

league of gentlemen bbc

League of Gentlemen BBC is a comedy series that has left an indelible mark on British television, blending dark humor, satire, and a unique sense of local flavor. Premiering in 1999, the show was created by and starred the core cast—Reece Shearsmith, Steve Pemberton, Mark Gatiss, and Jeremy Dyson—who brought to life the quirky, often grotesque residents of the fictional town of Royston Vasey. Over its three series and various specials, the series cultivated a dedicated fanbase and became a cultural phenomenon, renowned for its sharp satire and innovative comedy style.

Overview of the Series

Origins and Creation

The League of Gentlemen was developed as a stage show before transitioning to television. The creators, all deeply involved in British comedy and drama, aimed to craft a satirical portrait of small-town Britain, emphasizing its eccentricities and darker undertones. Their background in comedy, theatre, and writing cultivated a distinctive style that combined surrealism with social commentary.

The show first aired on BBC Two in 1999 and quickly gained attention for its unique approach. Its blend of horror-inspired humor, grotesque characters, and satirical edge set it apart from traditional sitcoms. The success of the series led to multiple series, specials, and a loyal following.

Format and Style

The series is characterized by its anthology-like structure, with each episode featuring interconnected stories revolving around the residents of Royston Vasey. The humor often derives from exaggerated stereotypes, dark themes, and absurd situations, all delivered in a deadpan tone.

The show's visual style is equally distinctive—using atmospheric lighting, claustrophobic set designs, and a deliberately bleak color palette to evoke a sense of unease mixed with comedy. Its innovative approach has influenced many subsequent British comedies.

The Main Characters and Setting

Royston Vasey: The Fictional Town

Royston Vasey is a fictional small town in northern England, a place inhabited by bizarre characters who often reflect exaggerated stereotypes. The town itself acts as a microcosm of British society, satirized through its residents' eccentricities. The setting provides a darkly comic backdrop for exploring themes like community, morality, and human folly.

Key Characters

The series features a colorful cast of characters, some of whom become recurring figures. Key characters include:

- Tubbs and Edward Tattsyrup: The proprietors of the local shop, often involved in sinister schemes.
- Papa Lazarou: A creepy circus performer with a disturbing obsession, known for his catchphrase "Hello, Dave!".
- The Mayor: A pompous and corrupt figure who represents authority gone awry.
- Mrs. Levinson: A sinister schoolteacher with a dark past.
- The Handyman and Other Villains: Characters embodying the darker side of small-town life.

Each character is crafted with exaggerated traits, serving as vehicles for satire and humor.

The Impact and Legacy of the BBC Series

Critical Reception and Awards

The League of Gentlemen was met with critical acclaim, praised for its originality, wit, and dark humor. It attracted numerous awards, including:

- British Comedy Awards
- BAFTA nominations
- Royal Television Society awards

Its success helped redefine British comedy in the early 2000s and inspired a new wave of dark, character-driven humor.

Cultural Influence

The series's influence extends beyond television. It inspired stage productions, comic books, and a 2005 feature film, *The League of Gentlemen's Apocalypse*. Its characters and catchphrases entered popular culture, and its style influenced other comedy writers and shows.

The series also sparked discussions about the boundaries of comedy and the portrayal of

small-town life, challenging perceptions and stereotypes about rural communities.

Legacy and Revival

After its original run, the series concluded in 2002, but its popularity endured. The cast reunited for special episodes and live performances, maintaining a strong fanbase. In 2017, the BBC aired a special titled *The League of Gentlemen's Apocalypse* to celebrate the show's legacy. More recently, there have been talks and hints about potential revivals or new projects, reflecting its lasting appeal.

Availability and Viewer Access

Where to Watch

The League of Gentlemen is available on various streaming platforms, making it accessible to new generations of viewers. Some options include:

- BBC iPlayer
- Amazon Prime Video
- DVD and Blu-ray releases

The availability varies by region, but the series remains a staple of British comedy collections.

