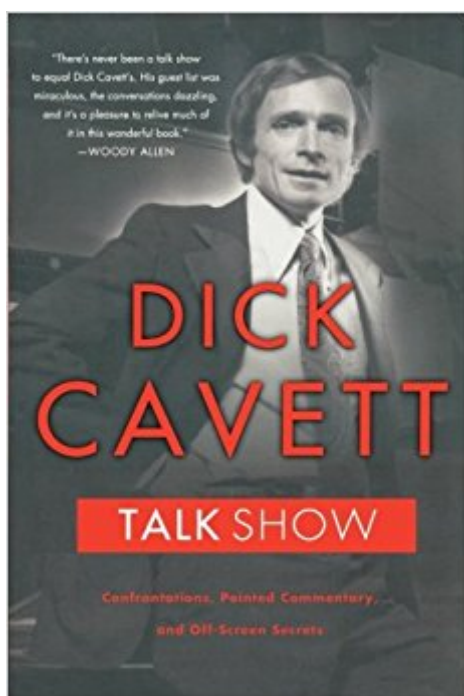


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Talk Show: Confrontations, Pointed Commentary, And Off-Screen Secrets



Synopsis

"There's never been a talk show to equal Dick Cavett's... It's a pleasure to relive much of it in this wonderful book." — Woody Allen

For years, Dick Cavett played host to the nation's most famous personalities on his late-night talk show. In this humorous and evocative book, we get to hear Cavett's best tales, as he recounts great moments with the legendary entertainers who crossed his path and offers his own trenchant commentary on contemporary American culture and politics. Pull up a chair and listen to Cavett's stories about one-upping Bette Davis, testifying on behalf of John Lennon, confronting Richard Nixon, scheming with John Updike, befriending William F. Buckley, and palling around with Groucho Marx. Sprinkled in are tales of his childhood in Nebraska in the 1940s and 1950s, where he honed his sense of comic timing and his love of magic. Cavett is also a wry cultural observer, looking at America today and pointing out the foibles that we so often fail to notice about ourselves. And don't even get him started on politicians. A generation of Americans ended their evenings in Dick Cavett's company; *Talk Show* is a way to welcome him back.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin; Reprint edition (November 22, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312610521

ISBN-13: 978-0312610524

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 123 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #510,398 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #175 in Books > Travel > Europe > Greece > General #419 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > Shows #1296 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Television Performers

Customer Reviews

The erstwhile host of *The Dick Cavett Show* unburdens himself in this collection of rambling though piquant essays from his New York Times online column. It's an eclectic and sometimes surprising lineup: on- and off-set celebrity anecdotes; meditations on the art of the comic insult; jaundiced assessments of the 2008 presidential contenders; not one but two apologies for radio DJ Don Imus; scenes from a Nebraska boyhood, with minor hooliganism and encounters with a movie-house pervert. Cavett occasionally lets his affable host's persona slip to voice idiosyncratic passions, in

his plea to ban fat actors from TV commercials, for example, and his snipes at public figures for language mistakes and mispronunciations (he reviles George W. Bush almost as much for saying nuclear as for starting the Iraq War). Some pieces misfire, especially when Cavett overuses transcripts from his shows; even the celebrated trash talk showdown between guests Gore Vidal and Norman Mailer lies flat on the printed page. But in his beguiling profiles of celebrities--the deft magician Slydini; the humbled gossip columnist Walter Winchell; an aging John Wayne, who reveals an unheralded appreciation for Noël Coward plays--Cavett proves himself a solid writer as well as a talker. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Cavett's talk shows on ABC and later PBS were the perfect format for a former comedy writer who was also the son of English teachers. He was erudite and amusing and a great conversation partner to an array of guests, from Katharine Hepburn and Richard Burton to William F. Buckley and Norman Mailer. Drawing on his recollections from show business as well as his years growing up in Nebraska, Cavett offers a collection of his columns for the online New York Times. He revels in misuses and mispronunciations of words by the famous and those who should know better, comments on both political silliness and serious issues, and talks about political celebrities such as Sarah Palin and Rod Blagojevich. He recalls friendships with famously taciturn celebrities Johnny Carson and Bobby Fischer, testifying on behalf of John Lennon, sparring with Bette Davis, and hosting John Updike and John Cheever on the same show. Cavett is also personally revealing, recounting his bouts with depression, ego-bruising encounters with famous comedians, and career ups and downs. An enormously amusing and well-written collection. --Vanessa Bush --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Forgive my laziness but I'm basically copy/pasting the review of the other Cavett book because while they are, of course, different books, my feelings and opinions about both are essentially the same. As you can surely guess from the 5 stars, I'm a fan. I've enjoyed Dick Cavett through assorted talk shows and other aspects of his career for more years than either of us would care to do the math on but I had never read one of his books. I'm sorry it took me so long to get around to doing that because I thoroughly enjoyed both this book and the other one I got (Brief Encounters) and I'll probably do a search to see what other books of his I can find. He's not everyone's taste (Who is?) but I found his stories to be full of wit, intelligence, and, where appropriate, humor. Stop lollygagging and get this book already!

