

AFVsc85m2

Minutes of the 65th Meeting of the Artists' Film and Video Sub-Committee,  
held at 10.30 am on March 13, in the First Floor Board Room, 105 Piccadilly,  
London W1.

M I N U T E S

Present: A.L. Rees Chairman  
Roger Wilson  
Jo Comino  
Vera Neubauer  
Tina Keane  
Mick Hartney  
Rodney Wilson Film Officer  
David Curtis Assistant Film Officer  
Lew Hodges Subsidy Officer  
Sally Pearson Acting Subsidy Officer  
Trisha Anderson Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from Joanna Drew and David Parsons.

AFVsc85m1 1 Minutes of the Policy Meeting of January 16 were approved.

2 Matters Arising

AFVsc84p154 2.1 Prizes Scheme

The AFO mentioned that as yet no sponsorship had been secured for this scheme and Committee must therefore proceed on the assumption that it would be funding the scheme entirely.

AFVsc84p154 2.2 Equipment Funding

The AFO said that in discussion of the division of allocation at the January Policy meeting, no separate and specific provision had been made for equipment funding. If Committee wished to fund equipment this year, it would be at the expense of other schemes. Discussion was postponed until consideration of the Division of allocation (5).

AFVsc84p154 2.3 Film/Video Annual (Best of British)

The AFO said the British Council had indicated their willingness to co-fund/organise the above show. Despite this he thought it proper that the scheme should compete against other exhibition schemes in the Division of Allocation.

AFVsc84p154 2.4 Video Access Libraries

The AFO reported that the first stage of negotiations concerning the Video Access Libraries (the discussion with representatives from the 5 libraries) had taken place. The libraries were generally sympathetic to the proposed change in the funding of 'artists' collections, and it was agreed that stage 2 should now be planned ie a forum to hear the views of the artists. The date and venue had yet to be decided. On the strength of this he suggested that it was now possible to discuss the future of the libraries within an annual commitment of £3500 - the figure suggested in his financial breakdown.

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AFVsc84p154

2.5

Index

The AFO said the future of the Index was still undecided, although it appeared more hopeful than he'd anticipated. However he had interpreted the policy discussions giving it a relatively low priority, and he had not reserved money for the scheme in the suggested breakdown. He thought if the Index went ahead, money from the distribution allocation could be directed to cover its costs. He thought it unlikely that the AFVSC would be involved this financial year.

2.6

Chairman's letter

The Chairman reported on his response to the Black Audio Film Collective; copies of the letters had been circulated to the Sub-Committee.

2.7

Serpentine Exhibitions

The AFO reported that the Time Out-sponsored show, to be held in Summer and suggested by Alister Warman as a possible venue for the inclusion of video, was now to feature the work of London graduates. Four pairs of selectors were being chosen - one pair covering film/video/performance. Whilst he thought the proposed selectors were sympathetic to artists' film/video and likely to respond to suggestions made by the AFVSC, it would no longer be a possible venue for the long-postponed exhibition of video work, funded by the Committee.

He further reported that another show was in preparation, featuring musical scores, scheduled for Summer 86, to coincide with the Proms. As only half of the gallery was to be used, Alister Warman had suggested film/video occupy the other half ie 2 galleries, with an open brief as to content/context.

The AFO was in favour of echoing the musical theme by featuring 'scores' for film and videos in addition to the works themselves. Whilst Committee agreed this was a welcome opportunity and should be investigated further, Tina Keane was concerned that once again they were being offered the 'left-over' space and not considered as the focus of the exhibition, and thought that more pressure should be applied for a better offer. Regarding the Time-Out show, she was concerned that although the selectors mentioned were good in their field, they were not specialist in film/video but more geared to performance work.

Others thought this was merely in keeping with the gallery's operation - ie mixed exhibitions and scheduling 2 shows together.

The AFO was concerned that any such pressure might impose delays on accepting the current offer. He welcomed the opportunity to work within a context which he thought would attract a wider audience. MH welcomed the offer and thought it should be used as an opportunity to encourage the gallery organisers to give more space another year.

AFVsc85p5

3

Financial Report

The Acting Subsidy Officer, Sally Pearson, reported that the Film and Video Artists on Tour Scheme budget was considerably overspent, but this overspending would be accommodated within underspending in other areas. The Financial Report was accepted.

