

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Item No.</b>
<b>Open / Closed</b>	

<b>Meeting:</b>	Licensing and Safety Committee
<b>Meeting date:</b>	11 November 2024
<b>Title of report:</b>	Film Classification
<b>Report by:</b>	Executive Director (Operations)
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Council
<b>Ward(s) to which report relates</b>	East

**Executive Summary:**

This report relates to request received from the Jewish Film Organisation to consider the classification of a film called Once Upon a Time in Algeria to be shown at Vue Cinema on the 14 November 2024

**Recommendation(s)**

- To provide a classification for the film classify the film Once Upon a Time in Algeria in conjunction with the guidelines set by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC)

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

1.1 On the 23 October 2024, the Licensing Service received a request from the Jewish Film Organisation to consider the classification of a film called Once Upon a Time in Algeria to be shown at Vue Cinema on the 14 November 2024. The request is attached at Appendix 1. The film is a French language with English subtitles and is 2hrs 8 mins in duration.

1.2 The Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy states:-

**Film classification**

Where a Premises Licence authorises the exhibition of films, the licence must include a condition requiring the admission of children to films to be restricted in accordance with:

- either the BBFC classification, or
- where the film is not classified by the BBFC, any recommendations made by the licensing authority.

In accordance with the guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, the licensing authority shall concern itself primarily with the protection of children from harm when classifying films. It will not use its powers to censor films save where there is clear cause to believe this is required to promote the licensing objectives.

The licensing authority considers the classification system used by the BBFC to be nationally understood and accepted. It will, therefore, use this system as a reference point for determining its recommendation(s) on the restriction of access of children to the film(s). However, it should be noted that the licensing authority is not obliged to follow these guidelines.

Requests for certification by the licensing authority should be made at least 28 days in advance of the proposed screening date and submitted to the Licensing Unit. Requests should include:

- a DVD copy of the film
- details of any existing classification issued by an existing classification body, whether within or outside the UK
- a synopsis identifying the material within the film considered by the exhibitor to be likely to have a bearing on the age limit for the audience for exhibition of the film
- such recommendation as may have been made by the filmmaker upon age limit for the intended audience for exhibition of the film
- proposal of age restriction by the applicant.

The Licensing Service have taken advice from the Council's Legal Department and have been advised that it is a matter for this Committee to consider the classification.

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 Vue Entertainment Limited hold a premises Licence for the Vue Cinema, 9 Rock Place, Bury, BL9 0JX. The premises Licence authorises the Exhibition of films for 24 hours a day on Monday to Sunday.

2.2 The mandatory conditions relating to films that are currently on the premises licence are as follows:-

*1 The admission of children to the exhibitions of any film is restricted as follows:*

2 Where the film classification body is specified in the licence, unless 3(b) below applies, the admission of children is restricted in accordance with any recommendation of that body.

3 Where:-

(a) the film classification body is not specified in this licence, or

(b) the licensing authority has notified the holder of the licence that this subsection applies to the film in question,

the admission of children is restricted in accordance with any recommendation made by the licensing authority.

4 In relation to the above:

"children" means persons under the age of 18 years; and

"film classification body" means the persons or person designated as the authority under section 4 of the Video Recordings Act 1984.

2.3 The Classification categories for films are as follows:-

- U
- PG
- 12A
- 12
- 15
- 18
- R18

Attached at appendix 2 are the BBFC Classification Guidelines.

### **3.0 Film Classification**

3.1 The request from the Jewish Film Organisation is for members of the Licensing & Safety Committee to watch the film *Once Upon a Time in Algeria* which is a French language with English subtitles production and is 2 hrs 8 mins in duration.

3.2 The applicant has recommended the film be classified as a 12 and provided the following synopsis

*A joyful and nostalgic love letter to the Algiers of Alexandre Arcady's youth, this enchanting autobiographical family drama recreates the vibrant Mediterranean city of the early 60s. With an ex-French Foreign Legion father who harbours dubious claims to Hungarian nobility, a beautiful and long-suffering Algerian Jewish mother, and a close-knit if somewhat shady extended family, 15-year-old Antoine's main concern is how to navigate his secret crush on Josette, the girl in the apartment upstairs. Meanwhile, Algerian nationalists are eager to rid themselves of their French colonial masters, and Algeria's ancient Jewish community is finding itself on the losing side of an increasingly dangerous and violent struggle.*

3.3 Members are requested to view the film and determine what classification the film should be allocated at the viewing on the 14 November 2024

#### **4.0 Recommendation**

4.1 To provide a classification for the film classify the film Once Upon a Time in Algeria in conjunction with the guidelines set by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC)

Dear Bury Council,

I hope you're well.

I would like to apply for certification of the film we will be screening as part of our festival, taking place at Vue Cinema Bury on the 14th of November.

I have attached a spreadsheet containing the relevant film details, as well as a watch link for the film. Let me know if there is any further info I can provide.

Thanks and all the best,  
Vanessa



**XXXXX**  
**Producer**  
**phone:** XXXX  
**web:** [ukjewishfilm.org](http://ukjewishfilm.org)  
**email:**



Name of Film: Once upon a time in Algeria

Director: Alexandre Arcady

Length of Film: 128 mins

Language: French with English Subtitles

**Synopsis:** A joyful and nostalgic love letter to the Algiers of Alexandre Arcady's youth, this enchanting autobiographical family drama recreates the vibrant Mediterranean city of the early 60s. With an ex-French Foreign Legion father who harbours dubious claims to Hungarian nobility, a beautiful and long-suffering Algerian Jewish mother, and a close-knit if somewhat shady extended family, 15-year-old Antoine's main concern is how to navigate his secret crush on Josette, the girl in the apartment upstairs. Meanwhile, Algerian nationalists are eager to rid themselves of their French colonial masters, and Algeria's ancient Jewish community is finding itself on the losing side of an increasingly dangerous and violent struggle.

Recommended Rating: 12

Date of Exhibition: 14 November 2024

Location of Exhibition: Vue Cinema Bury, The Rock, Bury, BL9 0YB

# British Board of Film Classification

## Classification Guidelines