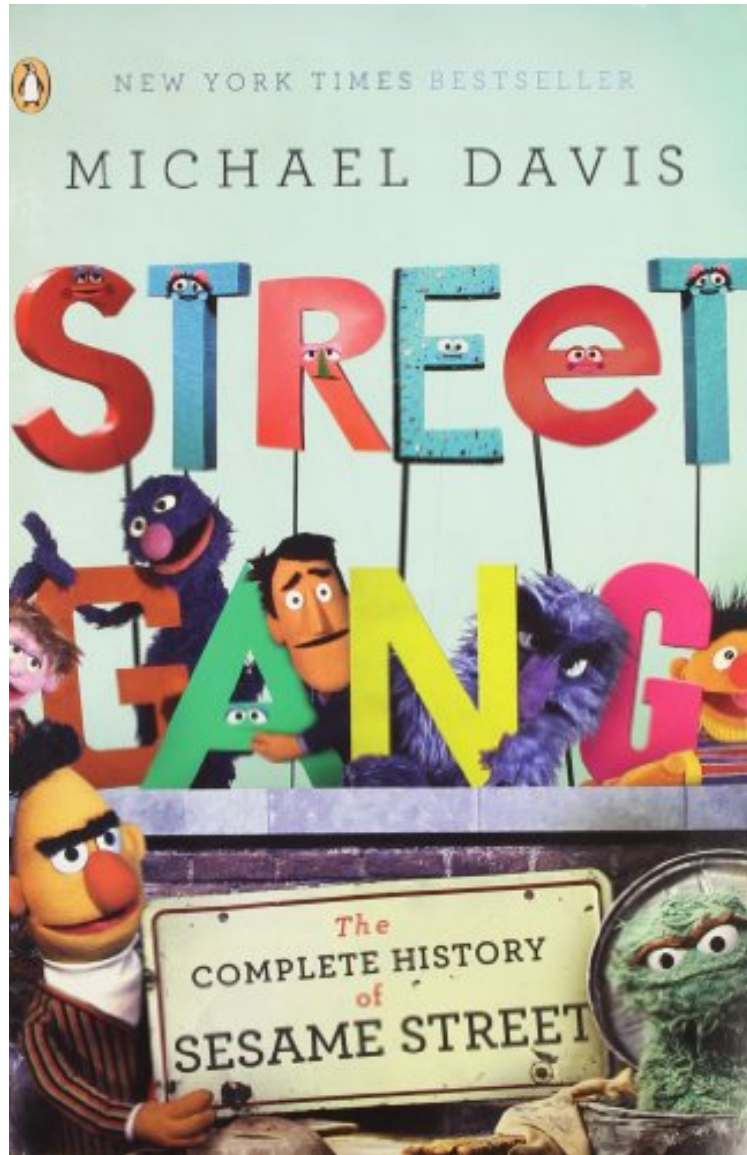


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Street Gang: The Complete History of Sesame Street

Michael Davis

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#147238 in Books 2009-10-27 2009-10-27 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .90 x 5.60l, .77 #File Name: 0143116630400 pages | File size: 56.Mb

Michael Davis : Street Gang: The Complete History of Sesame Street before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Street Gang: The Complete History of Sesame Street:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good book that tells a good story about good people. By Adam Nedeff It's neat when you read a behind-the-scenes story about a television show and it turns out not to be a "True Hollywood Story." At no point did I feel that Michael Davis was whitewashing or purifying the tale. It's a detailed, well-told story of people who liked each other and cooperated to put together a wonderful show. People's faults and

