

North Thames Region



The Film & Video Institute

www.theiac.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

September—October 2015



NORTHAW VILLAGE HALL

Venue for the NTRIAC
2015 AGM & Movie
Festival Day

Is your film ready to enter? *see page 11*
Is the date in your diary? *see pages 11 & 12*



How Colchester FVM's Diamond Award Winner was made
pp 6—8

NTRIAC CONTACTS:

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Tel.: 01707 656446 E-Mail: alystan@tiscali.co.uk

Chairman's Chat

John Howden joined Colchester Film Makers in 2004 and took over as Chairman in 2005. He has served as Competitions Officer and is currently one of the Club's projectionists. He joined the NTR Council in 2012 and now also serves on the National IAC Council. He has judged at local, regional and national level and was a Final Round Judge at BIAFF 2015. He is an active film maker, regularly receiving 3 and 4 Star Awards at BIAFF.



Recently Sue, my wife, and I went to our local arts picture house, run alongside the city's theatre, to see an evening of BAFTA SHORTS. This was a two hour compilation of short films largely made by film school students. They ranged from full blown dramas to short animations and demonstrated a wealth of talent that was a joy to see.

For me, one film stood out. Called 'The Karman Line' it starred Olivia Colman and Shaun Dooley, and involved the story of a mother who is hit by a rare condition that sees her lift off the ground at a slow but ever increasing rate, such that her husband & daughter are forced to come to terms with losing her. It was funny, poignant and directed with great sensitivity. The photography was exquisite and the acting superb. Why mention this? Well the theatre, normally packed, was less than a third full. These films deserved better.

All of which brings me to our NTRIAC Festival and AGM in November. We already have a few entries and I trust that you, like me, are putting the finishing touches to your prize winning entry! But more important even than that is the need for you to turn up and see the films and participate in the day.

The Festival deserves a good audience, the films demand attention AND you get the chance to voice your ideas to the Regional Council. Add that to the meeting of fellow film makers and the chance to discuss all those 'how did they do that?' questions and it is a day to really look forward to. See you there!

The arrangements for next year's IAC AGM Weekend are beginning to take shape. We are hosting it in Norwich at the Maids Head Hotel right in the centre of the city, and I believe it will be a fabulous weekend. Details will emerge over the next few months but one idea to which we are giving some thought is to try to make the whole weekend truly a filmic feel. We hope that the excursions on the Friday and Saturday will encourage you to bring your cameras and make a movie that might be the subject of a competition later the following year.

The promo for this event will be available by the AGM this October in Bournemouth (October 22 to 25 – BOOK NOW!) and will also be on line, to attract as many as possible to Norwich.

I asked in my last Chairman's Chat for submissions to be considered for the Mini Mermaid Competition in Bournemouth. I have had just 2 sent me, both from the same maker. Are there really no One Minute films in the whole of our Region? Root around in your film files and send me the results. *Happy filming and Smart edits.*

Ludwig Levy

(1924 - 2015)

It is with great sadness that I report the death of one of Harrow Film Makers' staunchest supporters, a prolific film maker for many years on both club and national levels.

After taking early retirement from his soft toy manufacturing business, Ludwig's greatest joy was travelling the world in the company of his beloved wife Martha, visiting many far-away places like China.

Wherever Ludwig travelled, so did his camera, and we were able to share his many experiences on the large screen. His trophy shelf was always full of awards gained in club, inter-club and national competitions.

May he now rest in peace - he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Aivar Kaulins, FACI, Harrow FM

In celebration of Ludwig's life, his Club, Harrow Film Makers, is arranging a Tribute Evening on Monday, 18th April 2016. All who knew him are invited to join us in our club room, Canons Room in the Harrow Arts Centre in Hatch End, for a cup of coffee and some pleasant memories, when a selection of his films will be screened.

