



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Letters to Joan Crawford

1972-1976

*T-Mss 2002-013

Summary

Creator: Crawford, Joan, 1908-1977

Title: Letters to Joan Crawford

Date: 1972-1976

Size: (1 portfolio, 4 letters)

Source: letters: Purchase, Odyssey Group, 04/01/2002

Abstract: Joan Crawford was a film star whose career spanned five decades, from silent films onward, and who worked in many genres including drama, musicals, comedy, Westerns, and horror films, and who appeared on television as well. While there is some question as to the year of her birth, the actress who became known as Joan Crawford was unquestionably born under the name Lucille Le Sueur in San Antonio, Texas. Entering films in 1925, Lucille was signed by MGM Studios where her name was changed. Her films include OUR DANCING DAUGHTERS (1928), RAIN (1932), GRAND HOTEL (1932), DANCING LADY (1933) with Clark Gable and Fred Astaire, and THE WOMEN (1939). A mid-career switch to Warner Brothers brought Crawford a Best Actress Academy Award for MILDRED PIERCE in 1945. Later roles brought diminishing returns, until a comeback performance in WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE? in 1962 led to a series of horror films. When Joan Crawford died in 1977 her age was given as 69, but she may have been in her early to mid 70s. Consists of four letters written to Joan Crawford. Two letters are from costume designer Edith Head, thanking Joan for Christmas presents. One undated letter from actress Billie Burke congratulates Joan on an unspecified honor, perhaps her MILDRED PIERCE Oscar. A 1972 letter from Nancy Reagan thanks Joan for flowers, and expresses regret they couldn't meet.

Preferred citation: Letters to Joan Crawford, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Joan Crawford was a film star whose career spanned five decades, from silent films onward, and who worked in many genres including drama, musicals, comedy, Westerns, and horror films, and who appeared on television as well. While there is some question as to the year of her birth, the actress who became known as Joan Crawford was unquestionably born under the name Lucille Le Sueur in San

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Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Subjects

Motion picture actors and actresses -- United States

Names

Crawford, Joan, 1908-1977

Burke, Billie, 1885-1970

Head, Edith

Reagan, Nancy, 1921-2016