

Clip:ap_clip5: The opening of the BBC OU Production Centre

Open Forum 77 (1982)

Producer: Roger Tucker

Contributors: HRH Prince Charles, Walter Perry, George Howard.

HRH Prince Charles

And it shows also, this particular studio also, the great value of video tapes as far as education is concerned. I have a recorder myself and I know a lot of other people do, and although I have to read the instructions each time I try to operate the thing, they are extraordinarily helpful for people who can't always be in at the times the programmes are on. So clearly, as far as education is concerned, and taking a course at The Open University, they are revolutionary. I'm sure that their effectiveness will grow and continue. So ladies and gentleman it gives me great pleasure on that note to unveil this plaque and to name this building after Lord Perry, which I hope, as he says or his wife says, will remain standing.

George Howard

I'll now ask Lord Perry to say a few words.

Walter Perry

Your Royal Highness, Chairman, Chancellor, ladies and gentleman, I am of course extremely honoured by the decision of the University and the BBC to name this building after me. It's probably the nearest I shall ever come to immortality. And I'm doubly honoured, Sir, that you should have consented to open it. Of all the buildings on this campus I think I would have, if I'd been asked to choose, chosen this particular one because as the Chairman has said it embodies the partnership between the BBC and The Open University. It was this partnership, designed by Lord Goodman and Sir Hugh Green, built by the efforts of staff on both sides, and furnished often with great difficulty, by compromise, accommodation and good will. It was this partnership that lay at the very heart of the success of The Open University. Alone amongst the distance learning institutions of the world, The Open University has made what I regard as a proper use of radio and television for educational purposes. Using these media only when there is a good pedagogical reason for an audio or a video signal, but ensuring that when the media are used the programmes are produced to the very highest possible quality. It's a success story that is the envy of the educational world.

Sir, you have today formally inaugurated a new phase of that partnership. Alexandra Palace was redolent of the early history of television. I hope that the spirit that developed there will flourish and grow in this magnificent new setting. Thank you.