

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MINUTES
22 SEPTEMBER 2015

Minutes of the extraordinary Board meeting held from 13:30 to 17:00 on 22 September 2015 in the Pinewood Room, BFI, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN.

Present:

Greg Dyke (<i>Chair</i>)	Charles Cecil MBE	Oona King
Libby Savill (<i>Deputy Chair</i>)	Alison Cornwell	Tim Richards
Josh Berger CBE	Matthew Justice	Jonathan Ross OBE
Pat Butler	Ashley Highfield	

In attendance:

Amanda Nevill	<i>Chief Executive</i>	
David Parkhill	<i>Director of Finance & Resources</i>	
Iain Thomson	<i>Board Secretary</i>	
Heather Stewart	<i>Creative Director</i>	<i>Item 3, 7-8</i>
Ben Roberts	<i>Director Film Fund</i>	<i>Item 4</i>
Deborah Williams	<i>Diversity Manager</i>	<i>Item 4</i>
Fiona Cookson	<i>Director of External Affairs</i>	<i>Item 5</i>
Francesca Vinti	<i>Director of Development</i>	<i>Item 6</i>
Brad McDonald	<i>Head of Development Operations</i>	<i>Item 6</i>
Robin Baker	<i>Head Curator</i>	<i>Item 7</i>
Clare Stewart	<i>Head of Festivals and Cinemas</i>	<i>Item 8</i>

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies

Pete Czernin	Tom Hooper
Peter Kosminsky	Andrea Wong

Declarations of Interest

- Amanda Nevill declared an interest as a Trustee of the BFI Trust. Iain Thomson declared an interest as Secretary to the BFI Trust. It was agreed that the nature of these interests was such that they would not be required to leave the room during this meeting.
- Also noted were the interests of most Governors in different aspects of the film industry and various related parties. It was agreed that the nature of these interests was such that none of these Governors would be required to leave the room during the meeting.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 2.1** The minutes of the meetings held on 21 July and 4 September were considered and it was resolved to approve them as accurate records.

London Film Festival

- 2.2** The Board was advised that stakeholders and attendees have received letters explaining that they will be required to pay for tickets to the 2015 edition of the London Film Festival. The response has been extremely positive with most people being very happy to do so.

3. Funding Position Update

- 3.1** David Parkhill gave a presentation on the current funding environment that was noted by the Board.
- 3.2** The Board noted that the BFI would be advised as to the extent of any cut after the comprehensive spending review at the end of November. A significant amount of advocacy had taken place to ensure that any imposed cut would be as small as possible.
- 3.3** Options to fund any possible shortfall were outlined and discussed. Mechanisms for a possible industry contribution, including an exhibition levy, were considered. It was now understood that the Government would not create a mandatory system.

Tim Richards joined the meeting.

4. Three Ticks Diversity Strategy Update

Ben Roberts and Deborah Williams joined the meeting.

- 4.1** The paper before the Board was noted. The Board was advised that Deborah Williams had undertaken an audit of the films that have gone through the *Three Ticks* process. She then considered the long term vision for the *Three Ticks* and how

they would apply to all lottery investments. The *Three Ticks* have been received very well.

- 4.2 It was now proposed to strengthen the *Three Ticks* and refer to them as guidelines. Only positive but fairly minor adjustments were required. Applicants were now being asked to go further than they had done historically. The guidelines would now require consideration as close to the inception of a project as possible. The overarching aim was to normalise diversity instead of categorising it.
- 4.3 Onna King reiterated the profound effect that the *Three Ticks* had on the industry, prompting Channel 4 to introduce its scheme, which in turn had an impact on SKY's strategy.

Ben Roberts and Deborah Williams left the meeting.

5. BBC Charter Renewal – DCMS Consultation

Fiona Cookson joined the meeting.

- 5.1 The paper before the Board was noted. Ashley Highfield informed the Board that he was sitting on the Advisory Group of experts that was supporting the BBC Charter Review process. To date 40K submissions had been received.
- 5.2 He was of the view that submissions needed to be crisp, clearly stating what the BFI was seeking. The submission should be tied to how the BBC can better help the BFI achieve its objectives. The potential for over-arching relationships should be emphasised as this was a theme that would be positively received within DCMS. A commitment should be sought from the BBC to support the overall ecosystem and share technology and resources.
- 5.3 It was agreed that it may be advantageous to share the submissions with the BBC in advance of a formal submission as it may be prepared to incorporate it into its own documentation.

Fiona Cookson left the meeting.

6. LUMINOUS Fundraising Gala!

Francesca Vinti and Brad McDonald joined the meeting.

- 6.1 Brad McDonald gave a presentation on the forthcoming LUMINOUS Gala that was noted by the Board. The target for the Gala was to raise £250K. The event was currently sold out and a waiting list was being maintained. Tom Hiddleston would be joining the evening as the first BFI Ambassador. Francesca Vinti outlined the Film is Fragile Campaign.

Francesca Vinti and Brad McDonald left the meeting.

7. Britain on Film – So Far....

Heather Stewart and Robin Baker joined the meeting.

- 7.1** Robin Baker gave a presentation that updated the Board on the Britain on Film project. Work was currently being undertaken on a range of options that may flow from the project. Discussions with potential partners have been facilitated greatly by the success of Britain on Film. 50% of the titles in the project came from the national archive, the rest came from regional archives. To date the project had been extremely well received and has had a great deal of positive press coverage.

Robin Baker left the meeting.

8. 59th BFI London Film Festival – Programme

Clare Stewart joined the meeting.

- 8.1** Clare Stewart gave a presentation outlining the programme for the 2015 edition of the BFI London Film Festival, the Board also viewed the Festival trailer. The Festival faced a significant challenge in 2015 with the closure of Odeon West End, steps were being taken to mitigate against the difficulties arising from the closure.
- 8.2** The Board noted the new *LFF Connects* initiative that would, over time, develop into a more substantial industry programme.

Heather Stewart and Clare Stewart left the meeting.

9. Board Committees and Normal Business

BFI Activity – CEO Report

- 9.1** Amanda Nevill outlined the pertinent elements of the CEO Report that were noted by the Board.

Finance Report and Management Accounts

Part of this minute has been removed for reasons of confidentiality

- 9.2** The paper and Period 5 management accounts were noted by the Board.

10. Appointment of the Chair of the BFI

- 10.1** Libby Savill gave an update on the ongoing process for the appointment of the Chair. Eighteen applicants had applied for the role. There was a reasonably interesting mix of people from within the industry and from outside the industry.

10.2 A sift meeting would take place on 28 September. Candidate interviews would then be held after which a list of appointable candidates would be presented to the Secretary of State.