



## WHAT IS BAREFOOT?

Barefoot sees its brief as working with groups of people who would not otherwise be able to represent themselves through the media. A working practice is set up to suit the needs of each group, so that they themselves decide the level of Barefoot's participation.

In some cases the group may produce the tape, using Barefoot as a training and resource centre. In other instances, they come to the workshop with a basic idea and work as an editorial group on a programme which Barefoot produces. The only constant in this spectrum is that the tapes are produced in a collective way, in that people are being given access to the medium at a number of different possible stages.



## HOW DOES BAREFOOT WORK FOR OR WITH PEOPLE?

We're talking about making the skills, the equipment, the creative base, either separately or in combination, available to people who don't normally have a chance to think about using the medium at all.

Who are these people? They might be a group of nurses, they could be a community association; sometimes they are workers at a local factory or a group of YTS trainees.



## TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

Barefoot has only four full-time workers, and we soon discovered that there are many more schools, youth clubs and campaign groups than we could ever hope to service with training and equipment first hand.

The answer seemed to be to train the trainers to pass on these skills in their own field and to explore the possibilities of setting up equipment bases elsewhere.

*Training for Trainers* courses are run throughout the year; the participants are grouped and the course designed according to the kind of working context they come from.

Each course runs for one week. The members work together to complete two productions. They are introduced to teaching techniques, and are themselves taught camera, lighting, sound, scripting and editing.



'I feel like I've never been very technical, and this is a really good way to learn. From a woman's point of view, I feel I've been taught that there's no point in trying to learn anything technical because I won't be able to understand. But I've found I can.' *Kate Robertson*

'The older generation, like myself, may find the technical complexities of the electronic age decidedly baffling. I found it something of a miracle when what I pointed the camera at subsequently appeared on the tape; whereas, my colleagues in the group, having been brought up with computers, recorders etc., soon had them mastered.' *Peter Parker*

## A NETWORK OF PRODUCTION GROUPS

Our aim has been to establish a growing network of groups and individuals familiar with collective ways of researching, making and distributing tapes. To achieve this, it is necessary to be able to respond flexibly to peoples' needs. Do they want to research the programme and make it themselves? Or do they want to be involved in research and scripting but leave the making to Barefoot? Once a group has made a tape, how can they continue to make use of their skills?

Barefoot can help groups in a variety of ways; for example, by passing on experience about interviewing techniques as well as by training them to be competent and relaxed with the equipment.

Moulsecoomb Housing Action Group came to Barefoot in 1983. Over a period of three months, a group of eight tenants learned to research, script and produce a programme to campaign for housing repairs on the estate.

**Moulsecoomb-by-Sea** 15 mins. Colour VHS

Two members of the Moulsecoomb group joined a TOPS preparatory course funded by the MSC. When the course was threatened with closure, they were able to train others in the group to produce a twenty minute campaign tape. Barefoot helped with scripting and editing the tape which is distributed nationally through Barefoot and adult literacy projects.

**Signing Off** 20 mins. Colour VHS/U-matic

The Brunswick Video Group was first established in 1980. They have produced a number of tapes about the bedsit area of Hove, where they are based. In 1985 they worked with health workers and Barefoot to research and produce a programme about community care for the elderly, which was broadcast on Channel 4 in September 1985.

**Health or Human Rights – A Happier Old Age**  
52 mins. Colour U-matic/VHS



In 1986 the Brunswick Video Group went on to look at the implications and practice of the new two-year Youth Training Scheme. Their tape is being distributed through schools' careers teachers and youth clubs.

**Another Government Scheme** 20 mins. Colour VHS

The Brighton Black Video Collective was convened by one of the members of a **Training for Trainers** course. This group of local people are making a video focussing on institutionalised racism. They came to Barefoot for training and access to equipment.

*Tape to be produced 1986-87*

A group of concerned people:- parents, schoolteachers, parish councillors, wanted to make a campaign tape in defence of small rural schools, many of which are threatened with closure. This video is to present the assets of

village schools, as well as looking at the issues involved. They have approached Barefoot, who are working in conjunction with the Sussex Rural Community Council to produce the tape.

