



British Entertainment Project www.historyproject.org.uk
Formerly BECTU History Project

Dear.....

Following our invitation to you to be interviewed, we thought it would be useful to provide you with some background information on the History Project, which can be seen at www.historyproject.org.uk

The Project was founded by a small group of members of the film and television technicians' union in 1986. Having worked in film and broadcasting all their lives they were deeply concerned that nothing was being done to record the experience of the men and women who have contributed so much to our industries. From this concern the Project emerged as an oral history gathering the recollections of a wide range of individuals who worked "in the business" from plasterers and lab technicians, to performers, writers, directors, cinematographers, make-up artists, engineers and producers.

The Project continues to be run by volunteers and while the Union remains a valuable source of support, the Project operates independently and is broadly self-financing. The Project has extensive and well-established partnerships with a range of industry bodies, including the British Film Institute, BAFTA, Learning On Screen, the Bill Douglas Centre for the History of Cinema at Exeter University, and the University of East Anglia. Master recordings are safely deposited in the BFI National Film and Television Archive. In the early years the recordings were on audiocassette and more recently on video and now digital media.

Increasingly, our archive is being made available on our own website.

Over the years the Project's material has contributed to a wide range of publications, to radio and television programmes, academic theses and dissertations. Our archive of more than 700 interviews has now achieved national and international recognition as a uniquely rich resource on the individuals who built our industries and the cultural, technical and economic landscapes in which they worked.

These interviews represent a comprehensive and unique history of the British film, broadcasting and related industries by practitioners in their own words. We are proud of our track record and of those who built and shaped the massive achievements of our industries. We would be grateful if we could further enrich our archive by the addition of an interview with you.

Potential interviewees often have specific concerns, so here are a few pointers that might help:

- Usually we interview at your home, (using 2, sometimes 3, people, one filming) but we do not wish to be disruptive. We can usually arrange to interview instead at either the union HQ in Clapham or at the BFI in central London.

- We have only limited funds to cover fares. We regret we are unable to pay a fee for your participation.
- If we are in your home, we may ask your permission to film material relevant to your career, if it is on display.
- If interviewees prefer, an interview can still be audio only, although the Project prefers to film interviews on digital video media.
- The copyright of the interview, and any transcript subsequently produced, will be held by the History Project. If you wish, you may embargo all or part(s) of the interview for a period of time that suits you, before it is made available to the public.
- There is no fixed duration for interviews- some have been quite short, others longer. We hope to cover some basic background information about our interviewees and their complete career, but we don't want to take up too much of their time! We are happy to discuss how long you want the interview to last and can split it over several dates if you prefer.
- We will check before we start if there are topics you do not wish to discuss

Thank you

Organiser/interviewer

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