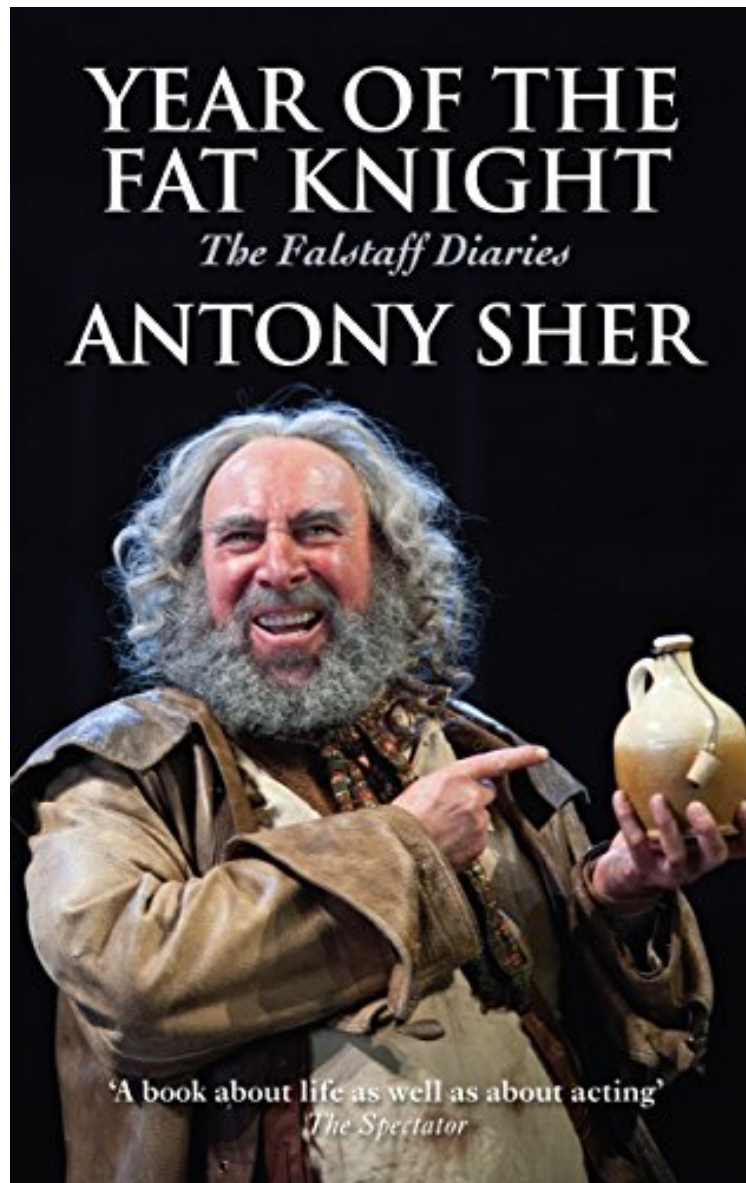


(Ebook pdf) Year of the Fat Knight: The Falstaff Diaries

## Year of the Fat Knight: The Falstaff Diaries

*Antony Sher*

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**Antony Sher : Year of the Fat Knight: The Falstaff Diaries** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Year of the Fat Knight: The Falstaff Diaries:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Marvelous look at an actor and a production...By Jill MeyerMounting a production of a William Shakespeare play must be similar - in a way - to curating an art exhibit at a major museum. Both are put together using many experts in design and education and the best ones - at least to me - focus on a central character or artist, with lots of supporting actors or paintings. In his book, "Year of the Fat Knight:

The Falstaff Diaries", Sir Antony Sher combines writing and art to tell about the 2014 productions of "Henry IV, Part 1" and "Henry IV, Part 2", put on by the Royal Shakespeare Company, in which he played "Falstaff". Tony Sher, the South African-born actor and author, had played many classic characters, but he had never considered - or been considered for - the role of Falstaff. The character was usually played by large actors - usually made even larger by wearing a body suit - and Tony Sher didn't feel he had the body to play this larger-than-life character. However, his civil partner, Gregory Doran, as head of the RSC, was directing the "Henry" plays and wanted Sher to play the character of Falstaff. Sher was starring in the Royal National Theatre's production of "The Captain of Kopenick" in Spring, 2013, and he began to consider the role, talking to other actors and directors about his ability to carry off the role. After much consideration, he decided to take on the challenge. His diary of the next year recounted both the soul-searching about taking the role, and then the details of how he, as an actor, and others, as cast and crew, produced this play. I had never read about the mounting of a theatrical production and I was fascinated by the details involved in getting everything from the scenery, to the costumes, to the historical facts just right. Tony Sher also writes about how HE got into the part of Falstaff. After looking at the character and how others had played him in past productions, Sher decided to portray him as an alcoholic. Sher is a very good writer, but he is also quite talented as an artist. The text is accompanied by drawings of other actors who have played the part of Falstaff in the past, as well as the actors and crew he was currently working with. The book, which is currently only available in e-book form, is absolutely delightful. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amazing. Read it before I saw the tour at ...By Gina Russell Amazing. Read it before I saw the tour at BAM and it made the show that much richer. Love his first book, and this one fits like the musings of a more established and mature artist. 0 of 11 people found the following review helpful. 180deg; Different From The Year of The King. By Sprague Theobald "But enough about me, let's talk about you; what do you think of me."

