

# Movie Producer

## CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR KIA ZORN (Movie Producer)

Your name is Kia Zorn. You are a relatively inexperienced filmmaker who has had a lucky break. A large investor has agreed to finance your next movie, a short film about a telemarketer who is falsely accused of insider trading and fights the system without the aid of a lawyer (*pro se*). The majority of the movie takes place in a courtroom.

In another great stroke of luck, your sister has a connection with a once famous musician, Klaus Herzog, the former(?) lead singer of Zur Ümlaut. Herzog is less known these days but is making a bit of a comeback as an actor. He recently had a small cameo in the latest Mira Nair film.

Landing Herzog for the lead role is critical because it could attract additional funding. Everyone over the age of forty knows the name Klaus Herzog and his heroic, baritone voice. He is an icon. And other investors could mean shooting in real film, rather than video. In any case, you really want to land Herzog for the lead role. Your investor has suggested hiring an attorney to put together the outline of the deal (and maybe do the final deal eventually). Right now, you just want the major promises locked in – salary, billing, marketing, rehearsals, which are briefly spelled out below.

The filming is scheduled to last three weeks, with one week on top of that for rehearsing. The rehearsals will begin on March 18<sup>th</sup>, and shooting will begin the 25<sup>th</sup>. It is absolutely essential that Herzog is on the set the entire time (filming is in downtown St. Paul). His musical greatness notwithstanding, you are convinced he could use some practice.

Based on what your investor told you, it is critical that you make sure that the movie is perceived as your movie, and not Herzog's. You want the opening credits to show the movie's title (working title = "Plead This!") and your name (as Writer / Director) before Herzog's.

Your investor has given you a green light to pay Herzog "whatever it takes" – but you want to try to control the budget as much as possible. The rough budget you put together has Herzog earning \$1,000 per week, but you figure you can pay him as much as \$10,000 grand total (although you would rather pay him a lot less) – presuming that Herzog is not in the union (he told you this at some point, but maybe that is worth clarifying).

Also, you understand that Herzog is doing a reunion tour of sorts with Zur Ümlaut in six months or so. You would like to make sure that he wears t-shirts or hats with the movie's name or logo during the shows and mentions the movie as much as possible whenever he is interviewed by the media.

Before you meet with your attorney, carefully consider what you are looking for in this deal. You are investing your time and treasure in this attorney, and you might as well get your money's worth. Explain to your attorney that you do not need a full deal at this point. Feel free to share whatever information you feel is necessary (without showing anyone this page).

Bottom line is that you need Herzog for this movie. Your Plan B is a cousin of yours who cannot act. Your family will only forgive you not giving your cousin Alan a shot if you land someone with Herzog's obvious clout.

Good luck.