

Meeting July 26, 1979

C.O.W.

CINEMA OF WOMEN FILMS

AIMS AND DESCRIPTION

- I. C.O.W. Films is a collective of the following women - Mandy Rose, Fern Presant, Audrey Summerhill, Caroline Spry, Melanie Chail, Maggie Sellers
Additional women may be coopted into the group after discussion and a general decision.
2. The purpose of the collective is to provide distribution of feminist films so that the collective and the film-maker has control over how, where and to whom films are shown; and also to ensure that any money made through distribution goes back into buying/supporting/distributing feminist films. The collective was set up because of the lack of committment in existing distribution channels. For example, this has meant that feminist films have been exploited for their commercial value; proceeds gained from these films have been used to support sexist films; and feminist films have been shown in contexts which undermine their politics.
3. Decisions about which films are bought/distributed will be made collectively on the basis that feminist films are those which speak from an understanding of the position of women and/or seek to disrupt the assumptions of the political economic and social system which upholds the domination of women by men.
4. Initially British feminist films will be distributed on the basis of the film-maker providing the print and the hire charge will be divided between the collective and the film-maker - 60% to the film-maker and 40 % to the distributor. The print will be available