

PRESS RELEASE

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BFI SPECIAL AWARDS

The BFI Special Awards for 1981 will be presented at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1, on the evening of Monday, 28th June.

The Awards are designed to celebrate work in the film and television world which does not normally make the headlines but which deserves to be more publicly known and appreciated.

This year two Awards will be given, for achievement in very different areas of film and television culture.

On the Jury this year were: Susan Barrowclough, John Donachy, Gillian Hartnoll, Maurice Hatton, Clyde Jeavons, Jerome Kuehl, Mandy Merck, Carole Myer and Geoffrey Nowell-Smith.

One Award will be given jointly to Ms Beryl Mortimer and Ms Angela Marshall, two great specialists on sound effects who have each been working in the British film industry for over a quarter of a century.

Ms Mortimer's speciality is "created effects", in which she is an acknowledged expert. She has worked on countless films, from Henry V to Radio On, and Anthony Mann, Nicholas Ray and John Boorman are but three of the directors who have insisted on her services when making films in Britain.

Ms Marshall's speciality on the other hand is "library effects". Working at Cine Sound Library she is able, within seconds, to locate the precise effect required by an editor from the enormous store held at the library, the largest in Europe.

The work of both Ms Mortimer and Ms Marshall is highly regarded in the industry but it is not reflected in screen credits, and is unknown to - and often unsuspected by - the film-going public.

The other Award is being given to the Documentation Commission of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) for the International Index of Film Periodicals, a great work of international scholarship now reaching its tenth anniversary.

The Index is compiled by staff in over 20 countries and co-ordinated in London. Over 100 periodicals are comprehensively indexed to provide first a card index service and then an annual printed volume containing worldwide information on every article in a major film periodical. It has now extended its coverage to include television. Enormous dedication has gone into producing this work in spite of all the expected (and some unexpected) obstacles encountered by an enterprise of this scale. The result is a

fundamental research tool of immeasurable importance to libraries and film scholars.

The Jury also considered that the following nominations should receive a distinguished mention:

Fantasy Factory, London, for its services to community video.

David Meeker, for his work on Jazz and the cinema, expressed particularly in his book Jazz in the Movies, now in its third edition and an invaluable work of reference for enthusiasts and anyone working in the area.

The Scala Cinema, London, for its repertory programming and its work in restoring films to distribution.

For further information contact Mundy Ellis.