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## Currents of Comedy on the American Screen: How Film and Television Deliver Different Laughs for Changing Times (Paperback)

By Nicholas Laham

McFarland Co Inc, United States, 2009. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. While its obvious purpose is to make people laugh, film and television comedy is much more than that. From the birth of motion pictures until today, comedies have reflected and reinforced the evolving cultural milieu which defined American society. This book analyzes the evolution of film and television comedy from the advent of talking motion pictures in the 1930s through the present, defining five separate and distinct periods of this evolution and revealing how each period has been characterized by a dominant trend in film and television comedy. Chapter One examines the period spanning 1934 to 1942, an era defined by screwball comedies that deflected public attention from the grim realities of the Great Depression. Chapter Two deals with the period from 1940 to 1951 and the emergence of suspense comedy, which, like the concurrent film noir, reflected a yet darker social outlook in light of America's involvement in World War II. Chapter Three examines the battle-of-the-sexes comedy, extremely popular throughout the 1950s, looking at *I Love Lucy*, *The Honeymooners*, and other husband-and-wife sitcoms that seemingly reinforced post-war sexism. Chapter Four details...



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