

Jonathan Miller

Theater & Opera Director • Physician • Author

fully accredited physician and neuropsychologist, a prolific author and lecturer..." wrote *The New York Times*, "[Jonathan Miller] knows more than a little about everything. He combines qualities that shouldn't be contained in one person: he is both a performer and a thinker."

A legendary theater and opera director, Miller first gained international prominence with *Beyond the Fringe*, the 1960 play (written and performed with Peter Cook, Dudley Moore and Alan Bennett) that redefined the boundaries of comedy — launching a lunatic legacy that has stretched from *Monty Python* to *Saturday Night Live*.

 $\hbox{``Truly extraordinary}... magical."$ 

University of Texas

Since then, he has enjoyed one of the most stellar careers in modern theater. When audience members attend a performance directed by Miller — from Bach's St.

Matthew's Passion or *Rigoletto to* Eugene
O'Neil's *Long Day's Journey into Night* — they witness something they've never seen before: Miller's unique ability to "dislocate things slightly so that people look at a work anew."

In his lectures, Miller is a dazzling intellectual mind at play. Whatever the subject at hand, from his theory of the "After-Life of Plays" to "Bedside Manners," his humor, wit and charm shine through.

For colleges and universities interested in an extended visit, Dr. Miller will accept an occasional one or two-week residency. His multidisciplinary expertise (in drama, "Miller's residency captured the imagination of hundreds of people....a defining moment in the life of the University."

Vanderbilt University

music, medicine, neuroscience, psychology, film, photography and the visual arts) has made these residencies very popular.

He has directed countless plays (including his critically-acclaimed 2002 production of Shakespeare's *King Lear*) and over 50 operas at some of the world's most distinguished venues, including the Metropolitan Opera and La Scala. In recent years, he has staged "revelatory" reproductions of *The Mikado*, *Pelleas et Melisande* and *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Miller has written and presented several major series for the BBC and PBS, including *States of Mind* and *The Question of Language*. He has produced and directed 11 plays for the BBC's prestigious Shakespeare series, which aired in the U.S. In 2002 he was proclaimed Knight Bachelor in Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee Birthday Honours List.

His books include *The Human Body, The Facts of Life, Nowhere in Particular,*Subsequent Performances and *The Body in Question,* based on his landmark, 13-part TV series on the history of medicine.

Miller is available for a special four-part museum presentation, "From the Look of Things," which he presented at the National Gallery in London and the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Yale University Press published *On Reflection*, a book based on these lectures.

SUGGESTED TOPICS

The After-Life of Plays

Bedside Manners: Medicine & the Public

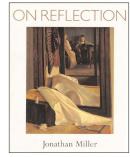
An Evening with Jonathan Miller

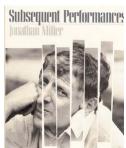
Films & the Imagination

Glimmers and Glances

Laughing Matters: Humor & Comedy

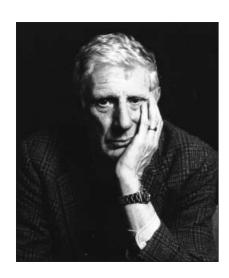
Special Projects:
Available for Residencies,
Master Classes and Seminars.





## Biography

# Jonathan Miller Theater & Opera Director Physician • Author



Jonathan Miller's career has covered many different fields: author; lecturer; television producer and presenter; theatre; film and opera director.

Born in London, the son of a distinguished child psychiatrist, he was educated at St. Paul's School, read natural sciences at St. John's College, Cambridge and qualified as a doctor of medicine in 1959.

Whilst at university, Jonathan Miller appeared as a member of the Cambridge Footlights and subsequently accepted an invitation to co-author and appear in *Beyond the Fringe* with Alan Bennett, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore. This now legendary satirical review opened at the Edinburgh Festival in 1960 and later transferred to London and New York.

