

**LATE ITEM – LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE**

**20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015**

**ITEM 7 - CERTIFICATION OF FILM – LEEDS INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL**

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

**Report to the Licensing Sub Committee**

**Date: 20 October 2015**

**Subject: Certification of Films - Leeds International Film Festival**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name of Ward: City Wide		
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.

**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 categorise 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 office to have a number of films certified by the Licensing Sub Committee.

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 A representative from the Leeds International Film Festival office will attend the hearing to give additional details of the films.

3.4 The films are to be shown at a number of venues throughout the city all of which have the benefit of a Premises licence with the provision of films or will operate under a Temporary Event Notice..

### **4.0 History**

4.1 This is an annual request for the Leeds International Film Festival. The initial request of this nature was in 1986.

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

5.1 There are no implications for Council policy and governance in respect of

determining this application.

## **6.0 Legal and resource implications**

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

## **7.0 Recommendations**

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

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

## **8.0 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.

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### **Leeds International Film Festival 2015: Licensing Notes**

The following list is all the feature films showing at this year's festival which do not have a certificate from the British Board of Film Classification as they have not had a full release in this country. All the certification advice below is based on the BBFC guidelines. The festival audience is almost entirely an adult audience and most films are aimed exclusively at adults in theme, even if there is no specific content which would generate an adult certificate. We present a special Young People's Film Festival dedicated exclusively to under 18s at a different time of year.

#### **Abandoned Goods**

A moving and enlightening essay film about outsider art made by patients at a mental asylum. Showing with a short film including some nudity. Recommended certificate 12A.

#### **Alice Cares**

A remarkable documentary about a care robot designed to provide companionship to the elderly. Recommended Cert PG

#### **All About Them**

A deliciously French romantic drama depicting an increasingly absurd ménage à trois scenario. Includes some moderately explicit sex scenes and some swearing. Recommended certificate 18.

#### **The Amazing Equal Pay Show**

Experimental and politically committed radical 70s film, plus short animation. Includes some strong language, recommended certificate 15.

#### **The Ambiguity of David Thomas Broughton**

A musical portrait and journey into the mind and life of the idiosyncratic songwriter. Includes some strong language, recommended certificate 15.

#### **Another Country**

David Gulpilil narrates a searing and often hilarious documentary about life in an Aboriginal community. Includes some strong language and an animal hunting scene, recommended certificate 15.

#### **Around the World in 50 Concerts**

Follows The Dutch Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra on their 125th anniversary world tour. Cert U.

#### **Ashtray Navigations: 16mm films and live performance**

A trio of experimental films selected by the Leeds based rock band followed by a performance by the band. In a club venue so over 18s only.

#### **Assassination Classroom**

An apocalyptic delight from Japan about an un-killable Octopus-like alien schoolteacher. Cert 15.

**Big Gold Dream**

Documentary on the indie new wave rock scene in Scotland in the 80s. Includes some strong language. Recommended certificate 15.

**Black Roses: The Killing of Sophie Lancaster**

An elegy with poems by Simon Armitage marking the anniversary of a student's death. Cert 15.

**Blockade**

**A profoundly moving recreation of the Siege of Leningrad during the Second World War using archive footage. Includes some distressing scenes, recommended certificate 15.**

**Bone Tomahawk**

Violent period western horror where a sheriff and his posse go on a rescue mission to save a kidnapped woman from a band of cannibalistic troglodytes. Recommended cert 18

**Breaking a Monster**

Documentary about a pre-teen metal band in America who become a youtube sensation and are signed by a major label. Recommended certificate 12A.

**By Dogsledge Across Alaska**

A mesmerising silent Arctic adventure film about explorer Knud Rasmussen's journey across Alaska. Recommended certificate PG.

**Calvin Johnson Live + The Shield Around the K**

Performance by the American songwriter with a documentary about his record label. In a club venue so over 18s only.

**The Case of Hana and Alice**

A charming animated coming of age comedy from Japanese auteur Shunji Iwai. Cert 15.

**The Case of the Three Sided Dream**

Outstanding documentary about the great blind jazz saxophonist, Rahsaan Roland Kirk. Recommended certificate 12A.

**Chuck Norris vs. Communism**

A fascinating documentary about the black market for films on VHS in 1980's Romania. Cert 15.

**Cinema: A Public Affair**

A chronicle of the rise and fall of the Moscow Film Museum, one of the gems of Perestroika. Cert 15.

**Crow's Egg**

Two carefree Indian slum boys embark on a citywide adventure to raise money to buy pizza. Cert PG.

**Crumbs**

An Ethiopian post-apocalyptic sci-fi love story. Moderate violence. Recommended Cert. 12

### **The Cult of JT LeRoy**

A multilayered documentary investigating the controversial real identity of cult author JT LeRoy. Includes some strong language. Recommended certificate 15.

### **Deathgasm**

Comedy horror about a teenager who accidentally invokes a demon by playing cursed heavy metal music. Contains comedy violence and gore. Recommended cert 18. Screened at FrightFest London and is showing at Sheffield Celluloid Screams Film Festival.

### **Demon**

A young couple's wedding celebrations turn sour when the groom appears to be possessed by a dybbuk, an unquiet spirit from Jewish folklore. Tense and unsettling drama with some scenes of moderate violence. Recommended 15 certificate. Screened at Toronto International Film Festival, Sitges International Film Festival and many more.

### **Do You Own the Dancefloor?**

A documentary tribute to the iconic Hacienda nightclub in Manchester. Screened in Manchester and two UK music festivals. Includes strong language, recommended certificate 18.

### **Doing Nothing All Day**

An eye opening documentary about democratic schooling where pupils set the rules and curriculum. Recommended cert PG.

### **Dreamland**

**An anthropological journey through the Arctic inspired by the Poe poem and seven Sami stories. Recommended certificate 12A.**

### **Embrace of the Serpent**

A Hallucinatory adventure film featuring two parallel journeys deep into the Amazon. Includes some moderate depictions of violence and references to drug use. Recommended certificate 15.

### **Empire of Corpses**

The first film in an anime trilogy based on the science fiction novels of Project Itoh. Cert 18.

### **The Event**

A compelling documentary made entirely from found footage shot at the collapse of the USSR. Recommended certificate 12A.

### **Everyday Rebellion**

Documentary traversing the globe to connect creative forms of nonviolent protest and civil disobedience. Includes some strong language, recommended certificate 15.

### **Fall Out 4: Game Changers**

Experience one of the year's most anticipated video games played live on the giant screen. Cert 18 (video game)

### **Fehérlófia: Son of the White Mare**

From 'the Walt Disney of Hungary', Fehérlófia is an animated mythic fantasy. Cert 15.

### **Forbidden Films**

A sensitive and trenchant documentary about censorship, representation and the Nazi propaganda films. Recommended certificate 15.

### **A German Youth**

A fascinating assemblage of archive footage tracing the history of the Baader Meinhof terrorist group. Includes some moderate depictions of violence. Recommended certificate 15.

### **The Ghost of Piramida**

Danish band Efterklang explore an abandoned Russian mining town and make sound recordings. Recommended certificate 12A.

### **Golem**

Piotr Szulkin's Kafkaesque allegory set in a futuristic world of omnipotent TV propaganda. Includes some violent scenes. Recommended certificate 15.

### **Goodnight Mommy**

Twin brothers worry that the woman who has returned home following a plastic surgery procedure is not their real mother. Tense, disturbing thriller with some unsettling scenes. Recommended cert 18. Screened at FrightFest London and is showing at Sheffield Celluloid Screams Film Festival.

### **Green Room**

A young punk band have to defend themselves against a gang of neo-nazis when they witness a murder in a remote club. Tense, claustrophobic and violent siege-thriller. Recommended cert 18. Screening at London Film Festival.

### **The Hallow**

A conservationist disturbs a horde of creatures in the woods where he is surveying and must defend his family against their attacks in this film based on Irish folklore. Screened at FrightFest London and is due to be released on DVD after the festival, BBFC cert 15.

### **Happy Hour**

Five captivating hours in the company of four Japanese women who experience an upheaval in their friendship. Cert 15.

### **Heart of a Dog**

Expressive, heartfelt and funny essay film by the great artist and musician Laurie Anderson. Screening in London. Recommended certificate 12A.

### **Heima**

Modern classic concert film following Sigur Ros on an unconventional concert tour of Iceland. Recommended certificate PG.

### **The High Sun**

Powerful, passionate trio of love stories from Croatia set against the history of inter-ethnic hatred in the region. Includes some depictions of violence and sexual scenes. Recommended certificate 18.

### **Hollow**

A family discover their daughter has been possessed after she drowns in an accident. A supernatural thriller with moderate violence, gore and themes including kidnap and human trafficking. Screening at Abertoir Film Festival in Aberystwyth. Recommended cert 18

### **Home Care**

A humorous and bittersweet story about a homecare nurse who cares for everyone but herself. Cert 15.

### **Hostile**

A woman adopts two teenage girls but a malevolent spirit takes an interest in them and means to do them harm. Creepy atmosphere and some scenes of moderate supernatural horror. Screened at Frightfest London. Recommended 15 cert.

### **The Idealist**

A gripping Arctic conspiracy thriller about one of the most secretive chapters in Danish history. Recommended certificate 12A.

### **In The Crosswind**

Through stunning visuals we are told the story of a young woman deported to Siberia under Stalin's regime. The film demonstrates the inhuman conditions of the prison camps and makes reference to prisoners dying of starvation. Recommended Certificate 12

### **I Shot Bi Kidude**

**Documentary about the 100 year old African singer Bi Kidude. Screened in London and Glasgow. Recommended certificate PG.**

### **Jaco**

Vibrant documentary about the great virtuoso bass player, Jaco Pastorius. Includes some strong language, recommended certificate 15.

### **The Journals of Knud Rasmussen**

A fascinating drama about the meeting between Inuk Shaman and explorer Knud Rasmussen. Includes some non-graphic sex scenes. Recommended certificate 15.

### **The Kautokeino Rebellion**

An impassioned dramatisation of key historical events for the indigenous Sami people of Northern Scandinavia. Includes some moderate violence, recommended certificate 12A.

### **Landfill Harmonic**

The remarkable documentary about a Paraguayan children's orchestra that play instruments made from recycled rubbish. Recommended Cert. PG

### **Leaving Africa**

A poignant documentary about two women in Africa who must fight to prevent their humanitarian organisation from being shut down. Moderate references to sex in sexual education classes. Recommended Cert. 12A

### **Le Silence de la Mer**

Jean-Pierre Melville's classic adaptation of a legendary French novel published secretly during the Nazi occupation. No contentious material, recommended certificate PG.

### **Lee Scratch Perry's Vision of Paradise**

Documentary about the legendary reggae producer and artist, Lee Scratch Perry. Includes some strong language and marijuana use. Recommended certificate 15.

### **Left on Purpose**

Intimate and poignant documentary about an ageing New York yippie who intends to end his life. Includes strong language. Recommended certificate 15.

### **Letter Never Sent**

Classic Siberian adventure film made by the filmmaking team behind I Am Cuba. Recommended certificate 12A.

### **Linton Kwesi Johnson Presents Michael Smith Upon Westminster Bridge**

Legendary dub poet Linton Kwesi Johnson introduces a film about his late contemporary, Michael Smith. Recommended certificate PG.

