

LONDON FILM-MAKERS' CO-OP
42 Gloucester Ave, London NW1

13th November 1978

Dear *David*

THIS IS NOT JUST ANOTHER CIRCULAR BUT WILL BE USED IN FORMING CO-OP POLICY WHICH WILL AFFECT THE DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR FILMS. PLEASE READ IT, FILL IN THE QUESTIONS AND RETURN.

Enclosed is a Distribution Report presented at the last General meeting of the Co-op on 28th October. (Most of it is self-explanatory though perhaps you should know that the Co-op is now a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and accounts audited annually). The only proposal brought to vote was under section 4, item 2, whereby a Co-op member should accompany films going outside the UK - this was passed.

However other proposals met with a more divided response, eg raising rentals and the proposal for previewing facilities, and it was suggested, particularly with regard to foreign filmmakers, that a sort of questionnaire be sent out to everyone. So here goes:

1. Previewing

As was pointed out at the meeting this request for previewing is rare: most institutions are prepared to pay full rentals and it is really only individuals organising exhibitions and festivals who need to look at films and either can't afford rentals or aren't in the country long enough to await written permission. It is proposed that the discretion of the distribution staff is used to determine when there should be free previewing facilities as outlined in paragraph 5.

2. Film rental fee increase

Again this is mainly directed at foreign filmmakers as we've agreed that Co-op policy is that rental fees are to be determined by the filmmaker but the Co-op would suggest 50p per minute for films up to 45 minutes and a minimum of 35p per minute for longer films. Listed overleaf are films of yours distributed by the Co-op with current rental fee. Please indicate what rental you would like charged for your films now.

Please note, as in para 6 of the report, English rental rates cannot compare with US rates as there's just isn't the money around. But as you'll see films going abroad (where there's more money around!) are charged at double the English rate.

Please also read the rest of the report - comments and suggestions welcome - especially about the resource centre and new films ...

It is hoped that over the next few years the distribution department of the Co-op will become much more active in providing information and research facilities. Although we remain non-promotional ourselves (we urge the British Film Institute and other such organisations to promote/include independent films in their programmes) the catalogue supplements, which are mailed yearly, and cinema programming here do act as promotion for new entries.

With best wishes and looking forward to hearing from you soon,
Yours in distribution,

P.
Felicity Sparrow & Mary Pat Leece
Distribution Office

QUESTIONS : PLEASE FILL IN AND RETURN TO L.F.M.C.

1. Previewing

I do / do not agree to previewing :

- a) for festival/exhibition purposes when there is definitely a potential booking in view YES / NO
- b) for critical/theoretical/review purposes (ie without a potential booking in view). YES / NO

2. Rental fees

I would like the rental fee on my films in the UK raised to:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Current fee</u>	<u>Proposed fee</u>
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3. Benefit screening

I do / do not want ONE of my films to be screened ONCE at the Co-op for a Co-op benefit YES / NO
(We're trying to raise additional funds to finish off the building work - eg install heating.)

Signed