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## The hobbit goblin king actor

Australian comedian and actor Barry HumphriesAO CBEHumphries in 2001BornJohn Barry Humphries (1934-02-17) February 17, 1934 (age 86)Kew, Melbourne, Victoria, AustraliaNationalityAustralianAlma materUniversity of MelbourneOccupationComedianactorsatirist artist AuthorSpouse(s)Brenda Wright (m. 1955; div. 1957) Rosalind Tong (m. 1959; div. 1970) Diane Millstead (m. 1979; div. 1989) Lizzie Spender (m. 1990) Barn4, including Tessa and OscarComedy careerYears active19 Edna EverageSir Les PattersonSandy Stone John Barry Humphries AO CBE (born February 17, 1934) is an Australian comedian, , actor, satirist, artist and writer. He is best known for writing and playing his alter egos Dame Edna Everage and Sir Les Patterson. He is also a film producer and screenwriter, a star of London's West End musical theatre, an award-winning writer and an accomplished landscape painter. For its delivery of dadaist and absurdist humor to millions, biographer Anne Pender described Humphries in 2010 as not only the most significant theatrical figure of our time ... [but] the most important comedian to appear since Charlie Chaplin. [1] Humphries' characters have brought him international recognition, and he also appeared in a number of stage productions, films and TV shows. Originally conceived as a dowdy Moonsee Ponds housewife who caricatured Australian suburban complacency and insularity, Dame Edna Everage has evolved over four decades to become a satire of stardom - a gaudily dressed, acid-tongued, egomaniacal, internationally fêted Housewife Gigastar. Humphries' other satirical characters include the priapic and drunken cultural attaché Sir Les Patterson, who has continued to bring worldwide discredit on Australian art and culture, while contributing as much to the Australian native language as he has borrowed from it; mild, grandpa returned gentleman Sandy Stone; iconoclastic 1960s underground filmmaker Martin Agrippa; Paddington socialist academic Neil Singleton; sleazy union representative Lance Boyle; high pressure art seller Morrie O'Connor; failed tycoon Owen Steele; and the archetypal Australian guy Barry McKenzie. Early life This part of a biography of a living person needs additional quotes for verification. Please help by adding reliable sources. Controversial material about living persons who are not picked up or poorly sourced must be removed immediately, especially if it is potentially libelous or harmful. In 2009, a conference was held to find out how 100,000 people have been booked in 201 Newspapers - Books - erudite - JSTOR (March 2013) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) Humphries was born in the Melbourne suburb of Kew, Victoria,[2][3] son of Eric Humphries (John Albert Eric Humphries), a construction and his wife Louisa Agnes (Brown). [4] His grandfather was an emigrant to Australia from Manchester, England. His father was wealthy and Barry grew up in a clean, tasteful and modern home on Christowel Street, Camberwell,[3] which was then one of Melbourne's new garden suburbs. His early home life set the pattern for his eventual stage career; His parents bought everything he wanted, but his father spent very little time with him, and Humphries spent hours dressing in the back garden. Hide myself as different characters and I had a whole box of dressing up clothes ... Red Indian, sailor suit, Chinese costume and I was very spoiled in that way ... I also found that entertaining people gave me a good sense of release, which made people laugh was a very good way to befriend them. People couldn't beat you if they laughed. His parents called him Sunny Sam, and his early childhood was happy and uneventful. But in his teens, Humphries began to rebel against the cons cuts in conventional suburban life by becoming artistic, much to the dismay of his parents who, despite their prosperity, distrusted art. An important event took place when he was nine—his mother gave all his books to the Salvation Army, explaining cheerfully, But you've read them, Barry. Humphries responded by becoming a greedy reader, a collector of rare books, a painter, a theater fan and a surrealist. He dressed in a black robe, black homburg and mascaraed eyes, and invented his first persistent character, Dr Aaron Azimuth, agent provocateur, dandy and dadaist. Educated first at Camberwell Grammar School, Humphries has been awarded his place in the Gallery of Achievement there. As his father's construction business flourished, Humphries was sent to Melbourne Grammar School where he spurned sports, de-squealed mathematics, shirked