

LONDON FILM-MAKERS CO-OPERATIVE

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1969

The London Film-makers Co-op is a non-profit organisation formed to help independent/non-commercial/experimental/"underground" film-makers in production, distribution and screenings of their films. The distribution library accepts all non-commercial films submitted and the major percentage of proceeds from film bookings go to the film-maker with a small percentage to the Co-op for running expenses. Unlike commercial distributors who buy prints and claim exclusive world or national rights over them, the Co-op does not own the prints which remain the sole property of the film-makers with which they can do whatever they like. The films are distributed primarily to film societies, film clubs, arts labs, workshops, schools, festivals etc.

The Co-op wants to help film-makers avoid the exorbitant costs of film production and we have home made 16mm processing and printing equipment for film-makers use. Our problem is that we have nowhere to house it. We are looking everywhere for a building in which we can house our equipment and run free film workshops where people can make and learn to make films. The building will also house a cinema which will make screen time available to all film-makers. It will be a very open scene. We're looking for a building in conjunction with the 11 or so people who left the Arts Lab to set up a new workshop oriented inter-media centre. This will be the ideal place for the Co-op. Until we find a building our main functions will continue to be the film library and information service and the screenings we are able to put on in rented halls and cinemas around town. But we are looking for a place and it will happen soon.

To reach us write to 208 Ladbroke Grove, W 10; phone TEL 361 afternoons only, BAY 2828 evenings.

The Co-op has been joined by Carla Liss from the Film-Makers' Cinematheque in New York who is now managing the Co-op affairs. She has arranged for the prints from the Avantgarde Travelling Library which were shown in the New American Cinema show at the NFT (and others) to be deposited with the London Co-op as of next month when they will arrive from NY and a catalogue supplement and wide mailing will come out at that time.

The film library and Carla's desk are presently housed in Dave Curtis' flat; however due to landlord's regulations, business mail cannot be received at that address. Our receiving address for all correspondence is now c/o Dvoskin 208 Ladbroke Grove, London W. 10. We hope that within the next 2 months we will at last have a permanent home which will house the film library, film workshop (including processing and printing equipment), office and cinema. We have become legally registered as non-profit and are now applying to various places for both financial donations and donation of a building. A prospective plan is to house the Co-op in a building together with the new arts lab (as yet unnamed) which the people who left the old lab on Drury Lane are forming. The Co-op in conjunction with this group is applying to various councils for use of a building and are quite hopeful that something will come through in the near future.

Distribution: Though bookings are coming in very steadily and at a good rate, there is still a great potential audience that doesn't yet know of the Co-op who we hope to reach within the next two months through publicity and a greater amount of Co-op screenings. We will be doing articles for college magazines and newspapers (as well as IT) on underground films. (Film-makers' with articles and stills and ideas - put ideas into words if not film - please send to C. Liss 208 Ladbroke Grove for publication) We are also using the ICA's mailing list, the BFI register, A.I.R. register and the new mailing register that is forming out of the Arts Labs conference in Cambridge. Release has offered space and secretarial help to an arts lab co-ordinator who will compile monthly information sheets on what kind of program the various labs etc. want and what programs are available to be booked out that month. The Co-op is also planning package programs with advance publicity (posters & program notes) to tour the circuits. During the summer (slow booking months due to summer vacations in the schools) a Co-op member may possibly travel with the films in a van around England.

Filmshows: A great boon to the Co-op in the London area is the Electric Cinema Club which runs late night films at the Imperial Cinema, Portobello Rd. on Fri. Sat. & Sun nites. They specialise in avantgarde and other out of the way films and give their profits to charity (Co-op included). They will also use the cinema for open screenings and Co-op benefits aside from booking Co-op films regularly for their weekly programs. (Note: C. Liss performing FLUCLINIC there weekend of 15th '68.) The Redmark Gallery in W. 1 is also interested in running weekly Co-op shows and we meet with the owner next week to discuss it. Though the place isn't very large we would be hitting a different audience than that which usually turns out for "underground events", and this kind of exposure should be quite good. -- In December at All Saints Hall in Notting Hill Gate and at the Living Arts Workshop, Uxley 2 benefit screenings were run by and for the Co-op. We ran films loaned by the film-makers to the Co-op without hire fee for this purpose and a bit of money was raised to help with office supplies, postage, catalogue etc.

Film & Equipment: Fred Drummond has a source of cheap film stock-- film-makers wanting film write to him c/o Co-op 208 Ladbroke Grove, or phone Carla LAY 2628 evenings only.

Film-makers wanting to use rewinds and viewer and tape splice come to 126 Long Acre, flat 3, afternoons only.

Processing and printing contact Malcolm LeGrice, 48 Salisbury Rd., Harrow, Middx phone 427 5914.

Note: Volunteers urgently needed to help with Co-op work -- the more we expand for the film-makers the more work there is and the more we need the film-makers help-- please support the Co-op and lend a hand.

Note 2: In the General Meeting Nov. 26, Bob Cobbing resigned as treasurer and Malcolm LeGrice was elected in his place.