

MINUTES

LONDON FILM-MAKERS CO-OP
Extraordinary General Meeting 23.6.90

CHAIR; Orlagh Mulcachy
Minutes: Gina Czarnecki-G.

PRESENT; Christian Anstice, Clare Barwell, Anne Barefoot, James Bendall, Michael Bentham, Philip Baker, Nick Collins, Gina Czarnecki-G, Mike Eyles, Patrick Fullerton, Tim Flitcroft, Maurezio Gozzileno, Tom Heslop, Emina Kurtagic, Kathleen Maitland Carter, Gary Morgan, Patrick Mulcachy, Orlagh Mulcachy, Francis Niemczech, Geoff Nursey, Alistair Peebles, Jonothan Sampson, Mark Sheehan, Brian Sharpe, Philip Sanderson, Alia Syed, Vicki Smith, John Tappenden, Polly Withers, Bob Warren, Sandy Weiland.

APOLOGIES; Paul Bush, Paul Bean, C. Ebohon, David Finch, Agnes Hay, Shahnez Hussain, Koutaiba, Frank Muller, Michael Maziere, Tim Potter, Richard Philpot, Russel Ryman, D. Salman, Karen Smith, Moira Sweeney, Tony Warcus, Pier Wilkie.

MEETING COMMENCED 10.30am

10.30am AGENDA REVIEW

Agreement/ammendment of minutes from AGM 13.1.90.
Minutes read and approved. No matters arising.

11.00am DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

WORKSHOP REPORT

Staff; Vicki Smith started as W.O. in Jan 1990
Funding LBCS have drawn out of funding for the 3rd workshop worker (£6,700pa) due to their own decrease in funding. although they reccomend that we re-apply in 1991, they stated that monies would be made available for training of a vocational nature only. Further research has to be done into how we can qualify for this funding without contraveaning the equal pay/responsibility structure of LFMC staff. This cut has put further pressure on our existing funding from the BFI (Ref. Admin report), which has now to include the wage for this post.

Insurance

Insurance on out-house equipment has been reviewed. Additional cover on equipment over the value of £1,500 is no longer required unless taken out of G.B.

Three insurance claims are in process currently for;

- (a) Damage to floppy discs caused during a break-in at the end of April.
- (b) Damage to a Video projector from Watermans Arts Centre,
- (c) Theft of the Uher 4200 recorder on location

Equipment

Repairs include full service on; Nizo 6080, Nizo 801a and 801b, Nagra 4.2 and Nagra 3. Optical printer. bolex Camera. Other repairs include; Both Elmo GS1200 projectors, Processor full

clean and service, motor replaced. Rostrum Camera gate repaired. Bolex EL lens aperture repaired. Manfrotto tripod. Nad Amp. Loss/theft; Uher 4200 recorder, Clapper Board. New Equipment. Bolex H16 Camera Body. Donations; Tapes and split spools from ZDF, Pic Sync and split spools from Melone Gill.

C.A.G. Audit

The CAG audit of resources (ref. Admin report) highlights obvious weakpoints with equipment and facilities, as well as staffing structure. Report available in Office.

Discounts

Air tv. Loaning of membership cards to others jeopardized the 50% discount facility. This necessitated workshop providing Air TV with current name, number and expiry dates. This not only increases workload on staff but highlights problems of people joining purely for discounts. In 88-89 Air TV's income from LFMC members reached £20,000 almost double the income from equipment hire at the LFMC.

Membership

Steady increase in membership from 150 members in mid 87 to over 300 at present. Consequently equipment is being used to almost full capacity and we have received no increase in capital to replace depleted equipment. The proposal put forward in 89 to co-erce more co-operativity amongst members has been withdrawn and a new proposal aimed at controlling membership, based on the introductory tours, has been put forward (ref. proposal) To alleviate short term financial/equipment problems workshop have introduced a £10.00 nominal deposit on all out house equipment and the £10.00 membership deposit has been changed to a non-refundable equipment levy for those joining or renewing after March 1990.

Ratecard

Debate was raised over the publication of a rate card in that it would encourage further members and open the LFMC to abuse by advertising cheap facilities. It was proposed that a purely commercial leaflet advertising hire of space and services only to increase revenue should be produced. No decision was agreed.

