June 20, 1967

Dear Mama and Papa:

Thankyou for your letter---well, the year ended very well for me, strangely enough, in school, I mean. I had all A's and only one B in Psychology, and if I really strain and take a lot of courses each quarter next year, I should graduate next June! "Johnny Johnson" came off fantastically well---it was a little too long for most, but on the whole the audiences loved it and we had nearly full houses every single night. We also did a special extra performance in honor of your friend Melnitz, who is retiring this year. I don't know who will be Dean next Fall.

We here were also terribly upset by the whole Israel thing---but how satisfying that little Israel was able to slap them down so hard, all the Arabs and so on. I wonder only if they will be allowed to keep the old half of Jerusalem?? What do you think of De Gaulle condemning Israel for taking back Jerusalem's old City?? I think he is a louse. I hope they keep it. It should be theirs anyway, and splitting that city in half is ridiculous. Stupid old Hollywood came through very nicely last week---they put together with Frank Sinatra, and millions of other stars, a big benifit in the Hollywood Bowl and raised several million dollars for Israel. I thought it was tremendous.

I am so happy that all the concerts are so smashing!! You don't know what a joy it is to think that Papa gets better and better all the time. I love you.

You both instructed Flora not to allow me to take any silly jobs for the summer, so when the man came and offered me the same piano-playing deal in Montana, I turned him down. SO, as I said in my last letter, I am staying here in town for the summer, and waiting for jobs. The agent (Ashley-Famous) turned out to be a phony and too big for me, so that they never did a bit of work for me. And when I called back the other agent (George Morris) who was interested in me, he had taken on too many new clients and couldn't fit me in. So I am now without an agent (nothing new) and have to start calling around and knocking on doors so that I can get one.

But even without an agent I have been doing damn well---which is rare, because

the agents run this town. But the few people at Universal who like me keep calling me and a few things have come through. I don't quite remember which things had happened by the time I wrote you last, so I will tell everything so far. As you know, I first did the dying Rebel soldier in the movie "Journey to Shiloh"---a real grade C picture, which probably won't be shown in Europe. Then I was scheduled to play an undertaker in a picture with Anne Baxter and Melvyn Douglas, but that was postponed, and when the new time was set, it was for exactly the same time as my third job, so I had to give it up. Too Bad. The third thing was a part in the TV western called "The Virginian". I play a young boy who has killed another boy, and I am chased into a restaurant where I scream for help---nobody helps me, so the Marshall comes in and drags me off, with me screaming "Don't let him take me!!" and other emotional outbursts. It lasts about 10 seconds, but it is very dramatic, and is what they call "a good piece of film!" Then I was called in to play a modern young college kid who stands with a mob and heckles a man making a speech. I say one line BUT the murderer (this is a new TV show called "Ironside", starring Raymond Burr, who used to play Perry Mason---this is the first show to be shown in September!) ...the murderer in the story is standing right behind me in the mob, so he has a big close-up, which includes me. So I stick my face in more than for my one line. Anyway---it's fun to do. And I feel like a big star driving onto the Universal lot and getting someone else to put my make-up on for me, etc. Great fun.

But the really important one, although it is not a film, I will do on July 16. CBS television has what they call the CBS Repertory Workshop, which is a weekly program of taped half-hour plays, some original, some old established plays. They play nation-wide, which is good, every Sunday afternoon, which is bad. And we are doing "The Marriage Proposal" by Chekhov, and I have the lead. So that is a big fat half-hour with me on all the time. So that is a good thing---unfortunately they are putting it on the air in August, which is the off-season for TV, so it won't be seen by too big a crowd but it still is a great job to have to look forward to.

Today I went to 20th Century Fox to read for a movie, but they didn't seem interested. They are interested though in David Colloff, the fellow I wrote the musical with. Jealousy. Tomorrow I will be going out to Melodyland (Musical Theater) to read for

the part of Mordred in "Camelot"---same old show, but a much bigger part. If I get it I will be doing it in the end of July and beginning of August. But I won't know about that for quite a while. I am also being considered for the same part at a theater in Sacramento. I drove up there with Flora over the last week-end---it is frightfully hot up there, but even so it was nice to get away from L.A. even for that short time. Here it is very hot, smoggy, and I am badly sun-burnt from going to the beach too long the other day. But it will soon stop hurting and melt into a tan, so I don't care.

About the pictures---when I first got them I was very unhappy with them, and was going to have new ones made---but I now think that it's not the picturesthat are displeasing, but my own 'geule', and I guess the actual photographs are O.K. So I will get copies made and send them to you. I just don't like to see my face. But Flora says they look like me, so probably she's right. Pity. I will send them as soon as they are copied.

One good omen coming up, I hope.....Bob Bowser, the man at Universal who keeps calling me in for these little parts, has just invited me to come out to the studio and have lunch with him on Friday. He is far too busy to just waste time on me, and he usually just calls me on the phone for those parts---so maybe he wants to talk over something important. I don't know---I am too hopeful probably, and he just wants to give me advice on getting an agent. Anyway, the fact that he invited me to lunch means that he has something good to tell me. So I am looking forward to that. I'll let you know if it's worth "writing home about."

I told you also that Flora has an agent, and she is now up for a little fifteen-minute independent film, which, if she got it, would pay her very well; so we'll see. Anyway, all kinds of things are hopeful, although nothing may happen. If I do get to come to Europe, it probably win't be until pretty late in the summer. I still would love to and cannot stop thinking about it, but I would be foolish to leave town when so many things are cooking. But if I make enough money soon (which looks pretty possible) to bring Flora over, we will come---we are sort of gearing our whole summer towards it. Exactly how long will you be in Spain? When is a time when you won't have too many other houseguests? Bronek Kaper told me he was going. He sounded very excited.

How is Lali? So she is again becoming a Parisienne? Tell me more about her job. Does she get to write anything?? In French or English or both? It sounds so exciting. Mama, did Abano make you feel better? How is your arm?? ~~XXXX~~ Say hello to everyone for me. The Achards sent me a sweet telegram for "THE KNACK".

One final thing---I have just sent out my registration and money for the Fall Quarter at school. I sent them my check for $407.50 this time, to spare mix-ups like we had last time. I had to send it in this early because June 25 is the earliest date for pre-enrollment into Fall classes, and since it will be my last year, I have to meticulously plan out all my programs to make sure I cram all the requirements in so I can finish in June, and not have to take summer school next year. So could you please send a check for $407.50 made out to me to my home address here, so I can deposit it??? I am sorry to keep bothering you about these things. I hate it that it has to be done three times a year now instead of two. But this check will take care of the Fall term, and I won't need to ask for it again until November or December!! I will send you the ~~xxxxxxx~~ receipt for the money as soon as I get it from school.

Please write soon and give me your news---I am naughty that I write so rarely but I am like you in that I worry when you don't write! Kiss Lali and Nina.

I love you and miss you!!!
Have good flights and concerts and have a good rest in Spain!!! I will write there next time.

I love you! I love you! I love you!

Your silly

Shmy