

BAFTA

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts

(THE SOCIETY OF FILM AND TELEVISION ARTS LTD.)

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I am sure most members will know that the ambitious scheme for the conversion of 195 Piccadilly cost infinitely more than the total sum originally provided by many generous donors. As a result, it was necessary for the Trustees to borrow a large sum of money from the Bank in order to make it possible for the Academy to occupy the premises early last year. As may well be imagined, this loan, together with inflation, has been a very considerable additional burden on the high costs of running the Academy.

During these early days in our new home our running costs, in the present economic climate, have been causing some concern and the Trustees have, therefore, been greatly occupied in attempts to reduce, as quickly as possible, the burden of the interest charges resulting from the capital loan. We have been making considerable headway with funds accruing from various film premieres both here and in the United States.

However, it is with the greatest possible pleasure I can announce that, although not yet accomplished completely, the problem has been enormously alleviated by a very substantial donation from the film producer Sir Run Run Shaw, and, to mark the Academy's immense gratitude to him, we have taken the decision to name our small theatre in his honour.


Richard Attenborough.