

# MICHAEL KLINGER LTD

FLAT 5 · 37 GROSVENOR SQUARE · LONDON · W1X 9AE

Telephone 01-493 2744

25th January, 1974.

Mr. Eric Pleskow,  
United Artists Corporation,  
729, Seventh Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Eric,

I just cannot resist sending you the enclosed two pages from last night's 'Evening Standard' showing Alexander Walker's critique on "ELECTRA GLIDE IN BLUE" and the full page advertisement quoting some of it. Let me say at once I have not seen the film, although I have heard only good things about it, and I am in no way criticising the publicity, which I think is terrific. I am merely perplexed and wonder why the critiques on this film are so important and worthy of such fantastic reproduction while the critiques on "PULP", which were certainly better, were not considered worthy of any consideration at all. Alexander Walker called it the funniest film of the year and only a couple of weeks ago 'Time Magazine' put it in the top ten pictures of the year.

You will recall how disappointed I was that the film was not press screened in Los Angeles. The critics had to force a screening and then gave it wonderful notices, none of which was ever used, and virtually the same thing happened in New York. When I raised this with you, to my surprise your answer on more than one occasion was that you did not consider the critiques to be very important. You must know me well enough, Eric, to know that I do not gripe and this is not written with that intention. It is just the inconsistency which puzzles me.

The other thing which brought this to mind was in a recent letter to David Chasman I drew his attention to the film "GET CARTER", which I made for M.G.M. and which you now control for the States, and the fact that I felt it had a very big further potential in the United States if it were handled correctly. In replying to me he pointed out that M.G.M. had made a remake of it called "HIT MAN", a black picture. One has only to take note of the difference in the critics' appraisal of the two pictures to realise that there is no comparison whatsoever. "GET CARTER" received rave notices everywhere and again was included in the top ten pictures of the year by several leading critics in the States and elsewhere.

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Directors: Michael Klinger, L. Klinger

Reg. in England No. 921352. Reg. Office: 10 De Walden Court, 85 New Cavendish Street, London, W1M 7RA

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Eric Pleskow, Esq.,

25th January, 1974.

One reason for my writing to you is if your considered opinion neither "PULP" nor "GET CARTER" has any future potential, then possibly you would consider handing over the States rights to me. I would come to suitable arrangements with Michael Caine and Mike Nichols, their interests are concerned and ultimately, if my hunch is correct, rights should prove to be of benefit to us all, including United Artists, if more money accrued than has hitherto been the case.

While writing, I will deal with the other two points arising from David's letter.

First, with regard to "GOLD", I think the offer I have made of £150,000 advance guarantee for the United Kingdom is an extremely reasonable one. We commence the last two weeks shooting on Monday here in London and have just cast Sir John Gielgud in the part of 'Farrell', which I think completes a fantastic line-up of artistes. I must tell you, Eric, I do not think you have given sufficient consideration to the value of Roger in this project or to the stake you have in him at this time. Clearly we will not have any footage to show for another 5/6 weeks. If you want to wait that long and if the film is still unsold by then, of course I will show it to you, but if it is as good as I think it is, we may well be talking about more money by then.

Lastly, with regard to "EAGLE IN THE SKY", Wilbur's latest book, I can only say I disagree absolutely with David's assessment of this property. The very things he seems to be nervous about, the Middle East situation, etc., etc., are exactly those ingredients which I think make it a sensational property. Yes, it is big, it has action, it has a tremendous love story: maybe just for kicks and when you have five minutes to spare you should read it personally - and why not ask Barbara to do the same? I am sure you would both enjoy the book even if we never make the picture together.

All the very best as always.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Klinger