

Report of: Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory

Report to: Licensing Sub Committee

Date: Tuesday 1st March 2022

Subject: Certification of Films – Various Films Submitted by Hyde Park Picture House

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Little London & Woodhouse and Headingley & Hyde PArk		
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 Licensing Sub Committee Members of an application for the certification of a number of films to be screened at The Pyramid Theatre, Leeds University Union, Leeds, LS2 & Heart, Headingley, Leeds, LS6. All screenings are scheduled to take place between the 6th March 2022 and 17th April 2022.

The applicant has provided advance screeners for 15 short films contained within the programme, London Animation Festival: Amazing Animations 0-7, and individual films titled Walking the Streets of Moscow and Wings. The applicant's suggested rating for these films is U rating.

Advance screeners are unavailable for the 8 short films contained within the programme, TAPE Collective & Invisible Women present 'Touched', and the individual film, Oxide Ghosts. As a result, the applicant requests that a category 18 rating is applied subject to the disclaimer mentioned in further detail at point 3.4 of the report.

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 a film that does 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 8 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 Universal. Suitable for all.

A U film should be suitable for audiences aged four years and over, although it is impossible to predict what might upset any particular child. U films should be set within a positive framework and should offer reassuring counterbalances to any violence, threat or horror.

Category PG Parental Guidance. General viewing, but some scenes may be unsuitable for young children.

A PG film should not unsettle a child aged around eight or older. Unaccompanied children of any age may watch, but parents are advised to consider whether the content may upset younger or more sensitive children.

Category 12A/12 Suitable for 12 years and over.

Films classified 12A and video works classified 12 contain material that is not generally suitable for children aged under 12. No one younger than 12 may see a 12A film in a cinema unless accompanied by an adult. Adults planning to take a child under 12 to view a 12A film should consider whether the film is suitable for that child. To help them decide, the BBFC recommend that they check the ratings info for that film in advance. No one younger than 12 may rent or buy a 12 rated video work.

Category 15 Suitable only for 15 years and over.

No one younger than 15 may see a 15 film in a cinema. No one younger than 15 may rent or buy a 15 rated video work.

Category 18 Suitable only for adults.

No one younger than 18 may see an 18 film in a cinema. No one younger than 18 may rent or buy an 18 rated video work.

Category R18 To be shown only in specially licensed cinemas, or supplied only in licensed sex shops and to adults only.

The R18 category is a special and legally restricted classification primarily for explicit works of consenting sex or strong fetish material involving adults. Films may only be shown to adults in specially licensed cinemas, and video works may be supplied to adults only in licensed sex shops. R18 video works may not be supplied by mail order.

- 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 certification from the BBFC.
- 2.4 A copy of the current BBFC Classification Guidelines are attached at **Appendix A** for Member's consideration.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 An application has been received from Hyde Park Picture House to request a number of films and shorts films to be certified. The films are scheduled for screening between the 6th March 2022 and 17th April 2022, at The Pyramid Theatre, Leeds University Union, Leeds, LS2 & Heart, Headingley, Leeds, LS6.
- 3.3 A copy of all requests which include a synopsis and the applicant's suggested rating for each film can be found at **Appendix B** of this report.
- 3.4 To assist members with their deliberation officers of the Licensing Authority have viewed the available films and provided comments in accordance with BBFC guidelines. These comments are available in the document attached at **Appendix C**.
- 3.5 Details of each film requiring classification including links to view the screeners where available have been provided to Members of the Licensing Sub Committee in advance of the hearing.
- 3.6 A representative from Hyde Park Picture House is due to attend the hearing and provide additional details of each 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 There is no right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court against the decision of the Licensing Sub Committee.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are requested to consider this request for the certification of the films as attached hereto.
- 6.2 Members are recommended to view films prior to the issue of a Certificate.

7.0 Options Available to Members

- 7.1 The Licensing Authority has the authority to categories a film which is absent of a Certificate from the BBFC.