

LOWDOWN

The Low Budget Funding Guide



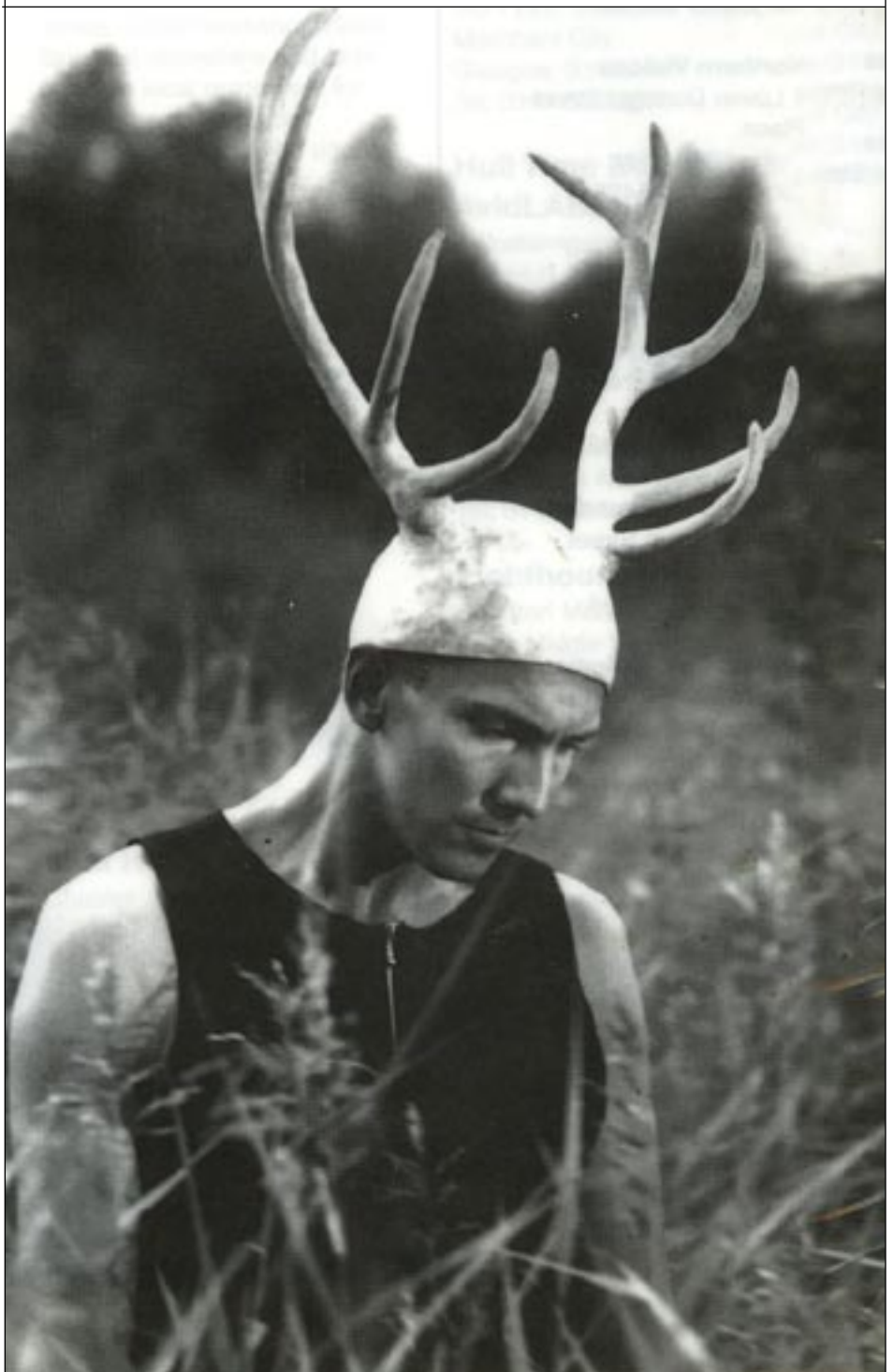
1999 - 2000

The Low Budget Funding Guide is produced annually by the Production Department of the British Film Institute as part of its commitment to access, diversity and quality in the development of a truly national film and video culture.

The British Film Institute offers opportunities to experience, enjoy and discover more about the world of film and television.

For details of other current bfi activities, please call the 24-hour *bfi* events line 0870 240 50 50 (national call rate applies) or visit www.bfi.org.uk

WILDLIFE



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The British Film Institute's Production Department gratefully acknowledges the assistance of all those organisations listed in the Low Budget Funding Guide.

Publications and periodicals listings compiled by the bfi National Library.

The editor has made every effort to ensure that information is accurate and up-to-date. If there are any schemes or projects which you wish to be considered for inclusion in the next edition, please contact the Production Department on 0171 255 1444

Copies of the Low Budget Funding Guide are available from bfi Production Department, Regional Arts Boards, media development agencies and national film councils.

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Photographer: Anglia

GETTING STARTED

The Low Budget Funding Guide, now in its seventh year, provides a comprehensive listing of grants available for film and video production offered by national and regional arts and media organisations - including the National Lottery. It also looks at broadcast co-production initiatives and schemes for film makers new to television. There is advice on the advantages of forming a limited company, along with information on support for small businesses - with a special focus on the Enterprise Investment Scheme. There is a short section on the pros and cons of charitable status plus a brief look at raising finance through sponsorship and charitable trusts. Addresses of all of the organisations mentioned below are listed under Useful Information.

Lowdown gives brief descriptions of each scheme or funding source and whilst we hope that this is sufficient for you to decide whether it is worth pursuing a particular lead, it is essential to carry out your own research.

NEW DIRECTIONS

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has continued to focus its attention on how best to support the film industry and film culture and education. By April 2000, the DCMS will have set up a new strategic body for film. To be called the Film Council, it will be one of only two film bodies directly funded by the DCMS (the other being the National Film and Television School). It will be an influential body responsible for setting strategy for government support and industry liaison right across the film production, exhibition and distribution industries. This will be the first time that one government agency has combined responsibility for both encouraging 'cultural' and 'commercial' film activity. In the first instance, the Film Council is to incorporate the staff and activities of the British Film Commission (BFC). BFI Production and the Arts Council of England (ACE) Lottery Film Department. In addition, funding currently allocated by the DCMS to other film organisations - including British Screen Finance and the BFI - will in future be routed through the Film Council, which will be responsible for agreeing targets and monitoring those bodies.

At the time of writing, it is difficult to assess the full impact of this new organisation. It will be expected to deliver upon the broad agenda set out in *A Bigger Picture* (the report of the DCMS Film Policy Review Group, published in April 1998). Its status as distributor of Lottery funds for film production in England has led to an expectation that it will shake up the pattern of support available from the Lottery and create a cultural production strategy building

upon ACE's proposed "Alpha Fund" (which was put on hold prior to the creation of the Film Council) and BFI Production. The Film Council is to have a UK-wide remit but will have no direct engagement with, for example, Lottery production funds from Scotland. Nevertheless, this new agency has the potential to establish clear leadership and a more coherent pattern of support.

The coming year may also see changes in how film development and production support is delivered in the English regions. The current situation can appear complex with a web of support and relationships involving the BFI, ACE, RABs and MDAs, BFC, regional screen commissions, local authorities and many other organisations. Arguably, the Film Council brings with it an impetus to create regional media development structures which correspond more closely to its unitary structure. At the same time, the creation of influential Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) - which will lead on economic regeneration - and changes in the pattern of European Union regional funding may lead to new structures for industrial and business support. Another result of the DCMS Departmental Spending Review has been the creation of Regional Cultural Consortia (RCC) which bring together all of the agencies in each region that fall within the DCMS remit (sports heritage, arts, libraries and tourism as well as film). RCC have been charged with setting a regional cultural strategy and will advise RDAs on cultural issues. In all, the potential for change is enormous: the direction and consequences are unknowable.

As outlined above, responsibility for proposed new Lottery schemes to support development distribution and cultural production now rests with the Film Council. However ACE has made a number of changes which may be beneficial to some film makers. Two strands of Lottery funding have been delegated to RABs: for small capital projects of up to £100,000; and a projects scheme which follows on from ACE - together called the Regional Arts Lottery Programme. The delegated capital strand will not be open to film production applications but would be able to support equipment purchase for regionally-based groups or companies. The projects scheme is unlikely to support short films for cinema but should be accessible for community-based production, educational projects, Installations or artists' film and video work for exhibition in galleries. Each RAB has a set of regional priorities and grants will range between £5,000 - 30,000.

Finally on ACE, its recent restructure has led to the creation of a Broadcast and New Media Department. Its role will be to broker links between ACE's artform departments and broadcasters to facilitate creative television projects - along the lines of *Dance on Camera*. There is also continuing discussion of the creation of a Recordings and Publications scheme using Lottery funds. This would potentially be able to support arts

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broadcasting and creative documentaries and would presumably, support the work of the Broadcast and New Media Department.

In Scotland, it has been agreed that responsibility for Lottery production support will transfer from the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) to Scottish Screen. This is expected to take place at some point during the current financial year. It seems unlikely that the change will have any immediate effect on the availability of funds in Scotland with the schemes listed under Lottery Funding switching from SAC to Scottish Screen (hopefully) seamlessly. Plans are still on course within SAC for a low budget Lottery scheme, scheduled for launch at the Edinburgh International Film Festival in August 1999.

The Arts Council of Wales (ACW) is only able to make a comparatively small amount of money available for film - in the region of £1 million (the exact allocation will depend on the number and quality of applications for all Lottery schemes in Wales). Sources at Sgrŷn ; the media development agency for Wales, fear that the number of good applications for film production will exceed the allocation available well before the end of the financial year: it will certainly limit ACW's ability to respond to more than a very few applications for feature film projects.

Elsewhere in Lottery-land, there are a few new opportunities which film makers may be able to take advantage of. Millennium Festival Awards For All will run from April 1999 to June 2000. Grants on offer are very small - between £500 and £5,000 - with a user-friendly application form and rapid decision-making. Awards for All is aimed at community groups wishing to organise projects celebrating the millennium, bringing communities together and increasing people's involvement in new activities. Film or video productions, especially by small, voluntary groups, fall squarely within the guidelines. Application details are obtainable by calling the Millennium Festival office.

NESTA, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts was first proposed soon after the 1997 general election as a way to encourage entrepreneurship and support talented individuals. It will have an especial interest in assisting in turning good ideas into bankable, employment-generating businesses. At the time of writing it was about to launch details of schemes but projects working with screenwriters and to assist lively young production companies seem to be very much in keeping with its aspirations.

Away from the world of grant aid, there has been a spate of film financing developments exploiting the UK government's film production tax write-off

regime. This marks a growing and welcome willingness on the part of City institutions (and their wealthy clients) to become involved in film projects. The schemes have involved some of the giants of the UK accountancy and finance world, such as Ernst and Young, as well as specialist media outfits like Factor 8 Films. Schemes vary from acquisition of existing features (which yields money for the producers to invest in future projects) to investments in slates of new films. The Enterprise Investment Scheme which uses a special tax relief for investors in high-risk businesses is discussed later.

Looking at the other end of the budgetary spectrum, the last few months has seen a growth in interest in micro-budget production - not as a cruel expedient forced upon film makers by a Philistine establishment but as a creative challenge. Emblematic of this has been the establishment of a London outpost of US indie Next Wave Films. Next Wave specialises in digital video (DV) production and can put completion funding into productions (usually at rough cut stage). Peter Brodenck, who runs Next Wave in the USA, has a missionary zeal for the opportunities which DV and microscopic budgets can provide. He points to the success of films made for tiny budgets such as *Clerks* (Kevin Smith) and of features shot on video like Thomas Vinterberg's *Festen*. His starting point is that film makers should work with the resources that are readily available and write a script that works within that context - a technique used successfully by Nottingham's Shane Meadows. It is likely that 1999 will see the launch of more micro-budget feature support initiatives drawing on, amongst other things, the buzz created by the *Dogma Manifesto*. The challenge is to make creative, vibrant, exciting projects using a low budget, not despite it.