Thereafter, Jonathan Miller's career has been inextricably linked with the stage and with many memorable productions - *The Merchant of Venice* with Sir Lawrence Olivier and Joan Plowright, *The Taming of the Shrew* (RSC), *The Seagull* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *A Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Haymarket Theatre), and *The Emperor* (Royal Court). Between January 1988 and October 1990, Dr. Miller was Artistic Director of the Old Vic and his most recent production in London was *A Midsummer' Night's Dream* for the Almeida Theatre.

Jonathan Miller's involvement in the world of opera began when he was invited to direct the British premiere in 1974 of Arden Must Die by Alexander Goehr. He spent several seasons working closely with Kent Opera, and subsequently with English National Opera for whom he has directed some of his most enduring successes - *The Mikado, Rigoletto, The Marriage of Figaro, The Turn of the Screw, Der Rosenkavalier* and *Carmen*.

He has also worked at many of the world's leading opera houses - the Maggio Musicale, Florence; La Scala, Milan; Metropolitan Opera, New York; Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin; Bayerische Staatsoper; Vienna Staatsoper; Salzburg Festival and at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden where he directed *Cosi fan Tutti* with costumes by Giorgio Armani.

For over 30 years, Jonathan Miller has contributed prolifically to the BBC and independent television. His 1966 film of *Alice in Wonderland* is regarded as being one of his greatest successes. Between 1980 - 1982 he produced and directed 11 plays for the BBC's prestigious Shakespeare series, in 1984 *The* 

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## (continued) Biography

#### Jonathan Miller

Beggar's Opera and in 1985, Cosi fan Tutti. His semi-staged performance of Bach's at St. Matthew Passion, which was given in London in 1983, was also filmed for BBC2.

Television has allowed Dr. Miller to explore aspects of his first career as doctor and neurologist. He has written and presented several major series such as *The Body in Question, States of Mind, Who Cares, Born Talking, Museums of Madness, Anthropology.* His most recent series however returned to the world of opera - *Opera Works*.

Jonathan Miller is a frequent lecturer on a wide variety of subjects. In 1994 he gave a series of lectures at the National Gallery entitled "From the Look of Things" which he subsequently delivered at the Metropolitan Museum in New York and which he will re-work for the Arts Institute of Chicago in April 1999.

In September 1998, Jonathan Miller curated a major exhibition at the National Gallery, London entitled "Mirror Image" which explores the pictorial representation of reflection.

In 1996, Jonathan Miller was awarded the honorary title Doctor of Letters by Cambridge University. In 1997 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London and in 1998 he was admitted as a Fellow of The Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh. He is also a Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

## Lecture Topics

Jonathan Miller

The After-Life of Plays

**Bedside Manners:** 

Medicine & the Public

Films & the Imagination

Laughing Matters:

**Humor & Comedy** 

An Evening with Jonathan Miller

**Special Programs:** 

Available for Residencies, Master Classes and Seminars.

04.01.03

## On Vision & Visibility

A special 4 part lecture series by Jonathan Miller on the relationship between the way things look and their rendering in art: How do we "read" movement in still pictures? Why do mirrors look shiny and how do artists reproduce this sheen? How do gazes and glances figure in pictures? What do we mean when we speak of the mind's eye?

#### **Looking In Pictures:**

We look at pictures, but looking is also one of the subjects represented in pictures. How do we read the represented gaze?

## **Surface Appearances:**

Why can we look into mirrors and never at them? What is "gleam" and how do artists render transparency?

## Looking Lively:

What's the difference between the lively impression of movement in a painting and the illusion of movement in films? Has anyone ever seen a moving picture?

#### Pictures In The Mind:

What does the mind's eye look at in pictures? And anyway, who's looking?

04.01.03

One Week: (5 days)\*

- One major public lecture
- "An Evening with Jonathan Miller" (on stage interview and a Q&A session)
- Three class visits, workshops or master classes per day

\*For residencies longer than one week, please contact your Royce Carlton account executive.

Social Activities as Requested.

04.01.03

#### Audience Comments

#### Jonathan Miller

Jonathan Miller's residency at Vanderbilt University captured the imagination of hundreds of people in the community, and he transformed the lives of the students and faculty members he worked with in the theater, concert hall, and medical center. It was a defining moment in the life of the University.

