

CIRCLES

Women's Film, Video and Performance

2nd March 1982

David Curtis
Film Department
Arts Council of GB
105 Piccadilly
London W1V 0AU

Dear Dave,

This is to confirm some of the points I mentioned over the phone earlier today regarding the two 'modular' scheme programmes proposed by Lis and myself.

Firstly, we have decided that the programme "Her Image Fades as Her Voice Rises" should include *OFTEN DURING THE DAY*, *THE SMILING MADAME BEUDET* and *LIGHT READING* (in that order), total running time of 70 minutes. We'd also like to be able to include Alice Guy's *A HOUSE DIVIDED* (13 mins) but if you feel the programme would be too long/expensive, this would be the only title we'd be prepared to drop. Personally I think it'd be a shame to drop Alice Guy as obviously, being the first woman filmmaker, she's the 'popularising' element of the programme as well as being relevant to the theme we'd write about. However we think it's crucial that the other three films are shown together because there's so many points of reference common to all three and also because we don't want to present a kind of historical survey which might be the impression if only one contemporary film is chosen to go with two old films.

The alternative you suggested, whereby *A HOUSE DIVIDED* is offered as an optional extra, is a good idea in some ways except it raises problems with how Lis and I write about the programme - do we write about Alice Guy or don't we and if we do isn't it cheating if she's excluded from the actual programme on offer, making her film an extra? I'll await your and the committee's comments on this before proceeding any further.

As I mentioned the programme was shown here at Four Corners last week and went down extremely well with a lot of exciting discussion afterwards from the women present. However it was a very loaded programme, almost too much to take in in one screening (I don't mean this in minutes/running time - but the ideas and what came out of the evening), so maybe Alice Guy had better be dropped ... I can't really decide! Perhaps you'd better commission a third programme with her in (+ the slide-tape intro if necessary), Maya Deren and another ...

The second programme, "Another Story to Tell", would be as is in my original application. Again, I don't want to write programme notes until the films have been shown here, with the filmmakers present and with discussion on the programme and the ideas behind it. That doesn't mean I haven't got certain ideas in my head...

Another point you raised was whether we intended the programmes to go out as women-only shows. I'm confirming that this is not the case although I do think women-only audiences are useful, sometimes preferable. The show here was a particular show and was women-only for a particular reason! It's not Circles' policy to specify the gender of our audiences although we did set up Circles in order that more women would see the films. I think this is also the thinking behind the two programmes - that they will appeal to a wider audience than some more esoteric programmes and in particular to women who don't necessarily have a film/theory background.

The prices you asked me for are as follows:

SMILING MADAME BEUDET Sub-titling costs £110.00
WOMEN OF THE RHONDDA print costs £158.80 (inc. VAT)
SHADOW OF A JOURNEY approx £100
* A HOUSE DIVIDED approx £50 inc. postage

The above are all films I'd need extra prints of, others I either have 2 optical prints or they're not heavily in demand. I decided against another print of SMILING MADAME BEUDET as there is another copy in the BFI, but I think the one I've got had better be subtitled (it usually goes out with translation notes for reading out over the film).

I think that's all. Lis and I will write introduction/programme notes when we get confirmation in writing about the scheme - as yet we've only heard verbally that it's going ahead.

I think that's all. Please DON'T reproduce this letter round the committee, it's a letter after all and not intended as a statement for circulation. Surely you could just quote from it at your meeting?

Best wishes,

Felicity
Felicity

* Can you issue an order for these -
to Circles + PA invoice the AC when
I have receipts.

c.c. L. Rhodes