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The 60 Greatest Old-Time Radio Shows Of The 20th Century Selected By Walter Cronkite



Synopsis

It is with great pride that Radio Spirits has teamed with Walter Cronkite in selecting The 60 Greatest Old Time Radio Shows of the 20th century. You'll hear Orson Welles' legendary "War of the World's", Abbott and Costello's famous "Who's on First?" routine, Jack Benny's hilarious "Money or Your Life" show and many more oldtime radio favorites! This unparalleled collection includes a booklet containing rare photographs and a detailed history on each of the 60 greatest old-time radio shows of the 20th century and a foreword written by Walter Cronkite. This collection also includes a wonderful audio foreword detailing the history of radio by Walter Cronkite.

Book Information

Audio Cassette

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Anthologies

Customer Reviews

The advent of the VCR has made the movies of the 1930s and 1940s available to a contemporary audience, but radio shows from that era have remained elusive. This wonderful collection sets out to rectify that problem, offering 60 shows from that golden age of radio. The range of entertainment--the set contains 20 hours of material--is breathtaking, running the gamut from comedy routines (Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First") through mystery serials ("The Saint" with Vincent Prince) to variety shows (Jack Benny's "Money or Your Life") and radio plays (Orson Welles's infamous 1937 "panic broadcast" of the "War of the Worlds"). The table of contents reads like a "Who's Who" of entertainment legends--Jimmy Durante, Bob Hope, Dorothy Lamour, Groucho Marx--and classic characters--Sam Spade, the Shadow, the Lone Ranger. The collection also has tremendous historical cachet, providing an intriguing glimpse of the sensibilities of a bygone era.

Retro buffs will be delighted by the vintage radio ads that accompany the broadcasts. These unbelievably enthusiastic pitches for cigarettes and hair tonics are fascinating, occasionally hilarious reminders that these were very different times: in one 1946 broadcast, Camel Cigarettes boasts of the cartons of smokes it donated to veterans' hospitals. As both a time capsule and a survey of first-rate entertainment, the collection is a treasure, whether you were raised on radio or are uncovering its charms for the first time. (Running time: 30 hours, 20 cassettes) --Andrew Neiland

For younger listeners, this program is a glimpse of the first half of the century; for older ones, it's a walk down memory lane. From either perspective, Walter Cronkite has selected a comprehensive collection of the "best" of Old-Time Radio--including comedy, Abbott & Costello doing their "Who's on First" routine; drama, Mercury Theatre doing "War of the Worlds" with Orson Welles; family listening, Jimmy Stewart in Dickens's A Christmas Carol. Unfortunately, the sound quality varies considerably in the 60 shows--from scratchy and unintelligible to perfect quality. Overall, an excellent collection, and a wonderful collector's item. W.L.S. © AudioFile 2000, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine

Radio Spirits, Inc. is in the process of making available on tapes (and a few on CDs) to a video-oriented public just about every popular radio show of the century that will end on New Year's Eve of 2000. Not only is their catalogue bursting with individual programs, but they have boxed sets of 60 shows each on 20 cassettes packaged by type: science fiction, detective, comedy, and so on. Their latest offering in that format is titled -- and lest one exclaim "Sez who?" the rest of the title is "Selected by Walter Cronkite." Of course, we cannot be sure if he chose each episode personally. The box tells us that "Radio Spirits has teamed" with him in the selection. For some of these choices, I fell into violent disagreement with the use of "greatest

Finally! we already have a good tape player in our 23 year old van! These were a God - send! because our radio is evil! lol! these are great! have a nice case, all in order....couldn't ask for anything better! Great quality! Highly recomend! One day we will replace the tape player = good news= we don't have to throw these out! has a device that can turn tapes into c.d.'s! = we love you! You think of everything!

Excellent gift--a big hit. The person who received it really liked it because he remembered all of the shows and song before TV. Obviously you had to pick the best ones but there are certainly

many,many more shows that could have been included. Overall, good job!

Really fun to listen to in the evening.

Gift - they loved it

You have to like this stuff since it comes from a previous generation. I used to listen to some of these shows on a radio when I was very young. This is the cassette version. CD's would be better but more expensive. Audio quality is quite good.

I bought this for my 90 year old mom.she loved it. She has listened to it twice. It reminds her of her younger days.I would highly recommend this for the older person who grew up when radios were important for entertainment.

I remember the comedies and those are the ones I was looking for. Not too much into the Inner Sanctum scary type. But a good mix. From the perspective of 2014, it's interesting to see how unsophisticated much of the programming was. The set was well-priced for the number of cassettes and time of playing.

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