Vanderbilt University

...Miller was absolutely magnificent.

Portland Arts & Lecture Series

Dr. Miller threw himself into all of the events, which went well literally from morning to night. It was truly extraordinary, and I will always be immensely grateful for the opportunity that I had, for one magical week, to spend time with him.

The University of Texas at Austin

...From our own Provost down to first term freshman who heard the man, there is only the very highest of praise. In my thirty years of university teaching, I do not know of any famous visitor who impressed more people more favorably!

Ball State University

...everyone was so completely enriched and enthralled by his intelligence, wit, knowledge, and openness to sharing himself with us that day. Jonathan's morning lecture was filled to capacity (over 600 people attended, including a local high school drama and English entourage of about 80 students who walked over a mile to hear him!) The evening lecture was also very well attended, and many of our faculty was ecstatic at having the opportunity for their students to interact with him. In his brief stay with us, Jonathan's connections to people and willingness to impart his knowledge to all made him a friend that we will not forget. Many of us will enjoy watching for news of his upcoming projects and programs in the months and years ahead. Jonathan was a highlight in the Harold Stoner Clark Lectures, and a bright star in the University's programs this year.

California Lutheran University

...Our board members and donors were very pleased to meet you after such a lively and charming lecture.. Your support means a great deal to the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library and the programs we fund such as the Children's Summer Reading Program.

San Francisco Public Library

We loved Jonathan Miller. The event was a big success.

FoolProof

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#### (continued) Audience Comments

#### Jonathan Miller

...Johnathan Miller's presentation at Denison University last evening was most enjoyable. Denision is very pleased that he was able to be a part of our convocation series.

Denison University

...The students were so awestruck by Dr. Miller's incredible depth of knowledge they were rendered speechless.

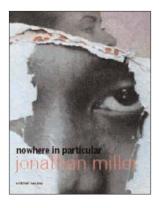
Fairfield University

...a terrific success...drew a house of about 1,000...his audience was captivated.

Tulane University

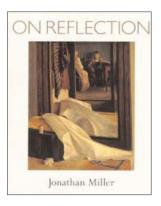
...By all reports he was a very charming man and an interesting speaker. All who met and heard him were impressed.

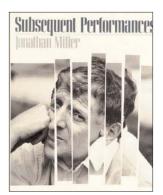
Hamilton College



For the past 30 years Jonathan Miller has pursued the unlikely hobby of photographing unusual and bizarre objects. In his acute, perceptive gaze, ordinary details of the everyday world, often ignored or overlooked, somehow take on a life of their own. These strange and enigmatic pictures are presented in a unique and highly personal volume, together with Miller's notebook jottings, which illuminate his observations on life and art.

In *On Reflection*, Jonathan Miler investigates the efforts of painters to represent the effects of light on various reflective surfaces. Discussing a selection of works from artists as diverse as Rembrandt and Rockwell, he shows that the depiction of reflections has challenged painters for centuries.



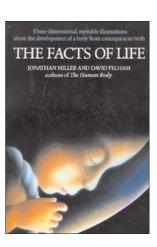


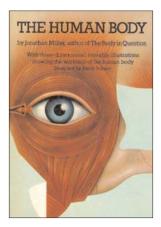
In *Subsequent Performances*, Jonathan Miller draws on his more than twenty years in the performing arts to illustrate and explore the question of the "afterlife" of a dramatic work of art, when it has outlasted its creator and when time begins to impose awkward problems of re-creation and interpretation.

## (continued) In Print \_\_\_\_\_

#### Jonathan Miller

In *The Facts of Life* intricate three dimensional illustrations depict all the wonders of human reproduction. With full-color pop-up models and in a clear, easy to understand narrative, Dr. Jonathan Miller conveys not only the facts of reproduction, but its joys.





Discover what happens inside your body. By operating this unique book, you can make a heart beat, lungs breathe and muscles contract. The three-dimensional and movable illustrations enable you to experience the mechanisms by which you think, see, hear, move and stay alive.