

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Ian Reid  
FROM: Rodney Wilson  
DATE: February 28, 1990

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G.B. Touring Fund

1. G.B. Touring funds are made available to the FVB Dept. to enable an expansion of the activities of the Film & Video Umbrella.
2. In response to the points in your memo:
  - a) The Film & Video Umbrella was established in 1985 as a one-person (p-t) organisation dedicated to providing programmes of work by film and video artists primarily to Regional Film Theatres. It received £8k from the AFVC, matched by the BFI, for this purpose. The £35k provided by GB Touring allowed this service to be extended to large and small-scale galleries in the regions with a new emphasis on promoting video art and 'sculptural' video installations.
  - b)
    - i) In the year prior to this expansion (87-88), the umbrella organised 4 major film tours (39 venues: 181 screenings - see appendix).
    - ii) In the first full year after expansion (88-89) the umbrella organised 8 major tours; 4 film tours (57 venues, 91 screenings), 2 video tours (23 venues, 59 screenings), 2 gallery-based video exhibitions, and a lecture/video programme (see appendix).
    - iii) It also conducted a survey of galleries to provide a data-base for future expansion of the service; organised a symposium for curators on video exhibition issues; and provided programming advice and assistance to a wide range of regional clients.
    - iv) The figures for 89-90 are not yet available, but it would appear that this increased level of activity has been sustained, with a number of substantial video exhibitions in the pipeline.

- c) There have been a number of unexpected bonuses deriving from this funding:
- i) the growing international reputation of the Umbrella has led to a demand for its programming from abroad (France, Germany, Australia, USA, South America) with consequent benefits to artists featured in these programmes.
  - ii) The Umbrella has been recognised by the London Funders Group (BFI/~~GLA~~/LBGS/C4) as the best model for future investment in independent sector distributor/exhibition initiatives.
  - iii) The Umbrella has ~~proved~~ a catalyst to take up <sup>the</sup> AFVC's venue-based commissioning scheme.
- d) answered in (a)
- e) Our intention is to consolidate the activities of the Umbrella before undertaking any new Touring initiatives. We are seeking confirmation of a further 3 years of GB Touring funding for this purpose.

Rodney