

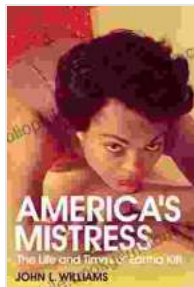
Eartha Kitt: Her Life and Times, A Trailblazing Icon



A Life of Triumphs and Tribulations

Eartha Kitt, born Eartha Mae Keith on January 17, 1927, in North, South Carolina, emerged from humble beginnings as a global entertainment icon.

Despite the challenges she faced – from abandonment and poverty to racial prejudice – she rose to fame with her signature feline mystique, sultry voice, and unwavering social activism.



America's Mistress: Eartha Kitt, Her Life and Times

by John L. Williams

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 10771 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 273 pages

Screen Reader : Supported

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Early Years and Inspiration

Abandoned by her mother at a young age, Kitt spent her early childhood in rural poverty. However, she found solace in the transformative power of music and entertainment, often imitating the flamboyant style of Josephine Baker. By her teens, Kitt moved to New York City, where she honed her craft in nightclubs and Broadway shows.

It was during this period that Kitt developed her trademark "catwoman persona," inspired by her close observation of real cats. Her feline-like movements, sultry voice, and provocative stage presence set her apart from other entertainers, captivating audiences worldwide.

Musical Success and Crossover Appeal

Kitt's musical career skyrocketed in the 1950s with hits like "C'est Si Bon" and "Santa Baby." Her sultry voice and exotic delivery made her a sensation on the international stage, leading to collaborations with renowned musicians such as Duke Ellington and Orson Welles.

Beyond her musical prowess, Kitt broke barriers in the entertainment industry. She became one of the first African American actresses to play a lead role in a mainstream film (*Anna Lucasta*, 1958) and challenged social norms with her outspoken views on race and equality.

The Consequences of Activism

Kitt's outspokenness often came at a price. In 1968, her career took a downturn after she made critical comments about the Vietnam War during a White House luncheon hosted by Lady Bird Johnson. Her passport was revoked, and she faced a boycott from the entertainment industry.

Despite these setbacks, Kitt remained undeterred in her activism. She continued to speak out against social injustice and became involved in various humanitarian causes, including the fight against AIDS and poverty.

Later Years and Legacy

Kitt's career resurgence began in the 1970s with her starring role in the film "Uptown Saturday Night." Her later years were marked by a string of successful stage and film appearances, including her Tony Award-winning performance in "The Wild Party" (2000).

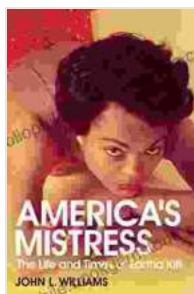
Eartha Kitt passed away on December 25, 2008, at the age of 81. Her legacy as a trailblazing artist, fearless activist, and cultural icon continues to inspire and empower generations of artists and activists worldwide.

A Feline Mystique and Unwavering Spirit

Throughout her life and career, Eartha Kitt's feline mystique remained an integral part of her persona. Her graceful movements, enigmatic smile, and captivating stage presence exuded a sense of mystery and allure.

Beyond her feline mystique, Kitt possessed an unwavering spirit that guided her through life's challenges. Despite facing prejudice and adversity, she never compromised her values or her quest for social justice. Her courage and resilience continue to serve as an inspiration to all who face adversity.

Eartha Kitt's life and times were a testament to her extraordinary talent, unwavering activism, and enduring spirit. As a trailblazing icon, she shattered barriers, empowered voices, and left an indelible mark on the world of entertainment and social change. Her legacy as a feline mystique and fearless advocate for equality continues to inspire and empower generations to come.



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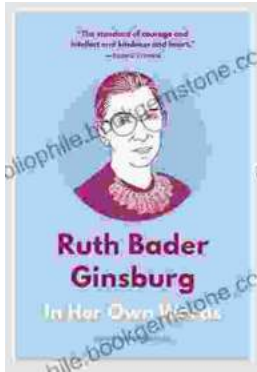
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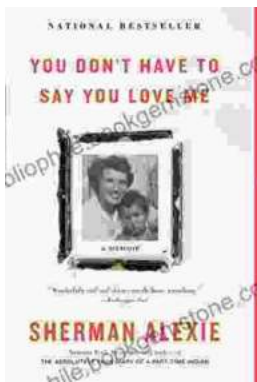
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