The NTRIAC Council sends its condolences to Ludwig's family

North Thames Region IAC Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 53rd AGM of the members of the North Thames Region of the IAC will be held at 12.00 midday on Saturday 21st November 2015 at Northaw Village Hall, Northaw Road West, Northaw, Potters Bar EN6 4NW
Penny Love, Hon Secretary, September 2015

The North Thames 53rd AGM will take place at 12.00 noon on Saturday 21st November 2015 in Northaw Village Hall

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting (30 November 2014)
3. To receive the Chairman's Report
4. To receive the Treasurer's Report and Accounts
5. To elect Members of the Regional Council
6. To elect the following Officers and Special Posts:
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Hon Secretary
 - Hon Treasurer
 - Membership Officer
 - Publicity Officer
 - Newsletter Editor
 - KnockOut Competition Officer
 - 100 Club Officer
 - Youth Officer
 - Training Officer
 - Annual Competition Officer
7. To appoint an Hon Auditor (Independent Examiner)
8. Members' Voices - your chance to make suggestions
9. Any Other Business

NOMINATIONS FOR NTR IAC COUNCIL MEMBERS 2015

(For a term of three years)

(This form must either be sent to Penny Love by Friday 13th November or handed to her before 10.30 am on Saturday 21st November.

Note: The agreement of the nominee must be obtained before nomination is submitted.)

1. 2.
3. 4.

Proposed..... Seconded.....

Membership of the Council is open on an elective basis to all members of the IAC in the Region. The Council consists of an elected group of 12 post holders and up to 6 members, a total of 18. We currently have 10 people on Council (see below). The Council meets every other month on the fourth Tuesday at 2pm. The meeting takes place at the Church of King Charles the Martyr, Potters Bar.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS OF COUNCIL 2015

(For a term of one year)

1. Chairman..... 2. Vice Chairman.....
3. Hon. Secretary..... 4. Hon. Treasurer.....
5. Membership Officer..... 6. Publicity Officer.....
7. Newsletter Editor..... 8. KnockOut Competition
Officer.....9. 100 Club Officer.....
10 Youth Officer 11 Training Officer.....
12. Annual Competition Officer.....

Proposed..... Seconded.....

Current Members of The NTR IAC Council:

President	Ron Jones
Chairman	John Howden
Vice Chairman	Christine Collins
Secretary and Membership	Penny Love
Treasurer	Brenda Granshaw
Publicity	Eric Jukes
Newsletter	John Astin
Knock out Comp	Ron Jones
Annual Competition	Christine Collins
Training	Eric Granshaw
100 Club	John Farrer
Members	Alan Colegrave

RANSOM NOTE

A COLCHESTER
FILM MAKERS
CLUB
PRODUCTION
2011

Henrik Jachimczyk, the Writer, Director & Editor of Colchester FMC's "Ransom Note", writes about the intriguing BIAFF 2015 Diamond Award winning film.

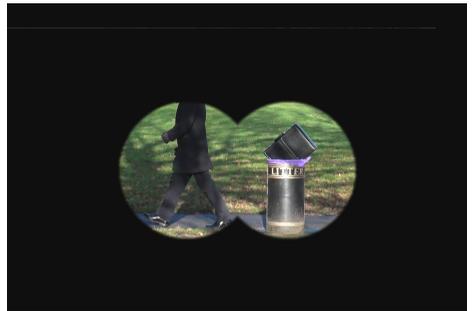
Rain trickled down

the window glass that Tuesday evening. As I sat in a corner seat, a bespectacled man approached and pushed a note into my hand. I glanced at the black type. It read: 'Discuss ideas for a short film'.

It was "Make a Film Night" at Colchester Film Makers Club. The active members were separated into four groups and instructed to create a short film on any subject, in any style, in any genre. We were given a monthly schedule for scriptwriting, filming and editing; and a producer who would check our



Case Watching



Binoculars

progress.

So what to make? A comedy? Yes – a comedy. The audience like a good laugh. Didn't we make a comedy last time? I don't remember the audience laughing. Maybe we should try something different? A drama? Yes – we haven't done a story film for some time. Who's going to be in it?

And that's the dilemma with amateur story films: "Who's going to be in it?"

Some club members can act – but once the audience recognise their colleague up on screen they know she is not a real doctor. "He is not a real policeman!" "They are not really drunk!"

Suspension of disbelief is important in telling a story. And it takes a lot of effort to create that illusion and sustain it throughout the length of the film, especially a drama film.

So this is what happens: 'I'll do Sound.' 'I'll do Camera.' "I'm on Lights." "Well I'm directing this." 'I'll do Make Up!' Make up? (He did 'Make Up' on the last film and that was an animation!)

So who's going to act? The other members of our group are noticeably absent. (Maybe they've



Hand Acting

experienced this situation before?)