Manual

Gina is currently working on the workshop manual. It's aimed at being a saleable publication in three parts; 1 Operation & basic maintainance, 2 Service of equipment and facilities and 3 Directory/information. For further work on and completion of this it is necessary to get funding.

Placements & Helpers

Karen McCarthys' compilation of a placement scheme went into effect early this year and is proving successful. We have had many applications and interest. Nicole Briggs is currently on a twenty week placement, working in all areas of the Co-op. We have had a lot of help from members for which we are always grateful.

Courses/Skill-sharing Workshops.

Orlagh Mulcachy, elected course Organiser has been running a program of one day workshops covering a wide variety of film-making techniques and equipment. These courses cover tuition in both the basic and more specialist equipment housed at the

LFMC. These are aimed at assisting film-makers to develop their skills, and have proved a very valuable means of introducing new members to film-making practice. Given the success of these courses the LFMC decided to expand the range of educational possibilities it offers by setting up two new programmes:-

1. The first of these is a summer school due to take place in July. Eight students will take part in a 6 day project in which they shoot and edit a short film. The course is intended as an introduction to the process of film-making and incorporates some of the problems of scripting and planning a shoot. It is hoped that the income generated from this will go towards the courses purchase of their own equipment, and that if successful the summer school will be a regular feature of our education program.
2. The LFMC will be running a short course in film criticism and theory in partnership with Birkbeck college. These lectures will feature work from the LFMC distribution library and it's hoped will draw in a new audience for the cinema screenings. Course begins on 4th October, bookings through Birkbeck. The dates for the new programme of one day workshops September-December will be available late August.

DISTRIBUTION REPORT

Sub-Committee

It was agreed that the Distribution Sub-committee should be changed at every AGM/EGM to allow time for the committee to familiarise themselves with the library. Regular change of the committee will also encourage diverse selection of material for festivals.

Sub-Committee volunteer-Clare Barwell

Film Hire

Over 100 new films have entered distribution in the last year and figures show that more work by relatively new film makers is being hired. Although hire by the educational sector is down by 80% a new body of hirers is apparent. European hire forms appx. 50% of total hire.

Hire Charges

U.K hire rates up 10p from 75p to 85p per minute, minimum hire fee raised from £5.00 to £10.00. European hire fee static at £1.50 per minute, minimum charge £15.00.

Preview Show

The preview show is being held on the weekend of the 13th-15th July, showing 100 new films from the distribution Library. There will be a press screening of selected work to be held at the BFI preview theatre which will hopefully encourage attendance by those reluctant to visit the LFMC.

ICA Show.

A week of screenings of historical work from both LFMC and LVA distribution libraries is to be held at the ICA from the 22nd-28th July.

Catalogue

Distribution are continuing their liason with Ian Christie (BFI) over the possibility of obtaining funding for desk-top publishing facilities. The catalogue being available on floppy disc format

would facilitate constant up-dating.

Umbrella

There is to be a meeting between the LFMC, LVA, the Film and Video Umbrella and David Curtis of the Arts Council to discuss the constitution of the Umbrella, regarding its branching out into the European market in a competitive rather than supportive nature.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Financial report for year ending 31st March 1990

REF. End of year figures. Year end shows us £2,191 in deficit. the following explains some of the discrepancy in the figures.

Income; Total income is 13% higher than last year, £1,173 higher than estimated. All areas except Cinema space hire, catalogue sales and workshop services have considerably increased their income. The drop in catalogue sales is due to the delayed production of the new catalogue. The slight drop in workshop services is due to the temporary inavailability of members to undertake these services. Distribution has increased its income by £2,000 which does not include monies owed from last years bookings. Equipment hire has increased by £3,000 partly due to hire of equipment by courses.

Expenditure; Expenditure has risen by 20%, although we were only Seven and a half percent over budget. This is mainly due to the rising cost of post, print, stationary and advertising. The increase in outreach work and advertising will hopefully bring dividends next year. The large increase in expenditure on power/heat is due to a fault by LEB who are re-crediting our account with £1,500. To cover our deficit money was borrowed from our deposit account, this is now being transferred back.

Current Financial Situation

Despite our application to the BFI for a revenue grant of £63,250, we only received a cash standstill of £55,000. This means no wage increase for staff. The wage of the 3rd workshop worker is now included in this total as LBGS have withdrawn funding. This, together with inflation, cut our actual funding by 9%.

