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Carol Channing: Larger Than Life. color & b/w. 89+ min. Dori Berinstein, Dramatic Forces, dist. by Entertainment One, www.eonehomevideo.com. 2012. DVD

Still larger than life at 90, Carol Channing is peerless in the world of theater and entertainment. It is high time she gets the royal treatment she deserves and does so in this delightful and surprisingly surprising documentary. Her recently deceased and adoring husband, Harry Kullijan, along with Broadway luminaries Chita Rivera, Tyne Daly, Jerry Herman, Tommy Tune, Debbie Reynolds, fellow legends Marge Champion and the late Betty Garrett, and many others reminisce and pay homage to one who only needs to open her false-eyelashed peepers and gravel-voiced mouth to be instantly recognized. What the film reveals is a dazzling yet humble and genuine woman who created a persona worn like a mask to entertain the world in performances of such icons as the original musical *Dolly and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes'* Lorelei Lee. When stripped of the lashes, red lips, and outrageous wigs, Channing is still "larger than life," campaigning for the arts to return to schools and kicking up her heels for charity fundraisers. VERDICT A theater documentary that won't sit long on any shelf.

—Gerald A. Notaro, formerly with Univ. of South Florida Lib., St. Petersburg