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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied

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KEEP ARGUING with Walter Wanger that I wish he wouldn't make the life story of Barbara Graham, the woman who went to the gas chamber. But he feels when his picture comes out he will have material no one has ever seen. At any rate, he has completely sold Susan Hayward on the picture which starts in January.

"Everyone talked against 'Smash-Up' which I did with Susan showing her as an alcoholic," Walter said.

"But murder is different from drink," I told him.

Be that as it may, Joe Mankiewicz (who will release the Wanger picture for his Figueroa Company) held a press conference in New York yesterday saying the Graham movie is definitely scheduled. Joe also told the press about "The Quiet American," which he just completed in Europe with Audie Murphy.

New York Journal-American
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By LOUELLA O. PARSONS
Motion Picture Editor, International News Service

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1957.

FILM TO BE BASED ON COAST MURDER

'Barbara Graham Story' to Star Susan Hayward—Fox Buys Hutchinson Novel

By THOMAS M. PRYOR
Special to The New York Times.

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Oct. 8.—Susan Hayward will star in "The Barbara Graham Story," tentative title for a motion picture based on a sensational California murder trial.

The film will be produced by Walter Wanger for Figaro, Inc., the independent company headed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz.

Mrs. Graham and two male companions were convicted and executed in 1955 for the murder of Mrs. Mabel Monahan, a wealthy Los Angeles widow. Last month Walter Wanger Pictures, Inc., obtained Superior Court approval in Los Angeles of terms whereby Mrs.

Graham's husband and minor son received payment of \$5,000 in consideration for story clearance rights.

The screenplay is being written by Don Mankiewicz, who is drawing from public records as well as from a story written by Ed Montgomery, crime reporter for The San Francisco Examiner. According to Mr. Wanger, "Mr. Montgomery takes the position in his story that he was one who helped to set public opinion against Mrs. Graham and expresses regret over the sensational handling of the story in the press."

"We will try to present all the circumstances as honestly as possible," Mr. Wanger added, "and we believe the picture will have a great bearing on cases involving capital punishment."

Filming is scheduled to begin here in January. The picture is to be released as part of Figaro's production - distribution contract with United Artists.

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