

Dear All,

The GEECT members meeting was held in Berlin on December 7th 2003 at the "**Let's Talk About Content**" Conference organized in collaboration with EFA and hosted by the dffb.

Present: Renen Schorr, Alain Auclair, Nenad Puhovsky, Henry Verhasselt.

Apologies: Madeleine Berg and Malte Wadman

Minutes taken by: Noa Ron, PA to Chair

The following decisions were taken:

1. GEECT will promote further collaborations with **EFA**, as the dialogue initiated during the "Let's Talk About Content!" conference was generally positive. GEECT would like to thank Reinhard Hauff for generously hosting the event, including GEECT meetings.
2. **Geeect's strategic agenda** for the coming biennium will be dedicated mainly to European issues by nature as follows: The Bologna agreement and Our Heritage.
3. Alain Auclair will host approx. 15 representatives from GEECT schools for a **3-day conference at La FEMIS**, to be held in March 11-13.
4. **Best Kept Secrets Seminar**: Sergi Casamitjana (ESCAC) suggested the school should host the seminar on June 2004, during the first time film festival to be held by ESCAC. No other dates are possible, due to budgetary restrictions. Given the complex communication issues with ESCAC (problematic e-mail, English Language Limitations) it was agreed that Renen would send a letter in Spanish to Josep Maixenchs (to be prepared by Henry) to receive a formal confirmation to take things further. Renen made clear that due to the dates, he will not be able to serve as chief editor for the event, and therefore it will be a must to employ an editor e.g. Dick Ross for the event.
5. **Post Production seminar**: Renen will check with Roger Crittenden as to when the NFTS will be able to hold the seminar.
6. **The way to Helsinki**: GEECT will hold 2 sessions at the upcoming Helsinki Conference. One will mainly focus on the Bologna agreement; the other will deal with reports to the members and elections. Renen and Noa will prepare the activity report; Malte will prepare the financial report.
7. **Reducing the number of the Board Members**: The Board agreed that 5 members is a more appropriate amount of Board members. Therefore, the number of Board Members is to be reduced as of May 2004.

Best Regards,

Re nen

GEECT Biennium Report of Activities **2003-2004**

- Introduction and Strategy: From Melbourne 2002 to Helsinki 2004
- Conferences 2003-2004
- After Helsinki: Conferences in Plan
- Executive Board Meetings / Elections
- Financial Report

- **GEECT Biennium Report of Activities**
2003-2004

From Melbourne 2002 to Helsinki 2004

Introduction

Since the Last General Assembly in Melbourne two years ago, that concluded GEECT activities for the year 2000-2002, GEECT has continued to organize conferences on various issues related to film training, while promoting, for the first time, a unique collaboration with the European Film Academy, enabling an important dialogue between film professionals and students to emerge.

The 2 conferences reported in Melbourne 2002 while presenting the former biennium report, dealt with the 2 following topics: "**Selecting Students**", that took place in La Fémis, Paris, April 2001, introduced the methods of four film schools- NFTS, Beaconsfield, UK; PWSFTViT, Łódź, Poland; JSFS, Jerusalem, Israel and SNC, Rome, Italy for selecting their students. Another day organized by La Fémis was devoted to "**Film in the Digital Era**". The second major conference organized during the 2000-2002 biennium, "**Producing Producers**", took place in the films schools of Helsinki and Turku, Finland, and Stockholm, March 2002, and dealt with the advancing of the Producing Curriculum.

In the years 2003-2004 GEECT continued its activities in further exploring the aspects of filmmakers training: How do we deal with **the changing role of the director** in the film schools, and How to train future filmmakers in artistic, cultural and social skills ("**Let's talk about content**"). In the 'Conferences 2003-2004' section below you will find a short report of each conference.

In the executive meeting that took place in Berlin, December 2003, GEECT decided to work on a **strategic agenda for the coming biennium** that will be dedicated mainly to European issues by nature as follows: **The Bologna**

agreement and **Our Heritage**. Standing Committees were established, headed by 2 Executive members: Malte Wadman (Bologna Agreement, with Marieke Shoenmaker, Netherlands, and Michal Bregant, Czech Republic) and Nenad Puhovski (Our Heritage), and future seminars were planned. At the same time, GEECT will continue to address such relevant topics as **Creative Producers Training** and **Schools Best Kept Secrets**, as demonstrated in the 'After Helsinki' section below.

Amongst the activities suggested to GEECT members and concerning the Bologna Agreement, Alain Auclair, The Director of La Fémis school, Paris, held 2 sessions in June 2003 and March 2004 organized by La Fémis together with Media Programme of the European Union, dealing with The Tuning of European Higher Education Schools Curricula and the construction of film school student exchange networks.

