



Cinema meeting Wednesday

Annabel Nicholson and for a while AHS Syed

Tom Heslop

Tony Marcus

Orlagh Mulcahy

Emina Kurtagic

Nick Collins

James Bendall

Duncan Reekie

Anna Thew

Loosely minuted/by anna please everyone add anything that was important that might have been missed, see also the in need of attention list in case there are items you feel need adding or expanding on.

Requested initially budget information. There was allocation for 6 screenings 2 already having been allocated. The group was told by Tom that there was a total budget of £70 perscreeing to include for postage/carriage/insurance of any films hired. A budget of some £250 per month being available for publicity. Short discussion of this situation. Would there be any other finance available for co-ordination etc. Had a claim been made on the insurance for sick pay for the current organiser in absence? Group was told this hadn't happened and that all the work would be expected to be voluntary. Annabel Nicholson and Anna Thew said this situation was unsatisfactory. There was some consensus that any group operating efficiently would have firstly to have more detailed financial/budget information from the administration, regarding cinema, and that an allocation for co-ordination and programming should be designated and that this demand should be relayed to the executive for ratification. Suggestion was made that the 4 weekly days available under normal circumstances for operation of the cinema should be secured for that purpose, that a minimum of 2 days p.w. and no less should be allocated for programming i.e. 1 day per programme organised. Further to this that the funds remaining for the other two days should be used for the benefit of the cinema i.e. replacement or purchase of minor vital items, or minor repair to equipment. or alternatively to offset cost of i.e. a performance aspect in the programme. The principle of the remaining two days to be discussed as and when fuller information regarding cinema finance and backlog and projected cash flow are made known to the group.

It was generally agreed that voluntary undertaking of a whole month's programme was not viable or satisfactory. The executive would be informed accordingly.

Discussion of timetable for publicity. Was agreed to programme an initial evening separately and publicise separately by cheaper method. That to be finalised by Friday this week with short term publicity drive, a phone round and hand outs to see how large an audience be raised that way.

James Bendall expressed interest in designing the leaflet. A skeleton programme was collectively drawn up to be finalised by Tom. The evening would be a late new year opening of the cinema with a late night sociable event afterwards.

All other programme information, write ups, film bookings, stills etc to be with the Co-op by Wednesday of the following week for typesetting and publicity in the normal fashion. Some discussion as to new methods of publicity was not resolved but would be taken up at a future meeting in more detail. It was made clear that deadlines should be brought forward to make sure that late publicity could not occur in future. The programming for March i.e. would be brought forward so that the programme could be finalised in the week of March 4th. A meeting would be called for the same.

The group would also meet next week and discuss how to co-ordinate an initial drive to clear-up and clean up the cinema for a new start. By that time the exec. would ensure that necessary financial arrangements be provided and the administration would have provided the full financial information required. It was agreed that voluntary assistance would be called upon for the mass preparation, with central drive for co-ordination coming from the group.

The remaining days programmes were delegated as follows:- Annabel Nicholson to programme a historical and current programme of film-makers' work in the week

March 4th/A Valentine's programme organised by Tom for the 14th Feb. A programme for the 15th Feb. Anna to programme and Outrage Clause 25 connected programme for Thursday 21st Feb and an irony of War programme on the 22nd. 7th Feb goes already to Richard Kusinski from Poland/28th February to a programme of Women's films from Paris by Emina Kurtagic. And it was agreed that Orla then programme an evening of animation and frame by frame work in connection with the coming course. That programme to be in the 1st week of March.

There was discussion about how musicians could be encouraged into the monthly programme and performance also, but though it was agreed that it would be in principle a good thing to do, without being able to identify finance for this it couldn't be taken further. The Musician's Collective would be contacted to enquire whether they have any resources for financing performance at outside venues that could subsidise such a venture either in full or jointly with the cinema.

There was discussion of film-makers and musicians giving their work to programmes gratis as a benefit for the Co-op. There was strong objection to this from a significant number of the group who felt that the principle of the Co-op maintaining and ensuring payment for artists' work shouldn't be eroded. It was also pointed out that the Co-op could not expect one or two musicians, or four or five film-makers to supply benefit for free, that such fundraisings or savings should be as much from the audience or any other beneficiaries of co-op activities. We would not therefore approach musicians at this stage, excepting to enquire about how much they'd need for transport and performance fees etc. Matter to be further discussed. Would also relay this information to Mark Sheehan who was unable to attend the meeting today, but had expressed a strong interest in musicians being able to play at the Co-op on a more regular basis.

There was not sufficient time at the meeting to discuss much more in detail. There was some argument about how cinema monies could best be spent to bring it back onto its feet. Orla indicated the tremendous administrative backlog and that money would have to be put aside for this. Others said that there was the equally important issue of the actual running of the cinema, including the state of equipment and the space as a whole. There was a feeling that all the items had some urgent priority. The past backlog should be taken as a proportion of all the matters until it had been cleared. There was a request for full details of the backlog and that its clearing would need to be centrally co-ordinated and assisted by staff with the knowledge to do this. Thereafter volunteers might be able to give assistance if they knew with what. Anna had brought along a list of things that she felt needed urgent attention. There would be a copy of this provided to the exec and to the group. Any further thoughts could be added for either discussion or organisation at the next meeting. Some of these items had been brought up anyway in the course of the meeting, though nothing could be decided on apart from general feelings of consensus that there was a massive task ahead affecting almost every aspect of the cinema, because more hard information and realistic budgeting would be needed as a starting point.

There was brief discussion of the standard of catering and warmth for cinemagoers. It was agreed that this was an area sorely in need of improvement. Was there any money for alternative methods of heating, without the high cost of the blower. Was there money for a kettle and some basics for the coffeebar? This matter would be taken up as a separate issue.

On principles of programming everyone felt the need for a more varied input into the cinema. A proportion of films to come from the Distribution Library as a matter of course. The possibility of a regularly designated Distribution Show. (aswell) The absolute necessity of bringing back the principle of showing as much new work by film-makers (and also videomakers) as possible, and to benefit from the attendant audience that would bring back to the Cinema. The notion of regular allocation for guest programming was also thought desirable and there should be some means of incorporating such a regular slot as a matter of course, in the future.

A cinema group should be an ongoing thing and some structures to provide for the above would be worked out at a future meeting.

The meeting ended at 5.45 p.m.