

Coordinating Anthropological Film Festivals in Europe CAFFE

Minutes of the Meeting 29 May, 2006, Göttingen

Participants:

Eddy Appels (Beeld voor Beeld, Amsterdam), Anya Bernstein (New York), Peter Crawford (Nordic Anthropological Film Association / NAFA), Aarhus), Beate Engelbrecht (Göttingen International Film Festival), Knud Fischer-Möller (Kopenhagen), Susanne Hammacher (Royal Anthropological Institute, Film officer, London), Hu Tai-Li (Taiwan International Ethnographic Film Festival), Rolf Husmann (Commission on Visual Anthropology), Nasko Kriznar (Ljubljana), Liivo Niglas (Tartu Festival, Estonia), Pille Runnel (Tartu Festival, Estonia), Gautam Sonti (Bangalore), Ivana Todorovic (Belgrade)

Agenda:

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1. Brief Presentation of the Participants

Festival Directors:

Eddy Appels (Beeld voor Beeld, Amsterdam),
Peter Crawford (Nordic Anthropological Film Association/NAFA), Aarhus),
Beate Engelbrecht (Göttingen International Film Festival),
Susanne Hammacher (Royal Anthropological Institute, Film officer, London),
Liivo Niglas and Pille Runnel (Tartu Festival)

Rolf Husmann (Commission on Visual Anthropology),

Further details see: 7. Profile of the festivals

Visitors:

Anya Bernstein (New York) present for personal information
Knud Fischer-Möller (Kopenhagen) would like to organise an event on "Visual Representations" in Kopenhagen
Hu Tai-Li (Taiwan International Ethnographic Film Festival/TIEFF),
Nasko Kriznar (Ljubljana) plans to organise a festival in Slovenia,
Gautam Sonti (Bangalore) plans to organise a festival in Bangalore/India,
Ivana Todorovic (Beograd) will inform the existing ethnographic Film Festival in Belgrade

2. Report on the First CAFFE-Meeting in Paris, March 2006

Excerpted from the CVA/NAFA-Newsletter:

Over the past decades a number of ethnographic/anthropological film festivals have emerged as regular events attended by local audiences, the filmmakers of the films shown at the festival and many other colleagues, students etc. interested in visual anthropology and documentary filmmaking.

In Europe there are now about 10 such regular festivals aiming not only at documentary film in a wider sense, but at anthropological films in a more specific meaning. All of these festivals are regularly announced and listed in this CVA/NAFA Newsletter and other such sources. And although most, if not all, of the festival organizers know each other personally and meet on various occasions, there has been no organized attempt so far at co-ordinating the festival dates, their content and the question of cooperation, e.g. in budget terms. Exceptions have happened, I remember e.g. that David MacDougall came from Australia to attend both the Göttingen festival and a NAFA meeting, and that both organizing institutions shared the air fare for him, and similarly that has been done with some Chinese student filmmakers, but these have been exceptions.

As for the scheduling of the festivals, just recently the fact that “Beeld voor Beeld” takes place more or less at the same date this year as the NAFA meeting in Bergen has been an annoying coincidence, and in 2004 the same happened with the festivals in Nuoro and Sibiu, both taking place in the very same week.

In order to improve this situation, a number of representatives of these European film festivals took the opportunity of this year’s Bilan du film ethnographique in Paris and the ensuing conference on Visual Anthropology marking the 25th anniversary of the Bilan, to sit together informally and have a first meeting to discuss what could be done.

The festivals represented were:

Bilan du film ethnographique, Paris (Francoise Foucault)

Beeld voor Beeld, Amsterdam (Eddy Appels)

Viscult, Joensuu/Finland (Pekka Silvennoinen)

NAFA (Peter Crawford)

SIFF (Sardinia International Film Festival), Nuoro (Paolo Piquereddu)

GIFF (Göttingen International Film Festival) (Beate Engelbecht)

and CVA as an umbrella organisation (Rolf Husmann).

The discussion concentrated on the general question in which ways the festivals could co-operate. Potential fields of co-ordination and co-operation were named as follows:

- communication of festival dates, topics etc. at the earliest possible moment to avoid parallel festivals
- finding common funding sources (EU?) for linked activities
- common presentation of festival highlights at anthropology meetings as a way of advertising visual anthropology.

As a first opportunity to present such highlights this year’s EASA conference in Bristol/Britain was mentioned as a possible event and the suggestions was made to contact

EASA and offer a small selection of films (e.g. a showing of one especially remarkable/anthropologically relevant film of each festival).

It was also agreed that a further meeting should include representatives of both the Tartu and Pärnu festivals in Estonia, the RAI Film Festival in Britain and the ASTRA Filmfest in Sibiu/Romania. The Göttingen festival was named as the next chance to continue the discussion. That meeting will therefore take place right after the festival, on Monday, 29 May.

The first name given to our co-ordination activities is “Co-ordination of Anthropological Film Festivals in Europe” (CAFFE) – after all, the first meeting took place in a Paris café!

