

London Film-Makers Co-op, 42 Gloucester Avenue, London N.W.I. Tel: 01-586 4806

IT'S YOUR CO-OP

YOUR DECISIONS

PLEASE COME

GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER 77

3.00 - 5.30pm  
(between pub hours)

AND AFTER THE MEETING ... STARTING AT 7.00 pm ...  
You are invited to a show of 'the first film you ever made' (or excerpts from if it's too long); so dust out your cupboards and bring along your first footage, and participate in the Co-op's First First Film Festival (F<sup>4</sup>). Mince pies may be awarded to 'The most promising / The most pretentious / The most perplexing (in light of subsequent and better known work) Film.

Dear Film-makers,

It's some time since we sent out a newsletter, so to accompany this notice of the next General Meeting, here is some news of recent developments at the Co-op.

As you probably know, we have been negotiating a lease with British Rail for the new building and, although this still hasn't been agreed (but is imminent), we were obliged to move into 42 Gloucester Avenue in October as a result of Camden Council's court order on Fitzroy Road.

The new building is an ex-British Rail concert room and canteen situated above an industrial laundry. Once it's set up, the space will be a great improvement on the old one. It has twice the floor area and we have exciting plans for much improved workshop facilities (eg. self-contained edit rooms, a common tea room and screening area, etc.). Plans for this conversion are posted in the workshop for your comment.

To raise the money to do the work, we applied to the Government's Manpower Services Job Creation Scheme. Our application was successful and is worth £12,000 in labour costs. We also have £5,000 in building materials set aside by the BFI, GLC and Gulbenkian Foundation. However none of this can be put into effect yet because of the interminable business of getting British Rail to grant us a covering letter for the lease. Until they do so, JCP cannot release their money.

We were therefore in a position of having to set up a makeshift cinema which opened in late September and have nearly finished setting up a makeshift workshop to be getting on with. This workshop is currently open with the following equipment running: optical printer, Debie Contact printer, Acmade, picsyncs. Workshop membership is still £5, at least until the workshop proper is set up (due for discussion at the meeting). In view of the fact that there is still a large amount of setting up work to be done, workshop members should restrict their enquiries (i.e. demands on staff) to afternoons only. Because of the workload, in order to keep the workshop open throughout the day and possibly Saturdays, we are looking for two or three volunteers from the membership to do 1/2 a day a week. Obviously this would go in favour of anyone applying for the workshop job that Steve Farrer is vacating in spring. At present workshop staff are Steve Farrer and Willi Keddell. Workshop (and Distribution) are open Mon to Fri 10 to 5.

During this limbo period there is in fact a vast amount of work to be done in all areas and the paid staff would really appreciate help (unpaid unfortunately) from members, eg. cleaning films, putting up shelves, getting machinery running, whatever you're good at.

The cinema (organiser Deke Dusenberre) is running two nights a week, with the contemporary film series on Wednesdays and free GLAA sponsored programmes on Tuesdays followed by open screenings (fortnightly) which is run by Richard Welsby. Jenny Okun, with the backing of the GLAA, has started a free filmmaking course for fifteen people, using the co-op facilities. This course is already full up. However, as there were several hundred applicants the GLAA may be sponsoring another course (not necessarily at the Co-op). If you're interested, contact Maureen McCue at the GLAA.

Distribution (organiser Felicity Sparrow) is bringing out the first supplement to the Co-op catalogue. There will be fresh supplements brought out every six months.



so information on new films can be sent in at any time.

At the endorsement of the last general meeting the London Filmmakers Co-op went ahead and on July 14th (ironically) became registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee. This is for the most part a legal formality designed to protect individual members from liability with the Co-op taking a lease for the new building. Our constitution remains practically unaltered, and should be studied (it is posted in the cinema). Therein you will find your rights as Co-op members, as agreed by you or your predecessors. These include the power to elect once a year the paid staff in cinema, distribution, workshop and to elect Executive Committee members.

The Executive Committee has been meeting fortnightly throughout the summer but in future will meet once a month on the first Thursday of the month at 7.00 pm. These meetings are open to all members. Minutes of the meetings are posted in the cinema. The job of the Executive Committee is to make the day to day decisions on the running of the Co-op. It is answerable to the Co-op membership at General Meetings. The present Executive Committee consists of Ann Rees-Moog, Chris Welsby, Dave Parsons, Liz Rhodes, Dave Curtis, Marilyn Halford, Jenny Okun, Penny Webb and Tim Bruce.

One of the jobs of this December General Meeting will be to elect the Executive Committee members. The election of the paid staff (normally 2 distribution, 2 workshop and 1 cinema) will not take place at this general meeting but in the spring. However, if you're interested, it would be worth making enquiries about it at this stage, especially regarding the cinema and workshop appointments.

Other news. (apologies for lack of continuity). The Co-op is halfway towards becoming registered as a charity. We are now having our accounts audited once a year. One of the conditions of the lease is that we become landlords to the London Musicians Collective who are the other occupants of the floor.

The Co-op will be closed for the Xmas holidays from Thursday 22nd December to Monday 5th January (exclusive).

Here is a provisional agenda for the meeting. Anyone who has anything to add to this agenda should notify the Co-op as soon as possible and we will include it on a more detailed agenda to be posted in the Co-op a week before the meeting.

The reports from the various quarters of the Co-op will be followed by breathing spaces for suggestions or complaints from the membership.

1. Financial report : Grant Account
2. Report from Distribution
3. Report from Cinema
4. Report from Workshop
5. Workshop : Raising of the membership fee from £5 to £10  
: Hours of opening  
: Appeal for volunteers
6. Composition of the Executive Committee
7. Extending activities within the Co-op
8. Any Other Business

\* Don't forget

AFTER THE MEETING ... Starting at 7.00 pm. F4 (with prizes - maybe)