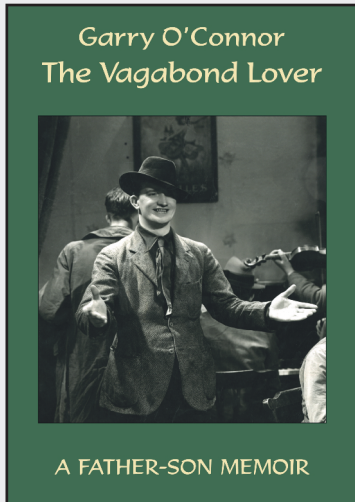


CentreHouse Press

The Vagabond Lover

Advance Information



Title The Vagabond Lover

Retail Price £20 hardback, 296 pages

ISBN 978-1-902086-15-6

Author Garry O'Connor

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Category Autobiography

Who Will Buy This Book? Those with an interest in 'high' and popular culture from early 20th century to present day, with emphasis on theatre

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Distribution

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Cavan O'Connor was born into near destitution in Nottingham in 1899, but quickly rose to become the legendary 'Vagabond of Song'. He was one of the most famous singing legends of his era. He topped Variety bills. He was an adventurer, who cut a swashbuckling figure. In the golden age of radio, his broadcasts reached listening figures of over thirteen million. With his flawless tenor voice his status was as latter-day troubadour, a star of stage imitated by romantics young and old all over the civilised world. But what lay behind the idealised celebrity? Was he a gift from God, or a flawed, vulnerable being like the rest of us? Enter the writer son Garry O'Connor, who answers that question emphatically. In his memoir *The Vagabond Lover*, the father-son dispute unveils without sentimentality the general mess of domestic and family life, of which Cavan was the head. Revealed - in this searing, honest, dark revelation - are the miserable depths the sweet singer of lyrical song plumbed, and remorselessly so. O'Connor *filis* does not spare the reader, refusing to gloss over the traumas and crises of family conflict, as they run in parallel to his own fortunes and vicissitudes. He is dispassionate with the biographical detail, yet impassioned enough to recall one of his own plays, penned in his Cambridge youth, where the father Cavan is reimagined. In fiction as in life he is cast as the pivotal character in a family drama painful in its climaxes. Overarching is a first ever account of those Cambridge years, peopled with familiar icons of twenty-first-century culture. It's a fast-moving, two-pronged probe into the nature of celebrity, arriving at a profound resolution as the author shrugs off the flaws and setbacks packaged as part of the celebrity deal.

'The backstage story of one of Britain's most popular entertainers told by the son who made his own way in a world his father never knew. Cavan O'Connor's boy has written an enthralling family biography, full of gossip, wise insights and fascinating revelations.' **Sir Ian McKellen**

'It is very much more than the son writing about his father. It is, in fact, a kaleidoscopic story of revelations covering the 20th century lifetime, as well as being a kind of detective story that brings us up to date with today in the 21st century.' **John Tydeman**

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