



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

David Bianculli

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A 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 explosive, revealing 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 riveting story, to find out what *really* happened and to reveal why this show remains so significant to this day.

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