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March 10, 1958

Mr. Hal Landers
MCA
9370 Santa Monica Boulevard
Beverly Hills, California
U S A

Dear Mr. Landers, -

Thank you ever so much for your letter of March 4th. But no apologies are really in order, as I quite understood that there must have been some mixup in the German cable conveying to you my address.

If I have so far failed to answer your first communication, it was not so much on account of the fact that my name is not "Kilchberg" but rather because Mr. Roman's proposition seemed somewhat cloudy to us. As you must have noticed, there is an excellent chance for "FELIX KRULL" to be sold to the films without the detour of a stage-adaptation. On the other hand, it is quite true that any "Broadway Hit" may be sold to "Hollywood" more easily and under more favourable conditions than might any foreign film which could only be produced as a "Remake". However what Mr. Roman seems to offer would and could not possibly meet with our most modest expectations. All he wants to buy is an option for a stage adaptation, and brilliant, though such an adaptation may turn out to be - as long as Mr. Roman has not even entered into any agreement with a first rate producer and cast, we might easily land with a performance which might destroy every single chance "KRULL" has at present in Hollywood.

You will have noticed, of course, that since you first approached us the German film has been awarded THE GOLDEN GLOBE RIBBON: besides, as you certainly know, "FELIX" has been rather an unusual hit in New York (unusual, particularly as far as German films are concerned). Naturally all of this makes us ~~less~~ less inclined to sell any stage option into the blue clear sky. Which does not mean, that we are unwilling in the long run to do business with either MCA or Mr. Roman or both. All I ~~mean~~ ^{mean} to say was that Mr. Roman's offer so far would not appear to be

sufficiently

explicit

Besides, you are certainly in touch with "Filmaufbau" regarding the moving picture rights and in the end everything will have to be coordinated.

approach
Luckily, Mr. Emile J. Lustig happens to be on his way from Europe to the United States and will ~~approach~~ you regarding this whole matter. Let us hope that something will come of our common endeavours. "FELIX" should certainly deserve it.

regards
With best ~~regards~~

yours very sincerely

PS. As we left the United States early in 1952 and as Mr. Larry Roman seems to have started his adapting in 1953 only, I might be excused for not knowing any of his famous adaptations. Though the earth be small, that tiny ocean still exists and none of his hits have yet hit these shores.