BROADCASTERS AND REGIONS

Lowdown does not attempt to list the many commissioning strands offered by broadcasters. The only exceptions to this are initiatives such as BBC 10x10, which explicitly sets out to encourage film makers new to television, or co-production schemes with RABs and others. This is mainly due to the fact that it would not be possible to accurately represent the complex and fast-changing situation within the UK's growing number of broadcasters in so slim a guide. It also reflects the fact that information can be hard to obtain from some commissioning editors. That said, the main terrestrial broadcasters have made efforts to open communication with a broader set of film and programme makers.

Both the BBC and Channel Four, within their public service remit, have embraced the need to promote new, creative talent from the whole of the UK. Channel Four, in part due to its publisher-broadcaster status, has the most diverse response to this remit with FilmFour (see National Funding), Independent Film and Video

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and Nations and Regions all playing an active part in encouraging small, new and non-mainstream film makers. The Nations and Regions Department (Stuart Cosgrove is its Head of Programmes) is based in Glasgow and oversees Channel Four's ambitious plans to spend 30% of its programme budget on production outside London. Nations and Regions plays several roles in the commissioning system. It directly commissions programmes for the Channel Four schedule, develops projects for annual editorial budget rounds and brokers projects in partnership with editorial offices in London. Central to the Nations and Regions' approach is the Research Centre. Headed by John McVay, its function is to develop the capacity of regionally-based companies seeking to break into network broadcasting, it does this through a programme of company and skills development activities, seeking to enhance the ability of companies to respond to the broadcasting marketplace. It can also provide 'added value' development funding to independent producers who have already received development commissions from network commissioning editors. The fact that only 40 or so independent producers achieve network broadcast commissions in any year demonstrates the value and need for this capacity building approach.

The BBC Independent Commissioning Group (ICG) was set up in 1997 dedicated to developing and managing relationships with independent producers. Headed by Bill Hilary, there are three core departments: Factual (led by Peter Grimsdale); Drama (Tessa Ross) and Entertainment (led by Hilary himself). The Group's remit covers all areas of the schedules on BBC1 and BBC2 as well as the new digital television services including BBC Choice and BBC Knowledge.

As part of its efforts to target regional programme makers, the Group holds regular briefing events in national and regional centres. IGC commissioning executives participate in regional sessions across the UK including Sheffield Documentary Festival Regional Day. Sharing Stories in Edinburgh and Mega Mela in Birmingham. The ICG will accept unsolicited proposals which should be directed to the most relevant of the three departments. Where possible, writers are encouraged to approach the ICG in association with an independent production company. The BBC also produces commissioning guides which provide information about the types of programmes being sought, the audiences they are to serve and resources that are available.

LOCAL SUPPORT

Local authorities can be a useful source of assistance. Most councils have an arts section and the majority of these give small grants to individuals and

groups for which film makers may be eligible - though obviously your competition will be a spectrum of arts activities and not just other film and video projects. A few councils have film-specific schemes, for example Media Arts' First Stop Awards in Swindon and the Wandsworth Film and Video Making Award.

Increasingly local authorities are recognising the value of film and video both as a creative medium and as an industrial sector offering employment opportunities and fuelling economic regeneration. In some parts of the country this has led to the creation of dynamic schemes to promote film production, releasing tens and sometimes hundreds of thousands of pounds of production funding usually involving European Union Structural Funds. Changes in the Structural Funding regime under Agenda 2000 will alter the areas eligible for support. Losers might include the Midlands Regions such as Cornwall and West Wales are almost certain to gain and 2000 may see the creation of new, large production funds in these areas.

The national network of Screen Commissions not only offers advice on locations but can also provide comprehensive information on many other aspects of filming. All Screen Commissions work to promote the locations available in their area to local, national and international production companies. Their databases and photo libraries are invaluable for anyone looking for local resources and their practical assistance in dealing with permissions, police, fire and other public authorities can save an enormous amount of red tape. All of the UK is now covered by a regional and/or city commission.

SPONSORSHIP

Film makers have not tended to be first in the queue when talking to businesses about sponsorship although there is no reason why film or video production should not be successful in this area. Sponsorship is normally part of the general promotional expenditure of a business and although that can encompass a sense of corporate or social responsibility, it is not philanthropy or a gift. Some companies do make philanthropic donations but sums tend to be small and often access is restricted to community groups.

It is important to think carefully about what you may have to offer each company you approach. Local companies might be prepared to put modest sums into productions in return for comparatively minor promotional credit in the local area. More often, companies are likely to be attracted by an on-screen credit. Companies will be most interested in supporting projects which are aimed at an audience section to which they are trying to market their products. Companies should usually be approached via public relations or marketing departments, although it is always worth playing on any direct contact with the management you might be able to establish.

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Don't expect to receive a rapid response or necessarily any response at all. It is good practice to follow up an initial letter with a telephone call. Be aware that sponsorship is a game of delicate negotiation and not something that will happen overnight.

As with any type of fund-raising it is vital to do your research: nobody is going to take you seriously if you haven't bothered to find out the name of the person you are writing to, or which products the company sells. The more you know about an organisation, the better the position you will be in to offer them an appealing package. Remember that company sponsorship is a payment for the promotion of goods and services. At all costs avoid offering a sponsor something you are unable to deliver. Equally, don't allow sponsors to feel that they can influence the creative integrity of your film: if you feel uncomfortable with the extent of involvement sought by a sponsor, it might be better to look elsewhere for support.

It is also worth investigating Arts and Business (formerly ABSA). Although not a funder in the first instance, it does operate a pairing scheme which acts as an incentive scheme for business sponsors. The scheme helps both businesses and the arts get the most from their partnership by providing additional financial support in the form of awards. To qualify for an award you will need to have your sponsor already in place and the financial rewards are greater if this is a company which is new to arts sponsorship. The scheme will only match cash sponsorship.

Often companies may be more willing to provide support in kind by providing goods and services. At its most advanced level, product placement agents (who act as intermediaries between film makers and manufacturers) can provide a wide range of items - from cars to jelly beans - free to film productions - usually on the condition that products are used in a 'favourable light'. Product placement works best for productions likely to reach larger audiences via cinema or television. A word of warning - if products are to be shown on camera and you are intending your project for a commercial broadcast audience you should check with the broadcaster that this is not likely to infringe ITC guidelines.

FORMING A LIMITED COMPANY

Many - or even most - low budget film makers operate as sole traders or as unincorporated associations. They undertake all activities as private individuals, applying for grants and entering into contracts in their own names. Registering as a company can offer advantages. To do so creates a legal separation between personal and business finances, limits liability in the case of financial (and

other) disasters, can give credibility to one's activities and can be used to regulate relations within partnerships in a corporate rather than personal capacity. In general, the larger the projects you intend to embark upon, the larger the amounts of money you will need to complete them, the more useful it becomes to operate as a limited company. If you are entering into contracts or agreements with organisations such as broadcasters, the larger independent production companies, banks and so on, being a registered company can give you not only credibility but also some additional protection against error or sharp practice. Most particularly, it is the company, not you personally, which must fulfil contracts or meet liabilities: as long as company directors have acted properly and responsibly, your liability for financial and other penalties can be limited. It is also worth noting that most National Lottery distributors do not make grants to individuals and that broadcasters will require programme finance to be managed in a separate business account.

The Companies Act 1985 lays down strict regulations governing what companies may and may not do. The Act is enforced and monitored by Companies House. It imposes reporting and operating restrictions which some individuals or groups may regard as onerous. Much of this is to do with the frequency and administration of company meetings, and the filing of annual results and auditing of accounts. Failure to file the appropriate returns and accounts on the due dates can lead to quite substantial fines.

If you think a limited company structure might be of advantage, the first thing to do is to contact Companies House for its guidance notes on incorporation and registration and read them thoroughly. These are invaluable: without them you will invariably get something wrong. Only form a company if you are certain that it is the best option for you and you are confident in the people you wish to work with. A company must have at least two directors - you cannot form one as an individual. If in doubt, seek advice from a solicitor, company formation agent or similar professional.

As to the actual process of creating a company, there is a standard registration fee of £20. However, you may also need professional help to draw up your Memorandum and Articles of Association which give details of the company, its activities and how it will operate as a legal entity. Companies House takes all of this very seriously, even to the extent of restricting the use of certain words in company names. You should take a lead from them and take the process equally seriously. To all intents and purposes there are two options for the sort of company you might form: limited by guarantee or limited by shares. To simplify greatly, a company limited by shares would have the objective of trading in order to make profits to distribute to its shareholders. A company limited by guarantee is the format available to charities and other groups which do not

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seek to distribute any profits to company members.

HELP FOR SMALL FIRMS

Depending on your status, there are a number of organisations and schemes which will give assistance to small companies, including those active in the media sector. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) publishes *A Guide to Help for Small Firms* which covers all the schemes discussed below. This gives details of the help the Government provides for small firms, a good deal of which is available through a network of Business Links in England, Local Enterprise Development Unit (LEDU) in Northern Ireland, Scottish Business Shops and Business Connect in Wales.

It may be possible to gain financial support to help you start a business. Local schemes are run in some areas by the Training Enterprise Councils (TECs in England and Wales: in Scotland the equivalent are the Local Enterprise Councils or LECs). Support for training for small firms is available in the form of loans at preferential rates and underwritten by the Department of Employment under a scheme poetically called Small Firms Training Loans. The current review of TECs (due to report in the middle of 1999) may bring about changes in the pattern of support. Similarly, government interest in lifelong learning (and the creation of Lifelong Learning Plans by local authorities) may change the availability of support for training.

Once established, additional help is available via a range of other financing schemes. Many of these offer loan guarantees for firms or individuals who are unable to obtain conventional finance, help in raising equity finance (someone gives you money in return for a share in the business) and encourage 'business angels' (private investors happy to invest in small companies and accept lower or slower returns than market rates). In short, this may be useful if you are attempting to raise finance for a feature project or wish to raise capital for premises or equipment. Help and training in business planning and details of business support opportunities can be obtained by calling the Business Link Signpost Line which will direct you to your nearest Business Link.

ENTERPRISE INVESTMENT SCHEME

There has been a lot of recent interest in the use of the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) to raise money for feature film production, with at least five schemes launched in the first quarter of 1999 alone. These range from single film proposals aiming to raise a minimum of £185,000 to a slate of six features aiming to raise over £3 million. Budgets of films range from under £0.5 million to over £3 million. The EIS provides tax incentives for investors to buy

shares in companies trading in risky business areas. There is no legal minimum or maximum level of finance to be raised, although below a certain level the costs will outweigh the benefits. For individual investors there is a maximum investment in each tax year of £150,000.

In a theme common to much of the *Lowdown*, the key to using EIS is careful research and planning. The essential first step is to identify a group of potential investors. Whilst it is possible to set the minimum investment quite low - say £500 - there is a lot of tax and corporate documentation involved and a larger number of small investors will make for a more costly and complex procedure. An important factor in an EIS proposal is whether the share offer is going to be made to more or fewer than 15 people. Under 15 counts as a 'private offer' and must comply with the requirements of the Financial Services Act. To target over 15 individuals constitutes a 'public offer' and can only be made by a public limited company (plc). To set up a plc requires a share capital of £50,000 (or £12,500 and a personal guarantee to pay the remainder). The daunting-sounding Public Offer of Securities Regulations will apply to the offer.

Once you are clear who you are targeting, a prospectus must be produced setting out the proposed use of the funds, company directors and other details. To do this you will need to have a comparatively well-developed project - most films looking for EIS money already have key cast and other talent attached. For example, UK Films Group's glossy brochure, promoting two movies, names Ben Kingsley and John Hannah as attached to play lead roles in *Mr Benn* and *Dave* (Eurythmics) Stewart as writer/director of *Honest*. To produce the necessary legal and financial information requires the assistance of professionals: UK Films' prospectus which aimed to raise a minimum of £3.6 million was drawn up by accountancy giant PricewaterhouseCoopers.

There are clearly advantages and disadvantages to EIS. It is not suitable for short film production and would be harder to pull off a successful scheme without at least some prior feature film experience. The creation of a plc to launch a public offer may be too costly for some companies, but a private offer may not be able to raise sufficient money given that the offer can only be made to a 15 individuals (not all of whom may eventually decide to invest). However, for strong projects and determined producers it has proved a valuable way of tempting serious investors to take a step into film finance. More information and advice on EIS can be obtained via the Business Links service: details of your nearest Business Link can be obtained by calling the Business Link Signpost Line.

