August 13, 1966

Dear Mama snd Papa and Lali;

Hi. As usual nasty me has not written for ages, but I have been trying to call you in Spain for several days, but the delay is such that it becomes either too late or too early for your time. So I decided to guve up and write. Now probably this letter will miss you because you will leave Spain as I mail it.

Only three more weeks left here---I will certainly be glad to get away. The work here is harder than I thought. One of the girls in our cast became pregnant and had to leave to Mexico to get an abortion !! which required us to open a new show fast since she played the lead in Hello Dolly. So we are now doing "Where's Charley", which Ray Bolger did on Broadway. It is really a good show. The music (Frank Loesser) is old-fashioned but so much better than that Hello Dolly trash, so it is fun to play. And the cast has gotten so good with their singing that I lose my mind giving them eight part harmony which sounds fantastic. As a matter of fact we are so good that I have decided to put on "Trial by Jury" by Gilbert and Sullivan, which is nothing but semi-operatic harmonies and stuff, and I really think we can do it well. At the moment the second galf of our show (we cut down Charley to 1½ hours) consists mainly of my old numbers from the revue I wrote---when we finish the Gilbert and Sullivan we will do it as the second half.

I am also having fun because since the director never hired the drummer he promised me, I have set up on the floor to my right a drum, cymbal, wood block, and bells, and in a few necessary places in the show I bang out oom-pahs in the left hand and hit the percussion with the right, and it doesn't sound bad. I've gotten so I can do half-decent drum rolls (They have to be pretty short) with one hand. But at least it gives me more to do to fight the frustrat tion of not being able to be on the stage. That Ray Bolger part is one I've always wanted to do, with the dressing up as a woman, and the soft-shoe "Once in Love with Amy" number....and the boy who is doing it is good but has no real flare, he just does it and that's it. The heat spell has finally ended. It got so that for a few weeks it would be 95 at 10 in the morning and 110 before the afternoon was over.

Now it's quite cold. But very pleasant because it rx rains more often and the dust stay s on the ground instead of flying all the time.

Right now we are also having packed houses almost every night, partly because it is the height of the tourist season, and also because this show is so much better than our last one that people are really coming to see it. There was even a little write-up in the town paper that said nice things about me, but they r ran out of copies before I had a chance to get any extra ones. I'm sending you a picture of our cast while we were still doing Hello Dolly. The girl on the left is the one who became pregnant. The boy to the left of me is a very good singer, and sort of the leader of the troupe (not the director) and the boy to the right of me is doing the Ray Bolger part in the show. We also now have another member of the cast named Michael Donovan O'Donnel, who is a mad fellow with a long red beard. He will play the judge in Trial by Jury. He is very hard to teach because he knows nothing of music, but he is terriffic on the stage.

I wish I could have heard all the concerts you played this summer. This is the first year since 1953 that Ix haven't been with you at all during the summer. Every time I play your records here I get horribly homesick for all three of you and for Europe. I wrote to NYU which said that they are full up now, but I should apply again later. And also a friend of mine from UCLA whd is a very good actor x and is now working in an excellent repertory theater in Sarasota Florida called me and said that the people there might be interested in me as a regular repertory actor (doing Chekhovs and Shakespeares etc.) becausex they have nobody who is young really. So what I have to do is tape-record me doing different speeches and things, and send pictures also, and maybe I'll be hired there for the fall and winter, which includes a tour for which the pay is $250 a week! I am not too hopeful because their director is going to New York to audition people and there are so damn many actors in New York---but it xxxx would certainly be fun to act again.....I will give you news.

I will be here till September 5, then write to my same old address in L.A. unless I send you another. When are you coming back to the U.S.?????I miss you so much!! I have made enough money this summer so I can afford easily to come to New York and even bring

Flora. She says hello heartily; she is sweet--- I am really happy with her, and if it were not that she cane up here with me, I would surely have picked up and flown straight to wherever you are!! I hope you all liked her really, and don'think I am a no good. When I am this far away from you for so long, I worry sometimes whether or not you still like me. It's stupid, but it comes from missing you a lot, I suppose; anyway I love you and I can't wait to see you again.

We have gone to Yellowstone park some more, and have seen some mooses and buffaloes, and little bears, and strange porcupines and beavers---it is really fantastically beautiful.

Remember how I described in my last letter (I hope you got it, I sent it to Japan!) how disappointed we were at not being sent to the other theater in West Yellowstone? Well as it turns out, they have had nothing but trouble there, with people hating each other and quitting in the middle of the season, etc. So I'm glad I'm here and not there, because our group is pretty happy together, and we've had no problems working sevendays a week with each other. I really wish you could see our show and our Gilbert and Sullivan later. They are pretty professional looking. And I have been forced to practice the piano---especially for the Gilbert and Sullivan, because I can't fake it---there are too many ~~xxxxx~~ little scales and things, so I am forced to practice and read the notes etc.

I love you and miss you. Please write....in spite of my horrible laziness I still worry when I don't hear from you in so long.