

# WHAT

....is it?

“The History Project is a splendid idea and is very important” Sir John Mills

## What is it?

The British Entertainment History Project is organised and operated entirely by volunteers who select interviewees and undertake the interviews. Interviews were originally recorded on audio tape but are now recorded audio visually.

We work closely with the British Film Institute who conserve copies of our interviews, and with other academic and industry groups to publicise and extend the use of the History Project archive. Our archive is unique and the majority of those whose working lives are recorded within it cannot be heard in any other place.

## Among the famous voices in the collection:

Angela Allen  
Lindsay Anderson  
David Attenborough  
Richard Attenborough  
Sidney Gilliat  
Sheila Hancock  
Karel Reisz

# HOW

....you can be part of it!

## How to join us

The History Project welcomes all offers of practical assistance in undertaking the interviews themselves or in providing the camera and sound skills needed for the recordings. We are a broad church and we want to reflect the gender, ethnic, geographical and sectoral range of our industry in our membership.

We meet monthly to discuss our policy, projects and collaborations. Meetings provide an opportunity to meet socially and guest speakers are often invited.

We provide technical equipment for recording interviews and the documentation necessary to undertake them.

**If you would like to join us  
please contact our Secretary, Sue Malden  
Secretary@historyproject.org.uk**

## How to Access Recordings

Our recording can be consulted by anyone with an interest in them: Students, researchers, teachers, writers or enthusiasts.

*Many interviews have been digitised and transcribed and so are accessible on our website [www.historyproject.org.uk](http://www.historyproject.org.uk).  
Listening copies can be accessed at the BFI National Library in London.*

*No use may be made of any interview material without the of the British Entertainment History Project which holds the copyright in the interviews.*

Applications to consult the recordings should be made to:

**The Reuben Library,  
BFI, South Bank,  
Belvedere Rd,  
South Bank,  
London SE1 8XT,  
Phone: 020 7255 1444; [library@bfi.org.uk](mailto:library@bfi.org.uk).**

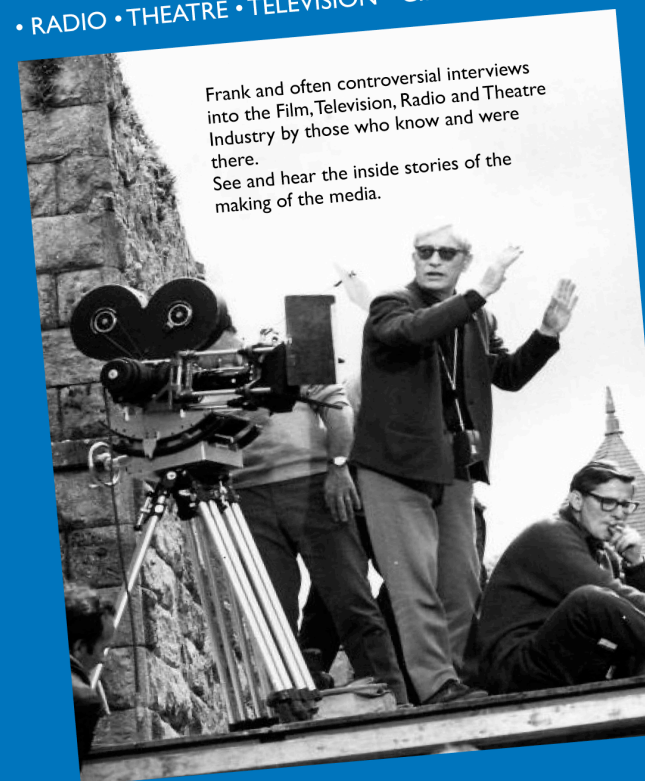
Or to: **The Secretary,  
British Entertainment History Project,  
373-377 Clapham Road, London,  
SW9 9BT.  
Website: [www.historyproject.org.uk](http://www.historyproject.org.uk)**



[www.historyproject.org.uk](http://www.historyproject.org.uk)

# INSIGHT INTO THE MEDIA

• RADIO • THEATRE • TELEVISION • CINEMA •



Frank and often controversial interviews into the Film, Television, Radio and Theatre Industry by those who know and were there.  
See and hear the inside stories of the making of the media.

# INSIGHT

into the media

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## How it Began

The British Entertainment History Project began in 1987 when a small group of members of the film and broadcasting union ACTT – now part of BECTU – decided to record the individual histories of men and women who had made their working lives in the industry.

Led by Roy Fowler(producer/director) our Honorary President, they decided to do something immediate and practical to rectify that cumulative loss of memory and achievement and to bring to the project their wide personal knowledge of the industry and its history.

Supported by the Union which gave them the resources and the autonomy to get on with the work in hand, they began to create an archive of oral history recordings by interviewing staff from across the sector, from processing workers and producers to sound assistants and directors, including writers and performers.

## Vision and Achievement

The vision of those pioneers has resulted in a unique and internationally recognised archive of over 700 recordings which provide an extraordinary insight into the economic, technical, aesthetic and personal histories of the key cultural industry of the 20th Century. Some of them are more than 20 hours long and are social documents of our time. We take pride in their achievement and that of the practitioners whose memories are recorded.

As our industry has grown, we have extended our recordings to new occupations and new media. We are determined to remain relevant to our time and to future generations. We welcome the active engagement of all those with the ability and enthusiasm to assist us in our work.

