

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, San Antonio
January 20-25, 2006**

Topic: Status of Selected Videos & DVDs Committee

Background: An informal discussion arose among committee members and some YALSA Board members about the current status of this committee. It became apparent from the discussion that it is time for YALSA to reevaluate this committee's function and charge.

Action Required: Discussion/Decision

NAME = Sarah Flowers

REQUEST = Set up a task force to study the charge and procedures for the Selected DVDs and Videos Committee, and make recommendations for changes to the Board.

RATIONALE = There is a concern that the list as it is currently constituted is not as useful as it could be to help librarians (and teens) select excellent videos and dvds that appeal to teens. The films selected often have a very short "shelf life" in print, and are often prohibitively expensive. A task force could look at changing the charge to make it easier for the committee to find and select films with greater popular appeal as well as the more esoteric and expensive items that currently dominate the list. Allowing longer films is one possibility, but would probably necessitate changing the current voting procedures. The task force would have to address the procedures as well. I have emailed to Beth Yoke a series of email exchanges that explain this issue in a little more detail.

TASKFORCE = A task force of not more than 5 members, comprised of former/current SDV committee members as well as other YALSA members, possibly including someone who has served on a book selection committee. The task force would review the charge and suggest changes in the process that could make the list more accessible.

Background to idea of a task force to examine charge, procedures and policies of Selected DVDs/Videos:

Selected DVDs/Videos had requested changes to their procedures before Annual, but miscommunication kept O&B from take care of the request. This fall, interest in a joint publication of audiobooks and dvds/videos led to the realization that dvds/videos don't have a long shelf life so the joint publication was probably not a good plan. This info led to a look at the recent lists from Selected dvds/videos which revealed their time constraints, the esoteric nature of some of their selections, & the fact their request for changes wasn't met.

The following e-mails provide more detail to the problem:

From Pam to Sarah Flowers (Board liaison) and Shawn Thrasher (Selected dvds/videos chair—was a co-chair but Amnah had to resign for health reasons)

Have the changes already been sent to O&B? I sent in what Shawn just sent me, but I have some thoughts, heightened by a chat with Beth.

After reading all the e-mails about joint publications with audiobooks and dvds/videos, I became concerned that the dvds/videos are very expensive and tend to go out of date quickly, thus making the lists not suitable for a booklist/pamphlet/book.

Sarah and Shawn--do you think it's time to step back and take a good look at what Selected DVDs/Videos is meant to do? I always assumed it was to serve as a selection tool for librarians, yet with expensive, short videos perhaps it's unable to serve as a selection tool. I realize from reading the changes to your charge that the 60 min. piece is a limiting factor--but does there have to be a time limit? Should the committee not be looking at some of the more popular dvds/videos and recommending them rather than the unusual, esoteric ones? What do you do if there's a great video that's 120 minutes long?

It seems to me the time is right to really examine the overall mission of Selected DVDs/Videos? If so, do you think a task force is the way to go? Do you want to survey present and past committee members to learn their thoughts? Or am I way off base?

Thanks for pondering these ideas and for getting back to me. If you could reply by December 15, that would be great.

Reply from Sarah Flowers:

Yes, O&B has the changes. I don't know if they have discussed them, however.

I need to think about your suggestion a bit. I think you are correct that there might be a way to make a more accessible list. It's something I've really been struggling with when I work on my VOYA column. I try to keep it salted with lots of generally available, \$19.95 vide

We discussed having no time limit -- but bear in mind, there is a time limit as to how long we are going to be at midwinter. If every movie is 2-3 hours long, how on earth will we get through all the videos nominated? It's been a struggle to get through what we have some years, without adding 3 hours films. (although this year will probably be an exception to that; I've only been sent one thing).

Finding more popular DVD's and videos, however, would be awesome... I'd like to see a list that teens will actually use. I'm not sure how to go about this however.

I think the way we solicit and find videos needs to be explored too. The way we do it now doesn't work.

In fact, we kind of try to run the committee as the book selection committees are run, and they aren't really the same things.

I think a task force might be the best way to do this. Asking the committee itself to do this is going to be next to impossible. During Midwinter, ALL we are able to do is watch films. Our only discussion time is during All Committee, and that's not long enough. I think bringing together a group of people who have served on previous years PLUS some outsiders, those who haven't served, who won't come with any preconceived notions of how the committee works, is what I would suggest.

Thanks for letting me ramble... I hope all of this made sense! There are too many ideas in my head, I think, to get down coherently in an email...

Additional e-mail from Shawn

I think some of the esoteric things should be left on the list. I end up buying some things for my collection, because I want the collection to have a good variety of films in various subjects. A good example from previous years is that Bloodhag music video about libraries; that's been pretty popular at my former library (and in fact I think it was eventually stolen). I certainly don't think we should have a list made up solely of the latest teen summer flicks and anime. But it's unfortunate that we NEVER are able to nominate the latest teen summer flicks and anime, for a variety of reasons. It would certainly add street cred to our list if we were able to include some stuff teens actually might purchase themselves.

As for price, my personal rule of thumb is to usually stick to around \$75; if it's more than that (and not a set) then usually I pass. That's still pretty high for some libraries. I loved the video about the straight boy scout who is fighting the anti-gay policies of the BSA, but there was no way I could justify spending nearly a fourth of my budget on one video. Every year that I've been on the committee, there's been grumbling about these \$200 plus videos. Education in this area might help -- a VOYA or SLJ article on why videos and DVDs cost so much, and how they are made and distributed might help. Or at least cut the grumbling. But I still think that if the list is designed to be used by librarians and/or teens, ending up with a list of prohibitively expensive films isn't much help.

Sarah, I did notice that in your VOYA column all the time, and as a poor video selector, totally appreciated it! I bought quite a few things you recommended, because the price was right!

From Shawn

Thanks for being so responsive and taking this on. SDV isn't a book selection committee, and as a result, I feel that it gets a bit ignored. We certainly aren't as popular as Popular Paperbacks, et al. But I think even with a bit of tweaking, this committee could really take off and become useful to librarians and important to library teens. But right now, as it stands, it is neither, and that's frustrating.

From: Creel, Stacy L
Shawn,

Since we are looking at this committee to make changes we were wondering why popular titles were not included in the list – although I don't see where it spells that out – since it says the following:

The List: Philosophy and Purpose

YALSA believes that access to library collections which reflect young adult interests and needs is essential and that multimedia and video formats are necessary to accommodate varied interests.

The Selected Videos and DVD's for Young Adults List is tangible evidence of the belief that moving images play an important role in the life of a young adult.

The purpose of this list is to identify for collection developers videos and DVD's that were released in the United States in the previous two years; that are under sixty minutes in length; and that will appeal to young adults in a variety of settings.

It is a 5.2002014 (t)T . 66 0 Td ()T .0056 0 Td (a)T 5.2 002 0 Td (r Td ()T .0056 0 Td