

**CINENOVA BOARD MEETING
4 OCTOBER 1995**

Minutes

1. Present: Julia; Kavita; Corinna; Kate; Helen
Apologies were received from: Deborah; Liane; Margaret; Azza; Elaine; Paula
2. The minutes of the last meeting were passed and Kate reported that the Modem had been bought at a discounted rate.
3. Helen reported that DIALOGUES WITH MADWOMEN had won the Emmy for Best Interview Program of 1994. Cinenova has now acquired the TV Rights for the UK and a preview tape has been sent to Sylvia Hines, formally of the Mental Health Media Council, who is now Deputy Commissioning Editor for Education at Channel Four.
4. There was an extensive discussion about changes in the workers hours. It was agreed that it would be advantageous for the organisation and for the workers if the hours could be increased from 4/5 to full-time. Cinenova would benefit from additional worktime and consistency of service, and the workers would have increased financial security. This would lead to greater professional status for Cinenova and greater certainty in acquiring staff of sufficient calibre in the future. Obviously if the staff were to go full-time the increase in wages would have to be budgeted for. Cinenova's turnover has increased dramatically since the implementation of the Development plan and we are currently achieving the figures projected for year 1996-7 one year in advance. Helen has been working at the full-time rate since June as Kate has been working on a free-lance project two days a week. It was agreed that Helen could continue to work full-time and Kate would start full-time in the New Year when her free-lance contract finished. However the arrangement was with the proviso that the situation was extraordinary because it is important to maintain parity between the workers. The new arrangement includes Helen taking on full responsibility for bookings, invoicing and despatch.
5. It was decided that because there were so few Board members present at this meeting the date of the Policy Making meeting would be decided at the next meeting.
6. The 1995 Cinewomen Festival is taking place in Norwich from 18-21 October. Cinenova is collaborating with Berlin's Blikpilotin, a women's film collective, to present a showcase of women's filmmaking from Europe under the title 'European Spotlight'. Cinenova has three films shortlisted for the Cinewomen award: SHELLER SHARES HER SECRET by Sarah Turner; NIGHT DANCES by Sandra Lahire and FIERCE DETAIL by Helena Goldwater. Also shortlisted is a film by Cinenova filmmaker, Sarah Pucill, BACKCOMB.
7. The *Sight and Sound*/Women in Film and Television Women Making Movies event is taking place at the NFT on 6-7 October. SHELLER SHARES HER SECRET is screening as part of Short Films programme. We have been invited to the Party on the Friday evening but unfortunately it doesn't look like our involvement is going to be any more extensive.
8. We have been having problems with Dangerous To Know who owe us a considerable amount in Royalties and advance payments for the video compilations Lesbian Lykra Shorts and Lesbian Leather Shorts. We had a very positive meeting with Tom Abel who apologised for the delay in payment and wrote us a post-dated cheque. He explained their financial problems which have resulted from their distribution agent going bankrupt and unprecedented competition from a company in the North of England who turned out to be bogus. We discussed possible future collaborations which could include Cinenova taking theatrical Rights for films that DTK release on video; joint sell-thru tape releases; DTK acting as an agent if Cinenova decided to set-up our own video label and joint programmes for the ICA Cinematheque.

9. Any other business:

- i. The prints of OLIVIA and SUSPENSE have been damaged to such an extent that they are no longer able to be screened. We wished to speak to Elaine about purchase on new prints but as she was not present we will leave this until the next meeting.
- ii. The LFVDA have published details of funding for projects celebrating the Centenary of Cinema. Cinenova would like to put together several video packages for Cinema 100 to be promoted to schools and colleges along with appropriate teaching packs. We have met with Steve McIntyre and Trish Jenkins at LFVDA who liked the project and have suggested other bodies who may contribute funding to the extent that we may be able to employ another worker to research the project and put it together.
- iii. We have a new volunteer whose name is Emma Hedige. She is working on a package of films to be promoted to art colleges.
- iv. The National Lottery application is going well. VET are providing technical consultation for the new video edit/viewing suite which will include 2 umatic decks; 3 VHS decks; an edit controller and 2 monitors. It will be connected to an Applemac computer that will be able to produce stills. Kavita stressed the importance of the Applemac for Cinenova distribution plans as we may wish to produce our catalogue on CD Rom and we may want to distribute work originated on CD Rom. It will also be essential to have a more powerful computer for accessing the World Wide Web where we plan to have a Cinenova home page. Kavita offered to design our home page and the University of Luton could be our file server for no charge.
- v. Despite the fact that our distribution activities are increasing Cinenova only retains 50% of the earned income due to our royalty commitments to filmmakers. The increase in turnover and the royalty situation could be used as an argument for increased revenue funding to compensate for the additional royalties that have to be paid. It was suggested that older filmmakers who didn't depend on Cinenova royalties could be invited to donate their royalties to Cinenova in returned for being named as a Patron of Cinenova. Another idea could be to negotiate lower royalty payments to institutions who are more concerned with the prestige of having their films in distribution and to whom the actual royalty cheque meant very little. A new structure for royalty payments could be written into the Acquisition Policy currently under review.

There being no further business the meeting was closed. The next meeting is set for 15 November.