

4th October 1991

Dear Co-op member,

Please find enclosed a supplementary mail-out to the mail-out of 10th September 1991. This has been privately financed by the concerned members who are the signatories below. We apologise for the lay-out which was due to the need to send a mass of information to you as cheaply as possible.

The reasons for this supplementary mail-out are as follows:

The information you have received was not agreed or even read by the full Executive Committee before it was sent out. Enclosed in this mail-out is an additional proposal which was presented to the Executive prior to the mail-out but not included.

In general, the Executive could only "agree to disagree" so agreed that proposals concerning the Co-op's relocation should go out under individual members' names as there was no consensus on the Executive Committee. The Committee did, however, agree that there would probably be elections for the Executive and invited interested parties to be prepared for this eventuality. Finally, we are enclosing the original proposal which did not go out in the earlier mail-out, a letter from Malcolm Le Grice, a revised agenda and a copy of a letter from Irene Whitehead of the British Film Institute stating our funder's position on the Co-op's relocation - although received after the first mail-out, their position has long been made clear.

Peter Gidal
Malcolm Le Grice
Alia Syed
Tanya Syed
Tom Heslop
Karen Smith
Tony Warcus
Sarah Turner
Sandy Weiland
Mary Pat Leece
Ilias Pantos

LONDON FILM MAKERS CO-OPERATIVE

OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM MALCOLM LE GRICE

Dear Co-op member,

You have recently been called to an Extraordinary General Meeting.

The letter you have received gives little indication of the major import of this meeting nor that it was initiated by a request from myself and others related to the enclosed motion to dissolve the current executive.

There is evidence of a serious loss of confidence in the organisation and a deterioration in its reputation has already put both the annual grant and finance for re-housing in serious jeopardy.

As one of the initiators of the world's most successful Film Co-operative, I am greatly concerned that a motion put by a broad group of the membership, some with a very long history of commitment to the Co-op and its ideals, should not have been made available to the membership in the call for the EGM.

In debate, my views on the matters in hand will rightly have no more status than those of any other member, but the membership has a right to be informed of the motion which has been put and which was the basis of the initial call for an EGM.

The meeting set for 12th October is absolutely crucial to the survival of funding for the Co-op and I implore as many members as possible to attend so that the decisions arrived at are genuinely collective in the true spirit of the Co-op.

Malcolm Le Grice

3.10.91

MOTIONS

1. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSEQUENTLY ITS BUILDING COMMITTEE TO BE DISSOLVED HAVING BY ITS ACTIONS BROUGHT THE LPMC INTO DISREPUTE AND IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY OF SECURING ANY FUTURE FUNDING. THIS SITUATION HAS ARISEN AS A RESULT OF LOBBYING BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AGAINST EXECUTIVE DECISIONS.

THOSE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHOM THE GENERAL MEETING DEEMS TO HAVE BREACHED THE CO-OP MEMBERS TRUST SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR ELECTION TO ANY FUTURE LPMC COMMITTEE.

2. RATIFICATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTE OF 18TH JULY 1991 AT WHICH IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE LPMC WOULD RELOCATE INTO THE DUNN & CO. BUILDING.

3. ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE.

PEOPLE INTERESTED IN STANDING FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHOULD PLEASE ATTEND THE GENERAL MEETING TO PUT THEMSELVES FORWARD.

MOTIONS PROPOSED BY : PETER GIDAL
MARY PAT LEECE
MALCOLM LE GRICE
TOM HESLOP
SANDY WEILAND
PHILIP SANDERSON
KAREN SMITH
TONY WARCUS
PHILIP BAKER



Sandy Weiland
LFMC
42 Gloucester Avenue
London NW1 8JD

30 September 1991

Dear Sandy,

LFMC EGM - BUILDING PROPOSALS

Ian has passed to me a copy of the proposals which are going to the EGM (though it is unclear whether they are the product of the entire Executive or of the Building Committee). As neither Ian or I will be present at the EGM - quite rightly, I think as the Co-op needs to make a clear decision on its own - I thought I should set out a few facts about the BFI's offer which might prove useful to members.

1. The Dunn and Co premises are the only premises on offer to the Co-op. We have rejected the suggestion of Saffron Hill. We have expended considerable sums on the Camden property in terms of solicitors fees etc. and would not be willing to change course at this stage. We have decided that, should the Co-op reject occupation, we will find alternative occupants for Dunn & Co to share premises with LVA.
2. The lease on the Dunn & Co building will be taken by the London Film and Video Development Agency, and guaranteed by the BFI. Sub-leases, drawn up by BFI solicitors, to take account of the needs of the Co-op and LVA will be offered to both organisations. These will be for a five year period, renewable at each period of five years. These should contain details of cinema occupation which needs to be agreed by the Co-op and the LVA.
3. The rental for the first three years for both the Co-op and LVA will be current rent + 5%. Subsequent years rental increases will take account of each organisation's revenue generation. It does not make sense for the BFI to price either organisation out of existence.