FORMING A CHARITY

Operating as a charity can bring benefits to an organisation and may assist in funding and making film or video. Charities enjoy corporation tax and council tax benefits and charitable status can bring credibility in the eyes of funders, other organisations and the general public. It can also be easier to raise funds from certain sources including grant-making trusts and local government. While the Charities Act 1992 restricts the freedom which charities have to trade beyond the strict remit of their charitable objectives, lost flexibility can be restored by the creation of a trading company operating outside the scope of charity law but covenanting back profits. The legislation governing the establishment and activities of charities is, however, as stringent as that governing limited companies. The Charity Commissioners maintain a register, investigate misconduct and abuse, and otherwise administer the charities sector in England and Wales. The law is different in Scotland.

Under law, charities exist to fulfil a specified purpose and are, by definition, voluntary organisations: that is, the board of management must not be remunerated (although staff can be paid). The definition of charitable purpose breaks down into six 'heads' of charity: the relief of the elderly, vulnerable or hardship; the advancement of education; the advancement of religion; the promotion of urban or rural regeneration; the relief of unemployment; other charitable purposes for the benefit of the community. Most charities active in the arts or media operate under the educational 'head'.

A charity's objective might, for example, be to provide benefit to film makers in a certain area (perhaps by creating an organisation that would own film or video equipment made available to the general public) or to promote film making by and about specific, disadvantaged groups (for example disabled people or unemployed young people) and which is likely to be beneficial to that group. You should note, however, that charities cannot support political parties or behave in a way which is politically partisan. It would be illegal and improper to create a charity just to benefit you and your friends (no matter how disadvantaged you might feel). It is also illegal for the trustees of a charity to benefit from it financially - for example, a trustee cannot also be an employee of the charity. It is possible to be prosecuted for running a charity improperly.

The Charity Commissioners publish a booklet, *So You Want to Start a Charity*, which gives advice and explains the law. There are more than 150,000 registered charities already operating and it may be possible - or even desirable - to join forces with an existing organisation. For example if you wish to

make a specific film or series of films with a 'charitable' aim but not to take on sustained work in this field, then finding a suitable established charity might be a more sensible option. The *Central Register of Charities* (which can be consulted at Charity Commission offices) or *Charities Digest* both give information on existing charities.

RAISING MONEY FROM CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Money from charitable trusts is often available, particularly for voluntary groups and organisations wishing to work on community projects. It may also be possible to raise money for projects dealing with specific themes from trusts which also take an interest in that topic: for example, a charity which supports regeneration projects in the inner cities might provide funding for a documentary about tenant management of estates. There is a growing number of community trusts, grant-giving bodies which focus support upon a particular town or district. These often have very wide objectives within their geographical remit and can be supportive of local film makers. Many large companies create trusts which are often most active in the region in which their head office or manufacturing base is located.

Different trusts have varying and often very precise rules of eligibility: many will not consider your application unless you are yourself a registered charity and an even greater number won't make grants to individuals. As with sponsorship you cannot necessarily expect a quick turnaround on your application - some trusts may hold their meetings as little as once or twice a year.

If you wish to pursue this source of funding, a number of useful publications exists, in particular the *Directory of Grant-Making Trusts* and *Funding Digest*, a monthly publication aimed primarily at voluntary organisations. Both are often available in public libraries.

UNITED KINGDOM

BBC 10x10

Bristol Television Features
Whiteladies Road Bristol BS8
2LR Tel: 0117 974 6746 E-mail:
10x10@BBC.co.uk
Series Producer:
Jeremy Howe

BFI Production

21 Stephen Street
London W1P2LN
Tel: 0171 6365587
Fax: 0171 5809456
Minicom: 0171 5801839
24 Hour Information: 0171 580 1052

<http://www.bfi.org.uk>
Head of Production:
Roger Shannon

British Screen Finance

14-17 Wells Mews
London W1P3FL
Tel: 0171 3239080
Fax: 0171 3230092
Contact: Sara Harper

Film Four

76-78 Charlotte Street
London W1P1LX
Tel: 0171 8687700
Fax: 0171 8687742

<http://www.filmfour.com>

Head of Film: Paul Webster
Head of FilmFour Lab:
Robin Gutch

BBC

10x10 offers an opportunity for directors with no previous network directing credit to make low budget ten-minute fiction or documentary films for broadcast on BBC 2. It commissions 10 films per series. Successful applicants are provided with production finance and practical guidance by the BBC Bristol Features. See the Guardian or contact your RAB/MDA for deadline details

BFI Production

By April 2000, the DCMS will have set up the Film Council. In the first instance, the Film Council is to incorporate the staff and activities of BFI Production (alongside the British Film Commission and ACE Lottery Film Department). It is therefore currently not possible for BFI Production to publish plans for future production schemes. However, one of the early priorities for the Film Council is likely to be the development of a cultural production strategy and fund. It is anticipated that this will build on the strengths of BFI Production's past activities in short and feature films. For the current year (1999 and early 2000) BFI Production intends to complete the 1999 New Directors slate of short films and aspires to launch a limited number of script development schemes with national and regional partners, it also supports production activity with RABs and MDAs in England and with Sgrîn in Wales through direct grants and practical assistance.

British Screen Finance

British Screen Finance invests in British films, including films made through the European Co-production Fund. Scripts should be sub-mitted with full background information. All scripts are read. Scripts submitted by producers with a fully developed production package are given priority and projects must have commercial potential in the theatrical market. British Screen's contribution rarely exceeds £500,000 and is never more than 30% of a film's budget.

FilmFour

FilmFour is the new film division of Channel Four Television. FilmFour Productions aims to produce 15-20 feature films each year. It looks for distinctive projects which can make a mark in a competitive cinema market. Unsolicited material is not accepted and proposals should be submitted through a producer or literary agent. FilmFour remains committed to new and emerging talent and has set up FilmFour Lab 'to support the newest and most striking creative voices and visions of tomorrow's cinema in Britain'.

FilmFour Lab runs the late night short film strand The Shooting Gallery. The Lab will occasionally provide completion finance for works in progress (as well as buying UK TV rights for completed works).

Channel Four/MOMI Animators' Residencies

Museum of the Moving Image
South Bank
London SE1 8XT
Tel: 0171 815 1376

Animation Co-ordinator:
Yvette Burrows

Channel Four/MOMI Animators' Residencies

This highly successful scheme invites recent animation graduates to apply for one of four annual residencies at the Museum. Winners will be awarded a fee of £2,910 and a budget of up to £1,612 and will receive a three-month residency. At the end of the residencies, development projects will be considered by Channel Four for commissioning. The annual deadline is in August.

Japan Foundation

17 Old Park Lane
London W1Y 3LG
Tel: 0171 4994726
Fax: 0171 4951133

<http://www.jpff.go.jp/>

Japan Foundation Film Production Support Program

Film Production Support Program provides financial support for the production of films, TV programmes and other audio-visual materials that serve to further an understanding of Japan and Japanese culture abroad. Individuals or organisations with proven experience of film making are eligible to apply. Films and programmes can be in English but should handle a Japanese subject. Assistance will usually take the form of subsidies for production costs, up to a maximum of ¥5 million (approximately £25,000) or half of production costs, whichever is the lower. Grants are paid retrospectively.

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400 West 59th Street,
4th Floor
New York, NY 10019
USA

Tel: (212) 548 0657
Fax: (212) 548 4647

<http://www.soros.org/sdf>

Program Co-ordinator:
Kyoko Inouye

Program Director: Diane
Weyermann

Soros Documentary Fund

The Soros Documentary Fund supports international documentary films and videos on current, significant issues in human rights, freedom of expression, social justice and civil liberties. Priority is given to projects addressing contemporary issues. Individuals from around the world may apply. Two project levels are considered: seed funds and production/post-production funds. Seed funds are available for film makers with projects in the development or research phase and grant awards range from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Production/post-production funds are available for projects already in production. A work in progress sample is required for consideration in this category and grant awards range up to \$50,000. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis there are no deadlines. Initial review of applications takes four to six weeks. Final decisions are made by an advisory board on a quarterly basis. The Soros Documentary Fund is highly competitive.

ENGLAND

Arts Council of England

Visual Arts Department
14 Great Peter Street
London W1P 3JQ
Tel: 0171 9736410
Fax: 0171 9736581
E-mail:
gary.thomas@artscouncil.org.co.uk

Website:
www.artscouncil.org.uk

Visual Arts Officer
(Artists' Film and Video):
Gary Thomas

National Disability Film and Video Project

West Midlands Disability
Arts Forum
Unit 007,
The Custard Factory
Globe Street
Digbeth
Birmingham B9 4AA
Tel: 0121 2422248
Fax: 0121 2422268

Co-ordinator: Zoe Partington

Arts Council of England

ACE is reviewing the way it works and from 2000/2001 project funding, including production funding for individual artists, will be the responsibility of the RABs (or MDAs). The Visual Arts department will continue to work with national agencies for artists' film and video and there may be opportunities for commissioning. For the latest information, send an SAE marked 'Artists' Film and Video'.

Artists' Film and Video Production Awards

Offers support of up to £15,000 to individual artists for production. Deadline in October 1999.

Animate!

A collaboration with Channel Four to commission innovative and experimental animation for television from individual animators and artists (including those living in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). The next deadline is expected to be in Winter 1999/2000. For further information send an SAE marked 'Animate!'.

For ACE Lottery Department, see National Lottery

National Disability Film and Video Project (NDFVP)

Funded by ACE the NDFVP supports the production of film, video and digital media projects by disabled people. Proposals should deal with arts subjects and/or issues arising from the activities of disabled people. Projects ranging through documentary, mixed-genre pieces and experimental film, video or digital art are all eligible. Applications will be judged on the basis of creativity and originality, artistic and technical strength of the applicant's previous work, the likelihood that the project can be realised within the budget and schedule and that the completed work will gain an audience. Awards are available for research and development (up to £2,000) and production (up to £19,000). Two production awards are available for projects of up to ten minutes with budgets of up to £25,000, the balance of funding to be obtained from other sources.

NDFVP will not fund feature films, drama projects, community or education projects, recordings of events or live performances or film and video intended for use as a part of a live performance. Students are not eligible.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Cultural Diversity Programme Community Relations Council

6 Murray Street
Belfast BT1 6DN
Tel: 01232 439953
Fax: 01232 235208
Project Officer:
Joanne Murphy

Northern Ireland Film Commission

21 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast BT2 8HD
Tel: 01232 232444
Fax: 01232 239918
Email: into@nifc.co.uk

Website: www.nifc.co.uk

Chief Executive:
Richard Taylor

Head of Locations and
Information: Andrew Reid

Northern Visions Media Centre

4 Lower Donegal Street Place
Belfast BT1 2FN
Tel: 01232 245495
Fax: 01232 326608

see following page for contacts)

Media Grant Scheme

The Cultural Diversity Programme supports professional independent television/film projects which can contribute to a better understanding of cultural diversity and community issues within Northern Ireland. Although cinema projects are not ruled out, the Group is primarily interested in reaching the television audience within Northern Ireland. Projects supported vary from year to year. In 1996 the scheme supported a CD ROM project and a series of animated short films. In 1998-99 the Media Grants Scheme was dedicated to the support of programmes for television for three-to-seven-year-olds which challenge sectarianism and address diversity

Northern Ireland Film Development Fund

The Northern Ireland Film Development Fund (NIFDF) offers loans to production companies for the development of feature films or television drama series or serials that are intended to be produced primarily in Northern Ireland. The subject matter does not have to be related to Northern Ireland but the maximum exposure on screen of Northern Ireland locations in any eventual production will be an Important consideration. The producer should be able to demonstrate a significant track record in feature film or television drama production and must have obtained - or be able to obtain - a minimum two-year option on the underlying rights to the project to be developed. NIFDF offers interest-free loans of up to 50% of the cost of developing projects. Loans are unlikely to exceed £40,000 for a television drama series or serial or £15,000 for a single feature film. In many cases loans will be for less than these sums. Loans are repayable if projects go into production.

The NIFC also runs a short film scheme which over the past three years has promoted 15 short films.

Belfast Community Video Awards

Four documentary awards are made annually of £3,000 plus free use of digital camcorders and non-linear editing equipment up to the value of £3,000. The Awards are themed and guidelines are available each year, for an autumn deadline. Eligibility is restricted to those living in the Belfast City Council area. Applicants may submit only one proposal and must have been resident in Northern Ireland for the past five years. Full-time students are ineligible.

