



**BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Minutes** of the meeting held on **19<sup>th</sup> September 2007** from 10:30am – 13:00pm, in the BFI Boardroom, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN

PRESENT: Roger Laughton, CBE (Acting Chairman), Eric Fellner, CBE, Caroline Michel, Leslie Hardcastle, OBE, Peter Watson, Stephen Frears, Elan Closs Stephens, CBE, John Akomfrah, Peter Foy, Tim Angel, OBE, Sam Taylor-Wood, Lizzie Francke, Shami Chakrabarti, CBE.

IN ATTENDANCE: Amanda Nevill, Richard Brousson (Secretary), Jill McLaughlin, Nick Mason Pearson, Jeanette Wilkins, Eddie Berg, Heather Stewart, Richard Paterson

APOLOGIES: Anthony Minghella, CBE,

**1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1.1. There were no declarations of interests in any matter before the meeting.

**2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (18<sup>th</sup> July 2007) AND MATTERS ARISING**

2.1 The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

2.2 The Board requested that an update on the Archive storage paper be brought back to the Board once the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review was known.

2.3 The Executive remained optimistic about a positive outcome from the Comprehensive Spending Review, which was expected to be announced in November.

2.4 It was confirmed that when nitrate film is shown at BFI Southbank a safety thread is in place and all industry recognised safety procedures are followed.

### **3 DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- 3.1 Amanda Nevill presented the paper to the meeting.
- 3.2 Graham Garbis and Lisa Rowe were thanked for their help in achieving a settlement with Mansells at a level below the provision made in the budget.
- 3.3 The screening in Trafalgar square of *A Throw of Dice*, with a score composed and performed by Nitin Sawhney with the London Symphony Orchestra, was widely hailed as a great success.
- 3.4 The public voted for the BFI National Archive over the Cutty Sark on BBC Radio 4's programme *National Treasures*.
- 3.5 Ken Loach's new film "*It's a Free World...*" was previewed as a Guardian Interview at BFI Southbank, whilst being simultaneously broadcast to venues throughout the UK. It is hoped that this will be a model for further national events.
- 3.6 The launch of the London Film Festival at the Odeon West End received excellent press coverage.

### **4 GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1 **Health and Safety:**
- 4.2 The problems with both the guttering and the fire alarm system at BFI Southbank have been resolved.
- 4.3 The environmental upgrade to the Acetate 1 vault is progressing as planned.
- 4.4 **Audit and Governance:**
- 4.5 The internal audit report highlighted issues relating to carrying out best practice in relation to corporate governance.
- 4.6 The recommendations from the report will be incorporated into new structures being proposed in a paper to be presented to the next Audit and Governance committee meeting in November, which will then be put before the Board for adoption.
- 4.7 The audit of the financial year to March 2007 is substantially complete.

#### **4.8 Budget and Performance:**

4.9 The BFI's difficult financial position was discussed. It was agreed to discuss this again in the light of the outcome of the CSR. Concern was expressed that, even after further savings had been identified, there will be a revenue shortfall.

4.10 Nominations and Appointments Committee: There are presently 3 vacancies on the Board, due to the decision to allow the new chairman to have an input later in the year into such new appointments. The Board approved Elan Closs-Stephens and John Akomfrah remaining as Governors until the end of the year.

### **5 THE BFI NATIONAL LIBRARY and HE**

5.1 Heather Stewart and Richard Paterson presented this paper which was noted and the following points were made:

5.2 The BFI is presently in discussions with 2 HE organisations (the University of Arts London and the University of London, Senate House) to create a new partnership relating to the BFI National Library with the HE sector, a key stakeholder of the BFI.

5.3 The aim of the partnership is to increase investment in the BFI National Library to improve access to this collection.

5.4 A recommendation will be brought back to the Board later in the year.

### **6 FILM CENTRE**

6.1. Amanda Nevill, Jill Mclaughlin and Jeanette Wilkins gave presentations about the Film Centre on the following topics:

- (a) Cultural vision
- (b) Capital cost
- (c) Revenue cost

6.2. The Board discussed the presentations and the following points were made:

6.3. The Executive confirmed that scholarship was an important part of the vision.

6.4. The Board requested that the building should be mutable and changeable to enable it to be constantly refreshed.

- 6.5. The Board gave its broad support for the vision, noted the capital and revenue costs and requested more detail be supplied at the next meeting in relation to the revenue and capital costs particularly in the context of the BFI's present financial difficulties.

## **7 AOB**

- 7.1 None.

### **Lunch**

The meeting closed at 1.30pm