Special Features and Extras

The DVD and Blu-ray editions often include:

- Behind-the-scenes documentaries
- Cast interviews
- Commentary tracks
- Deleted scenes

These extras provide insight into the creative process and the development of the series.

Controversies and Criticisms

While celebrated for its originality, The League of Gentlemen has also faced criticism, particularly regarding its dark themes and portrayal of certain characters. Some viewers and critics have raised concerns about:

- The potential for offensive stereotypes
- The depiction of mental health and violence
- The boundaries of satire and comedy

The creators have defended their work as social commentary, emphasizing the importance of satire in addressing societal issues.

Conclusion: The Enduring Appeal of the BBC Series

The League of Gentlemen BBC stands as a landmark in British comedy, blending dark humor, satire, and theatricality to create a unique television experience. Its memorable characters, distinctive style, and sharp social commentary continue to resonate with audiences worldwide. The series not only challenged conventional comedy norms but also opened pathways for more daring and innovative storytelling on television.

Whether you are a long-time fan or a newcomer discovering its charm, The League of Gentlemen remains a vital part of Britain's comedic landscape. Its influence endures, reminding us that humor can be both entertaining and a powerful mirror to society's quirks and flaws. As discussions about its legacy continue, one thing remains clear: The League of Gentlemen BBC is a true classic that has secured its place in the pantheon of influential television comedy.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The League of Gentlemen' on BBC?

'The League of Gentlemen' is a British comedy television series that features dark humor and satirical sketches set in the fictional village of Royston Vasey, created by and starring the comedy troupe of the same name.

When did 'The League of Gentlemen' originally air on BBC?

The original series aired from 1999 to 2002 on BBC Two, with a special Christmas episode in 2003.

Is there a recent revival or new series of 'The League of Gentlemen' on BBC?

Yes, in 2017, the cast reunited for a new series titled 'The League of Gentlemen' on BBC Two, marking a comeback after their original run.

Who are the main creators and cast members of 'The League of Gentlemen'?

The show was created by Reece Shearsmith, Steve Pemberton, Mark Gatiss, and Jeremy Dyson, with Shearsmith and Pemberton also starring in multiple roles.

What are some of the most popular characters from 'The League of Gentlemen'?

Notable characters include Papa Lazarou, the creepy clown; Tubbs and Edward, the creepy innkeepers; and the grotesque residents like Pauline and the various eccentric villagers.

How has 'The League of Gentlemen' influenced British comedy?

The series is renowned for its dark humor, satirical style, and unique blend of horror and comedy, influencing many subsequent British comedy shows and earning a cult following.

Where can I watch 'The League of Gentlemen' on BBC or other platforms?

The series is available on BBC iPlayer and may also be accessible through other streaming services that host BBC content, such as BritBox or DVD box sets.

Are there any upcoming projects related to 'The League of Gentlemen'?

As of now, there are no official announcements about new projects, but the cast occasionally teases potential future reunions or specials.

What makes 'The League of Gentlemen' stand out among BBC comedy shows?

Its dark, surreal humor, memorable characters, and satirical take on rural British life set it apart, creating a distinctive and influential comedy style.

Additional Resources

League of Gentlemen BBC: A Deep Dive into the Cult Comedy Phenomenon

Introduction

League of Gentlemen BBC is a name that resonates deeply within the sphere of British comedy, evoking nostalgia, intrigue, and admiration among fans and critics alike. Originally debuting in the late 1990s, this darkly comic series has carved out a distinctive place in television history, renowned for its sharp satire, grotesque humor, and memorable characters. Its influence extends beyond its initial broadcast, inspiring stage adaptations, radio shows, and a dedicated global fanbase. This article explores the origins, development, impact, and enduring legacy of League of Gentlemen BBC, offering a comprehensive overview suitable for both newcomers and seasoned followers of the series.

Origins and Development of League of Gentlemen

The Creative Minds Behind the Series

League of Gentlemen was conceived by a trio of talented comedians and writers: Reece Shearsmith, Steve Pemberton, and Mark Gatiss. These individuals shared a penchant for dark humor and theatrical storytelling, collaborating to develop a show that would satirize their hometown, the fictional village of Royston Vasey, and the broader British rural stereotype.