First you should know that this isn't Dick Cavett talking about all the interesting people he's interviewed over the years and great tidbits about them. Mostly it's Dick Cavett giving his opinions on events of the day and life in general. Here and there he throws in a nice thought about somebody and that's a plus. I like Dick Cavett. I like his take on things so I like this book. Most people are fooled by the press and how this book is being advertised and they are very angry when they see it's not a celeb tell all. Hey. Mr. Cavett is an interesting person and he has some choice, witty things to say. Leave it at that and you will really enjoy Talk Show. A better title would have been Cavett Speaks but there you are.

I used to really appreciate Dick Cavett's interviews, because he treated his guests with profound respect. He asked extremely intelligent questions and then gave his guests the time to answer. I learned a lot about whoever he was talking with, unlike the 5 minutes a typical guest received (then and now) when plugging his/her latest book or movie on the rest of the 'circuit'. Further, he gained interviews with a lot of personalities who may have not considered appearing on any other talk show. The issue I have (it's not a complaint, it's more of an observation) is that with this book, culled from Mr. Cavett's newspaper columns, he talks a fair amount about his political viewpoints and personal remembrances. Definitely not a bad thing, but if you're looking more for a book about the personalities he has interviewed (Hollywood and otherwise), I suspect one of his earlier books would be more satisfying. He does still share some pretty cool stuff here about some of his subjects (Groucho, John Wayne, and many more) but there's a lot of his personal opinion mixed in here as well, and I'm personally more interested in learning about his guests than about his own political viewpoints (whether I share them or not). I really miss Dick Cavett's savvy, insightful, sensitive and above all, unpredictable shows. He gave us extremely intelligent one-on-one conversations with some of the most interesting and important names of the last 50 years, and I don't think anybody has stepped up to fill his shoes. This book is a fun and easy read. Mr. Cavett is a careful, thoughtful writer who loves word plays and other little challenges that keep it interesting. Go for it, but know in advance that it's not all about Janis, Katherine and Marlon. it's also about Dick.

I am so glad that I bought this book electronically! It had been on my wishlist for a while and I was waiting to buy it when I was in the mood for nonfiction, memoir-type reading. I remember watching the Dick Cavett Show when I was a youngster - loved it. They just don't have "talk" shows like it anymore - where the host and the guest have real in-depth conversations. I also used to find it

interesting how Dick did not seem to mind those sometimes awkward pauses with a guest. Sometimes, I thought I could see the discomfort, the awkwardness, the hesitation when a question was asked or an answer was given! I liked how his mind worked, the questions he asked, the sense of humor of the man. Dick Cavett is a wonderful conversationalist and a funny guy. His commentary, sometimes cranky, always fascinating is a pleasure to read. And the big bonus with buying the book electronically are the links to interviews from his old television show. It was fabulous to actually see Richard Burton talking about his childhood in Wales!! Priceless!! I highly recommend this book for fans of intelligent, entertaining commentary and conversation!

Dick Cavett is a television talk show legend to all of us baby boomers. This terrific book chronicles his most interesting guests through the years, from Hollywood celebrities to political icons. I highly recommend this thoroughly entertaining read!

Dick Cavett has always been on my list of really good interviewers. He was engaging, funny, not afraid to "go with the flow" and best of all, let his guests do the majority of the talking. The show was not the typical question and answer variety; it wandered with somewhat casual directions and was informal. I used to watch him while I did my ironing and miss his style today. In fact, I do not watch any talk shows since Cavett, Jack Parr and Merv Griffin left the air. Stories about his guests are fascinating in the book and as usual, his personal life is there but certainly in the background. He had a way of sounding as though he were in his living room, chatting with a friend. Without being overwhelmed by the "movie star" mentality, he was still respectful of personal space. Glad I picked up the book when I first saw it. Thanks for the memories, Dick Cavett.

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