

Dear Iannis Theodorou

I am writing to comment on the Public Service Broadcasting in particular your review of Channel Four's position.

I have been working as a distributor, producer and commissioning editor in UK film since 1981 and the film remit of Channel Four is the source of most of the optimism anybody in independent film can feel about reflecting the UK to UK cinema audiences. While the BBC have been nervous about spending their license payer money for UK cinema audiences or, alternatively, seduced into blandness by the grandeur of the US classics divisions, Channel Four has mostly been very useful.

Although the Channel's interpretation of innovation has been very market oriented since the departure of Jeremy Isaacs, it seems clear that the only way to sustain independent audio visual originality and to foster new voices will be to set up a market in such things between the BBC and Channel Four which is reasonably supported by the UK tax payer. With this in mind I urge you to support Channel Four's bid for PSB funding to a significant level and to hypothecate a large proportion of that money to support originality in local UK film production intended for the cinema as well as the small screen. While the BBC flails around without a film policy this must be resolved very fast and in an age when politicians and regulators are looking more closely at the positive value of regulatory structures, the UK could grasp the opportunity to take its local cinema production seriously and to compete with the blooming film cultures of EU nations like Denmark, Spain and France.

Many thanks for your attention to this contribution.

Yours sincerely

Ben Gibson
Director
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