'We'll have to double up. You do camera and lights, then he can act, then you do sound and lights so he can act.'

'I can't act.'

'He's right – he can't act and don't look at me – I can't remember lines.'

'Well how about we make it with no dialogue?'

'Like a silent film?'

'Yes, like a silent film but not a comedy.'

'That means we'll have to show facial emotions!'

'Well how about we make it with no head shots then, just feet, body and hands? That way anyone can play each character.'

'Sounds good to me – but I'm not appearing naked!'

'For goodness sake - you can wear gloves!'



Love Triangle

'Okay. So we're making a film with no dialogue and no one shows their head?'

'Could be an award winning film!'

'You're all mad!'



Magpie

And that's basically what we did. We used clothes to identify each character. The police detective was played by three different actors each wearing the same trench coat, though obviously not at the same time. The husband wore black clothes and the wife, played by three different ladies, wore what was necessary.

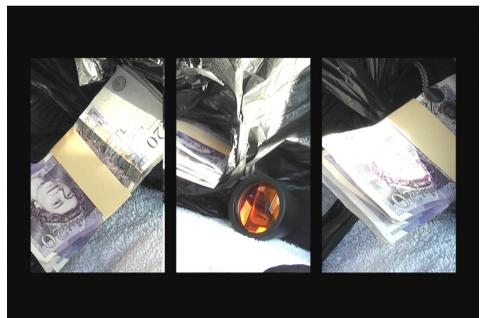
It was a typical drama story – pay the hefty ransom and we'll return the vulnerable hostage. In this case the vulnerable hostage is a dog and the wife runs off with the abductor, taking the dog and ransom.

Because we had decided to film in this restrictive way meant we encountered problems with framing. The camera operator naturally includes the actor's head during filming. (Check basics of film making!) We had Paul Desmond playing the detective in the first shot then Brian Pearce played him in the second shot and you could see both their faces. These recognisable head shots had to be removed! So when it came to editing

continued overleaf



Posting Note



Ransom Money

"Ransom Note" continued. . .

the 'crop' tool was used extensively. That meant that some shots would not fill the frame and each 'cropped' shot would have a different dimension.

So order had to be brought to the editing. Shots were reduced in size to fit various grids. Some shots were held for longer to keep the grids visible. Once the action finished in one shot, another shot was added to the grid and this continued until the sequence was played out. At times there were five images on the screen, but only the current one was active. This made the pacing of the sequences slower, but because there was always some new event happening it did not detract from the natural flow and kept the viewer immersed. Visually these shots were smaller on the screen, which meant the compositions had to be simple and easy to read.

To make filming clear to the cast and crew, the entire film was storyboarded in the margin of the script. This also helped when editing, illustrating where a shot had to be in relation with others. When a character walked across screen to the right, the next shot had to appear on that same side of the frame or the viewer's eyes would be jumping around. Too much of this 'searching' would tire the eyes and give the audience a headache leaving a very unsatisfactory viewing.

Location filming in the park posed no real problems. Paul Desmond brought along his video camera, set it up, focused it, then put on the trench coat and played the detective. It was 10am, a Monday in January, and only a few pedestrians walking into town had us pause the camera. In fact, we kept the camera rolling as an elderly woman walked past the suitcase resting in the waste bin and used that shot in the film. As arranged, one of our lady actors working nearby joined us during her lunch break and we filmed her sequence together with Angel the dog. (By the way, Angel the dog is always on her lunch break!)

Sue and Geoff Earnshaw kindly offered their residence for the domestic scenes featuring the husband and wife. This time Brian Pearce put on the trench coat and played the detective.

We used available daylight and a little help from one lamp, no point in adding dramatic lighting. This was not a drama, just a series of documentary film clips illustrating an event. We were illustrating what happened on one day and didn't emphasize the motives of the characters. There were no voices, no accents or attitudes to sway the audience. There were no facial expressions to watch and identify with. There were no emotional music cues to influence emotions, only sound effects that suggested an occasional beat. The audience were given the visual facts, from several different viewpoints, but it is still the one story. And we've all seen this story before, just not filmed this way.

Thank you for watching, *Henryk Jachimczyk*,

"Ransom Note" can be viewed on the IAC website (www.theiac.org.uk)

SPOTLIGHT ON FUTURE SHOWS



SATURDAY OCTOBER 3rd

Potters Bar FM's "A Festival of Films"
in Northaw Village Hall, Northaw, EN6 4NW.

