

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of the 44th Meeting of the ARTISTS' FILM & VIDEO COMMITTEE held on Monday, 30 November 1981 at 10.30 a.m. in the Cinema at 105 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AU.

Present:	Ian Christie	Chairperson
	David Critchley	Committee Member
	Joanna Davis	" "
	Carola Klein	" "
	Tamara Krikorian	" "
	Al Rees	" "
	John Bradshaw	RAA Observer
	Joanna Drew	Director of Art
	Tom Dolan	Assistant Accountant
	Rodney Wilson	Film Officer
	David Curtis	Assistant Film Officer
	Bette Chapkis	Secretary

- 1 Apologies for absence were received from Anne Rees-Mogg.
- 2 Minutes of the 43rd Meeting were approved. The Film Officer raised the issue of reconsideration of funding RAA catalogues mentioned in the CORAA Film Officers minutes of 18 September 1981 (see item 5.J).
- 3 Financial Report: The report was tabled and showed a balance of £18,054, but the Assistant Accountant pointed out that the reserve for Film-Makers and Video-Artists on Tour had not yet been used fully. The net cost so far was £2,150 and £616 respectively.
- 4 Financial Prospects and Future Policy: The Film Officer announced that the Arts Films Allocation was to be cut by 50% in 1982/83 but that a categorical assurance had been made by Council to restore it to its present level in the following year. It was proposed that the Artists' Film and Video Allocation should remain at £95,000 which still represented a large cut in real terms. A drastic review of priorities in the coming year was necessary and IT WAS AGREED to hold a Policy Meeting as soon as possible. The Assistant Film Officer tabled a paper to form the basis of future discussion but emphasised that it was aimed to streamline the work of the committee and had not been written as a result of the proposed cuts. He suggested that in 1982/83 awards to artists should form the major part of the committee's work which would only be possible given a standstill on new exhibitions and no large capital funding as in 1981/82. There was concern for the need to continue to give support to individuals who had virtually no other means of continuing their work.

The RAA Observer expressed the dismay of the regional Film Officers at the reduction of the budget in the light of cuts in the BFI Regional Fund and agreed that individuals would be worst hit.

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Matters Arising

A. Distribution Awards: Results of meetings 8, 9 and 10 were confirmed:

Peter Savage	It's Like Reading a Word	£ 41.00
John Apps	Ora/The Word/Mad Metropolis	£354.00
Steve Chivers	Urich & Destine	Rejected
Andrew McKay	What People Do	Rejected

B. Completion Awards: Results of meeting 3 were tabled and approved:

Julie Blake	The Beardless Vase and Other Biographies	Deferred
Mike Legget	Vistasound	£630.00
John Stockton	Here and There	£100.00

C. The Film Officer said that reporting back rejected applications to full committee meant unnecessary delays in informing applicants and IT WAS AGREED that delegated viewing groups should have full responsibility for decisions in future.

D. London Film-Makers Co-op: New workshop procedures had now been worked out and agreed by the Co-op's Executive. A two-tier system for hire of new and sophisticated equipment at professional rates, with older and simpler equipment for workshop users would be operated. A further capital application for £2,500 to buy a second-hand 4-plate Steenbeck for workshop use was tabled.

The Co-op had been advised against the Acmade agreed in the previous capital application. IT WAS AGREED that this was a sensible purchase.

Recommendation: £2,500 Capital Grant from the 1981/82 Artists' Film and Video Allocation

E. London Video Arts: The Committee was informed that LVA had decided that the purchase of a camera would make better use of the capital grant offered to them at the previous meeting rather than doubling up on edit equipment already available at Fantasy Factory. IT WAS AGREED.

F. Programme Adviser: The Assistant Film Officer reported that Simon Field had now met most of the RAA Film Officers and various representatives of the BFI. The project was well under way.

Joanna Davis expressed regret that she had not been involved in the choice of Adviser.

G. Placement Bursaries

Brighton: It was confirmed that Neil Armstrong had been awarded the 1982 Bursary. It was reported that a second round of education cuts in East Sussex had taken place after the bursary had been advertised and the £1,000 contribution from Brighton Polytechnic was no longer available. The bursary would only be for two terms and £2,000.

Reading: It was confirmed that David Dye had been awarded the bursary.

Sheffield: The bursary was to commence in April 1982 and was at present being advertised.

Maidstone: Since Roger Barnard had not been able to attend through injury, it had been agreed to put the bursary back a further term. The next bursary would therefore commence in September 1982.

H. Video Access Libraries

Arnolfini: The Assistant Film Officer reported that contracts had been signed and the library was open. He had attended the launch.

ICA: The Film Officer informed the committee that Regional Department thought that sufficient assurances had been received to process the committee's contribution towards the costs. Tamara Krikorian and Joanna Davis expressed their resentment that funds from the Artists' Film and Video Allocation had been used for this purpose especially when it was well known among video and film makers that no agreement had been reached with the ICA for purchase of tapes. The Film Officer asked for cogent remarks to be put into a form in which he could pass them on.

