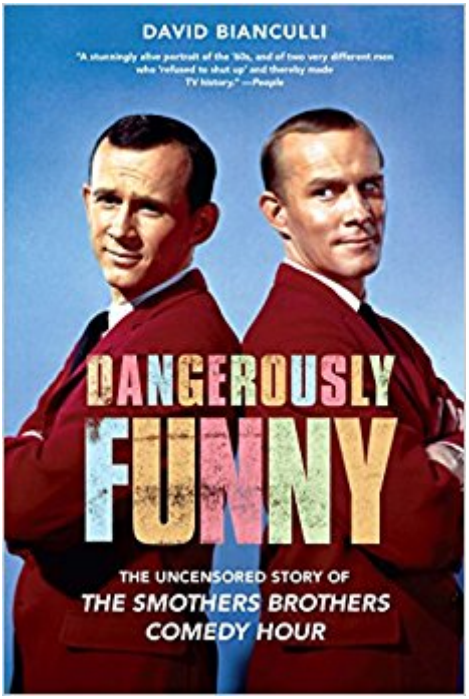
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Dangerously Funny: The Uncensored Story Of "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour"



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Synopsis

An unprecedented behind-the-scenes look at the rise and fall of The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour -- the provocative, politically charged program that shocked the censors, outraged the White House, and forever changed the face of television. 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 first-ever all-access 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 comedy legends such 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 readers 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 never-told story, to find out what really happened and to reveal why this show remains so significant to this day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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.

As 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.

Was a fan from high school over 50 years ago and haven't lost my respect and fandom for them. Their show was pretty astounding and David Bianculli does a fantastic job with the book. Makes me even more nostalgic. Great read!

This book gives insight to the political climate, racial divisions, anti-war movement and unrest in the United States during this period.While giving a biography of The Smothers Brothers personal lives and their humor it highlights how they were instrumental in thecoming of age of the largest form of mass media. Tom Smothers literally took on not only CBS but the accepted thinking of a

nation.Sadly, it also shows the high price they paid personally, professionally and financially. David Bianculli’s choice of "Dangerously Funny"as the title was absolutely perfect to describe the story within. Truly a page turner and while it brought back great memories and lots of laughs at the same time invoked sadness.

Dangerously Funny brings out the realities of television censorship in the 1960s. The book chronicles the rise to fame of the Smothers Brothers and what their humor was like at that time. I found myself chuckling throughout the book as the author retold many scenes from the Smothers Brothers Comedy Show, including the "Mother liked you best" act. Bianculli expertly lays the ground work for what went wrong between the comedians and producers/ broadcasters and what the heart of censorship looks like.

This was absolutely a stroll down memory lane. THE SMOTHERS BROTHERS COMEDY HOUR debuted on TV when I was in 7th Grade, and I became an instant fan. They were so funny and cool, especially Tommy. There was nothing else like it on TV. It was a fabulous show, with Pat Paulsen doing his hilarious editorials ("Picky, picky, picky") and campaigning for president, and the edgy "Have a Little Tea with Goldy." They were always pushing the envelope. Their musical guests were first-rate, too, with the Who, Cream, the Doors, Donovan, and videos from the Beatles. It was far and away the best show on TV.David Bianculli brings it all back, and I loved going there.But I think to really enjoy this book, you must be someone who watched the show back in the day. Also, I found that Bianculli was surprisingly repetitive, which hurt the flow of the narrative.Still, this was a fun read.

Nerdy nfotmative of ny favprirte smothrts brothers, highlty recommend for sure goby who lovers them like I do

It’s hard to imagine that a television program that ran for less than three years can be recalled with such intense feeling as was "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour". Reading David Bianculli’s excellent new book about the brothers and their show reminds me of the "fluff of fuss" that occurred at CBS more than forty years ago. American society was changing at a rapid clip and the Smothers Brothers were right in the middle of it.While the book focuses on the show and the professional and personal relationships of the brothers, the main concentration is on Tom Smothers. Unlike his more laid back brother Dick, Tom was the driving force behind the show and the one who took enormous

risks in attempting to get parts of the show past the censors. Successful as he often was, it’s almost as if Tom was doomed to failure, screaming all the way. The book contains a photo of a fit and trim Tom Smothers in a pair of boxing trunks...the look on his face describes the intensity with which he approached his work...it is an apt a reflection as you will find in any of the prose.Bianculli delivers a judicious commentary on why "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" was ahead of its time. Just two years after CBS fired the Smothers Brothers, the network was launching "All in the Family". The irony couldn’t have been clearer. I highly recommend this terrific book.

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