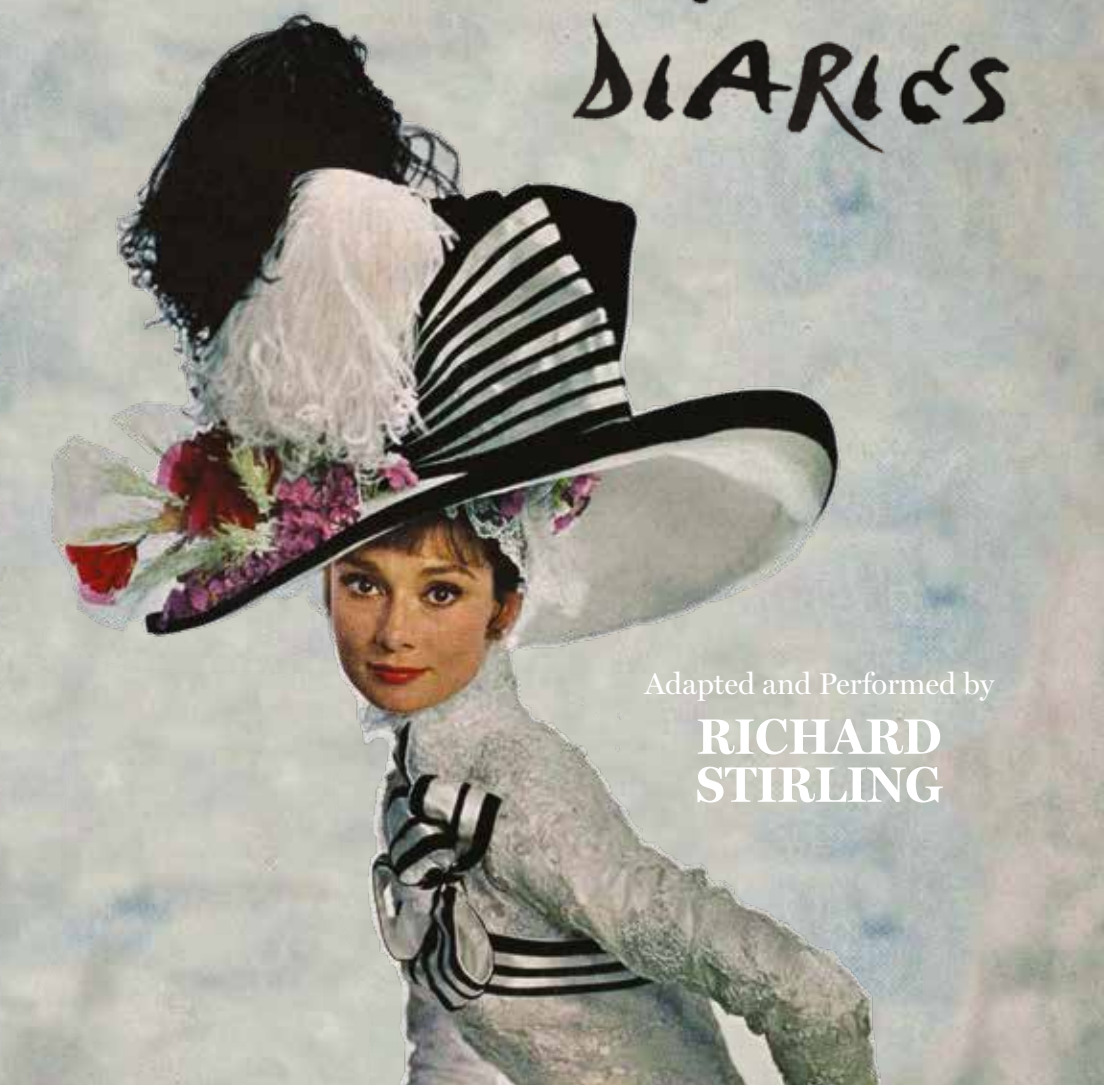
Evergreen Theatrical Productions Ltd
presents

Cecil Beaton's Diaries



Adapted and Performed by
RICHARD STIRLING

59 59

THEATER B

MAY 2 – 21

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presents

Cecil Beaton's Diaries

Text © The Literary Executor of the late Sir Cecil Beaton
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of the late Cecil Beaton and Rupert Crew Limited

— CAST —

Cecil Beaton ..... **RICHARD STIRLING** *

— CREATIVE TEAM —

Adaptation ..... **RICHARD STIRLING**

Video and Sound Design ..... **GARETH McLEOD**

Décor and Costume Design ..... **MAX TIARKS**

— PRODUCTION TEAM —

Managing Director ..... **JAMES RAMSEY**

Production Stage Manager ..... **MADELEINE BLOSSOM** †

Run time: 1 hour, 15 minutes,
with no intermission



* Member of Equity, the union for the performing arts and entertainment industries in the UK

† Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the US

— SIR CECIL BEATON —

(1904 – 1980)

Born into an affluent but conventional family, Cecil Beaton was determined to create his own identity through his work. He launched his career as a "society" photographer in 1926 with an exhibition in London. It won him a contract in New York with *Vogue*, where he worked for the next three decades. His fascination with glamour and high society dominated his life, and in 1937 he became Court Photographer to the British Royal Family. In the Second World War, he was a prolific photographer for the Ministry of Information, documenting conflict in the Far East and civilian fortitude with as much skill as he had in glamorizing Hollywood stars and royalty.

