

MCH 91-45-1-1



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FAX:

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
TELEVISION CENTRE
WOOD LANE
LONDON W12 7RJ
TELEPHONE: 081-743 8000

7th July 1994

Albie Sachs
PO Box 3684
Cape Town 8000
South Africa

Dear Albie Sachs

I know that David Edgar and April de Angelis have sent you an early draft of *SOFT VENGEANCE* and I'm sorry that you haven't been kept informed of it's progress. It is, after all, the story of your life! Let me fill in some gaps.

SOFT VENGEANCE was commissioned by Chris Parr, Head of Drama at BBC Birmingham, as a play for BBC 2's Screen 2 strand. If we get the 'green light' shortly from Screen 2's Editor, George Faber, we will get into production in September for transmission in the Spring of 1995, possibly to coincide with the anniversary of the first South African Elections. That's quite a fast turnaround on a TV play as you probably know and reflects the enthusiasm that has greeted the project so far. Both Peter McEnery and Kevin Billington, who directed the television version of *JAIL DAIRY*, are very keen to be involved in the project.

Since sending you the very first rough draft David and April have completed a new draft (still called draft 1) which is currently being considered by George Faber. I'm sending it to you now as I think it goes some way towards addressing the concerns you expressed in your fax. I'd be grateful if you would read the new draft so that we can all talk about the same animal when we meet on the 18th.

And who am I? I'm the Producer! I hope you don't mind my gate-crashing your airport assignation but I couldn't miss such an opportunity to meet you.

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Hilary Salmon'.

Hilary Salmon

Enc

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Script.
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685 3271 (w)

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191, Glyn Rd.
London, E.5

9.7.94

Dear Albie,

Thank you very much for your thorough reply concerning the script of 'Soft Vengeance'. There was plenty of food for thought there. We are certainly paying attention to your main concern over the characterisation of Albie. Possibly his 'combatativeness' has arisen in our attempt to dramatise the story. Drama proceeds through contrast and conflict and that would have perhaps created an Albie that is a little too sharp and rude. We will certainly try to achieve more of a balance between characterisation and the necessities of plot in the next draft. The central aim of the piece was to contrast the survival strategies of the Jail with that of the hospital. The former required 'masculine' qualities to ensure survival and the latter 'feminine'. I suppose we wanted to show Albie's progression from the first to the second strategy and so 'reserve' the dreamier, romantic qualities for later in the piece.

We have now completed a second draft and feel that we have come more to grips with the women characters. Melba we are particularly fond of and enjoy her warmth, humour and charm immensely.

Thank you once more for your letter. We will give careful consideration to all your points, some of which we've touched on here. If a meeting is still convenient for you then we would be glad to meet you on July 18th. Could you give us more precise details; flight arrival time etc.

DAVID EDGAR'S FAX NO: 021 414 5998
APRIL DE ANGELIS' Tel. No. 081-986-6617

| 4495049.

18 July - ARRIVE BA 056 ex Tokyo 6h 20 A.M.

Yours Sincerely,

April De Angelis

David

April De Angelis
David Edgar

9h30 arr

BA Information
POST
Departure Lounge
Terminal 4, at 9h30.

* P. 01 *
* TRANSACTION REPORT *
* JUL-21-94 THU 8:58 *
* DATE START RECEIVER TX TIME PAGES TYPE NOTE *

P. 01

JUL-21-94 THU 8:58

DATE START RECEIVER TX TIME PAGES TYPE NOTE

JUL-21 8:57 0112721222626 41" 1 SEND OK

1490
Albie Saehs

Fax to South Africa

021-222626

For Susan: fairly urgent.

Fax: 012-328-4254

- 1). Please tell Tony Heard that I will gladly prepare some notes as requested.
- 2). Can you keep English and Afrikaans papers for me?
- 3). Would Carol Steinberg be free to lunch with me on the day of my return? I'll be at Archur's till after lunch.

The tour has started very, very well. Went for a long jog with the general!
Love - Albie.

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