

Mr. Wilson

Greater London Council

ARTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE - FILM VIEWING BOARD

Note of a meeting between representatives of the British Film Institute, the Greater London Arts Association, the Arts Council of Great Britain, the I.L.E.A. and the Greater London Council on Monday 29 September 1975 at the County Hall, S.E.1

Present:- British Film Institute

Mr Keith Lucas - Director
Mr Colin McArthur - Head of Film Availability Service
Mr A. Knowles - Head of Regional Department
Mr L. Hardcastle - Director, National Film Theatre

Greater London Arts Association

Mrs C. Heller - Chairman of the Film and Video Advisory Panel
Mr H. West - Director
Mr K. Griffiths - Film and Video Officer

Arts Council of Great Britain

Mr Rodney Wilson - Film Officer

ILEA

Mr L. Ryder - Staff Inspector of Learning Resources

Greater London Council

Mr W. L. Hooper - Assistant Director-General
Miss G. M. Tudge - Clerk to Arts Board and Film Viewing Board
Mr R. Hales - Director-General's Department

1 Introduction

Mr Hooper welcomed representatives and explained that this meeting originated from a previous discussion between the B.F.I. and the G.L.C. It had been felt that a further meeting would be very useful to discuss various suggestions for the promotion of film and video in London both for educational and recreational purposes. It was necessary to point out however, that at this stage the suggested extension of the terms of reference of the Film Viewing Board did not have general support within the G.L.C. and that any proposals made at the meeting would be subject to the agreement of the appropriate Board or Committee. The difficult financial situation would also have to be taken into account in the discussion of any far-reaching plans.

Mr Lucas agreed that the financial position was universally difficult and suggested that this was in fact an opportunity to produce a co-ordinated long term plan. It was agreed subject to confirmation by GLC and ILEA representatives, that meetings should be held regularly, convening perhaps 3-4 times a year, to consider the development of a strategic film and video policy for London.

2 Co-ordination

It was agreed that it would be very useful to co-ordinate the information and research acquired by each individual organisation. It was also suggested that it would be possible to review the existing situation in order to locate areas of

need, both geographically and in terms of the types of video which were not currently developed sufficiently. There was also the possibility of making an appeal for any gaps in resources to be filled. For example it was suggested that perhaps the existing cinerama idea was no longer the most attractive form of presentation whereas there were new developments in video which as yet did not have sufficient opportunities for development. Mr Hooper stressed that the GLC was concerned in progressing towards a more strategic function to include the development of more educational film and video resources, leaving the London borough to concentrate more on local public entertainment demands. It was agreed that by the co-ordination and assessment of the information available it should be attempted to encourage new and attractive forms of video and to avoid the 'propping-up' of institutions and methods which were no longer in demand.

3 The Assessment of Grant Applications

The G.L.A.A. already gave advice to the GLC on grant applications and it was agreed that this arrangement should continue with regard to applications for organisations concerned with film and video and that the applications would be discussed with GLAA's officers when necessary. Mr Ryder raised a particular area of grant assessment where he felt expert advice would be particularly helpful. There were a number of groups currently developing video work for use in schools. With the limited information available it was proving increasingly difficult to assess correctly the authenticity of the grant applications submitted by various groups. It was agreed that an informal arrangement could be made in order to 'pool' information about such groups and to provide more adequate background detail.

In general discussion of criteria for assessing grant applications there was much common ground. All agreed that it was important that the potential project would be of regional or sub-regional appeal. Projects which catered for discussion and assessment of films as well as just viewing facilities, were also more favourably regarded. The B.F.I. gave priority to applications for projects away from the centre of London where there were already more facilities. There was further discussion on the merits of four individual applications but it was felt that these could more appropriately be discussed outside the meeting.

4 The Role of Television

It was agreed that the two local Independent Television Companies be approached to emphasise the need for television to be used as a means of promoting film and for greater coverage of arts and culture including films, to be provided.

5 The 1977 National Film Festival

Mr Hardcastle asked the GLC to support the Festival's request for perhaps a half-dozen films to be shown in the main South Bank Concert Hall complex. Mr Hooper agreed that this could be looked into but pointed out that this proposal would have a greater chance of success if the festival could be arranged to coincide with the relatively slack period for the South Bank, in August.

6 Future Meetings

It was agreed that the following items would be put forward for discussion at the next meeting:-

- (a) The recent GLAA research paper on the patterns of film and video distribution in the region.

- (b) A report currently being compiled by the B.F.I. from a series of seminars to establish a clearer notion of the problems currently being presented to the Institute.
- (c) An ILEA 'directory of courses and resources' to show what possibilities for studying film were currently available in education establishments.
- (d) A list of film and video groups currently operating in ILEA schools.

It was agreed that for the next meeting, representatives from the L.B.A., the A.M.A. and the Community Arts office of the Arts Council be offered the opportunity to attend.

It was provisionally agreed that the next meeting should be held in the first week in December, preferably Wednesday 3rd, at 2.30 p.m. in County Hall.

DG/AR/FV/RH
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Copies to:

All present
Mr Hillman
Mr Bassett
DG/SBCH (for item 5)