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Rowan and Martin's Laugh-in

By Ken Feil

Wayne State University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Rowan and Martin's Laugh-in, Ken Feil, The highest-rated network program during its first three seasons, comedy-variety show Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In (NBC, 1968-1973) remains an often overlooked and underrated innovator of American television history. Audiences of all kinds - old and young, square and hip, black and white, straight and queer - watched Laugh-In, whose campy, anti-establishment aesthetic mocked other tepid and serious popular shows. In Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In, author Ken Feil presents the first scholarly investigation of the series whose suggestive catch-phrases "sock it to me," "look that up in your Funk'n'Wagnalls," and "here comes the judge" became part of pop culture history. In four chapters, Feil explores Laugh-In's newness, sophisticated style, irreverence, and broad appeal. First, he considers the show's indulgence of "bad taste" through a strategy of deliberate ambiguity that allowed audiences to enjoy countercultural, anti-establishment transgression and, reassuringly, conveyed the sense that it represented the establishment's investment in containing such defiant delights. Feil considers Laugh-In's camp, otherness, and "open secrets" as well as the show's conflicted positions on the "private" issues of taste, sexuality, lifestyle, and politics. Sexual swingers, stoned hippies, empowered African Americans, feminists,...



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