

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

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(VOL. I)

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REQUISITIONING, THEATERS
APR. 1946

785017

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Ref. : 4759/6/BJ

29 April 1946.

SUBJECT: Cinema IV Portane

TO : BJ
RAC

The enclosed letters from the directors of the Theatre IV Portane are forwarded for any action that you may be able to take in this matter.

It seems a pity that a Theatre employing 200 people permanently should be requisitioned if another theatre at present showing films only could be utilized instead.

Finally there is the question of contracts to artists that affects a Theatre but not a Cinema.

Any action that you can take in this matter would be appreciated.

A. W. Knisely?

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

4394

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PA. 29/4
RB.

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Ref: 4739/5/30

29 April 1946.

SUBJECT: Requisition of Theatre IV Fontane.

TO : The Director,
Theatre Quattro Fontane.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your 2 letters dated 20 April 1946 regarding the requisition of your theatre.

I have forwarded these to Rome Area Allied Command and have asked them to take all possible action in this matter.

A. W. Knisely.

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

TRADUZIONE.

Vi comunico di aver ricevuto le Vostre due lettere datate 20 Aprile 1946, riguardanti la requisizione del vostro teatro.

Ho trasmesso le predette lettere alla Rome Area Allied Command (R.A.A.C. - Comando Alleato dell'Area di Roma), ed ho contemporaneamente chiesto al medesimo Comando di tentare quanto o' possibile in proposito.

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Translation

TEATRO IV FONTANE
Via delle IV Fontane
Rome.

Rome, 20 April 1946

APR 26 1946

On the 17th inst. the Direction of the Theatre IV Fontane were suddenly notified that the theatre had been requisitioned by the British Command. The news created an unhappy situation for the personnel who work there. In the theatre in question permanent employment is given to about 200 persons, including artists, technical personnel, orchestra, engineers, electricians etc. who as a result of such a measure would find themselves suddenly thrown on the street.

In the theatre at present is the Navarrini Revue Company which after sustaining considerable expenses in travelling and the transport of about 120 quintals of material and 70 persons, is about to make its debut. Other engagements have also been made with large Revue Companies (Rachel, Toto, Taranto, in addition to those made directly with the Theatre Direction, who were to have worked here and would therefore suffer in the same way.

In July 1944 this theatre was requisitioned by the Allied Command and in consequence suffered considerable losses, but later, in consideration of the reasons above mentioned, it was derequisitioned while other premises up above belonging to the same proprietor are still requisitioned.

It is pointed out that the IV Fontane is perhaps the only theatre in Rome which presents revues, thus giving work to a large number of people. There are instead many other premises which, although possessing a stage suitable for any type of production, (for example the cinema-theatres Bernini, Galleria, Splendore etc.) are dedicated exclusively to films, and therefore equipped with a screen which the IV Fontane does not possess. The requisitioning of these buildings would not hurt any of their workmen as the services of the ten or so who are employed there would be retained by the requisitioning command.

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Translation

THEATRE "QUATTRO FONTANE"
ROME

Rome, 20th April 1946.

APR 25 1946

TO THE OFFICE OF REAR ADMIRAL STONE
ROME

On 17th April 1946 we have been suddenly informed that our theatre must be requisitioned by the Allied Command.

This is a very critical situation for the personnel who ~~are~~ now working in the theatre (about 200 persons ~~and~~ artists, technical personnel, players, etc.) who, after the above disposition, will ~~remain~~ be suddenly without working.

Actually ~~is~~ playing in our theatre ^{is} the "Muto Navarrini's Company" which should stay in Rome about 15 days, and it has already spent 200.000 lire for the transport and journey of 70 persons and 120 qli of material.

Besides for the Rachel's Company we payed already more than 250.000 lire as advance to the artists and more than 450.000 for ordination of scenes and costumes and for the employment of 100 people who would lose their work in the event that the Company could not play.

We payed to Toto's Company the sum of 350.000 lire for the contract with our theatre, and the above sum would be lost in the case that the place will not be free any more.

And this is only a part of the damage, considering all the other expenses supported by us:

On June 1944 the same theatre was requisitioned by the Allied Command with considerable damages, but after, considering the above reasons, it was derequisitioned, while other locals of the same proprietor, are still occupied.

We point out that the "Quattro Fontane" is the only theatre in Rome for revues, and where are working many persons. Instead many other locals, which have a stage for every spettacolo (for exemple: Perinini, Galleria, Sala Umberto, Margherita) are doing only Kinematography, therefore they have also a projection apparatus, with which the "Quattro Fontane" is unprovided.

With the assurance that this Command will be so kind and exonerate all the above reasons, we thank you very much.

THE COMPANY OF THE THEATRE
Quattro Fontane

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