The Birth of the Show

The concept originated from a stage act performed by Shearsmith, Pemberton, Gatiss, and Jeremy Dyson. Their sketches, characterized by macabre humor and grotesque caricatures, garnered acclaim, prompting the transition to television. The BBC commissioned the series, which first aired in 1999.

Format and Style

The show employs a sketch comedy format, with each episode comprising various interconnected vignettes centered around the bizarre inhabitants of Royston Vasey. The series is distinguished by its dark humor, satirical tone, and distinctive visual style, often using exaggerated makeup and costumes to emphasize character quirks.

Key Themes and Characteristics

Satire and Social Commentary

At its core, League of Gentlemen BBC functions as a biting satire of small-town life, British societal norms, and various stereotypes. Through exaggerated characters and situations, the series critiques issues such as:

- Rural conservatism
- Class divisions
- Small-mindedness
- Hypocrisy and prejudice

Dark Comedy and Grotesque Humor

Unlike traditional sitcoms, *League of Gentlemen* employs a blend of horror elements and absurdity. Its humor often hinges on shock value, grotesque imagery, and the subversion of expectations, creating a sense of unease that amplifies the comedic impact.

Memorable Characters

The series introduced a range of iconic characters, each with distinctive traits, accents, and quirks. Notable figures include:

- Tubbs and Edward: The sinister proprietors of the local shop.
- Papa Lazarou: The creepy, masked circus performer with a sinister agenda.
- The Lady and The Man: Quirky locals embodying stereotypes.
- Clive and Pauline: A couple caught in bizarre situations.

These characters have become emblematic of the series' unique tone and continue to be referenced in popular culture.

Impact and Reception

Critical Acclaim

League of Gentlemen BBC was met with widespread critical praise for its originality, daring content, and sharp writing. It was lauded for pushing boundaries in television comedy and for its inventive approach to storytelling.

Audience Reception

The series gained a cult following, attracting viewers who appreciated its dark humor and satirical edge. Its popularity led to high viewership ratings, multiple series runs, and awards, including BAFTAs and British Comedy Awards.

Cultural Influence

The show's influence is evident in its impact on subsequent British comedy, inspiring a wave of dark, satirical, and boundary-pushing programs. Its characters and catchphrases have permeated popular culture, with references appearing in other media and everyday conversations.

Challenges and Controversies

Content Sensitivity

Given its dark themes and provocative humor, *League of Gentlemen* occasionally faced criticism for its portrayal of certain groups or sensitive topics. Some viewers and critics argued that the series' grotesque caricatures risked reinforcing stereotypes.

Censorship and Broadcast Regulations

The series sometimes challenged broadcasting standards, prompting discussions about the limits of satire and comedy on public television. The BBC's willingness to air such content was seen as a testament to its commitment to creative freedom, but also sparked debate about responsible programming.

Evolution and Spin-offs

Transition to Other Media

Beyond television, *League of Gentlemen* expanded into stage productions, radio adaptations, and comic books. These adaptations allowed the creators to explore the characters and themes in new formats, reaching wider audiences.

Reunions and Revival

In 2017, the original cast reunited for a stage tour, celebrating the series' legacy and introducing it to a new generation of fans. Although a full revival of the television series has not materialized, these reunions underscored the enduring popularity and cultural relevance of *League of Gentlemen*.

Legacy and Contemporary Relevance

Influence on Modern Comedy

League of Gentlemen BBC set a benchmark for dark, satirical comedy in the UK. Its innovative approach has influenced countless comedians and writers, encouraging more daring and unconventional storytelling.

Cult Following and Fan Engagement

Decades after its debut, the series maintains a passionate fanbase. Social media platforms and online forums continue to celebrate its characters, quotes, and moments, demonstrating its lasting impact.

Academic and Cultural Analyses

Scholars have examined *League of Gentlemen* for its commentary on British identity, rural stereotypes, and the nature of horror in comedy. Its complex layers invite ongoing analysis and discussion.

