

# PQA FILM RATINGS

AGE RATINGS YOU CAN TRUST



**PQA**  
THE PAULINE QUIRKE  
ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS



PQA film classifications are designed to reassure you that the films your children are producing in Film & TV fit the PQA ethos in terms of subject, content and tone. Whilst we don't want to limit the creativity of our students, it is important that films fall into one of our categories in order to safeguard the children from making or viewing unsuitable material, while ensuring parents are empowered to make decisions on viewing suitability.

This is particularly important for cinema screenings where PQA students and their siblings may be exposed to films made by

and aimed at an older age group. By classifying each film and grouping them accordingly we can enable parents to make informed choices as to whether to allow younger children to watch content made by and for the Blue/Red group. For example, it may well be that Red group films qualify for a Green classification (suitable for all) but there will be times when older students wish to make films with a more teenage subject matter and sensibility, which may not be suitable for younger children. We hope you find this guide helpful.

### GENERAL NOTES

- References to or depictions of drugs and drug taking, alcohol or smoking is avoided unless presented in an educational context.
- No use of serious bad language under any circumstances.
- No use of racist, sexist or discriminatory language or behaviour unless it is presented in such a way as to highlight a problem and presents a viable solution (such as anti-bullying stories).
- No promotion of potentially dangerous behaviour which children are likely to copy.
- No glamorisation of realistic or easily accessible weapons.
- No endorsement of anti-social behaviour.
- These classifications should only be used as a guide for parents and guardians. Any final decisions on viewing suitability always lie with the responsible adult.

### GREEN | SUITABLE FOR ALL



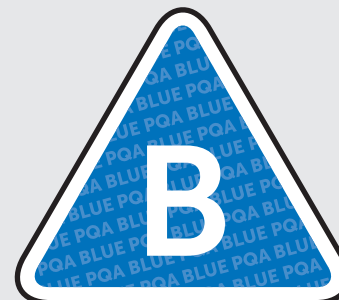
A 'Green' film is suitable for audiences aged 5 years and over. Films are largely positive in tone and do not present anti-social, violent or imitable behaviour.

Any scary or threatening situations are kept to a minimum, are relevant to the context and tone of the story and should be unlikely to cause undue anxiety to young children.

Violence can only be shown if comedic and must be very mild.

There are no references or content of a sexual context. Depictions of romantic relationships may be included (e.g. Parents of a child who are in a relationship) but will be presented in a sensible, non-judgemental and age appropriate fashion.

### BLUE | SUITABLE FOR AUDIENCES AGED 8 OR OLDER



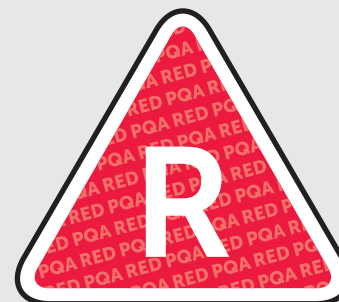
A 'Blue' film will be suitable for an audience of children aged 8 and above. It may contain themes and content that may upset more sensitive children.

Threatening or frightening sequences where characters are in peril will not be prolonged or intense and will be justified by the story.

Violence will be kept to a minimum and have no detail. It will also be justified by its context (for example history, comedy or fantasy).

There are no references or content of a sexual context. Depictions of romantic relationships may be included (e.g. Parents of a child who are in a relationship) but will be presented in a sensible, non-judgemental and age appropriate fashion.

### RED | SUITABLE FOR A YOUNG TEEN AUDIENCE



A 'Red' film will be suitable for an audience of 12 and older. Whilst it may include more challenging themes and concepts it will still be mindful of younger audience members.

Depiction of relationships is acceptable when justified by the story and context. This also may be implied but will generally be discreet and infrequent.

There may be moderate physical and psychological threat and horror sequences. Although some scenes may be briefly disturbing the overall tone of the film will not be. Horror sequences will not be frequent or sustained.

Mild to moderate violence could be depicted but will not dwell on detail and will be presented in a way that is relevant to the story and that does not encourage or glorify this behaviour. There will be no undue emphasis on blood or injuries. There will be no depiction of sexually motivated violence.

Depiction of mild romantic physical contact such as holding hands or kissing is acceptable when justified by the story and context. Relationships and/or physical attraction may be implied, but references will be mild and infrequent.





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