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4 Distribution Report

Details of Distribution/Completion awards recommended since January were listed. They were as follows:

Jan:	Andrew McKay: <u>Playing Memories</u>	£527	Reject (film)
Feb:	Anna Thew: <u>Sailor Traylor</u>	£86	Referred to Umbrella (film dist)
	Diana Mavrolean: <u>Mirror</u>	£532	Reject (film comp)
	Ivan Unwin: <u>Bunker Protection for me Mr Capitol MP</u>	£190	Recommend (film comp)
	Andy Moss: <u>Filmsound</u>	£208	Reject (film dist)
Mar:	Richard Philpott: <u>The Underground Game II</u>	£156	Reject (film dist)
	Black Audio Film Collective: <u>Images of Nationality</u> <u>Signs of Empire</u>	£413	Recommend (tape-slide dup)
	Tony Hill: <u>Downside Up</u>	£193	Recommend (film dist)

The report was accepted.

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5

Division of Allocation 1985/6

The Chairman mentioned that the overall increase of 2% to most allocations, had been passed on to the Sub-Committee, plus an extra £4000.

The FO said that the Film Office's bid for a substantial increase had failed - all extra funds had been diverted into implementing the strategy outlined in the Glory of the Garden.

The AFO introduced his paper and pointed out that whilst it seemed there had been a £16000 increase, in reality it amounted to only £10000 as £6000 was already earmarked for magazine applications.

He had allocated the £10000 increase to production, reflecting policy decisions made in January. Committee approved this decision. He asked Committee to consider a more detailed breakdown of the allocation, bearing this in mind. In making the division he had tried to maintain all activities rather than cutting any one completely. He added that no policy decision had been made regarding equipment funding during 1985/6. No substantial equipment awards had been given for some time, and to do so this year would require a change of the policies agreed in January, and the cutting of either the production or exhibition budget. He thought any equipment requests should be considered in competition with production applications. Committee agreed. The AFO anticipated an increase in such requests in the future in view of present threats of closure to many Ch 4-funded workshops.

Jo Comino asked for clarification of the Prizes Scheme: was the intention to attract matching sponsorship money?

The AFO said that at this stage no definite plan could be formulated - sponsorship might come in the form of funds or 'in kind'. Committee should be prepared this year to fund the entire scheme itself, and if sponsorship was secured, part of the allocation could fall in and be used elsewhere.

Vera Neubauer was concerned that the Prizes Scheme allocated money to students. The AFO assured her that the money was not intended exclusively for work by students, but for new film-makers and whilst the funds might be awarded on the basis of a piece of student work, they were intended for use on the next production.

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VN was also opposed to the possible selectors listed and thought that if the intention of the scheme was to 'promote fresh blood', then a different set of selectors was required, certainly not from the 'art establishment' and possibly from the students themselves. It was agreed to return to this topic at the end of the meeting.

Roger Wilson thought the scheme should be renamed 'New Film/Video Artists Prizes Scheme'; many applicants might be mature students. This was agreed.

Further discussion of the Upper Tier Awards Scheme, the Prizes Scheme and the Placement Bursaries Scheme followed, and consideration of which was the more effective means of supporting production.

It was agreed that each of the schemes had their own merits. The production section of the AFO's paper was endorsed.

Discussion of the Film and Video Artists on Tour Scheme followed. Further to the January discussion, the AFO said he was now suggesting an increase of £10 in the charge to venues. This was in response to the overspending over the past year, which demonstrated the need for increased income. The new rate would be £25 and would bring the charge for F/VA on Tour shows into line with other exhibition programmes for example Modular and Umbrella Scheme shows.

Roger Wilson thought this was still a reasonable price to pay for an exhibition/speaker session.

IT WAS AGREED to increase the charge to venues of the Film and Video Artists on Tour Scheme to £25 plus VAT.

Regarding exhibition, it was agreed that discussion of London Video Arts and the Best of British should be postponed until discussion of applications.

The AFO reported on the Video Access Libraries; the £3500 earmarked for the new 'transfer' scheme for VALs might be an underestimate; much depended upon their plans in 85/6 which were largely occupied by the activities generated by Network 1. However he thought it wise to leave the amount and any extra required could be taken from any monies that were unallocated, or from the distribution print award scheme. This was agreed.

He further reported that no allocation was suggested for the Index. This was agreed and the Division of Allocation paper endorsed.

