

SUBMISSION FROM DOUG AUBREY, FILMMAKER

Dear Committee

Whilst I applaud the continuing debate in the Film and TV sector and the seeming political will to bring about change, I can't help but feel that we've all been here before more than once in the past few years...?

Perhaps now it's time for action (which we filmmakers always like) rather than even more words of good intention, and also to look for a positive model elsewhere?

As an award winning filmmaker with more than 25 years experience in Scotland , who submitted a deliberately provocative piece to the Creative Scotland review (and for the most part was largely ignored – like many of his fellow filmmakers) I'm well aware of the good and bad sides to the Scottish Film and TV sector and its reluctance to speak-out or embrace change or move forward.

For professional as well as personal and creative reasons - I now find myself straddling 2 small countries with the North Sea between them in search of work, funding, support and professional development. My home country/city Scotland/Glasgow (and the place where my head still is) is not short of talent – that's for sure – despite the constant putdowns by time serving executives at the BBC, STV and channel 4 among others – it's short of cash and has its confidence constantly undermined rather than efforts supported.

My adopted country Denmark and city Copenhagen – where my heart is on the other hand – has a thriving well-funded film scene if not an industry (the television though is not that good and is full of English celebrity chef reheats – some made in Scotland) and I'm sure if you look in any publication from the Danish Film Institute you'll be amazed at the diversity of award winning moving image output and the cash that's available. But there is a negative side to all this – sometimes the Danish film scene resembles a state-funded sweetie shop – in which the kids are so confident they're arrogant and risk being sick, while the argument for Jutland is that everything happens in Copenhagen (which probably has as many filmmakers per-bar stool as LA)

There is much debate here that more money doesn't necessarily make for better art – there's just even more of it – but then at least people get a chance to try and fail because the more product/art there is the greater the chance of something being successful.

So I guess I recommend you:

Consider talking and doing a fact finding mission to Copenhagen and then talk to the Danish Film Institute, New Danish screen and the Copenhagen Film Fund, talk to the Oscar nominated Producers, as well as talk to the Danish Directors Association – an incredibly influential group who are listened to by funders and the state alike. You should also visit Arhus or other locations in Jutland to hear their side of the story too.

For once unusually for me - I apologise for being so positive – come and see whether the grass really is any greener in the land of milk and honey – and you

might even find a barstool in Copenhagen that's not occupied by a moaning film Producer!

Yours

Doug Aubrey January 2015