



## BECTU History Project

Following our invitation to you to be interviewed, we thought it would be useful to provide you with some background information on the BECTU History Project

The Project was founded by a small group of members of the film and television technicians' union in 1986. Having worked in film and broadcasting all their lives they were deeply concerned that nothing was being done to record the experience of the men and women who have contributed so much to our industries. From this concern the Project emerged as an oral history gathering the recollections of a wide range of individuals who worked "in the business" from plasterers and lab technicians, to performers, writers directors, cinematographers, make up artists, engineers and producers.

Our archive of more than 600 interviews has now achieved national and international recognition as a uniquely rich resource on the individuals who built our industries and the cultural, technical and economic landscapes in which they worked.

The Project is still run by volunteers and while the Union remains a valuable source of support, it operates independently and is broadly self financing. The Project has extensive and well established partnerships with a range of industry bodies, including the British Film Institute, BAFTA, the British Universities Film and Video Council, the Bill Douglas Centre for the History of Cinema at Exeter University, and the University of East Anglia. Increasingly, our archive is being made available on internet sites such as the BFI's *Screenonline*.

Master recordings are safely deposited in the BFI National Film and Television Archive. Copies are available within the BFI Library for research purposes. In the early years the recordings were on audiocassette and more recently on audiovisual and now digital media.

Over the years the Project's material has contributed to a wide range of publications, to radio and television programmes, academic theses and dissertations. We are eager to explore its use in secondary and further education. The Project is now counted as the foremost archive in its field in this country and is of world class.

The interviews represent a comprehensive and unique history of the British film, broadcasting and related industries by practitioners in their own words. We are proud of our track record and of those who built and shaped the massive achievements of our industries. We would be grateful if we could further enrich our archive by the addition of an interview with you.

