

FILM/VIDEO PROGRAMMING ADVISOR - Animateur
SHORT-LIFE PROGRAMME TOURS - 'Umbrella'

Our current animateur - Simon Field - has been invited to programme the Collective for Living Cinema in New York for a year from Sept '83, and the only other qualified candidate for our job - Rod Stoneman - has other commitments in 1983-84. So unless a dark horse emerges we will be without an animateur for at least a year.

This leaves our 'Umbrella' scheme floating without support unless we create a new post specifically to promote and co-ordinate it.

My recommendation is therefore that Committee should offer a part-time bursary with the primary objective of constructing and promoting an umbrella of packages during 1983-84.

In the first instance the job would involve touring 3 short-life packages during this Autumn. (as outlined below, following our policy discussion brief meetings of April 11 and 18), plus the 4-5 'Modular' units which are available on a longer-term basis. (American Video 1-4, Her Image Fades...., Working Frame By Frame, Image and Sound (sic), Another Story to Tell.....).

A second season of 3 short-life packages would be available in the Spring. The task would involve the gathering together of tapes/films for the different packages (sorting out availability problems), organising publicity (documentation, advance reviews, posters, etc) direct promotion of the different units to appropriate venues; and co-ordinating the tour (+ speakers etc).

If time permitted, the Umbrella organiser might additionally co-ordinate tours of other short-life programmes that become available (an artist from abroad, or a programme from LVA/Circles/LFMCo-op that received good publicity and for which there was a sudden demand). A further valuable potential 'function' would be the co-ordination and upgrading of the publicity of the different London venues (LVA, LFMC, ICA, Tate, B2, Circles/4Corners etc).

Given the desirability of having the umbrella on the road this Autumn, I have drawn up the following proposals for short-life packages (in consultation with Simon Field and Al Rees) and some ground work is being done on placing them.

ProposalsRobert Breer

Following Robert Breer's appearance at Cambridge, the intention would be to arrange 1 or 2 speaking engagements for him in late September and subsequently to tour (Oct-Nov) a small exhibition of his art-work, an interview video-tape, a compilation tape of his work plus one film programme of 'Breer and his Sources'.

Cubism

The popularity of this recent season at the Tate (organised by DC and ALR) and a number of enquiries, suggest that a tour of a much scaled-down version (2 programmes rather than 7) might be successful. A talk or slide-tape show would introduce the film programmes and related appearances by film/video artists (using the Tour schemes) would be possible.

Recent British Video

This 4 programme exhibition arranged by Stuart Marshall through the British Council for the Kitchen in New York offers state of the art survey of recent trends. A catalogue exists with introduction by SM plus artists statements and images from the work, and we are investigating re-print costs. Only a few venues are likely to be able to accommodate all 4 programmes, but selections are possible. SM would introduce the first show at most venues, and related Video Artists on Tour appearances would be encouraged.

The second season (Spring 84) would hopefully similarly capitalise on existing external initiatives but the suggestion has also been made that a 'workshop' event aimed at primary/secondary schools might be one of the units offered.

An urgent priority is to appoint the umbrella organiser, and my recommendation is that the bursary be offered to Mike O'Pray, who has indicated that he's willing to take it on if Committee approves. His recent organisation of the Landscape event though not exemplary in programming terms, suggests that he is able to co-ordinate events between several venues, and has the right contacts in terms of publicity etc.

A figure of £5,000 was reserved by Committee for the animateur's fee plus expenses (meeting of April 18). My recommendation would be that this be amended to £3,000 plus £500 expenses for the reduced role of the umbrella organiser.