

## Document Citation

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Wednesday, August 18, 1982

**Die Unerreichbare**  
(The Unapproachable)  
(WEST GERMAN-AUSTRIAN-COLOR)

Variety

Berlin, Aug. 1.

A Regina Ziegler Film Production, Berlin, in coproduction with Second German Television (ZDF) and Austrian Television (ORF). Stars Leslie Caron. Directed by Krzysztof Zanussi. Screenplay, Zanussi, Edward Zebrowski; camera (color), Slawomir Idziak; music, Wojciech Kilar; sets, Jan Schlubach; tv-producer, Wolfgang Patzschke. Reviewed at ZDF Screening Room, Berlin, August 1, '82. Running time: 92 MINS.

Klaudia ..... Leslie Caron  
Marek ..... Daniel Webb  
Marianne ..... Leslie Malton

Leslie Caron made her first appearance in a Krzysztof Zanussi film two years ago, in "Contract" (1980), a Polish Television prod that found its way to the Venice and New York film festivals. Now they've collaborated again in "The Unapproachable," a Second German Television production produced under contract with Regina Ziegler (an in-collaboration with Austria's ORF). With any luck at all, it should surface at an international watering-hole and then find its way to the specialized circuits.

"The Unapproachable" is a reworked version of two one-act plays penned by Zanussi and writer-filmmaker Edward Zebrowski for laboratory performances at Erwin Axer's Teater Wslolcwesny in Warsaw back in his student days, then titled "The Unapproachable" and "Scout's Honor." The Polish director in exile lensed the project with his own Polish team of cameraman Slawomir Idziak and composer Wojciech Kilar earlier this year about the same time of the Berlin Film Fest and after.

"The Unapproachable" refers to a former star of stage and screen now living as a recluse in a luxurious villa. Caron has only a housemaid for contact with the outside world and conversation partner (Leslie Malton), who in turn has a boyfriend (Daniel Webb) passing himself off as a student of art history in order to get a rare interview with photos inside the forbidden villa. He hits upon a ruse to gain entrance: while the maid is away, he rings the bell at the gate in a state of emergency — he has been beaten up and needs to use the villa's phone to call a friend to come and pick him up.

Thereafter follows a one-upmanship line of dialog. The star pretends at first that she is the maid, and the art student admits that he "forced his way in" because he wanted to take photos of a rare Canaletto painting in her private collection.

The next twist revolves around the question whether or not the star will take the young intruder as her lover, and just what are his intentions in seducing the maid to reach the bedroom of her employer. As for the young girl who appears upon the scene at a compromising moment, she apparently sees through the scheme and is not surprised in the end to discover that the lad has spent the night in the villa and swiped the Canaletto as a goodbye-kiss. But isn't the painting perhaps a fake after all?

"The Unapproachable" is straight "kammerspiel" drama. The set is the inside of the spacious villa and its immediate surroundings. Caron's performance stands out above that of the younger pair: indeed, she is worthy of more demanding dramatic roles. Credits, as usual, are Zanussi's forte.

—Holl.

Richard Masur, Joe Pantoliano and Nicholas Pryor into "Risky Business" for writer-director Paul Brickman.