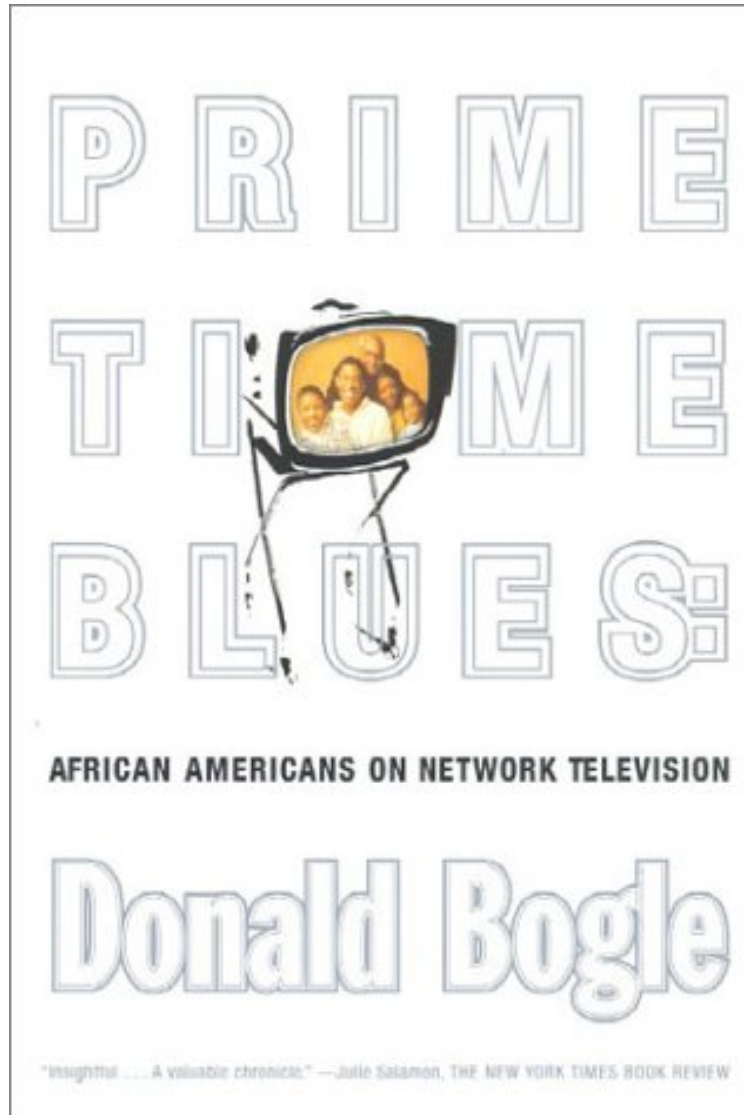


(Free read ebook) Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television

Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television

Donald Bogle

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Donald Bogle : Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful Historical Account of African Americans in Television 1950 - 1999By a2z ConsumerDonald Bogle's Primetime Blues is may be the most detailed historical accounts of African-American performers on television. Bogle meticulously accounts for television shows featuring African-American performers in lead and supporting roles from 1950 – 1990. Bogle groups the series by themes (often

ubiquitous misrepresentations of African-Americans) and provides a synopsis of the series, a few notable or infamous episodes and profiles of actors. I would have preferred more information about the development of the shows. Bogle delved into the development of a few programs including: The Cosby Show, The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, Roots and The Making of Jane Pittman but I would have provided more insight into the networks thinking about the select programs they did elect to air featuring African-American talent. Primetime Blues is not a completely objective account; Bogle inserts his personal commentary throughout his account. One comment about OJ Simpson in particular stood out for me, "his starring role in the most riveting TV of the 1990s, his trial for the murder of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson." Overall, I enjoyed Primetime Blues. I hope Bogle has plans to update this book to include the Golden Age of TV and highlight African-American acclaimed actors, showrunners and directors including Shonda Rhimes, Ava Duvernay, Lee Daniels, John Ridley, Oprah Winfrey (OWN), Issa Rae, Donald Glover, Angela Bassett, Viola Davis, Regina King, Courtney Vance, Sterling K. Brown.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding Television History Lesson for All Interested By Reginald D. Garrard Although I initially intended on simply reviewing Bogle's masterwork, I feel that along with a personal reflection on the book, it is necessary to contradict statements made by an earlier reviewer. Yes, the book is "exhaustive" but never is it boring. Every profile of African-American actors on the tube is carefully detailed and extensively covered, with little asides that make for intriguing reading. To this reader, it is clear that Bogle feels that there have been significant improvements in the representation of Blacks on television, but there are still some significant inroads, in front of and behind the camera, that need to be made. By covering as thoroughly as he has the entirety of those African-American pioneers and trendsetters, the author satisfies those that have longed to see such a mammoth undertaking published. I, for one, savor the profiles of such underrated performers as Rosalind Cash, Joe Morton, Shirley Hemphill, Juano Hernandez, James Edwards, and a slew of others that labored with many less-than-distinguished parts and managed to create something memorable. It is further refreshing to see the author give the backgrounds of the more familiar African-American superstars like Bill Cosby, Cicely Tyson, and Diahann Carroll. While I do not particularly care for the programs that have a "monochromatic cast" (Friends, Martin, and the various UPN "black-block" shows), I understand and appreciate Bogle's belief that television shows have a responsibility to inform and present a realistic portrayal of society, be that program a sitcom or a drama. It is true that television is primarily entertainment; however, in that entertainment, thought-provoking writing and occasional commentary on society is warranted. That is one of Bogle's premises that he eloquently expresses. This is a top-notch historical/editorial reference that makes for great reading and a worthwhile addition to the library of any fan of the "boob tube." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Bknown Great History Lesson about the known and unknown pioneers of television.

A landmark study by the leading critic of African American film and television Primetime Blues is the first comprehensive history of African Americans on network television. Donald Bogle examines the stereotypes, which too often continue to march across the screen today, but also shows the ways in which television has been invigorated by extraordinary black performers, whose presence on the screen has been of great significance to the African American community. Bogle's exhaustive study moves from the postwar era of Beulah and Amos 'n' Andy to the politically restless sixties reflected in I Spy and an edgy, ultra-hip program like Mod Squad. He examines the television of the seventies, when a nation still caught up in Vietnam and Watergate retreated into the ethnic humor of Sanford and Son and Good Times and the politically conservative eighties marked by the unexpected success of The Cosby Show and the emergence of deracialized characters on such dramatic series as L.A. Law. Finally, he turns a critical eye to the television landscape of the nineties, with shows such as The Fresh Prince of Bel Air, I'll Fly Away, ER, and The Steve Harvey Show.

"In this thoroughly researched, witty and often shocking social history, media scholar Bogle fashions an in-depth chronicle of the way television has mirrored and influenced the politics of race in the U. S. . . This major new work in television and media studies will be welcomed by both academics and general readers" --Starred review, Publishers Weekly