

Report of the Head of Elections, Licensing and Registration

Report to the Licensing Sub Committee

Date: 27 September 2016

Subject: Certification of Films

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Armley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Executive Summary

To advise Members of an Application for the certification of films to be shown at the No Gloss Film Festival to be held at Canal Mills Brandon Street Armley between the 22nd and 23rd October 2016.

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 Ms Sophie Marfell on behalf of the No Gloss Film Festival to have a number of short films certified as they are not currently certified by the BBFC. The films are to be shown at Canal Mills Brandon Street Armley Leeds 12.

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 No Gloss Film Festival will attend the hearing to give additional details of the proposed films.

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.

No Gloss Film Festival 2016: Licensing Notes

The following list is all the 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, are independent, self-made films or are student film projects. All the certification advice below is based on the BBFC guidelines.

All films (predominantly shorts, a few features) are shown over a 2-day period within one venue. **The festival is strictly and exclusively an 18+ event regardless of the film themes and IDs are checked on the door.** Most films are aimed at adults even if there is no specific content which would generate an adult certificate.

Films

Ambivalence

A Belgian student short film. Ambivalence tells the story of Nora, who lives a very eccentric life. She looks at her life as if it's a rollercoaster that's only going up. Some violence. Recommended cert 15

At Dawn

France, 1940. Based on a true story. A WW2 British Royal Engineer is caught in enemy gunfire whilst out in the field. Leaving his tools he flees for his life into the cover of a neighbouring forest. Suddenly the floor gives way and Michael is plunged into the heart of a disused enemy trench. When he wakes, he finds himself face to face with a lone armed German soldier. Some violence. Recommended cert 15

Boris In The Forest

Hilarious light-horror short. Fresh off the plane from Los Angeles, horror geek Merv Blanco holds forth in reverential ecstasy as he finally finds himself outside 36 Forest Hill Road, London, birthplace of his hero, screen legend Boris Karloff. Some moderate violence. Recommended cert 15

Brainwash

Short student film. An experimental take on group of people heading to their average 9 – 5 working day. Recommended cert PG

Busking Turf Wars

A comedy documentary made entirely in Leeds. For Steven Lockmoore, busking is a way of life. He's worked hard for his place on the street and is passionate about the community he is a part of. But his world starts to slowly unravel with the emergence of a rival busker, Paul Adrian, who is invading Steven's turf. Steven has to go on an exploration of what is important to him and what it means to be an artist following your dreams. Some strong language, minor references to violence. Recommended cert 15

Conscience

A student short film. Her mother swings from anger to domestic bliss at the flip of a switch, but what happens when it all gets too much for Ella, a young teenage girl who picks up the pieces after each destructive episode in order to protect her younger brothers. After one

particularly distraught episode between Ella and her mum she must make a difficult decision. Some scenes of violence/threat. Recommended cert 15

Eddie

A black comic suspense drama. Alone in an underground facility deep below the mountains, a tired researcher performs endless tests on Eddie, his desperate, mute test subject. With no response from his employers, he juggles running the facility and keeping his sanity whilst all the while doing his best to ignore the ever-growing list of questions in the back of his mind. Just what is wrong with Eddie anyway? How long does he have to stay down there? And why won't his employer return his messages? Moderate violence. Recommended cert 12A

Ekaj

A love story between two drifters, a naive teenager and a hustler. The film captures a runaway's journey to New York City. Ekaj meets Mecca who takes him under his care. Mecca has been diagnosed with AIDS and multiple problems of his own, but is the only voice of reason in Ekaj's hopeless world. They cruise the city together looking for money and places to stay. Some strong language, references to drugs, some sex. Recommended cert 18

Floating Melon

A journey of passion, a bitter night. A young Chinese man asks for help from his friends Fiona and her lover Lola to resolve a big trouble – the guy he'd spent the afternoon with is dead in his bed. Some strong language, references to drugs, some sex. Recommended cert 18

Fumes

A psychological thriller about one man's journey to return to his family. An unknown crisis has led to the sudden breakdown of infrastructure and society itself hangs in the balance. Jared must escape the city to join Phoebe and their child. Some strong language, some violence. Recommended cert 15

Gene

A short thriller. A recently widowed mother has to take drastic action when she discovers her son might be a psychopath in the making. Some violence. Recommended cert 15

Golden Tuna

A funny Canadian mockumentary. After leaving Berlin, French multidisciplinary artist Golden Tuna surfs Montreal's cold and dark wave to find inspiration. Some strong language. Some nudity. Recommended cert 15

Hold Back

When a young introvert skater falls in love with the girlfriend of one of his best friends, he's pushed to his limits by the people who are most close to him. Some strong language, references to drugs, some violence. Recommended cert 18

Holy Thursday

15-year-old paperboy Jack has just been told he no longer has a job. Alone, disengaged and naive he sets across the flatlands of Eastern England on a morning that could define the rest of his life. He meets Robin, a friendly and charismatic stranger labouring at the roadside, but as they bond and guards are dropped, Robin's true intentions come to the fore. As Jack embarks on his final paper-round, we begin to understand who he is, where

he has come from and where his future may lie. Some moderate language.
Recommended cert 12A

Imagining Time

A student animated short. Adapted from the poem 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock' by T. S. Eliot, Imagining Time is designed in a split-screen format. The animation combines notions of the disruption of the everyday; magical realism and surrealism with the themes of isolation, introversion and passivity from the poem. Recommended cert PG

Intimidade Publica

A feature from Brazil about about how we deal with sexuality and love on public and private levels. The four stories of "Public Intimacy" deal with urgent and profound themes, like homophobia, trans issues, prostitution and madness. Strong language, some sex.
Recommended cert 18

Itaewon

One night in Itaewon, South Korea, two girls go on their separate ways home. Not far away, a strange man accosts two French tourists. References to violence. Recommended cert 15

Leon

Leon, a newly formed skinhead must make the decision between his sexuality or his current lifestyle. Strong language, references to drugs, some violence. Recommended cert 18

Mara Mara

An experimental film. A silent scream. Snow over the black night. Two women share their last moments together in a remote house in the mountains. Without words, they accompany each other whilst the sound of thawing snow advances. Some nudity.
Recommended cert 15

Margie's Garden

A surreal and hilarious short film about Margie, an old lady who loves her garden; both the legal one, outside, and the one inside where she grows a different kind of crop. Some strong language, references to drugs, moderate violence. Recommended cert 15

Marianne

A young Nigerian man travels to a remote Pentecostal church with his ailing wife.
Recommended cert PG

Nasty

A UK short drama in the vein of 80s VHS horror films. It's 1982. Twelve-year old Doug is drawn into the lurid world of VHS horror as he explores the mysterious disappearance of his father. Some blood, some violence. Recommended cert 15

No Future

Amsterdam in the early 80s, plagued with unemployment the No Future generation tries to maintain a life in a city that seems to crumble under their feet. Some strong language, reference to drugs, moderate violence. Recommended cert 15

O, Brazen Age

Part coming-of-age story, part art-cinema meditation on photography, memory, and souvenirs, O, Brazen Age creates a tender and haunting portrait of friendship and faith in the 21st century. The film follows a group of Toronto artists in their twenties on a search for new mythologies, invoking a cinematic landscape where classical literature collides with new wave aesthetics and 90's pastiche. Some strong language, some violence. Recommended cert 15

Oh Hi

A hilarious 3 minute short. Sarah wakes up in bed with Alice and a terrible hangover. Some strong language. Recommended cert 12A

Qupid

Kidnapped victim Roo must escape a wannabe Cupid before she is injected with an untested love serum. Some strong language, some violence. Recommended cert 15

Soap

Yuchan is a country boy visiting his older brother Kensuke's home in Tokyo. While Kensuke is away at work, Yuchan builds a relationship with housewife Hana and begins to suspect that their marriage is not as happy as she would like him to believe. Yuchan's growing attraction towards Hana threatens to further complicate matters. Some strong language, references to sex. Recommended cert 15

