

Minutes of the 68th Meeting of the Artists' Film and Video Sub-Committee,
held on 24 July at 10.30 am in the First Floor Board Room, 105 Piccadilly,
London, W1.

Present:	Al Rees	Chairman
	Tina Keane	
	David Parsons	
	Rodney Wilson	Film Officer
	David Curtis	Assistant Film Officer
	Trisha Anderson	Secretary

Apologies were received from Joanna Drew, Jo Comino, Mick Hartney, Vera Neubauer, and Caroline Pick.

1. Reports

1.1 Arts Council Film and Video Prizes Scheme: sponsored by TSI. Committee were pleased to see the scheme had attracted a large number of artists from the regions as well as from London. The male/female balance (2/3 - 1/3) was satisfactory and reflected that in colleges at present. They looked forward to the results and a report from Mark Wilcox, the selector. The FO reported that TSI had guaranteed £5,000 sponsorship. A possible venue for the London show might be the ICA.

1.2 Film/Video Annual

The AFO reminded Committee that the thinking behind this proposal was to present a personal view of recent work selected by an established critic in the film and/or art world. Peter Greenaway had been their first choice as selector; however it was proving difficult to reach him and the AFO thought Committee might have to approach their second choice John Roberts. He recognised that the delay might jeopardise the promised BC co-funding. Looking further ahead he wondered if a show similar to 'Perspectives' could be combined with the proposed Annual. TK thought that in either event the involvement of more critical opinions should be considered.

IT WAS AGREED to hold informal discussions on this matter; meanwhile no firm decision would be made regarding choice of selector/s or the form of the exhibition.

1.3 Funded Exhibitions

1.3.1 Festival

The AFO said the festival had proven a very worthwhile event and he was awaiting a report from the organiser Laraine Porter. He said it had catered mainly for film-makers rather than the general public, and was of great benefit to them but thought the event needed to be discussed further before the organisers requested next year's funding; he wondered if the BFI was a more suitable funding body in view of the festival's broad base.

1.3.2 London Film-Makers' Co-op Preview Show

The AFO said the report from LFMC had raised interesting points eg. their professed inability to advise programmers because of their non-selective policy. The Chairman agreed and thought more effort could be made to attract foreign film-makers and programmers, who currently were forced to sit through poor quality work because of this policy.

IT WAS AGREED that next year the Co-op be required to submit a proposal which confronted the issue of 'promotion'. It was further agreed to investigate why some artists preferred not to distribute work via the Co-op.

1.3.3 Maidstone

The AFO thought Committee should demand a much higher public profile from any future events of this kind they might fund. The Mappin Gallery, in Sheffield, had expressed its willingness to cater for such an event.

1.3.4 Umbrella Scheme

Committee was impressed by Mike O'Pray's report; it was agreed to request audience figures. The Chairman applauded the international aspect of the packages but with other committee members he was concerned about the content/context of some packages. Whilst recognising that the use of familiar historical terms attracted audiences, there was a danger of resorting to cliches.

Particular concern was expressed about the proposed 30's documentary package; the work included was of high quality but the title was misleading.

The AFO thought the women's programme, organised by Cordelia Swann and possibly to be shown at the Edinburgh Film Festival, would prove to be a particularly interesting film being very close to current concerns.

It was noted that Mike O'Pray programmed the newest work in preference to work 2 or 3 years old - an area of work for which it was particularly difficult to construct a context. In this respect Cordelia Swann was considered particularly able.

The AFO thought this was perhaps the appropriate context in which to consider the application by Sotirus Kyriacou. It was agreed to discuss the application at this point in the meeting.

1.3.5 In Defence (exhibition proposal by Sotirus Kyriacou 2.3.1)

The Chairman was supportive of this application and considered the applicant earnest, enthusiastic and able, although inexperienced. The AFO observed that there was a lack of young programmers interested in this particular area of work and

thought the AFVSC should offer the support and help which applicants gain experience.

RW disagreed and thought there was no longer a context and any offer of support would be seen as AC endorsement.

TK thought the applicant would require a far greater understanding of the argument of sexual identity in order to produce a successful programme suitable for the AFVSC's endorsement.

DP was not in favour of awarding funds to produce an AC endorsed broadsheet but wondered if some other form of support might be offered.

IT WAS AGREED that the Chairman would offer his help with the text, the Film Office would type it and have it printed in-house; SK would be enrolled on the Film and Video Artists on Tour Scheme for a maximum of 4 shows this year, on condition that either Lucy Panteli or one other woman artist be included in the proposed programme, accompanied the applicant and took part in discussions.

1.4 Video Access Libraries

1.4.1 Arnolfini Returns

Committee expressed concern that some work had not been viewed at all that year. The Chairman thought a more historical spread of work should be lodged with the libraries to provide an archival resource. The FO reported that the Network 1 had apparently made an impact at the Arnolfini's Video Access Library by providing a necessary focus. The library staff had expressed interest in the Umbrella Scheme which had to date shown exclusively at the Watershed, thus detracting from their own film/video activities. They thought the Umbrella Scheme would help attract a different audience to the Arnolfini. They had also expressed a need for documentation on the artists' work they held.

Committee agreed that until a move was made towards an archival element for artists' film/video, the libraries would suffer from random viewing.

- 1.4.2 The AFO reported on the Co-op forum on Video Access Libraries. Few artists had attended but there had been a full turn-out of VAL organisers. Agreement was reached (in the absence of dissent from artists) on a policy for the future of the libraries. Libraries would have access to a special fund set up to facilitate film-to-tape transfer and tape duplication for library use. Hopefully artists would be approached by the libraries collectively to minimise the administration involved. The group had also agreed that efforts should be made to 'feed' the libraries with packages of film/video. The new initiative would be far cheaper than the present Network One tour organised by Mike Stubbs. The

artists would gain rentals from the touring packages after which their work might also be transferred to video and lodged in the libraries where they would continue to earn a small income to the artist. The success of the library would ensure their work becoming more widely known.

IT WAS AGREED to hold further discussions at a later date.

1.4.3 Developments

The AFO reported that he'd had discussions with Tyneside Film Theatre regarding the possibility of a more suitable re-united library and its location.

The FO added that other venues had expressed interest in setting up VALs eg. MOMA, Wolverhampton Arts Centre, the National Museum of Film and Photography and TV in Bradford and the Public Libraries System in Essex (sited at Southend). Discussions were at an early stage.

The AFO added that York Film Workshop had also expressed interest in setting up a VAL, as had the Manchester Media Centre.

The FO added that discussion would continue in an attempt to secure funds; it had been suggested that some funding might be available through the Education Budget and from Arts Development monies.

1.4.4 Placement Bursaries

Final proposals had been received from Newcastle Polytechnic and London Video Arts; Committee were enthusiastic about the consortium of interests that had been assembled by Chris Wainwright.

IT WAS AGREED to offer Newcastle Polytechnic £3,000 for one placement bursary, and London Video Arts £3,000 for two placement bursaries.

2. London Video Arts

2.1 Equipment

The AFO reported that the sub-group - Al Rees, Tina Keane and Jo Comino - had agreed the equipment part of the application from LVA at their recent meeting with the organisation.

2.2 Exhibitions

The AFO reported that the proposal received was one the advisory group on LVA had agreed but the Finance Officer had requested a more detailed budget. The new exhibition proposal was considered acceptable; plans included a London Video Show and a European Network Tour.

IT WAS AGREED in principle to release £2,500 of the £5,000 earmarked, on receipt of a detailed budget, to be approved by the AFO and Lew Hudson.