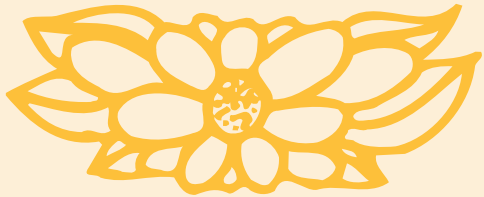


UBU Films



Although the censorship records held by State Records consist almost entirely of items related to the production, circulation and consumption of publications (novels, magazines, newspapers, manuals, correspondence etc), there are a small number of records related to film.

Amongst the packages of journals bought by the police for review by the State Advisory Committee on Publications is the first issue of *Cinema Papers* and single issues of *Australian Film Guide* (no 11, vol 1) and *Films and Filming* (March 1970).

As well, there are two batches of correspondence related to Ubu Films, a Sydney based collective (1965-70) inspired by avant-garde art and the emerging counter culture. Founded by Albie Thoms, Aggy Read, David Perry and John Clark, Ubu produced their own films; promoted happenings, bands and lightshows; and distributed and exhibited the work of local and overseas film-makers.

The Ubu records in the censorship series concern two areas of police enquiry from the late 1960s. The first was triggered by the proposed screening of the film *The Tribulations of Mr Dupont Nomore*, which made front-page news in the *Sunday Mirror* with the headline: 'TV Idol Dances with Nude Girls'. The second inquiry, followed up complaints regarding the sale of *Ubu News* by 18 year old Phillip Noyce (later director of feature films *Dead Calm*, *Clear & Present Danger* and *Rabbit Proof Fence*), who was questioned, charged and prosecuted for selling copies of *Ubu News* near the then Hornsby Kuringai Police Citizens' Boys Club on two consecutive Saturday nights.

FREAK OUT MOVIES FROM USA,
UK, AUST, NZ, CANADA.
Take a trip with UBU Films.



The Everything and
Nothing
Invisible Invaders
Moon Virility
Time Lock
Breakaway
Bluto
Psychic
Hallucinagania
Boobs A Lot
Looking for
Mushrooms
Cosmic Ray
Shoot Shoot Shoot
The Second Bardo
Super Block High
Acid Spider
Mad Mesh

And over 100 others

Psychedelic and Under-
ground Movies also
psychedelic lighting for
hire.

Write to UBU FILMS,
54 George St.,
REDFERN, 2016.
Phone: 69-6489.

↑ Ubu Films advertisement, Surf magazine,
censorship archives, NRS 16734; Illustration David Perry;
Reproduced courtesy of David Perry and Albie Thoms

Ubu Film records from the censorship series are now on display in the exhibition *In the Realm of the Censors* until January 2005.



← Film flyer, 16 July 1967, NRS 16734; Illustration attributed to Aggy Read; Reproduced courtesy of David Perry and Albie Thoms

→ News clipping Sunday Mirror, 26 February 1967, NRS 16734

me a copy of the UBU news and told me that a young lad had bought it on Saturday night in the vicinity of the Boys' Club. He showed me a drawing on page five which he considered to be filth.

I considered that the articles in the paper were obscene and I forwarded them to the Officer in Charge of the Vice Squad Detective Sergeant 1st Class V. Green for inspection and advice. He informed me that he considered the articles were obscene and gave me certain instructions.

On Saturday the 1st March, 1969 I was on duty at the Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Police-Citizens Boys' Club where a Dance was in progress and at which a large crowd of young persons were present, and at about 11.10 p.m. I observed a young man selling papers in George Street, in the vicinity of the B.P. Garage. I then gave Constable Warren certain instructions, the Constable at the time was in plain clothes. I saw him approach the paper seller who handed him a paper, the Constable opened the paper and I approached them. Constable Warren said to me. "I have just bought this paper for ten cents from this man here." At the same time indicating a person I now know to be Phillip Roger NOYCE 18 [years] old of ... Wahroonga. I said to NOYCE. "Is this correct?" He said "Yes, I thought he was a Police Officer but there was nothing wrong with selling this paper is there?." I said to Constable Warren. "Let me have a look at the paper please ... I looked at page five and page thirteen and I said "There are certain passages in this paper that are obscene and I object to this filth being sold to young persons near the Police Boys' Club, I want you to accompany me to the Boys' Club so that I can check [your] bona-fides."

Noyce accompanied Constable Warren and myself to the Boys' Club where I said to him. "You were selling this UBU news here last week on Saturday night weren't you?" He replied "Yes" I said "Are you prepared to give me the names of the young man and woman who were with you last Saturday night selling these papers?" He replied "I would rather not." ...

I said "What is your occupation?" He said "I'm a Sydney University Student and will be studying Law, I hope this will not interfere with my chances at the University." I then said to NOYCE "I am going to ask certain questions, and show you certain things you need not say anything unless you wish as anything



Shock role for ABC star



TV IDOL DANCES WITH NUDE GIRLS

you do say may be used in evidence, do you understand?" He replied "Yes, look I'm on the staff and that is my name." (Indicating name Phil NOYCE on the second page) I then showed NOYCE a drawing on page five and I said to him "I consider this drawing is obscene" He made no reply. I then said to him "I am going to read part of a sentence appearing on page thirteen to you, which I consider to be filth and it is definitely obscene" I then read the sentence ...

NOYCE then gave me a certain telephone number to contact his father which I did and I spoke to Mr. NOYCE who is well known to me and he told me something. I then said to Phillip NOYCE "Your Father said to return home at once, it is my intention to submit a report against you for a breach of the Obscene and Indecent Publications Act."

I took possession of 50 copies of unsold UBU newspapers for exhibit purposes ...

[signature]
R.F. Phillipson, Constable 1st Class, No. 9923

(Legal advice on whether to proceed with prosecution)

**CHIEF SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT
PUBLICATIONS ACT - PUBLICATIONS "UBU NEWS" No.12 AND "PHIL'S PILL".**

... The Minister recently approved the adoption of a policy of prosecuting the publishers of a publication, rather than the sellers, although it was envisaged that there might be occasions when a seller should be prosecuted. In view of the circumstances associated with Noyce's case it is felt that he would fall into this category and should be prosecuted ...

(Outcome of case)

**STATE CROWN SOLICITOR'S OFFICE
237 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES
18th February, 1970
The Under Secretary,
Chief Secretary's Department,
121 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY. 2000**

Obscene and Indecent Publications Act, 1901, as amended: Prosecution of Phillip Roger Noyce for publishing indecent printed matter to wit a publication called "UBU NEWS, No.12".

I advise that at Central Court of Petty Sessions before Mr. Farquar S.M. on Friday, 13th February, 1970, with Mr. K.G. Gee of Counsel appearing for the Informant and Mr. D. Merkel of Counsel for the Defendant, the offence alleged was found to have been proved. The Magistrate did not proceed to conviction but discharged the Defendant conditionally on his entering into self recognizance of fifty dollars (\$50) to be of good behaviour for twelve months and to appear for conviction and sentence if he broke this recognizance. The Defendant was ordered to pay forty dollars (\$40) professional costs and two dollars (\$2) Court costs and given three months within which to pay these amounts

Sg. R.J. McKAY, Crown Solicitor

Our thanks to Phillip Noyce for agreeing to the publication of these records

