

MEMORANDUM

To: Anthony Smith
cc: Barrie Ellis Jones

From: Ian Christie
Date: 21 June 1984

The following are some ways in which the GLC may be able to continue the momentum of its work in film after 1985, for discussion at our forthcoming meeting.

1.

Creation of a London Cinema Support trust or endowment, aimed to help maintain and restore the fabric of London cinemas, especially in under-provided boroughs; also to encourage new initiatives for conversion and building. (The seminar on the highly successful French Regional Development Agency which we are holding on 9 July should provide some concrete ideas on such work - I will send invitations directly to GLC personnel.)

2.

Support for a continuing research project on the needs and interests of local ethnic minorities in film and other visual media, to help shape policy of BFI and other agencies with a cultural brief (cf my paper to Ethnic Working Party).

3.

Support for a centre devoted to co-ordinating research, information and possible archiving of Anglophone Third World film/tv, partly as a resource for UK ethnic groups (cf also my paper to Ethnic Working Party).

4.

Support for acquisition of a substantial library of ethnic and Third World film/video/tv for long-term distribution and research access (via BFI Film & Video Library). This could either be a one-off capital transaction or funding of an extended acquisitions programme to be advised by suitable representatives of ethnic groups and activists in this field.

5.

Support for a Programme Adviser, to be based in BFI Distribution Division as per Jim Pines' Commonwealth Institute report, to help co-ordinate contributions to programming with and for ethnic minorities.

6.

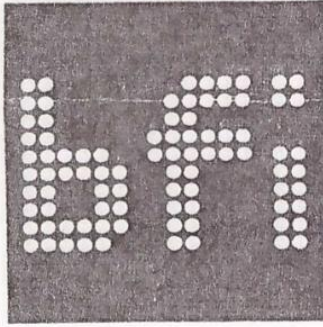
Capital and revenue support for a project to establish a major new cinema and cultural centre devoted to the cause of greater East-West understanding and the freer circulation of commercially disadvantaged works. One element of its programme would be a selective programme of Soviet films; others would be from the Third World. This project has already been under discussion for some time with such groups as the GB-USSR Association but is still very open to policy discussion and re-orientation.

7.

Assistance to London Filmmakers' Co-op to help them move from present highly unsuitable and short-term premises to a more suitable location. Also one-off contribution towards improving their workshop, distribution and cinema resources.

8

Other obvious areas for discussion are the London workshops, cinema in community centres, video resources, festivals, bursaries for filmmakers, researchers, etc.



127 CHARING CROSS ROAD,
LONDON WC2H 0EA

Telephone: 01-437 4355
Telegrams/Cables: BRIFILINST LONDON W1
Telex: 27624

Patron/HRH The Prince of Wales, KG, KT, GCB

Chairman/Sir Richard Attenborough, CBE
Director/Anthony Smith
Deputy Director/Gerry Rawlinson

3 July 1984

Alan Tomkins Esq
Greater London Council
The County Hall
London
SE1 7PB

Dear Alan

Regional Production Fund Committee Review Group

Attached is a formal letter inviting you to make submission to the above Group. The Group would be grateful to you if, in making your submission, you particularly seek and convey the views of any non-franchised workshops in your region.

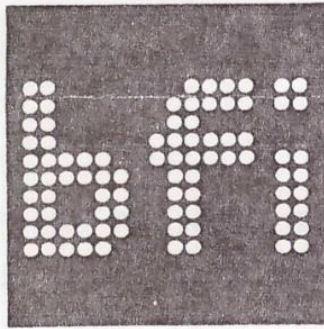
With thanks and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Barrie', written over the typed name.

Barrie Ellis-Jones
Head of Funding and Development Division

cc: Lord Birkett
Shirley Linden
Parminder Vir
Paul Marris



127 CHARING CROSS ROAD,
LONDON WC2H 0EA

Telephone: 01-437 4355
Telegrams/Cables: BRIFILINST LONDON W1
Telex: 27624

Patron/HRH The Prince of Wales, KG, KT, GCB

Chairman/Sir Richard Attenborough, CBE
Director/Anthony Smith
Deputy Director/Gerry Rawlinson

3 July 1984

Alan Tomkins Esq
Greater London Council
The County Hall
London
SE1 7PB

Dear Alan

Regional Production Fund Committee

The Institute's Governors have appointed a Group, chaired by a Governor (Alan Sapper) to review the structure, function and responsibilities of the Regional Production Fund Committee and whether or not it should continue to exist.

The membership of the Review Group is Alan Sapper, Alan Fountain, Gillian Lacey, Richard Woolley, Gerry Rawlinson and Barrie Ellis-Jones. It will be reporting to BFI Governors in October and will be meeting twice in September to study submissions and to draw up its report. The Review Group will be pleased to consider the written views of the Greater London Council on the structure, function and responsibilities of the Regional Production Fund Committee. To help you frame them I attach a description of the Committee as currently constituted and operating.

