

This grant was awarded for the rehearsed reading of my screenplay *Between*, that is the resulting script from my PhD fieldwork. The aims of this event were:

1. To test and get feedback on the script
2. To raise awareness of the asylum process
3. To include people that would not normally be in a university environment to attend.
4. To start a conversation
5. To network with charities and organisation working in the migrant sector, academics and Film Industry professionals
6. To promote the film.
7. To test out a new event that could be continued for the students in MAH Screenwriting and Filmmaking strands.

In regards to numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 the reading was successful. The feedback on the script was good. Some of the audience members who knew the environment in which it was set recognised it and said it was very real. The reading showed the elements of the script that need more work and where there should be some change in emphasis. There were some actors and audience members that were unfamiliar with the asylum process and they were surprised at the different status of asylum seekers and at the different levels of discrimination. The feedback is particularly useful for my PhD as it shows we have for the most part achieved what we were trying to put across and to do it from the participants perspective.

Although the audience was small, there were some members who had never been to a university before. The Q&A was lively and enthusiastic. It did bring out comments and debate. A conversation was continued rather than started as some audience members know the subject well.

Due to COVID – the staging situation was constantly changing and actors had to self-isolate so others had to be found at the last minute which incurred more costs. In regards to promoting it, this was extremely useful and I recontacted some relationships that had fallen away and also contacted some new organisations, academics and industry people. They are interested in knowing more about the project. There is a recording of the reading that will be sent out to interested parties. The event and the script we promoted through social media, email and word of mouth. The actors are keen to take part and are helping to get it out there. Through the casting process of the reading, I have found the leads for the filming. It has given me confidence to start pre-production of the film.

It was an enjoyable experience. The students helping me found it useful. It could continue as a regular thing, if it was not for cost. I misjudged the actors pay and travel expenses slightly so came out over budget. A regular reading event would need to be funded or raise some kind of revenue like ticket sales. There is a student who would be interested in organising and helping to put it on and we are speaking to the Depot in Lewes about potential taking it further.

The final expenditure was:

12/07/2021	Food		43.63	694.37	
14/07/2021	[REDACTED]	Actor 1	75	619.37	
14/07/2021	[REDACTED]	Actor 2	99.25	520.12	day +trainfare
06/07/2021	[REDACTED]	Actor 3	25.55	494.57	[REDACTED] travel
14/07/2021	[REDACTED]	Actor 4	81.8	412.77	day +tube
14/07/2021	[REDACTED]	Actor 5	126	286.77	
14/07/2021	[REDACTED]	Actor 6	75	211.77	
13/07/2021	[REDACTED]	travel Actor 7	237.3	-25.53	from Leicester
			763.53		

The actors' fees were slightly more than the original budget as was the travel so that came out of the printing costs. Also due to the number of vegans in the cast and lack of options to cater for them, I bought food from the supermarket. I was 25.53 overbudget.