

Meeting held on Monday 12th December to discuss issues raised at the Co-op's General Meeting regarding the Arts Council's package tour to Europe

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Present: Mitch Davies, Annabel Nicolson, Jenny Okun, Chris Welsby, Liz Rhodes, Guy Sherwin, Dave Parsons, Tim Bruce, Steve Farrer, John Smith, Peter Gidal, Felicity Sparrow

Annabel asked if there was any way in which the Co-op could be included in this scheme, whereby funds were channelled by the AC through the Co-op with a rental for every show and the Co-op getting a cut. It was pointed out that this was impractical, both from the point of view of the Co-op's policy of non-selection and because films would be out of the country for so long additional prints had to be made specifically for the tour.

It was agreed that the double print costs being offered to filmmakers was not sufficient particularly as this discriminated against short films; should there be an equal fee not based on so much per minute? Chris felt that even more dangers would arise if print purchase/fees were assessed on merit rather than material costs. A suggestion that all films being restricted to 10 minutes was rejected. It was agreed that the Arts Council purchase prints at treble print costs but that the 'twice print costs' that went to the filmmaker should be regarded as a fee for participation in the scheme and not as an outright purchase of the film, the filmmaker thereby retaining all rights to that print. The print would then remain with the Arts Council for two years after which time it would be returned to the filmmaker - in whatever state - to do with what he/she chooses. In addition it was agreed there should be a rental paid for each time the print is shown - of one US \$ per screening to go direct to the filmmaker.

There was a lot of debate as to the title and selection of the show: as the British export of underground movies with the official seal of approval of the Arts Council it should be stressed as being a subjective selection by Deke Dusinberre and David Curtis and not sold as the official, and therefore THE, historical selection - a selection of 'Some Avant Garde film in Britain' which would go out as a cross section of this area of work rather than as a historical perspective. Liz felt that there should be some explanation underwriting the title as being a selection by DD and DC, from the Arts Council rather than organisers of the Co-op Cinema.

It was felt that the Co-op should be included nominally if not financially, i.e. that the Co-op's distribution be acknowledged, unlike at the Hayward show where no credit was given to the Co-op. Filmmakers didn't just happen to make films in isolation, activities were and are very much centred round the Co-op and it should be credited in the programme notes as being the only place in Britain where people can make, show and distribute their films (under one roof). It was agreed that Dave Curtis be asked to expand his article for Studio International giving history of the Co-op to be included in programme notes.

It was agreed that there should be no categorisation of films included in the scheme and a purely chronological perspective taken, i.e. in order of when the films were made rather than under the heading of a particular filmmaker or a particular style, and that there should be no heavy classification under 'current critical context'

The question of venues in Europe and how much the Co-op and individuals doing tours with their films would be undermined by the AC scheme was not resolved. Peter felt that people with 2 screen work and expanded shows would have no problems getting shows in Europe. It was agreed that this package deal should definitely not be made available in Britain: this had already been done with the show at the Hayward Gallery.

It was felt that the representation of filmmakers and selection should be more open in future; that possibly it should be on a rota basis, those included in this tour should not have any films in the next scheme if there is one.

It was asked who would accompany/introduce the films.

It was asked if filmmakers could see proofs of the catalogue before it was printed and approve a dummy.

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It was agreed to meet DC and DD at 10.00 am on Tuesday 20th December, at the Co-op (F will arrive early to turn heaters on!). FS said she would notify those whose names she had taken at the meeting who wanted to be present and would also send copies of minutes etc to:

Jeff Keen  
William Raban  
Marilyn Halford  
Steve Dwoskin  
Roger Hammond (if possible)  
Mike Leggett  
Mike Dunford  
David Crosswaite  
Renny Croft  
Stuart Brisley  
David Hall  
Bill Lundberg

It was doubted if Malcolm Le Grice would be back in time from the States. John Du Cane and David Larcher were not contactable.