foibles are mentioned (The songwriters was hypercompetitive, one of them was a notorious name dropper, Northern "David" Calloway had too many problems to list) but even then, you find that nobody on the show is truly disliked. The hypercompetitive behavior is somewhat justified because of the nature of the business, the name-dropper seemed to be doing it more out of a sense of joy than a need to impress, and Northern Calloway is spoken of with incredible reverence. Your heart breaks as his story unfolds because you take note of how, no matter how much he screwed up, and no matter how blatantly he put himself into a position where he HAD to be fired, everyone still deeply cared for him and hoped things would get better. As an unexpected bonus, the book includes some mini-histories of children's shows that preceded "Sesame Street." This may seem extraneous at first, but you come to appreciate the way the author is setting the scene. Many TV shows were assembled by people who looked at children as little cash machines ("Howdy Doody") and others had noble purposes but still managed to be corrupted somehow ("Ding Dong School"). It helps you appreciate what a miracle "Sesame Street" was when it finally arrived. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For Fans of Jim Henson's Various Creations! By RDDGot this as a gift for my girlfriend, who loves Jim Henson and the Muppets. She'd heard some of the stories before, but loved reading this and went through the whole volume in a day! 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Awesome Book By K. R. A few weeks ago, I rented the documentary "The World According to Sesame Street". I had caught bits and pieces of the show on PBS every now and then, but never really saw the whole thing. Thoroughly enjoyed the video and it prompted me to visit to see if it was available for purchase and to check out what else was available on the subject. Didn't find the DVD, but I did find this book - "Street Gang: The Complete History of Sesame Street" so I ordered it instead. I also ordered the DVD set "Sesame Street - Old School, Vol. 1 (1969-1974)" to watch as a companion to the book. It was a great decision, many of the early first year videos discussed in the book are in the set, as well as the original sales pitch film. I had just turned nine when the show started, but I remember watching it with my sister who was four at the time. I thought the show was great, the animations especially - but I liked the Muppets most of all. Later the "Muppet Show" was one of my favorite shows of all times (I have all three DVD sets). The book is a great read. I spent nearly every free minute I had this week reading it and just finished late last night. It covers the history perfectly IMO. I noticed there are a few reviews that drop a star or two because they thought it wasn't in-depth enough. I'm sure that there could have been more information included, but given that the book is 384 pages and covers a cast of people whose body of work spans more than 40 years - I'd say that there was more than enough covered for this one book. Hopefully someone will one day write a book solely on Jim Henson - it would be something I most certainly would buy.

The New York Times bestselling account of the story behind one of the most influential, durable, and beloved shows in the history of television: Sesame Street, moving to HBO this fall Davis tracks down every Sesame anecdote and every Sesame personality in his book . . . Finally, we get to touch Big Bird's feathers. The New York Times Book Review Sesame Street is the longest-running-and arguably most beloved- children's television program ever created. Today, it reaches some six million preschoolers weekly in the United States and countless others in 140 countries around the world. Street Gang is the compelling, comical, and inspiring story of a media masterpiece and pop-culture landmark. Television reporter and columnist Michael Davis-with the complete participation of Joan Ganz Cooney, one of the show's founders-unveils the idealistic personalities, decades of social and cultural change, stories of compassion and personal sacrifice, and miraculous efforts of writers, producers, directors, and puppeteers that together transformed an empty soundstage into the most recognizable block of real estate in television history.

From School Library Journal Starred . Carroll Spinney (carollspinney.com), the voice of Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch and winner of the Library of Congress's Living Legend Award, here narrates journalist Davis's gentle yet often surprising look at Sesame Street, the world's longest-running (40 years) and widest-reaching (120 countries) children's show. This will be a sure-fire hit in just about every library; highly recommended. [Includes a bonus interview with Davis and Spinney; the Viking hc was recommended "for all reference and browsing collections," LJ 12/08; visit www.streetgangbook.com for a bonus chapter profiling Roscoe Orman, who played Gordon on the show. Ed.] Joseph L. Carlson, Vandenberg Air Force Base Lib., Lompoc, CA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From The New Yorker In this history of Sesame Street, Davis writes that when the show debuted, in 1969, the goal of its creators was nothing short of righting the inequities in our society through the education of lower-class preschoolers. Such populist choices as an urban setting, a multiracial cast, and a catchy brand of edutainment reflected both the mood of the era (it should jump and move fast and feel and sound like 1969, a producer said) and painstaking research: a series of seminars held in the summer of 1968 was attended by developmental psychologists, television-industry insiders, and children's authors and entertainers (Maurice Sendak endured boring sessions by making X-rated doodles; Jim Henson's sandals and beard sparked fears that he was a Weatherman). The book's strongest sections are culled from extensive interviews with Joan Ganz Cooney, who oversaw production for more than twenty years, but the narrative loses steam once the show hits the air. Copyright 2008 Click here to subscribe to The New Yorker From Booklist Superman started out in the comics, but the ink was barely dry on the pulp pages before the Man of Steel moved on to the movies (first in spiffy cartoons, then in low-rent

serials), a TV show, and, eventually, film blockbusters, some of them good, some awful. In any event, the iconic Kryptonian was a consistent moneymaker. Rossen is comprehensive on the ups and downs of the Man of Steels cinematic career, supplying plenty of juicy detail and signally noting that DC Comics kept creative control and profits away from Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, Supes creators, and treated the Fleischer brothers, who produced the sublime early Superman cartoons, as or even more shabbily. Wonder if the movie *Hollywoodland* got the story of 1950s TV Superman George Reeves right? Rossen dishes the dirt on Reeves tragic end and a rarity in Hollywood scandal reportage does it with attribution! As Rossen notes, the story he tells is as much a cautionary tale of Hollywood excess as it is a history of a modern mythological figure. Essential for pop-culture collections. --Mike Tribby