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# Television Specials: 3,201 Entertainment Spectaculars, 1939-1993

*Steven Lance*

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**Steven Lance : Television Specials: 3,201 Entertainment Spectaculars, 1939-1993** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Television Specials: 3,201 Entertainment Spectaculars, 1939-1993:

In 1954 NBC President Pat Weaver introduced "spectaculars"--lavish entertainment shows designed to bring a new dimension to television. Though special programs had been around since 1939, Weaver's effort heralded a new age, with programs ranging from variety shows with big name hosts (Judy Garland, Cher, Perry Como, Bob Hope, for instance) through animated holiday specials and outstanding dramas to acclaimed children's programming. This is the guide to 3,197 entertainment specials, 1939 to 1993, that were broadcast on network, cable or syndicated television. For each show the cast, including guest stars and announcer, is provided. Also included are comprehensive production credits (director, producer, writer and music), dates aired, networks and running times, and program synopses.

From Library JournalTelevision addicts will welcome this first book attempting to cite every TV special created. Offering everything from seasonal cartoons to Battle of the Network Stars, this delightfully comprehensive work excludes only news specials, sports, and beauty pageants. Each alphabetically arranged entry includes a short description of the program, cast, network, and date of first showing. The author of several TV compendia, including The Complete Actors' Television Credits (LJ 5/1/90), Terrace includes a personality index for easy cross-referencing.

Further referencing would have helped (a brief pointer to all Christmas programs, for example), but anyone knowing a program or series title or performer's name will have no trouble. A fine addition to the growing TV reference library, including George Woolery's *Animated TV Specials* (Scarecrow, 1989). Highly recommended for all libraries. Anthony J. Adam, Prairie View AM Univ. Lib., Tex. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. "delightful, comprehensive...includes a personality index for easy cross-referencing.... Highly recommended for all libraries" -- Library Journal

About the Author Vincent Terrace has worked as a researcher for ABC television and is the television historian for BPOLIN Productions (an independent film and television producing company for which he has created a projected television series called "April's Dream"). He has written more than 30 books, many about television and radio.