



*Literary Agents*

April 28, 1988

Dear Mr. Ruan,

Further to my receipt today of your inquiry of the 19th, I am pleased to say we can entertain your interest in a ballet based on Nabokov's LOLITA. Let me outline below the principles upon which grants of this nature are drawn.

The license would be non-exclusive and drawn for a limited period of time, the latter based on our assumption that you would first perform the work in a workshop situation. A third of the creators' income from workshop box office would go to the Nabokov Estate, such a share based on our recognition that there are three creators involved--the author of the underlying work, the choreographer/director, and the composer (unless, of course, the music you have in mind is in the public domain).

We would, as you will understand, wish to approve your plans at two stages: we would wish to have a written "proposal" or description of the performance as initially intended (such a proposal to include the exact text of the selections from LOLITA as planned--and do let me point out that the Estate will recognize that while extracts from the text are obviously necessary, the intent of the original will have to be carefully preserved); should the proposal be approved and the subsequent workshop performance the subject of offers for extended runs and/or further productions, we would wish to work out a mutually agreeable method for the Estate to approve a finished performance prior to agreeing to an extension of the contract (such an extension to be drawn as above--i.e., the grant would be non-exclusive and the box-office share as above).

Kindly note that we can of course be flexible to the degree of making room, if you will, for any UK peculiarities of ballet performance about which we may not be familiar, but these of course you will feel free to outline.

To proceed, forward a copy of your proposal--it will, I assume, outline your own professional background--to my attention with a copy to Mme Vera Nabokov at the Montreux-Palace Hotel, 1820 Montreux, Switzerland. We will be pleased to respond in due course.

With best regards,

Nikki Smith 

Mr. Joshua Ruan / London

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