

The Footlights Fore and Aft: A Rich History of Cambridge Comedy

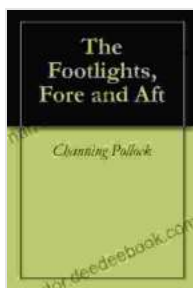


The Footlights is a prestigious comedy club at the University of Cambridge in England. Known for its long and illustrious history, it has produced some of the most famous comedians, actors, and writers in the world. This article will explore the history of the Footlights, its famous alumni, and its impact on British comedy.

The Early Years

The Footlights was founded in 1883 as a dining club for undergraduates at Cambridge University. The club's name is derived from the term "footlights," which refers to the row of lights placed at the front of a stage. In the early years, the Footlights was primarily a social club, but it soon began to organize theatrical productions. These productions were initially performed

in the club's own rooms, but they later moved to larger venues, such as the Cambridge Arts Theatre.



The Footlights, Fore and Aft by John Chapman

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4 out of 5

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The Rise of the Footlights

In the early 20th century, the Footlights began to gain a reputation for producing high-quality comedy. The club's productions became increasingly popular, and they began to attract attention from outside Cambridge. In 1921, the Footlights performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the first time, and they quickly became a regular fixture at the festival.

The Footlights also began to produce a number of successful radio and television shows. In 1951, the club launched the long-running radio show "I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again," which featured many of the club's most famous alumni. In 1965, the Footlights launched the television show "Monty Python's Flying Circus," which became one of the most popular and influential comedy shows of all time.

Famous Alumni

The Footlights has produced a long list of famous alumni, including:

* Graham Chapman * John Cleese * Eric Idle * Terry Jones * Michael Palin
* Terry Gilliam * Rowan Atkinson * Hugh Laurie * Stephen Fry * Emma
Thompson * Sacha Baron Cohen * David Mitchell * Robert Webb * Olivia
Colman * Phoebe Waller-Bridge

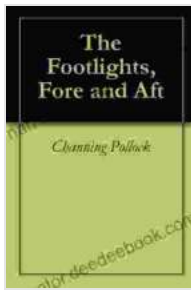
These alumni have gone on to achieve great success in comedy, acting, writing, and other fields. They have helped to shape the landscape of British comedy and have brought joy to millions of people around the world.

The Footlights Today

The Footlights continues to be a thriving comedy club at Cambridge University. The club produces a number of shows each year, and it regularly tours the United Kingdom and abroad. The Footlights also continues to produce a number of successful radio and television shows.

The club is open to all Cambridge University students, and it is a great way to meet new people, make friends, and learn about comedy. The Footlights is a unique and special place, and it has played a major role in the development of British comedy.

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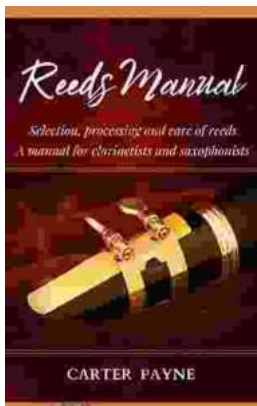
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