

Answer in Love

Jeffrey M. Ferguson
CIN-ART PRODUCTIONS
10441 Mohawk Court
Cypress, California 90630
December 5, 1968

Mr. Gene Roddenberry
Executive Producer
Paramount Studios
780 N. Gower Street
Hollywood, California 90038

Dear Mr. Roddenberry,

Let me preface my remarks by saying that I made an earlier attempt to call you at Paramount on the fifth of this month, but at that time I was unable to reach you. Mr. Frieberger also was not available at the time. I then was put in touch with Mr. Frank Wright's secretary. I explained the reason for my call, whereupon she had Mr. Wright call be back later that afternoon. I explained the purpose to him, and he advised me to write to you at your Paramount office.

I would like to say that I am presently in College, specifically the University of California, Irvine, as our my "associates." For the past six years I have been a producer, director, actor, script writer, etc., for amateur films of all types. In collaboration with a good friend who has formed what he calls Imperial Films, we have made two World War II setting movies, and together we are still working on a motion picture about Sir Frederick Banting. I am telling you all this primarily as a background. We make these films primarily for the enjoyment; although admittedly there is a lot of hard work during production.

I am interested in making a Star Trek motion picture. There are four basic reasons for this. They are:

- 1) For the enjoyment of production staff and actors,
- 2) For experience in production, directing, and the other varied areas of film production for all concerned,
- 3) I personally like to dabble in special effects from time to time, and Star Trek certainly has an abundance of those with which I may experiemnt,
- 4) and finally, we anticipate presenting this film in its entirety to you, your production staff, and acting company as a gift.

I must at once point out that we WILL NOT expect, pursue, or accept any gratuities or monetary gain from the showing of this film. We will not in any way use it commercially. After it has been finished, showed to the people who have participated in it, we hope to then send it directly to you. I must emphasize this is not a "take-off" on Star Trek, but rather is Star Trek. I emphasize the fact we will not in any way treat the film commercially to possibly surmount the obvious legal obstacles we shall face by using Star Trek itself and no variation thereof. I hope you see what I mean.

What we are essentially after, is your "blessing" more or less. We hope you find the project interesting, and I would be vary happy to keep you and your publicity people posted on our progress. We do not anticipate filming in the near future, as most of the paperwork and otherwise pre-production essentials are now being taken care of.

I am presently writing and will print (I have my own offset multigraph) a Production Manual issued only to those participating in the film (22 persons in all) which will give basic facts about the Federation, its enemies, its starships, and its people. This is to better acquaint the actors with the idea of Star Trek, to instill what you have called "believability" in them. I am also writing the script for the show, and although it isn't down on paper as yet I do know in great detail what will occur. My associate producer, Greg Maxwell, has been helping me in this area.

I have been complimented by friends on my casting. I have taken great pains to insure that my cast resembles as closely as possible with the resources at my disposal, the actual Star Trek crew. This means I have tried to choose people who resemble the actors already in your show— Bill Shatner, Len Nimoy, DeForest Kelley, etc.— in looks as well as personality. It hasn't been too easy but I think you may be pleasantly surprised with the results when the film is completed.

I have done considerable research into Star Trek and its past, particularly from Whitefield's recent book. We plan to build the sets with the greatest of care, and I already have consulted by associate producer and others and we pretty well know just how the sets will be built, how we duplicate the materials on your sets. I would venture to say that once we are finished with the sets, at first glance it would be very difficult indeed to tell whether you were here in Cypress or on your own Stage 9.

Our story we shall use, brings the Tribbles into the act again, and believe it or not, we have tribbles at our disposal also. I know many of the special effects that are used on the show, such as the aluminum powder method of the transporter beam. I would appreciate, however, if you could tell me what method is used to produce the "glow" of the phaser beam. If its a trade secret, I understand, but if possible I would like to know.

There are probably a great many other areas I would like to talk about, but one question may be in your mind as to why we or rather I picked Star Trek to "copy" so to speak. Well, Star Trek provides the type of show I wanted to try, it has many special effects, and more importantly I enjoy the show— not a fan in that sense of the word, but rather a person who respects the time, and extremely hard work you and your staff have put into the show from the beginning. That includes having the imagination to think up all the background and story, which except for the script itself makes it easier for us to start.

