



**Just Outside The Spotlight:  
Growing Up With Eileen Heckart**  
by  
**Luke Yankee**



Foreword by Mary Tyler Moore

[www.lukeyankee.com](http://www.lukeyankee.com)

“In a 48-holder box of spectrum-color Crayolas, Eileen Heckart was always the fire engine red. Now Luke Yankee fills in the black and white. "Heckie" was a mix of Betty Crocker and Auntie Mame. This is her story, told by the one who knew her best. More than an observer, the candid writing makes you a willing participant in an extraordinary adventure. I think Mr. Yankee is lucky to have had such a Mom, and applaud him for sharing her with the rest of us so generously!” — **Rex Reed**, *syndicated columnist*

Did you ever wonder what it was like to be a part of showbiz history? Marilyn Monroe babysitting your brothers. Ethel Merman teaching you how to make martinis. Paul Newman giving you acting tips in your parents' living room. Fielding all those annoying telephone calls from reporters the night your mom won the Oscar. Welcome to the world of Luke Yankee, son of Broadway and Hollywood actress Eileen Heckart.

In **JUST OUTSIDE THE SPOTLIGHT**, this masterful storyteller pulls the curtain aside to reveal a world you've only dreamed about - full of showbiz gossip and behind-the-scenes tales of all your favorite celebrities. This book includes never-before seen photos of stars like Marilyn Monroe, Sophia Loren, Lucille Ball, Clark Gable and Lyndon Johnson, plus scores of humorous and heartfelt stories.

Luke Yankee, a director, actor and playwright in Los Angeles, wrote **JUST OUTSIDE THE SPOTLIGHT** after his mother, Oscar, Tony, Emmy winner and Theatre Hall of Famer, Eileen Heckart passed away four years ago. Eileen Heckart was one of the most respected character actresses in show business and worked with every major star of the past half century, from Lillian Gish to Ellen Degeneres.

“I realized I had this incredibly rich legacy of Broadway and Hollywood memorabilia and I had to do something with it,” says Luke. “My mother was not a household name who never wanted to be. But everybody she knew and worked with was one.”

Luke Yankee shares hilarious and touching moments, including:

- **How Marilyn Monroe saved Eileen Heckart from being trampled by an angry mob.**
- **How Eileen Heckart inadvertently “outed” Ellen Degeneres.**
- **How Luke and his mother were enraged by a local caterer named Martha Stewart.**
- **How Marlene Dietrich berated Heckart two hours after winning the Oscar.**
- **How Lucille Ball offered to buy off Heckart’s husband in order to make her a star.**

**JUST OUTSIDE THE SPOTLIGHT** is also a loving tribute to a bygone era. With a foreword by Mary Tyler Moore, this book will be a “must-read” for anyone who loves Broadway and Hollywood – and any son or daughter who loves their mother.

**JUST OUTSIDE THE SPOTLIGHT** is a joyous and wonderfully entertaining book. It's like a party with the biggest names from Broadway to Hollywood – and you're invited!

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