NATIONAL FUNDING

E-mail:
northern.visions@dnet.co.uk

Website:
<http://www.northernvisions.org>

Contact: Marilyn Hyndman

Community/Individual Equipment Subsidy

Subsidies are available for the use of Northern Visions equipment for video projects that have received partial funding, sponsorship or financial support from other agencies. Each application is assessed on its own merit. There are no restrictions regarding age, genre, format or language. Northern Visions will consider applications for this scheme on a 32 county basis provided the video is shot in Northern Ireland and provides benefits to Northern Irish crew/trainees. The scheme is not normally open to full-time students for any projects that are part of course work. Applications are not normally considered when one of the funders of a project is a television broadcaster. This is a rolling scheme with no single deadline,

SCOTLAND

Glasgow Film Fund

249 West George Street
Glasgow G2 4RB Tel: 0141
3021757 Fax: 0141 3021714
Contact: Judy Anderson

The Glasgow Film Fund

The Glasgow Film Fund (GFF) provides production funding for companies making films in the Glasgow area or produced by Glasgow-based production companies. Applications are accepted for films intended for theatrical release, with budgets of at least £500,000. The maximum investment made by the GFF in any one project is normally £150,000. However, where there is an exceptionally high level of local economic benefit the GFF may consider raising its maximum investment to £250,000. Production credits include *Shallow Grave*, *Smalt Faces*, *Carla's Song*, *Regeneration*, *Orphans*, *My Name is Joe*, *The Acid House* and *The Debt Collector*.

Scottish Screen

249 West George Street
Glasgow G2 4RB
Tel: 0141 302 1700
Fax: 0141 302 1711
Email: info@scottish-screen.com

Website: <http://www.scottish-screen.com>

Information Officer:
Isabella Edgar

Scottish Screen

Scottish Screen is responsible for developing all aspects of screen industry and culture in Scotland through script and company development, short film production, distribution of National Lottery film production finance, training and the Film Commission location support service,

Scottish Screen Production

Scottish Screen currently works on four short film production schemes in partnership with other bodies. It is also in the process of developing an animation production scheme.

Cineworks

Cineworks is a joint initiative with Glasgow Film and Video Workshop and Edinburgh Film and Video Access Centre with financial support from the National Lottery to develop the skills of aspiring film and video makers in Scotland, giving them early opportunities to make innovative and interesting work.

Tartan Shorts

Tartan Shorts is a joint initiative with BBC Scotland and is also supported by the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) National Lottery Fund. The scheme has been running for seven years and creates opportunities for Scotland's film making talent to produce cinematic short films. Each year, three projects are awarded up to a maximum of £60,000 to produce a 35mm

New Found Land

New Found Land (working title) Is a collaboration with the Scottish Media Group and the SAC National Lottery to enable new film makers to work on longer form drama. Six half-hour projects will be commissioned with budgets of approximately £45,000.

A new Gaelic-language short film scheme, to be supported by the Comataidh Craolaidh Gaidhlig, is currently being finalised.

Scottish Screen Development

Main Development Awards

In the first instance Scottish Screen can make single awards of up to £20,000 per project. These are primarily targeted at script development Further support is possible and would be targeted at producer support for the creative and financial packaging of projects. Up to an additional £20,000 can be offered as second stage investment. Main Development Awards are only available to bona fide production companies and clarity has to be provided as to the chain of underlying rights to each project. Decisions are taken by Scottish Screen's Development Panel which meets five times a year.

Interim Awards

Between Development Panel meetings small discretionary awards up to £5,000 can be made against stated criteria.

Writers' Awards

Up to £5,000 can be allocated for Writers' Awards. Writers can apply directly and there is no need to apply with a producer or through a production company.

WALES

Sgrin

The Bank
10 Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF105EE
Tel: 01222 333300
Fax: 01222 333320
E-mail: sgrin@sgrinwales.demon.co.uk

Website: <http://www.sgnn-wales.demon.co.uk>

Head of Production:
Pauline Larkkom
Direct Line: 01222 333311

Production Co-ordinator:
Gaynor Messer Price
Direct Line: 01222 333307

Sgrin

Sgrin is responsible for the development and implementation of a co-ordinated strategy for film, television and new media in Wales.

Animate It!

A Sgrin/S4C initiative to produce short films by new animators, offering practical guidance by linking them with animation studios. Three films of five to ten minutes are commissioned annually.

Big Little Pictures

A Sgrin/HTV Wales initiative to provide a stepping stone between shorts and features for writer/director/producer teams by supporting the production of 30 minute films. Three are commissioned each year.

DM Davies Award

Sgrin is one of the sponsors of this award, presented annually at the Wales International Film Festival for the best short film in a competition for new film makers. The award is worth £30,000 and is organised by the Festival.

Rarebits

A Sgrin/BBC Wales initiative to produce three 10 minute dramas. The completed films will be screened theatrically prior to TV broadcast.

The Celtic Development Fund

A new initiative for the development of television co-productions between the INTERREG areas of Wales and Ireland. Projects can include one-off dramas, drama series, animation, documentaries and light entertainment. News, talk shows and promotional projects are not eligible. Companies and individuals based outside the INTERREG areas can apply in collaboration with companies within the qualifying zones. Grants will be up to £20,000 or 75% of the project's development budget.

The Lottery and Film in Wales

Sgrin is responsible for assessing development and production applications for feature and short films on behalf of the Arts Council of Wales Lottery Board. It also gives advice to potential applicants.

Arts Council of England

Lottery film Department
14 Great Peter Street
London SW1P 3NQ
Tel: 0171 3120123
Fax: 0171 9736571

Director of Lottery Film:
Carolyn Lambert

National Lottery Funding for Films

Future Developments

It is anticipated that the ACE Lottery Film Department will be incorporated into the new Film Council by April 2000 at the latest. It is expected that the Film Council will build on the strengths of the Lottery Film Department's past activities in supporting short and feature films. In the interim, the following schemes will continue to operate.

Film Production for Cinema

Funding is available for film production companies ordinarily based in England, proposing to produce films which qualify as British under the terms of the 1985 Films Act and which are intended for cinema release in the UK. ACE will not be the sole financier and will expect a substantial portion of production funding to have been raised already. In most cases, ACE's contribution will be within the range of 10%-50% of total costs, although in exceptional circumstances applications will be considered for 75% Lottery funding for projects with a budget of under £750,000. Matching funding may come from almost any source, including: broadcasters; national funding bodies such as British Screen Finance; RABs; equity investors; film distribution companies in the UK or abroad; European schemes. Successful applicants will need to provide a clear and comprehensive plan for completing the production on schedule and within budget. Each project is assessed in terms of creative quality and ACE arranges for the professional evaluation of each script, taking into account originality, cinematic style and innovation. Lottery funding is available for large and small organisations which may be constituted as limited companies, public or voluntary bodies or legally constituted partnerships. Full-time students and other individual film makers are not eligible.

Short Films for the Cinema

Funding is also available for the production of short films for the cinema with the same qualifying criteria as for feature films. In particular, applicants must demonstrate that the film will be seen in cinemas. Applications should include an indication of which exhibitors, distributors and sales agents have been approached and copies of any letters of intent or interest. ACE does not necessarily anticipate a wide theatrical release but does expect short films to be capable of a significant cinematic life. This could, for example, take the form of a tour to a network of cinemas or a run of three weeks or more accompanying a feature film in a single cinema. Wider exhibition and works entering into formal distribution arrangements are particularly encouraged. Single screenings at festivals do not constitute adequate public exhibition. ACE is unable to fund the distribution costs of short films but applicants may include the cost of up to three theatrical prints in the production budget.

Lottery funding is not available for films solely intended for broadcast on television. ACE will ordinarily insist that short films are not broadcast for one year from the date of delivery. In exceptional circumstances, where a film has exceeded the expectations for theatrical release, ACE may waive the final six months of the theatrical window.

Discounts which, in the opinion of ACE, are above the Industry norm are eligible for consideration as partnership funding. Up to 10% or £3,000 of the partnership funding (whichever is greater) may consist of waived fees or exceptional discounts.

Artists' Film and Video

Funding is available to producers, exhibitors and other commissioners of new work by artists. These may be limited companies, public or voluntary bodies or legally constituted partnerships. All moving image projects by artists of any nationality intended for exhibition in galleries, cinemas or other public spaces in England are eligible. This includes single or multi-screen works including digitally generated and interactive pieces. Proposals may be for single commissions or for a group of works. Projects made exclusively for television or release through home video are not eligible. Projects which require all the expenditure on production to be made wholly or mainly outside England are not eligible. Applications may include the cost of installation and of renting or purchasing capital equipment required for the project. Such costs may amount to 20% of Lottery funding. Applications can also include the cost of touring as well as publishing epilogues, brochures and other contextualising material.

In most cases ACE's Lottery contribution will be within the range of 10%-50% of total costs. In exceptional circumstances, for projects requiring Lottery funding of £150,000 or less, you may apply for up to 75% of Lottery funding: you will need to explain why the project merits a higher-than-normal level of support. Partnership funding may come from almost any source. Funding from other Lottery distributors cannot count as partnership funding. You do not have to have all the partnership funding in place at the time of application but ACE will not provide any funding until all project finance is in place. Successful applicants will need to provide a clear and comprehensive plan for completing the production on schedule and within budget. Installations and similar works will be expected to be exhibited for at least six weeks; single screen works will be expected to tour at least five venues in England.

Students and other individuals are not eligible.

Film Production Franchises

ACE announced the awarding of three feature film production franchises in May 1997. All are required to consider proposals from independent producers. For further information, please contact the franchisees individually.

DNA Films

DNA Films intends to make three films per year. Each film's budget will be up to £4 million and will be fully funded by DNA Films. Development funding is also available.

DNA will award development/production funding on the basis of the treatment/script. All the films will be British and there are no genre restrictions. Projects are not required to have a director or producer attached. Projects must demonstrate commercial potential.

Treatments or screenplays are only accepted from agents, producers or production companies.

DNA Films

30 Oval Road
Camden Town
London NW1 7DE
Tel: 0171 4854411
Fax: 0171 4854422

Contact: Grace Hodge

The Film Consortium

6 Flitcroft Street
London WC2H 8DJ
Tel: 0171 691 4440
Fax: 0171 691 4445

Head of Production and
Development: Colin Vanes

The Film Consortium

Formed by a group of independent production companies (Greenpoint Films, Parallax Films, Scala Productions, Skreba Films) and Virgin Cinemas Group, The Film Consortium (TFC) aims to make four to five features a year with budgets in the range of £1.5 - 6 million. It intends to produce high quality, popular British films, and has a commitment to encourage the development of new writers, producers and directors. TFC will accept proposals from production companies for feature film projects seeking either development or production funding. Experienced producers will be expected to have already raised at least a third of the matching funding required by ACE. New producers (those who have not previously produced a feature film) do not have to have finance attached to the project but will have to meet quality criteria and be able to demonstrate the financial viability of the project. All scripts and treatments will be read. Applications from writers or writer/director teams without a production company already on board cannot be considered, neither will short film or television projects. Detailed guidelines are available from TFC.

Pathe Pictures

Kent House
Market Place
London W1N8AR
Tel: 0171 3235151
Fax: 0171 631 3568

Pathe Pictures

The largest of the franchises, Pathe intends to make five to six films a year with an average budget of £2 million to £7 million. Although it has no publicised policy in this area, submissions to the Lottery include projects by established and new talent.

Contact: Andrea Calderwood

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Lottery Department
MacNeice House
77 Malone Road
Belfast BT9 6AQ
Tel: 0-1232 667000
Fax: 01232 664766

Lottery Director:
Tanya Greenfield

National Lottery Fund - Film Finance Programme

Applications will be accepted for film and video development and production. Film in this context includes all genres, formats and lengths of film and video production to be made in Northern Ireland, with particular emphasis on encouraging indigenous writers, directors, producers and production companies and to applicants who make a significant commitment to production and spend in Northern Ireland. All genres and subject matter are welcomed, including single feature films, drama series, shorts, experimental, documentary and animation. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) is advised by the Northern Ireland Film Commission and others in assessing film applications,

Lottery funding is available for film production companies whose principals live, work and are resident in Northern Ireland for tax purposes and for companies elsewhere in the UK intending to produce a film in Northern Ireland. ACNI will not be the sole financier of any project. Funding is not available for completion.

