

PRIME MINISTER

You have been invited by the Academy of Film and Television Arts to attend a dinner in 1983. It would be an informal affair with no speeches. Both the Home Secretary and the Lord President have attended recently.

I attach advice from Paul Channon's office and you will see that they think this would be a good idea.

If you would really like to accept this invitation I can find a date but we will soon get to the point where you will have no free evenings before Easter.

*This could
be very useful
- indeed*

P.S.

*Book - a fine
copy?
not*

18 November 1982



Department of Education and Science

Office of Arts and Libraries
From the Minister for the Arts

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17th November 1982

Miss Caroline Stephens
Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Caroline

You wrote to me on 4th November about an invitation to dinner which the Prime Minister has received from Mr Timothy Burrill.

Mr Burrill is a well know film producer and the Chairman of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). Since 1981 he has been a governor of the National Film School, which is funded by the Office of Arts and Libraries, and has proved to be a conscientious and helpful member of the Board. Mr Channon has recently appointed Mr Burrill to the National Theatre Board where his link with cinema and television will be useful in relation to the new opportunities presented by video and cable television.

This invitation is from Mr Burrill in his capacity as Chairman of BAFTA. BAFTA is an apolitical body and people are invited to join it individually as in the case of the similar American Academy Princess Anne is the President and Sir Richard Attenborough the Vice President. BAFTA holds an irregular series of informal dinners to which eminent people are invited to discuss informally current concerns.

The Prime Minister has been invited because of her evident interest in the film and television industries. It would be helpful if she felt able to accept as the film and television industries often feel that they are over-shadowed by the theatre and opera.

Should the Prime Minister decide to accept we would be able to provide some comprehensive briefing on the issues which might be raised during the course of the discussion.

Yours sincerely

M G E Giles

Miss M G E Giles
Private Secretary