After the War, he became a successful stage designer, winning Tony Awards for his costumes for ***Quadrille*** (1954), ***My Fair Lady*** (1956), ***Saratoga*** (1959), and ***Coco*** (1969). On film, he won Academy Awards for his costumes on *Gigi* (1958) and his art direction and costumes on *My Fair Lady* (1964).

From mythologizing the Bright Young Things of the 1920s and high society in the 1930s, to his sessions with icons of the permissive age in the 1960s, Beaton produced images which identify their subjects to this day. At the same time, his six volumes of diaries, from which this show is compiled, reveal him as a vivid iconoclast and one of the sharpest chroniclers of the periods which he caught on camera. He had, he allowed, three great loves, all of them unrequited, for arts patron Peter Watson, film star Greta Garbo, and Olympic fencer Kinmont Hoitsma.

He was knighted in 1973. There have been many retrospectives of his work since his death, and his legend is now as redolent of his times as those of the world figures he immortalised.















— QUOTES BY BEATON —

"I can't afford a whole new set of enemies."

"All I want is the best of everything and there's very little of that left."

"I have the worst ear for criticism; even when I have created a stage set I like,
I always hear the woman in the back of the dress circle,
who says she doesn't like blue."

"I think that beauty is only static for so long. And then we move on."

"I want to make photographs of very elegant women
taking the lipstick off their teeth."

"What is elegance? Soap and water."

"The truly fashionable are beyond fashion."

"I am obsessed by Garbo. The moment I wake I start to think about her,
and so it goes on all day and then in my dreams at night."

"Love is someone you can be silly with."

"A technical failure that shows some attempt at aesthetic expression
is of infinitely more value than uninspired success."

"Be daring, be different, be impractical, be anything that will assert
imaginative vision against the play-it-safers, the creatures of the commonplace,
the slaves of the ordinary."

"Perhaps the world's second-worst crime is boredom; the first is being a bore."

— QUOTES ABOUT BEATON —

"He gathers enemies the way other people gather roses."

Truman Capote, writer

"Though Waterloo was won upon the playing fields of Eton,
The next war will be photographed, and lost, by Cecil Beaton."

Noël Coward, playwright

"You may think Cecil is listening intently to what you say.
He isn't. He's counting the hairs in your nostril as you speak."

Hon Stephen Tennant, socialite

"He would happily have witnessed his friends' execution
as long as he was given a good enough seat."

George, Lord Weidenfeld, publisher

"Cecil knows who he is: he's an Englishman.
Before anything else, that's all he really cares about."

Diana Vreeland, editor of Vogue

"Malice in Wonderland."

Jean Cocteau, artist

*"CCC: classed as c*** by Cukor."*

George Cukor, film director of *My Fair Lady*

"His life was a stage."

Hugo Vickers, biographer

I welcome the republication of the six volumes of Cecil Beaton's diaries, which so delighted readers between 1961 and 1978. Altogether there are 145 original manuscript diaries dating from Cecil going up to Cambridge in 1922 until he suffered a serious stroke in 1974. 56 of these cover his time at Cambridge, some of which appear in "The Wandering Years" (1961). 22 books cover the war years, and were used for "The Years Between" (1965), and nine books record his *My Fair Lady* experiences, some of which appear in "The Restless Years" (1976) and were the basis for "Cecil Beaton's Fair Lady" (1964). These six volumes probably represent about a tenth of what Cecil actually wrote. The diaries attracted a great deal of attention when first published. James Pope-Hennessy wrote of Cecil's "thirst for self-revelation," adding that the unpublished volumes were surely "the chronicle of our age."

