

**BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**M I N U T E S  
8 JULY 2010**

Minutes of the meeting held from 1030 to 1600 on 8 July 2010 at BFI, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN.

**Present:**

Greg Dyke (Chair)  
Shami Chakrabarti CBE  
Sir Christopher Frayling  
Caroline Michel  
David Thompson  
Cy Young

**In attendance:**

Amanda Nevill, Director  
Paula LeDieu, Director BFI Digital  
Trevor Mawby, Director of Finance & Resources  
Heather Stewart, Cultural Director UK-Wide  
Paul Crake, Board Secretary

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Eric Fellner CBE  
Peter Foy  
Matthew Freud  
Ashley Highfield  
Sir Howard Newby  
Tessa Ross CBE  
Peter Watson

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Greg Dyke declared an interest as a director of the UK Film Council in the matters discussed under Minute 4; it was agreed that the nature of this interest was such that Greg would not be required to leave the room while these items were considered. Amanda Nevill declared an interest as a company director of British Film Institute (Big Screen) Limited in the matters discussed under Minute 8; it was agreed that the nature of this interest was such that Amanda would not be required to leave the room while these items were considered.

**3 APPOINTMENT OF TESSA ROSS AS A GOVERNOR OF THE BFI**

It was agreed that, under Article 6(d) of the Royal Charter, Tessa Ross was appointed a Governor of the BFI with immediate effect until the next meeting of Governors at which appointments to the Governing Body are to be considered generally or her permanent appointment is confirmed by the UK Film Council, whichever was the sooner.

*Action: Paul Crake*

**4 MANAGING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST INVOLVING BFI GOVERNOR MATTHEW FREUD**

Noting that the BFI has a contract (awarded by competitive tender) to supply public relations services with Freud Communications, a company substantially owned by BFI Governor Matthew Freud, and that the contract was awarded several years prior to Matthew's appointment as a Governor but has another year to run, it was agreed that:

- 1) the existing contract with Freud Communications was in the best interests of the BFI, and staff were authorised to finalise fees for this year's work up to an amount not exceeding that awarded in any previous year; and
- 2) it was in the best interests of the BFI that Matthew Freud remained a Governor.

Matthew Freud was not present for any part of the meeting at which this matter was discussed, and he had not been in contact with any Governors regarding it. The Governors noted that all the correct procedures had been followed for managing this conflict of interest.

**5 MINISTERIAL REVIEW OF FILM**

After considerable discussion the Governors agreed that it would be in the best interests of the BFI for the BFI to be funded directly by DCMS rather than via the UK Film Council. It was agreed that the Chair would draft a briefing paper for DCMS setting out this position and the reasons for it. Governors wished Government to treat film (from the BFI's perspective) as culture, as "the 7th art", and to treat the BFI as it deserved – as both a museum and a contemporary art institute ("we are both Tate Britain and Tate Modern").

Governors wished us to use the language of the arts as well of business.

In the forthcoming spending cuts, Governors wished Government to remember that, while there were two opera houses based in London and four orchestras, there was only one BFI – which was for the whole nation.

**6 MODELLING 25% CUTS IN GRANT-IN-AID**

A presentation by Amanda Nevill was noted. Governors agreed the strategy to be adopted should be “SmallerbutWorld Class”; but that the BFI should also develop a much more entrepreneurial “wing” to its activities, to enable money to be generated from a very different approach to exploiting our assets.

The meeting closed at 1500.

Paul Crake  
Board Secretary