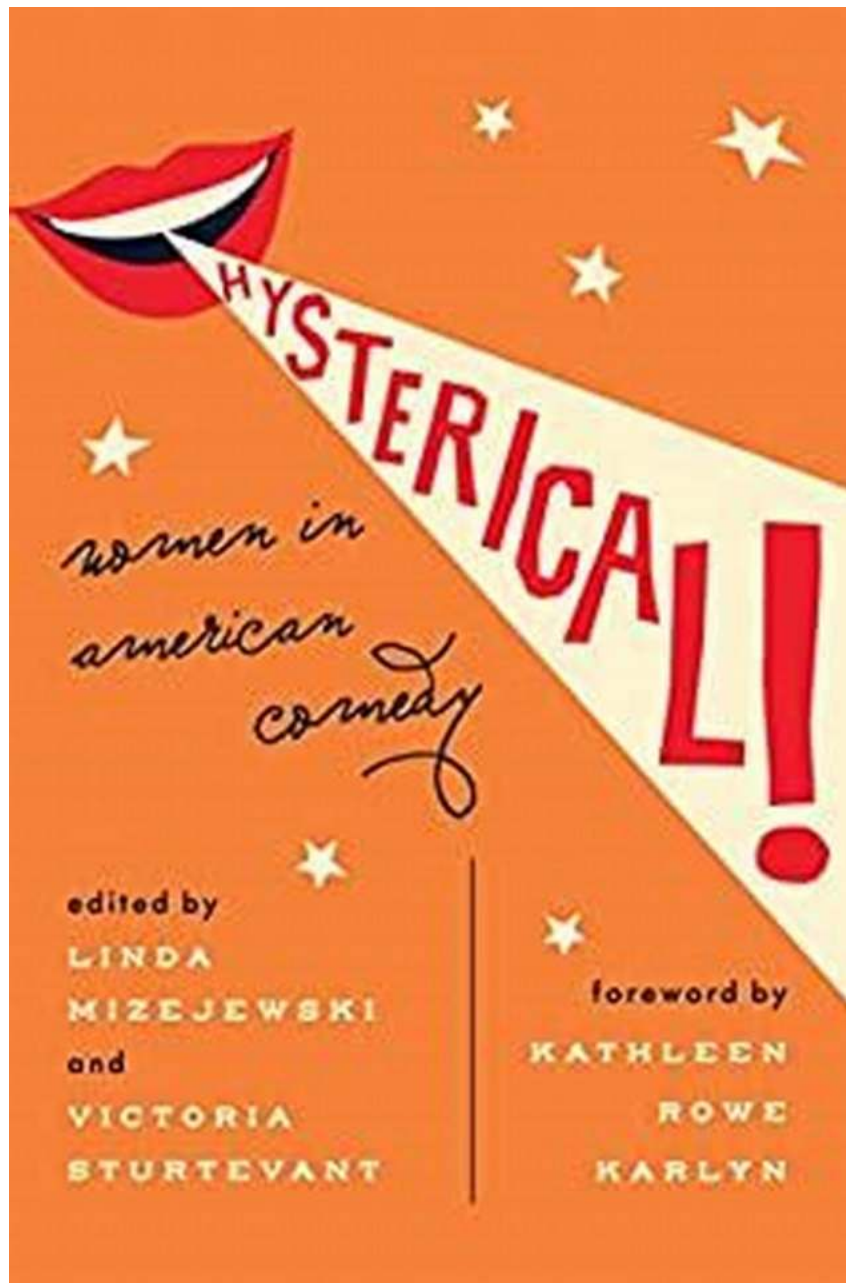


# Hysterical Women in American Comedy



When it comes to comedy in the United States, women have played significant roles throughout history, bringing laughter and joy to countless audiences. From the early days of vaudeville to the present-day stand-up comedy arenas, hysterical women have consistently proved their comedic talents and prowess. In

this article, we will explore the contributions of these remarkable women, their impact on American comedy, and why their performances are simply unmissable.

## Trailblazing Comedic Icons

One cannot discuss hysterical women in American comedy without mentioning the incredible trailblazers who paved the way for future generations. Lucille Ball, widely regarded as one of the greatest comedienne of all time, broke barriers with her hit show 'I Love Lucy' in the 1950s. Her impeccable timing, physical comedy, and infectious laugh continue to resonate with audiences today.



## Hysterical!: Women in American Comedy

by Linda Mizejewski (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 16038 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 469 pages  
Lending : Enabled



Another legendary figure in American comedy is Joan Rivers. Known for her sharp wit and fearless approach to tackling controversial topics, Rivers fearlessly pushed boundaries. Her acerbic commentary paved the way for female comedians to fearlessly express themselves in the male-dominated industry.

## Redefining Women's Roles

Throughout history, comedy has often been seen as a male-dominated profession. However, hysterical women in American comedy have challenged the traditional gender roles and norms through their performances. They have presented unique perspectives on femininity, relationships, and societal expectations, dismantling stereotypes and creating relatable characters that resonated with audiences of all genders.

Comedians like Amy Schumer and Sarah Silverman fearlessly confront controversial subjects while using humor as a tool for social commentary. Their thought-provoking acts challenge societal norms and push boundaries, empowering women and inspiring others to question the status quo.

