

Please see this
letter before
reading enclosed.

10 Lowndes Street,
London, S.W.1.

27th July, 1953.

Danny —



I'm sure various sinister rumours will have reached you about the Martin and Lewis Palladium season, so I want to give you the 'inside story' of what really did happen. As an old enemy of yours was concerned in the boeing, I became involved in the business myself - so I know.

I only attended the first night to see if Dean Martin would make the mistake of singing 'Ballin' the Jack' (I'd seen him drop this brick in 'That's my Boy') - but although I went feeling anti Martin and Lewis, I found myself thoroughly enjoying it all. The timing was excellent, and there was an underlying warmth and humanity that made them well worth watching. Without any doubt the Act was a popular success, so it came as a complete surprise at the end when four people in the stalls were heard to boo and make catcalls. The noises of disapproval were at once eclipsed by genuine applause, and it seemed most unfair the next day when the reviews emphasised the boeing out of all proportion to its importance.

My sister and I happened to be present when Jerry Lewis got out of his car to confront the men who had booed the Act - and I recognised their leader as Cyril Holmes, a creature I had crossed swords with on your behalf in May, 1951. (You will see details of this in the attached papers). You may remember him - he used to wait outside the Savoy to jeer at you, and is very short and dapper, with a round, egocentric face.

I felt it was time someone took a hand in facing up to Mr. Holmes fair and square, and inspired by Jerry's invitation to him to attend a meeting with the Press at the Palladium, my sister and I spent Sunday working on the enclosed papers, and arranged for Amy to take us backstage on the Monday night. I had hoped we should have been present at the meeting to confront your old enemy in person, but with the written evidence, Jerry didn't think it would be necessary.

The enclosed cutting from the "New Musical Express" will tell you what happened. 'Cyril' has now had the doors of the Palladium completely barred to him - so Martin and Lewis have done a service to the whole profession by their stand.

I'm sorry there has been such a fuss over their comments on the English Press as, although in this particular case the remarks are justified, it isn't true as a whole.

I do think, though, that for sheer pride Dean and Jerry should come back - just to show that they can outface the Press and make them eat their words. The Act is good enough to stand scrutiny - even a prejudiced one.

Of course, the ideal answer to the statement that the English Press are 'anti' American, irrespective of merit, would be a return visit to the Palladium by you. Need I say more?!!

Are you taking proper care of yourself - having a holiday after the film, and so on? Anne and I wonder so often how things are going. I didn't think you sounded very happy in yourself on your August record ("I love you, that's one thing I know"), but maybe, it's just my imagination. I was particularly amused by your references on the reverse side to "shellacing the floor" and "fixing a bell" - because those are two jobs that are simply crying out to be done in my flat! Now I know that you're such an expert in this department, I shall be after your services when you next come over!

Interesting snippets of news have been filtering through to us - about 'Dena Productions', 'Clarence' the Dummy etc., but to me, the most intriguing item of all is that you are to play the part of your own father in 'Knock on Wood'. I shall certainly look forward to the result.

Must end this now - I want to get these documents off to you as soon as possible so that you can handle the 'Martin - Lewis' situation with inside knowledge. Never did I think I'd become involved in anything at the Palladium which didn't concern a certain Mr. Kaye - but once I found that our old enemy 'Cyril' was behind it, I couldn't resist having a crack!

Anne sends her love, and I add much of mine -

God Bless -

Margot

P.S. Our love to Sammy & Eddie, too.