Conclusion

League of Gentlemen BBC remains a landmark in British television comedy, celebrated for its originality, boldness, and cultural commentary. Its blend of horror, satire, and humor challenged conventional norms and expanded the boundaries of what comedy could achieve on mainstream television. As a cult classic, it continues to inspire new generations of creators and entertain audiences worldwide. Whether viewed as a dark satire, a parody of small-town life, or a showcase of extraordinary characters, League of Gentlemen endures as a testament to the power of inventive storytelling and fearless comedy.

[League Of Gentlemen Bbc](#)

league of gentlemen bbc: Cult British TV comedy Leon Hunt, 2015-11-01 This book is the first sustained critical analysis of Cult British TV comedy from 1990 to the present day. The book examines 'post-alternative' comedy as both 'cult' and 'quality' TV, aimed mostly at niche audiences and often possessing a subcultural aura (comedy was famously declared 'the new 'rock'n'roll' in the early '90s). It includes case studies of Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer and the sitcom writer Graham Linehan. It examines developments in sketch shows and the emergence of 'dark' and 'cringe' comedy, and considers the politics of 'offence' during a period in which Brass Eye, 'Sachsgate' and Frankie Boyle provoked different kinds of media outrage. Programmes discussed include Vic Reeves Big Night Out, Peep Show, Father Ted, The Mighty Boosh, The Fast Show and Psychoville. Cult British TV Comedy will be of interest to both students and fans of modern TV comedy.

league of gentlemen bbc: *The League of Gentlemen*, 2003 The hilarious scripts of the BBC multi-award winning comedy series are presented here in one volume along with early drafts of the scripts, mini biographies of each character, unseen pictures, and early drawings from the writers.

league of gentlemen bbc: Torchwood Declassified Rebecca Williams, 2013-09-17 Torchwood started its life on television as a spin-off from Doctor Who, bringing Captain Jack to join new colleagues in a television series that quickly established itself as fresh and watchable television. It's fourth series, subtitled 'Miracle Day', continued its move from the niche channel of BBC3 to metamorphose into an international production between the BBC and the US network Starz. Torchwood has continued to entertain, provoke and attract large audiences and an expanding fandom. This is the first critical celebration of Torchwood across its four series, considering issues of representation, the fandom that surrounds the show and its complex, institutional contexts. Focusing in particular on how the meanings and understandings of cult television have shifted and become subject to technological, industry and marketing changes in recent years, Torchwood Declassified explores topics including the show's aesthetics and branding, its use of tropes from the horror genre, vast tie-in merchandise, status as a spin off, the nature of a celebrity that is both cult and mainstream, as well as the use of sound and music and of cult writers, and Torchwood's connection to place and location. The book will appeal to fans of the series, researchers and scholars, and anyone interested in ongoing questions over what cult television is, what it means, and why it continues to be of importance.

league of gentlemen bbc: *Very Special Episodes* Jonathan Cohn, Jennifer Porst, 2021-08-13 Very Special Episodes explores various examples of the very special episode to chart the history of American television and its self-identified status as an arbiter of culture. Through the study of this unique television format, this anthology traces the history of television's engagement with many of the most important political, aesthetic, economic, and social movements that continue to challenge

our society today.

league of gentlemen bbc: *About England* David Matless, 2023-05-15 A cultural history of “Englishness” and the idea of England since 1960. Brexit thrust long fraught debates about “Englishness” and the idea of England into the spotlight. *About England* explores imaginings of English identity since the 1960s in politics, geography, art, architecture, film, and music. David Matless reveals how the national is entangled with the local, the regional, the European, the international, the imperial, the post-imperial, and the global. He also addresses physical landscapes, from the village and country house to urban, suburban, and industrial spaces, and he reflects on the nature of English modernity. In short, *About England* uncovers the genealogy of recent cultural and political debates in England, showing how many of today’s social anxieties developed throughout the last half-century.

