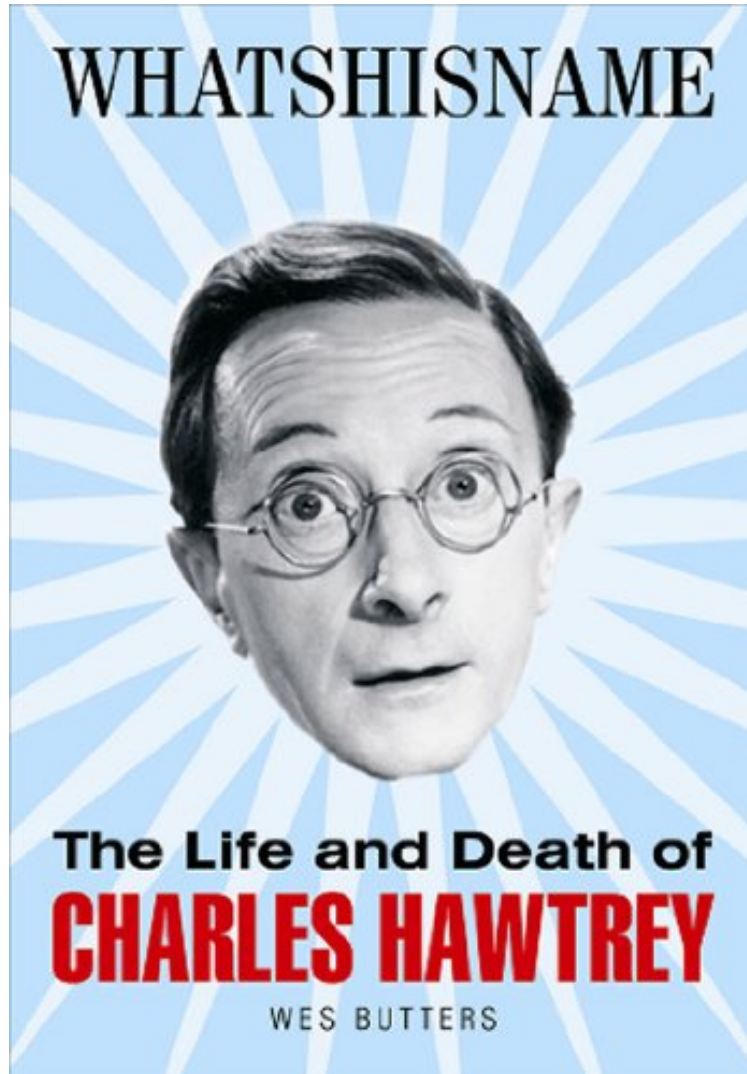


(Mobile ebook) Whatshisname: The Life and Death of Charles Hawtrey

## Whatshisname: The Life and Death of Charles Hawtrey

Wes Butters

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**Wes Butters : Whatshisname: The Life and Death of Charles Hawtrey** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whatshisname: The Life and Death of Charles Hawtrey:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant biography By Pablo H Wes Butters has succeeded where so many have failed - writing a biography of the reclusive actor Charles Hawtrey. Primarily recognised as the funny man in the Carry On films, his career spanned six decades - a former boy soprano and star of the Will Hay comedies in the 1930s. However, alcoholism and caring for his mother who suffered from senile dementia took its toll on the man. He felt aggrieved that he never received due recognition for his immense talent. Butters has given us a well rounded picture of this tortured genius - from comments of residents of Deal in Kent where Hawtrey spent the last 20 years of

his life being a misanthropist to funny anecdotes from former co-stars. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What A Sad Story By sharon\_beth\_long I agree with Pablo H. It is unfortunate that because people from Hawtrey's early life are no longer alive the focus is on the later life but in such a biography that is to be expected. The author did the best he could in describing Hawtrey's early life with the materials that he had available. It is well written. Hawtrey's life is the ultimate cautionary tale on the dangers of defining oneself solely through one's work and on alcoholism.

At last - the definitive biography of Charles Hawtrey! From Wes Butters, Sony award winning broadcaster and author of *Kenneth Williams Unseen*, comes an extensively researched and compelling book almost fifteen years in the making, featuring scores of exclusive interviews, including Hawtrey's inner circle and surviving descendents, never-before-seen photographs, and private documents and correspondence. The result is the first definitive account of a life Hawtrey himself was keen to see evaporate into the mist of history. Years before, Hawtrey started out as a child actor in silent films, he was England's leading boy soprano and worked alongside a positive who's who of the thirties and forties. He had directed films and produced West End shows, starred in three hit TV series and was a prolific radio actor for the BBC. Yet he was never content and spent his life desperately searching for stardom and success, which, in his own deluded way of thinking, always failed to live up to expectations. He wasn't the least bit interested in his reputation or leaving a legacy, growing old disgracefully in Deal, the Kent seaside town he lived in for the last twenty years of his life: collapsing in pubs; swearing at autograph-hunting children; and, taking home teenage rent boys (one of whom set fire to Hawtrey's cottage, with Hawtrey still inside it). He died in 1988. Nine people were at his funeral.

About the Author Wes Butters was himself destined for great things, landing the prestigious UK Top 40 chart show on BBC Radio 1 at just 23. But after two years his contract was not renewed and he has spent subsequent years having to shoo away the albatross and resist being typecast as the chart kid. He has since won numerous awards, including a Sony, for his commercial radio work and has produced and presented a number of documentaries for BBC Radio 4 including *The Pain of Laughter* (on both Kenneth Williams and Charles Hawtrey) and *Twice Ken is Plenty*. In 2008, Wes wrote *Kenneth Williams Unseen* with Russell Davies and is currently developing *Whatshisname* into a screenplay.