The projects will be assessed primarily against the contribution they are likely to make to a vibrant and successful Northern Irish film industry, to the development of local talent, and towards reaching the widest possible national and international audiences. All projects must meet the ACNI criteria, which include that projects must be for the public good, be financially viable and high in quality.

In most cases ACNI's contribution to a production budget will be within the range of 10%-50% of total costs. It is unlikely that ACNI will normally contribute more than £200,000 to any one production and in many cases the figure will be considerably lower. The maximum amount available for

the development of one project is £20,000, or 75% of the total development costs, whichever is lower. Applications for sums of less than £2,000 are unlikely to be considered. Individual film makers and students are not eligible.

Specific distribution and low budget categories will be introduced together with a two-phase application process for feature films under ACNI's new Strategy for the Distribution of National Lottery Arts Funding in Northern Ireland.

Scottish Arts Council Lottery Department

12 Manor Place
Edinburgh EH3 7DD
Tel: 0131 2266051
Fax: 0131 4777240
Help Desk: 0131 243 2443/2444,
Email:
admmistrator.SAC@artsfb.org.uk

Website:
<http://www.sac.org.uk>

Lottery Director:
David Bonnar

Senior Film Officer:
Jenny Attala

Film Production Scheme

The aim of the Film Production Scheme is to enhance the quality range and number of Scottish films made. There are no limits on the kind or length of films which are supported. Community projects can be supported if they involve suitably experienced film makers. Priority in the selection process is given to films which are either by Scottish-based film makers (defined as those who live, work and are resident in Scotland for tax purposes) or have relevance to or directly benefit Scotland. The intention of the scheme is that in most cases both applicant and project will be based in Scotland. However international co-productions (which in this case includes the rest of the UK) are eligible provided they involve a Scottish film maker and/or have relevance to or directly benefit Scotland.

All proposals must show creativity and originality and have a realistic distribution/marketing plan. Whilst the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) encourages collaboration with terrestrial or satellite broadcasters, support for television programmes per se is not available. Each project must be able to show that it has distribution possibilities beyond terrestrial, satellite or cable television. In the case of productions which are intended to realise a profit, the probability of them doing so is a criterion.

As a general guide no more than 75% of the costs of any production will be provided from Lottery funds. Applications are currently accepted for awards of between £5,000 and £500,000. Awards for up to £25,000 are considered by the Directors Committee which meets monthly and for over £25,000 by the Film Production Committee which meets quarterly.

Film Exploitation Fund

This is to help Scottish films find an audience. The scheme will prioritise the promotion of shorts, documentaries and the back catalogue of SAC Lottery-funded films, helping them to find appropriate markets and audiences. Awards are up to £25,000. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Film Project Preparation Scheme

This is intended to provide further support for film makers filling the gap between the existing Scottish Screen Development Scheme and the SAC Film Production Scheme. Awards will be from £5,000 - £50,000 for feature films, documentaries and animation. The scheme is open to applications from companies to assist development where the script is at an advanced stage and can include fees, research, travel and preparation of budgets and finance plans. There will be four deadlines each year.

Film Producer Preparation Scheme

The partners in the scheme are Scottish Screen and Scottish Enterprise and it is intended for companies wishing to develop a slate of projects. Awards of up to £50,000 will be available during 1999.

Future Developments

It is anticipated that a Low Budget Feature Film Scheme will be introduced during 1999 with an announcement expected at the Edinburgh international Film Festival in August. It is also probable that responsibility for Lottery film production funding in Scotland will transfer from SAC to Scottish Screen at some point during 1999/2000. It is not likely that this will lead to any immediate changes in policy or strategy.

Arts Council of Wales

Lottery Unit

9 Museum Place
Cardiff CF103NX
Tel: 01222 376500
Fax: 01222 395284
Email:
information@ccc-acw.org.uk

Website:

<http://www.ccc.acw.org.uk>

Lottery Director:

Robert Edge

Contact: Anneli Jones

Film Production

Lottery funding for film production in Wales is intended to increase the overall level of film production in both Welsh and English; contribute to the growth of a national film industry reflecting Wales' society and culture; enhance public access to a wide range of films which reflect Wales' diverse cultural heritage and promote a vivid and contemporary cultural identity; increase the range of investment opportunities and the variety of genres in which investment may be encouraged; and spread the burden of risk for investors by the provision of secure financial support and so attract a greater range of new investors into the industry. Sgrin, the media agency for Wales, is responsible for assessing development and production applications for feature and short films on behalf of ACW.

Lottery funds will assist in the production of films in association with recognised partners. The Arts Council of Wales will not be the sole financier. Lottery funding is available for large and small film production companies ordinarily resident in Wales (i.e. owned and run by people who live, work and are resident in Wales for tax purposes) proposing to produce a film which qualifies as British under the terms of the 1985 Films Act and which is intended for cinema release and/or other means of widespread distribution in Wales, within the UK and, where appropriate, internationally. Exceptions to the residency requirement may be made where the major part of the creative input is by Welsh artists and the production makes significant use of resources and talent indigenous to Wales. All genres and subject matter are welcome, including shorts, documentary films and animation. Script development funding will be available on a loan basis. Loans will be repayable on the first day of principal photography on the subsequent production. The following three broad criteria apply to both production grants and script development loans: benefit to the public in Wales, financial viability, and partnership funding. Full-time students and individual film makers are not eligible.

ENGLISH REGIONS

Croydon Film and Video Awards

Croydon Clocktower Arts
Katherine Street
Croydon CP9 1ET
Tel: 0181 7603400
E-mail: arts@croydon.gov.uk
Media Officer: Mark Wilcox

Croydon Film and Video Awards

Three awards of approximately £1,300 are available for films of up to ten minutes. The scheme has a strong training component, with applicants invited to apply for writing, directing or producing places. Producer/director teams are formed and select scripts written by the writers on the scheme. It is jointly funded by Croydon Borough Council and LFVDA. First time or experienced film makers who live, work or study in Croydon are eligible. Full-time students of film making are ineligible.

Eastern Arts Board

Cherry Hinton Hall
Cherry Hinton Road
Cambridge CB1 8DW
Tel: 01223 315355
Fax: 01223 248075
E-mail:
cinema@eab.eastern-arts.co.uk

Eastern Arts Board Regional Arts Lottery Programme

The regional delegated Arts Lottery Programme includes support for film and video production and development projects, artists' film and video and multimedia projects. Involving artists working in a range of contexts. From Autumn 1999, EAB specialist film and video production, scriptwriting, co-commissioning funding and development services will be delivered through first take films.

Website:
<http://www.arts.org.uk>

Cinema and Broadcasting Officer:
Martin Ayres

Media Assistant: Helen Dixon

Offers funding to people resident in the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, and the unitary authorities of Luton, Peterborough, Rochford and Thurrock

first take films

Anglia Television
Anglia House
Norwich,
Norfolk NR1 3JG
Tel: 01603 615151
Fax: 01603 767191
Email:
firsttake@angliatv.co.uk

first take films

first take films is a partnership between EAB and Anglia Television. its principal function is to facilitate, encourage and promote the creative arts of film, video and moving image in the East of England

First Take

The First Take series is Anglia TV'S annual showcase for up-and-coming new directors. Submissions are usually accepted in February.

Chief Executive and Series
Producer: Caroline Norbury

Administrator:
Annette Culverhouse

East of England Regional Production Fund

To be launched in Autumn 1999, this fund seeks to assist innovative practice and creative experimentation in a range of genres, styles and formats. It offers seed funding for the realisation, development and production of one-off moving image projects. It will concentrate on three areas: script reading and development services, development bursaries and production development awards.

first take also runs the EAB Write Lines script reading service and development programme. Other recent projects include a series of short fictions made with Anglia, EAB and British Screen and documentary commissions for Channel Four.

East Midlands Arts Board

Mountfields House
Epinal Way
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 0QE
Tel: 01509 218292
Fax: 01509 2622-4
E-mail:
carol.clarke@em-arts.co.uk

Website:
<http://www.arts.org.uk>

Film, Digital Arts and Broadcast-
ing Officer: Annette Sotheran

Offers funding to people
resident in Derbyshire
(excluding High Peak),
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire,
Northamptonshire
Nottinghamshire and Rutland.

East Midlands Media Initiative

c/o
Intermedia Film and Video
19 Heathcote Street
Nottingham NG1 3AF
Tel: 0115 955 6909
Fax: 0115 955 9956

Media Development
Consultant: Peter Carlton

East Midlands Arts Board

New Work and Commissions Scheme

Aimed at establishing and maintaining an independent production economy delivering innovative, culturally diverse product to a high standard capable of interacting in the audio-visual culture as a whole. The scheme includes:

Script Development Awards of up to £500 to assist with the development of scripts to a stage where projects may attract further development funds or production funding.

Materials Awards of up to £1,500 for materials in support of new and innovative projects, including equipment hire, film/video stock and laboratory costs.

Completion Awards of up to £1,500 to cover costs of film prints, video on-lines, duplication and clearance fees where theatrical or broadcast distribution is intended.

Screen Test, a script appraisal service for short scripts.

Co-Production Challenge Awards of up to £15,000 for short films for cinema release.

First Cut broadcast initiative with Central Television for short projects offering funding of up to £10 000.

East Midlands Media Initiative (EMMI) Development

Applications for awards of between £1,000 and £10,000 may be made. Films for cinema of any length or type, television, artists' film and video or multimedia works are all eligible. Applications may be from individual film makers, artists, writers or production companies. Applicants should normally be living or working in the East Midlands or will need to show a considerable potential production spend in the region.

Co-Production

Applications can be made for co-financing one-off productions of factual, drama and experimental work for television or theatrical release. EMMI will consider making investments of up to 25% of the total budget to a maximum of £100,000. Following on from 1998's short drama scheme, The Deal, EMMI will again be running co-production schemes with other funders, including short films with East Midlands Arts.

London Film and Video Development Agency

114 Whitfield Street
London
W1P5RW
Tel: 0171 3837755
Fax: 0171 3837745
Email: lfvda@lfvda.demon.co.uk

Chief Executive:
Gill Henderson

Contact: Maggie Ellis

Offers funding to people resident
in the 32 boroughs and City of
London.

London Film and Video Development Agency (LFVDA)

London Production Fund

The London Production Fund (LPF) is supported by Carlton Television and Channel Four for the production of independent film and video projects. LPF is interested in supporting as diverse a range of film and video as possible, from experimental work to narrative fictions and documentaries, as well as welcoming projects which cut across these categories. Only film and video makers living or working in London may apply. Full-time students are not eligible. Applications for production funding are invited in the spring of each year, and for development and completion funding in the summer. No retrospective awards will be made. £180,000 is available annually in the following categories:

Development Awards

Support of up to £3,000 to assist development of scripts, story-boards, project packages.

Production Awards

Support of up to £15,000 for production or part-production costs. Feature films are not eligible.

Completion Awards

Support of up to £15,000. Completion awards are designed to fund projects already underway, not complete funding packages for projects in development.

The LPF occasionally produces artists' film and video programmes for television.

First Stop Media Production Awards

The scheme exists to encourage new and creative projects, particularly the work of first-time film or video makers. First Stop is open to all who live and work in the Swindon area and people from other areas who would like to involve local people or whose project can benefit Swindon. Funding is not available for student or commercial productions.

Grants are available of up to £3,000 in equipment hire credits and £500 cash towards production expenses. The scheme may also be able to help with script development, budgeting, production management, crewing, casting and technical training.

First Stop Express

The First Stop Express scheme operates in the same way as First Stop Media Production Awards. It is aimed at first-time film makers and groups who want to do simple, small-scale projects.

Media Arts - cre8

Town Hall Studios
Regent Circus
Swindon SN1 1QF
Tel: 01793 463226
Fax: 01793 463223
Contact: Steve Chapman

MIDA

(Moving Image Development Agency)

109 Mount Pleasant
Liverpool L3 5TF

Tel: 0151 7089858

Fax: 0151 7089859

E-mail:

enquire@mida.demon.co.uk

Director: Poonam Sharma

Production Executive: Paula
Cuddy

Northern Arts Board

9-10 Osborns Terrace

Jesmond

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

NE2 1NZ

Tel and Minicom: 0191 281

6334

Fax: 0191 281 3276

Voice Mail: 0191 281 2866

E-mail:

nab@norab.demon.co.uk

Head of Film, Media and

Literature: Janice Campbell

Administrator:

Stella Carmichael

Offers funding to people resident
in Cumbria Durham,
Northumberland, Teesside and
Tyne and Wear.

