

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of The Other Cinema held on Wednesday,
18th November, 1970 at 7.00 p.m.

Those present: Leslie Elliot, Michael Henshaw, Tom Maschler, David Mercer,
Otto Plaschkes, Irving Teitelbaum and Tony Elman, Nick Hart-
Williams, Peter Sainsbury, Roger Housden, Audrey Battersby,
Penny Barham

Apologies for absence received from Albert Finney, Tony Garnett, Joseph Losey,
Harold Pinter, and Michael White.

The meeting was opened by Tom Maschler who suggested that Albert Finney be
written to requesting him to cover one third of the debts. It was pointed out
that this had already been suggested in the previous meeting but had been
rejected as an idea. Peter Sainsbury pointed out that a letter had already been
sent to Albert, as to all the council members, asking them to cover the debts as
had been decided in the previous meeting. David Mercer gave a message on behalf
of Harold Pinter which was that he was prepared to take responsibility for one
eleventh of the debts if all of the trustees also took up their one eleventh
share. If, however, one of them failed to do so then he was not prepared to
pay his ether. At this point in the meeting Tom Maschler had to leave due to a
prior engagement. Before leaving, Tom indicated that if it were the decision of the
meeting that each member should pay one eleventh then he would pay his share.
Irving asked that every trustee be asked to make his situation clear. He thought
that at the present moment he himself would only be prepared to cover the debts
to the extent of £200, but this was flexible; he would like to know the exact
figure would be for one eleventh of the total debts. Nick suggested that he and
Pete should not necessarily have to draw their full wages from September onwards
to which David strongly objected since in his, and Tony Garnett's, opinion of the
previous week, everyone should be paid for work done. Michael asked that this
discussion be concluded and the figure of £2814 was given which included all back
wages. This meant that one eleventh of this sum per trustee would be £256.

Michael informed the council that the Board of Trade would offer no objection
to the change of name of Centre 42 to The Other Cinema. Michael had a copy of
the articles of association of Centre 42 and read out its objects, in particular
clause 3A. Tony Elman thought that they would probably have to be changed but
he could not tell definitely without studying them. Leslie was of the opinion
that it did not matter so very much, but that the important things was to make a
decision and to act upon it.

Otto arrived at this point and was given a resume of the meeting so far, during which

several more points were made on the initial discussion and David reported that Joseph Losey had been most surprised to receive the letter that he had received last week. - that whilst he was totally committed to The Other Cinema and would be willing to pay his share, he wanted to know, as did David himself, what was going on. The discussion returned to the subject of the articles of association of Centre 42 and Michael suggested that the only change that would ever need to be made, if a change were indeed necessary, would be to revise clause 3A making film the primary object and to do this would have to get the approval of the Charity Commission. Irving thought that this would be advisable since when fund raising was in progress it would be necessary to understand fully the objects of association when asking people for money to support it, and suggested that copies of this document be circulated to all members of the council to allow them and their legal advisors to study it.

At this point in the meeting David stated that he wished to offer his resignation, but that he would still be prepared to pay his proportion of the debts. However, Otto did manage to get David to reconsider his decision.

There was a discussion on the possibility of The Other Cinema showing films (until April) at the cinema that Leslie had acquired (the Odeon, Kings Cross) for a rent of £100 per week which was followed by a further discussion as to how the time between now and April (when the cinema at the Arches will hopefully be ready), which in turn tied the discussion to whether or not there should be a steering committee composed of certain council members (e.g. Leslie, Otto, Irving and Tony) with Nick and Pete. Otto restated the fact that nothing concrete can be decided for the future until certain fundamentals have been settled, namely the the status of The Other Cinema and the financial set up, and he requested that a profit and loss account be prepared and circulated to council members, along with estimated running costs. Nick then explained other activities going on at the moment, such as the Roundhouse children's films, etc., and requested that all council members be circulated with (1) the Centre 42 document; (2) the profit and loss account and running costs; (3) a summary of what The Other Cinema; prior to the next council meeting.

Nick stated that the question at the moment was whether in the interim period it would be advisable to consolidate the position with fund raising and acquisition of films such as would be necessary to be fully operational in the Arches in April, or to cultivate the audience already acquired by showing films at Kings Cross Odeon. Leslie pointed out that if the Kings Cross project did not prove to be successful then it could be abandoned. Nick reported that Dick Lester had been asked to join

the council of The Other Cinema and he was willing; Nick also proposed asking Colin Young. This the meeting agreed and also the principle that proposals for new members of council should first be discussed by the Council.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.