"Antony Sher's insider journal is a brilliant exploded view of a great actor at work ndash; modest and gifted, self-centred and selfless ndash; a genius capable of transporting us backstage' Craig Raine, The Spectator (Books of the Year) Year of the Fat Knight is Antony Sher's account ndash; splendidly supplemented by his own paintings and sketches ndash; of researching, rehearsing and performing one of Shakespeare's best-known and most popular characters, Sir John Falstaff, in the Royal Shakespeare Company's 2014 production of both parts of Henry IV, directed by Gregory Doran. Both the production and Sher's Falstaff were acclaimed by critics and audiences ndash; with Sher winning the Critics' Circle Award for Best Shakespearean Performance ndash; and the shows transferred from Stratford to London, and then to New York, where Charles Isherwood in the New York Times described Sher's Falstaff as 'one of the greatest performances I've ever seen'. This fascinating book tells us how Sher had initial doubts about playing the part at all, how he sought to reconcile Falstaff's obesity, drunkenness, cowardice and charm, how he wrestled with the fat suit needed to bulk him up, and how he explored the complexities and contradictions of this comic yet often dangerous personality. On the way, he paints a uniquely close-up portrait of the RSC at work. Year of the Fat Knight is a terrific read, rich in humour and with a built-in tension as opening night draws relentlessly nearer. It also stands as a celebration of the craft of character acting. It ranks alongside Year of the King ndash; Sher's seminal account of playing Richard III ndash; as a consummate depiction of the creation of a giant Shakespearean role. 'Antony Sher's insider journal is a brilliant exploded view of a great actor at work mdash; modest and gifted, self-centred and selfless mdash; a genius capable of transporting us backstage' - Craig Raine Spectator (Books of the Year) 'A fascinating book, whether you love Shakespeare, whether you love theatre, even if you don't... unfailingly honest... a brilliant portrayal of a character actor' - Claudia Winkelman BBC Radio 2 Arts Show 'A brilliantly full-bodied account that mixes the practicalities of a performance with artistic ambitions. You learn as much about Sher himself as you do about Falstaff... far more instructive about acting than any number of how-to guides' - WhatsOnStage 'A vivid account... Sher has an artist's eye... filled with ecstasy' - The Times 'Far from simply a primer on the art of acting... [Sher's] tone is relaxed, intimate, even confidential, open about his personal foibles and relationships... a book about life as well as about acting' - The Spectator 'One of the most compelling non-fiction books I've read in a long time... chatty, frank, funny and enlightening... anyone wanting to know exactly how a show is created from beginning to end will find it all here... I enjoyed Sher's earlier book, Year of the King, about his journey to create Richard III, but this is even better' - The Stage"

'A fascinating book, whether you love Shakespeare, whether you love theatre, even if you don't... unfailingly honest... a brilliant portrayal of a character actor' - Claudia Winkelman, The BBC Radio 2 Arts Show 'A brilliantly full-bodied account that mixes the practicalities of a performance with artistic ambitions. You learn as much about Sher himself as you do about Falstaff... far more instructive about acting than any number of how-to guides' - WhatsOnStage 'Far from simply a primer on the art of acting... [Sher's] tone is relaxed, intimate, even confidential, open about his personal foibles and relationships... a book about life as well as about acting' - The Spectator 'One of the most compelling non-fiction books I've read in a long time... chatty, frank, funny and enlightening... anyone wanting to know exactly how a show is created from beginning to end will find it all here... I enjoyed Sher's earlier book, Year of the King, about his

journey to create Richard III, but this is even better' - The Stage 'A joyful outpouring of a man at the top of his game... totally enthralling from start to finish' - Books Monthly About the Author ANTONY SHER was born in South Africa and shot to fame as an actor for the Richard III that provided the subject for his acclaimed book, Year of the King. He has worked extensively in theatre, film and television and has published several novels, a book of his paintings and an autobiography, Beside Myself. His plays are published by Nick Hern Books. He was knighted in 2000.