

John Lahr is one of the most celebrated critics of the performing arts. Winner of Britains 1992 Roger Machell Award for the best writing about public performance, *Dame Edna Everage and the Rise of Western Civilisation* is an insiders account of a great clown and a great act. It takes us backstage at Londons Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, with Barry Humphries, and into the weird and wonderful world of his show-stopping creation--Dame Edna Everage. Humphries is a prodigious comic talent. His copresence in Edna-- a character so real to the public that her autobiography, *My Gorgeous Life*, appeared on the nonfiction list--actively invites speculation about reality and fantasy, male and female. With her natural wisteria hair and her harlequin eyeglasses, Dame Edna was the first solo performer to sell out the most famous theater in England, and she also took the United States by storm, filling theaters from coast to coast. Hilarious and malign, polite and rude, highbrow and very low, the character Barry Humphries inhabits is a bundle of contradictions. John Lahr, the son of another comic genius, takes us behind the scenes to investigate how a provincial dandy from Melbourne transformed himself into one of the most unlikely megastars of today. In showing the connection between Humphriess comedy and the life it parodies, *Dame Edna Everage and the Rise of Western Civilisation* goes beyond reportage to an exploration of the nature of comedy, a subject that Lahr has pursued over the years in his acclaimed biographies of Bert Lahr, Noel Coward, and Joe Orton. Richly entertaining and engagingly written, this book is an anecdotal treatise on the nature of comedy and an absorbing inquiry into what makes us laugh.

The Same Sky: A Novel, *An Anthology of Four*, *Machine Art and Other Writings: The Lost Thought of the Italian Years*, *The Mutual Fund Industry: Competition and Investor Welfare* (Columbia Business School Publishing), *Countdown: The Wasteland Chronicles Book One*, *Sex and the City*, *Four Blondes*, *Trading Up (3-pak)*, *California Sunset*, *Careers: Kinesiologist: (the study of movement)*, *Emergence (A DRMR Novel Book 2)*,

Dame Edna Everage and the Rise of Western Civilization: Backstage With Barry us backstage at London's Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, with Barry Humphries, . A look at the work of Barry Humphries journeys backstage with him to watch the clown transform himself into Dame Edna Everage--the weird and wonderful. *Dame Edna Everage and the Rise of Western Civilisation: Backstage with of the Theatre Royal watching Barry Humphries perform as Dame Edna Everage.* *Dame Edna Everage and the Rise of Western Civilisation: Backstage with Barry Humphries.* John Lahr, Author Farrar Straus Giroux \$22 (p) ISBN.

Dame Edna Everage; and the rise of western civilization; backstage with Barry Humphries. Lahr, John. London: Bloomsbury, Hardcover. p. *Dame Edna Everage and the Rise of Western Civilisation: Backstage with Barry Humphries* by John Lahr, , available at Book.

DAME EDNA EVERAGE AND THE RISE OF WESTERN CIVILISATION by John Lahr
Backstage with Barry Humphries. by John Lahr.

With her 'natural wisteria' hair and her harlequin eyeglasses, Dame Edna was the highbrow and very low, the character Barry Humphries inhabits is a bundle of *Dame Edna Everage and the Rise of Western Civilisation: Backstage with.* *Dame Edna Everage and the Rise of Western Civilization: Backstage With Barry Humphries.* By: Lahr, John. Price: \$ Quantity: 1 available. Add \$ *Dame Edna Everage and the Rise of Western Civilisation: Backstage with Barry Humphries (Signed First Edition)* Lahr chronicles the great act and it's actors from behind the scenes in at the Theater Royal, Drury Lane in London's. Description, London: Bloomsbury, [xi], p., [8] p. of plates: ports. ; 24 cm . ISBN, Subjects, Humphries, Barry,

Humorists, Australian.

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