cadets on the basis of conscientious objection and matriculated with brilliant results in English and art. Humphries himself described this schooling, in a Who's Who entry, as self-educated, attended Melbourne Grammar School. Humphries spent two years at the University of Melbourne , where he studied law, philosophy and art. During this time he became Australia's leading exponent of the deconstructive and absurdist art movement, Dada. The dadaistic pranks and performances he mounted in Melbourne were experiments in anarchy and visual satire that have become part of Australian folklore. An exhibition titled Pus in Boots consisted of a pair of Wellington boots filled with custard; a mock pesticide product called Playtox claimed on its box to be effective against playtves, a beloved and protected species in Australia. He was part of a group that made a number of Dada-inspired recordings in Melbourne from 1952 to 1953. Wubbo Music (Humphries has said that wubbo is a the word meaning nothing) is believed to be one of the earliest recordings of experimental music in Australia. Other exhibits include Creche Bang, a stroller covered in meat and eye and spoon race, a spoonful of a sheep's eye. [6] Humphries was legendary for his provocative public pranks. A notorious example involved Humphries dressing like a Frenchman, with an accomplice dressed as a blind person; The accomplice would board a tram, followed shortly after by Humphries. At the right time humphries would force their way past the blind man, shouted Get Out of the Way, your disgusting blind person, kicking him viciously in the leg and then jumping off the tram and making his escape in a waiting car. An even more extreme example was his notoriously sick bag prank. This meant carrying on to a plane a can of Heinz Russian salad, which he would then surreptitiously empty in an air-disease bag. At the right time in the plane, he pretended to throw up loud and violently into the bag. So, to the horror of passengers and crew, he would continue to eat the contents. An April Fools' Day Humphries placed a roast dinner and a glass of champagne in an inner-city trash can. Later in the morning, when there were many businesspeople standing in line in a nearby building, Humphries approached the group like a dirty, dishevelled man. He went to the container, opened the lid and continued to lift the roast and glass of champagne and drink from the glass. Much to the astonishment of those watching, he found a suitable seating area and began to eat the meal. Such stunts were the early manifestations of a lifelong interest in bizarre, unpleasant and subversive. Early career in Australia, Humphries had written and performed songs and sketches in university revues, so after leaving university he joined the newly formed Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC). It was at this point that he created the first incarnation of what became his most famous character, Edna Everage. The first stage sketch with Mrs Norm Everage, called Olympic Hostess, premiered at Melbourne University's Union Theatre on 12 September. In his award-winning autobiography, More Please (1992), Humphries says he had created a character similar to Edna on the back of a bus while touring country Victoria in Twelfth Night with MTC at the age of 20. He credited his then-mentor, Peter O'Shaughnessy, that without his care and promotion, the character of Edna Everage would have been nipped in the bud after 1956 and never come to flower, while the character of Sandy Stone would never have taken shape as a presence on stage. [7] In 1957 Humphries moved to Sydney and joined the Philip Street Revue Theatre in Sydney, which became Australia's leading venue for revue and satirical comedy over the next decade. His first appearance on Phillip Street was in the revyen Two to One, one, veteran Australian musical star Max Oldaker, with a cast including Humphries and future Number 96 star Wendy Blacklock. Although he had originally assumed that Edna's debut in Melbourne would be a one-off match, Humphries decided to revive Olympic Hostess for Phillip Street, and its success helped launch what became a fiftieth career for the self-proclaimed Housewife Superstar (later Megastar, then Gigastar). [8] The next Phillip Street revue was Around the Loop, which in turn teamed up with Oldaker, Gordon Chater, Blacklock and Humphries, plus newcomer June Salter. Humphries revived the Edna character (for what he said would be the last time) and the revue proved to be a huge hit, playing eight shows a week for 14 months. During this period Humphries lived near Bondi, and while walking one day he had a