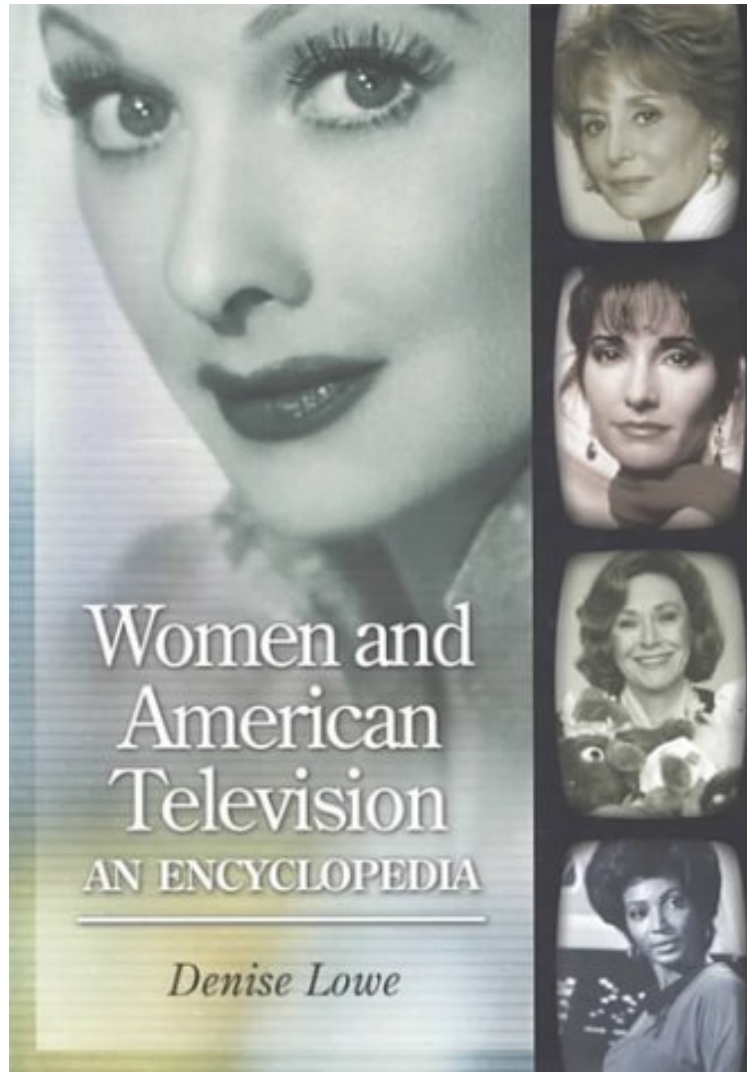


Women and American Television: An Encyclopedia

Denise Lowe

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Denise Lowe : Women and American Television: An Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women and American Television: An Encyclopedia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. DisappointedBy Lloyd JohnsonSorry, but a book about women and television that doesn't have extensive sections devoted to soap operas cannot claim to be an encyclopedia. Very disappointed.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A core addition to television history collections.By Midwest Book ReviewWomen And American Television: An Encyclopedia is a comprehensive reference of more than 400 entries on the individuals, programs, media innovations, and broad topics concerning women's involvement in front of, and behind, the television camera. The A to Z format covers specific individuals, television programs, and

entities from Gracie Allen to Alley McBeal, Penny Marshall to Jane Pauley, Lucille Ball to Mary Tyler Moore, Our Miss Brooks to Oprah Winfrey. *Women And American Television* is enhanced with numerous sidebar articles on a range of topics including Asian Women, Buddy Characters, Fifties Moms, Older Women on Television, Rural Women, Screwball Wives, and more. *Women And American Television* covers the more obscure personalities and programs omitted from lesser television encyclopedias and includes a substantial bibliography, several appendixes, and a comprehensive subject index. *Women And American Television* is an essential, core addition to any personal, academic, public or professional library television history and reference collection.

This work presents more than 400 AZ entries on the individuals, programs, media innovations, and broad topics that tell the story of women's involvement both in front of and behind the television camera. AZ entries range from Gracie Allen and Ally McBeal to talk shows and soap operas. Includes cross references, a bibliography, helpful appendixes, and a subject index. Delightfully illustrated.