MIDA

MIDA is primarily a funding organisation, which enables production through the management and distribution of production funds. MIDA manages public funds, working in partnership with organisations such as North West Arts Board, British Screen, Granada, BBC and Channel Four.

Merseyside Film Production Fund

Offers top-up finance to producers intending to produce feature films in the Merseyside area. Producers based in the area and outside producers wishing to film in the area are eligible to apply for fully-developed film projects of at least 60 minutes' duration with production budgets of at least £500,000. Terms of investment will be negotiated individually.

North West Film and Video Production Fund

An initiative of North West Arts Board, managed by MIDA. The Fund supports short film, creative documentaries, animation, artists' film and video and multimedia. See also the entry for North West Arts Board.

Northern Arts Board

Northern Production Fund

The aim of the Northern Production Fund (NPF) is to support the production of short and long form drama for film, television, animation, creative documentaries, and all forms of experimental film making, including work for gallery exhibition. The foremost concern is for the quality of the production. NPF seeks to support productions that are imaginative, innovative, thoughtful, courageous and powerful. NPF normally holds three meetings each year to consider applications under all categories: company support applications are normally considered once a year. NPF occasionally offers funding to film makers originally from the region but now based elsewhere, seeking to make films within the region.

Feature Film Production

Support of up to £50,000 is available for its production of feature film projects by limited companies formally registered in the North East Objective 2 area. Applicants must demonstrate measurable economic benefits in terms of production spend, job creation, use of facilities and services. Out-of-region applicants must register a company in the Objective 2 area prior to application and demonstrate that they will spend a minimum of six times the grant awarded in the designated area.

Production

Support of up to £30,000 for production or part-production costs or completion costs.

Development

Support of up to £5,000 to assist development of scripts, story-boards, full treatments, pilot production and so on. This includes research and development for feature film, short drama, animation, documentary projects and innovative television drama.

Feature Film Developments

A maximum of £10,000 for feature film development will be available each year. These awards will normally be made to Northern region production companies, working with an established writer, which are able to demonstrate their ability to match the Northern Arts contribution. Partnership funding may include the cost of feature film development expertise and/or the contribution of another funding partner.

Company Support

Support for bona fide companies based in the Northern region is available to assist in the development of a programme of work.

Co-funding and Broadcaster Partnership Schemes

NPF implements and co-funds many projects, initiatives and schemes for the benefit of writers, producers and directors in the region, working across a range of forms and genres. To this end, MPF works with a variety of organisations including broadcasters. For details of projects which will operate in 1999/2000, please con-tact the Administrator

North West Arts Board

Manchester House
22 Bridge Street
Manchester M5 3AB
Tel: 0161 8346644
Fax: 0161 8346969
Minicom:
0161 8349131

Email:

nwarts-info@mcr1.poptel.org.uk

Website:

<http://www.warts.org.uk/>

North West Arts Board

The North West Film and Video Production Fund

This fund supports film, video and television broadcast and covers projects at development, production and completion stages. The fund covers short fiction, creative documentary and animation. This fund is managed on behalf of NWAB by MIDA (see above) to whom initial enquiries should be made,

Artists Film and Video Production Fund

This new fund will be established in 1999/2000 to support artists working in film, video and digital media. This will be administered by NWAB and will prioritise work which has a clear exhibition/distri-bution strategy. Artists, galleries, vcilues and promoters will be eligible to apply. Research, development and production costs will be supported through this scheme.

SHIFT

This scheme supports research and experimentation with new technologies to develop new creative work from all disciplines. The scheme prioritises projects which demonstrate a clear, innova-tive relationship between creative content, the medium used and the context for presenta-tion and distribution. It also prioritises projects which use new technology to develop new audiences for arts activity.

Graphic House

Duke Street
Liverpool L1 4JR
Tel: 0151 709 0671
Fax: 0151 708 9034
Director: Visual & Media Arts:
Howard R if kin

Administrator Media:

Sherry de Wynter

Offers funding to people resident in Cheshire, Greater Manchester, High Peak District of Derbyshire, Lancashire and Merseyside

Southern Arts Board

13 St Clement Street
Winchester Hampshire
SO23 9DD
Tel: 01962 855099
Fax: 01962 861186
E-mail: jane.gerson.
soLitharts@ar1sfb.org.uk
Website:
<http://www.arts.org.uk>

Film, Video and Broadcasting Of-ficer: Jane Gerson

Offers funding to people resident in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and south east Dorset.

Southern Arts Board

Film and Video Production Fund

Grant aid is available to directors, producer/director and writer/director teams for ail genres of film and video making, including drama, documen-tary, animation, experimental or any combination of these. All applicants must submit fully scripted/story-boarded proposals and a show reel of previous work. Applicants may also apply for completion funding for film and video projects already in production. The finished work should have a running time of no more than 15 minutes. Co-production funding is strongly encouraged.

David Altshul Award

A competitive award for creative achievement in film and video production available to those who live or work in the region including students. An-nual prize money of £1,000.

First Cut

A broadcast scheme with Central Television to support film makers new to television, to make short films for broadcast. The scheme is open to those living in Oxfordshire and Wiltshire.

Taped Up

A broadcast scheme with Meridian Broadcasting to support film makers new to television to make short films for broadcast. Open to all applicants living in Hampshire, Berkshire, the Isle of Wight, Wiltshire and south east Dorset.

South East Arts Board

Third Floor
Union House
ErIDGE Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN48HF
Tel: 01892 515210
Fax: 01892 549383
E-mail:
tim.cornish.sea@artsfb.org.uk

Website:
<http://www.poptel.org.uk.arts/>

Media Officer: Tim Cornish

Production Development Manager

Lighthouse Media Centre
9 - 12 Middle Street
Brighton BN1 1AL
Tel: 01273 384222
E-mail:
cfreeman@lighthouse.org.uk

Production Development
Manager: Caroline Freeman

Offers funding to people resident
in East Sussex, Kent, Surrey and
West Sussex.

South East Arts Board

Production Fund

Offers grants of up to £10,000 for full or part-funding of films or videos for more experienced film makers: the more usual level of grant is around £5,000. Grants of up to £1,000 are also available to those with little or no production experience. The total amount of funding available in 1999/2000 is £28,000, with £2,000 earmarked for beginners. There is one deadline for main production grants (in September for 1999) and two deadlines for production grants for beginners (usually in March and January).

Production Support

The Production Development Manager offers advice, support and production management to those interested in creative production in film, video or digital arts in the South East. The post-holder is normally available from Monday to Wednesday.

Lighthouse in Brighton has been awarded a substantial lottery grant to purchase the freehold of the Media Centre. A proportion of the income derived from this will be used to launch a new production fund. This fund is unlikely to come into full operation until April 2000 and is likely to be at a level of about £50,000.

South West Media Development Agency

59 Prince Street
Bristol BS1 4HQ
Tel: 0117 9273226
Fax: 0117 9226216
E-mail: swmda@eurobell.co.uk

Website:

<http://www.swmedi-adevagency.co.uk>

Administrator:

Sarah-Jane Meredith

Offers funding to people resident in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and all of Dorset except Christchurch, Bournemouth and Poole.

South West Media Development Agency

The South West Media Development Agency (SWMDA) is the funding and development body for film and other media activities in the South West. SWMDA cannot support students, and can only provide funding for those who live within its region.

South West Animation Award

The award is co-funded with Aardman Animations, BBC Animation Unit and BBC Resources. Aimed at animators at the beginning of their careers, a single annual award is made for the production of a new short animated film. An award of £7,000 in cash and support in kind of up to £3,000 is available. 1999 deadline for entries is Autumn.

Kodak Award

The Award is co-funded with Kodak Ltd Professional Motion Imaging. Aimed at new film makers, an annual award of £5,000 in cash plus £1,000 free film stock will be made for the production of one short film on 16mm or super 16mm. Applicants are ineligible if they have had more than one funding award from SWMDA or have had a project funded by BFI Production or ACE. Deadline for 1999 entries is in December.

Low Budget Awards

Awards are made annually for production, script development and completion, with no restrictions on genre or subject matter. The award for production and completion is £3,000 and up to £1,000 for script development. Deadline for 1999 is September.

Western Lights

A partnership with HTV West for the production of four half-hour dramas for television, with an allocation of £50,000 per project. The scheme is restricted to writers and directors who have not previously made television drama. Applicants must be resident in HTV's transmission area. Deadline for 1999 entries is in June.

Wandsworth Film and Video Making Award

Wandsworth Arts Office Room
224a, Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
London SW182PU
Tel: 0181 871 7380
Fax: 0181 871 8712
Principal Arts Officer:
Charlie Catling

Wandsworth Film and Video Making Award

Annual award for film and video makers arranged by Wandsworth Borough Council and the LFVDA. The maximum award for any one film is £5,000 and the minimum number of awards made each year is two. The scheme is open to those who live, work or study in the London Borough of Wandsworth. The deadline for 1999 will be at the end of October.

West Midlands Arts Board

82 Granville Street
Birmingham B1 2LH
Tel: 0121 631 3121
Fax: 0121 6437239
Email: info@west-midlands-arts.co.uk

West Midlands Arts Board

First Cut Film & Video Production Scheme

A broadcast initiative administered by Media Development Agency for the West Midlands (MDAWM) on behalf of funders Birmingham City Council, Central Broadcasting and West Midlands Arts. The aim is to produce a range of diverse programmes for regional television. Recipients of the award work with a Production Co-ordinator (based at MDAWM) to develop a project through training, production support and access to the broadcast industry.

A minimum of five awards are made with budgets of up to £7,500. The scheme results in the Central Television "First Cut" programme which will be broadcast in the Autumn of 2000. Application deadline January 2000.

Media Officer, Film and Video: vacant

Assistant Officer - Media:

Abigail Clements

Email: abigail.elements@west-midlands-arts.co.uk

ENGLISH REGIONS

Offers funding to people living or working in Herefordshire. Worcestershire, Shropshire. Telford and Wrekin, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Warwickshire and the Metropolitan districts of the West Midlands.

Yorkshire Arts
21 Bond Street
Dewsbury
West Yorkshire
WF13 1AX
Tel: 01924 455555
Fax: 01924 466522
Minicom: 01924 438585
E-Mail: info@yarts.co.uk

Website:
<http://www.arts.org.uk>

Film and Broadcast Officer:
Terry Morden

Enquiries: Tony Dixon
E-Mail:
tonydixon.yha@artsfb.org.uk

Offers funding to people resident in Hull, East Riding, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, North. West and South Yorkshire.

**Yorkshire Media
Production Agency**
Workstation
Paternoster Row
Sheffield S1 2BX
Tel: 0114 272 0304 (information packs and messages)
0114 249 2204 (Colin Pons)
01142495504(AnnTobin)
0114 249 2203(Andy Curtis)
Fax: 0114 249 2293
E-mail: ympa@workstation.org.uk

Yorkshire Arts

Film and Video Production Fund 2000

Information will be available late in 1999 regarding the deadline and details for the Short Film and Video Production Fund. The deadline is unlikely to be before March 2000.

Development Awards

Awards of £500 are available to enable projects to be developed to a stage where applications can be made for production funding. An award can be used in any way which advances the project, for example script writing, research fees. Applications will be accepted from writers, producers or directors. The 1999 deadline is in October.

Yorkshire Media Production Agency (YMPA)

YMPA offers support to a wide range of projects through the strands listed below. In most cases the maximum financial contribution made by YMPA to any project will be £80,000 or 25% of the total production budget, whichever is lower. However, in some cases YMPA will broker arrangements with other funders and the level will rise to 100%. Funds are usually loans repayable out of net profits or on the first day of principal photography.

Project Development

Supports independent production companies to prepare and develop projects. It offers both development funding and development services and training.

Feature Films

Encourages and supports the production of feature films in Yorkshire. It offers funding, complements the inward investment work of the Yorkshire Screen Commission, and encourages commercial investment in regional production companies.