### **Liza, the Fox-Fairy**

A supernatural comedy love story about a lonely 30 year old woman who believes she is a Fox-Fairy from Japanese mythology because any men who take a romantic interest in her die in bizarre circumstances. Contains some scenes of comedy violence and moderately bloody scenes, plus occasional strong language. Recommended 15 cert.

### **Love and Peace**

A wild Japanese fantasy about a disgraced musician and his close bond with his pet turtle. Recommended certificate 15.

### **Lovemilla**

Finnish comedy musical drama about a young couple in a small town that have to deal with aliens, superheroes, time travel and zombies in their everyday life. Some mild comedy violence and occasional mild bad language. Recommended 12A cert.

### **Lucifer**

A parable following Lucifer's journey through Mexico shot in a new, circular film format called Tondoscope. Screening in London. Includes some moderate depictions of violence. Recommended certificate 15.

### **Magical Girl**

A dark and inventive psychodrama from Spain following intertwining lives of intrigue and blackmail. Shown in London and Edinburgh. Includes some violent scenes, recommended certificate 18.

### **Men & Chicken**

A delirious black comedy about two blundering brothers and their eccentric extended family. Cert 18.

### **Mik Artistik's Ego Trip + Who is Mik Artistik**

Artist, poet, comedian, and musician, Mik Artistik on stage and screen at Chapel FM. Cert 15.

### **Miss Hokusai**

Award-winning Japanese animation about a talented artist overshadowed by her father. Cert 15.

**Nerves**

A visceral and visually striking masterwork of Weimar cinema, perhaps the first German Expressionist film. Recommended certificate PG.

**Ngati**

A rare screening of the first film that was written and directed by a Māori in 1987. The film tells the story of a Māori community as they cope with personal and public crises which threaten to disrupt their lives and traditional ways. Recommended Cert. PG

**Night Fare**

Two men are hunted by a psychotic taxi driver in Paris after they run off without paying the fare. Scenes of strong bloody violence and frequent strong language. Screened at FrightFest London. Recommended cert 18.

**Nina Forever**

A morbidly poignant love story about love and loss about a man whose dead ex-girlfriend returns to torment him and his new lover whenever they start to get intimate. Contains sexual scenes and nudity. Screened at FrightFest London. Recommended cert 18.

**North**

Deadpan Norwegian comedy about a man who finds out he's a father and heads north in his snowmobile. Includes some strong language, recommended certificate 15.

**O-Bi O-Ba: The End of Civilisation**

A visionary post-apocalyptic drama by Polish cult sci-fi auteur Piotr Szulkin. Includes some violent scenes, recommended certificate 15.

**Of the North**

A dizzying collage film assembled from amateur film footage made by people who live in the Arctic. Includes some strong language and animal hunting scenes, recommended certificate 18.

**One Floor Below**

A clever, slow building ethical Romanian drama about a man who witnesses the murder of a neighbour. Includes some moderate depictions of violence. Recommended certificate 15.

**The Open**

A bizarre post-apocalyptic story of two ex-tennis pros who are determined to put on their own version of an Open even though the world is ending. Themes of world destruction, mild violence and nudity. Recommended cert 15

**Original Copy**

A vibrant documentary looking at the dying art of painting Bollywood film posters in a ramshackle Indian cinema. Recommended Cert PG

**The Postman's White Nights**

Wry and playful docudrama about a postman in a remote village in the Russian arctic. Recommended certificate 12A.

**Pyasa**

A digitally restored print of the lyrical masterpiece from legendary Indian director Guru Dutt. Cert PG.

### **The Pyramid Texts**

A lonely old boxer tries to make amends with his estranged son in a monologue to camera. Cert 15.

### **Qallunaat! Why White People Are Funny**

This irreverent, often hilarious film turns the tables on generations of anthropologists. Recommended certificate 12A.

### **Rain the Colour Blue with a Little Red in it**

Saharan remake of Prince's Purple Rain with a live performance by Tuareg rock band Mdou Moctar. Screened in London. Club venue so over 18s only.