chance encounter with an older man who had a loud, scratched voice and a pedantic way of speaking; This encounter inspired the creation of another of Humphrie's most enduring characters, Sandy Stone. [9] In September 1957 Humphries appeared as Estragon in Waiting for Godot, in Australia's first production of the Samuel Beckett play at the Arrow Theatre in Melbourne directed by Peter O'Shaughnessy, who played Vladimir. [10] In 1958 Humphries and O'Shaughnessy collaborated on and performed in Rock'n'Reel Revue at the New Theatre in Melbourne, where Humphries brought the characters of Mrs Everage and Sandy Stone into the psyche of Melbourne audiences. [11] The same year Humphries made his first commercial recording, EP Wild Life in Suburbia, which featured liner notes by his friend, modernist architect and author Robin Boyd. London and the 1960s In 1959 Humphries moved to London, where he lived and worked through the 1960s. He became a friend of leading members of the British comedy scene, including Dudley Moore, Peter Cook, Alan Bennett, Jonathan Miller, Spike Milligan, Willie Rushton and fellow Australian foreign comedian-actors John Bluthal and Dick Bentley. Humphries appeared at Cook's comedy site The Establishment, where he became a friend of and was photographed by leading photographer Lewis Morley, whose studio was above the club. He contributed to the satirical magazine Private Eye, of which Cook was the publisher, whose most famous work was the comic strip The Wonderful World of Barry McKenzie. The obscene cartoon satire of the worst aspects of Australians abroad was written by Humphries and drawn by New Zealand born cartoonist Nicholas Garland. The book version of the comic, published in the late 1960s, was banned in Australia for some time. Humphries appeared in a number of West End stage productions, including the musicals Oliver! and Maggie May, by Lionel Bart, and in stage and radio productions by his friend Spike Milligan. At one point he was invited to play the lead role of Captain Martin Rooms that had already opened successfully at the Mermaid Theatre and were transferred to the West End. Humphries appeared with Milligan in the 1968 production of Treasure Island as Long John Silver. [12] He described working with Milligan as one of the strangest and most exciting experiences of my career. In 1961, when Humphries was in Cornwall with his wife, he fell over a cliff near Zennor and landed on a ledge 50 metres below and broke bones. The rescue by helicopter was filmed by a news crew from ITN. The footage of the rescue was shown to Humphries for the first time on a 2006 BBC show, Turn Back Time. Humphries' first major breakthrough on the British stage came when he was cast as the funeral home Mr. Sowerberry for the original 1960s London stage production of Oliver! He recorded Sowerberry's That's Your Funeral for the original London album (released on Decca Records) and reprised the role when the production moved to Broadway in 1963. However, the song That's Your Funeral was omitted from RCA Victor's original Broadway album, so Humphries isn't heard at all on it. In 1967 he starred as Fagin in the Piccadilly Theatre's revival of Oliver! which featured a young Phil Collins as artful dodger. In 1997, Humphries reprised his role as Fagin in Cameron Mackintosh's award-winning revival at the London Palladium. In 1967, his friendship with Cook and Moore led to his first film role, a cameo as Envy in the hit film Bedazzled with Cook and Moore starring Eleanor Bron and directed by Stanley Donen. The following year he appeared in The Bliss of Mrs. Blossom with Shirley MacLaine. Humphries contributed to BBC Television's The Late Show (1966-67), but Humphries found his true calling with his one-man satirical staggers, where he appeared as Edna Everage and other character creations, including Les Patterson and Sandy Stone. A Nice Night's Entertainment (1962) was the first revue. It and Excuse I: Another Nice Night's Entertainment (1965) was performed only in Australia. In 1968 Humphries returned to Australia to tour his one-man revue Just a Show; This production was transferred to London's Fortune Theatre in 1969. Humphries gained considerable notoriety with Just a Show. It polarised British critics, but was successful enough to lead to a short-lived BBC TV series, The Barry Humphries Scandals, one of the prequels to the Monty Python series. 