

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1964-08-09

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August 9th 1964

Dear David O., -

thanks ever so much for your sweet and charming letter which reached me only after my return from Oxford. I was - and am - truly moved by your concern about my physical troubles. The latter have by no means ended and while I still hope that that Oxfordian wizzard did operate me well (it was a most complicated operation this time), I am sadly certain that I keep being in a poor and painful state almost ten weeks after the operation. Parole d'honneur: before I let anyone put another knife on me I should approach you and Howard Rusk. Tomorrow, incidentally, I am changing hospitals and returning to the good old Kantonsspital, where they have that treatment pool which is lacking here.

Regarding our problem child, "The Magic Mountain", there is nothing definite to report. I should have loved to send you the treatment written by Jan Lustig and myself but alas we committed the crime in German and so it wouldn't have held any interest for you. As soon as the deed was done we were supposed to start on the screen play proper. But Abich plus Brauner quite naturally failed to live up to our contracts, and we consequently went on strike. This we did all the more fervently, as to my mind and to that of our lawyer the above named team has forfeited all rights in the property anyway. However, the struggle continues and the heavens are still clouded. In spite of the general situation on the market so vividly pictured in your letter, I am still convinced that the MM, turned into a first rate screenplay, would find a buyer - and a good one at that. Which is why Lustig and myself are going to write the thing regardless of the Abich and Brauner-mess. Once the rights have reverted to the Estate and the film is written everything will be different.

Meanwhile José Ferrer is about to do "Death in Venice". While in Oxford I worked with Harry Craig on the screen play and think something rather fine might be in the offing. Shooting is scheduled to start in March in Venice! Moreover, "Tonio Kröger" (another of my father's stories) has been chosen for Venice. Although I wrote the thing in collaboration with the director, Rolf Thiele, I only saw a number of bits and ends sometime prior to "Oxford" when I was carried up three flights of stairs to a Zurich projection room. "Tonio" is a German French co-production starring Jean Claude Brialy.

Let me hope that you haven't been disturbed by those forest fires along the Côte d'Azur. And let me hope - perhaps even more urgently - that the two of you will come to Switzerland in the not too distant future. I should love to see you again and am sure to be at the hospital for at least another two months.

Love



PS. As everybody seems to be travelling all the time I wonder whether Dr. Rusk might not come to this fair country sooner or later. Should he do so, I should of course be more than happy if he'd pay me a visit - a payed visit, to make myself quite clear.

Handwritten: d III p
Handwritten: 20/10/20

Handwritten: XXV/VII