Broadcast Television

Encourages broadcasters to commission producers from the Yorkshire region by offering additional funding and negotiating schemes with broadcasters/distributors. YMPA can also provide executive production and other support arrangements.

ENGLISH REGIONS

or

c/o Bradford Film Office
Mercury House
4 Manchester Road
Bradford BD5 0QL
Tel: 01274 754030
Fax: 01274 393426

Contacts:

Colin Pens or Andy Curtis
(Sheffield Office) Ann Tobin
(Sheffield and Bradford Offices)

Cable and Satellite

Offers funding to enable new producers to target the cable and satellite sector. It also helps producers to deal with the challenges of quick turn-around, low budget production.

Cultural Production

Encourages work with a strong cultural and artistic form and content, including fiction and documentary. Funding includes production for television as well as theatrical release. See further details under Yorkshires Arts' Film and Video Production Fund 2000,

Artists' Film, Video and Multimedia

Supports a range of challenging and non-conventional film, video and multimedia work. It offers funding to support work by artists from all disciplines and encourages work that integrates audio-visual media with other arts. Work can be made for exhibition in a wide range of settings.

Digital Technologies

Offers funding to assist development and production for the creative content of CD ROM and other digital formats.

EUROPEAN FUNDING

EURIMAGES

Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France
Tel: (33) 3 88 41 26 40
Fax: (33) 3 88 41 27 60
Email: eurimages@coe.fr

Website:

www.culture.coe.fr/Eurimages

Contact: Simone Martz

EURIMAGES

A co-production fund offering interest-free, conditionally repayable loans for feature films and creative documentaries. The UK withdrew funding from the scheme at the time of the 1995 budget. The Government has in the past stated the intention of rejoining but at the time of going to press this has not yet occurred. Unless and until the UK does rejoin, applications from the UK can only be accepted if a UK producer is a fourth co-producer in a tripartite co-production or the third in a bipartite, provided his/her share does not exceed 30% of the co-production,

European Co-Production Fund

c/o British Screen Finance
14-17 Wells Mews
London W1P3FL
Tel: 0171 323 9080
Fax: 0171 3230092

Contact: Sara Harper

European Co-Production Fund

The aim of the European Co-Production Fund (ECF) is to enable UK producers to collaborate in the making of films which the European market demonstrably wishes to see made but which could not be made without ECF involvement. The ECF offers commercial loans, up to 30% of the total budget and rarely more than £500,000, for full-length feature films intended for theatrical release. The film must be a co-production involving at least two production companies with no link of common ownership, established in two separate European Union states.

Hubert Bals Fund

c/o International Film Festival
P.O. Box 21696
3001 AR Rotterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: (31) 108909090
Fax: (31) 108909091
Email: tiger@iffrotterdam.nl
Website: <http://www.iffrotterdam.nl/profsite>
Contact: Marianne Bhalotra

Hubert Bals Fund

A fund for film makers from developing countries Deadlines for applications are in March and September. The fund awards grants in three different categories: script and project development awards of up to Euro 10,000; production and post-production funding of up to Euro 50,000; grants towards distribution and sales of up to Euro 10,000.

UK MEDIA Contacts

MEDIA England
Tel: 0870 0100 791

MEDIA Assistant (England):
Chris Miller

MEDIA Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Film
Commission
21 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast BT2 8HD
Tel: 01232 232444
Fax: 01232 239918
Email: media@nifc.co.uk
MEDIA Assistant (Northern
Ireland): Heike Meyer-Döring

MEDIA Antenna Scotland

249 West George Street
Glasgow G2 4RB
Tel: 0141 302 1776/7
Fax: 0141 302 1715
Contact: Louise Scott or
Pam Murray

MEDIA-Antenna Wales

Sgrin
The Bank
10 Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff Bay CF105EE
Tel: 01222 333304
Fax: 01222 333320
Email:
antenna@sgrin-
wales.demon.co.uk

Website:
www.sgrin-wales.demon.co.uk

Contact: Jason Tynan

MEDIA II

The MEDIA II Programme offers financial support in the form of interest-free loans or grants for the European audio-visual industry in three areas: Development, Distribution/Promotion and Training. The European Commission issue calls for proposals for each of the areas on a regular basis. These deadlines are published in the Official Journal of the Commission. Copies of the application form and guidelines are also available from members of the UK MEDIA team. The administration of the three schemes is handled by Intermediary Organisations, each responsible for one of the main areas.

Support for Development

Support is available for the development of cinema and television fiction, creative documentaries, animation, productions using new technologies (excluding games with no educational or cultural content and productions which promote an institution) including slates of projects. Special attention will be given to production for children and young people. Support is aimed exclusively at registered European independent production companies with a proven track record. Three types of support are available:

Project Development

Interest-free loans for the development of one or more audio-visual works of the above-mentioned genres covering aspects such as brokering of partnerships, script development or production of a pilot for an animation project. Production companies may also apply for loans for slates of projects.

Preparation of a Business Plan

Interest-free loans to cover 50% of the cost of the preparation of a business plan by an external company. The grant is repayable only if the company is subsequently awarded a MEDIA company development loan.

Company Development

Support for company development is granted on the basis of a business plan. Interest-free loans are awarded to facilitate the expansion of companies into new areas of production and new markets, to acquire assets such as rights or options, to increase use of external expertise and to encourage joint ventures. Loans will not be for more than 50% of the total cost of the implementation of the plan.

Industrial Platforms

Support for industrial platforms to encourage networking of companies. At present there is only one platform supported by the MEDIA Programme.

CARTOON

CARTOON, based in Brussels, is a European animation network which organises the annual CARTOON Forum, co-ordinates the grouping of European animation studios and runs specialist training courses in animation.

MEDIA III

Negotiations for MEDIA III, which will operate from 2000, should be concluded during the second half of 1999. It is possible that MEDIA III will differ quite considerably from the current programme.

Only a small sample of European production funds is listed here concentrating on those actively encouraging incoming producers. Information on the situation elsewhere in Europe (and indeed the world) can be hard to track down: the cultural attaches of embassies are good starting points. As in the UK, many countries and regions of Europe offer support for film and video production. There are many opportunities for co-production deals with national, regional or city production funds. A range of schemes exists with the primary intention of attracting film making activity into a region in order to add to the total volume of activity and therefore develop a stronger media economy. Many British producers have obtained valuable support from loan and tax credit-based schemes offered in the Isle of Man via the Isle of Man Film Commission and the Republic of Ireland via the Irish Film Board.

Filmboard Berlin Brandenburg

Postfach 90 04 02
14440 Potsdam-Babelsberg
Germany
Tel: (49) 331 721 2859
Fax: (49) 331 721 28 48
Contact: Michael Schmetz

Filmboard Berlin Brandenburg

Founded in 1994, it ranks amongst Germany's most influential funding institutions, with an annual budget of up to DM35 million. International co-productions are eligible for production support through the German producer, who does not have to be the majority partner. 100% of the conditionally repayable loan has to be spent in Berlin or Brandenburg. Recent co-productions with the UK: Victory (Mark Peploe); The Ogre (Volker Schloendorff); Snakes and Ladders (Trish McAdam).

Filmstiftung Nordrhein-Westfalen

Kaistrasse 14 40221
Düsseldorf
Germany
Tel: (49) 211 930500
Fax: (49) 211 93 05 05
Email: info@filmstiftung.de
Website: <http://filmstiftung.de>

Filmstiftung Nordrhein-Westfalen

This is one of the largest funds in Germany with an annual budget of DM70 million. Funds are aimed at producers and directors from Nordrhein Westfalia but the Filmstiftung also wants to attract European and international productions to the region. Production support is available for foreign producers, without necessarily having to link up with a German partner, if 150% of the value of the loan is spent in Nordrhein-Westfalia. Recent co-productions with the UK include: The Croupier, My Name is Joe and Ordinary Decent Criminal.

Executive Director:
Dieter Kosslick
Contact: Helga Binder

Isle of Man Production Credit Scheme

Isle of Man Film Commission
William Dhone House
2 Circular Road
Douglas
Isle of Man IM1 1PS
Tel: 01624 685864
Fax: 01624 685454

Isle of Man Production Credit Scheme

Producers must form a company on the island and spend one fifth of the below-the-line costs there. Loans are provided against sales estimates and all productions must be completion bonded.

Film Commission Officer:
Hilary Dougdale

Medien und Filmgesellschaft

Baden-Wuerttemberg mbH
Filmförderung, Huberstr. 4
70174 Stuttgart, Germany
Tel: (49) 711 1222833
E-mail: mfg@mfg.de
Contact:
Gabriele Roethe-meyer/ Jutta
French

Medien und Filmgesellschaft

Administers a total budget of DM12 million. Projects of cultural quality, which spend at least 100% of the conditionally repayable loan in Baden-Wuerttemberg, are eligible for production support.

BOOKS

Arts Funding Guide

Doulton, Anne-Marie (Ed.) Published by the Directory of Social Change.

Gives suggestions for fundraising and lists relevant contacts.

BFI Film and Television Handbook

Dyja, Eddie (Ed.)
Published by the British Film Institute. Annual.

Vital resource for those working in the industry. Key data plus lots of contacts.

The Complete Film Production Handbook

Honthaner, Eve Light
Published by Focal Press.

An American production manual offering practical advice on production forms, locations and clearances, with examples. Mixed media pack.

Directory of Grant Making Trusts

Goldsworthy; Davis and Moncrieff
Published by Charities Aid Foundation. Biennial.

General funding directory.

Directory of International Film and Video Festivals 1999/2000

Published by British Council. Biennial.

Listing of international film and video festivals.

The Film Marketing Handbook

Durie, John (Ed.)
Distributed by the British Film Institute/Media Business School.

Marketing strategies, focusing on independent films in Europe.

Film Production Technique: Creating the Accomplished Image

Mamer, Bruce
Published by Wadsworth.

About 'creating images'. Chapters on all aspects of film techniques, from creating the shots to editing.

Guardian Media Guide

Peak, Steve and Fisher, Paul (Eds.)
Published by Fourth Estate. annual.

General media directory covering print as well as broadcast and media.

Lights, Camera, Action! Working in Film, Television and Video

Langham, Josephine
Published by British Film Institute.

Practical guidance on making a career in the media industry.

Listing of Short courses in Media and Multimedia

Orton, Lavinia (Ed.)
Published by British Film Institute/Skillset-

Short courses in the field.

Media Courses UK

Orton, Lavinia (Ed.)
Published by British Film Institute

Lists college and university courses.

The Production Handbook

Freeman, Diane (Ed.) Published by the Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television (PACT)

General guide to the production process.

Production Management for Film and Video

Gates, Richard
Published by Focal Press.

Guidelines for successful production management, taking as examples feature films and documentaries.

PERIODICALS

Arts Council News

Published by Arts Council of England. Bi-monthly.
14 Great Peter Street, London SW1 P 3NQ

Contains Arts Council of England grant information.

Arts Digest

Published by London Independent Arts Digest Quarterly.
66 Top House Place, Chingford, London E4 7JF

Published three times per year, a useful guide to funding sources in London.

Broadcast

Published by emap Business Communications. Weekly.

Leading trade paper for television and radio industries.

Creation

Published by MDI. Monthly.
3 St Peter's Street, London NI 8JD

Coverage of film and TV aimed at low budget indie sector.

Ffocws

Published by Premiere Cymru Wales.
6G Parc Gwyddoniaeth, Cefn Llan, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AH

Information on Welsh production

Funding Digest

Published by RTI. Monthly.
Suite 1.02, St Mary's Centre, Oystershell Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5QS

Guide to funding sources in voluntary and non-profit distributing sectors.

International Arts Navigator

Published by The International Arts Bureau. Bi-monthly.
4 Baden Place,
Crosby Row, London SE1 1YW

Update on international legislation, funding and debate.

Screen Finance

Published by Financial Times. Bi-weekly. Maple House, 149 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LL

Includes statistics and news of films in production.

Screen International

Published by EMAP Media. Weekly.
33-39 Bowling Green Lane,
London EC1RODA

Leading trade paper for film, TV and video markets from Britain and around the world.

Screenwriter

Published by London Screenwriters Workshop. Quarterly.
84 Wardour Street,
London W1V3LF

Useful magazine giving news and advice for writers.

