

Cinenova proposal

The first thing to stress is that LfVDA has never wished to impose a solution upon the Board but given the long and depressing history of failed initiatives during the last year, and the impending restructuring in London, it is imperative that at least a temporary arrangement is established so that work can be distributed and made available for research etc.

The basic recommendation is as follows:

All Cinenova's collection including the prints currently held at the BFI and any large items of equipment at Roman Road are transferred to the Lux Holding Company premises at Shacklewell Lane. Other office equipment/spare computers etc could perhaps be transferred to Four Corners as part payment of back rent?

Lux Holding Company enters into a sub-distribution deal where they will distribute the work in return for a percentage of the income (this percentage to be negotiated). This is the model on which The Other Cinema back catalogue is in sub-distribution with the Lux at present.

In the circumstances the Cinenova part of the NOF project is not viable but I have talked to John at NOF and he is very sympathetic to selected work from the collection being digitised as part of the Lux/BFI project, and will consider make funds available for this to happen, if the proposal is accepted.

It doesn't make sense to wind Cinenova down as a company until a more permanent solution is agreed but there would be no day to day administration necessary, as the LHC would deal with enquiries, royalties and assist curators like Emma to pull together projects which could be individually funded.

What the board need to do:

- Make decision on whether or not to go ahead, and if this is agreed then;
- Meet with Ben Cook (or nominate a representative to do so) to iron out details of the sub-distribution deal
- Provide me with ACCURATE figures on paying off royalties to filmmakers up to 31 March 2002 (there can have been no activity for some time now so this shouldn't be difficult) and the costs of moving the materials to the Lux. LfVDA will provide the finances to cover this if the estimates appear reasonable.
- Decide what happens about the website; the ownership question is something I still don't understand but the position must be very clear so the LHC can access the site to post information, pickup enquiries etc.

- Help LHC to move the materials over.
- Work out a sensible arrangement where there continues to be shadow board that meets every six months to monitor the arrangement. It maybe that at the end of this time the Cinenova collection is fully merged with the Lux in which case Cinenova as an organisation disbands, or there could be opportunities which make it useful to resuscitate the company.
- Inform all members of the situation; I imagine that filmmakers will have already withdrawn work due the lack of distribution activity so hopefully only a few would object to the transfer

Please get back to me as soon as you can after your meeting so we can move forward. If this proposal is not acceptable then all I can offer is the funds to clear outstanding royalties.

Gill Henderson
May 2002