## 6 Applications

### 6.1 Magazines

There was some disagreement between committee members regarding the AFVSC's involvement in publishing. TK thought it proper that they became involved and the Chairman thought not. General discussion of the 2 applications followed.

#### 6.1.1/6.1.2: Afterimage and Undercut

Committee considered itself disadvantaged in judging the applications as they had nothing with which to make comparisons. Regarding the method of offering the funds, the Acting Subsidy Officer thought it essential to make a notional division at this stage and release the funds in instalments to each of the magazines on production of an issue. She thought a sensible division, based on last year's applications and the work produced



by each of the magazines, would be to allocate £1500 to Afterimage and £4500 to Undercut, with a request for revised budgetted proposals. She added that last year, neither magazine had been able to produce what they'd originally proposed, and in the case of Undercut, Art Department had eventually agreed to offer the subsidy intended for four issues toward the cost of only two issues. In view of this she thought their bids for increased funds were justified.

IT WAS AGREED to reserve £4500 for Undercut and £1500 for Afterimage, on condition that each magazine submitted a rebudgetted proposal which was considered satisfactory by the Film and Subsidy Officers; the details to be reported back to the next full committee meeting. The money would be released in instalments, issue by issue.

The FO thought it might be helpful if Committee received details of the costing of other magazines subsidised by the Council. This was agreed.

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6.2

#### Umbrella Scheme

There was general discussion of the scheme and Mike O'Pray's report. The scheme was considered very successful and cost effective and it was thought that Mike O'Pray was undertaking a full-time task despite his part-time salary.

The AFO mentioned that other projects were in the pipeline in addition to those listed.

Mike O'Pray joined the meeting to discuss the scheme. The Chairman thanked him for his report and acknowledged the good work being done.

MO outlined the details of additional packages in the pipeline. He emphasised that the Scheme attempted to respond immediately to initiatives within the constituency. He aimed to carry 2/3 packages at one time, whilst remaining open to others which might become available. He mentioned that Surrealist Traces had proven very successful and he felt that audience figures were gradually extending beyond the usual venues. He thought that an individual approach to venues was very constructive in this respect. Parallel with this increase in venues was an increase in work load!

MO added that there were possibilities of developing an exhibition structure to involve for example the Edinburgh Film Festival. These initiatives must however be developed properly and in this respect he thought the involvement of Cordelia Swann would be constructive. He anticipated offering her an open brief and felt confident she would make a valuable contribution.

The Chairman thanked MO and MO left the meeting.

AFVsc85p15

#### 6.2.1: Umbrella 85/6

The proposal for 85/6 was discussed. It was noted that MO was requesting £1700 more than the AFO had suggested in his financial breakdown. It was decided to fix an amount after discussion of the Best of British (6.4.5).

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## 6.3

Exhibition

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6.3.1: Cambridge Animation Festival

There was some disagreement over this application. VN thought the festival was clearly an area for support, whilst others thought it didn't represent the AFVSC's central concerns. The AFO pointed out that he had advised the new festival director, Irene Kotlarz, on the proposal - for an exhibition devoted to Oskar Fischinger. The application was for this element only of the festival, which would probably be shown at the Cambridge Darkroom, to be followed by a tour.

Roger Wilson thought a more detailed costing of the event was required.

The AFO thought it important to remember that the organiser had taken over responsibility for the event but had been given very little background information or budgets from the previous years' events, in order to help her compile this application.

Discussion followed on the probable costs and alternative proposals

IT WAS AGREED to reserve £2000 from the 1985/6 Artists' Film and Video allocation, to be offered on submission of a rebudgetted proposal considered satisfactory by the Film and Subsidy Officers.

AFVsc85p9

6.3.2: East Anglian Film-Makers Ltd

The AFO mentioned that his suggestion that this application secured matching funding from Eastern Arts had not met with success. Jeremy Newton from EA had written to say that it was unlikely EAFL would receive funding from them but that they would try to persuade the local authority to do so.

The AFO thought this placed the AFVSC in a difficult position. If matching money was not forthcoming, Committee should only offer funding on a lower level if the proposal was still considered viable and worthwhile at that level. He considered the group energetic and within the AFVSC's terms of reference and was confident in the abilities of Roger Hewins, the suggested co-ordinator of the proposal.

The FO was unhappy that Committee should be obliged to accept a refusal by Eastern Arts to support work within their own area; additionally he was unconvinced there was sufficient audience within the area to justify funding a programme of this scale.

