

4.3 Funded Work Shows

The Assistant Film Officer reported on the progress of the two proposed shows. Although the programme for the film show had been agreed, the venue had not yet been finalised due to the unavailability of Ken Wlaschin, Director of the NFT.

Regarding video, the Assistant Film Officer said that Roger Wilson and himself had found difficulty in compiling a programme of a sufficiently high standard, and suggested that the video show should be concentrated around the placement bursaries.

The Committee was sympathetic to the NFT as a possible venue for both film and video, and to concentrating video around the bursaries, but feelings were mixed regarding the choice of film programme. Both the Chairperson and Mary Pat Leece disagreed with the inclusion of Thriller.

However, it was agreed that there was sufficient support for the programmes and agreed that the Assistant Film Officer continue to explore the possibility of using the NFT for both film and video.

IT WAS AGREED to reserve a sum of £500 for expenses incurred.

4.4 Umbrella Scheme/Modular Scheme (Agenda 5.2)

The Assistant Film Officer reported on the progress of the Modular Scheme and tabled an outline for the 'Umbrella Scheme' which had been requested by the Committee at the previous meeting. The Assistant Film Officer suggested that this 'Umbrella Scheme' would be a cheaper alternative, as the Modular Scheme was proving to be prohibitively expensive. He pointed out that some proposals for the Modular Scheme required the purchase of work from abroad. He thought that, in view of current financial restrictions, these proposals would have to be dropped. However, in some cases, work had progressed to a point where it would be financially imprudent to pull out, and the Committee should continue to support them.

The Assistant Film Officer thought that the 'Umbrella Scheme' was a particularly advisable alternative as it would overcome the basic problems which had arisen with the Modular Scheme; lack of coherence, lack of objectivity and no real sense of targeting towards particular audiences. There followed a substantial discussion on the Assistant Film Officer's proposals. Members of the Committee thought that if the 'Umbrella Scheme' were to be adopted, it must be flexible, responsive to the needs of the constituency and avoid becoming too historical or academic.

IT WAS AGREED to earmark a maximum expenditure of £1,180 for Modular Scheme proposals (Sect 1 of AFO paper) to which the Committee was already committed.

Anxiety was expressed regarding the criteria used to judge whether a proposal should be 'Modular' or 'Umbrella'. It was suggested that the anticipated level of expenditure would be a valid method. Concern was expressed at the possibility of Committee abandoning projects which, though merely at research stage and having incurred little expenditure, had nevertheless involved considerable work. It was thought necessary by the Committee that it bore in mind the relationship between internally generated and externally initiated projects when considering the division of its allocation.

IT WAS AGREED to reserve £4,000 for the 'Umbrella Scheme'.

IT WAS AGREED that Image and Sound by Chris Garratt would be given further support of £720 in order that it reach conclusion, and that the AFO would write to the authors of proposals at research stage, suggesting that they pursue their projects, but pointing out that the Committee could not guarantee their production this financial year.

IT WAS AGREED to reserve £4,500 for the cost of an animateur.

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APPLICATIONS

5.1 Exhibitions

5.1.1 B2: Series of Film and Video Events - £2,812.50

The Chairperson pointed out that this was a resubmission. A previous application had been made in January, but sent back because the budget was far too high.

It was agreed that Committee should fund 20 events at £45 per event, the American Video and Sharits shows plus the administration and projection element having been eliminated.

An additional £500 would be reserved for the proposed September Show, and released on receipt of a detailed breakdown of costs and content plus any other contributions that B2 received.

RECOMMENDATION: £900 from the 1983/4 Artists' Film and Video Allocation

5.1.2 London Film-Makers' Co-op: Landscape Season £1,893.00

(see also 5.1.9 Undercut)

The Chairperson declared his involvement with this application. He had been involved with this particular issue of Undercut but not in the exhibition organising, which had been undertaken entirely by Mike O'Pray. The Chairperson suggested that, as Mike O'Pray was the programmer for three of the events requiring funding, B2, the Co-op and LVA Landscape Shows, a single fee

should be agreed for programming.

£250 was agreed.

Several other modifications to the budget were thought necessary; Committee did not approve of the payment of Distribution, Projection, Speakers' or extra print run costs, which were itemized in the budget submitted.

RECOMMENDATION: £1,000 from the 1983/4 Artists' Film and Video Allocation

5.1.3 London Film-Makers' Co-op: Preview Show - £962.00

There was general support for this event but Committee thought that it would be helpful to have the attendance figures from last year's show. It was agreed that the Film Officer request this information before the Summer Show.

As Paul Sharits was ill and unable to participate, the budget was modified accordingly. The artist's fee was not removed as plans for a replacement artist were under way.

