

Chapter 1 : The Duchess: A.K.a Wallis Simpson by Linda Griffiths

Ruby Slippers Theatre Presents: "The Duchess a.k.a. Wallis Simpson" by Linda Griffiths Directed by Sarah Rodgers Starring Diane Brown as Wallis Simpson.

Share via Email Illustration: Matthew Blease This is the untold story of the Duchess of Windsor. Providing you skip past the stories that have already been told many times over. Wallis Simpson is perhaps one of the most notorious and, I believe, most misunderstood women of the 20th century. She is credited with being the temptress that brought down a king. Nothing could be further from the truth. As a child in Baltimore, Wallis Warfield was subject to many girlhood passions. However, there is no reason to believe that either of these relationships ever went beyond the bounds of normal adolescent behaviour or that she was in any way a lesbian and I merely mention them as a way of getting your attention. Even though she was not well-off nor especially good looking, Wallis dated many beaux. This has led some people to conclude that she was sexually voracious. This is categorically not true. Though she did like to flirt and did once confess that she might have kissed someone, she never deviated from the bounds of decency. In , Wallis married an airman called Win Spencer. The marriage was not a happy one. Wallis recoiled when Win tried to kiss her on their wedding night and it is her assertion that the marriage was never consummated. There have also been reports that Wallis and Win were once on a receiving line to meet the Prince of Wales who was on a royal tour, but having carefully sifted through the evidence, I have determined this did not happen. There have also been rumours that Wallis worked in a brothel during their time in Peking and that it was there she learned a sexual trick known as the Cleopatra Clip. Again, I can find no evidence to support this. So this is just more idle gossip and innuendo. Wallis then moved to England where she married Ernest Simpson. Though she was platonically attracted to Ernest, I also believe her account that the marriage was never consummated. In London, she became friends with Thelma, who was then the recognised lover of the Prince of Wales, whom everyone called David, and became a regular part of the royal social scene. She even sent him letters addressed to PW â€” code for Prince of Wales.

Chapter 2 : The Duchess of Windsor: the secret life - Charles Higham - Google Books

The Duchess has 9 ratings and 0 reviews. An extravagant and inspired epic that weaves straightforward narrative with magic realism, Griffith's play tells.

Buchanan Merryman , and was called Bessie Wallis until at some time during her youth the name Bessie was dropped. Wallis claimed that her parents were married in June . Initially, they lived with him at the four-story row house, 34 East Preston Street, that he shared with his mother. She made up her mind to go to the head of the class, and she did. Navy aviator, at Pensacola, Florida , while visiting her cousin Corinne Mustin. Win, as her husband was known, was a heavy drinker. He drank even before flying and once crashed into the sea, but escaped almost unharmed. They soon separated again, and in , when Spencer was posted to the Far East as commander of the Pampanga , Wallis remained behind, continuing an affair with an Argentine diplomat, Felipe de Espil. The Spencers were briefly reunited until she fell ill, after which she returned to Hong Kong. Wallis toured China, and while in Beijing stayed with Katherine and Herman Rogers, who were to remain her long-term friends. Wallis returned to England and with the shipping business still buoyant, the Simpsons moved into a large flat with a staff of servants. Between and , he met the Simpsons at various house parties, and Wallis was presented at court. Ernest was beginning to encounter financial difficulties, as the Simpsons were living beyond their means, and they had to fire a succession of staff. Since she had divorced her first husband on grounds of "mutual incompatibility", there was a possibility that her second marriage, as well as her prospective marriage to Edward, would be considered bigamous if her first divorce had been challenged in court. The King suggested a morganatic marriage , where he would remain king but Wallis would not be queen, but this was rejected by Baldwin and the Prime Ministers of Australia, Canada, and the Union of South Africa. She decided to flee the country as the scandal broke, and was driven to the south of France in a dramatic race to outrun the press. On 11 December , Edward said in a radio broadcast, "I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility, and to discharge my duties as King as I would wish to do, without the help and support of the woman I love. Edward had to remain apart from Wallis until there was no danger of compromising the granting of a decree absolute in her divorce proceedings. Wallis wore a "Wallis blue" Mainbocher wedding dress. In , they made a high-profile visit to Germany and met Adolf Hitler at the Berghof , his Berchtesgaden retreat. After the visit, Hitler said of Wallis, "she would have made a good Queen". FBI files compiled in the s also portray her as a possible Nazi sympathiser. There, she told the United States ambassador , Alexander W. Weddell , that France had lost because it was "internally diseased". Churchill felt compelled to complain again when the Duke gave a "defeatist" interview. There were rumours that the theft had been masterminded by the royal family as an attempt to regain jewels taken from the Royal Collection by the Duke, or by the Windsors themselves as part of an insurance fraudâ€”they made a large deposit of loose stones at Cartier the following year. However, in , career criminal Richard Dunphie confessed to the crime. The stolen pieces were only a small portion of the Windsor jewels, which were either bought privately, inherited by the Duke, or given to the Duke when he was Prince of Wales. I thought the rest of us could be fence-sitters while the Nazis and the Reds slogged it out. They attended her memorial service in Westminster Abbey. Most of her estate went to the Pasteur Institute medical research foundation, on the instructions of Suzanne Blum. An auction of his collection was announced in July for later that year in New York. The gay American playboy Jimmy Donahue , an heir to the Woolworth fortune, claimed to have had a liaison with the Duchess in the s, but Donahue was notorious for his inventive pranks and rumour-mongering. One of her biographers, Charles Higham , said of the book, "facts were remorselessly rearranged in what amounted to a self-performed face-lift But there is no document which proves directly that she was anything other than a victim of her own ambition, who lived out a great romance that became a great tragedy. In the opinion of her biographers, "she experienced the ultimate fairy tale, becoming the adored favourite of the most glamorous bachelor of his time. The idyll went wrong when, ignoring her pleas, he threw up his position to spend the rest of his life with her. She had thought of him as emotionally a Peter Pan , and of herself an Alice in Wonderland. The book they had written together, however, was a Paradise Lost. Mrs Earl Winfield Spencer

