

d/w share the info from letters

Unicorn Productions
c/o John & Bjo Trimble
2790 West 8th Street
Los Angeles 5, California

Some important information

concerning
UNICORN PRODUCTIONS

Fans have attempted movie-making for years, but besides Unicorn Productions, only the Liverpool group (MaD Productions) has put any concentrated effort into it. Unicorn Productions is an amateur movie-making group which is trying to form into a full-fledged hobby activity; we need interested people for scripting, directing, all phases of camera and crew work, costuming and acting. We don't need kibitzers, but if you have a car--you Angelenos--we can use you for transportation to and from location; mostly we need active, creative folks who don't mind getting a bit sweaty with work and who can devote weekends and odd hours to trips to the desert, etc., or in editing film segments.

Right now, Unicorn Productions is Al Lewis, John & Bjo Trimble, Ernie Wheatley, Bill Ellern, and assorted members of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. You don't have to be a member of LASFS to work with Unicorn--we're not a club project, and we welcome all types of people, with all kinds of interests; the only prerequisite is an interest in producing good 16 mm movies.

To date, we've produced three movies--"Little Red Riding Hood" with the Unicorn staff and Sunday Productions; "The Genie" in color; and "The Musquite Kid Rides Again" in black and white. (You convention goers have seen these.) We have scripts in planning, and hope to produce Andersen's "The Little Mermaid", a silent adventure story, a "monster" comedy, and a western. This depends on our treasury, which is non-existent, at the moment.

Affiliated with Unicorn is Rayven Productions, another amateur film group, owned and operated by Dwayne Avery. By combining talents and equipment, we feel that much more in the way of professional quality work may be produced. Unicorn's camera is an Auricon 16 mm. with optical sound equipment; Rayven's is a Bolex, with wide-angle lens, telescopic lens, and sound taping equipment. We have several photographers in the crew, who take stills of movie shooting, pictures of the cast, and other memoirs of each movie.

In the Fan Hillton (2790 W 8th St, DU 9-0619) we have an 8x10 room with sink, which Unicorn Productions is going to convert into a darkroom for processing movies and photographs. Equipment is now necessary, before we can use the room to its capacity--we have nothing in the way of movie processing materials or equipment.

The costume department is collecting everything from interesting lace to old draperies, velvet capes, funny hats, belts, guns and Hallowe'en costumes. They are stored in one of the closets, or in an old chest for later use.

A make-up class will be begun at The Fan Hillton in the second week or March. If you Los Angelenos are interested, phone Bjo (DU 9-0619) and indicate which evening would be more desirable to you--Monday, or Wednesday. Mitch Evans will teach theatrical make-up once a week, starting at eight pm. There will be ten lessons in all, and you must take all ten to join the class. The fee will be \$20--\$2 per lesson; it's much better to pay the entire sum at once, but payment per lesson is all right. Mitch suggests that you prepare yourself for the first class by buying a panstick of your skin hue and a black eyebrow pencil; there will be no drastic outlay of cash for make-up as we can buy it a bit at a time. Men are most certainly invited to this

class; and rest assured that buying a panstick is not so difficult if you tell the salesgirl that it's for a theatre class. Remember, though, we have to have a class formed by the second week in March--possibly that Monday night--which is March 13--so let us know if you want to join the fun.

You don't have to join the Unicorn staff to attend make-up classes, though we'd love to have you. And we can't force you to attend all ten classes, but we can refuse entrance to undesirable people.

Because of the outlay of cash necessary to produce our last movie, "The Musquite Kid Rides Again", financial problems are the most important things under consideration. We plan to asses cast and crew equally for any future ventures, to ensure the completion of the films--but we also have to take care with our property. We loaned "The Kid" to someone, who returned it without telling us the film had broken. When we ran it, we found that the splice had been made with scotch tape--and motion picture film just doesn't splice with scotch tape, like magnetic tape does. We repaired the film, at a cost of three frames--but this is the only copy we have, and future loans will only be made with postage and insurance paid in advance--the \$200 cost of the film and developing of "The Kid" doesn't cover trips to Calico, Berkeley, Long Beach and Santa Monica, and four weekends of editing and tightening up.

Now, we could use some "patrons of the arts" and we hope that some of you are interested enough in our project to help us out. Since most won't have the fun of working camera or putting on make-up or acting, we feel that asking for money for each movie is too much. If you will consider \$10 per year for your contribution--most of which will go into equipment--we can go on, with your help. If you are interested in helping out with a particular movie, too, we will be happy to accept any monetary assistance.

Everyone who is interested enough to contribute something to the treasury will be kept informed of any new plans through an irregular publication of information and general news to be sent to all subscribers. The only other thing we can offer is still photos of each movie made within the year of their subscription, their names listed in all programs and publications as sponsoring members, and free admission to all Unicorn movie parties.

Costume materials, props and other paraphenalia are gladly accepted, but only usable movie equipment will be acceptable instead of cash for a sponsoring membership or cast/crew contributions. Suggestions, advice, cash and equipment are gladly welcomed.

In preparation now under the editorship of Dean W Dickensheet is the full report of our adventures in filming "The Kid", in a mimeographed fanzine The Making of The Musquite Kid. This magazine will sell @ 50¢ per copy to build up the treasury. Everyone--cast, crew and contributors--will be charged for it. The magazine will contain reports from many of the people who worked on the movie, photos of the filming, costume sketches, and full working script, including the words to the Wrai Ballad. Send your 50¢ to Dean Dickensheet, 348 North Ogden Drive, Los Angeles 39, Calif., and you'll get your copy of the zine as soon as it is published.

---bjc.

