



42 GLOUCESTER AVENUE, LONDON NW1 8JD

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MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
21st JANUARY 1991

Present: John Tappenden, Orlagh Mulchahy, Sandy Weiland, Vicki Smith, Tony Warcus, Tom Heslop, Emina Kurtagic, Mark Sheehan, Christian Anstice, Philip Baker. Also Karen Smith (Non-Executive)
Apologies: Kathleen Maitland-Carter
Chair: Richard Philpott
Minutes taken by: Tony Warcus

AGENDA:

- 1) Kathleen Maitland-Carter's position in the post of Cinema Organiser.
- 2) The Cinema Committee and Anna Thew's proposal.

1) The meeting began at 7.25pm with Executive Committee members being reminded of the Executive Committee meeting of December 12th at which it was agreed to go for a vote of No Confidence in Kathleen as Cinema Organiser and the points outlined in the Committee's letter of 20th December were drawn up. Executive members were reminded that following the Annual General Meeting of 12th January 1991, the Committee had been empowered to resolve this issue. Christian Anstice then read out Kathleen's faxed letter of 21st January calling for further discussion to be deferred till her return from Canada.

The points in the 6-page faxed letter were discussed by the Executive. Richard Philpott, who had chaired the AGM, stated he did not consider public discussion of this issue to have taken place at the AGM. Karen Smith informed the Executive that "fair comment is a legal defence" i.e. professional comment cannot be considered under English Law as defamation of character. Co-op members had a right to know what was going on in their organisation - a point reiterated by Richard who pointed out that non-Executive members were entitled to be present at Executive Meetings. It was also reiterated that LFMC staff were self-employed consultants so any deferrals on the decision about the continuation of a member of staff in post would be a matter of courtesy not a legal right. The chair then proposed that the Executive vote on whether to postpone discussion on the vote of No Confidence for a week. 4 people voted in favour of postponing for a week, 4 against and 2 abstained. Since this was a tied vote, there was a brief pause for all to reconsider and the vote was 4 in favour of postponing, 5 against and 1 abstention.

The letter of 20th December 1990 from the Executive Committee to Kathleen was then read out followed by further points of clarification and information from staff and non-staff Executive members. Kathleen's faxed letter of 8th January 1991 was then



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read out and the Chair called for people to speak in Kathleen's favour: Karen Smith pointed out the unfairness of someone new in the job having to do the Cinema annual report of the preceding year as well as have to get out her first programme; it was generally agreed that the cross-over period with the outgoing Cinema Organiser had been inadequate; Kathleen's point that London Film Festival assistants should be paid in future to ensure greater reliability of service was entirely taken on board. There was praise for Kathleen's "fresh and original" programming. The substance of the discussion was then relayed by phone to Kathleen and she handed in her resignation. This was accepted with regret by the members of the Executive Committee. It was agreed that Kathleen's life membership of the LFMC would be retained and she would be given one month's pay.

2) Cinema Committee

Anna Thew's minutes of the first Cinema Committee meeting were received and read at the beginning of the meeting. There was concern that the Cinema Committee had not been issued with guidelines and the danger of bad publicity if everyone decided to contact Film distributors and magazines. Orlagh Mulcahy stated that Anna's proposal of two days wage per week to be allocated to a number of guest programmers would lead to an uncoordinated situation as far as Cinema was concerned; Sandy Weiland pointed out that there was a huge amount of backlog to be dealt with before a new person could be expected to take over as Cinema Organiser. She recommended that this be dealt with by staff as they were already familiar with LFMC office procedures; part-time staff could take on 2 days a week each until the new Cinema Organiser was appointed; the programming side of Cinema would be arranged by the Cinema Committee of which they were members but the financial and administrative side of Cinema was the area in most urgent need of attention and would be their responsibility. The Chair then summarised the proposals for an arrangement to carry Cinema over an interim period as follows:

- 1) Tony Warcus and Tom Heslop, if willing, would administrate the Cinema in co-ordination with the volunteers who proposed themselves at the AGM (and any others).
 - 2) Tony and Tom would be paid 2 days a week each (4 days in total) to clear up the administrative backlog in Cinema.
 - 3) The voluntary Cinema Committee would have a programming role WITHIN BUDGET (maximum film hire allocation per night £70) and take on responsibilities to evolve policy/job description of the Cinema Organiser to be submitted to the Executive Committee.
 - 4) For the interim period, the Cinema Committee could decide whether the one artist's fee per month allocation could go to a visiting filmmaker/curator or be divided into a programming fee (subject to ratification by the Executive).
 - 5) The Cinema Committee is an open, voluntary committee.
- The above proposals were put to the vote. 7 in favour, 3 abstentions

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0 against. On the question of whether an advert for the new Cinema Organiser should be placed in The Guardian now or after the next Executive meeting there was a unanimous vote for it to be place immediately.

The meeting ended at 10.30pm.