Additional Information from Beate Engelbrecht:

- At the Paris meeting, a discussion took place on the foci of the various festivals: Culture and Representation (Beeld voor Beeld / Visual Culture (Tartu) / Human Beings / Visible Culture (Sardinia) / “Cultural Vision” as a possible common term was mentioned.
- There was also a discussion about a possible logo of CAFFE. Pekka Silvennoinen (Joensuu) agreed to make some proposals.
- The question of how to make festival films available to other festivals or through a common distribution was put forward. It was agreed to discuss that matter in the future as a possible task of CAFFE.
- It was agreed that CAFFE should be part of the Visual Anthropology Network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA).

3. Further Points To Discuss

- Instead of discussing funding possibilities, this was expanded to a discussion on projects and their funding possibilities.
- Another discussion on the name of the network was added.

4. Name of the Network

After a short discussion representatives present agreed on:

Decision:

- Co-ordinating Anthropological Film Festivals in Europe (CAFFE)
- Affiliation: should be part of the Visual Anthropology Network of EASA (VANEASA)
- A list of the member festivals will be published on the website of VANEASA.

5. Timetable

At this moment, the following timetable can be presented showing the regular dates (and some of the already fixed ones for 2007/08) for the festivals concerned:

	Even year (e.g. 2006)	Uneven year (e.g. 2007)
January		
February		
March	Bilan, Paris (third week) Tartu (fourth week)	Bilan, Paris (third week) Tartu (fourth week)
April		
May	Göttingen International Film Festival (Ascension Day; first week in May 2008)	Freiburger Film Forum (Ascension Day; third week in May 2007)
June	Beeld voor Beeld (early June) NAFA	Beeld voor Beeld (early June) NAFA (Trondheim, perhaps only in Sept./Oct.07) RAI (in Manchester, end of June/early July)
July	Pärnu	Pärnu
August		
September	SIEFF (Sardinia) VISCULT (Joensuu/Finland) (Sept/Oct)	VISCULT (Joensuu/Finland) (Sept/Oct)
October	ASTRA (Sibiu/Romania) Moscow (9-14 Oct.)	Moscow (?)
November	Belgrade	Belgrade
December		

Decision:

- Members of CAFFE agree to avoid organising two festivals at the same dates.
- Festivals which take place one right after the other should try to coordinate to cut costs for travelling filmmakers (overseas!).
- Therefore, festivals should inform each other as soon as possible on such planned invitations to filmmakers.
- The actual dates of the festivals will be published at the earliest possible time in the NAFA/CVA newsletter.

Additional information: The next official Meeting of the Commission on Visual Anthropology (CVA), together with a large Symposium on Visual Anthropology and Film Screenings, will take place during the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (ICAES) in Kunming, China, 25 July – 4 August 2008.

6. Logo of CAFFE

Pekka Silvennoinen handed in some proposals for the CAFFE Logo. They were discussed and it was agreed on the best one.

Decision:

- The blue Logo is the one selected by all participants.



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- Pekka Silvennoinen will prepare the various formats of this logo for printing and website and send it to all members of CAFFE.

7. Presentation at the EASA conference in Bristol September 2006

Susanne Hammacher has been in contact with the organisers in Bristol. They offer to screen, in the entrance hall, films and make people aware of them.

Decision:

- In the entrance hall there should be something like a trailer of CAFFE.
- Additionally, it would be good to have a separate room for screenings and a video library.
- Furthermore, CAFFE should prepare a leaflet for distribution, to make EASA Conference attendants aware of its existence.
- In future, CAFFE participation should be a must for EASA conferences.

How to select the films for presentation at the EASA Conference in Bristol?

In the trailer and the video library, selected films of the festival should be available.

The films should be important for main stream anthropologists.

Student Award Winning films should be specially promoted.

Decision:

- Each festival sends the proposed films (one film of the main festival, and the student award winners) as soon as possible to Susanne Hammacher for the video library and screenings in a separate room and to Beate Engelbrecht for the trailer. The best would be to get, in both cases, DVDs.
- These films could be promoted also as "Travelling CAFFE Festival" to universities world wide. (The festivals must, however, obtain those rights, unless they have done so already).

CAFFE-Trailer

For the presentation at the EASA conference and further events, a trailer should be produced.

Decision:

- The trailer will be a power point presentation with films included (1-3 minutes each)
- Festival Directors! Please send to Beate Engelbrecht DVDs of the films (selection see above)
- In doing so, please provide the following information: name of the festival, filmmaker(s), film title, award (if any), year of production.

Video Library – Screening Room

For screening some of the festival films and making them available for visitors, a separate room is needed. CAFFE asks Susanne Hammacher to try to get a room. We realise that it is very late to do so, and therefore might be difficult.

Decision:

- There should be a video library (DVDs) and a screening possibility, so that CAFFE can offer a film programme in the conference programme breaks.

CAFFE-Leaflet

To promote the Anthropological Film Festivals in Europe, an information leaflet is needed, which could be added to conference documentations.

