

Dressed in tuxedo, with a velvet tie, Tanner's Russian-accented impresario is spellbinding from first moment to last. He is brilliant at drawing sketches, and even some oil portraits, of significant people in Diaghilev's life. We suspect there may be more to them than the malicious Russian puppeteer reveals, but we never question that that is how Diaghilev saw them.

Tanner's autocratic approach to opera, ballet, homosexuality, the arts and the business of the arts is delightfully blunt and invariably succinct. Nothing is wasted in this presentation, and the blocking is so carefully worked out that one would think Tanner had been touring *Diaghilev* for a year. Musical themes from the ballets discussed are softly played in the background as Diaghilev revisits his childhood, career and death. As for the loves in his life, his pleasure and pain are spread before us like a smorgasbord of emotions. All one-person shows that deal with historical personages have something to say about how others viewed their existence. But the best of them give us some notion of how *they* viewed their own life. Tanner's work is a masterpiece in this regard.

## DRAMA LOGUE Los Angeles

TONY TANNER Has had a long and distinguished career as an actor, writer and director. He had already enjoyed a thirteen year career in his native England when he came to America to assume the lead role on Broadway in *HALF A SIXPENCE*. Other Broadway appearances were in *NO SEX PLEASE, WER'E BRITISH*, opposite Maureen O'Sullivan and *SHERLOCK HOLMES*.

Tanner received two Tony nominations for his direction and choreography of *JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT*, and in the same season his production of *TASTE OF HONEY* was nominated for best revival.

In film he starred in the Warner Bros. Production of *STOP THE WORLD I WANT TO GET OFF*.

Lately he could be seen as Koko in the Opera Pacific production of *THE MIKADO*, and as Doolittle in *MY FAIR LADY* for the Music Theatre League.

Mr. Tanner's credits on stage, in film, opera and musical theatre and TV just go on and on. Amongst them he has played Iago opposite Robert Guillaume's Othello and Puck opposite Benny Hill as Bottom.

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