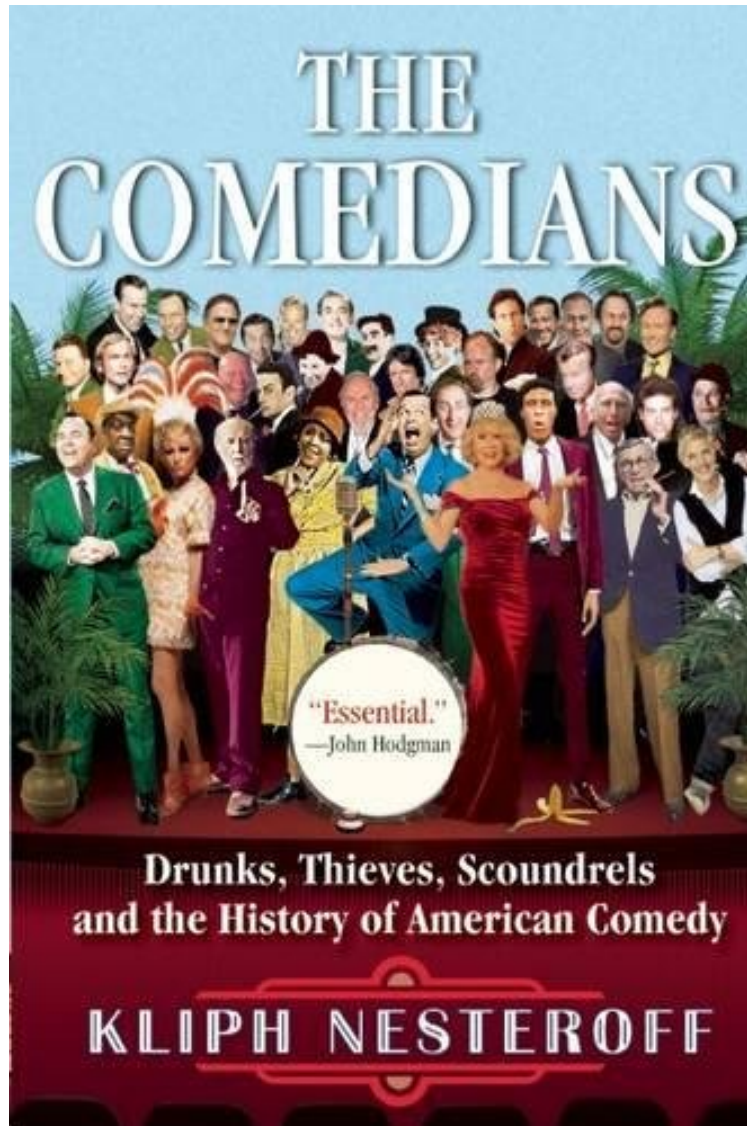


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The Comedians: Drunks, Thieves, Scoundrels and the History of American Comedy

Kliph Nesteroff

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#160278 in Books Nesteroff Kliph 2016-11-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.90 x .90 x 5.90l, .0 #File Name: 0802125689448 pages The Comedians Drunks Thieves Scoundrels and the History of American Comedy | File size: 55.Mb

Kliph Nesteroff : The Comedians: Drunks, Thieves, Scoundrels and the History of American Comedy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Comedians: Drunks, Thieves, Scoundrels and the History of American Comedy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Partial History of US ComedyBy KCInteresting, but there are

surprising omissions. What of the Ritz Brothers? Nipsey Russell? Foster Brooks? Jerry Clower? It seems heavily researched, yet for only a small slice of the world of comedy. Bob Hope's latter career gets panned, as does the Dean Martin roasts, yet there was good humor in Hope's monologues and moments of brilliance at the roasts More could have been said about Bill Cosby, and it's surprising that there's scant mention of The Carol Brunette Show and cast, as well as Red Skelton and many more. The omissions is why I give it only three stars. The book is well written and entertaining, but once you notice some names are missing, the omissions tend to leap out at you. It's only a small sliver of the world of comedy, and if you approach it that way it works well. But it's not an exhaustive account. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really excellent By Mark Anthony Byers I almost gave this a '4' because I started to lose some interest once he got into the Conan/Letterman era, but everything up to that was so well written and researched that it outweighed the end. Especially intriguing to me was learning about ' the legends' of each era who have long since faded from the mainstream, and learning about the evolution of the comedy record. If you like different eras of comedy, you'll enjoy this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great history By RebKI learned quite a bit from this book. I was interested in the author's assertion that New York clubs in the '50s were more influential than Catskill hotel shows. The book starts describing the earliest comedy performances through internet influences and podcasts. Just a fascinating read.