Conferences May 2002- April 2004

The Changing Role of the director- Teaching Directing in Film Schools, December 2002

The aim of the seminar and workshop hosted and edited by Malte Wadman from the Norwegian Film School, Lillehammer, was to take a look at how film schools in Europe and the rest of the world are tackling the new challenges brought about by the changes in the industry, changes in technology (the digital revolution etc.) and changes in models of production that the film schools themselves wanted to introduce, like the Triangle philosophy, Creative Producers and new media. How have these affected the role of the director? Should the Director still be the unchallenged King or Queen of the set? How to adjust the teaching to the new practices?

Prominent film schools introduced their philosophy and core curriculum for their directing departments, trying to face some of the actual issues in directing studies, in order to re-define the notion of Talent, Skills and Personal Voice in educating directors. Former students, having made at least their first feature, were invited to look back on their school period and tell what they got, what they wanted and what they lacked in their training.

48 participants from 18 countries attended the seminar¹.

Dick Ross is now finalizing a book/report of the Lillehammer Conference on The Changing Role of the Director, to be published by the Norwegian Film School.

Let's talk about CONTENT! - How to train future filmmakers in artistic, cultural and social skills, December 4-7 2003

GEECT and EFA Conference on the occasion of the European Film Awards,

30 students, hosted by the DFFB students, and a parallel no. of school representatives from all over Europe attended the 4 day conference. The first

¹ Participating schools: (from Malte)

day, **"My First Feature"**, was hosted by Reinhard Hauff, Director of the DFFB School in Berlin, and edited by Renen Schorr and Reinhard Hauff. It was dedicated to the making of a first feature film within the school framework and in "the morning after", featuring film excerpts of works by DFFB graduates and "Voices of the Heartland" – a series created by Renen Schorr as a lab for new Israeli writers and Directors. The concluding session included various models for the European making of First Features, according to the UK, German, Danish and French models. Panel participants and lecturers included, amongst others, Henning Camre and Vinca Wiedemann from the Danish Film Institute; Sandy Lieberson, Head of the London Film Commission, UK; Klaus Keil, Director of the Berlin- Brandenburg fund and Dick Ross, UK.

The second day, hosted by the European Film Academy (EFA) as a first time collaboration with GEECT, and edited by Marion Döring from EFA, dealt with the **training of future filmmakers in artistic, cultural and social skills**, trying to bring about such queries as 'What good films tell', 'expectation and reality', 'inspiration and film', and 'is content teachable', and featuring selected filmmakers hosted by EFA.

The seminar culminated with the EFA award ceremony, that included the participation of a group of young filmmakers from 5 GEECT schools over Europe: ESCAC, Barcelona; DFFB, Berlin; Academy of Drama and Film & TV, Budapest and NFTS, London. Together with EFA president Wim Wenders, they have developed brief "Postcards" from their respective countries that were screened throughout the evening. All the seminar guests were invited to the EFA award ceremony.

50 participants from 19 countries attended the seminar².

² Participating schools: Filmakademie Wien, Austria; Erasmus Hogeschool, Belgium; INSAS, Belgium; New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria; Akademija Dramske Umjnostnosti, Croatia; FAMU, Czech Republic; Den Danske Filmskole, Denmark; University for art and Design, Finland; Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, Germany; Filmstudium Universität Hamburg, Germany; Media School Köln, Germany; DFFB, Germany; Színház-es Filmművészeti Főiskola, Hungary; DunLaoghaire Institute, Ireland; Camera Obscura, Israel; JSFS, Israel; ZELIG, Italy; Nederlandse Film en Televisie Academie, Netherlands; Den Norske Filmskolen, Norway; Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal; Russian State Institute of Cinematography, Russia; VSMU, Slovakia; Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst Zürich, Switzerland; Bournemouth Media School, UK; London College of Printing, UK; NFTS, UK; Leeds Metropolitan University, UK.

After Helsinki- Conferences in Plan

In the 2002 Melbourne General Assembly GEECT offered several activities for the next biennium, none of which was neglected. The **“Teaching Directing”** seminar took place in the Norwegian Film School, 2002, as mentioned above. **“School’s Best Kept Secrets”** seminar is due to take place in Bratislava in September 2004. However, two additional seminars that were planned for the biennium and were further discussed indeed, could not be realized yet: **“Post Production Seminar”** could not take part at the NFTS as planned, and **“How to Run a Low budget School”** could not be hosted eventually by the UATC school in Bucharest. We trust that these important issues will be dully addressed.

Three seminars for 2004 and 2005 have already been confirmed by the partner schools, and are currently being developed:

1. Barcelona, 17-19 / 6/ 04

-**“The Palestinian and Israeli cinema and their approach to the troubled Israeli-Palestinian conflict”**, hosted by Joseph Maixenchs and Sergi Casamitjana at the ESCAC School, June 17-19 2004, during the BASE film festival.

