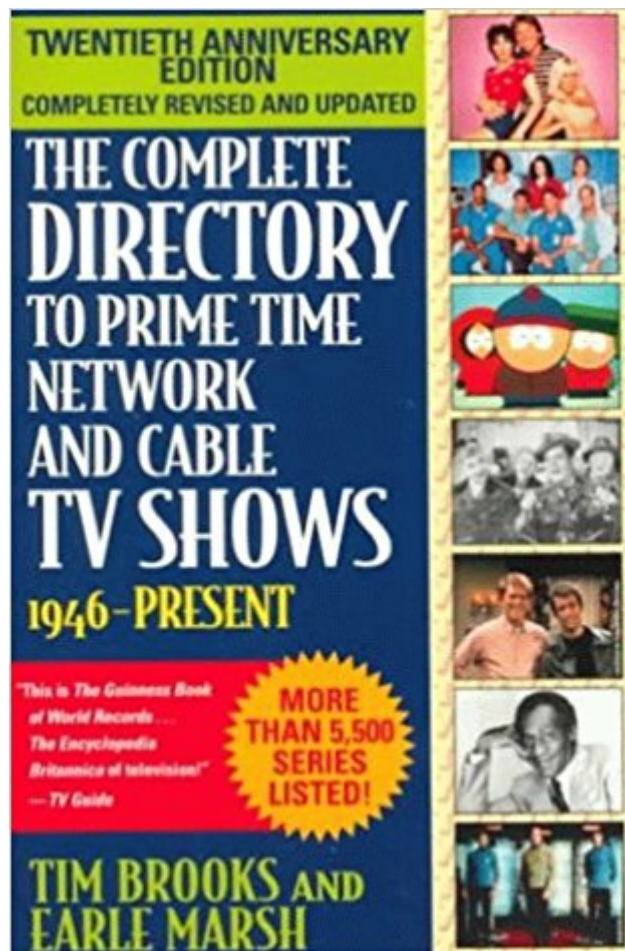




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The Complete Directory To Prime Time Network And Cable TV Shows, Seventh Edition



Synopsis

AMERICA'S #1 BESTSELLING TELEVISION BOOK--NOW REVISED AND UPDATED!The biggest and best television reference ever published, this is the guide you'll turn to again and again for information on every nighttime network series ever telecast and all the top syndicated and cable series! From The Ed Sullivan Show, The Honeymooners, and Happy Days to Party of Five, The X-Files, and Dharma & Greg, this comprehensive directory lists every program alphabetically and includes the complete broadcast history, cast list, and plot summary, along with exciting behind-the-scene stories about the shows and stars.EXTENSIVE ORIGINAL CABLE COVERAGE with more than XXX entries, from Larry King Live to Talk Soup and South Park.MORE THAN 350 NEW NETWORK AND SYNDICATED SERIES, including Ally McBeal, The Practice, Will & Grace, and Sports Night.UPDATED LISTINGS OF CONTINUING SHOWS, including Frasier, The Simpsons, and 60 Minutes.BRAND-NEW APPENDIX listing network Web addresses.SPECIAL FEATURES!- Annual program schedules at a glance for the past fifty-three years - Top-rated shows of each season - Emmy Award winners - Longest running series - Spinoff series - Theme songs - Fascinating history of the "Seven Eras" of TV programming - More than fifty entries for the leading cable networks - And much, much more!

Book Information

Series: Complete Directory to Prime Time Network and Cable TV Shows, ed 7

Paperback: 1392 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books; 7th edition (December 7, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0345429230

ISBN-13: 978-0345429230

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 174 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,136,538 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Pop Culture > Reference #427 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > Reference #837 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > Guides & Reviews

Customer Reviews

"This is the Guinness Book of World Records . . .The Encyclopedia Britannica of television!"--TV Guide

