Otherworld entertainment corporation

1746southkingsleydrive, Losangeles, california 90006-5210 phone (213)7335700 fax (213)7330774



20 August 1993

Mr. Andrew Patrick 70 Baker Street, London W1M 1DJ ENGLAND

Dear Andrew,

I hope this transmission finds you well and your industry thriving like never before. Despite our best efforts, we have not yet been able to secure funding for "MORNINGSTONE," so we are now proposing an "entry-level" project and are gathering support from all sides. Some time ago, I left you a copy of "GRUMPUSS," an epic adventure in rhyme. I may even have given you a rather hurried performance of the piece on audio cassette. At any rate, we are now preparing to bring the tale out in the U.S. in both an "Heirloom Edition" (9.75"X12" casebound, illustrated book) and a paperback edition (8.5"x10.5", illustrated book). We will also offer a 90 minute "Headset Theatre Edition" on audio cassette with music and effects, and a 90 minute Home Video of my live concert performance of "GRUMPUSS," to be performed in some wonderful U.K. location with links (historical or legendary), to Great Britain's ancient bardic traditions, or its equally hoary theatrical or literary traditions—hence this letter to you.

The author (which is to say, me) will perform the rhyme before a live audience, but we plan to feature a British celebrity hostess (Diana Rigg, Penelope Keith or ?), before, after and between the acts, addressing the historical and/or legendary associations of the venue and the form (epic rhyme), which means I have to settle on a location in order to research and write the script for the celebrity hostess, so this is now a top priority. Albeit that the concert portion will probably be direct-to-video, set-up, rehearsed, taped and wrapped within one week, I am planning a three to four week prep and anticipate another week's work for a 2nd Unit to film the lush opening and closing credit sequences. Peter Anderson will be the director of photography, but nearly everyone else on the crew should be U.K. hire. My local associate producer is Philip Moores, creative director of Pasadena Productions, 80-82 Wardour Street, London W1V 3LF, tel: 071 437 1597, (who is also looking into U.K. broadcast, book, audio and video publishing for "GRUMPUSS.") Any assistance you might provide to him will be greatly appreciated, and especially, copies of any information regarding facilities and locations for this project that may be submitted to me by your wonderful local commissioners, should be sent to him, as well.

(MORE)



ANDREW PATRICK

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Below is a copy of my note to Philip regarding the location we seek and your services.

"If you are considering widening the search for a suitable 'great house' concert venue beyond the London area, there will be few houses dating back to the time of the wandering bards, and fewer still that would be appropriate for our purposes—most of their sloping floors creak rather loudly! You might look, instead, for a tradition associated with a site (where an historic or legendary great house stood and today, on or near that hallowed site . . .), or a tradition associated with a family (in the case of a noble family, even if the title is currently held by another family entirely, where the office had once been famous for such events), or a traditional haunt (great house, theater or even a pub!) of some hoary icon of a bygone age.

To this end, may I suggest that there are excellent resources available to us through the British Film Commission. The BFC's CEO Andrew Patrick is a friend and when last we visited your side of the pond, Lisa and I got on brilliantly with the local commissions we visited. They are tops in knowing (or finding out) what is available and appropriate in their specific areas and would inform us of any special historic or legendary background that might lend itself to our particular project. The avowed mission of the BFC is to encourage production in the U.K., to which end they provide preliminary location services and contact with local production personnel and support services. One clear-cut instruction to Andrew Patrick (or Amanda Sparks) is all it takes. They pass on our requirements to all the other commissioners and follow up for us, when necessary. While I am happy to alert the several commissions from here, once they are set on the scent, I will ask them to send you copies of any materials they feel would be of interest to us. Following is a partial list of the commissioners . . . "

No doubt, you and yours will have questions, and of course all are welcome to call me directly, but Philip Moores (see above), is another potential and perhaps more immediate source of information. (Incidentally, Mark Blackburn, the artist of choice for the book illustrations, is a British citizen living in Los Angeles—whose father is a comedy writer for U.K. television!) I thank you in advance for your efforts in Otherworld's behalf and look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Travis Edward Pike

So much for plans. What we actually did is even more wonderful To learn more about the award-winning Grumpuss Productions, to listen to excerpts from the Audio Theater Edition or the Benefit Performance for Save the Children taped LIVE at Blenheim Palace, visit grumpuss.com.