

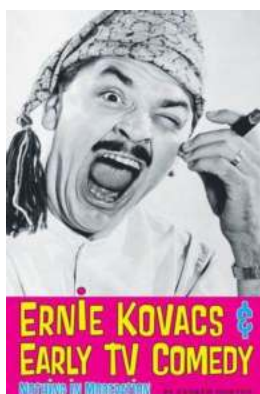
# Ernie Kovacs Early TV Comedy: Nothing In Moderation



Ernie Kovacs was a true pioneer in the world of early television comedy. With his unique style, innovative concepts, and boundary-pushing humor, Kovacs left an indelible mark on the industry, inspiring many comedians who followed in his footsteps. In this article, we will delve into Kovacs' early TV career, exploring the reasons why his comedy stood out, and how he broke free from the traditional norms of televised entertainment. Get ready for a laughter-filled journey back in time!

## The Birth of a Comedy Legend

Ernie Kovacs, born Ernest Edward Kovacs on January 23, 1919, in Trenton, New Jersey, was destined for greatness in the entertainment world. His career began as a radio announcer in Trenton before he ventured into television in the 1950s. Kovacs quickly made a name for himself with his eccentric humor, innovative visual gags, and absurdist sketches.



### Ernie Kovacs & Early TV Comedy: Nothing in

**Moderation** by Andrew Horton (Reprint Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1285 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

X-Ray : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 193 pages



## Challenging the Norms

Kovacs had an uncanny ability to think outside the box, disrupting the monotony of the traditional sitcom format. He rejected the idea of a laugh track, opting for unconventional sound effects and absurd situations to elicit laughter from his audiences. This refusal to conform to the expectations of television comedy enabled him to create a unique viewing experience that captivated viewers.

## Nothing in Moderation

Kovacs' approach to his comedy was 'nothing in moderation.' He pushed the boundaries of what was considered acceptable on television at that time. His

sketches often featured exaggerated characters, surreal settings, and wild improvisation, providing the audience with an experience that was both outrageous and liberating.

## **Innovative Techniques**

As a true pioneer, Kovacs experimented with various technical aspects of television production. He utilized split screens, visual effects, and elaborate props to enhance his sketches further. One of his most memorable trademarks was the use of offbeat camera shots and unexpected angles, creating a visually striking aesthetic that added another layer of comedy to his performances.

## **The Characters**

Throughout his career, Kovacs portrayed a wide range of characters that became instantly recognizable to his fans. From the bumbling and mischievous Eugene to the cigar-chomping poet Percy Dovetonsils, each character showcased Kovacs' exceptional comedic timing and versatility. His ability to immerse himself in various roles solidified his status as a comedic genius.

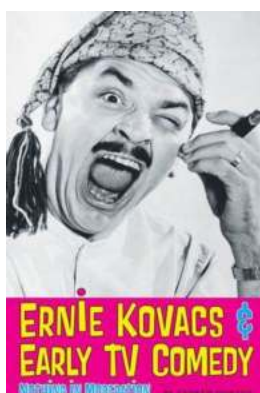
## **A Lasting Legacy**

Ernie Kovacs left an undeniable impact on the world of comedy and television. His innovative spirit and daring approach continue to inspire comedians today. Without his contributions, the landscape of television comedy might have remained tame and predictable.

Ernie Kovacs' early TV comedy was truly nothing in moderation. With his unique style, boundary-pushing humor, and innovative techniques, Kovacs revolutionized the way people perceived television comedy. His legacy lives on as comedians strive to capture the same spirit of risk-taking and originality that he embodied.

Let's remember and appreciate this comedic genius who brought laughter to millions.