I feel that I have taken too much of your time already, but I hope that you are interested in this, and I hope that once it is completed the entire "Star Trek gang" will have an opportunity to see it. I would like to thank you very much for your time. I will be anxiously waiting to hear from you. Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey M. Ferguson

December 11, 1968

Mr. Jeffrey M. Ferguson
CIN-ART PRODUCTIONS
10441 Mohawk Court
Cypress, California 90630

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

I am forwarding your letter to our legal department with a recommendation we try to find some way in which we can approve your project. I like to encourage people interested in entering this profession and particularly college students with interest and vitality such as you show in your letter.

Perhaps if this could be done in no other way, it would be done as a college project.

At any rate, best wishes, and the next voice you will hear will be our legal department.

Sincerely yours,

Gene Roddenberry
Executive Producer
STAR TREK

GR/ad

cc: Legal Dept., Howard Barton

Howard Barton

December 11, 1968

Gene Roddenberry

Attached

Dear Howard,

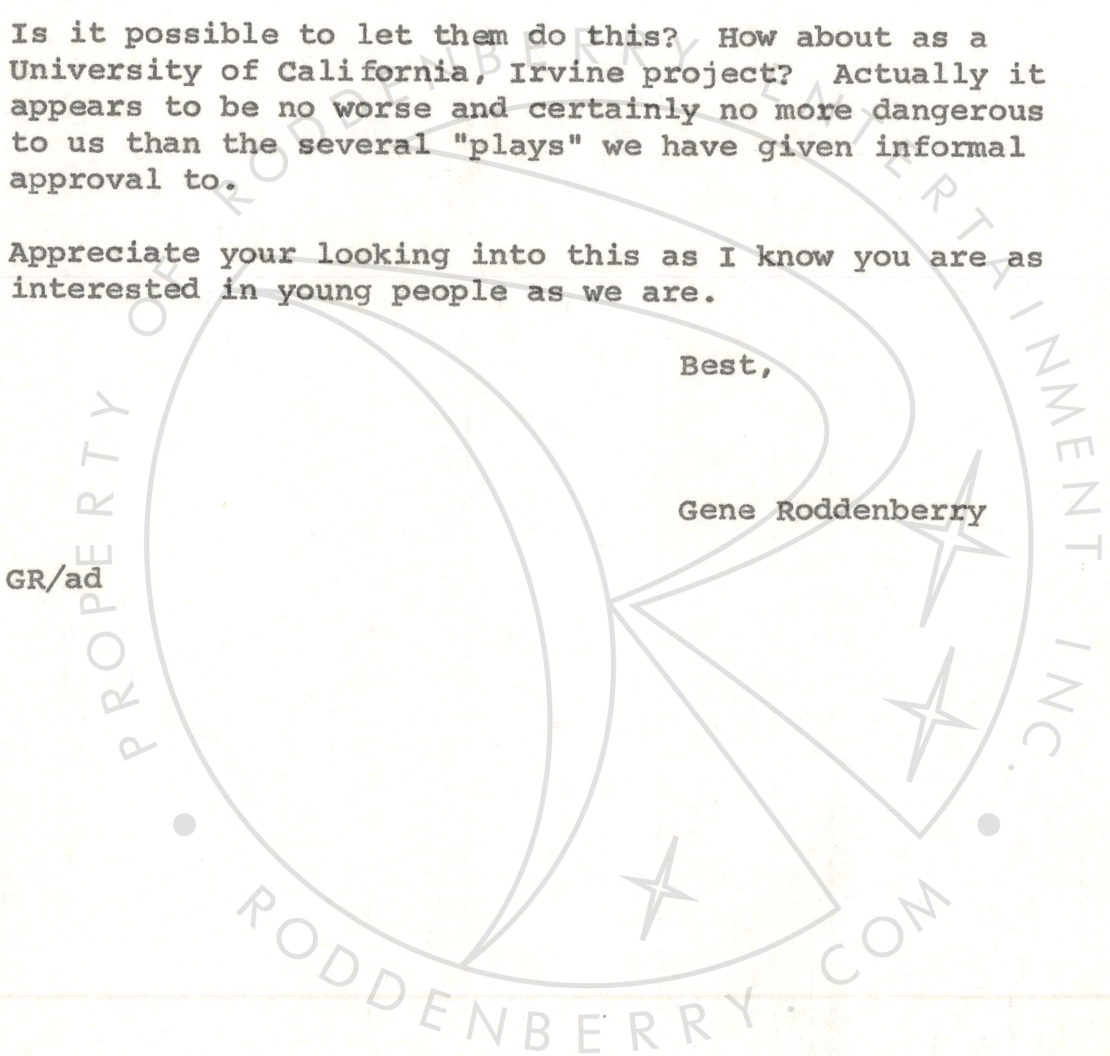
Is it possible to let them do this? How about as a University of California, Irvine project? Actually it appears to be no worse and certainly no more dangerous to us than the several "plays" we have given informal approval to.

