



Deep Fried Film

As part of our ongoing work to help film makers we are currently producing a documentary on the BBFC and the possibility of setting up a more economically viable system. We are asking for the help of all film makers to make this documentary as powerful as possible. If you wish to take part in the documentary please read the information below and record an interview with yourself or other film makers using the questions provided. Please feel free to add an items or issues you think we may missed. Get in touch for more details
admin@deepfriedfilm.org.uk

About the BBFC

The British Board of Film Classification is an independent, non-governmental body, which has classified cinema films since it was set up in 1912 it is funded through the fees it charges to those who submit films and video works for classification.

Cinema

The British Board of Film Censors was set up in 1912 by the film industry as an independent body to bring a degree of uniformity to the classification of film nationally.

Statutory powers on film remain with the local councils, which may overrule any of the Board's decisions, passing films we reject, banning films we have passed, and even waiving cuts, instituting new ones, or altering categories for films exhibited under their own licensing jurisdiction.

Video

In 1984 Parliament passed the Video Recordings Act. This act stated that, subject to certain exemptions, video recordings offered for sale or hire commercially in the UK must be classified by an authority designated by the Secretary of State. The President and Vice Presidents of the BBFC were so designated, and charged with applying the new test of 'suitability for viewing in the home'. At this point the Board's title was changed to British Board of Film Classification to reflect the fact that classification plays a far larger part in the Board's work than censorship.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has notified the BBFC of a serious issue which has come to light in relation to the Video Recordings Act 1984 (VRA). Because the then British Government failed to notify the European Commission under the Technical Standards and Regulations Directive (83/189/EEC) of the Act, the VRA is no longer enforceable against individuals in

the United Kingdom. The Government has said that its priority is to remedy this situation as soon as possible and has urged the industry in the interim to comply with the provisions of the VRA on a voluntary and best practice basis. The BBFC will continue to classify video works submitted by distributors on a voluntary basis for this period.

Fees

Video Handling fee £75 per submission plus £6.00 per minute for full length of work.

Film Handling fee £100 per submission plus £7.00 per minute for full length of work.

Fee example:

DVD running time 60 minutes £435

Questions for interviewees:

What is your understanding of the BBFC?

What is your understanding of the video nasties act?

What is your reaction to the prices for classification?

What should be done to help film makers overcome the price barrier for classification?

What would be your reaction to a provisional classification that enables distribution within Scotland charging a sixth of the price?

What is your average budget for a film?