

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, 5th September 2023

Irish Film Classification Office marks 100th anniversary with Culture Night classification workshops

As part of its Centenary celebrations, [IFCO – the Irish Film Classification Office](#) – is inviting members of the public to join its team in classifying cinema content on Culture Night Friday 22nd September. Attendees will view an Irish short film and some trailers in IFCO's onsite cinema in Smithfield, Dublin and work with one of Ireland's six classifiers to apply the IFCO Guidelines and assign an age rating.

Commenting, Director of the Irish Film Classification Office, Dr Ciarán Kissane said: "We are delighted to be part of Culture Night for the first time, as part of our 100th anniversary programme. Film plays a key role in Ireland's cultural life. Over the past 100 years IFCO has evolved from censorship to age classification and advice. This is the first time we will welcome members of the public to our cinema for Culture Night. A great deal of consideration goes into each classification decision and we are delighted to have the opportunity to share this process. The discussions at these workshops will also contribute to our Guidelines review which will commence shortly".

IFCO's Culture Night event is being held on the hour every hour between 5pm and 8pm. Each workshop will last approximately 40 minutes. Attendance is limited to 15 people per session and booking is required.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Censorship of Films Act 1923 – one of the first pieces of legislation to be passed by the Irish Free State. The Culture Night event is just one in a series to mark the centenary.

IFCO is currently running an in-cinema competition to promote awareness of the various film classification categories (G, PG, 12A, 15A, 16 and 18). The competition challenges cinemagoers to identify well-known films from the past 100 years with an Irish connection via cryptic doodles that are incorporated into the Classification notice at the start of each film. Participants are in with a chance to win an iPad. The competition runs until 27th September 2023. Further details and the entry form can be found on the [IFCO website](#).

"We are delighted with the response to this competition and its success in highlighting the different classification categories applied by IFCO. So far, we are noticing that the General categorization is causing the most difficulty for respondents. We will publish the correct answers with the winners names at the end of September" Dr. Kissane concluded.

ENDS

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Notes for Editors:

- For more information on the events taking place at IFCO as part of Culture night, please see [Eventbrite here](#).
- Details of the IFCO classification system can be found on www.ifco.ie.
- Dr Ciarán Kissane is available for interview, on request.

About IFCO:

Oifig Aicmithe Scannán na hÉireann The Irish Film Classification Office (IFCO) is a statutory body established under the aegis of the Department of Justice. It is responsible for examining and certifying all cinema films and DVDs distributed in Ireland that are not otherwise exempt from classification. IFCO also licences retail and wholesale outlets that sell DVDs. Established on a statutory basis pursuant to the Censorship of Films Act 1923, the role of the Office has been expanded by the various censorship of films acts and the Video Recordings Act, 1989. Its name was changed from Film Censor's Office to The Irish Film Classification Office in 2008 to reflect its changing role - from censorship to providing age classifications and advice. The IFCO's decisions are legally binding, and all powers of prohibition remain. The decisions of IFCO are independent and can be appealed to the Classification of Films Appeal Board.