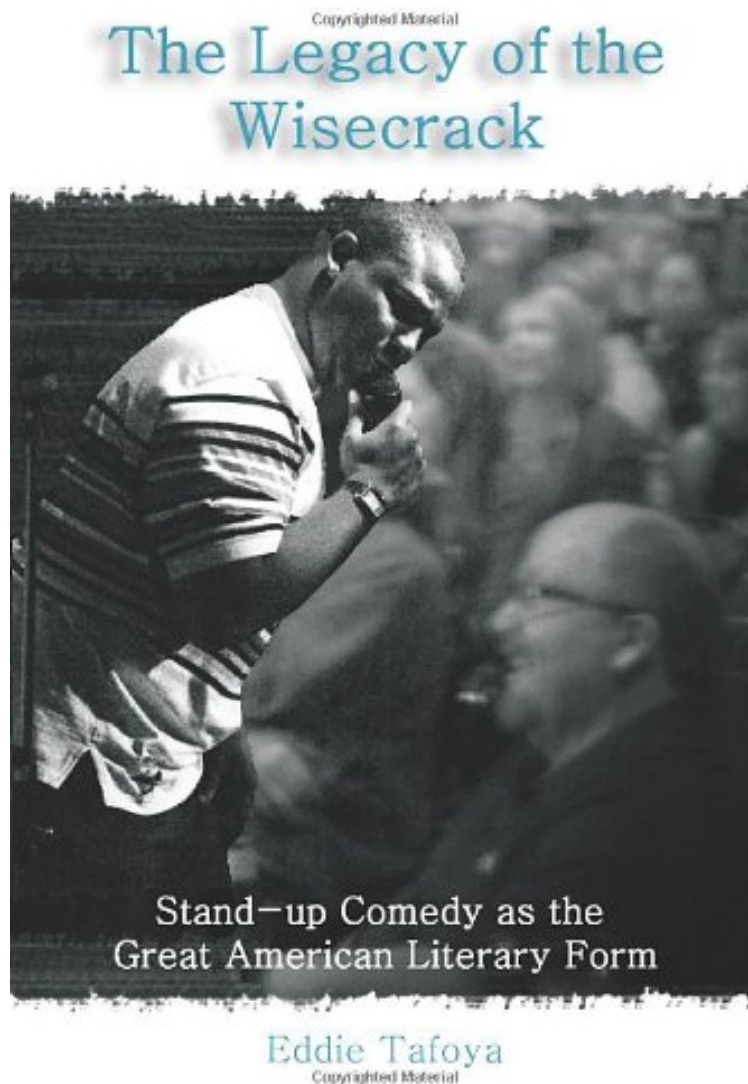


(Read now) The Legacy of the Wisecrack: Stand-up Comedy as the Great American Literary Form

The Legacy of the Wisecrack: Stand-up Comedy as the Great American Literary Form

Eddie Tafoya

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Eddie Tafoya : The Legacy of the Wisecrack: Stand-up Comedy as the Great American Literary Form before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Legacy of the Wisecrack: Stand-up Comedy as the Great American Literary Form:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book has soul!By John Lee Grogan Jr.This was quite an exceptional book, perhaps the best I've read on what humor and stand-up comedy is and what it can do. It's a very

serious and deep book and is only book I've really seen that talks about the spiritual dimensions of humor and the comedian. This author has an incredible background, that of literature and creative writing professor, and also a New Testament scholar. I loved this book because it treated comedy and humor as important topics worthy of serious study. This book forces you to work, but enriches you for your effort, I have to give a listen to Steven Wright soon after reading the chapter on him. There is a recognition and respect and honor paid by the author towards the subject of his study. This book is a scholarly work, but it's not written in esoteric, dense foggy language, but in understandable terms. This is not only a book about comedy, it's about the joy and rewards of reading and thinking, the power, beauty and mystery of words to communicative subjective meaning and how comedy fills a special niche in the use of language. This is an important book, not only in terms of comedy, but about life in general. Something tells me this author could probably lay down a pretty smoking sermon himself! Preach on brother! I wish we had more professors out there like this author willing to share his gifts of insight and analysis with his students and the rest of the world instead of the barren wasteland that academia has been for ages.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.
Beyond Comedy
By Nompluma Eddie Tafoya's *THE LEGACY OF THE WISECRACK* combines history, Freud, postmodernism, and the little-known science of "fartology" to make a thought-provoking study of stand-up comedy. His discussion of comedians of diverse backgrounds casts humor in a cross-cultural perspective while bringing to light important but lesser known comedians such as Charley Case and Moms Mabley. The essay on the parallels between Richard Pryor's show "Live at the Sunset Strip" with Dante's *INFERNO* underscores the book's central argument that stand-up comedy is an underappreciated literary art form. A brief discussion of why Jewish humor became America's dominant humor left me wanting more on this interesting topic. Tafoya's trenchant observations animate the pages from start to finish, making *THE LEGACY OF THE WISECRACK* absorbing and fun to read. We're left marveling at how humans have managed to survive tough times by wit alone.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful.
Great Book
By David M. Munoz This book gives a deep look into why stand up comedy should be considered literature. Plus it looks at stand up comedy, what else could be more interesting? Overall, great book.

Despite the claim of many a Borscht Belt comic that he is a practitioner of "the world's second-oldest profession," stand-up comedy is a young and distinctly American literary form. It was not until the last decades of the nineteenth century when, enabled by unprecedented prosperity and the right to free expression, that monologists began appearing in American vaudeville halls. Yet even though it has since become an entertainment industry mainstay, stand-up comedy has received precious little scholarly attention. *The Legacy of the Wisecrack: Stand-up Comedy as the Great American Literary Form* looks at the theory of stand-up comedy, its literary dimensions, and its distinctly American qualities as it provides a detailed history of the forces that shaped it. The study concludes with a look at the works of specific comedians such as Steven Wright, whose three decades of performances comprise a single picaresque tale, and Richard Pryor, whose 1982 masterpiece *Richard Pryor Live on the Sunset Strip* serves as modern America's answer to Dante Alighieri's epic poem, *Inferno*. The result is one of the first serious treatments of stand-up comedy as a literary form.