

Report of: Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory

Report to: Licensing Sub Committee

Date: Tuesday 5th April 2022

Subject: Certification of Films – Juju Stories - The Pyramid Theatre, Leeds University Union

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Little London & Woodhouse		
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 film, Juju Stories, to be screened at The Pyramid Theatre, Leeds University Union, Lifton Place, Leeds, LS2 9JT, on Sunday, 8th May 2022.

No advance screener for the film has been provided to the Licensing Authority and as a result, the applicant request that a category 18 rating is applied subject to the disclaimer mentioned in further detail at point 3.3 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.

2.4 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 Leeds Grand Theatre & Opera House Ltd., to age certify the film, Juju Stories, which is absent of a certificate from a film classification body such as the BBFC.

3.2 An advance screener is unavailable for the film which subsequently requests a 18 classification.

3.3 In response to a briefing by the BBFC and advice sought from the council's Legal Department, it is essential the Licensing Sub-Committee can view each film in order to rate it appropriately. In instances where films are unavailable, Members are advised to certify them 18 rating subject to a written declaration from the applicant confirming that each film does not contain any content which would more likely than not, render the film liable to be classified as R18 if considered in accordance with the BBFC Classification Guidelines.

3.4 A copy of the application, including the synopsis, recommend rating and the declaration, can be found at **Appendix B**.

3.5 A representative from Leeds Grand Theatre & Opera House Ltd. 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.

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.