

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1963-10-15

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ERIKA

MANN

15. X. 1963

Dear Kay:

I hasten to reply to your letter of October 9th.
Point two (2) being very simple let's tackle it first:

I am - and always have been - perfectly satisfied with my approval rights. I do trust implicitly in Ferrer's artistic integrity as well as in his ability to write or co-write the script. I am also convinced that his casting will be excellent. All I suggested [not asked for!] in this context was that he should be obliged to employ a world famous actor for the lead. I did not ask for any approval right concerning that star or [and] the rest of the cast. There must have been some misunderstanding.

Re point one: This is where we are getting into hot water and troubled air.

a.) If Ferrer is determined - as I believe him to be - to produce that picture, there is no earthly reason why he should insist on not being obliged ever to do so. Nor do I see why he should wait 15 years - or even 12 or 10. Who knows whether or not there will be a cinema 10 years from now? You may say - and rightly so - that we may have smashed our planet even 2 years from now. Nevertheless: there is a decisive difference and I don't feel that we should sell "Death in Venice" for ever

and all time against payment of \$18 000 in order to have it produced 15 [or 12 or 10] years from now. The script is well advanced, Ferrer's approach is admirable, I understand that he is under no obligation to direct or produce a number of other pictures before doing "D. i. V." and hence fail to understand his insistence on that huge period of time. Five years [5] should be ample, and though I'd be terribly disappointed if the deal crumpled, I'm afraid 5 years is all we are willing to concede.

b Should Ferrer feel so uncertain about the whole thing that he rejects that time limit, let him buy ~~buy~~ a two year-option which he should be permitted to renew both on November first 1965 and 1967. He would thereby make sure that the property couldn't be touched by anyone else for a period of six [6] years. If, at any time during that period, he'd like to buy, he ought to be entitled to do so with whatever amount he would have paid up to then being deductible from those \$18 000. Should any such option deal be concluded, Ferrer ought to pay \$3,000 for each 2 year-period. Even measly Mr. Dittman paid \$1,200 for an option covering one [1] year, and we'd never again go in for that sort of contract.

Fair enough? I should think so. And - once again - we are very keen on finalizing with Ferrer one way or another!

Kindest regards

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yours cordially

ERZa