*Disclaimer: This article is meant purely for entertainment purposes and does not claim to provide factual information about Ernie Kovacs' life or career.*



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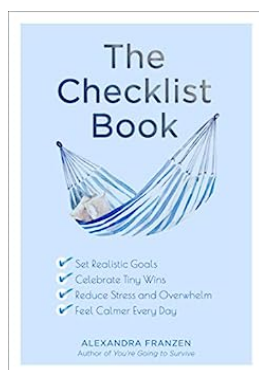
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Exploring the pioneering career of the man whose quirky comic experiments influenced decades of television, from Laugh-In to Late Night.

A true pioneer of television, Ernie Kovacs entertained audiences throughout the 1950s and early 1960s with his zany, irreverent, and surprising humor—and also inspired a host of later comedies and comedians, including Monty Python, David Letterman, much of Saturday Night Live, Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In, Captain Kangaroo, and even Sesame Street. Kovacs created laughter through wildly creative comic jokes, playful characterizations, hilarious insights, and wacky experiments—"Nothing in moderation," his motto and epitaph, sums up well Kovacs's wholehearted approach to comedy and life.

In this book, Andrew Horton offers the first sustained look at Ernie Kovacs's wide-ranging and lasting contributions to the development of TV comedy. He discusses in detail Kovacs's work in New York, which included The Ernie Kovacs Show (CBS prime time 1952–1953), The Ernie Kovacs Show (NBC daytime variety 1956–1957), Tonight (NBC late-night comedy/variety 1956-1957), and a number of quiz shows. Horton also looks at Kovacs's work in Los Angeles and in feature film comedy. He vividly describes how Kovacs and his comic co-conspirators created offbeat characters and situations that subverted expectations and upended the status quo. Most of all, Horton demonstrates that Kovacs grasped the possibility for creating a fresh genre of comedy through the new medium of television—and exploited it to the fullest.



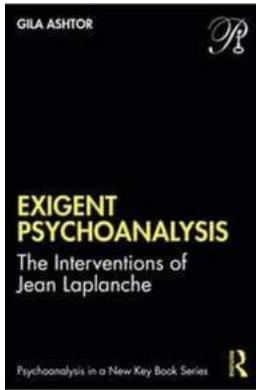
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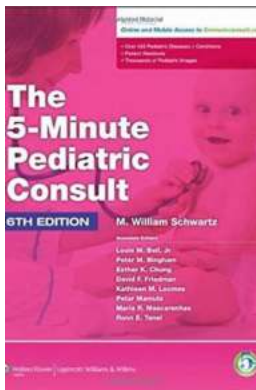
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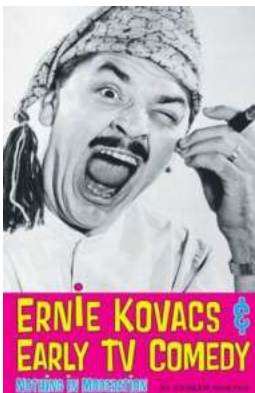
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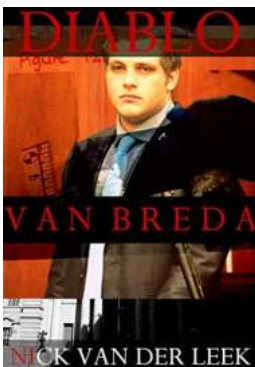
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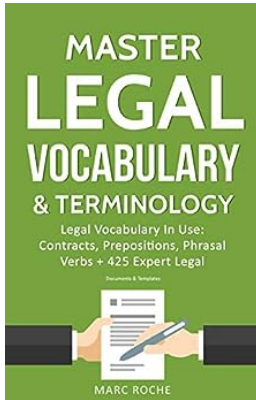
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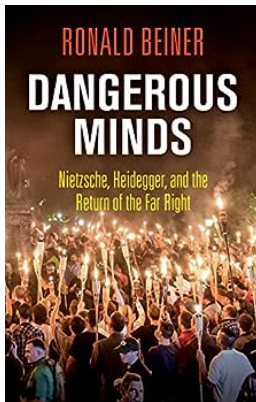
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