**Chair’s Report**

This year was particularly challenging for Edinburgh Film Guild (EFG).

We lost access to our main screening venue with the closure and collapse into administration by Filmhouse.

This posed three challenges to the EFG.

Firstly, we lost access to our main screening cinema and education rooms. This is where we delivered the bulk of our screen programme and our education programmes. As an education charity, this was potentially catastrophic for the EFG.

Secondly, we lost access to the EFG archive. An invaluable documentary and photographic record of the EG’s activities since 1929.

Thirdly, since EFG had invested funds to facilitate the purchase of the Filmhouse at 88 Lothian Road in 1979, we did not know, if as unsecured creditor, we would receive a return on our investment. This obviously meant the EFG was at risk of not being able to function financially.

The EFG Council took the following actions:

We continued a programme of screenings of French films at the French Institute. We had good audiences and showed there is still a demand for cultural cinema in the city. At time of writing, we are working with James Gillespie's High School to use their Muriel Spark Theatre as our second screening site. This has a capacity of 134.

We've increased the number of educational programmes which we now host in the Dominion cinema. We wish to thank the Cameron family as owners of the Dominion for their support to film education in the city.

The EFG Council negotiated the transfer of the documentary archive to the National Library of Scotland as a bequest to the nation. We donated the photographic archive to the Archives and Special Collections on John Grierson, held at the University of Stirling. The EFG Council would wish to offer thanks to Chris Cassels and Nicola Stratton at the National Library of Scotland for this assistance.

This means our archive is accessible to the public, students in film and documentary studies and specialist researchers. As Nicola Stratton, the Acquisitions Manager at the National Library of Scotland noted:

*“It may reassure you to know that between our existing holdings and the items that we have accepted from your donation, essentially the entire Edinburgh Film Guild library will be contained in our collections.  This means that all the titles held will be available for readers to consult in our reading rooms in Edinburgh and also at the Moving Image and Sound Collections at Kelvin Hall in Glasgow.  As such, a copy of everything has been preserved for the nation, which is extremely positive.”*

Lastly, we have been informed by FRP, the administrator, that the EFG will receive the full amount of monies owed, based on the funding formula on the sale of 88 Lothian Road. This will be £153,179.00 plus we will receive statutory interest on this from the date of administration which was 6/10/22 to the payment period.

FRP have said we will receive the funding in February 2024 and the statutory interest after that. This has secured the financial future of the EFG.

Because of this last matter, we have pushed back our AGM accordingly.

We are updating our Memorandum & Articles of Association as it has not been updated since the formation of the EFG.

The regrettable closure of Filmhouse means that EFG has become a more peripatetic organisation with multiple venues, but we still continue to meet our charitable aims and purpose. In fact, we've expanded our offering despite the loss of Filmhouse. We continue to look forward to our centenary in 2029.

This means we will have a very different Trustees Report next year.

In closing, I would like to add my personal thanks to the members of the EFG Council, who faced with an extraordinary situation with considerable potential to close the longest running Film Society in the world, met these considerable challenges and helped to steer the EFG to a much safer and exciting position. Please remember everyone involved is a volunteer, so I would like to thank Ian, Gillian, Michael, Richard, David and Phil for their support. I would also like to thank Neil and John at George & Co for their accountancy services.

I recommend this report to you.

Jim Dunnigan

Chair

Edinburgh Film Guild