Appreciate your looking into this as I know you are as interested in young people as we are.

Best,

Gene Roddenberry

GR/ad



PARAMOUNT
TELEVISION



HOWARD BARTON
ASSISTANT WEST COAST COUNSEL - TELEVISION

December 19, 1968

Mr. Jeffrey M. Ferguson
Cin-Art Productions
10441 Mohawk Court
Cypress, California 90630

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Gene Roddenberry has forwarded to me your December 5, 1968 letter.

Your project sounds very interesting and we do appreciate your high interest in STAR TREK which has caused you to consider it. Unfortunately, existing contractual commitments prohibit us from authorizing any such project. I am sure you understand that we are obligated to protect the vast amount of time, money and effort which has gone into our STAR TREK series.

Sincerely,


Howard Barton

HB:m

cc: Gene Roddenberry ✓
Emmet Lavery, Jr., Business Affairs



Jeffrey M. Ferguson
CIN-ART PRODUCTIONS
10441 Mohawk Court
Cypress, California 90630
(714) 826-9165

Mr. Howard Barton , Esq. - Legal 57530
5451 Marathon Street
Hollywood, California 90038

Dear Mr. Barton,

I feel it would be foolish of me to attempt to hide my disappointment at your decision regarding my proposed production of a "STAR TREK" show.

I made the unfortunate mistake of "getting the ball rolling" before I elected to inform those persons such as yourself at Paramount of my plans.

I must admit, one of the reasons I chose STAR TREK in doing a film was the amount of time, money, and effort that went into it-- as I hadn't planned on using it except to gain some experience, I had hoped to draw upon the existing resource of information existing in the STAR TREK format.

May I also say I do fully realize your contractual commitments exist-- in fact, foreseeing these problems was what caused me to contact Paramount in the first place. In as much as I had planned to present it as a tribute to that aforementioned time, money, and effort, as well as clearly stating no commercial use whatsoever of any portion of the project was to occur, I had hoped to clear the obstacles you indicated to me in your letter. Apparently this was not sufficient.

I still fail to see where "protection" is necessary in light of our intent or eventual location of the film-- mainly in your hands. I do not mean to sound short, it is just that I do not see where we are truly jeopardizing your said agreements. I have it on reliable sources that two students, my age, made a 16mm "take off" on STAR TREK. They did a poor job, but nevertheless sold it for the sum of \$50.00 prior to the shutting down of the theatre that purchased it, the Kaleidascope. If I also did a "take off" in other words changed the names slightly, into a satire, would I receive authorization? I had wanted to make this a tribute, avoiding satire, but I am hoping to make this film in some manner.

If you still so dictate, I will suspend all production on the film, but may I simply ask this. If we cannot receive your authorization, could we be ignored by you? If we made the film without authorization, yet still did not make any commercial use of it whatsoever, would CIN-ART conceivably be faced with a suit?