*Tape to be produced 1986-87*

Local health workers approached Barefoot in 1984 to make a campaign tape in connection with hospital closures and the privatisation of ancillary staff. This working relationship developed, and a research group was formed to work on the issue of community care of the elderly. Shift work, and a wide variety of hospital sites, meant that nurses, ancillary workers and doctors could not undertake the practical aspects of making their own programme. However, by developing a system of showbacks, they were able to maintain a controlling advisory role in the production of the tape, which was included in the Channel 4 programme **Health or Human Rights?**

**A Happier Old Age** 20 mins. Colour U-matic/VHS



## **CHANNEL 4 PRODUCTIONS**

### **HEALTH OR HUMAN RIGHTS – A HAPPIER OLD AGE** 52 mins. Colour U-matic

*Broadcast Channel 4 September 1985*

The programme traces the investigations of two groups of video makers; a community group and a group of health workers, who looked at the new government policy of community care for the elderly. "It was a very good opportunity we had in Brighton to make people more aware what was happening in this Health District. There was not only patient participation, but also carers. A multi-disciplinary participation – this was quite a unique approach." *Consultant Physician, Brighton Health District*



### **LIFE ON THE LINE/LA LIGNE DE SAUVETAGE** 52 mins. Colour U-matic

*Broadcast Channel 4 October 1986*

**Life on the Line** was made with the collaboration of the Jean Renoir Cultural Centre and the Municipality of Dieppe. The programme is structured around a punishing forty-eight hour crew rota on a cross-channel ferry between Newhaven and Dieppe. The programme contrasts the effects of the privatisation of British ports with the management, by the nationalised French railways, of the Dieppe ferries. Two old friends, Jacques Legros, a CGT representative in Dieppe, and Les Ford, formerly an NUR convenor in Newhaven, discuss a more democratic system of management for public transport.

### **BOMBER HARRIS EXPLAINS**

A drama production which re-examines Britain's role in making the mass bombing of civilians respectable.

Currently in production – to be completed in 1987.



## RESEARCH

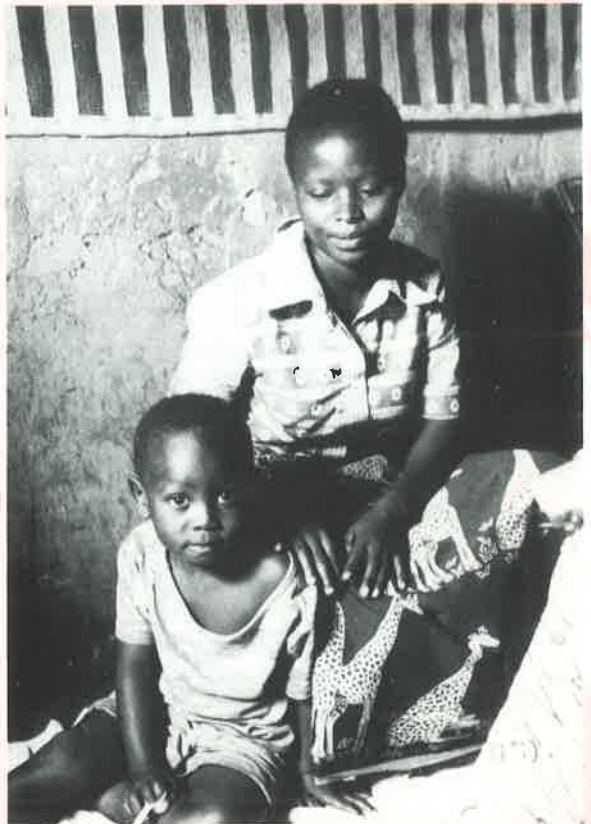
It is only by looking behind the information which we normally accept as 'given' and becoming completely familiar with the issues involved, that we can begin to take control of our lives. We see this research process as being as essential to the groups with which we work as any of the purely technical skills gained.

"I found I needed to learn two different approaches to interviewing. When I interviewed the old people, it was more or less a case of listening and letting them talk, as they talked quite naturally. Whereas, with Ken Young from Social Services it was more difficult, because he's in authority and is used to being interviewed.

". . . You need to know the material and be well prepared. If you don't do your research, you're not going to help the people you're making the video for, nor represent their case coherently. In community video, you should feel you've got a responsibility to the people the video is about."  
*Julie Hartley*

## VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

Barefoot has been carrying out its own research into the uses of low-gauge video as a development tool in the Third World, where video can be a medium through which people can represent themselves, pass on information or open up various issues for discussion. On the technical side, we have been looking at ways of powering video equipment in areas where there is little or no access to electricity. This includes exploring the use of solar and wind energy sources, as well as examining the most suitable equipment available. To this end, Barefoot has produced a book, **Village to Village**, which looks at technical theory and current practice of video making in the Third World.





**BAREFOOT VIDEO** is a franchised ACTT workshop and a  
initiative of four women. The workshop offers the possibility of  
interaction between local and national concerns through access to  
production and distribution networks.

The workshop's principal funders: South East Arts, Channel 4  
Television and Brighton Borough Council, reflect the interests of  
the region, broadcast and the local community.

Sue Tribe



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