

Motion: creation of a new Film Committee

Film, and historical film in particular, is a valuable resource for the historian. It is a collective visualisation of perspectives on the world and society. The audience is influenced by this visualisation - film can make the viewer think, create a sense of belonging within a group, activate the viewer and, most importantly, entertain. In short, film has an influence on society. This is why the historian can use film in his historical research, especially when it concerns contemporary history. This brought us to the following idea: a new Film Committee.

The UHSK has had a Film Committee. The FilmCo was established by the 89th board in 2014 and organised four events per year. The 95th board merged the FilmCo with the Historically Relevant Committee to form the current Historical Events Committee. The purpose of the merge was to optimise committees: the 95th found that the FilmCo and the Historical Relevant Committee had the same work area and the merge would ensure that 'better focused activities' could be realised. The HistoriCie is free to organise film-related events. This resulted in the Filmquiz. Apart from the HistoriCie, an Interstellar film screening was organised by the Lusco and the Board showed a film in the room several times. This means that the past association year had film-related events, even though only a small part of these came from the HistoriCie. However, this offers no guarantee that film events will be organised regularly in the coming years and, moreover, these events did not have an educational component. This guarantee can be offered by a new Film Committee.

This motion calls for the establishment of a Film Committee, version 2.0. This new Film Committee could organise educational events as well as fun events. Low-threshold social events could, for example, take the form of a relevant film/documentary screening or film room hours. For more educational events, a new Film Committee could combine film evenings with a lecture by a guest speaker who can explain the historical, social and/or artistic context of a film. In addition, a film quiz could be organised as a nice bridge between the sociable and educational aspect of the committee.

The problem with the previous Film Committee was not the lack of enthusiasm for the events or the committee. As shown in the annual reports from association year 2014-2015, the committee has always been filled and members flocked to the events. This year, too, there was enthusiasm for film-related events: think of the well-attended Interstellar film night the Lusco organised. This is not where the problem lies. The problem was caused by poor internal organisation and communication with the Board and guest speakers. A new Film Committee could prevent these problems by, for example, drawing up a clear division of roles for 6 to 8 people within the committee, see appendix A, and appointing two people responsible for external contact. By means of a motivational letter, members can apply for the committee, if there are too many applications. It is also important that the committee market is part of the recruitment process for committee members.

To not be a big burden to the Board, good contact with the committee chairperson is important. Maintaining good contact can be achieved by having a standard meeting with the committee chairperson outside of the Steeringgroup, so that the committee chairperson keeps an eye on the committee one on one. We recognise that it will still be intensive for the Board to set up a new committee and have it run smoothly. In order to ensure that a new Film Committee causes as few worries as possible for the Board, we have drawn up a plan for the coming year which the committee must adhere to, so that the starting year can run smoothly. This will also give the following year a solid foundation to build on.

Before submitting this motion, contact has been made with media lecturers who are willing to enter into cooperation with a new Film Commission. Some academics specialising in film and media at the university, such as Dr. Nico de Klerk and Dr. Judith Thissen, have expressed an interest in giving guest

lectures. They also support the concept of a new Film Committee. See appendix B for the complete list. In addition, some UHSK-members have expressed their support for a new Film Committee by means of a petition.

In short, a new Film Committee offers the perfect opportunity for film to play a larger role within the UHSK. Problems surrounding the former Film Commission can be solved, and this is certainly an attractive option, as there is enough enthusiasm for a new Film Commission and its events. A new Film Committee can organise low-threshold social events, but can also organise events that approach film in a more educational way, for example by showing the value of media as a historical source.

The General Meeting of Members (ALV) of the Utrecht Historical Student Circle (UHSK), convened on 22 June 2022,

arguing that film is of significant value to the historian, and the UHSK;

pointing to the successful film-related events of the former Film Committee as well as the HistoriCie, the Lusco and the Board;

noting that there is no guarantee for the future that film-related events will be organised despite the enthusiasm for them;

recognising that a new committee is intensive for the Board;

countering that the problems of the former FilmCo can be solved by:

- a clear internal division of roles;
- two persons responsible for external contact;
- close contact with the committee responsible;
- following the plan we have drawn up and offer as advice for a new Film Commission;

and suggesting that this intensity could be reduced by requiring the clear plan we have in mind for a new Film Commission;

pointing to the interest and enthusiasm of both UHSK members and academics for a new Film Commission;

thinking that a new Film Committee could organise low-threshold social and educational events that would appeal to many UHSK members;

and shall proceed to the order of the day.

Floor Wilke
Sara Jonker
Nard Rutten
Boris Wesseldijk

Appendicitis

Appendix A.

Members can apply by means of a motivation letter, should more than six members apply for the committee. Participation in the committee market is important for recruiting committee members. If there are not enough committee members, committee members can approach other members. The committee structure is as follows:

- Chairman
- Secretary → also support for Commissioner external
- Treasurer
- Commissioner External/Location → contact with third parties and locations
- Commissioner PR (2x) - Possibly two general members.

Appendix B.

- Dr André van der Velden Dr. André van der Velden is a researcher in the Media and Cultural Studies department at Utrecht University and is specialised in the history of Dutch cinema. For instance, he has done research on the cinemas of Abraham Tuschinski. He has also worked with Dr Judith Thissen on the project Cinema, modern life and cultural identity in the Netherlands, 1896-1940.

- Dr Ansje van Beusekom Dr. Ansje van Beusekom is a university lecturer in the Department of Media and Cultural Studies and is specialised in views on film in the Netherlands. Her dissertation concerned this subject and can be found under the title Art and Entertainment. Reactions to film as a new medium in the Netherlands, 1895- 1940. In the present, she researches the Dutch reception history of film.

- Dr Domitilla Olivieri Dr Domitilla Olivieri, anthropologist and lecturer in gender, media and cultural studies, is active as LGBT+, anti-racism and anti-capitalism activist and has published several studies, including Diasporic proximities: spaces of 'home' in European Documentary and Affective Encounters: Tools of Interruption for Activist Media Practices.

- Dr. Judith Thissen Dr. Judith Thissen is Professor of Film History in the Department of Media and Cultural History at Utrecht University. She specialises in the history of cinema in the United States in the early 20th century. She is an active member of the Digital Cinema Studies network, where she conducts research on film (history) together with other academics.

- Dr. Nico de Klerk Dr. Nico de Klerk has worked for twenty years as collection researcher, curator and archivist for the former Netherlands Film Museum. Currently he is researching the use of the magic lantern, the predecessor of the slide projector, in scientific communication in the Netherlands from 1880-1940 at the UU.

- Yotam Shibolet Yotam Shibolet is an Israeli PhD. candidate and lecturer at UU's Faculty of Humanities. He specialises in interdisciplinary research into 'embodied narrativity': the ways in which stories are told in modern media through the perception of movement and embodied interaction.