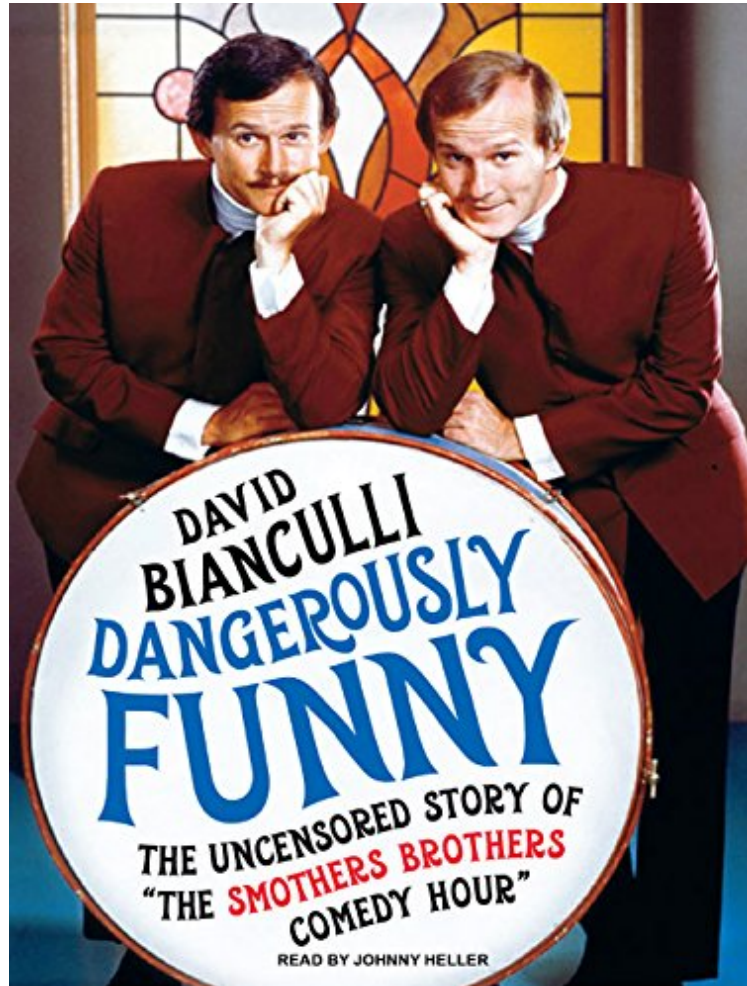


[Mobile ebook] Dangerously Funny: The Uncensored Story of "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour"

Dangerously Funny: The Uncensored Story of "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour"

David Bianculli

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dangerously Funny: The Uncensored Story of "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour":

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Pioneers in the fight against censorship and Big Brother Get the Story Told Right By Dr Robert Excellent book on a big part of the 60s culture that does not get its due. The Smothers Brothers do not get enough credit for the huge influence they had on media and politics and just speaking your mind in

these years. Great show, great book. I don't believe Tommy went too far with his beliefs.... well maybe for the Smothers Brothers TV career that is true, but in 3 short years CBS brought out All in the Family and I don't think it could have been done without the influence of these guys. A must read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I watched the Smothers Brothers Comedy Show because it was funny. Social commentary was noticed and appreciated because I ...By Margaret WolfeAs a teen, I watched the Smothers Brothers Comedy Show because it was funny. Social commentary was noticed and appreciated because I thought it was funny, not so much because I really understood the PURPOSE of it...to instigate social change. This book was not just a great trip down memory lane, it was an eye-opening set of insights into the show, into just how hide-bound those times were AND into how chaotic things were in general. I mean I do remember the riots (civil rights, democratic convention, student, Vietnam war, etc etc etc) and I do remember lots of what went on, but it is surely good to read about it with not just the insight of the author's research but also the benefit of being 40-plus years older myself with all the thoughtful life experiences that aging gives one. I must say that this book gave me hope too. After all, we made it through those awful times, surely we will make it through these times too. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A tribute to the men who brought meaning to T.V. By Carl I absolutely loved the Smothers Brothers Comedy Show. This wonderful book talks about the behind-the-scenes struggles to make T.V. relevant at a time when the Vietnam war was raging, and no one else was speaking up about the wrongness of it. Tom Smothers did and brought the younger generation back to television by introducing new young talent and talking about the things that they were concerned about. They were fired for it, but what an effect it had on T.V. in the future. Even if you don't even remember the show, this story is well worth to appreciate what Tom's genius did for the country.

Decades before The Daily Show, The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour proved there was a place on television for no-holds-barred political comedy with a decidedly antiauthoritarian point of view. In this explosive, revealing history of the show, veteran entertainment journalist David Bianculli tells the fascinating story of its three-year network run-and the cultural impact that's still being felt today. Before it was suddenly removed from the CBS lineup (reportedly under pressure from the Nixon administration), The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour was a ratings powerhouse. It helped launch the careers of such comedy legends as Steve Martin and Rob Reiner, featured groundbreaking musical acts like the Beatles and the Who, and served as a cultural touchstone for the antiwar movement of the late 1960s. Drawing on extensive original interviews with Tom and Dick Smothers and dozens of other key players-as well as more than a decade's worth of original research-Dangerously Funny brings listeners behind the scenes for all the battles over censorship, mind-blowing musical performances, and unforgettable sketches that defined the show and its era. David Bianculli delves deep into this riveting story to find out what really happened and to reveal why this show remains so significant to this day.

From Publishers WeeklyTom and Dick Smothers had confrontations with CBS censors when they did their satirical television series from 1967 to 1969. To write this authoritative and entertaining examination of a comedic cornerstone, TV critic Bianculli (Teleliteracy) interviewed scores of producers and performers. He reveals what went on behind the cameras and also probes the generational, artistic, and moral duels being fought in the '60s. He opens with the childhood of the brothers (and sister) when their father became a WWII POW fatality. After high school and college bands, the brothers rode the folk music wave into San Francisco's Purple Onion, switched to comedy at Aspen, and recorded their debut comedy album in 1960, exploding into fame on Jack Paar's Tonight show. After the failure of their 1965-1966 CBS sitcom, they went full throttle when their variety series, The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour, began taping in 1967, pushing boundaries musically, comically, satirically, politically and courting controversy. They strove for topicality while CBS scrambled to avoid it: For CBS, almost every mention of religion, sex, drugs, politics, and war was anathema. In each episode, entire sketches and individual gag lines, the book probes internal battles, with Tom Smothers fighting censors, executives, affiliates, and increasingly his own managers and staff members. Documenting each event that led to the show's cancellation, he concludes this entertaining and well-researched bio with the duo's huge influence on today's TV troublemakers and iconoclasts. (Dec. 1) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Compelling and immensely entertaining." --- Philadelphia InquirerAbout the AuthorDavid Bianculli has been a television critic for more than thirty years and is the author of Teleliteracy: Taking Television Seriously and Dictionary of Teleliteracy: Television's 500 Biggest Hits, Misses, and Events. Johnny Heller has earned multiple Earphones Awards from AudioFile magazine, including one for Closing Time by Joe Queenan, and has earned two Audie Awards and many more nominations. Named one of the Top Fifty Narrators of the Twentieth Century by AudioFile, he has recorded over five hundred titles.