



Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

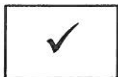
Report to the Licensing Sub Committee

Date: Monday 11th January 2010

Subject: Application for the Certification of Films

Electoral Wards Affected:

City Wide



Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Executive Summary

To advise Members of an application for the certification of films to be shown at the UK Jewish Film Festival on Tour. This year they propose to hold the festival in February at the Cottage Road Cinema, Leeds Metropolitan University and the Majorie & Arnold Ziff Community Centre.

1.0 Purpose of the 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 British Board of Film Classification (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 A request has been received from the UK Jewish Film Festival on Tour, office to have a number films certified by the Licensing Panel.

3.2 Details of the films which require certification are attached hereto for Members attention at Appendix 'A'.

3.3 The films are to be shown at the Cottage Road Cinema, Leeds Metropolitan University and the Majorie & Arnold Ziff Community Centre, all the premises have the benefit of a Premises Licence with the provision of films.

4.0 History

4.1 The UK Jewish Film Festival on Tour has been running since 2003 and this is the third visit to Leeds.

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 Recommendations

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

TOUR FILMS 2010**The Band's Visit – general release certificate 12****Fugitive Pieces – general release 15****With a Little Patience (Türelem) 12a**

Dir. Laszlo Nemes

Hungary 2007 14 mins

No narration

A young female office clerk is carrying out her daily routine - we follow all the little nuances of her face as she meticulously performs her everyday duties, until a stark revelation comes to light just outside her window, where a man is impatiently waiting for her.

Dancing Alfonso U**(Ha'rikud shel Alfonso)**

Dir. Barak Heymann

Israel | 2008 | 50 mins |

Hebrew with English subtitles

The enduring resilience of the human spirit shines through Barak Heymann's joyous film about love and life as demonstrated by Alfonso in his obsession to keep on dancing and find a way out of his loneliness. Alfonso is a senior citizen who defies ageing and is the lead dancer in a flamenco class with an average age of 75. The dance group embodies every aspect of emotional life from vulnerability to jealousy and conflict whilst responding to their inspirational teacher who draws on their raw emotions to inspire them to dance. During the course of the filming Alfonso is widowed and then pursues other dancers in his class starting with his friend Sima, and then other women, as potential new partners in his life. *Dancing Alfonso* is a film that is essential viewing for anyone, of any age, who can respond to the sensuality of the Tango and identify with the quest for love.

Pinhas PG

Dir. Pini Tavger

Israel | 2008 | 32 mins |

Hebrew with English subtitles

Tel Aviv University- Film & TV Department

Pinchas and his mother are new immigrants from Russia who live in an apartment close to a religious family. When she is not at work his mother spends all her time with her lover and Pinchas, who feels

abandoned, is drawn to the unity of the family he watches and wants to join.

Praying with Lior U

Dir. Ilana Trachtman
USA | 2008 | 87 mins |
English

There is no doubt that Lior loves to pray. But the film poses the question as to whether someone with Downs Syndrome can be a spiritual genius. Many people think that Lior is 'close to God'- at least that's what his family and community believe, though he's also a burden, a best friend, an inspiration and an embarrassment, depending on who is asked and when.

Trachtman's skill is to reach into the nucleus of this wonderfully complex family at the centre of Lior's story, and to observe the dynamics that make up their lives. Devora, Lior's mother died in 1997 when he was six years old leaving their father, also a Rabbi, with four children and a demanding task ahead of him. As Lior prepares for his barmitzvah his father and the family assist with all their generous energy and creativity and the resulting celebration, attended by 300 people from their community, is inspirational.

The Girl on The Train (La Fille du RER) 15

Dir. André Téchiné
France | 2009 | 105 mins
French with English subtitles

Starring Catherine Deneuve and Ronit Elkabetz

Taking his lead from a real-life media furore, André Téchiné's latest film presents a fascinating enigma. Pretty, restless young *Parisienne* Jeanne (Émilie Dequenne) lives with her widowed mother Louise (Catherine Deneuve) in the suburbs. Jeanne seeks solace in the tattooed arms of budding wrestler Franck (Nicolas Duvauchelle) and makes an abortive attempt to secure a job working for Samuel Bleistein (Michel Blanc), a Jewish lawyer who once courted her mother. Téchiné pulls the rug from under us as an initial trauma gives way to something more sinister. Drawn to Holocaust documentaries and reports of anti-Semitic violence, Jeanne initiates an elaborate lie that a gang of youths subjected her to a vicious assault, mistaking her for

a Jew. *The Girl on the Train* is classic Téchiné, offering no easy answers and blurring the boundaries between a brittle urban bourgeoisie and those on the periphery of French society. A captivating cast includes Israeli actress (and UKJFF favourite) Ronit Elkabetz as Bleistein's fierce daughter-in-law.