### **The Rise of Improvisation**

In recent years, improvisational comedy has gained significant popularity in the American comedy scene. Many hysterical women have embraced this form as a way to showcase their spontaneity and quick thinking. Groundbreaking improv groups such as The Second City and Upright Citizens Brigade have become platforms for aspiring female comedians to hone their skills and gain recognition.

### **Intersection of Comedy and Activism**

Comedy often serves as a powerful vehicle for addressing social and political issues, and hysterical women have been at the forefront of using their comedic platforms to advocate for change. From Whoopi Goldberg's discussions on race to Ellen DeGeneres' championing of LGBTQ+ rights, female comedians have utilized their influence to raise awareness and inspire action.

### **The Future of Hysterical Women in American Comedy**

The comedy landscape is continually evolving, and the future holds immense opportunities for hysterical women in American comedy. With their undeniable

talent, unique perspectives, and unwavering determination, these women will undoubtedly continue to make audiences laugh, challenge societal norms, and inspire millions around the world.

So, be sure to keep an eye out for the next generation of women comedians. They are ready to take the stage by storm and leave us all in stitches.

Hysterical women in American comedy have played an integral role in shaping the landscape of humor in the United States. From breaking gender barriers to inspiring social change, these comedians have used their talent and wit to entertain, educate, and challenge societal norms. As comedy continues to evolve, it is important to recognize and appreciate the contributions of these remarkable women who have fearlessly taken the stage to bring laughter and joy to audiences around the world.



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Susan Koppelman Award Winner: “A juicy read for those who love the many ways female comics use their art to question the patriarchy.” —Bust

Amy Schumer, Samantha Bee, Mindy Kaling, Melissa McCarthy, Tig Notaro, Leslie Jones, and a host of hilarious peers are killing it nightly on American stages and screens, smashing the tired stereotype that women aren't funny. But today's funny women didn't come out of nowhere. Fay Tincher's daredevil stunts, Mae West's linebacker walk, Lucille Ball's manic slapstick, Carol Burnett's athletic pratfalls, Ellen DeGeneres's tomboy pranks, Whoopi Goldberg's sly twinkle, and Tina Fey's acerbic wit all paved the way for contemporary unruly women, whose comedy upends the norms and ideals of women's bodies and behaviors.

*Hysterical! Women in American Comedy* delivers a lively survey of women comics from the stars of the silent cinema up through the multimedia presences of Tina Fey and Lena Dunham. This anthology of original essays includes contributions by the field's leading authorities, introducing a new framework for women's comedy that analyzes the implications of hysterical laughter and hysterically funny performances. Expanding on previous studies of comedians such as Mae West, Moms Mabley, and Margaret Cho, and offering the first scholarly work on comedy pioneers Mabel Normand, Fay Tincher, and Carol Burnett, the contributors explore such topics as racial/ethnic/sexual identity, celebrity, stardom, censorship, auteurism, cuteness, and postfeminism across multiple media. Situated within the main currents of gender and queer studies, as well as American studies and feminist media scholarship, *Hysterical!* masterfully demonstrates that hysteria—women acting out and acting up—is a provocative, empowering model for women's comedy.

"An invaluable collection and a great read." *Journal of Popular Culture*

Winner of a Susan Koppelman Award for Best Anthology, Multi-Authored, or Edited Book in Feminist Studies, Popular and American Culture Associations (PACA), 2017



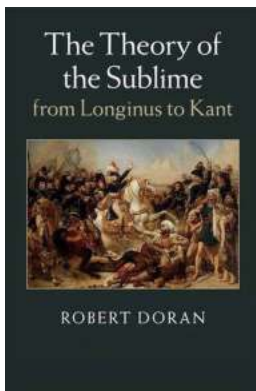
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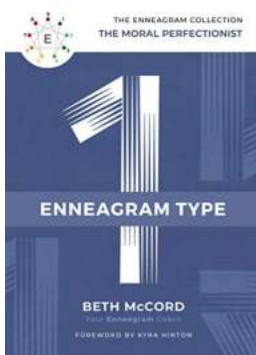
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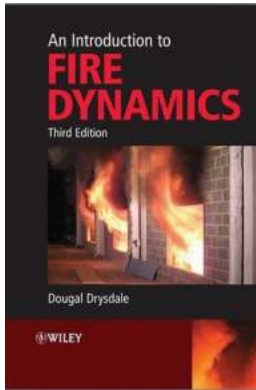
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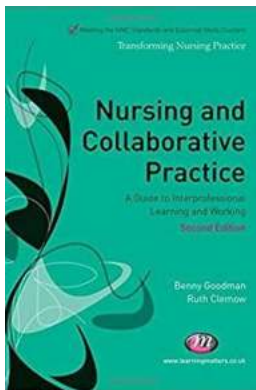
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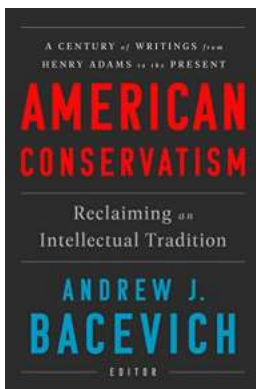
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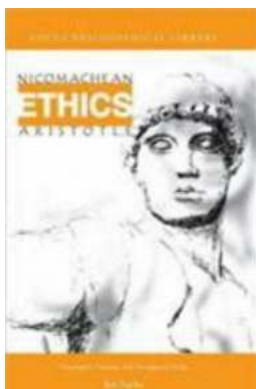
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