

March 9<sup>th</sup> - Shipperton.  
March 16<sup>th</sup> - Tomb. Bray.

4

5th February, 1959.

Hammer Film Productions Ltd.,  
Hammer House,  
113 Wardour Street,  
London W.1.

**"THE MUMMY" - Script.**

We have now read the script of "THE MUMMY". In general this seems to be fair enough material for the 'X' category - a Sangster cocktail - but there are some comments that should like to make as follows:-

Pp. 15 & 29. Banning's mad screams should be tolerable.

Pp. 40-1. The killing of Banning by the Mummy should not be over-done. We would not want prolonged shots of throttling, close-ups of Banning's eyes turning up as he is throttled, or the "cracking snap as Banning's neck breaks".

P. 56. We hope that you will be reasonable about the screams when the Nubians are being slaughtered out of frame. The six maidens appear to be slaughtered in frame and I must give you a strong caution about this, and about any subsequent shots of the maidens weltering in their gore, e.g. P. 58. If not shot with discretion these scenes might cause us a lot of trouble.

Pp. 60-1. While we would accept the tongue being cut out off screen we would not want the "small piece of mangled, bloody flesh" held up afterwards for public view. Nor would we want shots of Kharis after the operation with blood coursing down his chin.

Pp. 66-7. The killing of Joseph needs the same kind of caution as that given for the killing of Stephen Banning. The throttling should not be too long, there should be no unpleasant close-ups and once again we should not like the "brittle snap of the breaking neck".

P. 68. The shots of the Mummy with "a great gaping hole in the bandages and in what passes for flesh underneath, but which is in fact a dirty

/grey

grey, mouldlike substance", should not be as unpleasant and gruesome as these words suggest that it might be.

P. 86. The attempted throttling of John should not be too long.

P. 101. Here again the Mummy's appearance should not be too gruesome.

P. 102. As before throttling should be reasonably short.

P. 103. We would not like shots of the Mummy breaking Mehmet's arm and back; nor would we like cracks and crunches in the sound-track.

P. 104. As a minor, but not unimportant, point, we would prefer a blow on the head to "a wicked blow on the side of the neck" since these neck blows are imitable and dangerously effective.

Pp. 105-6. The final shots of the Mummy after both barrels are let off at close range into its face should not be gruesome or revolting. Sangster's vivid description makes us feel that they might be, e.g. "almost non-existent face" and "practically nothing left, great holes having been torn in the bandages and in what passes for flesh underneath".

Although I have made these detailed comments, you know our policy about these pictures so well now that I feel I can safely leave it to you to produce a picture made in such a way as to give us both the minimum of trouble.

I return your script herewith.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary.

d  
\_\_\_\_\_

23rd February, 1959.

Hammer Film Productions Ltd.,  
Hammer House,  
113 Wardour Street,  
London W.1.

"THE MUMMY" - Script.

We have had a look at the revised script of "THE MUMMY", and have the following comments to make:-

Scenes 99-148. There appear to be only two problems in these sequences:-

- a) As scripted the Princess's costume is either transparent or non-existent, and I imagine that the same would apply to other maidens, including those slaughtered. I suggest that you take the precaution of having alternative takes for this scenes in case, as I expect, they present difficulties as a result of the nudity.
- b) The slaughter of the six maidens, as scripted, looks pretty unpleasant, and I must repeat the cautions given in my letter of 5th February.

Scenes 244-267. It is difficult to state whether this, from the angle of censorship, is a good exchange from the first script or not. It sounds rather unpleasant, particularly where "Great chunks of Kharis fly off in all directions" and where he is "writhing about in blind agony". If the scene were shot as scripted we would be unlikely to pass it.

You seem to have made a few alteration as a result of my letter of 5th February, but some of the points that I made have not received attention, including sounds of bones snapping.

As I told you, I am quite prepared to offer my advice over the processional and burial scenes when you reach that stage of production.

I return your revised script herewith.

Yours sincerely,