

DVIDEO REVIEWS D

EDITOR: BETTE-LEE FOX

Escape to Life: The Erika and Klaus Mann Story

color. 57 min. Andrea Weiss & Wieland
Speck, dist. by Cinema Guild. 130
Madison Ave., 2d fl. New York, NY
10016; 212-685-6242. 200 l. ISBN 0-
7815-0857-6. \$295 (Rental: \$95). Public
performance. BIG

This superb documentary tells the fascinating story of the eldest children of German writer Thomas Mann. Born in the early 20th century, the two formed an unusually close bond that continued into their adult lives. Erika was a cabaret performer and writer; Klaus wrote novels and founded two literary magazines. Both were openly gay at a time when most gays were closeted. Their lives are chronicled through film clips, photos, interviews, and re-creations, with selections of their writings read off-screen by actors Vanessa and Corin Redgrave. Technically, this production is excellent: an 87-minute version is also available. Highly recommended. *R. Till-herlake. Kem Cry. Lih .. B(her..field. CA*

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