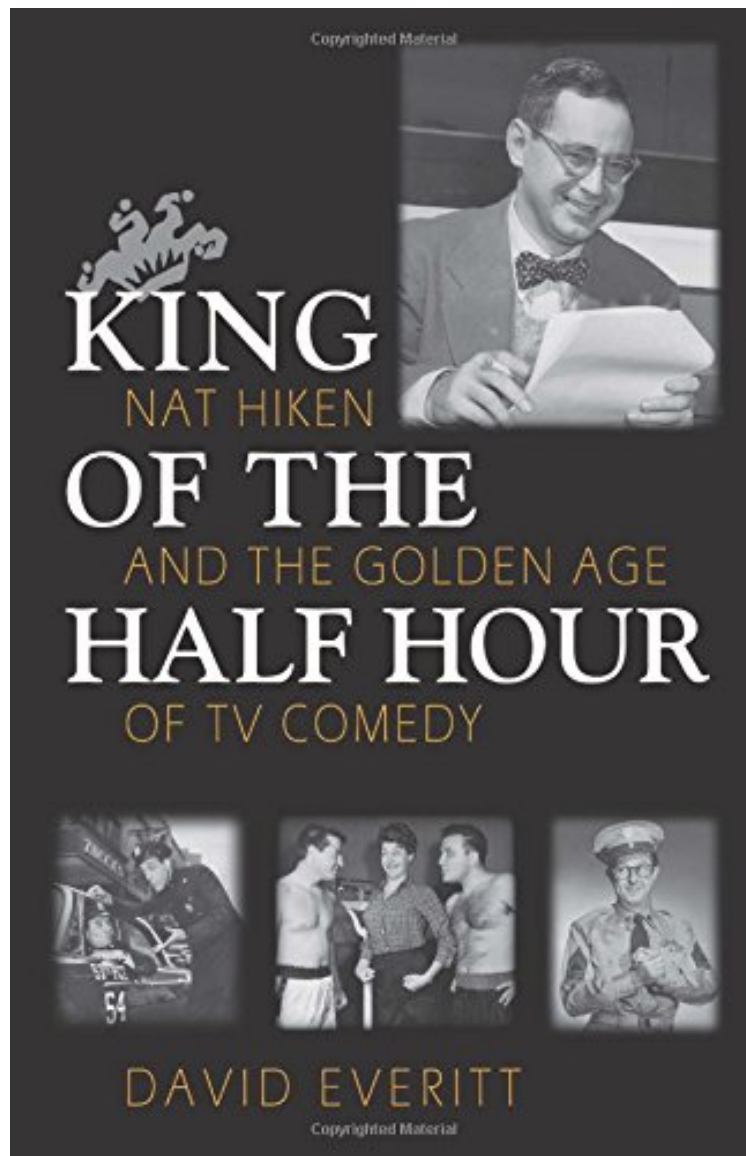


[E-BOOK] King of the Half Hour: Nat Hiken and the Golden Age of TV Comedy (Television and Popular Culture)

King of the Half Hour: Nat Hiken and the Golden Age of TV Comedy (Television and Popular Culture)

David Everitt

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David Everitt : King of the Half Hour: Nat Hiken and the Golden Age of TV Comedy (Television and Popular Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised King of the Half Hour: Nat Hiken and the Golden Age of TV Comedy (Television and Popular Culture):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. television was really no better then than it is nowBy CustomerSince I was a child when Bilko was in syndication and Car 54, Where are You? was on first run teevee (and I know I am dating myself here) I have been curious about this man. Later, via the internet I was exposed to The Magnificent Montague, and that only further piqued my curiosity. Now, I know more than I ever want to know about him. No, people, television was really no better then than it is now, but cherry picking shows from the past reveals some that were truly excellent including this one that was vaudeville and burlesque reduced to a small screen. Sometimes I do write too much. Not everyone will be interested in this topic, but for those who are, I do not think it is possible to do better than this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "Bilko" Fans OnlyBy Del MarPersonally, I loved this book. So why only 3 stars? Because unless you are a big time "Bilko" or "Car 54" fan, this book will probably not interest you.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Thomas MeyersGreat item and transaction!

Regarded by his contemporaries as one of television's premier comedy creators, Nat Hiken was the driving creative force behind the classic 1950s and 1960s series Sgt. Bilko and the hilarious Car 54, Where Are You? King of the Half Hour, the first biography of Hiken, draws extensively on exclusive first-hand interviews with some of the well-known TV personalities who worked with him, such as Carol Burnett, Fred Gwynne, Alan King, Al Lewis, and Herbert Ross. The book focuses on Hiken's immense talent and remarkable career, from his early days in radio as Fred Allen's head writer to his multiple Emmy-winning years as writer-producer-director on television. In addition to re-establishing Hiken's place in broadcast history, biographer, David Everitt places him in the larger story of early New York broadcasting. Hiken's career paralleled the rise and fall of television's Golden Age. He embodied the era's best qualities: craftsmanship, a commitment to excellence and a distinctive, uproariously funny and quirky sense of humor. At the same time, his uncompromising independence prevented him from surviving the changes in the industry that brought the Golden Age to an end in the 1960s. His experiences bring a fresh and until now unknown perspective to the medium's most extraordinary period.

From Publishers WeeklyA television pioneer is revived in David Everitt's King of the Half Hour: Nat Hiken and the Golden Age of TV Comedy. Formerly Fred Allen's radio writer, Hiken moved to TV in 1950 as a head writer for NBC's Four Star Revue and went on to create Sergeant Bilko and Car 54, Where Are You? Working with the likes of Mel Brooks and Woody Allen throughout the '50s and early '60s, Hiken won eight Emmy Awards and wrote material for Milton Berle, Bette Davis, Carol Burnett and Lucille Ball. Everitt (For Reel) portrays Hiken in his New York and, later, Hollywood contexts, sketching the inception and early childhood of television. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library JournalEveritt (Film Tricks: Special Effects in the Movies and for Reel) delves into the early years of TV comedy, here writing a sensitive biography of writer-producer Nat Hiken, who died of a heart attack in 1968 as he was in the process of editing The Love of God. Hiken was the comedic genius behind television's You'll Never Get Rich with Phil Silvers and Car 54, Where Are You? He had a knack for creating hilarious situations and zany characters that had depth and feeling. He worked with the top stars of the day, even managing to turn boxer Rocky Graziano into a comedy star on The Martha Raye Show. Everitt has included anecdotes about stars Hiken wrote for and interviews with people who worked for this innovative Hollywood figure. Photos would have been a nice complement to the text. Still, this well-written biography the first on Hiken nicely blends his professional career with a look at what television was like in the early years. Recommended for all libraries. Rosalind Dayen, Broward Cty. South Regional Lib., FL Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. Everitt has written a carefully researched biography of one of the smartest and funniest writer-producers who ever worked in television, Nat Hiken. . . . Everitt not only chronicles Hiken's multi-Emmy-winning career . . . but convincingly frames Hiken's ups and downs in the larger context of the changing face of the medium in which he toiled. (Television Quarterly)Any student of television will want to read this book. Taking a journalistic approach (using interviews and popular works on the subject), Everitt spells out the life of the humorist whom TV producer James Burrows called a "founding father of situation comedy" (Choice)