

28 February 2020. Palm Springs, California

To whom it may concern,

In the past fifty years of my life and career, I've met several people of whom one could say that their vision was grand and broad, and that their accomplishments fulfilled that vision. Wolf Siegert belongs to that small fraternity. I first met him in 1970 when I came to Berlin to work on the production of George Tabori's play PINKVILLE. At that time Wolf was a fellow of the Max Reinhardt Schule, before the acting division was incorporated into the H.d.K. It was Kurt Huebner who saw his first theatre direction in Bremen and hired him on the spot to join the spectacular Theater am Goetheplatz crew, including Rainer Werner Fassbinder et altera. Even at that time Wolf's *difference* was obvious.

We then lost contact for years; our careers moved in different directions. When Wolf again came into my life, I was living in Berlin, and I became aware of his extraordinary career in the digital and technical world. Wolf then visited us in the U.S. and his description of his life in the world of film and philosophy, along with his sustaining involvement with theater, impressed me greatly. Wolf had become in the intervening years a singularity, a unique amalgam of academia and the exciting world of James Cameron and groundbreaking digital arts.

I have read Wolf's precis of his planned Thomas Mann/Bertold Brecht project. It sounds like a perfect use of his talents, a variation on the classic American road movie within the larger structure of a reevaluation of the *Deutsche Seele* in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

It promises to meld EASY RIDER with Che Guevera's MOTORCYCLE DIARIES,, within the structure of Thomas Mann's antifascist stand as a German refugee.

Quite a heady brew and one that Wolf Siegert is uniquely qualified to realize.

Please feel free to contact me if I can offer further support of Wolf Siegert's application for the Thomas Mann House Fellowship.

Sincerely,

Professor Stanley Walden

Ehrenleiter des Studiengangs Musical/Show an der Berliner U.d.K.

<https://stanleywalden.com/>