If I sound persistent, or too aggressive, it is simply because I am very interested in doing this picture. I hope you

offended in any way, for my respect for your company is what led me to make the previous inquiries in the first place. I would most respectfully ask you to kindly reconsider; and if you still cannot find some way to skirt these problems you have described, could the suggestion of Mr. Roddenberry regarding a "college project" be somehow worked out, to gain authorization.

I wish to thank you very much for taking the time to contact me, and even if authorization is not offered in the end, I must state I still shall be somewhat of a devotee of STAR TREK on a spectator level as well as respect for the production involved. I must also say I am very grateful for the interest and courtesy of yourself and your associates regarding my project.

Thank you again, and I hope I will hear from you again soon.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey M. Ferguson
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CIN-ART PRODUCTIONS



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10441 Mohawk Court
Cypress, California 90630
(714) 826-9165

Mr. Gene Roddenberry, Executive Producer - 57240
Paramount Television Productions
780 North Gower Street
Hollywood, California 90038

Dear Mr. Roddenberry,

I had delayed writing in answer to your letter until I had received the letter from Mr. Barton.

I wrote a letter to Mr. Barton, and I frankly expressed by displeasure with his decision. I must admit I was greatly dissappointed, although I do understand the obligations of the Production companies involved. What I do not understand, as I so stated in the letter to Mr. Barton, is how our production would endanger any of these contractual agreements.. In my discussion with Mr. Frank Wright, I understood that the fact that no commercial use whatsoever of this film would occur, would sufficiently surmount any problems. Apparently it has not.

I am determined to do this film, unless of course I am faced with a suit from Paramount. Only then will I suspend production. As I stated in my letter to Mr. Barton, I asked him if Paramount, although not authorizing this film, could perhaps not take notice of it. I am awaiting his answer.

I do not mean to sound short, for I do respect your companies and their problems-- If a final decision is reached to not allow this film to continue, I shall not continue it. I would at this time, like to pursue the "college project" idea you mentioned in your letter to me. I also indicated this to Mr. Barton. I would very much like to have something worked out.

May I say once again, I am determined to do this film-- but I am not stubborn by any means. I will not do it against your company's wishes. I would appreciate any influence you could bring to bear to at least allow a reconsideration of the project.

Even if it is decided not to allow production to occur, I will still retain my great respect in STAR TREK as well as you and your associates, and I must say I am truly grateful for the great amount of courtesy and interest expressed by your people and Mr. Barton in my project. I may also send a letter to Mr. Frank Wright, as he expressed some personal interest also in the production.

I do hope I will hear from you soon regarding this most urgent matter. I do not wish to offend or anger Paramount in any way, although I would be grateful if they could possibly

reconsider the entire matter in light of the nature of the project, particularly the fact that only you and your associates will ever see the film to begin with.

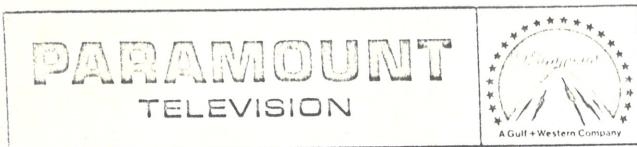
Once again, thank you very much for your interest, and I hope to hear from you once more.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey M. Ferguson
CIN-ART PRODUCTIONS

Jeffrey M. Ferguson





HOWARD BARTON
ASSISTANT WEST COAST COUNSEL - TELEVISION

December 26, 1968

Mr. Jeffrey M. Ferguson
CIN-ART PRODUCTIONS
10441 Mohawk Court
Cypress, California 90630

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The basing of a film on our valuable property STAR TREK-- even though it may be a satire--would be in violation of our rights. Whenever such an instance comes to our attention, it is the firm policy of our company to vigorously protect our rights.

Therefore, I regret that we cannot simply ignore your proposed project but must insist that you abandon the project. For the reasons set forth in my December 19, 1968 letter to you, we cannot work out authorization as a "college project" either.

I regret that we are unable to accomodate your wishes and sincerely hope that you understand the reasons for our position. I can only hope that you will still remain a devotee of STAR TREK.

Sincerely,

Howard Barton

HB:f

cc: ✓ Gene Roddenberry - w/enc.
Emmet Lavery, Jr. "