league of gentlemen bbc: *Beyond a Joke* Neil Archer, 2016-10-27 At the opening ceremony for the London 2012 Olympics, a global audience of nearly one billion viewers were treated to the unprecedented sight of James Bond meeting Queen Elizabeth II. Shortly after, the ‘Queen’ hurled herself out of a helicopter, her Union Jack parachute guiding her down to the Olympic Stadium. What it is about moments such as these that define both a particular idea of Britishness and a particular type of British film comedy? How has British cinema exploited parody as a means of negotiating its sense of identity? How does this function within a globalized marketplace and in the face of dominant Hollywood cinema? *Beyond a Joke* explores the myriad ways British film culture has used forms of parody, from the 1960s to the present day. It provides a contextual and textual analysis of a range of works that, while popular, have only rarely been the subject of serious academic attention – from Morecambe and Wise to *Shaun of the Dead* to the London 2012 Olympics’ opening ceremony. Combining the methodologies both of film history and film theory, *Beyond a Joke* locates parody within specific industrial and cultural moments, while also looking in detail at the aesthetics of parody as a mode. Ultimately, such works are shown to be a form of culturally specific film or televisual product for exporting to the global market, in which ‘Britishness’, shaped in self-mocking and ironic terms, becomes the selling point. Written in an accessible style and illustrated throughout with a diverse range of examples, *Beyond a Joke* is the first book to explore parody within a specifically British context and makes an invaluable contribution to the scholarship on both British and global film culture.

league of gentlemen bbc: *Principles of Enterprise Law* Ewan McGaughey, 2022-09 Shows how the enterprises shaping our lives really work: in education, banking, energy, transport, media & big-tech.

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league of gentlemen bbc: *Designing Social Interfaces* Christian Crumlish, Erin Malone,

2009-09-17 This book provides you with more than 100 patterns, principles, and best practices, along with advice for many of the common challenges you'll face when starting a social website.--[book cover].

league of gentlemen bbc: The Richer, The Poorer Stewart Lansley, 2021-11-25 The Richer, The Poorer charts the rollercoaster history of both rich and poor and the mechanisms that link wealth and impoverishment. This landmark book shows how, for 200 years, Britain's most powerful elites have enriched themselves at the expense of surging inequality, mass poverty and weakened social resilience. Stewart Lansley reveals how Britain's model of 'extractive capitalism' - with a small elite securing an excessive slice of the economic cake - has created a two-century-long 'high-inequality, high-poverty' cycle, one broken for only a brief period after the Second World War. Why, he asks, are rich and poor citizens judged by very different standards? Why has social progress been so narrowly shared? With growing calls for a fairer post-COVID-19 society, what needs to be done to break Britain's destructive poverty/inequality cycle?

league of gentlemen bbc: Regeneration Songs Anna Minton, Alberto Duman, Malcolm James, Dan Hancox, 2018-09-18 Twenty-seven leading artists, writers and academics come together to tackle one of the most drastic urban regeneration programmes in world history - the Regeneration Supernova of East London. The impact of global capital and foreign investment on local communities is being felt in major cities across the world. Since the 2012 Olympics was awarded to the British capital, East London has been at the heart of the largest and most all-encompassing top-down urban regeneration strategy in civic history. At the centre of this has been the local government, Newham Council, and their daring proposal: an Arc of Opportunity for developers to transform 1,412 hectares of Newham. The proposal was outlined in a short film, London's Regeneration Supernova, and shown to foreign developers and businesses at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo. While the sweeping changes to East London have been keenly felt by locals, the symbolism and practicalities of these changes - for the local area, and the world alike - are overdue serious investigation. Regeneration Songs is about how places are turned into simple stories for packaged investment opportunities, how people living in those places relate to those stories, and how music and art can render those stories in many different ways. The book will also include a download code to obtain the related musical project, Music for Masterplanning - in which musicians from East London soundtracked London's Regeneration Supernova - and a 32-page glossy insert detailing the artists involved.

