

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1963-03-28

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March 28, 1963

Miss Kay Brown
Ashley-Steiner Inc.
555 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Kay, -

I've been reeconsidering my suggestions concerning "Death in Venice" and have come to the conclusion that it might be wiser to try and get only 75% of the German profits but in addition 50% of the Swiss and Austrian profits respectively. Mind you those 50% from the Swiss and Austrian markets will certainly amount to less than the 25% from Germany which I am willing to sacrifice. What I want is merely that Mr. Ferrer ought to have an interest in the German version and should consequently be anxious for that version to be as good as possible. In discussing actors for the lead we mentioned two who are as fluent in English as they are in German. Their names: Anthony Walbrook and Walter Rilla. Ferrer knows the ^{former}, likes him but says he is inclined to get tired in the middle of a scene. HE's heard about Rilla, is aware of the fact that R. was excellent in "Felix Krull", playing the part of a Lord who is not a homosexuell butneven so falls in love with "Felix". Of course, if Ferrer can get Olivier or somebody of his stature, this would be preferable. On the other hand, it might be desirable for the part of "Aschenbach" to be played by a German, - and by no means for the German speaking market only. "Aschenbach" is a very German type and as long as the actor's English is perfect, all would be to the best, provided he were a first rate actor.

However, I am sure the contract won't go into such details. I merely wish to make sure that some sort of provision is made for the German version. Although "Aschenbach's" part isn't talkative and much of what he has to do will have to be done in silence, Thomas Mann's dialogues are of the utmost importance in the three German speaking lands where it would be rather disastrous to have the lead dubbed. I feel confident that you'll find some way of dealing with the German problem.

Kindest regards,

yours cordially,