Please send your submission to Barrie Ellis-Jones, Funding and Development Division, British Film Institute, 127 Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0EA, to arrive by Monday, September 3, 1984.

Yours sincerely

Barrie Ellis-Jones
Head of Funding and Development Division

cc: Lord Birkett
Shirley Linden

Parminder Vir
Paul Marriss

APPENDIX

The current function of the Regional Production Fund Committee is to be responsible for the Fund's grant allocations to Workshops within Institute policy. The Committee reports to the Regional Consultative Committee, whose minutes are circulated to Governors. The Committee is chaired by a Governor (Alan Sapper). Its membership is drawn from what has hitherto been regarded as the representative bodies central to its area of activity. ACTT is represented by the Committee's Chairperson and one other; the IFVA by two, the RAA Film Officers by two, the Regional Consortium by one; Channel 4 by its Commissioning Editor for independent film and video, and the Black Media Workers Association by one person.

Constitutionally each member of the Committee is appointed as an individual. Effectively, however, members function as representatives. Constitutionally, also, the Committee is advisory to the Institute. In practice and effect it has functioned as an executive body assessing applications, making allocations and conditions of grant, and developing its own strategies. The Committee meets some six times each year. Its budget is £220,000.

Greater London Council - Inner London Education Authority

MEMORANDUM

To: Film Working Group Room: c/o 189
From: Paul Marris Room: 675
Tel: 1363- Date: 16.7.84

Response to British Film Institute

1. When we met the BFI on 2 July 1984, they laid out before us an itemised list of 8 points which they were recommending for action by us. Our response to each of these is being drawn up in a memorandum by Shirley Linden and Parminder Vir.
2. We have been invited by the BFI to submit our views to their Governors' Sub-Committee reviewing the status of the Regional Production Fund Committee for an October report-back. We shall convene a consultative meeting with London film and video 'workshop' groups funded by us to garner their views, and then draw up a submission.
3. We should consider ways of getting assurances from the Institute that for an agreed initial period a substantial and fair proportion of the £1 million destined for the BFI to replace film and video funding presently carried out by the GLC and Metropolitan Councils will be spent in Greater London, and along not dissimilar lines.
4. A report on the BFI's application for a guarantee against loss for this November's London Film Festival will go to the Arts and Recreation Committee in September.

Note to Ken Little

From Shirley Linden DG/PSG/AR

16th July 1984

BRIEFING FOR MEETING WITH BFI 17.7.84

You will find attached an internal BFI note from Barrie Ellis-Jones to Tony Smith which formed the agenda for an officer level meeting which Alan Tomkins, Parminder Vir, Paul Marris and I attended.

What follows are our suggestions for a GLC response at the meeting.

1. THE INVESTMENT FUND IDEA

They are aware, and have been party to, discussions held at County Hall on this, so they know that we are considering this.

We are, of course, generally in favour of this and have done some preliminary work (it is now being considered by Legal Branch) but there seem to be some important differences in our thinking and/or issues to be clarified with them;

- (i) we have in mind a joint GLC/BFI plus perhaps ACTT, Ch. 4 endeavour, and had assumed that the 'London' part of the BFI £1m (plus anymore rung from government) would form part of BFI contribution
- (ii) their idea seems to be simply directed towards 'fabric'. Current GLC funding, which such a fund would partly replace, is much more directed towards fabric and facilities only in as much as they relate to non-commercial workshop-type production, distribution, exhibition groups.

2/3/4

INITIATIVES CONCERNED WITH ETHNIC MINORITIES/THIRD WORLD

Generally, Parminder will talk to this one.

But, GLC can, of course, only consider initiatives which have Londoners as the reference point and so, even if these were runners, would only partly contribute.

5 BFI PROGRAMME ADVISOR

This seems to have little to do with the GLC. Could we possibly consider funding a BFI worker?

6 CENTRE FOR EAST-WEST UNDERSTANDING

Whilst in terms of 'film', this is an interesting idea and laudable, it certainly would not have a high priority in this council; it's very expensive; the timing is wrong; and does not relate to the articulated demands of ethnic minorities in London.

7

LONDON FILM-MAKERS COOP

Other Cinema
Rio, Ruby

We could possibly consider joint funding GLC/BFI and find them premises e.g. in the Cultural Partnerships building, de Beauvoir. We suggest Marris and Christie (BFI) meet to discuss this and report back as appropriate.

8

'OTHER OBVIOUS AREAS'

workshops	should come out of London element of BFI £1m plus
cinemas in community centres	? what does this mean
video resources	GLC is working on a joint GLEB/GLC initiative with LVA
festivals	?
bursaries	GLC finds this difficult and can only do it via a reputable third party
researchers	yes, of course, to do what in what context, attached to whom, etc. ?

You will also find attached a letter from them asking for a GLC contribution to the review they instituted following the rout of their proposal to disband this.

Alan has written to them/or will be, suggesting that we will convene a meeting of the non-franchised workshops we fund, and, subsequently, prepare a submission.

c.c. Alan Tomkins
Paul Marris
Parminder Vir