



INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

AVENIDA PORTUGAL, 360, URCA, ZC-82, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

TEL.: 46-8133 • CAIXA POSTAL 2237-ZC-00 • CABLES: BRITCOUN RIO

RIO/360/4

2nd December, 1963.

Dear Sr. da Silva,

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the British Council has been able to arrange for the visit to Brazil by a young British Film director of some distinction, Mr. JOHN SCHLESINGER.

Mr. Schlesinger has considerable experience of film making for television, has had considerable success with documentary films for the large screen (e.g. "THE CLASS", "TERMINUS" and "THE INNOCENT EYE") and has now completed two feature films which have been very well received in the U.K. ("A KIND OF LOVING" and "BILLY LIAR").

Unfortunately we have been given extremely short notice of Mr. Schlesinger's visit which begins in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday 4th December and terminates in Recife on Saturday 21st December. This has meant our having to plan John Schlesinger's tour of Brazil without our usual prior consultation with all interested local groups; our discussions over the last three days have necessarily been restricted to people in Rio de Janeiro and to those in cities nearby whom we have been able to contact by telephone.

We know, however, that Bahia is now Brazil's principal centre of film-making and we have been advised to ask you, as a key figure in the film world of Bahia, if you will kindly undertake all arrangements for Mr. Schlesinger's visit to Salvador.

You will see from the attached mimeographed FIRST DRAFT PROGRAMME that John Schlesinger is due to arrive in Salvador from Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday 17th December by Flight PB 442, and to leave for Recife on Friday 20th December by flight PB 444. This means that Mr. Schlesinger will have $1\frac{1}{2} + 2 + 1\frac{1}{2}$ days available in Bahia. During that time he would very much appreciate the opportunity of talking with Directors, Producers, Cameramen, etc. during the course of visits to studios, to filming locations, and at other informal encounters. Naturally, he wishes to meet Brazilian colleagues fully experienced in film-making, but he is also particularly keen to talk with young people who have recently set out on their careers in the film world. X

John Schlesinger offers two lectures both of which are illustrated by excerpts from some of his own films ("The Class", "Terminus", "The Innocent Eye", "A Kind of Loving", "Billy Liar"). The lectures are:- X

(a) "AN APPROACH TO FILM MAKING"

This is for general audiences and would last 1 1/2 to 2 hours with projection of the excerpts and with question time. X

(b) "THE FILM DIRECTOR IN ENGLAND"

This is for technical audiences and would run well over 2 hours, particularly as translation would probably be necessary - paragraph by paragraph - if full benefit is to be gained by all members of the audience. Mr. Schlesinger suggests a break of some sort (coffee or other drinks?) after two hours. Of course, if you think even a technical audience would not require a such detailed lecture, or would not have many questions, then the lecture could be shortened. X

Perhaps you could arrange for both lectures to be given to different audiences, of course. Mr. Schlesinger is careful to point out that his lectures will be devoted to his own problems and experiences in film making, and how he has resolved the problems, etc. He says that he can only talk from his personal standpoint and not for the film-making industry as a whole.

You will note that I am copying this letter to the British Vice-Consul in Bahia, MR. F.D. MARQUEZ, and I shall be very glad if you will discuss Schlesinger's programme with him in detail as soon as you possibly can. To save you the trouble of looking up Mr. Marquez's address I give this below:- X

Edificio Wilberger, 4^o andar,
Av. Estados Unidos.
(tel: 1090 and)
(2674)

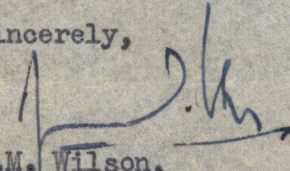
Time is so short, and the mails to and from Bahia are now so uncertain, that we cannot correspond by registered airmail. I am sending this letter to you by the "bag service" of the Bank of London and South America. Will you kindly consult with Mr. Marquez about communications? Perhaps he will agree to act as an intermediary with the B.L.A.S.A. and will cable us when necessary, charging the cables to us. —

One last point. My wife and I will be travelling up with Mr. Schlesinger so that the Council can be represented on those occasions which you and the Vice-Consul think desirable and, also, so that the Council can make direct contact with personalities in the film-making world of Bahia. Normally my chief, Mr. J.A. Cayton, would travel with Schlesinger but he is, most unfortunately for him, already committed to a conference in Uruguay at that time. I am asking Mr. Marquez to book a hotel room for my wife and

myself. Perhaps he will be so kind as also to book John Schlesinger's room, for which the British Council will pay.