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HRH The Prince of Wales
KO ET OCB

Chairman
Sir Richard Attenborough
CBE

Director
Wolff Stevenson

Assistant Director
Michael Pearce



Recycled Paper

Sandy Weiland
30 September 1991

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4. Both the Co-op and the LVA will be given proper consultation in the design work etc. RPM will not be responsible for the architectural work but will co-ordinate the specialist team and continue to liaise between the lessor and the BFI.
5. The establishment of a London Film, Video Development Agency was approved by the BFI Governing Body recently, and steps will shortly be taken to appoint a Chair, acquire a Committee and establish the limited company so that we can move towards the appointment of a Chief Executive. The LFVDA will utilise the grant originally provided to Greater London Arts. It will act as both a funding and development agency, assisting the growth of the London film and video infrastructure. It will occupy offices in the Dunn & Co site and will manage the two floors on behalf of the various occupants.

I hope the meeting will find these comments useful. I would also request that the message from the Co-op's EGM to the BFI is clear and unequivocal, as I am sure that neither bodies relish the prospect of further delay.

Yours sincerely,

Irene Whitehead
Head of Planning Unit

cc: Ian Christie
Doug Foot



BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE LFMC'S RELOCATION:

The LFMC is currently facing a very difficult and important decision regarding its future relocation. The Co-op has been seeking new premises since the lease expired on the 42 Gloucester Avenue building in March 1988. This has proved fruitless due to lack of finance for relocation and the inability to afford current rent prices. The British Film Institute Planning Division made available monies for relocation after tough negotiations. However, this is only available for the specific project of rehousing the LFMC and London Video Access (LVA) in joint premises whilst both organisations will retain their autonomy.

At present we have no security of tenure: we are in our current building on sufferance from the landlord British Rail and on the understanding we are actively seeking new premises. The search for new premises by volunteer members of the Co-op has been futile as the LFMC is incapable of financing relocation on its own in today's economic climate and ANY move will involve a increased rent. The BFI commissioned Relocation Project Management (RPM) as property consultants to find a building in which to rehouse both the LFMC and LVA. The Dunn & Co building in Kentish Town was presented to both organisations and LVA decided to accept the building in July. Though strong reservations were voiced by the LFMC Executive Committee at the meeting of 18th July 1991, it voted to accept the building at this meeting.

Subsequently, the Saffron Hill site was presented by the Building sub-committee as a preferred option. This was rejected by the BFI. (See enclosed letter from Irene Whitehead). The BFI has made it clear there will be no further monies for relocation. Furthermore, the BFI is now willing to engage an architect for the design of the project to work in consultation with the LFMC and LVA.

It is obvious there will be problems with any move. There are possible difficulties concerning the finance of the Dunn & Co building: 375,000 may not be sufficient for refurbishment. The relationship with LVA, FVDA and the control of the LFMC's space and autonomy are all to be negotiated. Although the choice appears limited, it is a good opportunity to acquire relative security, to be rehoused jointly with other arts organisations and a strategic funding body and to broaden the range of cultural contacts for film and video makers.

Over the past few months, it has become apparent that the current Executive Committee has not been able to work united towards the above aim. The lack of co-operation in conjunction with the imbalance of power among the Executive members has produced a divided front when unity was most needed. This has come to a head under the pressure of the building crisis.

MOTION TO RATIFY THE LFMC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 18TH JULY TO MOVE INTO THE DUNN & CO BUILDING;

That the LFMC agrees to move into the Dunn & Co building and proceeds with our partners LVA to negotiate with the BFI in a constructive manner without compromise to its integral structure and policies. The negotiations will take into account the following: that a LFMC team of suitably experienced members will be consulted with on all stages of the project, that the LFMC should have its own sublease, that the LFMC sublease should include the LFMC's own shared Cinema space with LVA with adjacent circulation/exhibition area, that the terms and conditions of any sublease be negotiated in consultation with the LFMC's own solicitors, in the interests of the LFMC's aims and constitution, that the LFMC team be consulted on the design of the LFMC space and be consulted on the choice of architects and that the LFMC be provided with a planned timescale of events to completion. It should be realised that the Co-op is moving into these premises as a partner and therefore has the ability to negotiate on an equal footing.

AGENDA FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF 12TH OCTOBER 1991 AT THE LONDON FILMMAKERS' CO-OP.

- 11.00am Introduction of new organisers.
- 11.30am-12.30 Motion for the dissolution of the Executive.
- 12.30-1.30pm Contextualisation of the LFMC relocation
 - 1) relationship with LVA.
 - 2) relationship with LVA
 - 3) Presentation of the Dunn & Co
- 1.30-2.00pm LUNCH
- 2.00pm-4.00pm Continuing discussion and vote on the move into the Dunn & Co building.
- 4.00pm Election for the new Executive Committee
- 6.00pm Close of meeting