

# IFVPA

- URGENT - URGENT - URGENT - URGENT - URGENT - URGENT -  
\*\*\*\*\*

27th January 1990

Dear friend,

I am writing on behalf of the Independent Film, Video and Photography Association to ask for your support. On January 25th 1990 the British Film Institute informed the IFVPA that its revenue funding would be withdrawn as of 31st March 1990. Unless the British Film Institute can be persuaded to reverse its decision the IFVPA will close its doors for the last time in **just nine weeks time.**

As you are no doubt aware, the IFVPA has played an important role in representing and supporting the interests of independent film and video makers and workshops since its foundation as the Independent Filmmakers Association in 1974.

The loss of the IFVPA will represent a setback for all those committed to expanding the arena for experimental, innovative and independent approaches to the media. It will remove the only remaining national body providing information and news services, and facilitating communication between producers, workshops, educationalists and other cultural workers. Furthermore, closure of the IFVPA will mean the loss of small but significant contributor to discussion and debate on cultural, industrial and economic policy as it effects the independent media sectors.

At this stage we are urging all members and friends to register their opposition to this decision. Enclosed is a model letter for you to send to the British Film Institute - but of course feel free to draft your own. If you do decide to respond it would be useful if you could send a duplicate copy to the IFVPA office. Please remember to add your name, address and, where applicable, your organisation to the top of the letter.

If you'd like any further information about the situation don't hesitate to call me.

Yours sincerely,

  
NIGEL POWER

Acting Federal Organiser.

From:

To: Irene Whitehead,  
Acting Head,  
The Planning Unit,  
The British Film Institute,  
21 Stephen Street,  
London W1P 1PL

Date:

Dear BFI,

I am very concerned to hear about the British Film Institute's decision to withdraw funding from the Independent Film, Video and Photography Association. I feel that this decision may be based on a misunderstanding of the need for and role of the IFVPA.

In the current climate there is great need for an organisation that:

- \* facilitates information sharing and communication between all those involved in developing innovative, experimental and independent approaches to the media.
- \* contributes to debates on cultural, industrial and economic policy through research and development projects.
- \* acts as a lobby for independent and grant-aided media producers and projects to cultural funders and local, regional, national and European tiers of government.

Clearly, the Independent Film, Video & Photography Association already fulfills many of these functions and is best placed to meet the challenges of a difficult and rapidly changing situation. For these reasons I would urge you to reconsider your decision to withdraw funding from the IFVPA.

Yours sincerely,