From *Library Journal* In this new resource, freelance researcher Lowe provides compelling biographical sketches of 429 women in U.S. television, including pioneers (Dorothy Kilgallen, Betty Furness, Lucille Ball), journalists (Christiane Amanpour, Jane Pauley, Jody Applegate), actresses (Mary Tyler Moore, Susan Lucci, Camryn Manheim), comedienne (Gracie Allen, Imogene Coca, Tracey Ullman), sex symbols (Farrah Fawcett, Loni Anderson, Vanna White), talk-show hosts (Dinah Shore, Oprah Winfrey, Rosie O'Donnell), producers (Marcy Carsey, Linda Bloodworth-Thomason, Marta Kauffman), and network honchos (Chloe Aaron, Jamie Tarses, Kay Koplovitz). Lowe covers both controversial, groundbreaking series and popular programs, whether long-running or short-lived, considering social context and the portrayal of women; she is careful to assess the depiction of Asian, black, Hispanic, and rural female characters. Notable entries profile Nichelle Nichols (Lieutenant Uhura on *Star Trek*), describe the difficulties endured by Lee Grant during the McCarthy era, and explain the appeal of *Xena, Warrior Princess*, the most popular syndicated series. This work's usefulness is enhanced by a table of contents, a thorough index, various appendixes (directors, writers, Emmy winners, television hall of fame), and a bibliography. This is of interest to larger libraries with collections in careers, broadcasting, and women's studies. Libraries that already own the three-volume *Encyclopedia of Television* (LJ 11/1/97) may want to add this one because of its emphasis on women's accomplishments. -Elizabeth Connor, Medical Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Charleston Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Lowe's *Women and American Television* provides information that is available in none of the allegedly comprehensive reference books on American television. More than 400 A-Z entries on individuals, programs, media innovations, and special topics construct the history of women in this medium, both on camera and behind it. In her preface, Lowe comments on the lack of research materials in the form of archives and reference books, though plenty is to be found on men who made less of a contribution. She explains that some women or programs have been left out because of a lack of material, but she does include individuals who were or are icons, trendsetters, and pioneers. Every series that featured a female character in a leading role that was on the air for more than six months is included. In some cases, only a brief description of the program is provided; for example, the few paragraphs on the 1965-66 series *Gidget*, which launched the career of Sally Field. If a series was groundbreaking or a popular culture phenomenon, such as *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, there is a longer (just over two pages) analysis. Also well covered are important events, governmental rulings, new technologies, and other developments that had a lasting impact on the medium, such as The Public Broadcasting Act and anchorwoman Christine Craft's 1983 sex-discrimination suit that enabled women to remain on camera as they grew older. Sidebar articles cover topics including Career women, Lesbians on television, and Families, TV-style, as well as providing short definitions of such TV terminology as Window dressing, the practice of casting attractive female characters to attract a male audience. These are helpful for background information and refer the reader to other entries in the encyclopedia. The work is particularly notable for its coverage of minority women in television, including characters, actresses, use of stereotypes, and writers from the early TV roles of Ethel Waters to today's Connie Chung, Cristina Saralegui, and media queen Oprah Winfrey. The A-Z section is followed by lists of directors, writers, and Emmy winners through 1998; a list of women in the Television Hall of Fame; a bibliography; and an index. This volume is as entertaining as it is thought-provoking and particularly notable for its inclusion of little-known mavericks from the early days of the medium. It complements more comprehensive sources such as the *Museum of Broadcast Communications Encyclopedia of Television* [RBB Ag 97] by focusing exclusively on women's contributions. Recommended for larger public and academic libraries. "This is of interest to larger libraries with collections in careers, broadcasting, and women's studies." - *er's Bookwatch* "Compelling biographical sketches of 429 women in U.S. television. Lowe covers both controversial, groundbreaking series, and popular programs, whether long-running or short-lived, considering social context and the portrayal of women; she is careful to assess the depiction of Asian, black, Hispanic, and rural female characters. This is of interest to larger libraries with collections in careers, broadcasting, and women's studies." - *Library Journal*, Starred "This volume is as entertaining as it is thought-provoking and particularly notable for its inclusion of little-known mavericks from the early days of the medium. Recommended for larger public and

academic libraries." - Booklist "The volume contains a great deal of useful information for the general reader interested in television and women, and it will likely receive heavy use in libraries where undergraduates write term papers on (ever) popular culture topics." - Feminist Collections