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Audio Link 15.2

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15.2

Hugh de Wardener recalls his performance as the young woman in "Night Must Fall".

It's a marvelous play, wonderful play, but I had a pretty tough start because everybody knew me and there I was appearing as this girl. And there were a lot of titters, you know I could feel the audience was not exactly with me in the part. And you could tell how taken up the audience was by the number of glowing ends of cigarettes and when there weren't any, you had them, you had them, absolutely.

I have never had such a sense of power in all my life, as in that play. It was amazing. Because I had started off being laughed at, being known, and they forgot who I was by the end of the play. They forgot. They totally totally absorbed in the play, it was a play, a good play. And at the end the last act, the entrance of this character, she comes in out of breath. So I-- before coming in I ran like mad.

Easy to do, at the site you know on the spot. So I came in, I was breathless. And I remember leaning against the the wing, puffing away, and looking at the audience. Not a cigarette to be seen, not a cigarette. And I paused a long time, before, before, I tell you [laughter]. Well I held it-- I held it you see [laughter].