



Report of Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory

Report to Licensing Sub Committee

Date: Tuesday, 18th February 2025

Subject: Certification of Films – Shimoni (The Pit)

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): 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 Members of an application for the certification of Shimoni (The Pit) to be shown at Hyde Park Picture House, Brudenell Road, Headingley LS6 1JD. The film will be shown as part of Cinema Africa strand, taking place 27th February 2025.

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 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 available [here](#).

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 An application has been received Hyde Park Picture House to have Shimoni (The Pit) certified as it is not currently certified by the BBFC. The screening will take place at Hyde Park Picture House, Brudenell Road, Headingley LS6 1JD on Thursday 27th February 2025.
- 3.2 A list detailing the film requesting certification can be found at **Appendix A**, which includes a link to view the film online, a synopsis for the film and the applicant's recommended classification. The published document includes redactions as the links supplied by the applicant direct the observer toward unclassified content and an original copy has been provided to Licensing Sub Committee Members in advance of the hearing.
- 3.3 A representative from Hyde Park Picture House will be available via phone to answer any questions that the Licensing Sub Committee may have.
- 3.4 To assist members with their deliberation officers of the Licensing Authority viewed the film and provided comments in accordance with BBFC guidelines. This can be found at **Appendix B**.

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 may take the decision to view any of the 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.