league of gentlemen bbc: NW Trilogy Roy Williams, Suhayla El-Bushra, Moira Buffini, 2021-10-18 Set amongst the vibrant, intense cacophony of North West London, NW Trilogy is a collection of three vivid stories, told over one performance, that remember and celebrate people who changed the course of history. The personal is political in these soulful explorations of what it means to be part of one of the most dynamic communities in the world. First, we reel to a dance hall in 'County Kilburn' in Moira Buffini's Dance Floor where the Guinness flows, the music never stops and for homesick Aoife, there's far more at stake than a dance. In Roy Williams' bittersweet Life of Riley, Paulette is on a journey to connect with her estranged father Riley, a reggae musician once part of the influential Trojan Records scene, who can't seem to let go of the past. And, Suhayla El-Bushra's Waking/Walking introduces us to Anjali, a wife, mother and newly arrived migrant following Idi Amin's expulsion of the Asian minority from Uganda, who is torn between not making a fuss and seizing her moment to take a stand as the Grunwick dispute unfolds. NW Trilogy is powerful, funny and epic and shows us how we can change the world from our doorstep. This edition was published to coincide with the world premiere as NW Trilogy at Kiln Theatre, London, in August 2021.

league of gentlemen bbc: TV Horror Lorna Jowett, Stacey Abbott, 2013-01-18 Horror is a universally popular, pervasive TV genre, with shows like True Blood, Being Human, The Walking Dead and American Horror Story making a bloody splash across our television screens. This complete, utterly accessible, sometimes scary new book is the definitive work on TV horror. It shows how this most adaptable of genres has continued to be a part of the broadcast landscape, unsettling audiences and pushing the boundaries of acceptability. The authors demonstrate how TV Horror continues to provoke and terrify audiences by bringing the monstrous and the supernatural into the

home, whether through adaptations of Stephen King and classic horror novels, or by reworking the gothic and surrealism in *Twin Peaks* and *Carnivale*. They uncover horror in mainstream television from procedural dramas to children's television and, through close analysis of landmark TV auteurs including Rod Serling, Nigel Kneale, Dan Curtis and Stephen Moffat, together with case studies of such shows as *Dark Shadows*, *Dexter*, *Pushing Daisies*, *Torchwood*, and *Supernatural*, they explore its evolution on television. This book is a must-have for those studying TV Genre as well as for anyone with a taste for the gruesome and the macabre.

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Wikipedia contributors,

league of gentlemen bbc: Screening Shakespeare in the Twenty-First Century

Mark Thornton Burnett, 2006-09-27 This bold new collection offers an innovative discussion of Shakespeare on screen after the millennium. Cutting-edge, and fully up-to-date, it surveys the rich field of Bardic film representations, from Michael Almereyda's *Hamlet* to the BBC 'Shakespea(Re)-Told' season, from Michael Radford's *The Merchant of Venice* to Peter Babakitis' *Henry V*. In addition to offering in-depth analyses of all the major productions, *Screening Shakespeare in the Twenty-First Century* includes reflections upon the less well-known filmic 'Shakespeares', which encompass cinema advertisements, appropriations, post-colonial reinventions and mass media citations, and which move across and between genres and mediums. Arguing that Shakespeare is a magnet for negotiations about style, value and literary authority, the essays contend that screen reinterpretations of England's most famous dramatist simultaneously address concerns centred upon nationality and ethnicity, gender and romance, and 'McDonaldisation' and the political process, thereby constituting an important intervention in the debates of the new century. As a result, through consideration of such offerings as the Derry Film Initiative *Hamlet*, the New Zealand *The Maori Merchant of Venice* and the television documentary *In Search of Shakespeare*, this collection is able to assess as never before the continuing relevance of Shakespeare in his local and global screen incarnations. Features* Only collection like it on the market, bringing the subject up to date.* Twenty-first century focus and international coverage.* Innovative discussion of a wide range of films and television.* Accessibly written for students and general readers.

