

## MAY DAY WEEKEND OF THE ARTS

The artists group is promoting a weekend of theatre and musical performances, visual exhibitions, films and discussions amongst artists on the May Day weekend.

The weekend will help to draw together art workers in various fields to discuss common problems. In particular we hope to discuss the nature of the relationship between our art and our politics.

We have chosen the May Day weekend, because, although we are a diverse group, we share common views about the importance of May Day - a day which expresses the unity and struggle of the working class and the revolutionary movement.

All artists, be they musicians, theatre and radio workers, visual artists, writers, film makers, or media workers are invited to join us.

VENUE - The Pram Factory

TIME - Saturday, 30th April, morning, afternoon and evening

FORUMS - We hope to hold 3 or 4 discussion sessions during the day, introduced by a few speakers.

### SUGGESTED AREAS FOR DISCUSSION -

1. The practical effects on artists of the Fraser Government  
How can we react to the current political climate?
2. Discussion about cultural activities  
Within the trade union movement.  
The use of video, film, street theatre and visual exhibitions in the workplace.
3. Experiences and problems of theatre groups in the development of relevant Australian theatre e.g. A.P.G., New Theatre, Women's Theatre Group. For example, the experience of the Migrant Women's show on factory situation.
4. Art as a commodity. Analysis of mass media and ways in which advertising operates in the market system.
5. Posters, cartoons and social satire. This discussion could include views about political effectiveness, the audience - to whom do we direct ourselves, and production.
6. Contradictions between marketing and radicalism. For example, how does the gallery system and art market determine style and success. How do painters/sculptors see this influence on the direction of their art?
7. Film makers and directions in the developing Australian film industry.  
The role of film and video workers in political action and in raising consciousness.

Visual exhibitions - Screens to exhibit posters and graphic work are available. We could have an exhibition at the Pram Factory, which could also move on later to other venues, for example the Trades Hall or the AMWU.

Films - It is proposed that 1 or more Australian films be shown. They could be shown either in conjunction with the discussions or separate from them. A possible alternative venue for films is the Film makers Co-op in Lygon St

Saturday night - It is proposed that we organize a show including musical performance, theatre etc. The APG may offer a workshop performance and the show could include Stilleto, a local rock group.

Art tram - The possibility of hiring a "propaganda tram" is being investigated. The idea is to hire a tram prior to May Day and decorate it with posters (for example the print makers workshop posters, plus notice of the May Day march).

Cost - \$1.75 a kilometre

\$ 20 an hour

Possible source of finance- the May Day Ctee.

At our next meeting on March 11th we need to make some decisions about the May Day weekend. We will need assistance to organize activities and a design for a poster to publicize it.

Charles, Lyr, Noel,  
Andrew, Julian, Noreen