The AFO agreed to some extent but thought funding on a lower level would allow them to test the ground in pilot scheme which could be built upon later.

IT WAS AGREED to recommend an award of £1500 from the 1985/6 Artists' Film and Video Allocation, on acceptance of a rebudgetted proposal considered satisfactory by the Film and Subsidy Officers.

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6.3.3: L.I.F.V.A

The AFO reported that EM's Film Officer, Malcolm Allen, was supportive of this application and had suggested strongly that they would get RAA support, plus funds from Leicester City



AFVsc85p10 (cont)

on a matching basis. Committee was impressed by what had been achieved in 1984.

IT WAS AGREED to recommend an award of £2000 from the 1985/6 Artists' Film and Video Allocation.

AFVsc85p11

#### 6.3.4: London Film-Makers' Co-op: Preview Show

Committee was concerned that the application for this event had remained the same for several years and thought a fresh approach was needed. There was some doubt whether the Co-op should not fund this event themselves, as part of their distribution activities.

IT WAS AGREED to recommend an award of £532 from the Artists' Film and Video Allocation.

IT WAS AGREED to signal to the Co-op that this would be the last time committee would fund the event in this form; a new initiative would be required next year.

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#### 6.3.5: London Film-Makers' Co-op: Summer Show

It was agreed that this application was worthy, but seemed lacking in enthusiasm.

The FO thought more feedback on last year's event should have been provided.

VN disagreed and considered this petty. She thought an event should either be supported or not. There was a general expression of support.

IT WAS AGREED to recommend an award of £2010 from the 1985/6 Artists' Film and Video Allocation.

AFVsc85p13

#### 6.3.6: London Video Arts

The AFO provided some background to the application: LVA were asking for £10000 - £5000 for exhibition and £5000 for equipment. He understood that their greatest priority at present was to rebuild their income-generating facilities. Because of this he considered it proper to consider their 'equipment' requests alongside exhibition, unlike other equipment proposals on the agenda.

He supported both proposals but thought careful monitoring of the exhibition programme was required.

TK thought the package proposal was confused, uninspired and the request for new tapes unjustifiable as they were from LVA's own library. She thought a guest programmer was the answer. She was also concerned that there seemed to be a move towards investing money in packages and schemes rather than awarding it directly as production money to the artists themselves.

The AFO pointed out that the tapes would be tied up within a tour and therefore necessary and that LVA saw itself as a programming/distribution group and not just as a production house. He agreed it might be time to reconsider LVA's programming activities which had been unsatisfactory for some time, but did not want to abandon them.

The Chairman pointed out that these remarks had been made several times before and still proposals remained uninteresting.

The FO thought that if the AFVSC supported the distribution/promotion/exhibition of LVA in principle but continually received unsatisfactory proposals, it should either intervene or withdraw support. He thought a direct and hence more constructive approach was required. However the AFO thought it better to earmark funds, contact LVA expressing the AFVSC's doubts and request a new application. He thought it unwise to criticise LVA's resident programmer who he assumed had been elected.

Roger Wilson was unclear whether Committee's doubts were about the programme content or about LVA's marketing abilities or policy.

TK thought it was all three, but her main concern was the packaging of work which she regarded as stale. She thought the exhibition space could be used more effectively; LVA could have shows of new work.

It was agreed that a form of packaging was necessary but that more interesting selections and mixtures were possible.

IT WAS AGREED to earmark £10000 from the 1985/6 Artists' Film and Video Allocation, and await further discussion and new proposals.

AFVsc85p14

#### 6.3.7: Projects UK

The AFO reported that John Bradshaw from Northern Arts had indicated no RAA support would be forthcoming for this application; all Northern Arts exhibition funds for Projects UK had been committed to their event at the Tyneside Film Festival. However he thought the proposal would go ahead and suggested anything the AFVSC could offer would be worthwhile and well spent. He thought no other sources of funding were likely. It was noted that some of the tapes were outside Committee's remit and on this basis it was thought that proportional support was suitable.

IT WAS AGREED to recommend an award of £750 from the 1985/6 Artists' Film and Video Allocation.

AFVsc85p20

#### 6.3.8 Maidstone

Roger Wilson reported that this event had inherited the role played in former years by the Coventry Events Week and Sheffield Poly Film/Video and Performance Festival. It was noted that South East Arts had given £400 in support.

