



The Royal Opera House in the Twentieth Century (Bloomsbury Reader)

Frances Donaldson

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The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden is home of two of the most famous opera and ballet companies in the world. In this official history, Frances Donaldson discusses Covent Garden's many legendary achievements - Der Rosenkavalier with Lotte Lehmann, the unparalleled partnership of Fonteyn and Nureyev, the recent Otello with Domingo. She follows the attitude of the English to opera and their Opera House, and the crusade for opera to be sung in English. She looks at the internal politics and at the often charismatic personalities who have worked at the Opera House: Thomas Beecham, George Solti, Maria Callas, Tito Gobbi, Ninette de Valois and Frederick Ashton. Underlying the story, despite the many successful seasons, are the ever-present problems of financial support and uncertainty of the future.

The history is superbly well-documented from the Royal Opera House archives. Comments from journalists of the time -whose critical reviews sometimes led to singers of international acclaim refusing to return to Covent Garden - lend spice to this fine analysis of administrative and artistic management at the Garden.

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