THE LAST OF THE HIGH COMEDIANS

The INCOMPARABLE

AN AFFECTIONATE AND WITTY MEMOIR OF ONE OF BRITAIN'S GREATEST THEATRICAL AND CINEMATIC TALENTS: REX HARRISON

> PATRICK GARLAND

Narrated by the author





CLIPPER.



The Incomparable Rex

Patrick Garland

The Incomparable Rex:

The Incomparable Rex Patrick Garland, 1998 The Incomparable Rex Patrick Garland, 1998 The Incomparable Rex Patrick Garland, 2001-07-01 The well known English director chronicles his relationship with Rex Harrison the egotistical but charismatic actor who portrayed Professor Henry Higgins in My Fair Lady Reprint Loverly Dominic McHugh, 2012-06-08 Few musicals have had the impact of Lerner and Loewe's timeless classic My Fair Lady Sitting in the middle of an era dominated by such seminal figures as Rodgers and Hammerstein Frank Loesser and Leonard Bernstein My Fair Lady not only enjoyed critical success similar to that of its rivals but also had by far the longest run of a Broadway musical up to that time From 1956 to 1962 its original production played without a break for 2 717 performances and the show went on to be adapted into one of the most successful movie musicals of all time in 1964 when it won eight Academy Awards Internationally the show also broke records in London and the original production toured to Russia at the height of the Cold War in an attempt to build goodwill It remains a staple of the musical theater canon today an oft staged show in national regional and high school theaters across the country Using previously unpublished documents author Dominic McHugh presents a completely new behind the scenes look at the five year creation of the show revealing the tensions and complex relationships that went into its making McHugh charts the show from the aftermath of the premiere of Shaw s Pygmalion and the playwright's persistent refusal to allow it to be made into a musical through to the guarrel that led lyricist Alan Jay Lerner and composer Frederick Loewe to part ways halfway through writing the show up to opening night and through to the present This book is the first to shed light on the many behind the scenes creative discussions that took place from casting decisions all the way through the final months of frantic preparation leading to the premiere in March 1956 McHugh also traces sketches for the show looking particularly at the lines cut during the rehearsal and tryout periods to demonstrate how Lerner evolved the relationship between Higgins and Eliza in such a way as to maintain the delicate balance of ambiguity that characterizes their association in the published script He looks too at the movie version and how the cast album and subsequent revivals have influenced the way in which the show has been received Overall this book explores why My Fair Lady continues to resonate with audiences worldwide more than fifty years after its premiere

Fallen Stars Julian Upton,2004 Fallen Stars probes the underside of fame to reveal a host of glittering careers stunted by ill health alcoholism drug addiction and egomania Twenty one tales of stardom turned sour these are the tragic final years of some of the world's best loved actors and comedians a latter day Hollywood Babylon that includes Benny Hill Diana Dors Peter Sellers Carry On legends and many others The Musical William Everett,2011-06-02 The musical whether on stage or screen is undoubtedly one of the most recognizable musical genres yet one of the most perplexing What are its defining features How does it negotiate multiple socio cultural economic spaces Is it a popular tradition Is it a commercial enterprise Is it a sophisticated cultural product and signifier This research guide includes more than 1 400 annotated entries related to

the genre as it appears on stage and screen It includes reference works monographs articles anthologies and websites related to the musical Separate sections are devoted to sub genres such as operetta and megamusical non English language musical genres in the U S traditions outside the U S individual shows creators performers and performance The second edition reflects the notable increase in musical theater scholarship since 2000 In addition to printed materials it includes multimedia and electronic resources The Oxford Book of Theatrical Anecdotes Gyles Brandreth, 2020-10-08 This is the ultimate anthology of theatrical anecdotes edited by lifelong theatre lover Gyles Brandreth in the Oxford tradition and covering every kind of theatrical story and experience from the age of Shakespeare and Marlowe to the age of Stoppard and Mamet from Richard Burbage to Richard Briers from Nell Gwynn to Daniel Day Lewis from Sarah Bernhardt to Judi Dench Players playwrights prompters producers they all feature The Oxford Book of Theatrical Anecdotes provides a comprehensive revealing and hugely entertaining portrait of the world of theatre across four hundred years Many of the anecdotes are humorous all have something pertinent and illuminating to say about an aspect of theatrical life whether it is the art of playwriting the craft of covering up missed cues the drama of the First Night the nightmare of touring or the secret ingredients of star quality Edmund Kean Henry Irving John Gielgud Laurence Olivier Ellen Terry Edith Evans Maggie Smith Helen Mirren the great names are all here of course but there are tales of the unexpected too and the unknown This is a book presented in five acts with a suitably anecdotal and personal prologue from Gyles Brandreth where once in a while the understudy takes centre stage and Gyles Brandreth treats triumph and disaster just the same including stories from the tattiest touring companies as well as from Broadway the West End and theatres large and small in Australia India and across Europe Her Turn on Stage Grace Barnes, 2015-07-04 Audiences for musical theater are predominantly women yet shows are frequently created and produced by men Onstage female characters are depicted as victims or sex objects and lack the complexity of their male counterparts Offstage women are under represented among writers directors composers and choreographers While other areas of the arts rally behind gender equality musical theater demonstrates a disregard for women and an authentic female voice If musical theater reflects prevailing societal attitudes what does the modern musical tell us about the place of women in contemporary America the UK and Australia Are women deliberately kept out of musical theater by men jealously guarding their territory or is the absence of women a result of the modernization of the genre Based on interviews with successful female performers writers directors choreographers and executives this book offers a unique female viewpoint on musical theater today Fiasco James Robert Parish, 2008-05-02 A longtime industry insider and acclaimed Hollywood historian goes behind the scenes to tell the stories of 15 of the most spectacular movie megaflops of the past 50 years such as Cleopatra The Cotton Club and Waterworld He recounts in every gory detail how enormous hubris unbridled ambition artistic hauteur and bad business sense on the parts of Tinsel Town wheeler dealers and superstars such as Elizabeth Taylor Clint Eastwood and Francis Ford Coppola conspired to engender some of the worst films ever Yul

Brynner Michelangelo Capua,2014-06-26 Known as the bald cowboy in The Magnificent Seven and the sexy charismatic male lead in The King and I Yul Brynner was a Hollywood paragon of masculinity Beyond his distinctive appearance and distinguished acting career was a life of intrigue and concocted tales surrounding his youth Born Youl Bryner in Russia he played gypsy guitar and worked as a trapeze clown until a severe injury motivated him to pursue his interest in theater This biography takes readers through Brynner's formative years in Russia France and China and describes his journey from sweeping stages in Parisian theaters to a versatile career in theater television and film reaching a stardom that began and ended with the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical The King and I With accounts of his personal and professional successes and failures the book includes his four marriages his numerous and notorious affairs with such stars as Judy Garland Joan Crawford and Ingrid Bergman and his 1985 death from lung cancer A filmography details his movies and plays and appendices outline his work in documentaries music and soundtracks radio programs and television

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