

7A11

NOTES of the HODs OPERATIONS MEETING held on 12 April 1989

- Present: Wilf Stevenson (Chair)
 Cary Bazalgette
 Ben Gibson
 Gillian Hartnoll
 Angela Topping
 Irene Whitehead
- In Attendance: Joy Wong

Wilf said it was inappropriate at a meeting of the Heads of Division to discuss the full Agenda, including a region by region breakdown and so activity areas only would be addressed.

FUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT

(a) Funding

Irene tabled a paper detailing the RAA and Direct Grant budgets for 1989/90.

Edinburgh International Film Festival were not responding to deadlines which was very worrying.

South Hill Park Video Festival and the Training for Trainers programme would not be funded this year. The money from the training programme would be used to fund suitable courses run by F&D's Training Co-ordinator.

Faction Films have been cut by 50%. They not a priority, being solely a production group and have been given six months notice of withdrawal of funding.

Derby, Dovecot and Tyneside Film Theatre have had notice of possible grant cuts although it is hoped that Tyneside will get their cultural programme together.

WFTVN and SEFT have been given winding up costs. This had proved expensive in the case of SEFT due to BFI-comparable staff redundancy payments. The John Logie Baird Centre had been given £22,000 to assist the Centre in the takeover of Screen. The rest of the money was going towards a consultancy to survey the needs of media teachers for a network, and to recommend appropriate structures and means of financing. Steve Brookes was working on a draft brief for the consultancy which Cary and Irene would shortly be discussing. It was hoped to put out to tender by mid-May. It was agreed it was inappropriate to tag on to the media

teachers consultancy Sylvia Harvey's proposal around higher education and that Cary should convene a meeting involving Christine Gledhill, Irene Whitehead and Steve Brookes to discuss how to progress the matter.

Development Budget - Irene would circulate the list of development grants made in the current financial year.

(b) Regional Exhibition Project Fund

Jayne Pilling and Irene had met to discuss the applications to the REPF. Cornerhouse would be receiving money for DTP.

(c) Exhibition

Leicester - Dewi Lewis was carrying out a consultancy, funded by the BFI and Leicester County Council, to identify an appropriate City Centre site for cinema development.

Nottingham Media Centre - the building has now been bought, helped by City and County contributions enabled by Inner Areas Programme which meant that the City and County had got away lightly by each giving £37,500 and Irene would be meeting with them shortly asking them for more money. The Director's post had been advertised and interviews would be held at the end of the month and it was hoped that the appointee would be in post very soon. City Lights would be closing in June. The staff have been offered enhanced redundancies and continuity of comparable employment at NMC - two have accepted, a Front of House co-ordinator and a projectionist.

Watershed - are having financial problems and JT, the landlords, are putting pressure on a number of occupants. Irene recommended Watershed sought the views (and protection) of the City Council who own the head lease. Irene would be meeting with Stephanie Brammar to discuss the possibility of putting in a 'Company Doctor' to help solve these problems.

Sheffield Media Centre - Dewi Lewis has produced his report and recommends the going ahead of a media centre in Sheffield on a site next to SIFG. Steve McIntyre was attending a meeting and would report back.

Merseyside TV project was also going ahead. The BFI were hoping to get Merseyside Arts to shift City funding towards production so that BFI money would be utilised for exhibition which would include Moviola and the Redmond projects.

Wolverhampton Lighthouse - Phase 2 of the development taking place and it looks as though this could be a very useful exhibition site. We are looking at it sympathetically for a

capital grant in 1990/91.

Warwick Arts Centre - John Gore would be leaving and to consolidate the work that he has done, a meeting would be held with Warwick Arts Centre and West Midlands Arts to discuss seed funding money for a full time film officer/programmer.

Bradford - Irene and Steve McIntyre met with Margaret Benton to review where the International Media Centre project was, and to determine the best route for Bradford Playhouse and Film Theatre particularly in the light of the Museum's imminent acquisition of the Library Theatre. A business plan for the operation of the Library Theatre venture has been done and a feasibility study on the International Media Centre is in hand.

(d) **Production**

Discussions have been taking place with Channel 4 around the notion of a 'Facilities Network'. C4 are keen to concentrate on product rather than workshops and are attracted to the idea of 'facilities network' in the mold of SIF. Steve Brookes is reviewing potential sites. Alan Fountain's paper 'Workshop Policy in the 1990s' suggests a process of reformulation and modification of C4's goals and methods in the 'workshop' area and would be discussed at a CORAA Film Officers meeting on 13 April.

Irene mentioned that the GLA Survey currently in draft form usefully referred to "equipment pools" for London, and that C4 had been involved in joint funders strategy meetings around that project.

Wilf reported that NEMTC had contact him to say they were in crisis, as the ESF have turned down their grant for 1989 (ie from 1 January 1989). As this is matching money from Local Authorities, they have basically no income this year. It has been suggested that they take professional advice about what their present actions should be.

They may well persuade the LAs to pay this year's money - it is budgetted after all - and there is a faint hope that the EEC could reverse their decision, but while they can they think finish their trainees on this year's course, they will not be able to take a course next year.

