

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of Management  
of THE OTHER CINEMA held on Wednesday, 16th December,  
1970, at 8.30 p.m. at 12-13 Little Newport Street,  
London WC2H 7JJ

Those present: Leslie Elliot, Michael Henshaw, Otto Plaschkes,  
Tony Elman, Nick-Hart Williams, Peter Sainsbury,  
Fenny Barham, Roger Housden

Apologies for absence received from: Tony Garnett, Joseph Losey  
Tom Maschler, David Mercer, Irving Teitelbaum,  
Michael White

Nick Hart-Williams proposed that the previously discussed ad hoc  
or executive committee composed of certain council members, himself  
and Peter Sainsbury, be formed and should meet monthly, and that  
the full Council should meet quarterly. This proposal was accepted  
and it was agreed that meetings should be held on Wednesdays at  
7.00 p.m. It was also agreed that there would be a nucleus of  
council members to form the ad hoc executive committee, but that  
all council members would be welcome to attend.

Those council members present were handed copies of the report to  
the council as requested by the previous meeting. Peter explained  
that there was the omission of the financial statement in this  
report, but that this would be circulated to the council as soon  
as it was completed.

There followed an animated discussion about the proposal to take  
over Centre 42, a defunct charity, in order that The Other Cinema  
might have some status as soon as possible. Tony reported the  
view of Irving which was that he would not be prepared to ask  
people for money if The Other Cinema's status were anything other  
than on a legal basis. By this he (Irving, and Tony Elman was in  
agreement with him on this) thought that unless clause 3 of the  
articles of association of Centre 42 were altered, making film  
the main and not, as at present, the ancillary object, the whole  
legal basis would definitely be open to question both by the  
Charity Commission and by any other interested party. Michael  
said that this was a general clause often used, and in fact formed  
part of the articles of association of the Round House Trust.  
Leslie said that clause 3 satisfied him as "... to promote,  
maintain, improve and advance education..." was a good general  
description of the objects of The Other Cinema. Leslie then  
proposed that the articles of association be submitted to counsel

before approaching the Commission to change them. Otto agreed with this proposal, but pointed out that he personally had to be satisfied that film was the first aim of the charity.

It was agreed by the meeting that (1) the change of name from Centre 42 to The Other Cinema should take place in order to give The Other Cinema a status (which was urgently required for the signing of certain contracts); (2) that Michael and Tony should approach the Charity Commission with regard to changing the articles of association giving dominance to film; (3) if (2) proves unsuccessful then a further meeting would be held. Michael said that it would be a help to have two or more of the Centre 42 councillors remain to provide continuity, but that this was no problem as he and Tom Maschler would provide this. He proposed that Nick and Peter be made joint secretary, but Otto suggested that Michael remain in that position to provide further continuity. It was agreed that both (1) and (2) could be accomplished within a month, the time of the next meeting. Leslie made the request that he go with Michael and Tony when they see the Charity Commissioners.

Nick outlined the proposed method of running the former Odeon at Kings Cross, which Leslie was making available to The Other Cinema as an interim measure until the proposed Arches project comes into being. This was to show films publicly six days a week and club only on the Sunday. He explained that the idea to make it a unique type of cinema in London by having triple bills of a very mixed and varied type of films would be the one most likely to be pursued. Leslie said that it may not be available to The Other Cinema for seven days a week, a fact unknown until that time, and which Nick regretted since it would break the continuity of the cinema.

Nick informed the meeting that there had not been a very good result in the attempt to raise the money to cover current debts and back wages from the council as they themselves had agreed to do. To date a total of £506 had been received from Leslie, Tony, Michael and Irving. This money had gone to pay the most pressing of the debts. Otto proposed that a further request should go out to all council members.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m. and it was agreed to hold the next ad hoc executive meeting, to which all councillors were welcome, in four weeks time.