

Personal

10 Lowndes Street,

London,

S.W.1.

8th November, 1952.



Danny —

This has been such an exciting week! Anne and I had hardly recovered from the news that you and Sylvia intended to come to London next Spring to make a film, than we heard that "Hans Christian Andersen" was to open at the Carlton on December 19th. We had all been getting a bit depressed after being left so long in the dark wondering what you were up to and when, if ever, we should be lucky enough to see you again. The complete absence of Kaye records has made it even worse - though I suppose it is understandable if you have only recorded the Hans Andersen songs, and the film hasn't yet been shown over here. I like them so much they're certainly worth waiting for - but it does get a bit hard to be patient sometimes! Am I right in thinking that the man who wrote them was Frank Loesser, and that he also did the numbers for "Where's Charley?" - including 'Make a Miracle', which reminded me so much of Sylvia's style?

It has been a grand week for me altogether - starting on Monday with the Royal Command Performance at the Palladium. I had never been before, and was very thrilled with it, though it didn't approach the high standard of your wonderful Sid Field Benefit production. (That evening was quite 'out of this world'). The producer of the Command Show had had the sense to do three things. The first (and most important) was to have the Crazy Gang warm up the audience well and truly, before the Royal party arrived. Even our friend the 'Chef' was co-opted to rush up with a ham on a platter, to add to the fun. People who had been to previous shows, when this used not to be done, were amazed at the difference it made to the success of the evening. Secondly, the Acts were grouped together with a little thought, and a section of dancing gave the programme a good, well-balanced start - then the final part was

arranged in much the same way as your famous "Sit Around" in the Sid Field Show - with various stars coming forward to sing old Music Hall songs for the audience to join in. It was a grand evening - my sister and I were sitting just opposite the main Box, so we had a wonderful view of the Royal party. They really let themselves go, and enjoyed it all so much. The one sad point was the appearance of Robb Murray, the juggler! To me, he means only one thing - a prelude to Danny Kaye - and I don't mind confessing that (like the 'Ugly Duckling') I shed a 'very unhappy tear' ! I never really care to go to the Palladium now, for the same reason - in my mind it's synonymous with you, and any other Act in the 2nd Half seems almost a sacrilege. I can't help it - that's just the way it is with me!

Anne and I hope you got the cuttings on the Royal Film Performance we airmailed to you the previous week. They rather speak for themselves. In the long run, I'm almost more pleased that "H.C.A." will be making its bow late in December. Nothing could be more suitable for the season - and I can assure you, Danny, that it will be quite the nicest of my Christmas presents! It will lend just that extra sparkle to what is already a very magical time. Also, it seems to have become the fashion for the critics to slash whatever film is chosen - quite irrespective of its merit. Let's hope that at Christmastime they will be filled with appropriate goodwill (and sane judgment) and so give the film fair and full attention.

Special message for Sammy - his friends the Tanner Sisters have just been on the air in "Variety Bandbox". They sang one of the songs they did on the Tour, and I'm sure they would send their regards if they knew I was writing!

One thing I can't help wondering, Danny. Does the fact that you are coming here to make a film mean that it will be impossible for you to do a stage season? If this is so, I can't say I feel quite so pleased! It is the artistry of the stage Kaye that I really enjoy - the films are just a pleasant "substitoot" for the real thing. I wish there was some way for us to know what your plans really were - it's so tantalising just writing letters "into the blue", and not knowing whether you ever receive them. We quite understand that you wouldn't have time to reply in person - but just a line from your Secretary showing that you do see our letters, would be grand. You know how much it would mean to Anne and myself to hear that you still remember us. You don't have to ask if the reverse is true - you must know the answer to that one!!

With love - & very special wishes,

From Janet & Anne

P.T.O.



P.S. If you and Sylvia need a
Secretary for your England visit,
with a knowledge of how things
tick this side of the Atlantic -
- you know I should be
delighted to help out. Any offers?!

P.P.S. love to Sammy & Eddie
from us both. We hope they
Houish.

Take care of yourself.

H. J.

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