1970s In 1970 Humphries returned to Australia, where Edna Everage made her film debut in John B. Murray's The Naked Bunyip. From 1971 to 1972, he teamed up with producer Phillip Adams and writer-director Bruce Beresford to create a film version of the Barry McKenzie comics. The Adventures of Barry McKenzie played singer Barry Crocker in the title role and featured Humphries - who co-wrote the script with Beresford - who starred different parts. It was filmed in England and Australia with an all-star cast including Spike Milligan, Peter Cook, Dennis Price, Dick Bentley, Willie Rushton, Julie Covington, Clive James and broadcaster Joan Bakewell. Like several other films from that era that have since been categorized as belonging to the Ocker genre of Australian film, it was almost unanimously panned by Australian film critics, but became a huge hit with audiences. In fact, the film was the most successful locally made feature ever released in Australia until that time, paving the way for the success of subsequent locally made feature films such as Alvin Purple and Picnic at Hanging Rock. Another artistic production that was conducted at the time was a collaboration between Humphries and the Australian composer Nigel Butterley in 1972. Together they produced First Day Covers, a collection of poems about the suburb – read in performance by Edna Everage – with accompanying music by Butterley. [14] It included poems with titles such as Histoire du Lamington and Moreau en form de 'meat pie' [15] Film roles Since the late 1960s, Humphries has appeared in a number of films, mostly in supporting roles or cameo roles. His credits include the British sex comedy Percy's Progress (1974), David Baker's The Great Macarthy (1975) and Bruce Beresford's Barry McKenzie Holds His Own (1974) in which Edna was made lady by Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam. Other film credits include Side by Side (1975) and The Getting of Wisdom (1977). That same year, he had a cameo as Edna in the Robert Stigwood musical film Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (which gained notoriety as one of the biggest movie flop of the decade), followed by his role as fake television presenter Bert Schnick in Shock Treatment, the sequel to The Rocky Horror Picture Show. He was more successful with his role as Richard Deane in Dr. Fischer of Geneva (1985); This was followed by Howling III (1987), a cameo as Rupert Murdoch in the miniseries Selling Hitler (1991) starring Alexei Sayle, A three-role cameo in Philippe Mora's horror satire Pterodactyl Woman from Beverly Hills (1995), the role of Count Metternich in Immortal Beloved (1994), as well as roles in The Leading Man (1998), spice girl's film Spice World, the Australian feature Welcome to Woop Woop (1997), and Nicholas Nickleby (2002), where he donned female garb to play Nathan Lane's wife. Humphries has starred in various roles in comedy films such as The Secret Policeman's Other Ball (1982) and A Night of Comic Relief 2 (1989). In 1987 he played the role of Les Patterson in one of his own rare flops, the disastrous Les Patterson Saves the World, directed by George T. Miller of Man From Snowy fame and co-written by Humphries with his third wife, Diane Millstead. In 2003, Humphries told the shark Bruce in the Pixar animated film Nemo, using an exaggerated baritone Australian accent. In 2011, Humphries traveled to New Zealand to perform the role of Goblin King in the first instalment of Peter Jackson's three-part adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit. The first film was released in December 2012, with the other two parts due in December 2013 and December 2014. I always thought that catching was something you did when you took a copy of the doctor. [17] In 2015, Humphries played the role of Wombo the Wombat in Blinky Bill the Movie. In 2016, he appeared in a double role in Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie as Charlie, a wealthy former lover of Patsy Stone and in a non-talking cameo as Dame Edna. One-man shows Humphries' forte has always been his one-man satirical scene revues, in which he acts as Edna Everage and other character creations, most often Les Patterson and Sandy Stone. The remarkable longevity he has had with Dame Edna has endured for more than sixty years, but in 2012 he announced his retirement from live performance. Humphries' one-man show, which is usually two and a half hours long, alternate satirical monologues and musical numbers and consists of completely original material, filled with ad-libbing, improvisation and audience participation segments. Humphries performs mostly solo, but he occasionally joins the stage by supporting dancers and accompanists during the musical numbers. Only one actress shared the stage regularly with Humphries, and this was during the Edna segments: English actress Emily Perry played Edna's longtime bridesmaid