2.30 & 8 pm. £6 inc. refreshments.

Contact Penny Love for advance sales (*details on front cover*)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22nd

Harrow Film Makers Autumn Movie Show, in Pinner Village
Hall, Chapel Lane, Pinner HA5 1AA. £6 inc. refreshments.

7.30 pm for 8 pm start.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22nd—SUNDAY 25TH

The Celebrity Weekender, incorporating the IAC AGM, at
the Hotel Celebrity, Bournemouth. *Details in FVM & the IAC website*

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20th

Wanstead & Woodford Public Show at St. Paul's Church Hall,
Chigwell Road, Woodford Bridge, IG8 8BT. 7.30 pm for 8 pm. £6.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21st

NTRIAC Annual Movie Festival & AGM in Northaw
Village Hall, Northaw near Potters Bar, EN6 4 NW.

10 for 10.30 am start. AGM at 12 noon.

£5 in advance, £7 on the day, inc. refreshments.

Contact Penny Love for tickets



To our new member:

Kim Harrold — Potters Bar FM

To join the IAC , contact:
IAC, The Film and Video Institute,
McCracken Park,
Great North Road,
Gosforth,
NEWCASTLE ON TYNE NE3 2DT
Tel.: 0191 303 8960
E-Mail: admin@theiac.org.uk

Eric Jukes, our NTR Publicity Officer, writes about another place we can go to improve our film-making skills—the Headquarters of the Guardian Newspaper!

All of the “Masterclass” Courses are held at the Guardian Newspapers Headquarters close to Kings Cross Station, some in the evenings and others at the weekend. My latest, held on a Saturday, was particularly interesting.

It was “**Mobile Journalism**” and it was pitched at journalists (which I’m not) to teach them the new skills and approaches to their craft. Clearly it is no longer enough for a journalist to be armed only with notebook and pencil! The course was highly practical, and was led by Bill Shepherd, who is Production Editor at the Guardian and a member of the Guild of Television Cameramen.

He showed how to record video and audio to create high-quality content. All of the filming was done on the iPhone in true HD. Bill demonstrated how to film interviews, quickly and smoothly with the phone, without a separate microphone (using the Filmic Pro App).

Not only this, but he went on to demonstrate colour grading (Using the Video Grade App) and then editing using the iMovie App. This included titling and captioning - all still in the phone - and then uploading it to YouTube or his newspaper.

The course also covered where to place the interviewee (rule of thirds and all that!), checking sound quality, lighting, and taking into account the phone’s limitations. It’s possible to use an accessory to facilitate a quality hand mic or a lapel (lavalier) mic. Bill pointed out that the iPhone has a great advantage in war zones in that it is unobtrusive and the user is less likely to get beaten up, or even shot dead—as had happened to one of his colleagues! Our filmmaking is somewhat more sedate fortunately! I have to say that these courses are not cheap - this one cost as much as about 6 years membership of the IAC!

As they say, whatever floats your boat - but I feel I get a lot from a course like this.

For news of upcoming courses go to: www.theguardian.com/guardian-masterclasses

DO PEOPLE KNOW HOW TO CONTACT YOU ?

As Membership Officer for The North Thames Region, I am notified of any membership changes and when I get the details of a new person joining, I like to send them a ‘Welcome’ letter. If they are not a member of a club, I include contact details of one in, or near, their area. However, it has come to my notice that some of the information I hold maybe incorrect. Some of it could just be out of date and some incorrect due to no one telling our head office so that they can tell me.

I am therefore doing a check on who is your club contact ,so please email or call me with the latest information, even if you think I have it, and I can amend the records if necessary.

I need: the name of your club/society, the name, address, telephone number and email address (optional) of the contact .

Not only could you be missing out on new members if the details are incorrect, but any information that needs to be sent may not get to you.

My contact details are shown on the front cover of this Newsletter

Thanks, **PENNY LOVE, FACI. Membership Officer and Regional Contact.**



NTR 100 CLUB

Contact: John Farrer

Tel.: 01462 434948 E-Mail: jffarrer@madasafish.com

Each of the following wins £12:

July 2015

14 Lorna Gill

Wanstead & Woodford MM

105 Michael Slowe

Finchley FM

35 Eric Jukes

Enfield VM

93 Ted Bateman

SAMM

August 2015

20 Angela Stroud's Mum

Potters Bar FM

37 Lorna Gill

W&W MM

61 John Astin

PBFM

62 Ted Bateman

SAMM



North Thames Festival & AGM



Remember Remember the 21st of November!