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February 2012 Addendum: I just read a comment made by one of the authors, Tim Brooks, which is from an interview he did shortly after this editions publication in October 2007. He stated there that this edition may be the last one. The article can be found here: [...] I can't describe how disappointed I am at this, now belated, news! This is one of my all time favorite books, and I've purchased every edition since around 1988. The tenth edition should have come out nearly four months ago now. I contacted the publisher and they informed me that this book is not on their schedule for publication for the next 12 months. It seems that his comment has now come true. Unless someone else takes it over, we probably seen the last edition of this outstanding publication.I have been purchasing this book since the fourth edition, which was Published in approximately October 1988 or so. I love this book! It tells you pretty much ever wanted to know about a TV show and its cast! I am constantly referring to it when watching my favorite reruns, and often just browse through it, and seem to always across and old favorite that I'd not thought about for some time! I also love the grid section in the back that tells you what each Networks' schedule was like season by season.This book is revised every three (3) or four (4) years. This current edition came out in the Fall of 2007, so the tenth edition should be out within the next couple of months if they follow their previous publication pattern. You can learn not only about the shows, but who was

in them, what other shows they did, and occasionally some information about noteworthy guest stars. For the next and/or future editions, though, here are some improvements I would like to see included (in no particular order): The next edition is likely to grow by at least a few hundred pages with all the new shows that have come out since the last edition, so I'd like to see a new, wider page format, similar in size to what the Golden Retriever Movie Hound book is published in. This would also allow them to make the font just a bit larger, too. Some of the synopses seem to end rather abruptly, leaving the reader hanging; it would be good to fix this. If there were some interesting facts behind the show, i.e., ratings issues, and what they did to try improve ratings, or some other controversy or news-worthy event, mention that as well. I'd also like to know what led to a show being cancelled. Did they decide they'd reached their creative end, like in M*A*S*H? Was it due to declining ratings? Was it some other reason, such as the death of the series lead? Whatever it was, I'd like to see this information included in the synopsis. I also love to have some photographs, perhaps for those historically significant or noteworthy shows. Not tons of photographs, necessarily, just enough to lend some pictorial history. In addition to a larger size font, I'd like to see perhaps a new, more easy-to-read font as well. Nonetheless, this book is a great addition to your library. And don't ever throw your old editions away! Pass them on to a friend or colleague!

Sadly seems to be the last edition... authors passed or retired? But well passed the past update cycle. When they started it in the late 70's they were seasoned TV people. Plus now with online first run stuff the whole mix has gotten much more complex. Still a historical reference well worth having.

11/29/2013 2:33pm The Complete Directory to Prime Time Live TV have been buying this book for 30 years and it sits right next to me on my shelf, as I always need to look up another series. I wish they would list the number of episodes produced, they do that for syndicated series, cable but not for the main network series. I like this book but I do need say to the authors they should not list the final episode air-date when the network chooses to bring the series back as filler for the summer or an empty time-slot. Another quibble, the book has taken remakes of successful series and combined their histories as one series, including final air-dates, for example "The Odd Couple" 1970-1975 with "The New Odd Couple" 1982-1983. I find the extensive cast credits, timeslot changes, original debut and final air-dates, and the series format/plot/summary and for long-running series, a history, very helpful.

Not much detail is given for most shows. A minor disappointment.

This is the ninth edition of this masterwork television directory, and if rumors are true, it will also be the last print edition. (If there is to be a tenth print edition, it is greatly overdue given the spacing of the first nine editions.) I bought the first edition of this book, and I have bought most of the others too. I keep this book next to the TV and consult it very often. If a series appeared on network or cable television, even briefly, it is in here. The cast lists are very thorough and complete.

Many thanks to Tim Brooks and Earle Marsh for the best book about television series airing on US TV. The 'small screen' companion to Leonard Maltin's 'big screen' movie reviews guide, the Complete Directory to shows has been an indispensable reference for several decades. That there will be no future editions is most disappointing and we can only hope the author's have a change of heart and find the hours in their busy lives to continue what is a very, very valuable information resource!!!!

It's like a trip down memory lane!The only other edition of this book I owned was the version published in 1987. So this edition is a quantum leap forward.I challenge you to find a more thorough guide to prime time TV. This book has everything - down to the minutest detail. Even if you just scan through this book you'll see in-depth references to shows you've long forgotten about. It really is like flipping through an old family album that has been lost to time or stashed away for years. The memories just come flooding back to you.Special enhanced bonus: the appendixes at the back that break down the shows by longest-running, spin-offs, etc.No kidding: the last time I sat down to read through this book, I let SO MUCH time go by that by the time I put it down I had to shave again.Absolutely worth picking up, but nearly impossible to put down!!Don't believe me? Read some of the other reviews listed here for this simply fantastic reference book. There's a reason everyone gives this book 5 stars!

This is my second version of this book. It is wonderful!!!!!! I use it for reference almost every day. Great for settling family disputes and answering or verifying trivia questions. Worth its weight in gold. I even enjoy just sitting down and reading it like a book. It is a necessity for anyone who likes to know specifics about television.

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