from New Zealand, Madge Allsop, whose character never spoke. Humphries has presented many successful shows in London, most of which later toured internationally. Although he eventually gained worldwide popularity, he faced stiff resistance in the early years of his career: his first London one-man show, A Nice Night's Entertainment (1962), received sharp reviews, and it was several years before he made another attempt. He gained notoriety with his next one-man revue, Just a Show, staged at London's Fortune Theatre in 1969. It polarised the critics, however, was a hit with the public and became the basis for a growing cult following in the UK. He built on this with his early 70s shows, including A Load of Oldie Stuffe (1971) and At least You Can Say You've Seen It (1974-75). He eventually broke through to widespread critical and audience recognition in the UK with his 1976 London production Housewife, Superstar! at the Apollo Theatre. The success in the UK and Australia led to to try his luck with the show in New York in 1977 at the off-Broadway Theatre Four (now called Julia Miles Theatre), but it proved to be a disastrous repeat of his experience with Just a Show. Humphries later summed up his negative reception by saying: When The New York Times asks you to close, you close. His next show was Isn't It Pathetic at His Age (1978), and, like many of his shows, the title comes from the sarcastic remarks his mother often made when she took Humphries to the theatre to see superannuated foreign actors touring Australia during her youth. His subsequent one-man show includes: A Night with Dame Edna (1979), for which he won an Olivier Award for best comedy performance An Evening's Intercourse with Dame Edna (1982) Three seasons of Back with a Vengeance (1988-1988, 2005–2007) Look at me When I Talk To You (1996) Edna, The Spectacle (1998) at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, where he kept the record as the only solo artist to lift the theatre (since it opened in 1663). Remember you're Out who toured Australia in 1999 Back with a vengeance that toured Australia in the 2007 Dame Edna Live: The First Last Tour toured the United States in 2009 He has made a number of theatre tours in Germany, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, and in the Far and Middle East. In 2003, he toured Australia, with his show Getting Back to My Roots (and Other Suckers). Farewell tour In March 2012, Humphries announced his retirement from live entertainment,[18] saying he was starting to feel a little senior and planning to retire from show business. Humphries announced his Australian Farewell Tour, titled Eat, Pray, Laugh!, to begin in Canberra on 22 May. [21] The tour was widely praised. Dan Illic of Time Out Sydney stated that Humphries delivered a show that almost feels like a blue print for the foundation of the last fifty years of Australian comedy. [22] Helen Musa of CityNews gave a similarly positive review, referring to humphries being as virile, as vulgar and as wonderful as ever thanks to a well-researched script. [23] The arts blog Critter Away referred to Humphries' characters as still fresh and a testament to laugh-out-loud satire. [24] The same show opened in the UK at the Milton Keynes Theatre in October 2013 before a season of shows at the London Palladium and a national tour. Weimar Cabaret Humphries emceed a program of Weimar Republic cabaret songs performed by chanteuse Meow Meow and accompanied by the Australian Chamber Orchestra in July-August 2016[25] and then by the Aurora Orchestra in July 2018. contains wording that promotes the subject in a subjective way without conveying real information. Please remove or replace such wording and instead of making proclamations about a topic's meaning, use facts and attribution to show this meaning. In 2019, there were 100,000 people booked on this 3- (Learn How and When to Remove This Template Message) Dame Edna Everage is one of the most enduring Australian comic book characters of all time, and one of the longest-living comic characters. Originally conceived in 1956, EDNA has long surpassed its modest origins as a satire of Australian suburbia to become one of the most successful, most famous and most beloved comedy characters of all time. She has grown over the years to become, in the words of journalist Caroline Overington: ... a perfect parody of a modern, vainglorious celebrity with a lush ego and a strong aversion to the audience (which celebrities pretend to love, but in fact, as Edna so boldly makes transparent, they actually loathe for their cheap shoes and suburban values) - The Sydney Morning Herald. [full