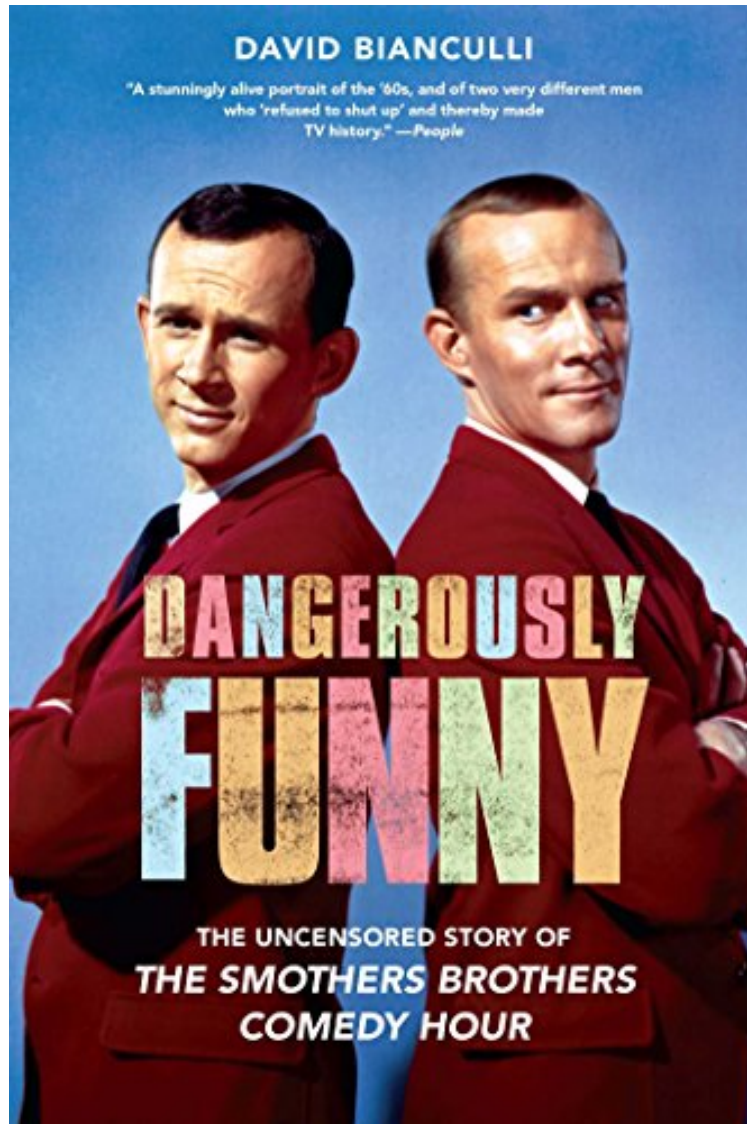


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Dangerously Funny: The Uncensored Story of "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour"

David Bianculli

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

before purchasing it in order to gage 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 CarlI 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.

Now in paperback, a rollicking history of the rise and fall of The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour A stunningly alive portrait of the 1960s and of two very different men who refused to shut up and thereby made TV history (People).A dramatic behind-the-scenes look at the rise and fall of The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hourthe 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. Censorship battles, mind-blowing musical performances, and unforgettable sketches defined the show and its era. In this compelling history, veteran entertainment journalist David Bianculli draws on decades worth of original research, including extensive interviews with Tom and Dick Smothers and dozens of other key players, to tell the fascinating story of the shows three-year network runand the cultural impact thats still being felt today.

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. "David's book documents a true prime-time crime caper pulled off forty years ago. The perpetrators got away. The Smothers Brothers and the American viewing audience paid the price. As another old saying goes, 'Freedom is a dangerous way of life.' It was ours -- and thanks to David, this is our story." -- Mason Williams, writer for "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour""It is hard for many of us to remember--back when there were only a handful of stations on the dial--just how profoundly influential and controversial the Smothers Brothers were. But David Bianculli's brilliant new book has brought it all back to vivid life. ...This is a superb, at times moving, portrait of an entire age -- seen through the dramatic careers of two endlessly interesting entertainers." -- Ken Burns, Filmmaker"David Bianculli details the Smothers Brothers' challenging of the CBS censors and the politicians of the '60s, and gets it exactly right. The Smothers Brothers deserve to be placed alongside Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor, and other rebellious comedy spirits who were willing to risk everything for what they believed. Compelling from start to finish -- a book to cherish." -- David SteinbergAbout the AuthorDavid Bianculli has been a television critic for more than thirty years, currently on NPR's Fresh Air with Terry Gross and at

www.tvworthwatching.com. He is also the author of two books on television and its impact: *Teleliteracy: Taking Television Seriously* and *Dictionary of Teleliteracy: Television's 500 Biggest Hits, Misses, and Events*.