

7th July 1977

Chris Garratt
Kintore
Poughill
Nr. Crediton, Devon.

Dear Chris,

Thanks for your letter of 30th June - Mary Pat is a way for a couple of months so I'm replying.

We do prefer to keep prints of films listed in the catalogue here in the distribution Library but of course it's up to you; if you need the print in Devon I'll send it back. There are very few bookings over the summer period so I doubt if we will be sending the film out. However David Curtis (now working for the Arts Council and possibly buying prints for their Film Tour etc) has expressed interest in the film and I think will be contacting you sometime with regard to viewing it so for that reason it may be a good idea for us to hang onto it.

I'm about to send a circular to all filmmakers about the question of previewing facilities plus the supplement to the catalogue, so I'll do that in this letter (and save 7p). At present we don't allow any previewing at all without either a straight rental being paid or the potential hirer getting permission from the filmmaker concerned first. At a meeting here it was decided that a more flexible arrangement could be made subject to the agreement of all filmmakers concerned. Would you agree to your film being shown to a potential hirer free of charge (but on the understanding there would be a future booking) at the discretion of the Distribution staff, ie we wouldn't encourage just casual interest? A fee of £5 would be charged per multiple screening to pay a projectionist and to cover the extra work involved in checking prints afterwards. This would mainly apply to foreign bookers but we are also hoping to collaborate with the BFI and their programme planning for regional theatres, with a result that hopefully more independent films will be shown in an appropriate critical/sympathetic context.

To tie in with this we are also planning to build up a "resource" centre here at the Co-op with documentation on filmmakers and films other than what is in the catalogue, plus stills etc. This would be useful for people planning festivals etc and stuff could be duplicated and sent out with the films. Can you send us any documentation - as much as you like, including reviews of films, biographical details etc.

Finally the supplement to the catalogue; I hope to do this in September for mailing in October. Have you anything to be added to either the body of the catalogue or the expanded cinema section? Incidentally ROMANTIC ITALY is listed as 8mins £3.20; on checking the print it looks more like 16mins. Do you want any amendment made? Or are there 2 films on the spool?

.../

The show in Paris was very successful. I don't have any details other than a poster and a review in French, however several people from here went over and said the reaction to the whole programme of films was incredible (incroyable!) and there was great interest in the work being done here. The British Council were impressed too and it is hoped to put on a bigger show next year paying better rates (L 2 per minute isn't very good considering the length of time the films are out of the country). There's about £8 due to you for the rental which Mary Pat and I will be sending out in September when we make our next payment to filmmakers.

Sorry this is such a long letter - I'll have to make my circular more concise. If you want to telephone about any of the things I've mentioned here I'll be in the office till July 15th then from August 2nd onwards.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Felicity Sparrow
Distribution Office

PS N.B. NEW ADDRESS FROM SEPT (hopefully) ONWARDS:

42 Gloucester Avenue
LONDON N.W.1. (not far from here - bigger & better but
a lot of work to be done)

Tel: Distribution & Cinema :01-586 4806
Workshop :01-722 1728