

## **BBFC Board of Classification Meeting**

**Thursday 21 January 2021**

(Meeting held remotely)

### **Present**

Patrick Swaffer	President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Matt Tindall	Senior Policy Officer (minutes)
Matt Blakemore	Head of Product (for item 3)
Edward Lamberti	Policy Manager (for item 4)
Amanda Francis	Consultant (for item 4)
Faye Harcourt	Director of Marketing and Outreach (for item 5)
Sarah Peacock	Compliance and Education Manager (for item 5)
Chris Davies	Compliance Manager (for item 5)

### **Apologies**

Dave Barrett	Deputy Chief Executive
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### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

### **Matters arising**

2. There were no matters arising.

### **AI and classification**

3. Matt B updated the Board on progress towards developing artificial intelligence tools to enhance the BBFC's classification processes.

### **Online Harms**

4. The Board discussed the Government's full response to the Online Harms White Paper consultation, published 15 December 2020.

**Classification: THE GESTAPO'S LAST ORGY**

5. THE GESTAPO'S LAST ORGY is a 1977 Italian film in which a Jewish woman revisits the site of a concentration camp in which she was formerly imprisoned and subjected to torture, terrorisation, humiliation and sexual violence. The film was on the Director of Public Prosecutions' list of potentially obscene titles during the 1980s, and has never before been submitted for classification by the BBFC.
6. Upon its submission for a video certificate in January 2021, the Compliance Officer viewing the film noted that THE GESTAPO'S LAST ORGY features a sustained focus on sexual and sadistic violence that is presented in a titillatory manner and occurs within an overarching racist context. Given the challenging combination of issues, the Compliance Officer recommended that the film be referred to the Board. It has since been viewed by the three Presidents, the Chief Executive, the Compliance Managers and the Senior Policy Officer.
7. The Board considered the issues raised by the film, and discussed the balance to be struck between the principle that adults should generally be free to choose their own entertainment and the risk of harm posed to vulnerable viewers. The potential for the BBFC to refuse to classify such material is set out in our Classification Guidelines: *"The BBFC may refuse to classify a work... where a central concept of the work is unacceptable, such as a sustained focus on rape, other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour or sadistic violence."*
8. THE GESTAPO'S LAST ORGY is largely composed of scenes of strong sadistic violence, humiliation, degradation and non-consensual sexual activity, including rape, all of which occurs within a clearly anti-Semitic context. The film's central concept is therefore unacceptable, and the sadistic and sexually abusive material it contains is too pervasive to be effectively addressed by cuts. Accordingly, the Board agreed that the BBFC should refuse to classify THE GESTAPO'S LAST ORGY.

#### **AOB**

9. The Board discussed their recent viewings of PINOCCHIO (PG), WORDS ON BATHROOM WALLS (12A) and THE ASSISTANT (15).

**Date of next meeting: 25 February 2021**