

Spencer, Charles

Charles Spencer is a well-known journalist and leading theatre critic, and the author of a series of witty and acerbic thrillers based in the worlds of theatre journalism and showbusiness. He was educated at Charterhouse and Balliol College, Oxford, and after spells on the Evening Standard, The Stage and the London Daily News, he became the theatre critic of the Daily Telegraph in 1991, and was named Critic of the Year in the 1999 British Press Awards.

Charles has published three novels in the Will Benson series, *I Nearly Died* (1994), *Full Personal Service* (1996), and *Under the Influence* (2000), all of which received exceptional reviews. Marcel Berlins in the Times described his work as "altogether highly entertaining", and Ian Samson in the Sunday Telegraph commented "a real find as a novelist"; his books are a fine example of that rare and special breed, the English comedy thriller. He is currently putting the finishing touches to his fourth novel.

Recent books:

Under the Influence (Allison & Busby: 2000)