

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MINUTES

14 MAY 2013

Minutes of the meeting held from 13:30 to 17:00 on 14 May 2013 in the Pinewood Room, BFI, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN.

Present:

Greg Dyke (*Chair*)

Josh Berger *By Telephone*

Pat Butler

Charles Cecil MBE

Ashley Highfield

Tom Hooper

Matthew Justice

Oona King

Peter Kosminsky

Libby Savill (*Deputy Chair*)

Cy Young

In attendance:

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------|
| Amanda Nevill | Chief Executive | |
| Tim Cagney | Deputy Chief Executive | |
| Trevor Mawby | Director of Finance & Resources | |
| Iain Thomson | Board Secretary | |
| Heather Stewart | BFI Creative Director | <i>For Items 1-6</i> |
| Carol Comley | Head of Policy and Strategic Development | <i>For Items 5.6-5.8</i> |
| Ruth Kelly | Former Head of Collections & Information | <i>For Item 6</i> |
| Ed Humphrey | Director of Digital | <i>For Item 6</i> |
| Ben Roberts | Director of Film Fund | <i>For Item 7</i> |
| Will Evans | Director of Business Affairs | <i>For Item 7</i> |

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed the Governors to the meeting.

2a. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Rt Hon James Purnell

b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Amanda Nevill and Trevor Mawby declared an interest as company directors of British Film Institute (Big Screen) Limited. 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.
- Charles Cecil declared an interest as Board member of Screen Yorkshire.
- Also noted were the interests of most Governors in different aspects of the film industry and various related parties. It was agreed that in relation to these interests, should the need arise, Governors would be required to leave the room during this meeting.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25 APRIL AND MATTERS ARISING

Sections of this minute have been removed for reasons of confidentiality

Board of Governors Meeting 25 April 2013

- 3.1** The minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2013 were noted. It was agreed that Tom Hooper would be added to the list of attendees. Subject to this amendment being made it was resolved to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

- 4.1** The Chair of the Nominations and Appointments Committee (NAC) gave an update to the Board on the Governor recruitment process. It was recommended that Tim Richards be appointed as a BFI Governor for a period of three years. The Board resolved to approve the recommendation.

- 4.2** The recruitment process would remain on going and further updates would be given to the Board in due course.

5. ORDINARY BUSINESS

Sections of this minute have been removed for reasons of confidentiality

Finance Report and Management Accounts

- 5.1** Trevor Mawby outlined the Finance Report. The Board noted that the National Audit Office had commenced its work in advance of the completion of the Statutory Accounts.
- 5.2** At the meeting held on 25 April 2013 the Board noted an increase in the amount allocated to the Vision Awards in response to the very high quality applications received. The Board resolved to approve that the increase of £150k is funded by utilising part of the 2012-13 contingency of £500k that was not used last year. The Board noted that the remaining £350k will be added to Lottery reserves carried forward.
- 5.3** The Executive Summary of the Business Case for a new Finance and HR system was noted by the Board. The Board was advised that the summary had been reviewed by Pat Butler. Trevor Mawby stated that the proposed new system was required to replace the existing out of date finance system which is close to being unsupported by the supplier and is not fit for purpose.

Executive Report

- 5.6** The Executive Report was noted and discussed by the Board.

Funding for Research

Carol Comley joined the meeting.

- 5.7** The paper before the Board was outlined by Tim Cagney and discussed. The Board was informed that initial discussions with potential partners had been very positive. The proposed initiative represented a great opportunity to grow a very valuable resource. It was confirmed that intellectual property generated would be owned by the BFI.
- 5.8** The Board resolved to approve the allocation of National Lottery funds of £1m per annum to the Research and Statistics Fund and agreed to proceed with a call for applicants (subject to the Executive obtaining any external approvals as are required in relation to Lottery schemes).

Carol Comley left the meeting.

6. FILM FOREVER, BFI PLAN 2012-2017

Ruth Kelly and Ed Humphrey joined the meeting.

Unlocking Film Heritage

- 6.1** The presentation on the progress made on Unlocking Film Heritage was noted by the Board.
- 6.2** It was noted that Ruth Kelly had now left the BFI and had returned for the purposes of presenting to the Board. The Chair thanked Ruth for her significant contribution to the BFI over the years and wished her every success in the future.

BFI Player Strategy

- 6.3** The presentation on the proposed BFI Player Strategy was noted by the Board. The strategy would ensure effective access to titles digitised as part of the Unlocking Film Heritage initiative.
- 6.4** With an abundance of content and curatorial expertise at its disposal, the BFI was uniquely positioned in the VOD space. Titles that had already been digitised would be prioritised in advance of the proposed launch of the player at the BFI London Film Festival.
- 6.5** The Board discussed the proposed business plan. It was queried whether the BFI should alternatively consider a business partnership with other platforms. It was noted that the disadvantages of this type of partnership are that existing platforms are VOD only and unlikely to carry the depth and diversity of content proposed. Initial discussions with rights holders have been very positive.
- 6.6** It was agreed that the following would be provided at the next Board meeting:
 - a.** A clear indication would be given of what exactly we will be doing;
 - b.** More granulation in relation to the business plan;
 - c.** The Board would be provided with an outline of the possible options (including platform partnership);
 - d.** The Board would be guided through what the Player will look like (a presentation would also be given on the Samsung BFI App).

Heather Stewart, Ruth Kelly and Ed Humphrey left the meeting.

7. ADDITIONAL WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN HELP TO FUND BRITISH FEATURE FILMS

Will Evans and Ben Robert join the meeting. It was noted that owing to identified conflicts of interest, some Board members would be required to leave the meeting in advance of any decision being taken on the recommendations in the paper.

7.1 The recommendations in the paper were discussed by the Board.

7.2 It was agreed that Item 4, *Attracting Private Investment into British Film*, would be reviewed in line with discussions at the meeting and brought to a future meeting of the Board.

Tom Hooper, Matthew Justice and Peter Kosminsky left the meeting.

7.3 In relation to Item 1, *BFI Film Fund to cashflow UK Tax Credit on Low Budget Films*, it was resolved to approve this initiative. The following revisions should be made in advance of approval:

- a.** It would only be offered on films having a budget of up to £2,000,000;
- b.** The BFI UK Tax Credit Advance would be capped at 90% of the estimated UK Tax Credit with an overall cap of £275,000 per film.

The meeting ended at 17:00.