Hugo Vickers, January 2018,
edited from his Foreword to the New Edition

The six volumes are currently printed by Sapere Books
www.saperebooks.com/authors/cecil-beaton/

RICHARD STIRLING

(Cecil Beaton)



Trained: Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Stage credits West End and London include: ***The Mystery of Edwin Drood***, ***Easy Virtue***, ***Private Lives***, ***Post Mortem***, ***Breaking the Code***, ***Thérèse Raquin***, ***A Princess Undone***, ***The Passing of the Third Floor Back***, and ***The Green Bay Tree***. Regional: ***An Inspector Calls***, ***Great Expectations***, ***Forty Years On***, ***When I Was a Girl...***, ***An Awfully Big Adventure***, ***The Ghost Train***, ***Out of Order***, and ***Side By Side by Sondheim***. International: Goldoni's ***The Wily Widow*** (Milan), ***The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*** (Washington, DC), and ***Taking Steps*** (Vienna). TV: *The Man Who Fell to Earth* (CBS); *Bridgerton, The Crown* and *The Princess Switch* (Netflix); *The Secret Agent, Great Expectations, Our Mutual Friend, The Prince and the Pauper*, and *Jeeves and Wooster*. Film: Woody Allen's *Scoop*, Derek Jarman's *War Requiem, Little Dorrit,* and *Mrs Dalloway*.

MADELEINE BLOSSOM

(Stage Manager)

Madeleine Blossom is a New York-based AEA stage manager and actor originally from California. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Drew University and a certificate of Mental Health First Aid from The National Council. Madeleine also studied with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators through their Stage Managing Intimacy course, along with similar workshops relating to safety and well-being while making art. Off Broadway: ***According to the Chorus***, ***Ink'dWell*** (New Light Theatre Project). Regional: ***Sweeney Todd***, ***Kings***, and ***The Velveteen Rabbit*** (South Coast Repertory), ***Fly By Night***, ***Evita***, and ***God of Carnage*** (Southern Colorado Repertory Theater). Others: ***Ukrainian Benefit Reading*** (Stages on the Sound/TheaterLab NYC), ***Sonnets for an Old Century*** (Resident Acting Company), ***East Side Stories***, ***Actually*** (Metropolitan Playhouse), ***Bakersfield Mist*** (Bickford Theater), and ***Heathers the Musical*** (Drew University). BA: Drew University.

GARETH McLEOD

(Video and Sound Designer)

Credits include: ***Flowers of the Forest***, ***The Last of the De Mullins***, and ***The Dover Road*** (Jermyn Street Theatre); ***Now We Are Sixty*** and ***The Condor and the Maiden*** (King's Head Theatre), **Susan Black Sings Piaf** (Leicester Square Theatre); ***Cowardy Custard***, ***The Little Hut***, and ***Tomfoolery*** (UK tours). Currently: ***F**king Men*** (Waterloo East Theatre). BA: Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

MAX TIARKS

(Décor and Costume Designer)

Credits include: ***The Green Bay Tree*** and ***Valerie Hobson*** (Jermyn Street Theatre), Noël Coward's ***Me and the Girls***, ***Cowardy Custard***, and ***The Little Hut*** (UK tours).

EVERGREEN THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS LTD

Over the last two decades, Evergreen has presented theatre productions in London and on tour in the UK, including ***Tomfoolery***, ***Cowardy Custard***, ***Over My Shoulder***, ***Gay's the Word***, ***A Princess Undone***, and ***The Green Bay Tree***. We aim to enrich audiences through theatrical experiences that inspire empathy and demand conversation.

CECIL BEATON'S DIARIES

First performed at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2022, ***Cecil Beaton's Diaries*** comes to New York, prior to its London engagement at Jermyn Street Theatre, in collaboration with 59E59 Theaters.

SPECIAL THANKS

Hugo Vickers, Caroline Montgomery at Rupert Crew Ltd, Meg Davies at Ki Agency Ltd, Cole Hill (New York) and Ashley Latona (London) at Condé Nast, Alamy, Getty Images, V&A Museum, Imperial War Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Penny Horner at Jermyn Street Theatre, Gerald Armin at Waterloo East Theatre, and Val Day, Brian Beirne, and all the wonderful team at 59E59 Theaters.

CURATORS' NOTE

Welcome to Evergreen Theatrical Productions, who aim to enrich its audiences through outstanding theatrical experiences that inspire empathy and demand conversation. This is the first time these diaries have been performed in NYC, giving us an inside look at the frustration and angst behind these beautiful portraits.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters



David

DAVID BYRNE
Artistic Director
& CEO, New
Diorama Theatre



59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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DANIELLE COVINGTON Box Office Supervisor
MARGOT GAGE Box Office Supervisor
LUCY KELLY Box Office Associate
ALANIS MOLINA-GARNELO Box Office Associate/Usher
MICIAH WALLACE Box Office Associate/Usher
ANNA BONGARDINO Usher
ANNE RUTTER Usher
BENJI SILLS Usher
CHRISTIAN MIRANDA Usher
ELLIOT JACOBS Usher
ERIC BERKELEY Usher
FLOWER RIOS Usher
HANS MUEH Usher
ISRAEL ORENGO Usher
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JÚLIA CERQUEIRA Usher
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NEXT IN THEATER B — MAY 25 – JUNE 11



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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