASSIFICATION – SCREENER UNAVAILABLE
7.1	We advise that an 18 certificate is required for all three films to be featured in the Queer East film series.
7.2	This is because for any film without a screener for the committee to view, an 18 certificate is required by Leeds City Council, with reference to the below disclaimer.

Disclaimer	These films do not contain any content which would more likely than not, render them liable to be classified as R18 if considered in accordance with the BBFC Classification Guidelines.

Certification Controls at Hyde Park Picture House

As per our premises licence, the Hyde Park Picture House follows BBFC certification guidance, which is listed with each individual film on our [website](#).

We have several checks in place to manage access to films based on this guidance. These checks are as follows:

- Our [terms & conditions page](#) includes clear guidance on certification in a way audiences can understand and which includes a link to the BBFC if further information is required.
- Certificates are added to every listing on our box office system in addition to our website and this limits the tickets available to films where appropriate. E.g. An audience member can't buy a child's ticket for a 15 or 18 certificate film.
- We have also established a Content Guidance system which allows us to give additional content information to audiences to help them make informed choices about what they watch. Full guidance on this can be found on our [website](#).
- Adding the cert to the Box Office system also enables our Front of House staff to identify the age restrictions for films. All staff are fully trained to both understand and then manage certification and age restrictions for films, so we can both advise on entry and appropriateness of a film and refuse sales where required.
- All tickets bought in advance or on the day are checked by a staff member on the door to the cinema auditorium so if an underage person has bought a ticket over the phone or internet in advance they would have to engage with a staff member at ticket check point and entry would be refused and ticket refunded.