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Mann, Erika

Zürich, 1962-10-06

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Erika Mann
Klinik Hirslanden
Zürich

October 6, 1962

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

Dear Kay:

Many thanks for sending me Helen Vaughan's adaptation of THE HOLY SINNER. I am very glad that you wrote me as well, as I felt quite uncertain as to the advisability of having the play go into production.

From our, The Estate's, point of view it would seem to be a fair adaptation inasfar as Helen Vaughan tried hard - and not unsuccessfully to stick to the story as closely as possible and to preserve its essential ingredients although, of course, very much had to be sacrificed. Perhaps it would have been better to proceed somewhat less literally whilst using a bit more creatively dramatic imagination.

However, I am truly no judge of any play written for New York. I am simply out of touch and anything but up to date. Moreover, as I am so intimately acquainted with the narration, I might be moved by a scene or a part in remembrance of the story proper the full impact of which I know only too well.

After having discussed the whole thing with my mother we have agreed to let you handle the project without in the least interfering with what you see fit to do. Naturally, I expect you to read the adaptation yourself; in your letter of October 2nd you said you would do this at any rate. For the rest, I quite agree and a talk with the Vaughans might prove decisive.

It won't be necessary for you to send copies of our correspondence re THE HOLY SINNER to Dr. Staehelin. I'll tell him that matters are under control.

Let's hope that at least the miserable time you have had of it has come to a definite conclusion. My own little misery is a most persistent devil and will probably cause me to have another operation. Oh well ...

Kindest regards

