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Tea At Five



Synopsis

Joins us for a cup of tea, won't you? Katharine Hepburn beckons us into her Connecticut home for a cozy chat and an intimate look at the legend, and the woman behind the legend. Based on the critically acclaimed New York production, the independent, intelligent, feisty Hepburn comes alive once again when Kate Mulgrew, of Star Trek: Voyager fame, slips deftly into the voice and being of the famous actress. The tale opens in 1938 when the 31-year-old Hepburn is five years beyond her first Oscar-winning successes. In the middle of a career slump after a series of movie flops, she waits by the phone to hear whether she nailed the part of Scarlett in a film called Gone With the Wind. The story moves to 1983, when Parkinson's disease has left her voice shaking, her hand clutching a cane, but her eyes still shining with intelligence, wit and the wisdom that informs a long life lived to the fullest. Tea at Five touches on Hepburn's turbulent childhood, her 15 year-old brother's suicide, and her 27-year affair with Spencer Tracy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not a book but a play based on the life of Katherine Hepburn read by Kate Mulgrew. Listening to this 2CD set is the next best thing to seeing Kate Mulgrew perform in public. In 2 parts both taking place in Hepburns living room at her childhood home. The first part when she is about 31 and has left Hollywood after a series of flops she is labelled as 'box office poison'. Mulgrew does the voice extremely well and manages to convey something of the frustration and panic of a performer who is for the first time in a long time 'on the outside looking in'. The second part when Hepburn is in her 70's after her car accident, in effect retired. The voice in this part is even better. A masterful

performance, the play paints a picture of a strong, independent woman, with vulnerabilities in both her private and personal life. There are of course omissions and lots of guesswork about her strange relationship with her parents especially her father and brother, but there is only so much you can put in to a two act play. Loved it, and would love to see the play.

After seeing Tea 3 times it is wonderful to listen to the audio cd. Kate Mulgrew is in my opinion the most wonderful and talented actress in the world. When you listen to the audio cd it is like you hear Katharine Hepburn. If you love Katharine Hepburn and/or Kate Mulgrew this is definitely highly recommended. Of course seeing Tea at Five in theater is the best experience ever. The audio cd is second best

I had the EXTREME fortune of seeing Kate Mulgrew perform this play in Baltimore, but not before buying the CD. Kate Mulgrew had always been compared to Kate Hepburn. Her voice is amazingly like Hepburn's, as her command presence. The first act of this play is amazingly funny you will laugh like crazy. If you can't see the amazing play in person this is a must buy!

Kate Mulgrew is hilarious in this wonderful production TEA AT FIVE, featuring tales from the life of one of the 20th centuries most fascinating women. The audience is treated to a sitting with Katharine Hepburn herself at the Hepburn family summer house at Fenwick, Connecticut. What follows is just under two hours of reminiscences, both controversial and comical but altogether charming, and exceptionally well delivered with a tantalizingly sassy and well written script. Based heavily on Miss Hepburn's autobiography 'Me' - TEA AT FIVE offers a warm, respectful and truly satisfying tribute. Kate Mulgrew as Katharine Hepburn takes this, her most controversial role, in her stride. The first act, set in 1938, is magnificently funny and yet with an air of tragedy and Mulgrew delivers with skill and Hepburn-like forwardness the tale of Hepburn's years as box office poison. The second act is set forty years later and Kate Mulgrew outdoes herself - her impersonation of Kate Hepburn is nearly flawless - as the delightfully droll story of Hepburn's comeback is told in amidst stories of her romance with Spencer Tracy. Just which act is the funniest or the most moving depends on the individual's choice, but anyone with an ear for laughter and an eye for a good performance will just love this audio CD of Michael Lombardy's delightful play TEA AT FIVE.

Kate Mulgrew is absolutely fabulous in this piece. Everything that is in the performance was backed up with at least 3 different references. This production was absolutely beautiful and transferred to

CD fabulously. This is a great piece for any Mulgrew or Hepburn fan or fan of the theater!

Kate Mulgrew is excellent as Katharine Hepburn, but I find the piece itself flat and not particularly interesting. I expected it to shine much more light on the inner workings (or at list fictionalize something interesting) of Miss Hepburn.

I can just "see" Katherine Hepburn as I listen to Kate Mulgrew's performance. I had forgotten how desperately "Hepburn" wanted to be Scarlett O'Hara. Listening to her talk about the "old" Hollywood in the days of the studio moguls...George Cukor. David Selznick, LB Mayer. Her love hate relationship with Louella Parsons and Barbara Parker. Some of her stories about how Hollywood treated her and how she treated them are hysterical. It is a wonderful trip down memory lane as she brings the Golden Age of Hollywood to life.No one but Kate Mulgrew could have brought Katherine Hepburn back to life.

What a thrill to re-live the experience of having seen Ms. Mulgrew perform this solo piece in Cambridge, Massachusetts at the ART. I wept at the opening of the second act, having been unaware of the extent of Hepburn's age-related infirmities. It was thrilling, evocative, riveting, entertaining. I am glad to have lived long enough to witness the show, and to re-visit it in my car during my commute to work.

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