### **Rakuen Tsuiho: Expelled from Paradise**

The new anime feature from the director of Mobile Suit Gundam 00. Cert 18.

### **Sensoria**

Supernatural ghost story about a fragile woman who moves into a haunted apartment. Mildly unnerving tone and occasion scenes of a scary nature. Recommended cert 15. Also screening at Abertoir film festival.

### **Shrew's Nest**

Set in 1950s Madrid two sisters deal with insanity, agoraphobia and a shocking secret that begins to tear them apart in this stylish psychological claustrophobic drama, reminiscent of Polanski's Repulsion. Some strong scenes of bloody violence. Recommended cert 18. Previously screened in Edinburgh.

### **Sumé - The Sound of a Revolution**

The captivating and little know story of Sumé, the first rock band to sing in Greenlandic. Screened at Raindance in London. Recommended certificate 12A.

### **Tag**

A Japanese black comedy horror about a mysterious supernatural force that attacks a girls high school. Featuring strong graphic fantasy violence. Cert 18.

### **Tales of Halloween**

Horror comedy anthology with ten short interweaving stories set in a small US town on Halloween. Contains moderate comedy bloody violence and occasional strong language. Recommended 18 cert. Also screened at FrightFest London.

### **Theory of Obscurity: A Film About The Residents + Commercial Album Videos**

Documentary about the underground art rock band The Residents + videos made for their Commercial Album. Screening in a club venue so over 18s only.

### **Tikkun**

A transfixing depiction of a young Jewish man's crisis of faith. Graphic footage of animal slaughter, graphic nudity, and sexual assault. Recommended Cert 18.

### **To the Centre of the Earth**

A beautifully sublime film about how one man's obsession with UFOs leads him on a quest into the mountains. Recommended Cert. PG

### **The Tree**

An enigmatic Slovenian drama about a slowly unravelling family tragedy. Recommended certificate 12A.

### **The Witch**

A period drama about a family of devout Christians who travel from England to the US to settle in the Midwest only to fall foul of their own religious beliefs and the influence of an evil force in the woods. Contains occasional scenes of moderate violence and an unsettling theme. Recommended 18 cert. Also screening in Sheffield.

### **Therapy for a Vampire**

Light-hearted comedy horror about a vampire who seeks therapy from Sigmund Freud in 1930s Austria. Contains some moderate comedy bloody violence. Recommended 15 cert. Also screened at Somerset House in London.

### **Unbranded**

True story of four friends who embark on an unprecedented 3,000-mile horseback journey. Cert 15.

### **Uncle Tony, Three Fools and the Secret Service**

Extraordinary documentary about a Bulgarian animator and a conspiracy involving the Secret Service. Recommended certificate 12A.

### **Urban and the Shed Crew**

Bernard Hare's popular memoir about growing up on an East Leeds estate is vividly brought to the screen for the first time. Cert 15.

### **Voice of the Eagle: The Enigma of Robbie Basho**

Stunning new documentary about the great guitarist and composer Robbie Basho. Recommended certificate 12A.

### **The Wanted 18**

Investigative documentary with stop motion animation about a Palestinian village and their illegal cattle. Recommended certificate 12A.

### **War of the Worlds**

Piotr Szulkin's reinvention of HG Wells' War of the Worlds in a media saturated future. Includes some violent scenes. Recommended certificate 15.

### **Would You Believe It**

A special selection of classic British silent film comedy, with live piano accompaniment by Jonathan Best. Cert U.

### **The Yes Men are Revolting**

A new documentary on the notorious prankster activists the Yes Men and their latest media stunts. Screened in London. Includes some strong language, recommended certificate 15.

### **Zeder**

A reporter stumbles on a story about a scientist who claimed that areas of land existed that could revive the dead and discovers that his theories may be true. Some strong violence and scenes of gory horror. Originally awarded an X certificate by the BBFC in 1977, never reclassified. Recommended 18 cert.