The leaflet will be A4 folded in three parts.

Content:

On the front page: logo, website address, slogan

On the back page: description of CAFFE and its aims

Also: Short description of the participating festivals (Beeld voor Beeld, Bilan, Freiburg, Göttingen, Joensuu, Moscow, NAFA, Pärnu, RAI, SIEFF, ASTRA, Tartu):

- Name of the Festival
- General Description (one of two lines and one of four lines)
- Last festival winner photo
- Date of the next festival (annual or biennial)
- Submission deadline
- Contact
- Website

This information will be used to present the festival on the website of the Visual Anthropology Network of EASA.

Decision:

- Each festival contributes 50€ for printing the leaflet. We try to print as many as possible (5.000 upwards) so each of us has a sufficient amount of leaflets for distribution.
- IWF provides the layout and organises the printing (unless we see that this can be done much cheaper in another country.)
- Pekka Silvennoinen prepares the logo.
- Peter Crawford writes the introduction and proof-reads the flyer.
- Each festival sends the texts and logos (in print quality) as soon as possible to Beate Engelbrecht.

8. Profile of the Festivals

The festivals presented themselves. All participants are convinced that it is helpful to continuously have an exchange like this, as important information on the management of the festivals is passed on. In the following here is a selection of the information given:

Beeld voor Beeld

Has emerged out of Visual Anthropology. Main topic: Culture and Representation. The programme committee is local. The topics are chosen along the general interest of the public. Films are selected only if the filmmaker is coming. His travel costs and lodging are paid for. This year, there is a close cooperation with the Digital Documentary Television. Discussions of the festival will be recorded and screened. 5 films of the festival will be screened also (with out refunding the filmmakers etc). At the same time, several TV-channels are asked to buy films.

Beeld voor Beeld was this year extremely successful in receiving money for the festival. They had somebody who looked for funding on a commission base and how the various festival topics related to existing funding programmes.

NAFA

Is first of all an association with an annual meeting of its members. These meetings are organised by different institutions in different towns. The local organisers look for money. The meeting might be a quite small or a big event depending on the financial situation. NAFA conferences are the oldest ones of all the CAFFE members.

RAI

Takes place every second year at a different university. The next one will be in Manchester. RAI Film Festival is a prize-giving festival. Selection is done by a special selection committee. Additionally, there are special interest screenings which are programmed by the organisers of the festival. Workshops on specific topic are organised also. Next year one of the topics will be on China.

Tartu/Estonia

Is organised in collaboration with the Museum and the World Film Society. There is no competition. The selection is done by a local committee. The relevance of the film topics and not the genre of a film is decisive. Photography is also included. There are workshops and round tables. The topics mainly concern cultural diversity and cultural heritage. There is a successful cooperation with the National TV.

Comment of Peter Crawford: They have a nice catalogue with academic articles in it.

9. Common Projects – Possible Funding

One main objective of CAFFE is to find better funding for the festivals. Only by coordinating festivals through the CAFFE-network the chances to obtain local funding will be improved. The participants agree that on the European level it would make sense to have some sort of project which supports the festivals and would get European funding. From his recent experiences Peter Crawford says that it is important to have one member from Eastern Europe and one from Southern Europe (EU member states!).

After some discussion, the idea agreed upon by the participants to be followed is as follows:

CAFFE Project:

The participating festivals agree to include in their festival programmes, possibly within the next 4 years, twice a given TOPICAL FOCUS (e.g. Cultural Diversity in Europe – a second topic still needs to be found), so that a number of films on this topic will be screened during the festivals. CAFFE will decide on the topic, will coordinate selection processes and cooperation structures and be responsible for a lasting effect of these sessions by having the selected films archived into topical packets for some kind of distribution, and the provision of additional educational material, so that these films can be used in teaching.

Money needs to be applied for to cover costs for organisational sessions of the festival organisers, for filmmakers to participate at the different festivals and for costs concerning the ensuing distribution.

Agreed upon criteria for festivals to be part of such an application/project:

- Exists for at least 3 years
- Has to have a website
- Must have an anthropological focus or be rooted in Visual Anthropology
- Must be an international festival
- Must be recognised by the other CAFFE members
- Must be rooted in Europe

Further project and funding ideas mentioned:

- To obtain funding from the MINERVA programme: see http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/socrates/minerva/index_en.html
- To co-operate in the form of a presentation (by way of a selection of the films screened at that festival) of one festival at the others
- To co-operate in organising “Travelling festivals”
- To organise a festival specially designed to the interests of anthropology teachers/lecturers
- To create a database for all participating festivals documenting and making retrievable data about all films submitted/screened/awarded at those festivals.
- To give life to the CAFFE network by organising Roundtable talks etc.
- To organise special events or care in other ways for student filmmakers.

10. Future Meetings

The next meetings of CAFFE should take place at the festivals in Sibiu (October 2006), Tartu (March 2007) and Manchester (June 2007).

(Minutes written by: Beate Engelbrecht and Rolf Husmann
Göttingen, 15 July 2006)