Split Costs

Two young women from disparate backgrounds share a ride to western Massachusetts in this award-winning story of unexpected friends navigating life's bumpy roads and moving forward with hope. Some language and references to drugs, some mild violence. Recommended cert 15

Sweet Girls

A funny and heart-warming Swiss feature. Elodie and Marie struggling to find an apartment, come up to an extreme solution to solve the housing crisis: Kick out the "old people" who are responsible, to their eyes, for the current social imbalance. Then, fill the apartments with teenagers that will work together as a community looking for a better independent life. Some strong language, minor references to drugs. Recommended cert 15

Tapes From The Revolutionary

What is it like to see the world through someone else's eyes? Filmmaker, Scott Willis discovers Andy, a self-proclaimed communist revolutionary that documents his life on a Hi-8 camcorder. Aiming to understand the purpose behind the tapes Willis picks up his camera, however Andy has his own agenda for the project. Tapes from The Revolutionary is a humorous unconventional documentary that turns the lens on itself and examines the filmmaking process. Recommended cert PG

The Art Bastard Show

The Art Bastard Show is a mockumentary that follows three clashing Bristol artists and a curator who attempts to unite them as they fail to stage the biggest exhibition of their careers. The artists are conceptual titan Toby Glass, vegan taxidermist Lily Rose and the feminist street artist 'Vaj'. Together they demonstrate the diversity, versatility and vulnerability of Bristol's cutting edge art scene. Some strong language, references to nudity. Recommended cert 15

The Backseat

"The Backseat" tells the story of a lonely but upbeat girl named Shelby who rides the local buses in an attempt to keep warm and find meaningful connections with her fellow passengers - in a world that all too often looks the other way. The film is a sensitive look at those in the community who are vulnerable and marginalised. It points out that their lives, like those of all of us, are essentially the result of many factors beyond our control rather than any personal action. Some strong language. Recommended cert 15

The Burrow

A French student short. Odile lives alone. Afraid that someone might enter her flat when she's not at home, she enters a video surveillance on-line community, in the hope that users will keep an eye on her apartment and inform her in case of unexpected intrusion. Some strong language. Recommended cert 15

The Desire of Seeing In The Dark

An artistic, experimental film about a failed attempt to escape from mental captivity. No contentious material. Recommended cert PG

The Hole

A South Korean black and white animated short. A frightened man encounters a monster in the darkness. He tries to escape from the inscrutable space, but he inexplicably comes back again and again. Each time he returns, one by one, things begin to disappear. Finally, only the monster and the man are left. And then... nobody knows who ate who. No contentious material Recommended cert PG

The Hollywood Shorties

A documentary on the birth of organized sports in the American dwarf community. Beginning in the 1950s and rising to prominence in the 1980s, the Hollywood Shorties were a basketball team, the first of their kind and unique in the history of dwarf athletics. Some minor language. Recommended cert 15

The Red Umbrella Diaries

An award-winning documentary-style feature. Seven sex workers from different backgrounds come together to share their stories live on stage in New York City on one very special night. Some strong language with references to sex. Recommended cert 18

The Truants

Two teenagers break free from school to embark on a dangerous adventure, as they truant their way across the threatening industrial landscape which surrounds them. Some strong language. Some violence. Recommended cert 15

Three Minute Warning

In Palestine, a 14 year old girl called Mariam cares for her disabled mother. One night, an Israeli "knock-on-roof" bomb is dropped onto their building allowing them only three minutes to escape before it is demolished. This emotional 11 minute drama depicts the reality of civilians in Gaza, Palestine. Mild threat. Recommended cert 12A

Undertaker

A 2 minute short about a mortician dealing with loss. Recommended cert PG

X-Film

An abstract, experimental film featuring a boat race with a poetry recital. "The sound and fury skin, flaps like a flag under the flow of assaults!" Poem has references to sex.
Recommended cert 15