FILM AND VIDEO NEWSLETTERS

Cini

(Northern Ireland Film Commission) Quarterly.

London Film and Video News (LFVDA) Quarterly

MediaEast

(first take films and Eastern Screen)
Newsletter for film and television in the Eastern region. Quarterly.
Networking (Vera Productions)

Information and networking for women working in independent media. Quarterly.

Scene (Sheffield Independent Film)

Quarterly.

South West Media Development Agency Newsletter (SWMDA)

Twice a year.

Take 2 (Yorkshire Arts)

Bi-monthly.

INFORMATION PACKS

Companies House

14 pamphlets available on legal aspects of setting up and running a limited company including: New Companies; Choosing a Company Name; Directors and Companies House; The New Company - Looking Forward; Starter Pack.

Charity Commissioners

So You Want to Start a Charity.

DTI Small Firms Publications

Guide to help for Small Firms.

Skillset

An invaluable series of guidance notes for individuals aspiring to work in film, video and broadcast, giving information on careers and training including: Finding out about the broadcasting, Film and Television Industry; Working in the Broadcast, Film and Television Industry; Training and Education for the Industry.

WEBSITES

Some of the organisations listed have websites which will carry information on deadlines and so on. The Low Budget Funding Guide is available online on www.bfi.org.uk. Here is a hit-and-miss list of other useful sites for independent film makers found by your Editor.

www.shootingpeople.org

Network for independent film makers in the UK. Q&A facility can provide advice from film professionals including lawyers, accountants, producers and technicians.

www.backspace.org/exponet/

The site of Exploding Cinema - a coalition of film makers committed to developing underground media, based in London. Contacts and resources for getting no/low budget films made and shown.

www.exposure.co.uk

The Internet resource for young film makers - useful advice on production and funding. 'Eejit' guide to film making' and links to other independent UK film makers.

www.britfilmcommission.co.uk

The site of the British Film Commission. Check Book 4 online - the film makers' companion. Technical, locations and facilities advice.

www.cinemagin_ltd.com

FAQ and useful tips - working film makers pass on knowledge/experiences. Suggested books and publications.

www.nextwavefilms.com

US-based resource for independent film makers working with very limited funds. Gives an overview of new tools and equipment. Articles on digital video and other topics.

www.absolutvodka.com

Although a commercial site, is great fun. Celebrates animation as an art form featuring experimental animation. Java Script is needed to download.

ADDRESSES

Arts and Business

Nutmeg House,
60 Gainsford Street,
Butlers Wharf, London SE1 2NY
Tel: 0171 378813

Arts Council of England

14 Great Peter Street, London
SW1P3NQ
Tel: 0171 333 0100

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

MacNeice House,
77 Malone Road,
Belfast BT9 6AQ
Tel: 01232 385200

Arts Council of Wales

Hoist House,
9 Museum Place,
Cardiff CF1 3NX
Tel: 01222 394711

BBC Independents

Commissioning Group Centre
House.
56 Wood Lane,
London W12 7SB
Tel: 0181 7438000

British Council Film, Television and Video Department

11 Portland Place,
London W1N 4EJ
Tel: 0171 3893065

British Film Commission

4th Floor
70 Baker Street,
London W1M 1DJ
Tel: 0171 224 5000

British Film Institute

21 Stephen Street,
London W1P2LN
Tel: 0171 255 1444

British Screen Finance

14-17 Wells Mews,
London W1P3FL
Tel: 0171 3239080
Business Link Signpost Line
0345 567765

Central England Screen Commission

Unit 5, Holliday Wharf,
Holiday Street,
Birmingham B1 1TJ
Tel: 0121 6439309

Channel Four Television

124 Horseferry Road,
London SW1P2TX
Tel: 0171 3964444

Channel Four Nations and Regions

227 West George Street,
Glasgow G2 2ND
Tel: 0141 5687100

Charities Aid Foundation

25 Kings Hill Avenue,
King's Hill, West Mailing,
Kent ME194TA
Tel: 01732 520000

Charity Commissioners

Harmsworth House,
13-15 Bouverie Street,
London EC4Y 8DP
Tel: 0870 333 0123

Companies House (England and Wales)

Crown Way,
Maindy,
Cardiff CF14 3UZ
Tel: 01222 388588

Companies House (Scotland)

37 Castle Terrace,
Edinburgh EH1 2EB
Tel: 0131 5355800

Companies Registrar (N. Ireland)

Department of Economic
Development
Company Registry, IDB House,
54 Chichester Street,
Belfast BT1 4X
Tel: 01222 541820

Department for Culture

Media and Sport
Trafalgar Place,
2-4 Cockspur Street,
London SW1Y5DH
Tel: 0171 211 6000

DNA Films

30 Oval Road, Camden,
London NW1 7DE
Tel: 0171 4854411

DTI Small Firms Publications

Level 2, St Mary's House,
c/o Moorfoot,
Sheffield S1 4PQ
Tel: 0114 259 7530

Eastern Arts Board

Cherry Hinton Hall,
Cherry Hinton Road,
Cambridge CB1 4DW
Tel: 01223 215355

Eastern Screen

c/o Anglia Television,
Royal Hotel,
Norwich NR1 3JG
Tel: 01603 767077

East Midlands Arts Board

Mountfields House,
Epinal Way,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire LE11 0QE
Tel: 01509 218292

East Midlands Screen Commission

Broadway,
14-18 Broad Street,
Nottingham NG1 3AL
Tel: 0115 905564

FilmFour

7-78 Charlotte Street,
London W1P 1LX
Tel: 0171 868 7700

first take films

Anglia Television,
Anglia House
Norwich
Norfolk NR1 3JG
Tel: 01603 615151

Foundation for Sport in the Arts

PO Box 20,
Liverpool L13 1HB
Tel 0151 259 5505

ITC

33 Foley Street
London W1P 7LB
Tel: 0171 255 3000

Irish Film Board

Rockfort House,
St Augustine Street.
Galway Ireland
Tel: (353) 91 561398

Isle of Man Film Commission

Illiam Dhone House,
2 Circular Road,
Douglas,
Isle of Man IM1 1PS
Tel: 01624 685864

London Arts Board

Elme House,
133 Long Acre,
London WC2E 9AF
Tel: 0171 240 1313

London Film Commission

20 Fusion Centre,
Regent's Place,
London NW1 3JH
Tel: 0171 3878787

London Film and Video Development Agency

114 Whitfield Street,
London W1P 5RW
Tel: 0171 383 7755

Millennium Festival Awards for All

Tel: 0845 600 2040

NESTA

33 Throgmorton Street,
London EC2N 2BR
Tel: 0171 861 9670

New Producers Alliance

9 Bourlet Close,
London WP1 7PJ
Tel: 0171 580 2480

Next Wave Films

32 Abbey Gardens,
London NW8 9AT
Tel: 07957 342 896

Northern Arts Board

9-10 Osborne Terrace,
Jesmond,
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE2 1NZ
Tel: 0191 281 6334

Northern Ireland Film Commission

21 Ormeau Avenue,
Belfast BT2 8HD
Tel: 01232 232 444

Northern Screen Commission

Great North House,
Sandyford Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8ND
Tel: 0191 204 2311

North West Arts Board

Manchester House,
22 Bridge Street,
Manchester M3 3AB
Tel: 0161 8346644

North West Screen Commission

Granada Television,
Quay Street,
Manchester M60 9EA
Tel: 0161 832 7211

Pathe Pictures

Kent House,
14-17 Market Place,
London W1 N 8AR
Tel: 0171 3235151

Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television (PACT)

45 Mortimer Street,
London W1N7TD
Tel: 0171 331 6000

RTI

Suite 1.02,
St Mary's Centre,
Oystershell Lane,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5QS
Tel: 0191 2326942

Scottish Arts Council

12 Manor Place,
Edinburgh EH3 7DD
Tel: 0131 226 6651

Scottish Screen

74 Victoria Crescent Road,
Glasgow G1 9JN
Tel: 0141 302 1700

Sgrin

The Bank,
10 Mount Stuart Square,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF105EE
Tel: 01222 333300

Skillset

2nd Floor,
91-101 Oxford Street,
London W1R 1RA
Tel: 0171 534 5300

South East Arts Board

Union House,
Endge Road,
Tumbridge Wells,
Kent TN4 8HF
Tel: 01892 515210

South West Arts Board

Bradlnch Place,
Brandy Street,
Exeter,
Devon EX4 3LS
Tel: 01392 218188

South West Media Development Agency

59 Prince Street,
Bristol BS1 4QH
Tel: 0117 927 3226

South West Screen Commission

18 Belle Vue Road,
Saltash,
Cornwall PL126ES
Tel: 01752 841 199

Southern Arts Board

13 St Clement Street,
Winchester,
Hampshire
SO23 7DQ
Tel: 01962 855 09

Southern Screen

Brighton Media Centre,
9-12 Middle Street,
Brighton BN1 1AL
Tel: 01273 384 211
or
4th Floor,
Baltic House, Kingston Crescent,
Portsmouth PO2 8QL
Tel: 01705 650 779

TEC Enquiry Point

01142 594 776

Vera Productions

30-38 Dock Street,
Leeds LS10 1JF
Tel: 0113 242 8646

West Midlands Arts Board

82 Granville Street,
Birmingham B1 2LH
Tel: 0121 631 3121

Yorkshire Arts

21 Bond Street,
Dewsbury,
West Yorkshire WF13 1AX
Tel: 01924 455 555

Yorkshire Screen Commission

The Workstation,
15 Paternoster Row,
Sheffield S1 2BX
Tel: 0114 279 9115

WORKSHOPS

Contact details for the larger film and video workshops, all of which offer access to equipment and production advice and may provide one or more of the following services: studio hire; training; production offices, business development bursaries. Other workshops/facilities exist elsewhere and form valuable local resources: for addresses contact your RAB/MDA/national film agency.

Connections

Palingswick House,
241 King Street,
London W6 9LP
Tel: 0181 741 1766

Edinburgh Film Workshop Trust

29 Albany Street,
Edinburgh EH1 3QN
Tel: 0131 5575242

Exeter Phoenix

New Media Centre Bradninch Place,
Gandy Street,
Exeter EX4 3LS
Tel: 01392 667 066

Film House/Ty Ffilm

Chapter Arts Centre,
Market Road, Canton,
Cardiff CF51QE
Tel: 01222 409 990

Four Corners Film Workshop

113 Roman Road,
Bethnal Green,
London E2 OQN
Tel: 0181 981 6111

Glasgow Film and Video Workshop

3rd Floor,
34 Albion Street,
Merchant City,
Glasgow G1 1LH
Tel: 0141 553 2620

Hull Time Based Arts

AvidLAB

8 Posterngate,
Hull HU1 2JN
Tel: 01482 586340

Intermedia Film and Video

19 Heathcoat Street,
Nottingham NG1 3AF
Tel: 0115 955 6909

Lighthouse

Brighton Media Centre,
9-12 Middle Street,
Brighton BN1 1AL
Tel 01273 384 222

Lux

Lux Building,
2-4 Hoxton Square,
London N1 6NU
Tel: 0171 684 0101/0202
Lux is a merger of London
Electronic Arts and London Film
Makers' Co-op.

Media Arts

Town Hall Studios,
Regent Circus,
Swindon SN1 1GF
Tel: 01793 463 226

Mersey Film and Video

13-15 Hope Street,
Liverpool L1 9BQ
Tel: 0151 708 5259

Nerve Centre

2nd Floor,
Northern Counties Building,
8 Customs House Street,
Derry BT48 6AE
Tel: 01504 260562

Northern Visions

4 Lower Donegal Street
Place,
Belfast BT1 2FN
Tel: 01232 245 495

Picture This Independent Film and Video

Kingsland House,
Gas Lane, St Philips,
Bristol BS1 4QA
Tel: 0117 972 1002

Sheffield Independent Film 5

Brown Street,
Sheffield S1 2BS
Tel: 0114 272 0304

Signals Essex Media Centre

Victoria Chambers,
St Runwald Street,
Colchester C01 1HF
Tel: 01206 560 255

Vivid

Unit 311F,
The Big Peg,
120 Vyse Street,
Birmingham B18 6ND
Tel: 0121 233 4061

WFA

Media and Cultural Centre
9 Lucas Street,
Manchester M15 4BXæ
Tel: 0161 248 9132/5