Jokes change from generation to generation, but the experience of the comedian transcends the ages: the drive, jealousy, heartbreak, and triumph. From the Marx Brothers to Milton Berle to George Carlin to Eddie Murphy to Louis CK comedy historian Kliph Nesteroff brings to life a century's worth of rebels and groundbreakers, mainstream heroes and counterculture iconoclasts, forgotten stars and workaday plodders in this essential history of American comedy. Beginning with the nationwide vaudeville circuits that dominated at turn of the twentieth century, Nesteroff describes the rise of the first true stand-up comedian variety show emcee who abandoned physical shtick for straight jokes. The end of Prohibition ushered in a surprising golden age of comedy, as funnymen were made into radio stars and the combination of the "Borscht Belt," the "Chitlin Circuit," and Mafia-run supperclubs furnished more jobs and money than ever before. Those were the days of the Copacabana, tuxedos, and smoking cigars onstage, when insulting the boss could result in a hit man at your door and obscenity charges could land you in jail. In the 1950s, late-night television cemented the status of the comedy establishment while young comics rebelled, arriving on the beatnik coffeehouse scene with cerebral jokes and social angst. They soon found their own way to fame through comedy records that vied with top musicians for Billboard spots. Then came the comedy clubs of the coke-fueled 1970s and 80s, Saturday Night Live and cable TV, and with the internet, a whole new generation of YouTube stars, podcast personalities, and Twitterati. Through the decades, Nesteroff reveals the contradictions between comedians public and private personas and illuminates the often-seedy underbelly of an industry built on laughs. Based on over two hundred original interviews and extensive archival research, *The Comedians* is a sharply written and highly entertaining look at one hundred years of comedy, and a valuable exploration of the way comedians have reflected, shaped, and changed American culture along the way.

Praise for *The Comedians*: Named a Best Book of the Year by Kirkus s, National Post, and Splitsider Entertaining and carefully documented . . . I thought I knew a lot about the history of American comedy. But this book located gaps in my knowledge I never knew were there and filled them with jaw-dropping anecdotes that made my eyes spin in different directions . . . This book is a real treat. Merrill Markoe, Wall Street Journal In the past decade, there have been several superb history books about comedy . . . but none will entertain comedy nerds as much as Kliph Nesteroff's *The Comedians* . . . sprawling and savvy . . . comedy's answer to Luc Santes *Low Life*. New York Times Book An antic history of U.S. comedy . . . Nesteroff writes with insider perception . . . With his encyclopedic knowledge, a talent for vivid anecdotes and tireless gusto . . . [*The Comedians* is] an insightful overview of the most independent and subversive entertainment genre of the last century. Washington Post [An] excellent book. New York Times *The Comedians* . . . is right up there with *Im Dying Up Here*, *Live From New York: An Uncensored History of Saturday Night Live* and *Drunk, Stoned, Brilliant, Dead: The Story of the National Lampoon*, in terms of thoroughness, engagement and lasting significance. L.A. Weekly (Best Local Comedy Author) An informative and engaging account . . . Nesteroff provides a clear through-line from vaudeville to the New Millennium. Yet it's the anecdotes about personality and style that elevate the book beyond mere history. USA Today *The Comedians* is everything it should be, including very funny. This historically rich history of comedians in America is fascinating . . . If you're a comedy nerd you'll love this book. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette If you think you know a lot about stand-up comedy, this book will expose you as the fraud you secretly reckoned you were. Remember Frank Fay? Exactly. Norm MacDonald Kliph Nesteroff and this book are devoted to what I truly love: the art of comedy. Mel Brooks Kliph Nesteroff is a comedy nerd in the deepest sense of the word . . . He is the preeminent historian of modern comedy. Marc Maron This is one of the best books I've ever read about show business . . . [Nesteroff] has amassed a dishy, informal, and knowledgeable history of comedy . . . This is straight talk about largely undocumented areas of show business and it is utterly fascinating. I feasted on this book and look forward to a possible sequel. Leonard Maltin, Indiewire (Holiday Book

Roundup)Comedy tends to disappear, either into the boozy corners of a night club, or onto countless lost videotapes of TV variety shows that may never even make it to Netflix. That's what makes *The Comedians* so essential. No one charts the connections between the Jewy-old-masters of the TV age of comedy to the gay woman telling jokes into your ear right now on a podcast quite like [Kliph Nesteroff]. John Hodgman, contributor to *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart Beginning in the always smoky, often dilapidated vaudeville theaters of the early 20th century and spanning over a hundred years, Nesteroff meticulously details the lives and careers of forgotten and famous comics . . . Nesteroffs exhaustive research is evident and historians will appreciate his thoroughness. Associated Press A definitive volume. A lively, raucous, and immensely entertaining love letter to funny business. Kirkus s (starred review) Both pop culture enthusiasts and entertainment scholars will relish this important history of American comedy. Library Journal (starred review) Indispensable. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel So flipping entertaining. Cleveland Plain Dealer A great book. Splitsider *The Comedians* is as good as they come. Nesteroff hits all the highlights and lowlights of this constantly evolving art form. Portland Mercury Comedy buffs will find a treasure chest of trivia . . . But Nesteroffs aims are far more ambitious. He weaves comedians into the larger American story, from racism . . . and blacklisting to the counterculture and the anti-war movement . . . An interesting, satisfying read. Dallas News Extraordinary . . . wildly, crazily revealing, and readable. Buffalo News The definitive history of the comedy business . . . downright majestic. Forward One of the most comprehensive and accessible accounts of the art form to date. Flavorwire Immensely entertaining, a fast read that's also a deep dive. Ken Tucker, Yahoo TV A valuable book . . . a compulsively readable history of American comedy . . . The book provides terrific insights into how the comedy greats of cinema created their personae and their acts . . . The book is also, no surprise, funny . . . My only complaint about the book? It's too short. Glenn Kenny, RogerEbert.com Highly recommended. Longform A rollicking history. Macleans (Canada)