

**From:** Elaine Burrows <Elaine.Burrows@bfi.org.uk>  
**To:** postmaster <postmaster@lfvda.demon.co.uk>  
**Date:** Thu, Nov 9, 2000, 11:15 am  
**Subject:** RE: Cinenova

---

Dear Gill,

Thanks for your e-mail. I'm afraid I haven't had time to update you recently; I hope at least some of your concerns will be allayed by what follows.

We had a Board meeting last week and agreed that, because of the uncertain nature of the funding, it would be improper to recruit new staff at present. However, we decided that it would be possible to employ someone part-time as an interim arrangement and have therefore engaged Melanie Wiley (working a couple of days a week at Four Corners) on a two-day-a-week basis to keep an eye on things. Mel is happy to do this, and Shona is having one handover day with her today and another next week. We felt that this was a better option than closing the company because we are confident of obtaining future funding. We considered that it would be more problematic to close down entirely and then have to try to pick up the pieces when the new funding came through.

We have sent a letter to the film-makers - which I deduce you have already seen - explaining the situation and asking them to attend an Extraordinary General Meeting at the end of this month (the earliest we could arrange such a thing). In case you \*haven't\* already seen the letter, the body of the text is :

" ... The proposal to be presented by the Cinenova Board is that the organisation will temporarily shutdown until small business stabilisation funding be secured. This has been precipitated by our Business Development Manager deciding to quit during her probationary period, and by our Distribution Manager leaving to take up a post with the British Film Institute. Cinenova would continue under core fundraising and administrative personnel during this interim period. Normal marketing and distribution activity would be suspended.

This is not a proposal to close Cinenova. All bookings that have already been made for the next four months will be honoured.

Throughout this time the general Cinenova email address <admin@cinenova.org.uk> would continue to be active and we would endeavour to respond to all correspondence from both filmmakers and associates. Similarly Cinenova On-Line at [www.cinenova.org](http://www.cinenova.org) would provide a contact point for information and updates. Please also be assured that filmmaker royalties are still being collated and payments will be administered, and you will continue to receive individual correspondence on various projects underway.

RE: Cinenova

Fri, Nov 10, 2000 9:55 am

Our current fundraising activities are the New Opportunities Fund digitisation fund, with Cinenova in consortium partnership with the British Film Institute, the Lux Centre and British Pathe, and the RALP business development fund, which will stabilise Cinenova, write off our deficit and provide substantial funds for distribution and development. Sandy Weiland is the fundraiser on these two projects.

We urge all filmmakers, as members of Cinenova, to attend this crucial EGM if possible in order to openly discuss this proposed action. We expect to have our audited accounts at this time and a clear picture of our financial position. All filmmakers will be fully informed of the outcome of this meeting and of future developments. "

As you request, I will contact the other Board members and see who can meet on which days.

all the best

elaine