quote required] Like her ever-present bundles of gladioli, one of the most popular and distinctive features of Edna's stage and TV appearances has been her extravagant wardrobe, with gaudy, bespoke dresses that satirically surpass the most outrageous creations of Hollywood showbiz designers like Bob Mackie. Her costumes, most of which were created for her by Australian designer Bill Goodwin, routinely incorporate Aussie kitsch icons such as the flag, Australian native animals and flowers, the Sydney Opera House and the boxing kangaroo. She is also known for her outlandish glasses. Barry Humphries has claimed they were inspired by the designs worn by Melbourne eccentric, beautician, radio broadcaster, actress and dancer Stephanie Deste; many other aspects of Dame Edna's personality. [28] [28] [29] [30] As the character progressed, Edna's invisible family became an integral part of satire, especially travails of her invalid husband Norm, who suffered from an almost lifelong attack of an unspecified prostate disease. Her daughter Valmai and her gay-hairdresser son Kenny became inherent elements of the action, as did her long-suffering best friend and New Zealand bridesmaid, Madge Allsop. Throughout Edna's career, Madge Allsop was played by English actress Emily Perry until his death in 2008. Perry has the honor of being the only other actor ever to perform on stage with Humphries in his stage shows, as well as making regular appearances on Dame Edna's TV shows. Dame Edna is known as one of the few satirical characters to make a successful transition from stage to TV without losing popularity in any of the genres. The talk show format provided a perfect outlet for Humphries' rape virtue and his legendary ability to ad-lib, and it is possible for Edna to draw on a wide wide grateful pool of fans among other actors and comedians, with scores of top-ranking stars in line to be lampooned on her show. Like other Australian actors have begun to make a broader impression in international film and television, Edna has not hesitated to reveal that it was her mentorship that helped kiddies like little Nicole Kidman achieve her early success. Sir Les Patterson Humphries' character Sir Les Patterson is a boozy Australian cultural attaché: dishevelled, uncouth, lecherous and rough. He alternates with Edna and Sandy Stone in Humphries' stage show and usually features in pre-recorded segments in Dame Edna's TV shows. He is the polar opposite of Dame Edna; she is a culturally ambitious Protestant from Melbourne and he is a culture-free Catholic from Sydney. Sandy Stone Humphries' character, Sandy Stone, is an older Australian man, either single or married with a daughter who died as a child. Humphries said in 2016 that the slow character has gotten deeper, so I'm starting to understand and appreciate him, and eventually feel like myself becoming him. He no longer needs makeup for the role, playing Sandy in his own dress. The tv roles Humphries' numerous TV appearances in Australia, the UK and the US include The Bunyip, a children's comedy for the Seven Network in Melbourne. In the UK, he made two very successful series of his comedy talk show The Dame Edna Experience for London Weekend Television. The series featured a phalanx of superstar guests such as Liza Minnelli, Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Charlton Heston and Jane Seymour. These hugely popular programs have since been repeated all over the world, and the special A Night on Mount Edna won humphries the golden rose in Montreux in 1991. He wrote and starred in ABC-TV's The Life and Death of Sandy Stone (1991), and presented ABC social history series Barry Humphries' Flashbacks (1999). His other TV shows and one-off offerings include Dame Edna's Neighbourhood Watch (1992), Dame Edna's Work Experience (1996), Dame Edna Kisses It Better (1997) and Dame Edna's Hollywood (1991-92), a series of three chat show specials filmed in the US for NBC and the Fox network. Like The Dame Edna Experience, these included a number of top celebrity guests such as Burt Reynolds, Cher, Bea Arthur, Kim Basinger and Barry Manilow. Edna's most recent TV special was Dame Edna Live at the Palace in 2003. He starred in the Kath &amp; Kim television film Da Kath &amp; Kim Code at the end of 2005. In 1977, Dame Edna starred in the American sketch comedy and variety show Saturday Night Live. In 2007 Humphries returned to Britain's ITV to host another comedy chat show called The Dame Edna Treatment, a similar format to The Dame Edna Experience from 20 years earlier. The series again boasted a collection of top celebrity guests such as Tim Allen, Mischa