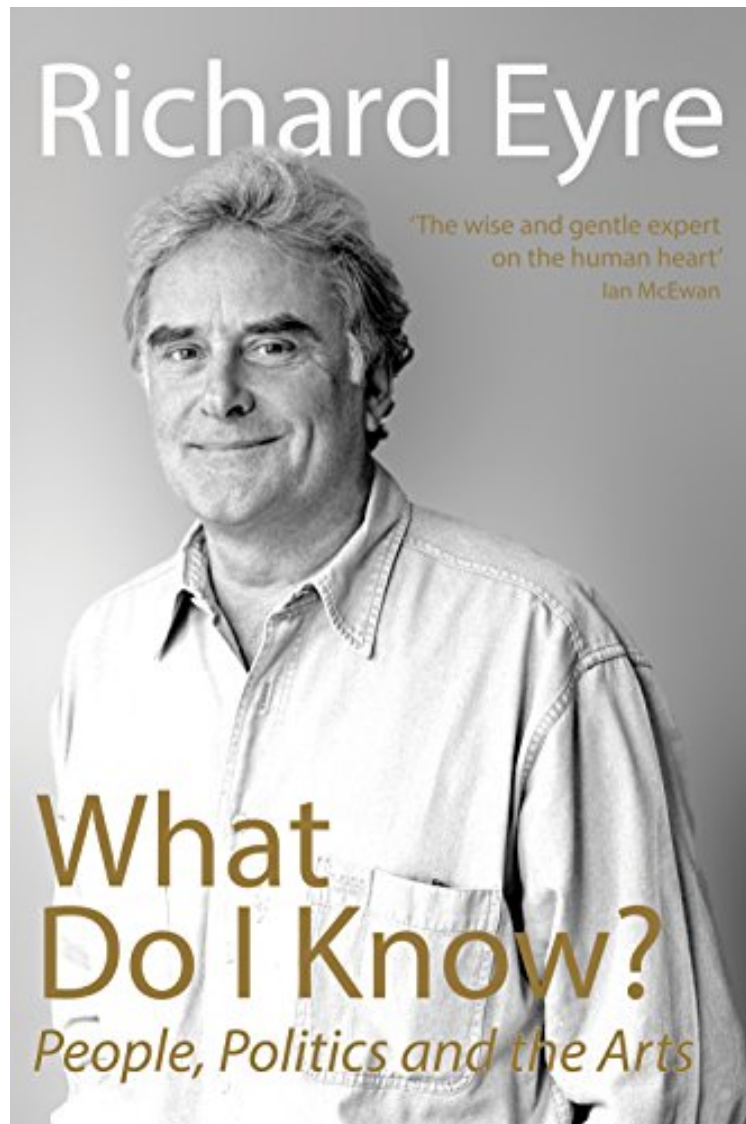


What Do I Know?: People, Politi and the Arts

Richard Eyre

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Richard Eyre : What Do I Know?: People, Politi and the Arts before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Do I Know?: People, Politi and the Arts:

Since his successful spell running the National Theatre, Richard Eyre's career as a director of film, theatre and opera has made him a leading cultural figure and a hugely respected commentator on the arts. This book collects over fifty short pieces written by Eyre about people he has known and worked with, ideas he has struggled with, things that have moved, delighted or infuriated him. He writes with candour, perceptiveness and charm, and always with an eye for the

telling anecdote or the revealing detail that betrays the inner life of his subject. Here we encounter Arthur Miller recounting to Eyre the events of the first night of *Death of a Salesman*; Harold Pinter overheard in a characteristically pugnacious exchange; Judi Dench racing clockwork chicks across a table, her face 'illuminated by demented glee'. Here too are Alan Bennett, Kate Winslet, Margaret Thatcher, John Mortimer and Marlon Brando, each of them brought vividly and unforgettably to life in the space of a few hundred words. Eyre also includes pieces about the monarchy, about the Iraq War, about Alzheimer's Disease (from which his mother suffered), about his love of climbing (from the comparative safety of his armchair), and about the relationship between music and sexuality. *What Do I Know?* is a book that tackles serious ideas with a light and often mischievous touch, and it confirms Eyre's place as one of our foremost writers and cultural statesmen.

'highly intelligent and thought-provoking... gets right to the heart of what it means to be an actor... spectacular and highly entertaining... something for every theatre addict to enjoy' - *British Theatre Guide* 'entertaining and informative... [Eyre] writes wittily and compellingly' - *The Stage* 'a superb collection - definitive, gorgeously written and devastatingly acute - a lifetime in the arts, and the institutions that matter, has rarely been so valuable, revealing or funny' - Michael Coveney, *WhatsOnStageAbout the Author* Richard Eyre was the Artistic Director of the National Theatre from 1988 to 1997. His films include *Notes from A Scandal* and *Iris* and his recent West End and Broadway productions include *Mary Poppins*, *Ghosts* and *The Pajama Game*. His book *Talking Theatre* is an NHB bestselling-title.