



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 Silveira,

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 1/2 + 2 + 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)

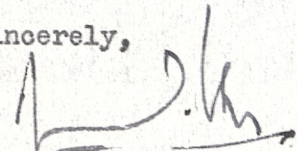
Time is so short, and the mails to and from Bahia are now so uncertain, that we cannot correspond by registered airmail. I am sending this letter to you by the "bag service" of the Bank of London and South America. Will you kindly consult with Mr. Marquez about communications? Perhaps he will agree to 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 ASSAÍTO 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
ARRATAI DO CABO
FAVELA
A MENINA DE GUAÇA 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/anh

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