Barton, Weaver, Debbie Harry and Shirley Bassey. In March 2008, Humphries joined the judging panel on BBC talent show I'd Do Anything to find an unknown clue to playing the role of Nancy in a West End revival of the musical Oliver!. In May 2013, Australia's ABC Network announced humphries would join Australian television show Jack Irish, who played a high-profile judge in the third film in the series. [32] He appeared as Justice Loder in the 2014 Dead Point episode. [33] Success in the U.S. Humphries in Toronto, Canada, during the Dame Edna: The Royal Tour North American tour, December 2000 In 2000, Humphries took her Dame Edna: The Royal Tour show to North America and won the first Special Tony Award for a Live Theatrical Event in 2000 and won two National Broadway Theatre Awards for Best Play and for Best Actor in 2001. Asked by an Australian journalist what it was like to win a Tony Award, he said it was like winning a thousand Gold Logies at the same time. Dame Edna's new success in America led to many media opportunities, including a semi-regular role in the popular TV series Ally McBeal. Vanity Fair magazine invited Dame Edna to write a satirical advice column in 2003, but after an outcry after a remark about learning Spanish, the column was discontinued. Personal life Humphries has been married four times. His first marriage, to Brenda Wright, took place when he was 21 and lasted less than two years. He has two daughters, Tessa and Emily, and two sons, Oscar and Rupert, from his second and third marriages, to Rosalind Tong and Diane Millstead, respectively. His eldest son[34] Oscar was editor of the art magazine Apollo[35][36] and a contributing editor of The Spectator. [37] He is now an art curator. His fourth wife (from 1990), Lizzie Spender, is the daughter of British poet Sir Stephen Spender. They live in a terraced house in West Hampstead, his home for forty years. In the 1960s, throughout his stay in London, Humphries became increasingly addicted to alcohol, and in the last years of the decade his friends and family began to fear that his addiction could cost him his career or even his life. His status as a dissolute, guilt-ridden, self-pitying boozier was undoubtedly one of the main reasons for the failure of his first marriage and was a contributing factor to the collapse of the second. Humphries' alcoholism reached a crisis point during a visit to Australia in the early 1970s. His parents eventually had him admitted to a private hospital to dry out when, after a particularly heavy binge, he was found beaten and unconscious in a gutter. [39] Since then, he has refrained from alcohol altogether and still regularly attends alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings. He was one of the many friends who tried in vain to help Peter Cook, who himself eventually died of alcohol-related Humphries was a good friend of the English poet John Betjeman until Betjeman's death in 1984. Their friendship began in 1960 after Betjeman, while visiting Australia, heard some of Humphries' early recordings and wrote very favourably about them in an Australian newspaper. Their friendship was based in part on a number of common interests, including Victorian architecture, Cornwall and the music hall. Humphries appears in the 2013 documentary Chalky about his longtime friend and colleague Michael White, who produced many of Humphries' first Dame Edna shows in the UK. [40] Other famous friends of Humphries include Australian painter Arthur Boyd,[42] the writer and former politician Jeffrey Archer, whom Humphries visited during Archer's stay in prison,[43] and Irish comedian Spike Milligan. Humphries has spent much of his life in the midst of music, literature and art. A self-proclaimed bibliomaniac, his house in West Hampstead, London reportedly contains around 25,000 books, many of them first editions of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some of the more incomprehensible and rare objects in this collection include the phone book of Oscar Wilde, Memoirs of a Public Baby by Philip O'Connor, a signed copy of humdum by Harold Acton, the complete works of Wilfred Childe and several volumes of the surreal poetry of Herbert Read before the war. [38] He is a prominent art collector who, as a result of his three divorces, has bought many of his favorite paintings four times. He once had the largest private collection of the paintings of Charles Conder in the world[46] and he is a great lover of the Flemish symbolist Jan Frans De Boever, enjoying his role as 'President of Life' by the Boever Society. [47] He is himself a landscape painter and his pictures are in private