



Coward Plays: 3: Design for Living; Cavalcade; Conversation Piece; Tonight at 8.30 9i; Still Life (World Classics) (Vol 3)

By Noël Coward

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The third volume of Coward's plays contains some of his best work from the thirties.

Design for Living is about a triangular alliance between two men and a woman, based on friends of Coward's, which he waited to write "until she and he and I had arrived by different roads in our careers at a time and a place when we felt we could all three play together with a more or less equal degree of success."

Cavalcade was Coward's most ambitious stage project, set during the Boer War, which cost £30,000 in its day and which includes scenes of the relief of the sinking of the Titanic and the coming of the Jazz Age.

Conversation Piece is a musical comedy that Noël wrote for the Parisian star Yvonne Printemps and includes the song "I'll Follow My Secret Heart".

Also in the volume are three short plays from *Tonight at 8.30* including *Hands Across the Sea*, a gentle satire of colonials and London Society; *Still Life* which became the film *Brief Encounter* and *Fumed Oak* a suburban comedy about a 'worm who turns'.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Noël Coward was born in 1899 in Teddington, Middlesex. He made his name as a playwright with *The Vortex* (1924), in which he also appeared. His numerous other successful plays included *Fallen Angels* (1925), *Hay Fever* (1925), *Private Lives* (1933), *Design for Living* (1933) and *Blithe Spirit* (1941). During the war he wrote screenplays such as *Brief Encounter* (1944) and *In Which We Serve* (1942). In the fifties he began a new career as a cabaret entertainer. He published volumes of verse and a novel (*Pomp and Circumstance*, 1960), two volumes of autobiography and four volumes of short stories: *To Step Aside* (1939), *Star Quality* (1951), *Pretty Polly Barlow* (1964) and *Bon Voyage* (1967). He was knighted in 1970 and died three years later in Jamaica.

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