

real life. Fictional characters are different. They kind of come out of your inner life, your imagined inner life. But when you have someone that is so indelible, like Little Edie Beale, that was iconic, that presents its own challenges. # Q. You do a lot of concerts. What do you try to bring to a song when you perform it, interpretively speaking? # A. Just sort of my own feelings about it, what I feel about the song, and what it means to me, or what it means to the character. But then again, I can only draw from myself, really. Or, in the case of Edie Beale, I listened very intently to the music and the rhythm of her voice, her speaking voice. In a way, it's like learning music. # Q. A couple of years ago, composer Scott Frankel said of you: " In ' Grey Gardens,' I tried to throw everything I could at her, comic stuff, soprano stuff, some burnished, elegiac ballads, and I found there wasn't anything she couldn't do. " # A. Well, I see every opportunity as a chance to bring myself to the role, to share that experience with an audience and hope that we can have a shared experience together. That's what I like about new musicals, because they offer a different challenge than doing something that's already been done. I see it as life is so varied, and the characters that are in life -- that are in art -- are just so unique. # Q. Is there a role that you would really love to do? # A. I've always wanted