

AgX Meeting
Sunday, September 27, 2015
AgX Space (Handcranked Productions)

Present:

Brittany Gravely
Douglas Urbank
Ethan Berry
Genevieve Carmel
Michelle Finn

Mike Piso
Stefan Grabowski

Isaac Fuhrman (visitor)

Agenda

Budget & Finance Update
Dark Ops Lab Buildout Update
Outreach & Website Update
Kickstarter / Indiegogo Update & Possible Benefits
Process Reversal Equipment Donation
Nobuhiko Obayashi & Stephen Broomer Visits
Waltham Open Studios
Screening Opportunity at The Firehouse Space, Brooklyn, NY

WELCOMING ISAAC FUHRMAN

We had a visit from Isaac Fuhrman who had done an online search for filmmaking in the Boston area and came to see the space and meet members. He is interested in becoming a member.

BUDGET & FINANCE UPDATE

Our minimum monthly expenses total around \$1,850 for rent and utilities. We made September's rent and as of 1:00 Sunday had \$998 in the bank account with some pending Dwolla payment in process. Stefan mentioned that while Dwolla doesn't charge for transactions, they apparently "float" the funds for longer than PayPal, maybe for as long as a few days. The group discussed ideas for how to increase income. The consensus was that once the lab and darkroom are finished, and we start having workshops and making facilities available, we'll have something concrete to offer. And, when the AgX website is up, we'll have member pages which could also be an incentive. With inclusion in the filmlabs.org list of artist-run labs we'll have world-wide exposure.

DARK OPS LAB BUILDOUT UPDATE

Flatbed editors are set up. Ethan stated that not much is left on the room addition to the lab. He is onsite every Tuesday, often joined by Mike, Matt and Stefan. He estimates that the room will be ready for painting in a couple of weeks. That would be an opportunity for a painting party to get the job done quickly. As to the lab, he believes the plumbing would be a 2-person job to clear the pipes, solder and complete. Ventilation could be done at any time and might take a week. Ethan has planned the ventilation to originate at the sink level to vent fumes directly at the source, and limit exposure, rather than via a hood where the fumes would pass upwards. At that point the darkroom would be complete for still photography and bucket film processing. A bit more would be required for a fully functional filmmaking lab. Ethan will coordinate with Matt on the ventilation.

WALTHAM OPEN STUDIOS

The group discussed [Waltham Mills Open Studios](#) (November 7 and 8) as a opportunity to promote membership. Brittany will design a poster which could be added to our Balagan and Facebook pages and could possibly be silkscreened. If we elect to make prints, Ethan can have a screen produced from the design and Stefan can handle production. That could also be a group effort. Prints could be distributed to cafes in Waltham, Boston, Cambridge, etc. Depending on the design, it could also be modified for t-shirt printing.

The group discussed various ideas for the event. The lab will certainly be complete by then. We could plan a workshop or simple demo around celluloid filmmaking as that would probably be something completely new to visitors who are accustomed to video only. We could schedule a film screening to occur around 5:00 PM on Sunday just as the event ends, and provide a looped super 8 cartridge or a digital video program as a teaser. Or have continuous projections or a looped program on a monitor for the duration of the event.

The idea of an afterparty was discussed. Stefan and Ethan agreed that as a non-profit AgX could easily get cases of beer donated and probably snack foods as well. We could plan a one-hour film program followed by the party, advertise both events and provide a signup sheet for future workshops.

Doug will contact the Exhibitions & Screenings committee to see if those members would be willing to help plan a screening. Members could come to the October AgX meeting with prints or files of their work for the screening.

FILMMAKER VISITS

Stefan listed a number of events that are packed into October. Among those is Stephen Broomer's visit October 19-21. Stefan has orchestrated Stephen's screening to happen Wednesday, October 21, at MassArt Film Society as a joint Balagan/MassArt event. Stephen has a talk/workshop event that he'd like to do on October 20, probably at AgX, around 8:15 PM or so to allow for travel time for those with day jobs.

