

Officer Comments – Leeds Palestinian Film Festival 2023



Title	Synopsis provided by the Applicant	Applicant's Recommended Rating	Link to Screener	Password (if applicable)	Officer Comments
Cinema Palestine (78mins)	Documentary about Palestinian films and Palestinian film makers.	15	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p>Film footage of war, death, dead bodies, but not exclusively. No gore, not sustained and in context. Some swearing, subtitled.</p> <p>Suitable for a 15 classification.</p>
Walls Cannot Keep us From Flying (13mins)	Documentary about skateboarders in the West Bank.	15	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p>Documentary about two Palestinian youths and the risks they take to skateboard in Palestine, which led to a skatepark being built and both boys and girls having the facilities to skate.</p> <p>No concerns.</p> <p>Suitable for a 15 certification.</p>
My Tree (102mins)	Documentary made by Canadian film maker Jason Sherman, following his search for a tree planted in his name in Israel as a Bar mitzvar gift.	15	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p>Some moderate bad language and very moderate conflict without violence.</p> <p>Discussion about previous wars without any gory details of specific acts of violence.</p> <p>Suitable for a 15 certification</p>
ALAM (109mins)	Coming of age enjoyable drama following a group of Palestinian teenagers in Israel.	15	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p>An overall light hearted film, but with poignant moments, portraying the life of a group of teenagers living in the West Bank. The film makes a number of references to using cannabis but in a comic manner and shows a scene with a list of porn films with graphic titles, but no images, in a persons browsing history and contains a considerable amount of strong language but again in a comic manner.</p> <p>Suitable for a 15 certification.</p>

A collection of three films:					
'I am from Palestine' (5mins)	As Saamidah, a young Palestinian-American girl, anxiously starts her first day of school, she finds her identity in question when faced with a world map that doesn't include her homeland. The short film involves her examining and gaining pride in her Palestinian identity.	15			Animated short film. No concerns. Suitable for a 15 certification.
Checkpoint (6mins)	Set in the West Bank, Checkpoint follows 11 year old Leila, who wakes up before dawn every morning to try to get to school on time	15			Animated short film. No concerns. Suitable for a 15 certification.
The Tower (74mins)	A young girl in a refugee camp learns about her family history through stories told by 3 generations	15			Animated film describing life in a Lebanese refugee camp, the giving of Palestine to Israel and displacement – described as The Catastrophe, with some real footage. Mild swearing, obvious distress, some scenes of a frightening nature, mental illness, death and experiences of war. Suitable for a 15 certification.
Tomorrow's Freedom (97mins)	Documentary about of Marwan Barghouti, described as the 'Palestinian Nelson Mandela', who could be elected as the next Palestinian President	15			The documentary sets out the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel, and follows the life of Marwan Barghouti, leader of the military organisation of Fatah, the nationalist social democratic party. Accounts can be heard of Barghouti's aspirations for unity and freedom, meeting with Israeli democrats to support and strengthen the peace process, but resorted to responding to the actions of Israel. Assassination attempts were made on his life and in 2004 he was indicted by an Israeli Civilian Court on charges of murder and attempted murder and remains in an Israeli jail.

					<p>His son, also imprisoned for a few years and fellow inmates talk of the brutality and in-humanisation suffered by Palestinian prisoners.</p> <p>Described as a 'symbol of Palestinian resistance' the speakers make comparisons with Arafat and Mandela and is said to be the prime candidate for the next Palestinian elections.</p> <p>Cert 15 recommendation.</p>
Israelism (84mins)	A documentary about Jewish people in the USA questioning the narrative about Israel that they were brought up with	15			<p>Password not working. Officers unable to access the film. Certification request has now changed to 18. Declaration has now been submitted.</p>