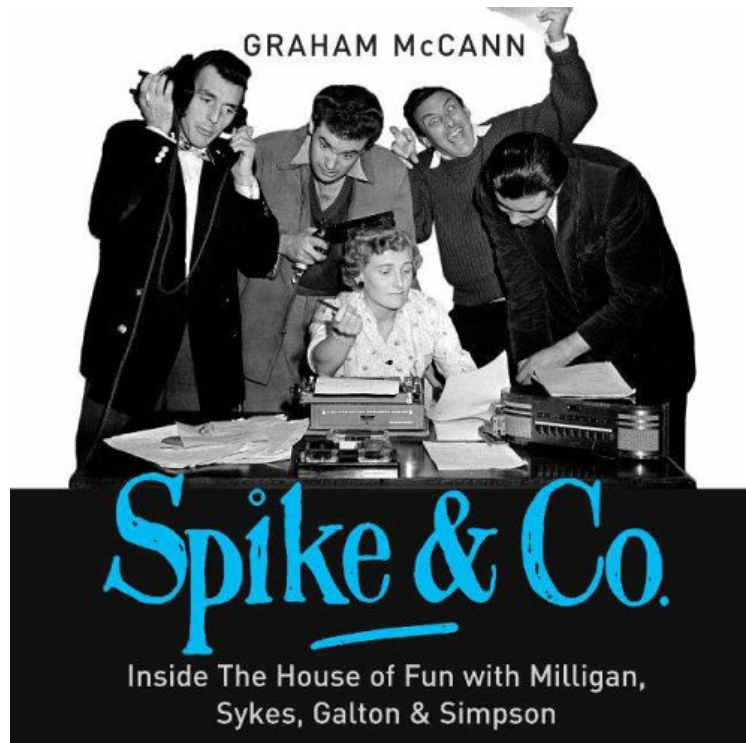


(Library ebook) Spike and Co

Spike and Co

Graham McCann

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Graham McCann : Spike and Co before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spike and Co:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Stig Stigglesworth A truly great period of comedy
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Britcom's Big Bang By Post Scriptum This book tells the fascinating story of how a unique comedy co-operative came into being in London and then sent out into the world most of the best and most innovative comedy shows and formats of the last century. All in the Family and Sanford and Son were based on two of these shows; among the UK series were Hancock's Half Hour, The Goons, Steptoe and Son, Till Death Us Do Part, Round the Horne, Doctor Who's daleks...the list goes on. This book tells you all about the shows and the writers, and gives you a real insight into what made Britcomedy so great.

This is the story of how four people, grouped together inside a set of offices five floors above a greengrocer's shop on Shepherd's Bush Green in West London, launched a golden age of British comedy. On any weekday morning, if you dare to clamber over the crates of fruit and veg that the greengrocer has allowed to pile up outside on the pavement, climb the five flights up the dangerously rickety staircase and creep inside the entrance to Associated London Scripts, you will find Milligan, Sykes, Galton Simpson, shaping the latest shows, swapping the odd story and searching for a funnier line. Spike Milligan is in one office, slumped over his typewriter, tapping away at the next script for The Goons. Eric Sykes is seated at his desk inside the next office, writing out in longhand another routine for Frankie

Howerd or the cast of Educating Archie. Galton and Simpson are in their own office, plotting the next half hour for Tony Hancock. Together, this eclectic bunch, and their bizarre office block, were responsible for a golden age in British comedy, which included -- The Goons, Hancock's Half Hour, Sykes, Steptoe and Son, Comedy Playhouse, The Frankie Howerd Show, Beyond Our Ken, Round the Horn, The Arthur Haynes Show, The Army Game, Bootsie and Snudge, That Was The Week That Was, and Till Death Us Do Part, to name but a few. HOUSE OF FUN is their incredible story.

"'Never has the sheer awkwardness of the human condition been so comically, or beautifully, conveyed.' - Daily Mail
* 'As with his masterly account of Dad's Army, this is an objective and scrupulously researched study, unlikely to be superseded.' - Roger Lewis, Spectator * 'McCann's lively biography is rooted in those post-music-hall days, his portrait of the period is vivid.' - Alex Clark, Sunday Times"About the AuthorGraham McCann is the most admired entertainment writer at work in the UK today. He is the critically acclaimed and best-selling author of books on Dad's Army, Frankie Howerd, Morecambe Wise and Cary Grant. He recently edited THE ESSENTIAL DAVE ALLEN for Hodder Stoughton (2005).