

COPY OF LETTER FROM SISTER GREGORY

October 11, 1959

My dears,

What wonderful reviews!!! However, I was not in the least surprised because after reading the script and hearing part of the score, it was evident that not only would audiences love "The Sound of Music" but also that critics would be frantically searching for bright, fresh adjectives! I am so very happy for you all. You have poured so much of yourselves into the work and have been indefatigable in your desire for perfection. Although the acclaim the piece is receiving is a measure of your excellence as artists, more importantly, it reflects your stature as persons.

Theatre is the most beautiful of the arts but it is also an incredibly competitive business. All too frequently, the price the artist pays for his success is the loss of his personal integrity. Although in the past, on more than one occasion, each of you has received the accolade, you have carried your success with grace and dignity. When I watched you working together a few months ago, it was your warmth, your mutual respect and admiration, your esprit de corps, that impressed me deeply.

Centuries ago, Aristotle wrote "friends are our other selves." I was most conscious of the truth of these words while reading the New Haven reviews. I am so intensely proud of you! My joy could not be greater if the accomplishment were my own. In addition to my happiness for you and pride in you, I feel a warm gratitude because in spite of your hectic "round the clock" schedule, you, Richard, took time to send the reviews. Although I'm a "big girl" your gracious thought, dears, has a way of moving me to the point of tears.

It is my hope and prayer that the triumphant march of The Sound of Music will reach its jubilant apex on November 12th and that from this, your most recent success, each of you will grow in goodness, in wisdom, and in your capacity for love. God bless and keep you. My love and prayers, always,

Yours devoted,

/s/ SISTER GREGORY