

From: Chris O'Shea [<mailto:chris.oshea@southhillpark.org.uk>]
Sent: 20 May 2013 13:05
To: CineworldCityScreen
Subject: Cineworld/PictureHouse and control of live events; National Theatre Live and Metropolitan Opera Live

Hello,

I work at an independent cinema (part of an arts centre) which is currently switching to digital technology from 35mm film. We have asked Picture House for permission to screen live events from the National Theatre Live and Metropolitan Opera Live as they currently control which venues can receive the live feed. During the last year I have asked them if we can screen these live events but they consistently say 'no, check back next year'. Their reason for saying No is because there is a multiplex cinema in the local vicinity already screening the same event. I consider this a reasonable answer. But when I ask them if we can screen the event at a later date after their selected cinemas, they again reply No.

It does appear that the list of venues allowed to screen National Theatre Live events are predominately multiplexes (including all Picture Houses/Cineworld) and where there are towns with no multiplex chain, then an independent cinema is allowed to host the live screenings.

We are being prevented from screening these live events, even at a later date after the live event, thereby giving the Cineworld/PictureHouse Chain and other multiplexes exclusive use of this material (although there are some independent cinemas allowed to screen this material - they are in the minority and only because there is no other multiplex chain in that particular town).

<http://ntlive.nationaltheatre.org.uk/venues>

I'm not sure if this has any bearing on your investigations or even if this is an example of 'unfair trading' but it does give Cineworld control over this area of live events and therefore a lessening of competition within the cinema market.

Many thanks

Chris

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