Yes, Saturday November 21st is the big day!

Northaw Village Hall, Northaw nr.Potters Bar, EN6 4NW

10.00am for 10.30am start

2 pubs/eateries nearby.

(Map and further details overleaf)

Tickets: only £7 on the door. But if you order them in advance from Penny Love 01707 656446 / email Alystan@tiscali.co.uk you pay only £5 each! Bargain, eh?

See you there!

Have you got your entry ready? Remember 5"-10" of black at the start, no menu and 1 film per DVD.

Send to:

Christine Collins, FACI ,

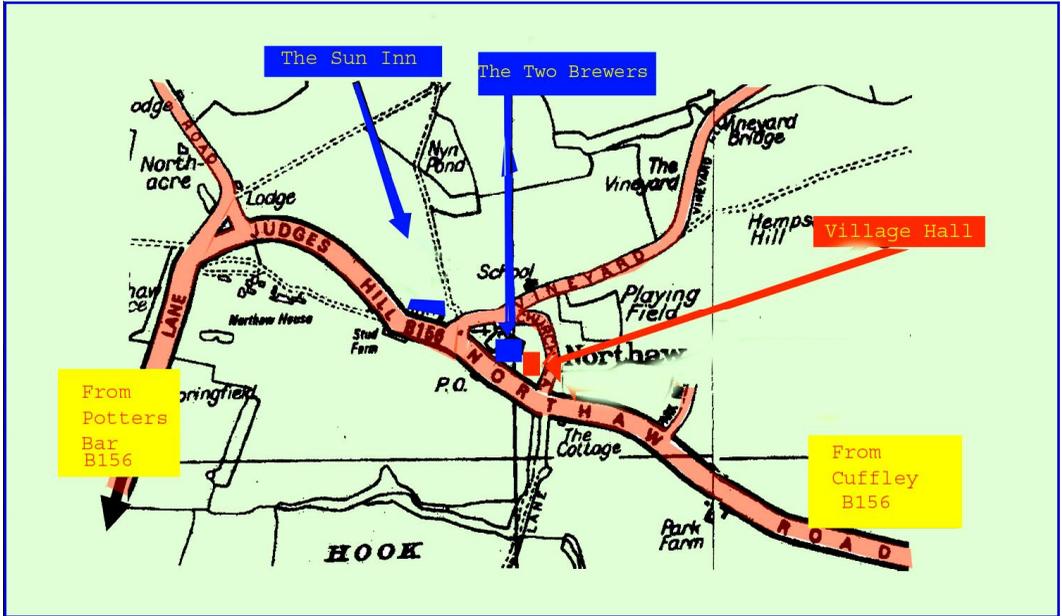
5 Walnut Grove, Enfield, EN1 2BL

£5 adults * £3 Youth* £1 Juniors

Last date for entries: 12 noon, Saturday September 19th

Entry Form & full details in last Newsletter & on IAC website

Saturday November 21st: Directions & Lunch Suggestions



Directions to Northaw Village Hall, EN6 4NW, from the M25:

Leave the M25 at Junction 24 and take Southgate Road, into Potters Bar. At the crossroads (traffic lights), turn right along High Street (A 1000). After about three-quarters of a mile, you come to a fork (traffic lights). Take the right hand fork signposted Cuffley, (B 156), and follow the road into Northaw village. The Hall is on the left, just past the church & The Two Brewers pub. It has its own adjoining car park.

Lunch Suggestions:

Northaw Village Hall:

Bring your own packed lunch, and eat it in the Village Hall.

Northaw:

The Two Brewers: www.2brewersnorthaw.co.uk

Tel.: 01707 644446

The Sun at Northaw: www.thesunatnorthaw.co.uk

Tel.: 01707 655507

Potters Bar:

The Old Manor: www.the-old-manor.co.uk

Tel.: 01707 650674

The Oakmere Harvester: www.harvester.co.uk > Potters Bar Tel.: 01707 664035

Deadline for the next issue is Sunday October 4th

Please send all contributions by e-mail to:

john.astin1@ntlworld.com