



Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

Report to the Licensing Sub Committee

Date: 31 January 2011

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, Seven Arts Centre and the Marjorie & 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, Seven Arts Centre and the Marjorie & 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 fourth 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

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

Berlin 36 (12)

Director: Kaspar Heidelbach

Germany 2009 100 minutes

Language: German (English subtitles)

Cast: Karoline Herfurth Sebastian Urzendowsky Axel Prahl August Zirner

Inspired by the true story of Jewish athlete Gretel Bergmann, this is a remarkable piece of forgotten Olympic history. Bergmann (award-winning actress Karoline Herfurth) was considered a top contender for the gold medal in the women's high jump at the 1936 Summer Games in Nazi-controlled Berlin. With the Americans threatening an Olympic boycott if Jewish athletes were barred from competing Bergman, who had already left Germany to establish her career in the UK, was forced by the Nazis to return to Germany to attend the Olympic training camp. Since the Nazis could not risk the possibility of a Jewish athlete on the Aryan team winning an Olympic medal they conspire to replace her in the team with an unknown über-athlete Marie Ketteler (Sebastian Urzendowsky). Years later it is revealed that Marie is in fact a man. Berlin 36 is the exploration of a tenuous friendship between two outsiders who find themselves in unimaginable circumstances. (Judy Ironside)

Five Hours from Paris (15)

Director: Leonid Prudovsky

Israel 2009 90 Minutes

Language: Hebrew/Russian (English subtitles)

Cast: Vladimir Friedman Dror Keren Dorit Lev-Ari

Awards: *Israel Film Competition Award, Best Film (won) Award for Israeli Film Academy, Best Actor (nominated), Dror Keren*

This mature, subtle romantic drama captures the nuances of budding love, with all its excitement, uncertainty and promise. Mild-mannered taxi driver Yigal is stuck in a rut: living in an ordinary Tel Aviv suburb, with a mundane job and depressed by his failed marriage, he can't even fulfil his dream of visiting Paris due to his fear of flying. When he meets Lina, his son's beautiful music teacher, Yigal's zest for life is re-awakened. Even though Lina is married to a doctor and about to fly off to Canada to join him, her calm and intelligent face hides an emotional turmoil of her own. Drawn together by the same longing for a different life, the pair help each other to confront their doubts and fears head on. With compelling performances by Dror Keren (*Adam Resurrected* and *Aviva My Love*) and Elena Yaralova, first time director Leon Prudovsky uses gentle humour to observe the subtleties of human relationships. (Daniela Boban)

Simon Konianski (12)

Director: Micha Wald

Belgium, France, Canada 2008 97 Minutes

Language: French (English subtitles)

Simon Konianski knows all about the generation gap. Forced – at age 35 – to move back temporarily to live with his ailing father, Ernest, the two soon become like a French Steptoe & Son, bickering over every aspect of Simon's under-achieving life: failed relationship, failed career, child out of wedlock with an exotic dancer. But soon Ernest passes away, and Simon, faithfully honouring his last request to be buried in the town of his birth, sets off on a comic family trip to deepest Ukraine in the company of his outrageously eccentric Aunt and Uncle, his six year old son, obsessed with Grandpa's war stories, and a whole host of unwelcome ghosts from the past, including Ernest himself. By turns funny, crass, surreal and shocking, Belgian director Micha Wald has created a Jewish road movie with a difference – a modern variation on the classic generational comedy theme, emphasising and playing with differences in Jewish attitudes to the past and expectations for the future. (Jonathan Walton)

The Statesman (U)

Director: Dan and Noit Geva

Israel 2010 100 Minutes

Language: Hebrew/English (English subtitles)

A compelling cinematic biography of Chaim Weizmann, first President of the State of Israel, whose life and work changed the course of the history of the Jewish people. He was born in Russia in 1874 in the small village of Motal near Pinsk. As an 11-year-old child Weizmann envisaged the founding of a State for the Jews and from that time onwards he wrote endless letters to everyone from Lord Balfour to Churchill to persuade them of his dream. In 1910 he became a British subject and a lecturer in Manchester where, as one of the most renowned chemists of his generation, he discovered acetone which was used in the manufacture of Cordite for explosives. The film depicts much of his life in England and also highlights his relationship with his beloved wife Vera and his fervent love letters to her revealing the tremendous physical and emotional price he paid for his dedication to his work and his political commitments. (Judy Ironside)

HONEYMOON SUITE U

Director: Sam Leifer

UK 2010 10 Minutes

Language:

Awards: *Winner of The Pears Foundation Short Film Fund at the UKJFF 2010*

A short comedy about the clumsy first steps of an arranged marriage.

YANKLES U

Director: David R. Brooks

USA 2009 115 minutes

Language: English

Cast: Brian Wimmer Bart Johnson Don Most

In this unashamedly good hearted and uplifting comedy, we follow the fortunes of the most unlikely bunch of sporting heroes - the Yankles, a baseball team made up of Ultra Orthodox yeshiva students. After convincing the school's rabbi to let them form a team, the Yankles enlist as their coach a disgraced ex-pro baseball star Charlie (Brian Wimmer) doing community service for a drink driving conviction. Charlie has an impossible task - to whip this bunch of book-worms into shape and lead them through the student championships league. Somewhat lacking in sporting prowess, ridiculed for their 'strange' looks and facing obstacles such as games scheduled on Shabbat, this really is a David and Goliath challenge for the Yankles. However, is it possible that their philosophy of life and unusual training could give them an edge over their opponents? The Yankles is a fun, light-hearted comedy that gently nudges us to see the ultra-Orthodox world with more open and sensitive eyes. (Daniela Boban)