

TOWARDS A NEW CINEMA

The structure of British film culture has changed radically since the war. Although cinema attendance has increased recently, it has been solely on the basis of high-budget, one-off pictures produced with American finance for the world market. Examples would be "Jaws", "The Omen" and "Star Wars". Although some of these films were produced in England, with the American producers taking advantage of the high quality (and low wages) of British technical staff, the indigenous British film has almost totally disappeared from the screens. A notable exception would be 'sexploitation' movies.

A number of recent government reports have addressed themselves to the question of the growth of British independent film production. There is a proposal to create a British Film Authority which would bring together all aspects of film finance under one umbrella. Legislation will probably be introduced in 1979-80. The Independent Film-Makers Association has proposed to the Department of Trade a new approach to the question of film development based on the notion of a subsidised cinema, operating

on a similar principle to that of theatre. The criterion of cultural and artistic worth is seen as the arbiter for funding decisions rather than the principles of commercial profitability. Struggling with inadequate funds and facilities, independent film-makers in Britain have, during the last ten years, constructed the rudimentary basis for such a rebirth of British independent cinema. "Towards a New Cinema" represents a cross-section of the work being done around the country. The film-makers will be there to discuss their experience of different areas of British film culture.

Such a discussion will also inform the way we will proceed at the Midland Group, especially with the new cinema being opened in March. The film-makers we have chosen are geographically far-flung and will present varied experiences about making and screening films. But the discussion will extend far wider. Peter Sainsbury, from the British Film Institute Production Board, will talk about the way subsidised production works at present. The Season starts with "In the Forest", an excellent example of a B.F.I. produced film.

We hope you will come, both to enjoy the films and to participate in the discussion, "Towards A New Cinema."

IN THE FOREST - 10 January

(PHIL MULLOY) 1978 80 mins

A feature made with funds from the British Film Institute Production Board, this is a history film but no wooden television costume drama about the lives of the nobility. It tells of the rise of the industrial bourgeoisie against the feudal establishment through the story of three peasants lost in a forest. Fleeing into the forest for safety they encounter 400 years of English history, retold as it never been told in the schoolbooks, through a series of mean and vicious encounters with the falling knights and the rising bourgeoisie. The film is a bold and effective attempt to talk about our own history and bring it alive to us on the level of horrific personal experiences and political and social forces.

Shown at London and Edinburgh Film Festivals.

TELLING TALES - 17 January

(RICHARD WOOLEY) 80 mins 1978
Presented by the film-maker

A film about a middle-class couple and a working class couple and their different life styles but also concerned with other questions: the manipulative power of cinema; the ideological control of class over class; the day to day control of men over women. Though an experimental film it does not seek to hide its politics behind formal obscurity. "A serious and thorough artist. his films encompass all those issues which are at the centre of current critical debate." (Time Out) Based in Leeds, Wooley represents the growing strength of regional film production.

PETER SAINSBURY

24 January

Peter Sainsbury is the head of the British Film Institute Production Board, a crucial institution in terms of the development of independent film, being the major funding body for film-makers. This is an opportunity to talk to Peter Sainsbury about the policies of the Board, the future development of film in Britain and the role of regional workshops and cinemas in the national context.

BLACKBIRD DESCENDING

7 February

(MALCOLM LE GRICE) 110 mins 1977

Le Grice has for many years been one of the major figures in English avant-garde film-making. Closely associated with the London Film-makers Co-op his work has been seen as operating in the area defined as 'structural' film. His latest film appears as a move towards 'narrative' cinema, denounced by structuralists for its use of mystification, manipulation and illusion. Simon Field disagrees, writing "It is absolutely not a question of a 'return' to narrative, it is more a wholly new approach made possible by the foregrounding of cinematic procedures, characteristic of Le Grice's work - and that of other avant-garde film-makers - over the last 10 years. The result is a film of great vigour, ambition, even playfulness. It is one of a number of recent films which give cause for optimism for the future of English Independent cinema."

MALCOLM LEGRICE

14 February

Visit by Malcolm Le Grice

Le Grice will show his short film "After Lumiere" and discuss with the audience his approach to avant-garde film and his experience with the development of the London Film-Makers Co-op, the first British Independent film-makers workshop and cinema.

AMBER FILMS

21 February

A selection of films with a visit by the group.

Amber films work in Newcastle and have pioneered the move by film-makers to work in the regions. Over the past few years they have built a film workshop, cinema and photography gallery in an old factory. Their work strongly relates to the Newcastle working class environment, and documents the people and industry of Tyneside. Their cinema has developed an adventurous programming policy and the products of their film-workshop are screened in their cinema.

All shows 60p (free to I.F.A. members) except 24th January and 14th February which are free to everyone.

All shows start at 8.00 p.m.

At the Midland Group,
24/32 Carlton Street,
(Warser Gate entrance in
the Lacemarket)
Nottingham.

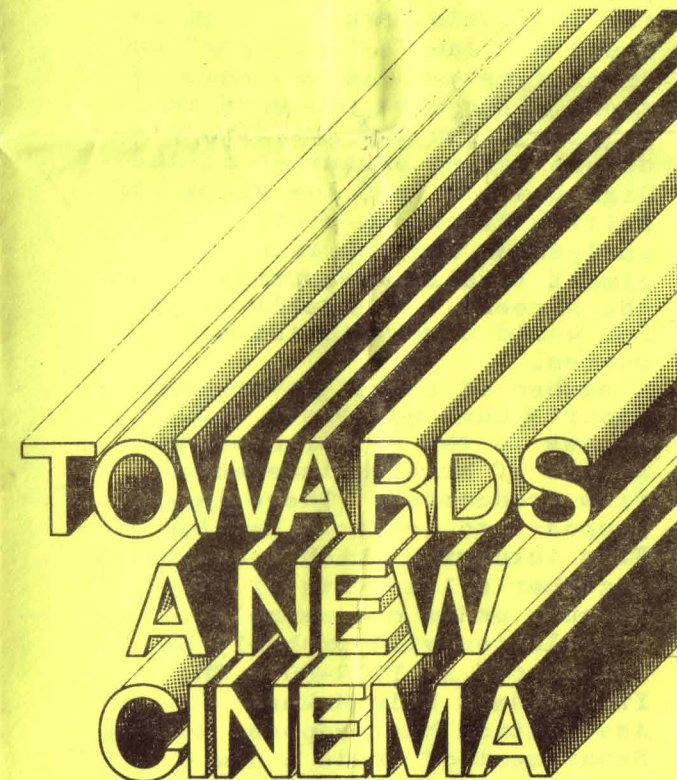
Tel. Nottm. 582636

FOUR CORNER FILMS

7 March

A selection of films with a visit from the group.

A group of film-makers, based in Bethnal Green, who have initiated a project of creating an integrated cinema space, including a workshop and a screening venue. It is specifically designed to accommodate all types of audience/film work interaction and, as such, is comparable to our own project at the Midland Group. Their film work consists of a radically new approach to documentary and embraces a variety of subjects but have in common the desire to present the experiences of ordinary people.



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