They need need to re-think their strategy as the courses ought to be broader based and in any case it was doubted that the industry could absorb any more trainees for a bit. They were fully equipped and perhaps they could earn some money from turning into a Facilities Centre.

Birmingham Media Development Agency - were advertising for a new Director. Irene raised the problem that the Board was made up entirely of middle class male caucasians and she asked Wilf, as a member of the Board to help rectify this.

PRODUCTION

- (a) Ben reported that VENUS PETER was completed and had been selected for Cannes in the Certain Regard section and it was hoped that MELANCHOLIA would be selected for the Director's Fortnight.
- (b) New Directors - would be launched with an AIP event and a discussion day. A total of 10 films in 2 programmes would be screened at the Metro in mid July and Newcastle Breweries would be sponsoring the event.
- (c) Personnel - Angela Topping had been appointed as Acting Deputy Head of Division covering Jill Pack's maternity, but Jill had now resigned. Ben's current job had been advertised in the Guardian and temporary cover for Liza Mellor had also been advertised.
- (d) Colin was raising money for YOUNG SOUL REBELS.
- (e) RPF - no meetings scheduled, pending discussions on wind up.
- (f) EEC - Ben had been asked to attend another meeting to discuss the European Young Film-makers Prize and he would report back.

EDUCATION

- (a) Events - BACTV Conference - held at the NFT had been very successful. It was hoped that someone could be appointed on a 1½ day a week basis to hold this together and a meeting of the Steering Committee was to be held on 15 April.

Easter School - was held in Plymouth, sponsored by TSW and was well attended.

Raymond Williams Event - in June at the NFT (see previous Notes)

Summer School - 'What is British Cinema?' to be held at Stirling University 22 - 29 July 1989.

A new Education Department catalogue had been produced which Cary would be circulating.

Easter School 1990 - discussions still taking place with possible sponsors in the Merseyside area.

In 1990 an International Conference on Media Education would be held at the University of Sussex. The BFI is convening a symposium at the Institute of Education on behalf of the International Visual Literacy Association (IVLA) at which 50 academics will be giving papers about research.

Cary would be visiting Turkey with the DES to assist their representatives in planning the Council of Europe's October conference of Ministers of Education on "The Information Society". Cary will be asking the DES to approach the Council of Europe for money for the International Conference.

- (b) **Publications** - The Wham! pack was nearing completion and there was already some tabloid interest which would have to be handled with care.

The Curriculum Statement was published in March and the first print run already sold out. It had been well received and Gillian commented on what a good paper it was. Anyone interested in a copy should contact Cary.

- (c) **The Regional Working Groups** are being reviewed by HMI. Cary hoped that they would receive further funding but there was a need for a tighter brief.

- (d) **Education Committee co-funded posts with LEAs** - 1 year interim funding to Shropshire for Yvonne Davies.

Chris Threlfall would be leaving in July and it was hoped that Trinity and All Saints College in Leeds would make this a permanent post.

The funding of Ben Moore's post at Newcastle now seemed secure in the short term with funding from Newspapers in Education.

- (e) **Research and Development money** - £12,705 received from Nuffield to fund a two year project, Media Education across the curriculum in Lower Secondary Schools.

A launch of the National Primary Media Education Project for lower secondary schools (11 - 14 year olds) would be held at the NFT on 6 May. £5,000 had been received from Gulbenkian to get the project started but £25,000 was still needed.

Media Education Research Group - representatives from NFER, BFI, SFC, John Logie Baird Centre, Institute of Education, MEC, Clywd. A seminar would be held in Glasgow in June to look at the feasibility of a long running media education research programme. £5,000 had been received from the ESRC.

- (f) **Personnel** - David Lusted was on unpaid leave for two months.

LIBRARY

(a) Library Computerisation

From the middle of April 1989, the Library will begin to implement its computerisation programme. Initially SIFT will only be available in the Reading Room via Library Services staff, but once they are satisfied that the database is sufficiently clean, there will be several VDUs which readers can access for themselves. It was hoped that with the next phase of computerisation, staff would have access through the All-in-1.

Gillian said that most staff were very positive about using the system although there were worries about response times.

On the marketing side, the whole of SIFT will fit on to a single disc of CD-ROM and is relatively cheap to the user. Currently the main purchasers are libraries. Discussions are still taking place with several companies willing to undertake development and marketing costs and to provide the BFI with royalty payments.

Gillian is doing a fuller report for the newsletter.

(b) Department Structure

The demand on the Department was growing all the time and was reaching crisis point. There was an urgent need to think about a new structure and to look at resources outside of London which could be used as support. There are only 30 seats in the reading room and users were being turned away. On the telephone enquiries services discussions were taking place about paid services for the commercial sector but all this had implications for membership. Gillian asked whether there were plans for a new switchboard which would permit queuing as it was a problem with people not being able to hold on. Wilf said not at present. Meanwhile discussions were going on with the IBA Library with a view to us taking their clippings service.

The date of the next HODs meeting was 10 May 1989 at 10.00am.