Payment of Surveyor

The LFMC received a County Court Summons relating to a claim for payment by Tim Edwyn Jones, a surveyor that was employed by the LFMC in 1987 to negotiate on our behalf with British Rail. The LFMC were dissatisfied with the work carried out and undertook the negotiations themselves. Following discussion with Executive and Members, in particular Simon Cassell, it was reluctantly decided the £727 had to be paid due to insufficient evidence to defend the case in court.

ICOM

An application is in process to the Industrial Common Ownership Movement for training monies for the training of staff and executive. An award of £1,000 is almost definite, with a possibility of receiving upto £3,000.

POINTS RAISED FROM THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT;

M.Sheehan; Rates will be lower under the Registered Charity status with the Poll tax.

G.Morgan; Cinema was effectively closed for four months in 89-90, accounting for the poor attendance and income figures.

CINEMA REPORT

Programmes and Audience

The abandonment of the single theme programmes for varied, concurrently running themes has proved successful attracting a more varied audience on a regular basis, and therefore an increase in membership. The series of Screenings on 'Apocalypse Culture', Artist's Films and Literary Themes were well attended and attracted good press coverage both in regular and new, high power publications, e.g. Sunday Times. These themes have facilitated the contextualisation of experimental and often 'difficult' work including films from the LFMC distribution library under a rubric that made it accessible to a wider audience. Other important elements are the inclusion of different art disciplines related to experimental film such as performance and installation. This has further broadened the audience.

Strategy of targetting a broader public has been maintained. Members were encouraged by the improvements to the front of house and Palm Court appearance, although the current system at front of house needs to be reviewed. It was suggested pre-completed forms could take the place of the signing-in book, therefore reducing queues at the door.

Concern was expressed over the publicity for the last three seasons of films being late. Although this delay was covered by targetted leaflets, this necessitated further expense. Kathleen stated that this was due to unexpected admin from various audits/reports and familiarisation time with the post, and should not pose a problem in the future

Sponsorship/Funding

A performance by Gwendalyn from Canada took place with financial sponsorship from Canada House which covered Artists Fee, Travel and wine for the evening. This type of sponsorship will be further sought.

Application for funding to the ACGB has been submitted to go towards our participation in the London Film Festival and the purchase of a video projector. Our source for free access to a video projector has been severed due to the recent damage to the projector from Watermans arts centre.

Space Hire

Hire of the cinema space is increasing, providing a much needed source of income. This is an area which we will concentrate on promoting in the coming months.

Training/Placements

Research into the possibility of a training placement, i.e. from colleges, will be done in the summer. This will help lessen the work load and provide valuable experience for a student interested in the area.

Forthcoming Programmes

For the Autumn various series of films and thematic evenings are

being prepared, some coming from suggestions and proposals from members. Work is also being programmed in co-ordination with the courses organiser around the series of lectures to be held at the LFMC in association with Birkbeck College. The cinema will close during August and Sept in preparation for the LFF

1.00pm-2.00pm LUNCH

2.00pm DISCUSSION OF EOP IMPLEMENTATION. EOP REPORT.
Report given by Tom Heslop in Karen Smiths' (EOP officer) absence.

Physical Access

Our primary concern is with the physical accessibility of the LFMC, both of the existing premises and potential accommodation in the near future. EOP officer is researching the funding available related to structural improvements re.accessability. The Carnegie foundation, amongst others, has been approached. Research shows that very few venues in London are fully physically accessible.

Introductory Tours

Although the 50/50 ratio of places available on these tours has been in operation for 18 months, actual attendance shows a ratio of one woman to every 3 men. This is also demonstrated in the membership figures. The proportion of members from ethnic groups is difficult to assess due to reluctance in completing monitoring forms. Re-defining these forms is necessary. Although membership amongst traditionally marginalised groups has grown steadily over the last year and the number of films being entered into distribution by women has grown greatly, more outreach work/targetting is necessary.

To implement an EOP policy costs money. The £200 received for this purpose from the BFI is tokenistic. Within this budget Vicki designed an A4 leaflet specifically aimed at encouraging attendance/interest from under represented groups. Local Authorities are being contacted for their lists of specific community groups in order to expand our mailing lists.

Training

Training in Disability awareness has been further stalled due to high demand for these courses in relation to the time and funding available to trainers. Gina is liaising with Shape London and Greater London Arts concerning this. Hopefully this course should take place before the end of 1990.

