



Baggy Pants Comedy: Burlesque and the Oral Tradition (Palgrave Studies in Theatre and Performance History)

Andrew Davis

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Taking readers inside the burlesque houses of Depression-era America, *Baggy Pants Comedy* explores the role of comedy in a show remembered mostly for strip-tease. It examines how burlesque comics, straight men, and talking women approached the craft of comedy, working in a genre that relied not on scripts but on a remembered tradition of comedy bits that circulated orally. The book opens a long-neglected area of American folklore, presenting transcripts of dozens of fondly-remembered routines like "Who's On First" and "Niagara Falls (Slowly I Turned)," as well as long-forgotten classics in print for the first time.

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