



**BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Minutes of the meeting held on **18^h July 2007** from 10:30am – 13:00pm, in the BFI Boardroom, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN

PRESENT: Roger Laughton, CBE (Acting Chairman), Eric Fellner, CBE, Caroline Michel, Leslie Hardcastle, OBE, Peter Watson, Stephen Frears, Elan Closs Stephens, CBE, John Akomfrah, Peter Foy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Amanda Nevill, Richard Brousson (Secretary), Jill McLaughlin, Nick Mason Pearson, Darren Long, Catharine Pusey.

APOLOGIES: Anthony Minghella, CBE, Tim Angel, OBE, Sam Taylor-Wood, Lizzie Francke, Shami Chakrabarti, CBE.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (6^h June 2007) AND MATTERS ARISING

2.1 The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on 6th June 2007.

2.2 No matters arising were reported.

3 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3.1 Amanda Nevill presented the paper to the meeting.

3.2 The UKFC Review had been concluded and, overall, it had been a very positive experience, doing much to increase understanding on both sides. The Director reported that she had seen the draft report to the UKFC board which was extremely supportive, and recommended support and endorsement for the BFI's forward strategy. The draft paper

acknowledged the challenging funding climate, but did not offer any solutions.

3.3 She also pointed out that there was little further she could do in relation to the BFI's financial position and that either the BFI Chairman needed to talk to the UKFC Chairman or a BFI Governor needed to attend the next UKFC Board meeting as a deputy for the BFI Chairman to be an advocate for the BFI's difficult financial position at the UKFC Board.

3.4 The Board then discussed the BFI's financial position.

4 ARCHIVE STORAGE PAPER

4.1 Darren Long presented this paper which contained 4 main points:

- a) Restated the need for sub-zero storage
- b) Described what a sub-zero facility might look like and what it would cost
- c) The store would be large enough for all master materials, hence removing the need to inspect every can
- d) Funding options (which should be met by monies from the CSR)

4.2 The Board supported the paper's recommendation that to address the issue of deteriorating acetate film a new sub zero vault large enough to house all of the BFI's existing master acetate material should be created as soon as possible, subject to Darren Long providing a circular about the relationship between cost and space for such a vault.

5 Proposal for the future of BFI Publishing

5.1 Catharine Pusey presented the paper which detailed the BFI's desire to remove the risk of the BFI Publishing operation by licensing the BFI publishing imprint.

5.2 Over a period of four months, the BFI sought expressions of interest in the Publishing operation from other commercial and non-commercial organisations. The BFI had contact with a total of 15 organisations, received five written proposals and have selected one preferred partner to take forward to contractual negotiation.

5.3 The preferred partnership was with Palgrave Macmillan, part of the international Macmillan publishing operation, which is ultimately owned by the German media group Georg von Holtzbrink GmbH.

- 5.4 Macmillan benefits from its own sales and distribution network in all major territories around the World and is a respected name in academic publishing.
- 5.5 The Board approved the terms of the proposed deal, subject to contract, and suggested that the name of the publisher should be carefully communicated to affected BFI staff and relevant stakeholders.

6 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6.1. The Board noted the Health & Safety Report and Jill Mclaughlin confirmed that she would report back about the current procedures in place for use of nitrate film.
- 6.2. The Board noted the Management Accounts.

7 AOB

- 7.1 The letter from the unions was tabled for Governors to look at and the Executive confirmed that there was ongoing consultation with BFI staff and the unions in relation to realignment.

Lunch

The meeting closed at 1.30pm