IT WAS AGREED to recommend an award of £300 for the proposed Time-Based Media Show from the 1985/6 Artists' Film and Video Allocation, plus the offer of any available equipment from the Loan Scheme.

### 6.4

#### Equipment

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#### 6.4.1: East Anglian Film-Makers Ltd

IT WAS AGREED to defer this application to the May production meeting.

AFVsc85p16

#### 6.4.2: London Video Arts

This item was discussed earlier in 6.3.6.



AFVsc85p17

6.4.3: "33" Guildford Street

IT WAS AGREED to defer this application until the AFO had had discussion with the applicants. The result would be reported back to the next full committee meeting.

AFVsc85p19

6.4.4: The Zap Club

The AFO reported that he'd visited the Zap Club and was impressed by the activities. He also said that the group received money from SE Arts Arts Panel and from the AC's Combined Arts Committee for different aspects of their activities.

Their request to the AFVSC was for a non-profit-making aspect of their work ie Thursday night video programming costs, and for equipment. He thought a small award would be used effectively. It was generally agreed the group was worth supporting.

MH thought their attempt to integrate artists' work into other more popular work was impressive.

IT WAS AGREED to recommend an award of £750 from the 1985/6 Artists' Film and Video Allocation with encouragement to secure matching funds from SE Arts.

6.4.5: Best of British

This proposal was discussed in conjunction with the Umbrella Scheme provision. The AFO said he anticipated the show requiring £1000 from the AFVSC, for half of the cost of designers' fees, selectors' fees, rental subsidy etc; the British Council would meet the other half. It was acknowledged that this would leave insufficient extra funds to accommodate the requested increase by Mike O'Pray for the Umbrella Scheme.

IT WAS AGREED to allocate £1000 to the Best of British show and £11000 to the Umbrella Scheme.

AFVsc85p18

6.4.6: South Hill Park

Committee discussed the possibility of funding a proposal from South Hill Park Arts Centre.

The Subsidy Officer, Lew Hodges, thought that an organisation receiving approximately £½ million subsidy should not be applying to the Sub-Committee for funds, and it would be technically difficult for them to receive such funds. He explained that any desired expansion of such an organisation should take place as part of its annual review which was currently undertaken by the Regional Department.

The FO pointed out that a conflict existed in the proposal. On the one hand, they were identified and hence supported in terms of their regional importance. However this proposal made claims for a national role and view. If this proposal was of national importance, the choice of Bracknell as a venue should be reviewed, and comparisons made. In addition if the festival involved activities other than those supported by the AFVSC, it was not the AFVSC's responsibility to support it. He regarded the proposal of a video distribution facility as unsuitable for Committee's support due to its very wide constituency and thought the use of an agent such as Concord was far more practical.

AFVsc85p18 (cont)

The AFO thought they should be encouraged to increase the 'artists' element in the festival and Committee should endorse the activities using the festival and magazine. However any such endorsement should be based on the view that Bracknell was the most suitable venue. Committee agreed.

7 Prizes Scheme

The AFO explained various ways of administering the scheme - the possibility of arranging selection at a number of regional centres as well as the London Film-Makers' Co-op; making a public announcement aimed at colleges and workshops; asking artists to submit one piece of work; appointing one selector to view this work.

8 Selectors for the Best of British and the Prizes Scheme

After much discussion it was agreed to nominate one selector for each of the two schemes. It was acknowledged that the selectors would be chosen for their different qualities; the annual show would require someone with considerable critical perspective, not necessarily so the Prizes Scheme.

VN was concerned that the choosing of a selector would impose a pre-selection stage. She thought that the Prizes Scheme required someone 'not of the establishment' - someone young and fresh, in close contact with student concerns.

The FO agreed that perhaps one of last year's 'Young Contemporaries' might be suitable; they could provide an unfamiliar and interesting perspective. After intense discussion it was agreed to approach Mark Wilcox and offer the task of selecting the Prizes Scheme.

Regarding the annual, it was thought by some Committee members that the selector would need a high profile. There was much discussion of whether the selector should be from a fine art or film background. Finally it was agreed to initially offer the task to Peter Greenaway and if he refused to John Roberts.

9 Artists' Film and Video Bulletin

The AFO announced that the Bulletin was in the pipeline and that the response was encouraging.

10 Any Other Business

There was no AOB and the meeting ended at 4.30 pm.