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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
WESTERN DIVISION

WARREN BEATTY,  
Plaintiff,

v.

TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.  
and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,  
Defendants.

Case No. **CV08-07662 DSF**

**COMPLAINT FOR  
DECLARATORY RELIEF  
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff, Warren Beatty ("Beatty"), alleges as follows:

**THE PARTIES**

1. Beatty is a resident of Los Angeles County. He is an actor, director, writer and producer of motion pictures.

2. Beatty is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Tribune Media Services, Inc. ("Tribune") is a corporation with its principal place of business in Illinois.

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1 principal photography of a Dick Tracy motion picture, television series, or  
2 television special, and if Beatty did not commence principal photography within  
3 that two-year period, Tribune could provide a subsequent written notice by which  
4 the Tracy Rights would revert to it.

5 9. In or about 2005, Tribune took the position that it had taken the  
6 necessary steps for the Tracy Rights to revert to it. Beatty disputed this and the  
7 issue was litigated before this Court in Case No. CV05-3938, DDP (the “Initial  
8 Litigation”).

9 10. The Initial Litigation involved, *inter alia*, the issue of whether Tribune  
10 had provided the requisite notices for the Tracy Rights to have reverted to it.

11 11. The Initial Litigation was dismissed in or about November 2006  
12 because Tribune formally withdrew all previous notices, if any, which it had given  
13 pursuant to Paragraph 9 of the Agreement. At or about the same time, Tribune gave  
14 Beatty a new written notice that he had two years within which to commence  
15 principal photography of a Dick Tracy motion picture, television series, or  
16 television special. Specifically, in a letter dated November 17, 2006, Tribune  
17 advised Beatty as follows:

18  
19 “This letter shall serve as notice that [Tribune] intends to effect a  
20 reversion of all rights granted to [Beatty] pursuant to the Dick Tracy  
21 Agreement.... Unless, as required by Paragraph 9 of the Dick Tracy  
22 Agreement, you commence principal photography on ‘another  
23 theatrical motion picture or television series or special’ within two  
24 years after receipt of this notice, [Tribune] will provide you with  
25 another written notice, at which time all rights in the Dick Tracy  
26 Property will revert to [Tribune].”  
27  
28

1           12. Beatty received the November 17, 2006 letter on November 20, 2006,  
2 which meant that he had until November 20, 2008 within which to commence  
3 principal photography of a Dick Tracy motion picture, television series, or  
4 television special in order to prevent Tribune from providing a subsequent written  
5 notice purporting to effect a reversion.

6           13. On November 8, 2008, in advance of the November 20, 2008 deadline,  
7 Beatty commenced principal photography of a Dick Tracy television special.

8           14. Beatty gave written notice to Tribune that he was commencing  
9 principal photography of the Dick Tracy television special. Tribune responded by  
10 asserting that it still had the right to terminate Beatty's Tracy Rights and effect a  
11 reversion, and purported to do so.

12           15. Based upon the foregoing there is a dispute between the parties which  
13 requires resolution by and a declaration from the Court. Specifically Beatty  
14 contends that his commencement of principal photography of a Dick Tracy  
15 television special on November 8, 2008 is sufficient to preserve the Tracy Rights  
16 and precludes Tribune from providing a subsequent written notice seeking to effect  
17 a reversion of the Tracy Rights. Tribune, however, claims that it is entitled to effect  
18 a reversion of the Tracy Rights, and has purported to do so, notwithstanding the fact  
19 that Beatty commenced principal photography of a Dick Tracy television special on  
20 November 8, 2008.

21           16. A judicial declaration as to this dispute is necessary at this time in  
22 order for the parties to know their respective rights in and to the Dick Tracy  
23 property.

24  
25           WHEREFORE, Beatty prays for judgment as follows:

26           1. For a judicial declaration that his commencement of principal  
27 photography of a Dick Tracy television special on November 8, 2008 (as well as his  
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subsequent work on the project) precludes Tribune from providing a written notice purporting to effect a reversion of the Tracy Rights; and

2. For his costs of suit incurred herein.

DATED: November 20, 2008

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CLAMAN & MACHTINGER LLP

By:



CHARLES N. SHEPHARD  
Attorneys for Plaintiff Warren Beatty

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**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Beatty hereby demands a jury trial in connection with this action.

DATED: November 20, 2008

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By:   
CHARLES N. SHEPPARD  
Attorneys for Plaintiff Warren Beatty

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