

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE



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20 November 1984

Dave Curtis,
Film Officer,
Arts Council of Great Britain,
105 Piccadilly,
London W.1.

Dear Dave,

Talking to Mike O'Pray earlier today about the future of Umbrella, it occurred to me that there might be a more substantial basis for our funding than mere goodwill. As you know the BFI Film & Video Library has a vast, largely inert, collection of early (independent) avant-garde film which is in urgent need of animation (we have a lot of that now too). If we were to issue an explicit brief to prepare packages based on FVL holdings - say one or two per year - this would enable us to offer a more realistic fee and would not, I think, unduly inhibit the scope of Umbrella programming.

I took a wild guess and suggested to Mike that we might be able to stand about £3000 for 1985-6 to fund a trial year. Nigel is happy with the idea. And I believe Mike has had some talks with Cordelia with a view to her joining him.

What do you think? Give me a call and perhaps we can meet to discuss further.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Christie', written in a cursive style.

Ian Christie
Head of Distribution