

FEBRUARY 1986 TO JUNE 1986

Introduction

Since the last report, the BFI have increased their funding for the Umbrella from £3000 to £5000 with the usual provisos that the Umbrella includes work from the BFI Film and Video library. This commitment at a time when funds are scarce is very welcome and an important mark of the increasing relationship between the Umbrella, Arts Council and BFI.

The last two months, since the allotment of money for the financial year April 1986 to April 1987 has been one of planning and researching for future tours. There has also been an increase in overseas interest on the packages from the past year. This lag between British tours and overseas interest is becoming more regular. It is also true that the Umbrella is used very much as an advice centre on programming although this^{is} often mixed up ^{with} my writing work.

The following is a breakdown, from this moment in time, of proposed tours and programme bookings in this short period.

Recent British Super 8

There have been two bookings:

Zap Club Brighton 2nd June
Melbourne Film Festival 19-29 June.

The Film Festival booking is excellent as it gives coverage to this work at a major international film festival. It also shows that there is a lack of distribution of Super 8 as many venues use this package which is becoming outdated as "recent" work.

Subverting Television

There have been three major bookings:

ICA April 13, 20, 27 (audiences averaged about 35 per screening)
Television Festival Granada, Spain (Alex Graham of the ICA arranged this)
Melbourne Film Festival 19-29 June

The British Council have organised the transport of the tapes and films to the Melbourne Film Festival.

Derek Jarman Tour

The Walker Art Center, having seen the publicity we did for the Jarman tour (the broadsheet and Afterimage etc), are organising a major American Gallery tour of the films, art work etc. I am organising the British end of the tour, and acting as liason between distributors and Bruce Jenkins at Walker in Minneapolis. They are using the British tour as their model in terms of programme and context films etc. This tour will run from Jan 1987 through to 1988.

Jan Svankmajer/Quay Brothers and Context Films

I enclose an almost completed programme list of films for this tour. It will comprise three programmes of experimental work including the films of Svankmajer and Quays. The BFI have just acquired five films by Svankmajer and we are placing them within a surrealist context with some emphasis on animation although not purely so. We are also offering six feature films as options for venues. We see this as a RFT and gallery tour as we have 35mm and 16mm prints of films. The July issue of Monthly Film Bulletin will have Svankmajer as theme with reviews of films and long article.

This programme will not only introduce Svankmajer work to this country for first time but will fulfill BFI conditions of touring their film acquisitions.

The programme has been selected by myself and Paul Taylor and Jayne Pilling at the BFI.

Publicity will be printed in July and the tour will begin in September. With possibility of Edinburgh showings and pre-publicity.

Soviet Film Tour

Cordelia has been working on selection of the films. And bookers are lining up impatiently already.

It is hoped that this will be finalised in early July for a September start to tour.

British Experimental Film:

Discussions have been underway with AL Rees and Nicky Hamlyn about proposed tour of work by British film-makers working in particular area of formal aesthetics but also involved in notions of ~~the personal~~ representation, interiors and the politics of perception and of the personal. The film-makers we would want to include are perhaps Nicky Hamlyn, Robina Rose, Nick Collins, Will Milne, Jayne Parker, Le Grice, Guy Sherwin, John Smith etc. We would also want to include other film-makers in terms of influences, similar strategies and so forth e.g. Martha Haslanger, Vincent Grenier, Brakhage, Ellie Epp, Kren, Snow etc.

This will not be easy one to tour but it is hoped to include some work which would provide some means of making work accessible and interesting to those outside the area of work concerned.

Margaret Tait Tour

This is being organised for the Autumn and might run in tandem with the Circles' Maya Deren programme.

It should also be pointed out that my programme last year for the ICA cinema The Synchronisation of the Senses and Jarman tour was taken up by a group of Dutch film-makers who organised a four day Festival in Amsterdam June 4th to 7th. It was programmed under title Romantics Aesthetics: Young English Filmmakers. It had different forms of funding including British Council and many British film-makers showed there and actually attended the festival. It received wide

IN THE SURREALIST MAZE: THE CINEMA OF JAN SVANKMAJER AND THE BROTHERS QUAY

Programme 1

Short Films Georges Melies (6 mins)

The Last Trick of Mr Schwarzenwald and Mr Edgar Jan Svankmajer (10mins)

The Children's Party Joseph Cornell (3mins)

Down to the Cellar Jan Svankmajer (15mins)

Tango Zbigniew Rybczynski (10mins)

Ein Broodmord The Brothers Quay (5mins)

Historia Naturae Jan Svankmajer (9mins)

Grandmother's Encyclopaedia Walerian Borowczyk (7mins)

Programme 2

Un Chien Andalou Luis Bunuel (17mins)

Jabberwocky Jan Svankmajer (13mins)

Marvo Movie Jeff Keen (5mins)

The Cabinet of Dr Svankmajer The Brothers Quay (13mins)

The Flat Jan Svankmajer (10mins)

Dreamland Express David Anderson (15mins)

Programme 3

The Seahorse Jean Painleve (15mins)

The Unnameable Little Broom Brothers Quay/Keith Griffiths (11mins)

Dimensions of Dialogue Jan Svankmajer (11mins)

Renaissance Walerian Borowczyk (10mins)

The Streets of Crocodiles Brothers Quay (20mins)

Alphabet David Lynch (5mins)

Feature Films

Repulsion / Cul de Sac Roman Polanski

The Cremator Juraj Herz

Videodrome David Cronenberg

Judex Georges Franju

ZOO Peter Greenaway

The Fall of the House of Usher Roger Corman