

THE LAUGHING STALK: LIVE COMEDY AND ITS AUDIENCES

Edited by Judy Batalion

Aesthetic Critical Inquiry

Edited by Andrea Feeser

Information and Pricing

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With contributions by leading scholars, writers and comedians in the USA, the UK and Canada, *THE LAUGHING STALK: LIVE COMEDY AND ITS AUDIENCES* focuses on the dynamics of audience behavior. Performers, writers, historians, producers, and theorists explore the practice and reception of live comedy performance, including cultural and historical variations in comedy audience conduct, the reception of “low” versus “high” comedy, and the differences between televised and live jokes. Contributors reflect on the subjectivity of audience members and the spread of affect, as well as the two-way relationship between joker and listener. They investigate race, sexuality and gender in humor, and contemplate the comedy club as a distinct spatial and emotional environment. *THE LAUGHING STALK: LIVE COMEDY AND ITS AUDIENCES* includes excerpts and scripts from Michael Frayne’s *Audience* and Andrea Fraser’s *Inaugural Speech*. Judy Batalion interviews noted comic writers, performers, and theater designers, including Iain Mackintosh, Shazia Mirza, Julia Chamberlain, Scott Jacobson, and Andrea Fraser. Sarah Boyes contributes a short photographic essay on comedy clubbers. Essay contributors include Alice Rayner, Matthew Daube, Lesley Harbidge, Gavin Butt, Diana Solomon, Rebecca Krefting, Kevin McCarron, Nile Seguin, Elizabeth Klaver, Frances Gray, AL Kennedy, Kéline Gotman, and Samuel Godin. The comedy duo of Sable & Batalion share their conclusions about audience responses to hip-hop theater.

JUDY BATALION is a writer, performer, and independent scholar. She has written and performed stand-up, sketches, improv, one-woman shows, short films, and comedy theater in her native Canada, throughout the UK and US. Her academic work has appeared in publications including *Contemporary Theatre Review*, and her journalism and personal essays have been published in newspapers, magazines and blogs. She holds a PhD from the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, in Art History, and currently resides in New York City.

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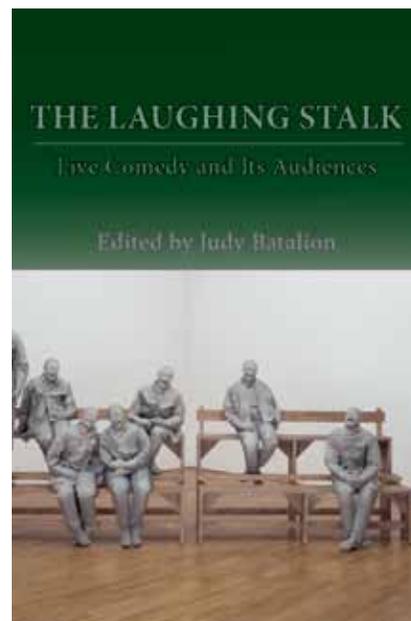
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