I look forward with considerable eagerness to the pleasure of meeting you and your colleagues and Mr. Marquez, whom I do not know in person, and to seeing one of Brazil's most beautiful cities.

Yours sincerely,


J.M. Wilson,

Assistant Representative/Science Officer,
for Representative,
British Council,
Brazil.

P.S. Mr. Schlesinger has already seen

"O ASSALTO DO TREM PAGADOR"

and we hope to be able to arrange for him to see the following films while he is in Rio:-

VIDAS SECAS
CORO DE GATO
ALDEIA
ARRAIAL DO CABO
FAVELA
A MENINA DE CILÇA BRANCA

I gather that

PAGADOR DE PROMESAS

is out of the country at present. Perhaps you will be able to let John Schlesinger view some of the other many notable Brazilian films.

Ilmo. Sr.
Walter da Silveira,
Boulevard Suisso 1,
SALVADOR - Bahia

JMW/anb

cc. Mr. F.D. Marques, M.B.E.

COPY FOR SR. [redacted]



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RIO/360/4

November 29th, 1963.

First Draft Programme for visit to Brazil

by

MR. JOHN SCHLESINGER

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- N.B. (a) All airline flights are in process of being booked
(b) Some days are being left free for arrangements arising out of first contacts with Brazilian film directors, etc.
-

WEDNESDAY 4

arrive Rio de Janeiro a.m. flight PB 27 (09.00 ?)

To OURO VERDE HOTEL

Day free to take account of delays, but if possible

Lunch with Representative, British Council

eve see some Brazilian films under arrangements

made by Sr. José Sanz of the Cinemateca,

MAM, Rio. *Viewing short Brazilian 16mm. films.*

RIO DE JANEIRO

THURSDAY 5

a.m.

Lunch offered by MAM, Rio - party of 10

p.m. meeting with "Young Directors"

eve

RIO DE JANEIRO

FRIDAY 6

a.m.

Visit to a studio

Lunch

3.00 p.m. visit to Sr. Humberto Mauro

Diretor Técnico,

Instituto Nacional de Cinema Educativo,

Praga da Republica 141 A, 2º andar,

(tel.43-1969)

4.00 p.m. Technical lecture in

Instituto Nac. de Cin. Educ. - permission

being requested by letter of Director:

Sr. Flavio Tambelini

eve

SATURDAY 7

RIO DE JANEIRO

a.m.

Lunch

a.m.

eve

SUNDAY 8

FLY to São Paulo

PONTE AÉREA RG 105 dep: 09.30
(Electra) arr: 10.30

SUNDAY 8

SÃO PAULO

a.m.

Lunch

p.m.

attendance at final day of Retrospective
Season of British Films - Bienal Cinema

eve

MONDAY 9

SÃO PAULO

(São Paulo programme to be arranged
by Cinemateca Brasileira)

a.m.

Lunch

p.m.

eve

TUESDAY 10

SÃO PAULO

a.m.

Lunch

p.m.

eve

probability of shortened popular lecture
in cinema of Museum of Art

followed by

drinks

followed by

showing of

"A KIND OF LOVING"

WEDNESDAY 11

FLY to Curitiba

VP 123

(Viscount)

dep. 12.30 (Congonhas)

arr. 12.20

WEDNESDAY 11

CURITIBA

Lunch

p.m.

eve Lecture

THURSDAY 12

FLY to Rio de Janeiro direct

CZ 404 dep. 08.00
(Convair) arr. 11.00 (Santos Dumont)

reserve flight

VP 126 dep. 08.00
arr. 12.20

p.m. View "VIDAS SECAS"

FRIDAY 13

RIO DE JANEIRO

a.m. *visit to a sound studio.*

Lunch

p.m. Popular Lecture in Council Central Office,
Avenida Portugal 360, Urca

eve Cocktail offered by British Council

SATURDAY 14

FLY to Brasília

PB 414 dep. 08.30 GALEÃO
(Caravelle) arr. 09.00

SATURDAY 14

BRASÍLIA

a.m.

Lunch

p.m.

eve: *Popular lecture in Hotel Nacional under arrangements
made by Ambassador Pascual Carlos Magno - Fundação
Cultural - and translated by Paulinha*

SUNDAY 15

~~SATURDAY 14~~

FLY to Belo Horizonte

~~VASP PONTE dep. 17.00~~
~~(DC-6) arr. 19.40~~
VP 225 dep. 0705
(Viscount) arr. 0840

SUNDAY 15

BELO HORIZONTE

a.m.

