

cc: Rodney Wilson
Michael O'Pray



FILM & VIDEO UMBRELLA

Organisers: Michael O'Pray & Cordelia Swann
7 Rossetti House
Erasmus Street
London SW1P 4HT
Tel: 01-821 7586

July 29, 1986

David Curtis
Assistant Film & Video Officer
Arts Council
105, Piccadilly
London

Dear Dave,

I am writing this letter to clear up the matter of my fee for the last four months of working for the Umbrella scheme.

If you read the report which I submitted to you, at your request, at the beginning of April, you will find that there is both a breakdown of days worked in the period of April 1985 through March 1986 and an estimated breakdown of days to be worked from April 1986 through February 1987. These breakdowns are to include work done for preparation and programming for 'A Camera of One's Own', touring of that package by myself, as well as preparation and programming of the 'Soviet' and 'Margaret Tait' packages.

By the end of March I had received £1500.00 which was the first installment of the £3000.00 bursary the Film & Video Committee had allotted to me in April 1985. As I had started working 'full time' for the Umbrella later than expected, I received the second installment in April of this year. There were also 24 days I hadn't worked which you asked me to carry over into this financial year. This last installment was followed by a further £500.00 for expenses. Please note that the letter offering me these expenses states that: 'The payment is intended to cover telephone, stationery, local travel and hospitality expenses...'. There is no mention that my fee for work done should come out of that money; although you seemed to think this was the case in our last meeting (24th July).

In March of this year you informed me that it would not be possible for me to receive the ordinary speaker's fee of £40.00 per venue when I was to take 'A Camera of One's Own' on tour. You instructed me to estimate the number of days I would be touring and to add them to the estimate of days to be worked on other Umbrella business. As you know the tour was done by myself as none of the film-makers or Tina Keane were available for most of the dates.

In March you instructed me not to submit a financial report to the Film & Video Sub-Committee meeting (19th March). Instead you asked me to submit a breakdown to you personally after the meeting was to have taken place. I submitted a non financial report to the meeting which was followed in the next week by the financial report which I submitted to you. I asked you verbally whether the financial report was satisfactory and you said that it was. I was very surprised to find in the meeting we had last week that you had not as of yet read the financial report.



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Since the beginning of April, I have spent most of my time touring 'A Camera of One's Own' and preparing for the 'Soviet Package'. As you know, Margaret Tait has been unable to release a print of 'Where I am is Here' so the proposed tour of her films has been sadly cancelled or postponed. I would very much like to finish business for both 'A Camera of One's Own' and the 'Soviet Package', but at this time, as I have no funds on which to live, I will not be able to continue working on Umbrella business unless I have some sort of promise in writing that I will be paid for the days I have already worked as well as the days it will take me to complete the business I have already started. It is very important that I receive an answer as soon as possible as the hirers and film-makers need to be informed and the broadsheet needs to be printed if the 'Soviet Package' is indeed to go on tour. Please find enclosed, a breakdown of the days actually worked since April 1, 1986.

Yours Sincerely,

Cordelia Swann

July 1986
Touring 'A Camera of One's Own'
Aston 1 day
Birmingham 1 day
Leeds 1 day
Wolverhampton 1 day

8 days other miscellaneous business
Total: 5 days

July 1986
Touring 'A Camera of One's Own'
Cardiff 2 days
Plymouth 2 days

16 days other miscellaneous business
Total: 11 days

Special breakdown of days worked
Days claimed to include holiday 43

Since 14 days left over from previous financial year
Total: 47 days

Total amount owed for 1986 £1140.00

An amount of £1000.00 has been transferred to your bank on 14 July and the balance of £140.00 has been retained, your days will be worked on the project.