Eli and Ben PG

Director: Ori Ravid

Israel 2009 89 mins

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles

Cast: Starring Lior Ashkenazi

Eli is a mischievous 12 year old, preoccupied with playing tricks on his teachers and his crush on the most popular girl in class. His cushioned reality collapses when his beloved father, Ben, is arrested on suspicion of accepting bribes. Convinced of his father's innocence, Eli sets out to convince the celebrated police inspector in charge of the investigation, that, for once, he is wrong.

As if this weren't enough, events at school take a turn for the worse and Eli is torn between friendship and responsibility. This roller-coaster journey takes Eli to unexpected places as he tries to negotiate between love and trust, honesty and corruption. A sensitive, coming-of-age story with an accomplished cast including Lior Ashkenazi (*Late Marriage*, *Walk on Water*), and an outstanding performance by Yuval Shevah, who plays Eli with confidence and charm. This bittersweet family drama will win the hearts of both young and old alike

Gefilte Fish PG

Dir. Shelly Kling

Israel 2008 10 mins

Hebrew with English subtitles

A story of a young woman torn between her pre-wedding family tradition to kill and prepare gefilte fish and her sympathy for the live fish swimming in her bath.

Adam Resurrected 15

Dir. Paul Schrader

Germany/USA/Israel 2008 106 mins

English

Starring Jeff Goldblum, Sir Derek Jacobi, Ayelet Zurer and Willem Dafoe
Featuring a remarkable international cast peppered with star cameos, *Adam Resurrected* is essential viewing for 2009. US auteur

Paul Schrader (*American Gigolo*, *The Walker*) proves a suitably imaginative choice to direct this big-screen version of Yoram Kaniuk's 1969 novel *Adam Ben Kelev*, a dazzlingly original account of Holocaust survival. Jeff Goldblum is a revelation as Adam Stein, a charismatic Berlin circus impresario who survives the camps by acting as pet 'dog' to SS Commandant Klein (Willem Dafoe). By 1961 Adam rules the roost as a patient at a stark psychiatric institute in the Negev Desert, run by Dr. Gross (Sir Derek Jacobi) and the sternly seductive Nurse Gina (Ayelet Zurer). But a strange new arrival re-awakens Adam's guilt at his family's fate. Schrader and screenwriter Noah Stollman's blackly comic vision scatters Adam's purgatorial present with atmospheric music-hall flashbacks and glimpses of his post-war life in Haifa and Tel Aviv, creating an inimitable portrait of rebellion and survival.

Father's Footsteps 12a

Comme ton Pere

Director: Marco Carmel

France 2007 95 mins

Language: French with English subtitles

Cast: Starring Gad Elmaleh and Yael Abecassis

Arriving in France from Israel in 1968, the Maimons join scores of other Algerian and Tunisian Jewish families in Paris' burgeoning Belleville district. Good-hearted Felix (Gad Elmaleh) reluctantly begins a life of crime to provide for his wife Mireille (Yael Abecassis) and sons, until he meets Sephardi gangster Serge (Richard Berry), from the same village as Mireille. Serge treats the Maimons as kin, but has bigger plans for Felix's criminal career.

Told from the point of view of 11-year-old Michel (Jules-Angelo Bigarnet), *Father's Footsteps* is a captivating study in loss of innocence and the power of ethnic allegiance, set against the backdrop of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. In an eerie subplot, Michel stumbles upon an abandoned hideaway littered with Nazi relics, bringing the past and present face to face. Elmaleh and Abecassis are exceptional as the beleaguered parents in this classy debut from Israeli director Marco Carmel.

I Am Ruthie Segal, Hear Me Roar PG

Director: Minkie Spiro

UK 2009

Language: English

Prods. Knish Collective in association with Third Man Films

Winner – The Pears Foundation UKJFF Short Film Fund

Today is Ruthie Segal's big batmitzvah. The fish balls are defrosted, the dress is ironed, and the guests are waiting... but Ruthie has a slightly different idea about what it means to become a woman. This short comedy celebrates chutzpah, passion and everyone's secret obsession with shmaltzy musicals.

Mama Le'Chaim PG

Dir. Elkan Spiller | USA | 2008 | 5 mins | English

Sixty two year-old Chaim Lubelski lives with his 95-year-old mother, a concentration camp survivor. Chaim has dedicated himself to giving his mother the 24 hour care she needs. The pair are both lively, funny characters and we follow the pain and laughter of their everyday existence as, with faith and humour, they simply keep going, never giving up hope