Jr. Mrs Wallis Warfield Wallis resumed her maiden surname by deed poll on 7 May , [] but continued to use the title "Mrs". Yale University Press, pp.

Chapter 3 : The Duchess: AKA Wallis Simpson - Drama Online

Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.

The play tells the story of the woman for whom Edward VIII abdicated his throne, Wallis Simpson. It travels into the emotional centre of a plain, brash, sexual woman, who collapsed only when the cocktails ran out - a woman destined to become the Yoko Ono of her time. Irreverent and ribald, this mostly true drama combines straightforward narrative with magic realism. You have no idea how hard it is to live out a great romance! Alumna Sarah Rodgers directs this irreverent and ribald tale of the American divorcee for whom Edward VIII abdicated his throne. Wallis Simpson was a plain, brash, sexual woman, who collapsed only when the cocktails ran out - a woman destined to become the Yoko Ono of her time. Please accept and kindly pass on to your colleagues and students my warmest congratulations and thanks for a most enjoyable evening! I have already made plans for my family to see the play as well later this month! Anyway, thanks for the show! I hope you have much success with the remainder of the run. Where was Alexander Keurvorst found????!!!! Where can I get his new CD????!!!! Great start to the F. We look forward to the season! Johnstone is superbly cast as Wallis, navigating the complexities of the character with all the frankness and vulnerability required". A bewitching mix of androgynous sensuality and unstable vulnerability, she fascinates at nearly every turn, breathing a delicious fire that catches and ignites all the supporting players. Simpson would definitely have approved. A Visitation from Gwendolyn MacEwen. Joan for Chemainus Theatre Festival. Next she directs Sisters for Gateway Theatre. About the Director It has been a thrill to work on Linda Griffiths very original script exploring the life of Wallis Simpson. Certainly every BBC miniseries and film share the same stories and anecdotes and all have very similar treatments of this remarkable time in history. It was with great excitement that I read a truly fresh take and style of writing on this familiar story. She takes us on a magical, irreverent ride delving into the world of this fascinating woman. I am thrilled to offer up a musical vision to this already colourful piece. Sit back, have a martini and enjoy while we take you into or out of your twentieth century blues and perhaps on the way out you can wiggle your way to the car - black bottom style.

Chapter 4 : The Duke and Duchess of Windsor and the Abdication of Edward VIII - Nonfiction (70 books)

The fabulous, epic, and true tale of Wallis Simpson, the notorious, convention-smashing American divorcee for whom Edward VIII gave up the throne.

Chapter 5 : Wallis Simpson to be buried at Frogmore – archive, | UK news | The Guardian

A line delivered by Wallis late in the play tolls like a bell and suggests where Griffiths was going in The Duchess: "I am the 20 th Century". Out with old, in with the new. Out with old, in with the new.

Chapter 6 : The life of a notorious socialite in The Duchess a.k.a Wallis Simpson

The Duchess a.k.a. Wallis Simpson runs from Tuesday (April 7) to April 18 at the Historic Theatre at the Cultch. Follow Andrea Warner on Twitter @_AndreaWarner. Join the discussion.

Chapter 7 : Wallis Simpson - Wikipedia

Wallis Simpson (born Bessie Wallis Warfield; 19 June - 24 April), later known as the Duchess of Windsor, was an American socialite whose intended marriage to the British king Edward VIII caused a constitutional crisis that led to Edward's abdication.

Chapter 8 : Wallis Simpson reportedly left King Edward VIII on his deathbed for another man - AOL Enterta

Wallis Simpson was born in Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania. An American socialite, she had been married twice when she met Edward, Duke of Windsor (then the Prince of Wales), at a party.

Chapter 9 : The Duchess a.k.a. Wallis Simpson â€™ Jo Ledingham

THE DUCHESS a.k.a. Wallis Simpson is the fabulous, epic and true tale of Wallis Simpson, the notorious, convention-smashing American divorcee for whom Edward VIII gave up the throne in The play follows her through her tumultuous adult life and features such historical figures as Noel Coward, King George V, Queen Mary, Hitler and, of.