Promoting Films By Women

Film & Video Distribution

113 Roman Road

London E2 0HU

081 981 6828

fax 081 983 4441

BFI Distribution and Exhibition 21 Stephen Street London W1P 1PL

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Dear Jayne,

NEW WAVE WOMEN: FIFTEEN YEARS OF WOMEN'S FILMMAKING 1978-93

This is to bring you up to date with developments around this package, and also to ask for your assistance at this stage in co-ordinating RFT screenings. Every BFI supported cinema has been sent at least one information pack on the programmes, and most have been contacted by phone. I know definitely of three bookings but dates have not yet been confirmed. I understand from Bryony at Tyneside that you have sent out a circular to the RFTs and wondered what information you received back. My problem is that educational institutions have been contacting us about the package, but I don't want to screen it in a college context before the local RFT has had an opportunity to play it to a wider audience.

The programme notes, which will go out in a four page A4 format have been written by Bev Zalcock, who has an enviable knack of making the theoretical enjoyable and the experimental accessible, and they are ready to go for final art working. Again, it would be useful to have an idea of the RFT interest before deciding on print runs. I have been in regular contact with a number of venues who've expressed interest, in other cases the programmers have not responded to repeated phone calls. I was also dismayed to hear from Cardiff Chapter cinema that because of financial pressures over audience numbers they are adopting a very "hands off" approach to shorts and experimental work. This is pretty depressing coming from a media centre which has always been supportive of animation and short fiction.

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I'm particularly anxious to have some idea of potential bookings, as I will be leaving shortly to take up the post of Director for this years Birmingham Film and Television Festival, and I want to leave Liane and Kate with a clear picture of what is happening with the package. Thanks for your help with this, we look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Gill Henderson