

## **Sixtieth anniversary of historic farmhouse marked by MI5 Lee Miller revelations!**

It was revealed today (Tuesday, March 3) that MI5 held a dossier on iconic war photographer Lee Miller, whose former Sussex home is open for tours during Brighton Festival Fringe 2009.

Miller was already a famous fashion photographer, a muse for Picasso and a former lover of the surrealist painter Man Ray when MI5 began to investigate her as a suspected Communist spy in 1941.

Miller went on to become one of the most renowned photographers of World War Two. She moved to Farley Farm House at Chiddingly with her artist husband Roland Penrose and their son Antony in 1949 and the farm became a haven for Surrealist artists like Picasso and Mira.

The last MI5 report on Miller and Penrose, in June 1956, showed the couple spending most of their time running the farm.

Antony Penrose said:

"I was very surprised. The first I knew about it was a call from BBC's Today programme. They showed me the whole dossier which concluded that my mother was regarded as an intellectual Communist and theoretical political student.

"Her boss, Harry Yoxall told MI5 that Lee was 'eccentric and indulges in queer foods and queer clothes etc.'

"Neither Lee Miller nor my father Roland Penrose were members of the Communist Party. For them it was more a case of being fervently anti Nazi than pro Communist."

Farley Farm House celebrates its sixty-year association with Surrealism in 2009 and is still owned by the Penrose family. Art by prominent Surrealists is displayed around the house and the farmhouse tours have become a popular part of the Fringe.

The Antony Penrose Ensemble will also present a show about Miller to the Fringe this year. The Angel and the Fiend, written and edited by Antony Penrose, is a dramatic presentation of Miller's life told using the words and images of Miller and those closest to her.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

The Angel and the Fiend is presented by the Antony Penrose Ensemble at the Friends Meeting House on May 7, at 7pm and 9pm. Tickets will be on sale from Friday March 20 from [www.brightonfestivalfringe.org.uk](http://www.brightonfestivalfringe.org.uk) or on 01273 709709.

For more information about Farley Farm House Tours go to [www.farleyfarmhouse.co.uk](http://www.farleyfarmhouse.co.uk)

For further press information on Lee Miller, Farley Farm House or The Angel and the Fiend call Kate Henderson or Ami Bouhassane on 01825 872691.