The Assistant Film Officer suggested that future meetings of Regional Committee to decide on funds for the ICA should receive advice from the committee.

I. Exhibition

1. Modular Schemes: The Assistant Film Officer felt that, in the light of the financial cuts, it was important to recognise that the choice of schemes at this stage would be the whole of next year's programme. He therefore suggested that the four presented should not be discussed until the others he knew were in preparation were ready. Al Rees said they would need substantial discussion and work. The Assistant Film Officer proposed to present an agenda for discussion to be held after the forthcoming policy meeting to which Simon Field would be invited.

ACTION AFO

2. David Hall's Video Exhibition Proposal: It was reported that the Exhibitions Sub-Committee was sympathetic to the idea of a video exhibition and had asked the Assistant Film Officer to clarify the proposal and to assemble a possible committee to put to the next Exhibitions Sub-Committee in January.

ACTION AFO

3. Serpentine Gallery: The Assistant Film Officer informed the committee that Stuart Marshall had been asked to put together a programme of artists' tapes as a pilot scheme for regular exhibition at the Serpentine. However, it had not been ready in time to coincide with the Craigie Aitchison Exhibition although he hoped it would be completed by February/March 1982. Meanwhile the Assistant Film Officer had produced a programme of documentaries.

- J. Film-Makers and Video-Artists on Tour: The Committee was reminded that the Assistant Film Officer had circulated artists currently on the schemes telling them not to take bookings beyond 31 March 1982 and asking for comments. IT WAS AGREED that discussion of the new terms of reference should be postponed until the Policy Meeting. The Chairperson felt that concrete proposals should be put to the meeting and suggested a meeting with representatives of artists and users to discuss modifications and changes.

ACTION AFO

It was proposed that Guy Sherwin and Felicity Sparrow should be invited to join members of the committee and the Assistant Film Officer for such a discussion.

- K. Publications: IT WAS AGREED to reject the applications from West Midlands Arts and South East Arts. It was thought that the committee's priorities should be direct support of artist film- and video-makers within its remit. The catalogues were thought to be essentially RAA promotional publications. However, individual applications would still be considered in the future.

6 APPLICATIONS

1. CAPITAL

Fantasy Factory : £752

There was general support for this application for a new monitor to augment present editing equipment.

Recommendation: £752 Capital Grant from the 1981/82 Artists' Film and Video Allocation

2. ADMINISTRATION BURSARY

Felicity Sparrow : Circles : £3,900

The application was a one-off to allow Felicity Sparrow to give enough time for a year to increase the turnover sufficiently for Circles to be self-sufficient in future. The committee was impressed by the current turnover, given the limited time and finance devoted to it at present and agreed to offer the bursary for one year only.

Recommendation: £3,900 Bursary from the 1981/82 Artists' Film and Video Allocation

3. VIDEO EXHIBITION

Biddick Farm : £6,302

There was no support for this application which was seen as being ill-considered and inappropriate to its location. It was felt that only token recognition had been shown to the discussions held after last year's exhibition at which the organisers were asked to introduce a more rational selection method and to make their programme more relevant to the north east. The RAA Observer reported meetings with those involved in video in the area as a result of which it was hoped that the exhibition at Biddick Farm would become

more applicable to the region. IT WAS AGREED that the application could not be supported.

Rejected

4. FILM - EXHIBITION

London Film-Makers Co-op : £107 & £657

This application had been withdrawn since the event had been a great success and covered its costs.

5. FILM - BURSARIES

a) Nicholas Collins : £1,500

A 16mm film 'Cornish Winter Reeds and Skies' was viewed. Al Rees liked the film but thought the new project was much more ambitious. Joanna Davis was confident in his ability. IT WAS AGREED to offer £1,000 Award for the new project and to invite him to apply separately for the completion aspect.

Recommendation: £1,000 Award from the 1981/82
Artists' Film and Video Allocation

b) Martin Hearne : £1,500

A 16mm film 'On the day ...' was viewed. It was pointed out that this film had been seen in 1979 in support of an application. IT WAS AGREED to defer a decision until the most recent work could be seen. The Chairperson suggested that he apply for a distribution award separately.

Deferred

c) Ricky Knight : £500

A Super 8 film 'Blue You There Still' was viewed. There was no support for this application.

d) Tony Potts : £1,500

A 16mm film 'Terms of Reference' was viewed. There was not a great deal of confidence in the notes for the new project but some interest in the work generally. IT WAS AGREED to offer a bursary of £500.

Recommendation: £500 Bursary from the 1981/82
Artists' Film and Video Allocation

6. FILM - AWARDS

a) Renny Bartlett : £2,085

A 16mm film 'Between Heaven and Earth' was viewed. There was not a great deal of confidence in the script presented. IT WAS AGREED that the project should not be supported but that he should be invited to apply with a new project.

Rejected