RECOMMENDATION: £687 from the 1983/4 Artists' Film and Video Allocation

5.1.4 London Film-Makers' Co-op: Summer Show - £2,226

There was general support for this event. The Assistant Film Officer pointed out the need for Committee members to attend these events in order to assess their usefulness.

RECOMMENDATION: £1,900 from the 1983/84 Artists' Film and Video Allocation

5.1.5 London Video Arts: Show Programme - £8,366.25

David Critchley clarified his position at LVA and remained in the meeting at this point. He provided, at the Committee's request, some background information on the application, but stressed that he had not been a party to drawing it up.

Discussion followed on possible refinement of the budget submitted. David Critchley stressed his opposition to Committee's policy on this matter. He thought it preferable that venues should be urged to make their budgets more accurate and that Committee should then accept them in total, even though it might not be able to support other applications as a result. There was some sympathy for this. The Chairman suggested that the Film Officer inform LVA that it was in a standstill position and unable to offer subsidy at a higher level than the previous year. However, the Assistant Film Officer thought that some elements of the budget which showed an increase were entirely appropriate, although the Committee could not support expansion. At this point David Critchley left the room.

It was agreed that LVA should be requested to supply a complete breakdown of last year's figures. The following items were altered in the budget:

- a) short installations - removed because of current financial limitations;
- b) fees to artists reduced to £40 in line with FMoT and VAoT;
- c) guest programmers out;
- d) artists' travel expenses and internal transport collapsed altogether.

As a result, a total figure was reached of £4,755.

RECOMMENDATION: £4,755 from the 1983/4 Artists' Film and Video Allocation

5.1.6 Open Eye: Film and Video Workshop Exhibition Programme - £975.50

Committee felt unable to support this application at present due to lack of detailed information on the organisation's present activities, its present level of funding by Merseyside Arts and other institutions and what priority the group placed on the programme. There was, however, some sympathy for the application.

RECOMMENDATION: Defer

5.1.7 Paul Sharits Tour: Steve Farrer - £525.00

This event had been cancelled due to Paul Sharits' illness.

5.1.8 South West Arts: Kamerakaze Tour and Maya Deren Tour - £600

There was general support.

RECOMMENDATION: £600 from the Artists' Film and Video Allocation 1983/84

5.1.9 Undercut: Landscape Show at B2 £855.00

There was general support for this application. The Chairperson reported that Annabel Nicolson was no longer available, and the artist's fee could therefore be removed from the budget.

RECOMMENDATION: £545 from the Artists' Film and Video Allocation 1983/84

5.1.10 Slow Dancer Film Co-op (addition to agenda)

There was support for this application. The Film Officer pointed out that support given now might forestall further applications from Chris Welsby.

RECOMMENDATION: £646 from the 1983/84 Artists' Film and Video Allocation

5.2 Modular Scheme

Discussed under Matters Arising (item 4.4)

5.3 Capital

5.3.1 London Video Arts - £11,335.83

David Critchley pointed out that as LVA intended to increase the use of its work space, there would be greater demand on equipment than at present. He reported that there had not yet been any news regarding GLC funding and the LVA application to the Gulbenkian was to be discussed in more detail. He then left the room.

The Committee then discussed in more detail possible modifications to the budget. Roger Wilson pointed out that, although he thought it might be possible to obtain some items more cheaply, the budget was not inflationary. Committee acknowledged LVA's diligence regarding the preparation of budgets, however, it was decided that an up-to-date inventory plus a list of users broken down into categories was needed. Also the timetable for studio development. The Committee thought that its level of support must allow for some degree of minimal expansion at this point. The Film Officer requested clarification on the Committee's thoughts in the event of LVA obtaining the equipment at a lower rate and having a surplus of money; was the money to be returned or should LVA be allowed to keep the money for additional expenditure? Committee decided that each case be judged as and when it arose.

RECOMMENDATION: £4,559 from the 1983/4 Artists' Film and Video Allocation

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Any Other Business

The Chairperson asked for two volunteers to attend distribution meetings for the rest of the year. Anne Rees-Mogg offered her services on a reserve basis. It was decided that the Assistant Film Officer would write to David Parsons and request his services.

The Film Officer asked the Committee if they thought an increase in the animateur's fee was desirable. The fee was at present £4,500 and had been set at this level two years ago. Committee decided that it should be increased to £5,000.

Committee decided that the Film Officer should request from the animateur a report on his expenses over the last two years.

The remaining allocation for Capital/Exhibition for 1983/4 was at £3,008.

The meeting ended at 5.50 p.m.