Lunch

p.m.

} trip to
OURO PRETO

eve: *Technical lecture in Belo Horizonte to the Centro
de Estudos Cinematográficos - Paulinha
translating*

Monday 16

~~SUNDAY 15~~

FLY to Rio de Janeiro

~~VASP PONTE~~ dep. 20.10

~~(DC-6)~~ arr. 21.20 (SANTOS DUMONT)

RG 551 dep: 0900

(Convair) arr: 1000

MONDAY 16

RIO DE JANEIRO

a.m.

Lunch

p.m.

eve

TUESDAY 17

FLY to Salvador

PB 442

(Caravelle)

dep. 11.30

GALEÃO

arr. 12.25

reserve flight

RG 710

dep. 13.00 Santos Dumont

TUESDAY 17

SALVADOR

WEDNESDAY 18

SALVADOR

THURSDAY 19

SALVADOR

FRIDAY 20

FLY to Recife

PB 444

(Caravelle)

dep. 14.25

arr. 15.35

FRIDAY 20

RECIFE

SATURDAY 21

RECIFE

SATURDAY 21

FLY to London

BA 662

(Comet)

dep. 22.45

arr. Sunday 22nd : 15.55

- 1) Exilias do Rio
- 2) " Banneto e aut
- 3) Pasto e munda c/ produtores, etc.

Provisional Curriculum Vitae

JOHN SCHLESINGER

Born in London in 1926. Educated at Uppingham School and Balliol College, Oxford, where he studied English Literature.

Started being interested in films from the age of 11 when he was given his first cine-camera.

After his military service, and while at Oxford, made his first serious film as an amateur - "Black Legend" - and followed this with a children's fantasy film - "The Starfish".

In 1950 he left University where apart from his interest in films he was a keen actor and President of the University Experimental Theatre Club.

From 1950 until 1956 he was acting professionally, in a series of Repertory Companies, on tour, in television, and finally in such films as "Singlehanded", "Battle of the River Plate", "Brothers in Law", etc.

While playing a small part in the run of "Mourning Becomes Electra" in London, he was making yet another amateur film - a short humorous documentary "Sunday in the Park". This was subsequently seen at the Edinburgh Film Festival and transmitted on BBC Television, who had at first turned down his application to join them as a Producer.

In 1957 he freelanced for the BBC, making about a dozen films for the then new daily programme "Tonight", which has been running ever since.

In 1958 he spent his time making a series of films for the BBC's Television Arts Magazine "Monitor". These included a film about the circus, one on Benjamin Britten, one on a Group of Painters in Paris, a study of Georges Simenon, and perhaps the most successful, "The Innocent Eye" - a film about child art, which won a special award at the Edinburgh Film Festival. Also during this period he made a film about an Italian Opera Company in London, which was seen by Producer Joseph Janni, who had been making films for the Rank Organisation. He liked the film, arranged an interview with Schlesinger, and expressed a desire to work with him.

In 1959 Schlesinger broke away from Documentaries for a period to work for a film company making a series for Independent Television - "The Four Just Men". On this series he worked as second unit and exterior Director, which at one period meant a trip to Rome to direct some sequences with Vittorio de Sica, who was one of the stars of the series, and whose films had had considerable influence on Schlesinger.

Another film for "Monitor" followed this period of Commercial activities, and in 1960 he went on location in Greece with the "Guns of Navarone" Unit to make some documentaries for television about the making of the film. In the summer of that year he made "Terminus" for British Transport Films, and "The Glass" for Television. Also he directed some sequences for the American Television series on Churchill - "The Valiant Years".

At the beginning of the following year Joseph Janni mentioned a possibility of a Feature, but there were difficulties in setting it up with an unknown Director, and it wasn't till the Autumn of that year that "A Kind of Loving" went into production. At Venice "Terminus" won the Golden Lion for the best documentary, and at Berlin in 1962 "A Kind of Loving" won the Golden Bear.

Working with the same team of writers and technicians, Janni and Schlesinger made "Billy Liar" in 1962/3, which was recently released and screened as the official British entry to the Venice Film Festival this year.

John Schlesinger lives in London. His interests are music, particularly opera, collecting antiques and modern paintings, food, and all forms of photography.

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