



Pride

Director: Matthew Warchus

Ratings info: strong language, sex references

15

Synopsis

Pride is a British comedy drama, from 2014, in which an LGBTQ+ group raises money in support of the National Union of Mineworkers in the summer of 1984. Although their activism is initially rejected by the striking miners, the two marginalised communities soon begin to find ways to support each other.

About the film

The film is based on a true story and is an uplifting tale of the power of activism, friendship and acceptance.

The film was submitted for a rating without a specific category request. We rated it 15 for strong sex references and language.

BBFC age rating and about the film



Pride is rated **15 for strong language, sex references.**

Classification Issues

From a language perspective, the frequency of strong language ('f**k') is well within precedent at the mid-teen category. Although some uses of 'f**k' are said within an aggressive and discriminatory manner, most of the uses are comic. In addition to the use of stronger terms, there's occasional use of moderate bad language ('prick') and frequent mild bad language throughout including use of the terms 'shit', 'sod', 'bastards', 'bloody', 'piss,' 'arse', 'bugger' and 'dick'.

There are infrequent sex references but, on occasion, these are strong. Most notable is a sequence in which, after partying at a gay BDSM club, a group of women arrive home where they discover a friend's sex toy and pornographic magazine. Although we may allow brief sight of sex toys at 12, the degree to which the sequence foregrounds the image is neither brief nor discreet, and so the issue is best placed at 15. The pornographic images depict a couple of nude naked men. As there's no focus on the images, they don't occur within a sexual context, nor do they contain the strongest nudity, we were comfortable with them at 15.

During our 2018 guidelines research, we asked the public, including teenagers, if strong nudity, including brief sight of erections are acceptable at 15, if they appear briefly, in a comic context and/or the inclusion of strong nudity is contextually justified within the narrative. People told us that such images were acceptable at 15 when occurring in those particular contexts.

Discrimination is a major theme of the film. There is use of discriminatory terms and scenes of discrimination, including homophobic violence.

Our guidelines state that at 12: Discriminatory language or behaviour must not be endorsed by the work as a whole. Aggressive discriminatory language or behaviour is unlikely to be acceptable unless clearly condemned'.

Homophobia, though frequent, is clearly condemned within the narrative of the film. The film promotes and encourages messages of equality and the treatment of this issue is currently in line with our guidelines at 12.

Drug misuse occurs when a man smokes marijuana. The drug misuse is brief, infrequent in the film as a whole and is not glamorised.


Other issues include discreet references to the AIDS crisis and scenes of violence, including in archive material during the film's opening.

Discussion Points

- The film is rated 15 for strong sex references and language. Do you agree with the rating and ratings info? If not, what would you change and why?
- At the outset of the film, the miners are reluctant to accept the help of LGSM. In what ways does the film express their prejudice towards the LGBTQ+ community?
- In what ways does the film reference the 1980s Aids crisis? Why do you think the narrative only makes subtle nods to it? How does this impact other themes in the film?
- The character Cliff comes out in the film. Why do you think it took him so long to do so and what impact do you think LGSM had on his decision to come out to Hefina?
- How are women represented in the film? In what ways are women responsible for creating change in the film?

Further viewing

Billy Elliot (Stephen Daldry, 2000) 

Kinky Boots (Julian Jarrold, 2005) 

Made in Dagenham (Nigel Cole, 2010) 