Points Raised

Patrick Fullerton raised the issue of internal equal opportunities in reference to information made available to members. The primary concern being that, although workshop staff go to great lengths on the introductory tours to dispell this, their attitude is not continuous throughout all departments. It was answered that this was mainly due to workshop enquiries phoning through to the wrong department and the pressure of work on staff didnt allow full familiarity with the working procedures of other departments.

BUILDING CRISIS REPORT

Feasibility of joint building with LVA

After a No. of meetings with LVA, GLA and The BFI it was agreed to go ahead with a feasibility study on the possibility of LFMC and LVA sharing a building, whilst retaining our respective autonomies. This study will take place in two stages;- The first stage will research the possibility of shared resources and outline a fundraising strategy. It will outline the respective needs of both organisations in terms of a building. The BFI and GLA have agreed to give £7,500 plus £250 each for admin costs towards this. After tendering out to consultants and subsequent interviews Practical Arts were chosen to undertake stage 1 which is already in progress.

If stage one is deemed successful by all parties we will proceed with stage 2. Stage 2 is concerned with finding a suitable building and relocation. We have a promise from the BFI of £20,000 for this stage. The sum of £150,000 development money has also been conditionally promised by the BFI to be granted over the next three years.

CAG Audit of Resources has been completed and serves as a document for the feasibility study. A copy is available in the office.

British Rail

A meeting with Miranda Humphreys (BR Property Board) confirmed their intention to put in for planning permission on this building at the end of 1990. BR stated our accommodation at 42 would be secure until March 91, although no written guarantee will be given, provided we write stating our intention of looking for another building. This will undoubtedly push through planning permission more quickly. BR have also been approached about the possibility of purchasing the current premises. This seems unlikely as BR wish to re-develop, we have not yet received BR's reply.

BUILDING CRISIS REPORT- Contingency Plans. Philip Baker.

Research into alternative options to LVA/LFMC joint premises;- Half Moon Theatre for sale at £500,000. A letter of interest has been sent asking for continual communication regarding this building.

Debate was raised over our rights to compensation under the 1984 tenancy act if BR decided to terminate accommodation. As BR are accepting rent on a 3 monthly basis the old contract is being honoured for this period only. We are only eligible for nominal compensation if asked to leave before the end of a three month period.

Solicitors Bad relations with our current solicitors necessitate finding alternative. Tim Pickwell has volunteered to research into this.

Major concerns aired over relocation included;-

- a. That LFMC maintains it's film component
- b. That LFMC and LVA retain their individual autonomy and that the policies and working practices of each

organisation are not to be questioned.

c. That a decision to not share premises could lead to reduced funding for LFMC.

d. That a shared building could force the shrinking of film and expansion of video facilities due to the imbalance of self generated income/funding of the two organisations.

e. The importance of continuing contingency plans for alternative buildings.

These issues were discussed in depth. Points raised in response included:-

a. BFI have confirmed that the £150,000 re-development money is available regardless of our decision to move with or separately from LVA.

b. That joint premises could strengthen our position politically and with regard to funding.

c. In all correspondence, applications and feasibility studies we have asked not for maintenance, but expansion and improvement to facilities.

d. Assuming we move independent of LVA more money will be required.

PROPOSAL; MEMBERSHIP AND CO-OPERATIVITY. Patrick Fullerton and Alia Syed.

Ref. original Proposal. The proposal was read and much debate followed. Alia and Patrick stressed that this proposal was not definitive and was open to suggestion.

AMMENDMENTS TO PROPOSAL

1. Staggering new membership. The weekly introductory tours would be stopped in favour of monthly introductory tours which will be reviewed at the AGM.

For 22

Against 1

Abstentions 1

2. The monthly introductory tours would be conducted and managed by a member of staff from Workshop, Cinema and Distribution, or someone with experience of these areas. This is essential to establish that these tours are not the sole responsibility of the workshop and that the LFMC's commitment to an integrated practice should be reflected and seen to be a reality at this key level.

For 23

Against 0

Abstentions 1

3. These should be monthly introductory tours called open days. People interested in joining will then have to attend the workshop meeting processing this and complete an application form.

For 23

Against 2

Abstentions 0

4. Posters advertising the LFMC open day should be drawn up