Stefan has been trying to schedule Kevin Rice who is touring with his Frenkel Defects III programs (two 70-minute 16 mm film programs). Gen's group, [Crows and Sparrows](#), is screening Daniel Hui's Snakeskin October 18 at the Harvard Film Archive with Daniel Hui in person. Kevin was originally scheduled to be in Boston at that time, but Stefan has rescheduled his visit for October 22-25 directly after Stephen Broomer's visit, however he has yet to secure a venue. Brittany will look into the Carpenter Center as a possibility. Stefan will check with Ernst Karel about other opportunities at Harvard as well. Kevin also has a follow up to his handmade emulsion workshop which Stefan reports is considerably improved. There are no further details at this time on the Nobuhiko Obayashi visit.

KICKSTARTER / INDIEGOGO UPDATE

As planned, Gen shot some video of the meeting attendees and we previewed a projection of her draft and offered a number of suggestions. She's made a great start which includes voiceovers by Brittany and Rob, footage of the space, and clips of member work. We agreed our need for funds should be emphasized more strongly in the video, but that could also be done in the accompanying text. Gen had attended a fundraising workshop for Crows and Sparrows and has a rough plan in mind for the buildup and launch. The group decided on November 8, the date of the Waltham Open Studios screening and party, as the target launch date. Gen also shot stills of some of the equipment at the meeting and has requested photos of members at work to include. Ethan has a lot of documentation and will process the time-lapse film as an additional resource. Stefan has already prepared a draft page for the launch and will work with Gen.

EQUIPMENT DONATIONS

Stefan has asked Kevin to postpone donation of the optical printer and contact printer for a later time, perhaps winter or even spring. There is too much going on for us in October to be able to orchestrate acceptance of that equipment. Hopefully at that later time we will be in a position to pay for transportation assuming we're successful with the fundraising campaign. In addition, Harvard has offered an Oxberry animation stand. Stefan reported that its footprint is about 6 square feet and it is also quite tall. The group would like it, but getting it would have to be arranged and we'd need to find a place for it.

OUTREACH & WEBSITE UPDATE

Brittany reported that Frank and Matt are at work on a basic frame for the website. Stefan is working on developing MailChimp for wider outreach. The group had a lengthy discussion of the listserve, the possibility of different levels of outreach to members and non-members and pros and cons around that, and issues of privacy. There was also further discussion about dues collection and incentives.

SCREENING OPPORTUNITY AT THE FIREHOUSE SPACE, BROOKLYN, NY

Doug reported that his friend, Sandra Sprecher, has offered AgX the opportunity to present a program of member films and video at her Brooklyn performance venue, [The Firehouse Space](#), perhaps in the spring. Typically she presents music and multi-media performances, but she is very interested in hosting a film program. We would need to curate a program, bring or borrow equipment, and make AgX members available for projection and a possible talk. The group agreed that this would be a good opportunity for AgX. Doug will get back to Sandra and report back to the group with possible dates.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, October 11, 1:00 PM at AgX (Handcranked Productions). Members should bring prints and digital files for the Waltham Open Studios screening event.

End of Meeting Notes
Notes by Douglas Urbank

WORKING GROUP SIGNUP

Exhibitions & Screenings

Anto Astudillo
Carmine Grimaldi
Ernesto Livon-Grosman
Kathryn Ramey
Susan DeLeo
Valery Lyman

Planning & Administration

Brittany Gravely
Corrin Barnes
Douglas Urbank
Ernesto Livon-Grosman
Gen Carmel
Mike Piso
Anto Astudillo

Budget & Finance

Christina Hunt
Ethan Berry
Gen Carmel
Libbie Cohn
Matthew McWilliams
Mike Piso
Robert Todd

Lab & Operations

Christina Hunt
Ethan Berry
Frank Aveni
Kathryn Ramey
Laura Ryan
Mike Piso
Nic Brynolfson
Nicholas Bunch

Outreach & Website

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Brittany Gravely
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