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Niall Richardson, Clarissa Smith, Angela Werndly, 2013-05-31 Sexuality is an integral part of our lives, and our identities. But how do we study it? Written in a lively and accessible style, *Studying Sexualities* aims to introduce students to the critical study of sexuality, taking a look at the major theories, media representations, and cultural practices. After having carefully explained the key theoretical and empirical debates on the subject – outlining Foucauldian Constructionism, Psychoanalysis, and Queer Theory – the authors draw on their own original research to address timely topics related to gender, sexuality, and popular culture. Contemporary examples used within the book include discussions of sex shops, cybersex, and sex toys, the TV series *Sex and the City*, *Will and Grace* and *The L Word*, and the immensely popular *Twilight* books. *Studying Sexualities* is essential reading for undergraduate and postgraduate students on Cultural, Media, Film, or visual Studies, or Sociology and Sexuality courses, who are interested in researching the fascinating complexities of sexuality today. NIALL RICHARDSON is a lecturer at the University of Sussex, and CLARISSA SMITH and ANGELA WERNDLY are lecturers at the University of Sunderland, UK. This book is the culmination of their considerable teaching and writing experience within the field of sexualities. Their specific research interests include feminism and popular culture, queer theory, the body and consumption.

league of gentlemen bbc: Gender and Laughter

, 2016-08-09 This essay collection is dedicated to intersections between gender theories and theories of laughter, humour, and comedy. It is based on the results of a three-year research programme, entitled "Gender – Laughter – Media" (2003-2006) and includes a series of investigations on traditional and modern media in western cultures from the 18th to the 20th century. A theoretical opening part is followed by four thematic sections that explore the multiple forms of irritating stereotypical gender perceptions; aspects of

(post-)colonialism and multiculturalism; the comic impact of literary and media genres in different national cultures; as well as the different comic strategies in fictional, philosophical, artistic or real life communication. The volume presents a variety of new approaches to the overlaps between gender and laughter that have only barely been considered in groundbreaking research. It forms a valuable read for scholars of literary, theatre, media, and cultural studies, at the same time reaching out to a general readership.

league of gentlemen bbc: The Television Genre Book Glen Creeber, 2015-08-16 Genre is central to understanding the industrial context and visual form of television. This new edition of the key textbook on television genre brings together leading international scholars to provide an accessible and comprehensive introduction to the debates, issues and concerns of the field. Structured in eleven sections, *The Television Genre Book* introduces the concept of 'genre' itself and how it has been understood in television studies, and then addresses the main televisual genres in turn: drama, soap opera, comedy, news, documentary, reality television, children's television, animation and popular entertainment. This third edition is illustrated throughout with case studies of classic and contemporary programming from each genre, ranging from *The Simpsons* to *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and from *Monty Python's Flying Circus* to *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*. It also features new case studies on contemporary shows, including *The Only Way Is Essex*, *Homeland*, *Game of Thrones*, *Downton Abbey*, *Planet Earth*, *Grey's Anatomy* and *QVC*, and new chapters covering topics such as constructed reality, travelogues, telefantasy, stand-up comedy, the panel show, 24-hour news, Netflix and video on demand.

league of gentlemen bbc: The BBC Puzzle Book Ian Haydn Smith, Gareth Moore, 2022-09-27 See how much you and your family know about the Beeb with this lively and fun official puzzle book on the BBC.

league of gentlemen bbc: The Essential Cult TV Reader David Lavery, 2021-09-15 The *Essential Cult TV Reader* is a collection of insightful essays that examine television shows that amass engaged, active fan bases by employing an imaginative approach to programming. Once defined by limited viewership, cult TV has developed its own identity, with some shows gaining large, mainstream audiences. By exploring the defining characteristics of cult TV, *The Essential Cult TV Reader* traces the development of this once obscure form and explains how cult TV achieved its current status as legitimate television. The essays explore a wide range of cult programs, from early shows such as *Star Trek*, *The Avengers*, *Dark Shadows*, and *The Twilight Zone* to popular contemporary shows such as *Lost*, *Dexter*, and *24*, addressing the cultural context that allowed the development of the phenomenon. The contributors investigate the obligations of cult series to their fans, the relationship of camp and cult, the effects of DVD releases and the Internet, and the globalization of cult TV. *The Essential Cult TV Reader* answers many of the questions surrounding the form while revealing emerging debates on its future.

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