Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1962-06-25

June 25, 1962

Miss Kay Brown
MCA Artists, Ltd. Agency
598 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Kay, -

thanks ever so much for your news of both, June 14th and June 21st.

Of course, I am delighted with these new developments. As you may know, Hugh Martin had been in touch with us long before Bloomgardeh showed any interest, as for Gilbert Parker, I am very well acquainted with his achievements, and concerning Marshall Barer, your biographical data tell his story most satisfactorily.

The one and only stumbling-block consists of the suggested method of spreading the $ 5000 advance. It so happens that my mother was present when your last letter arrived, and as she is the actual executrix of The Estate, I had to discuss the proposed terms. What's more, I couldn't help agreeing with her when she told me that she'd consider it most unwise to exchange the rights to a "Krull"-musical for a mere $ 1500 (duration of the suggested option to be one year), to take another 1500 for another year, and thus to deprive ourselves for 2 full years of each and every possibility to negotiate any other deal which might yield better results.

What I enclose is one letter among several. It does not seem particularly promising but it does show - as did its predecessors - that show-people won't cease to take an interest in good old Felix.

At any rate, while we should be very glad indeed to do business with Messrs. Martin, Barer and Parker, we do not feel an advance of $ 1500 to be acceptable. We'd be ready, though, to agree to a first advance, payable by July 1st, 1962, of $ 2500 and to a second amounting to the same sum and covering another year payable by July 1st,1963.At the same time we'd be agreeable to dropping the various clauses concerning "Six songs", "three of the following four Producer, Director, Star, Theatre." In short we'd be willing to sell the option at the price of $ 2500 for one year and legally to entitle Purchaser to a renewal of said option against payment of another $ 2500.

Let us hope that you'll be able to talk the gentlemen concerned into the above deal. It's an extremely modest deal considering that Tony Perkins, a lone actor, put down the lump sum of $ 6000 upon conclusion of the affair,- said affair covering one year only. Perkin's also paid Filmaufbau for the right to make use of the German screenplay. Nor was it by any means too much what he paid. Nor (in addition) did he have the benefit of an existing contract with a management. Honestly, I can see no reason on God's green earth why the combined financial resources of our partners in spe should not be utilised in the manner specified. Whoever shrinks from investing more than $ 1500 in a "Krull"-option would not seem to be sufficiently interested. Moreover, The Estate cannot afford to sell any T. M.-option at any such price. To do so would mean deliberately to ruin the market.

With warm personal regards,

yours cordially,

ERIKA MANN