and public collections both in his home country and abroad. Humphries has also been the subject of numerous portraits of artist friends, including Clifton Pugh (1958, National Portrait Gallery[48]) and John Brack (in the character Edna Everage, 1969, Art Gallery of New South Wales[49]). He is a lover of avant-garde music and a patron of, among others, the French composer Jean-Michel Damase and the Melba Foundation in Australia. Humphries is a patron and active supporter of the Taft Memorial Trust in London, a charity to support young Australian performing artists in the UK. Humphries was on the BBC's Desert Island Discs radio show in 2009, he made the following choice: Mir ist die Ehre widerfahren from Strauss' Der Rosenkavalier; Gershwin's Things are Looking Up sung by Fred Astaire; Love Song composed by Josef Suk; On Mother Kelly's Doorstep sung by Randolph Suttou; Der Leiermann from Schubert's Winterreise song cycle; the second movement of Poulencs fluteconcert; Mischa Spoliansky's Auf Wiedersehen; and you are not long crying and laughter from Delliús' Songs of Sunset. [52] The cultural historian Tony Moore, author of The Barry McKenzie Movies, writes of Humphries's personal politics as follows: A conservative contradiction while many of his generation moved to the left, Humphries nevertheless retained a bohemian joy at transgression that makes him radical. [53] Other works Bibliography Humphries is the author of many books, including two autobiographies, two novels and a thesis on Chinese drama in the gold fields. He has written several plays and has made dozens of recordings. His first autobiography More Please won the J.R. Ackерley Award for autobiography in 1993. Bizarre. Collection. In 1995 he was discharged by Elek Books. Barry Humphries Book by Innocent Austral Vse. Anthology. Melbourne: Sun Books. 1968. Bazza pulls it off: More adventures by Barry McKenzie. In 1971 he was hired as 10-000 in 1971. Barry MacKenzie's amazing world. With Nicholas Garland; a cartoon. London: Private Eye/Andre Deutsch, 1971. Barry McKenzie has his own. Photoplay, with Bruce Beresford. Melbourne: Sun Books. 1974. Dame Edna's coffee table book: A guide to gracious life and the finer things in the life of one of the first ladies in the world theatre. Collection. In 1976 he was written by 100,000 books. Les Patterson is Australia. 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Ackerley-prisen for selvbiografi for mer, vennligst 1994: Æresdoktorgrad ved Griffith University 1997: Sir Peter Ustinov Award for Comedy presentert på Banff World Television Festival 1997: Honoured Artists Award, Melbourne City Council 1999: British Comedy Awards – Lifetime Achievement Award 2000: Special Tony Award for et live teaterarrangement på 55th Annual Tony Awards for Dame Edna : Den kongelige touren 2000 : Special Achievement Award av Circle for The Royal Tour 2000: Best Play from the National Broadway Theatre Awards for The Royal Tour 2003: Honorary Doctorate of His Alma Mater, University of Melbourne 2007: JC Williamson Award for his life's work in the Australian live performance industry. [55] 2011: Oldie of the Year for his wonderfully divisive personality that has entertained us for so many years[56] 2013: Britain-Australia Society Award for contribution to the relationship between the UK and Australia 2014: Aardman Slapstick Comedy Legend Award – lifetime achievement award. 2016: Honorary doctorate at the University of South Australia. 2017: Honorary member of King's College London. Humphries has been nominated four times for a British Academy Television Award (BAFTA TV), all in the Best Light Entertainment Performance: 1981: An Audience with Dame Edna Everage[57] 1987: The Dame Edna Experience 1988: One More Audience with Dame Edna 1990: The Dame Edna Experience He has received national awards in Australia and the UK 1990: The Dame Edna Experience He has received national awards in Australia and the UK 1990 982: Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for services to the theatre (Queen's Birthday Honours, Australian List)[58] 2001: Centenary Medal for service to The Australian community through acting and writing[59] 2007: Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to entertainment (Queen's Birthday Honours, UK List) Eponymous Awards Barry Award (1998) References ^ Absurd moments: in the frocks of the lady by Steve Meacham , Brisbane Times (September 15, 2010) ^ Barry Humphries Biography (1934–). filmreference.com ^ a b Return of a passionate pilgrim by Barry Humphries, The Age (October 7, 2005) ^ dead link] ^ Coleman, Peter (1990). 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