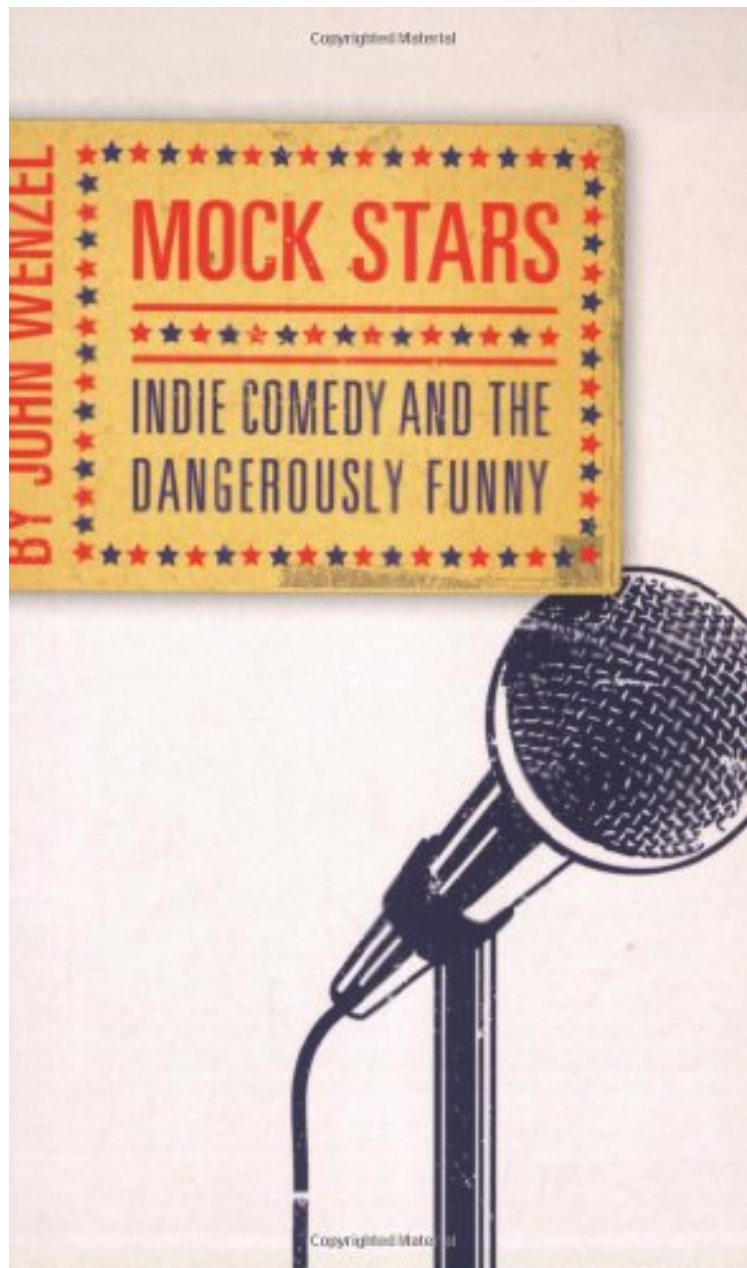


Mock Stars: Indie Comedy and the Dangerously Funny

John Wenzel

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John Wenzel : Mock Stars: Indie Comedy and the Dangerously Funny before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mock Stars: Indie Comedy and the Dangerously Funny:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great read for comedy aficionado's By Janet M. Simon I had the

pleasure of reading of this book two years ago and over the Christmas holiday I picked it up again. If you are a comedy aficionado, sit back, pour a glass of wine or your favorite beverage and enjoy! First you get the set-up...What the hell is Indie Comedy? Then you step into a unique journey of a bit of history, evolution of comedy, today's perspective and a series of interviews that the author characterizes as the intelligent comedians of the day. This author, John Wenzel, gives you a view of his personal interviews that allow you to experience your favorite comedians from a fresh perspective. He brings you along on the interview as if you are standing behind the curtain with a great eavesdropping seat. I really enjoyed the description of the interview venues which add to the joy of the read. A couple that come to mind immediately are the Crackle Barrel interview with David Cross and the LA coffee shop with Patton Oswalt. This writer is edgy, cynical, funny and is just as intelligent as the comedians he chose to feature. So, if you still have the stub of your first comedy ticket or you're a pop culture student or you would just enjoy a unique perspective on comedy this is a MUST read for you! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. As entertaining as it is informative. By Daybreaker1998 Author John Wenzel went through great measures to research and interview some of the best in the business, and the delivery is fittingly funny and entertaining. This is great fun and research alike for people wanting to dive deeper into the depths of the underground comic-as-rock-star world. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Too geeky for non-geeks By Phillip Schwarzmann Nice to see someone cover contemporary comics! However, comedy geeks won't really learn anything new, and it's too geeky for the non-geeks. But still an enjoyable read.

Overpriced two-drink minimums and potato skins, bad Clinton jokes on late night these used to be the hallmarks of comedy, an art relegated to the controlled environs of comedy clubs and network TV. Fortunately, in the late 90s, a daring breed of comedians began rejecting the status quo altogether and, by taking cues from the indie-music world, started reviving comedy as a savvy and groundbreaking art form. *Mock Stars* delves headfirst into this revolutionary scene, tracing the evolution of indie comedy as part of the underground music circuit and into mainstream America. Through candid interviews with the major players, including David Cross, Patton Oswalt, Neil Hamburger, Maria Bamford, Fred Armisen, Aziz Ansari, Jon Wurster, Aimee Mann, and dozens of others, Wenzel reveals how comedy is becoming relevant and dangerously funny again.

"...charts the evolution from the traditional send-ups of the '70s-'80s to deadpan, anti-punch lines of the '90s." --The Onion, November 13, 2008 It's not a pleasant thought, but we have to ask ourselves: Where would we be without indie comedy? Shudder to think of a world without smart, funny gals in horn-rimmed glasses. And no Janeane Garofalo! Stop it! Then again, we would never have had to type "Neil Hamburger." John Wenzel's given the topic a lot of thought and has written a dissertation ... I mean a book, called *Mock Stars: Indie Comedy and the Dangerously Funny*. --LA Weekly, February 2009 "...*Mock Stars*' is a very entertaining, very readable guide to the new world of comedy, full of names to search out on YouTube and dedicated comedy Web sites. Wenzel had a lot of threads to gather together, and he does an admirable job of weaving them all into the story of intelligent, dedicated comics striving to evolve their art form. --Daily Camera, February 2009 "*Mock Stars: Indie Comedy the Dangerously Funny*" by John Wenzel... manages to be indispensable both as a chronicle of the continually developing "indie" comedy scene in New York, L.A. and online, and with profiles of some of its most notable performers. --Jester Journal, January 2009 About the Author John Wenzel first got the indie-comedy bug watching HBO's *Mr. Show*, a sketch comedy program with which he's still obsessed. He currently writes about music, comedy, and new media for The Denver Post and has written for websites and magazines such as *Rockpile* and *Shredding Paper*. He recently won a Best Feature Writing award from the Denver Press Club/Newspaper Guild and writes a random-culture blog at GetRealDenver.com. Wenzel lives in Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood.