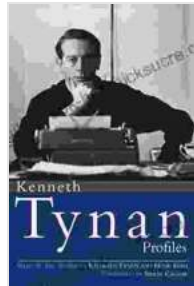


Profiles: Kenneth Tynan



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★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1524 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 634 pages
Screen Reader	: Supported



A veritable icon of the British theater world, Kenneth Tynan was renowned for his incisive wit, provocative insights, and unparalleled influence on the cultural landscape of the 20th century. From his early days as a drama critic for the Observer in the 1950s to his tenure as literary manager of the National Theatre in the 1960s, Tynan left an indelible mark on the world of stage and screen.

Early Life and Education

Born in Birmingham, England, in 1927, Tynan developed a passion for theater at an early age. After attending King Edward's School, he went on to study English at Oxford University. While at Oxford, he became a member of the Experimental Theatre Club and honed his critical skills as a reviewer for Cherwell, the university's student newspaper.

The Observer Years

Upon graduating from Oxford, Tynan began his journalistic career as a drama critic for the Observer in 1954. His reviews quickly gained attention for their wit, intelligence, and fearless honesty. Tynan was not afraid to challenge conventional wisdom or to express his opinions in a provocative and often controversial manner.

In his writings, Tynan displayed a deep understanding of theater history and a keen eye for spotting emerging talent. He was an early champion of such playwrights as Harold Pinter, John Osborne, and Tom Stoppard, and his support helped to launch their careers. Tynan's reviews were also instrumental in shaping the public's perception of the theater, and he played a significant role in the development of the "New Wave" of British theater in the 1950s and 1960s.

Literary Manager of the National Theatre

In 1963, Tynan was appointed literary manager of the National Theatre, a position he held until 1973. During his tenure, he oversaw the production of some of the most groundbreaking and controversial plays of the era, including Peter Brook's production of "Marat/Sade" and the world premiere of Edward Bond's "Saved."

Tynan's bold programming choices helped to establish the National Theatre as a leading force in the world of stage. He also played a key role in recruiting some of the most talented actors and directors of the day, including Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud, and Peter Hall. Under Tynan's leadership, the National Theatre became a vibrant and exciting center for theatrical innovation.

A Bon Vivant and Provocateur

Beyond his work as a critic and literary manager, Tynan was also known for his flamboyant personality and his love of life. He was a bon vivant who enjoyed good food, wine, and the company of beautiful women. He was also a gifted raconteur and wit, and his ability to provoke and entertain made him a popular guest on television and radio shows.

Tynan's personal life was often as controversial as his professional life. He was married three times and had numerous affairs. He was also an outspoken advocate for sexual freedom and drug use. His hedonistic lifestyle and outspoken opinions made him a polarizing figure, but he remained a beloved and influential figure in the cultural world until his untimely death in 1980.

Legacy and Influence

Kenneth Tynan's legacy as a theater critic and cultural icon is immense. His writings continue to be read and studied by scholars and theater practitioners alike. His wit, intelligence, and fearless honesty have inspired generations of critics and artists.

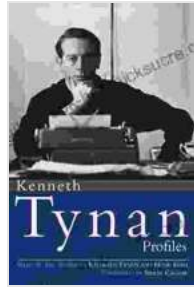
Tynan's influence on the British theater world is immeasurable. He helped to shape the development of the "New Wave" of theater in the 1950s and 1960s, and his work as literary manager of the National Theatre helped to establish it as a global center for theatrical excellence.

Kenneth Tynan was more than just a theater critic; he was a cultural phenomenon. His wit, intelligence, and passion for the arts made him one of the most influential figures of the 20th century. His legacy continues to inspire and provoke us today.

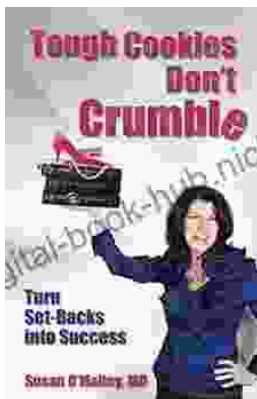


Further Reading

- Kenneth Tynan: A giant of theatre criticism
- Kenneth Tynan: The critic who changed British theatre
- Kenneth Tynan: The man who changed the face of British theatre



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