

30 October 1981

Stuart Marshall
17 Shaa Road
London W3

Dear Stuart Marshall

Film-Makers/Video Artists on Tour

As you have probably already heard, the Arts Council is faced with the near certainty of cuts in its overall budget next year. How these cuts will affect our activities in the film/video section is still the subject of debate, but until this is resolved, we are unable to make commitments for the financial year beginning on April 1st 1982.

This means that I must ask you not to undertake bookings under our schemes after March 31st '82. This enforced halt gives the Artists Film & Video committee an opportunity, that was perhaps already overdue, to reconsider the way in which the schemes are working, and to ask some fundamental questions about their purpose: should we continue to broaden our definition of 'artist', (our 'terms of reference'), or should we be more rigorously selective? Is it right that the schemes should be used in the majority by colleges? How are they affecting existing patterns of film/video hire? Are the schemes attracting the 'new' audiences we had hoped for? etc etc. Our committee is going to discuss the schemes in the near future, and your written comments on these and other questions would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, a reminder that claims for performances that take place in unusual circumstances must be discussed with me beforehand (we've had a spate of problem cases); and a further reminder that we value a numerical response to the claim-form question: type and size of audience! It helps us both to evaluate the schemes and to advise other artists on where they're most likely to be welcome!

Yours sincerely

David Curtis
Assistant Film Officer