2 Palestinian and 2 Israeli Film Directors will screen their works and conduct a dialogue.

25-30 GEECT's students will be invited by ESCAC to Barcelona from sunday 13th june till sunday 20th in order to attend the BASE festival, and also take part in the festivals' activities and events, such as master classes (with Peter Greenaway or Kaichi Hara) and workshops.

ESCAC will offer accomodation to 25-30 students, according to the "First come first served" method.

2. Bratislava, 30/9/04 – 2/10/04

-**“The Schools’ Best Kept Secrets”** hosted by Zuzana Gindi-Tatarova at the VSMU Film &TV Faculty, Bratislava, September 30th- October 2nd 2004

Directors of Film schools from different countries will present their "Pearls of wisdom" in a variety of fields: methodology, courses, exercises, marketing, contact with graduates etc.

3. Lodz, 20-23/10/05

-**"Our Heritage"**, hosted by Andrzej Bednarek at the Lodz Film School, October 20-23 2005.

A conference featuring the well-established teaching methods and curriculums of elder European film schools, mostly of the former eastern European Block, in order to further examine the relevancy of certain traditions and methods to 21st century teaching, and sharing the well preserved knowledge.

Executive Board Meetings / Elections

The Following Executive Board Meetings took place since Melbourne

May 2002, Amsterdam; September 2002, London; September 2003, Paris;
December 2003, Berlin

Reducing the number of the Executive Council Members: In the Executive meeting held in Berlin, December 2003, the Executive council members agreed that 5 members is a more appropriate amount of Board members. Therefore, the number of Executive Council Members is to be reduced as of this General Assembly.

The GEECT Executive Council currently consists of:

***Renen Schorr**, President, The Sam Spiegel Film & Television School-Jerusalem. Elected: May 2000

***Alain Auclair**, President, La Femis Film School, Paris. Elected: May 2002.

***Madeleine Bergh**, Dramatiska Institutet, Stockholm. Elected: May 2000

***Nenad Puhovski**, ADU, Zagreb, Croatia. Elected: May 2002

***Malte Wadman**, Den Norsken Filmskolen, Norway. Elected: May 2002.

***Henry Verhasselt**, Institut National Supérieur des Arts du Spectacle, Brussels. Elected: May 2000

-Renen Schorr, Madeleine Bergh and Henry Verhasselt were elected at the General Assembly, Ebeltoft 2000 for a term of Four years, and their term concludes at this General Assembly.

Two positions have to be filled at this general assembly: Executive Council President and two Executive Council members.

The GEECT Executive, May 04

FINANCIAL REPORT GEECT 01.05.2002 – 30.04.2004

General comments

At the first preliminary meeting of the new GEECT executive in Melbourne Malte Wadman was appointed the financial responsibility of GEECT for the next biennium.

Transferring the financial responsibility from Rolf Orthel to Malte Wadman however proved to be a complicated and above all a very time-consuming exercise. This was due to several facts that was the result of earlier decisions by the GEECT executive relating both to the status of the "organisation as well as the bank situation. Most of these decisions have been taken at an earlier stage for specific tactical reasons, but will have an effect on the future daily running of the GEECT activities.

Today GEECT is a registered organisation in Amsterdam with a Dutch Bank (ABM AMRO) in Amsterdam. Certainly this was a very convenient solution as long as Rolf Orthel was taking care of the financial transaction for GEECT. However it has been highly unpractical when the financial transactions was being handled by Malte Wadman from Lillehammer, Norway.

In addition to the historical set-up of GEECT financial affairs, there was also a change in the handling of bank-transfers in this period. Something that resulted in several delays in the transfer of money both in and out of the accounts.

For the above mentioned reasons the daily expenses of GEECT was solved by not transferring GEECT money from the CILECT accounts handled by Henry Verhasselt in Brussels This account was used for the whole of 2002 thanks to the good will of Henry Verhasselt to solve the daily running of GEECT. Also necessary transfers were made from this account. (see separate statement)

Comments to the accounts

As you will see from the summary of the accounts, the economic situation for GEECT is very sound at the moment. The major cost for the biennium are related to the meeting of the executive including travel costs for some of the executive members. As most of the planned activities have been cancelled or put on hold, the project support have been minimal. There is however some costs related to activities that are still pending. There are annual costs to the Dutch Chamber of Commerce and cost for bank transfers and accounts.

Due to the complex situation with the use of the CILECT account in Brussels and the final transfer of the rest of the money at the end of January 2004 there are to sets of accounting which are merging 24.01.04.

This means that the final statement delivered from Lillehammer is the standing as of 30. April 2004.