

Make 'Em Laugh: The Hilarious History of American Comedy

Prepare to tickle your funny bone and journey through the roaring history of American comedy with the captivating book, 'Make 'Em Laugh.' This insightful and entertaining tome unveils the evolution, icons, and cultural impact of laughter in the United States, leaving you in stitches while delving into the fascinating world of comedy.



Make 'Em Laugh: The Funny Business of America

by Laurence Maslon

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 14639 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 384 pages



The Roots of American Humor

The book traces the roots of American comedy back to the colonial era, where humor served as a coping mechanism for a burgeoning nation. It explores the witty writings of Benjamin Franklin and the satirical sketches of early American newspapers, setting the stage for the comedy that would follow.



The Rise of Vaudeville

The 19th century witnessed the rise of vaudeville, a variety show format that showcased comedians alongside jugglers, acrobats, and singers. 'Make 'Em Laugh' delves into the golden age of vaudeville, introducing legendary performers such as Will Rogers, Eddie Cantor, and the Marx Brothers, who honed their comedic skills on the vaudeville circuit.



Hollywood's Golden Age of Comedy

The advent of sound motion pictures in the 1930s paved the way for a new era of comedy. 'Make 'Em Laugh' explores the slapstick brilliance of Charlie Chaplin, the sophisticated wit of Katharine Hepburn, and the screwball antics of the Marx Brothers on the silver screen, showcasing how Hollywood embraced comedy as a cinematic force.



Television Takes Center Stage

With the rise of television in the 1950s, comedy found a new home in the living rooms of millions. 'Make 'Em Laugh' examines the groundbreaking sitcoms of Lucille Ball, the sharp satire of 'The Tonight Show' with Johnny Carson, and the groundbreaking sketch comedy of 'Saturday Night Live,' demonstrating how television transformed the landscape of American comedy.



Modern Comedy and Social Change

In the latter half of the 20th century, comedy became a powerful tool for social and political commentary. 'Make 'Em Laugh' explores the rise of stand-up comedians like Lenny Bruce and George Carlin, who used their humor to challenge societal norms. The book also examines the impact of comedy on issues such as race, gender, and LGBTQ+ rights.



Comedy in the Digital Age

The 21st century has witnessed a digital revolution in comedy. 'Make 'Em Laugh' delves into the rise of social media platforms and streaming services, which have allowed comedians to connect with audiences directly and experiment with new comedic formats.



A Thoughtful and Humorous Celebration

'Make 'Em Laugh' is not just a history book; it's a love letter to American comedy. Written with wit and passion, it captures the essence of what makes us laugh, the pioneers who paved the way, and the cultural impact of comedy throughout history.

Whether you're a die-hard comedy fan or simply appreciate a good chuckle, 'Make 'Em Laugh' is an essential read. It's a book that will tickle your mind, spark your curiosity, and leave you with a newfound appreciation for the hilarious history of American comedy.

So, pick up a copy today and embark on a journey that will make you laugh out loud while illuminating the fascinating world of American comedy.



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