

LONDON FILM MAKERS CO-OPERATIVE

13 March, 1968

174, Old Brompton Rd SW5  
OI 373 7400

NOTICE OF FILM-MAKERS' GENERAL MEETING.

(To amalgamate the facilities of the Co-operative and the Arts Lab.)  
at 3pm. Saturday next, 16th March.

Since the demise of Better Bookz, the Co-op has been without a central home, and film distribution has continued from various members homes. There was to have been a new centre within Beccoeks, a bookshop being opened by Bob Cobbing, but this inherently involved the Co-op in waiting for the shop. In the meantime, the Arts Laboratory has opened, and a group of film-makers have been using it as a base.

Dave Curtis, one of the founder members of the Co-op, who organises the cinema at the Lab, was given plans for a film processing set-up by Drew Ellicott. Two of the film-makers whose work had been shown at the Lab, Bennett Yahya and Malcolm Legrice, offered to construct this equipment and the Lab agreed to provide the facilities.

A natural extension was the setting up of a system for the co-operative use of equipment. This began to duplicate a service already being offered by the Co-op. It therefore seemed sensible for the two groups to amalgamate.

During discussions between the prime movers of both organisations, it was felt that the future Co-operative should be solely a provider of services and facilities for film-makers. Thus the future Co-op will not have Viewing Members and will not organise film shows (other than on a promotional basis.)

The Services and Facilities to be provided are:

1. Bulk ordering of materials at reduced prices.
2. Co-operative use of equipment and experience.
3. Co-operative use of developing, printing and editing facilities
4. Distribution and promotion.

It was also felt that in future the Co-op must not be dependant upon any other organisation. In particular it must not be dependant upon Beccoeks for office space, or upon the Arts Lab. for processing facilities. Instead it must have a completely independent home of its own. Since this will cost more money than can be afforded out of the Co-op's income at its present stage of growth, two members have jointly offered to give the Co-op ten pounds a week towards the rent and rates if a suitable premises to house all Co-op facilities and services can be found. It is hoped that other members will donate whatever they can afford.

At a meeting on Tues. 12th march, attended by four elected members (Steve Dwoskin, Simon Hartog, Bob Cobbing, John Collins) and one Co-opted member (Trevor Peters) of the present Co-op Committee, a proposed agenda (given below) was drawn up for Saturday's meeting.

1. Reports on present situation.
  2. Consideration of proposed constitution.
  3. Adoption of Constitution
  4. Definition of Film-maker.
  5. Election of Directors.
  6. Financial Statement.
  7. Premises.
  8. Future Plans.
  9. Any other business.
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An alternative as put forward by representatives of the Arts Lab film-makers (Dave Curtis, John Collins, Ben Yahya, Cordley Coit, Malcolm LeGrice) is that the following proposals should be discussed.

1. That the Co-op should be a service run by film-makers (and film-makers only.)

That there should be NO COMMITTEE - all decisions should be rejected or endorsed by reference to the film-makers.

(as a) there are no policy decisions to make - the Co-op is a service

b) there are no taste decisions - ALL films submitted will be accepted\*

so ..there should be no work for a committee to do.

2. Whoever is prepared to take responsibility for a sphere of activity will be responsible for making all decisions in that field, and will announce them in the NEWSLETTER. Should any controversy arise, a vote will be taken at a meeting (called via the Newsletter) to discuss proposals. No member or group of members (whatever their responsibility) should be able to exclude information or material from the newsletter. The newsletter should be compiled by the paid secretary.

3. That legal documents (constitutions etc) should only be drawn up if (and when) they are seen to be necessary for the protection and/or benefit of the members.

4. That the day to day running of the co-op will be in the hands of the paid secretary.
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Since Saturday will be a combined meeting of film-makers from both the present Co-op and the Arts Laboratory to form what is in effect a new organisation, these proposals must obviously be modified to accord with the wishes of those present. However, please remember that everyone's aim at the start of the meeting should be the establishment of an efficient service to film-makers....and not an afternoon's discussion of agendas.