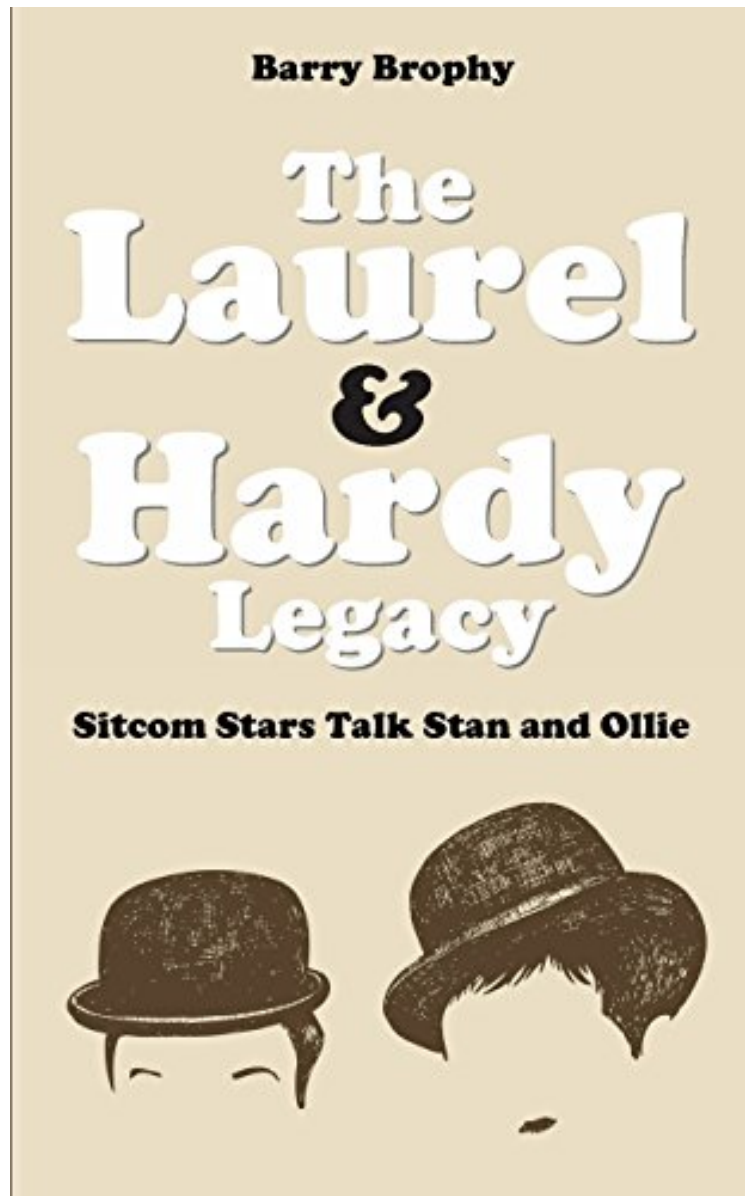


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The Laurel and Hardy Legacy: Sitcom Stars Talk Stan and Ollie

Barry Brophy

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Barry Brophy : The Laurel and Hardy Legacy: Sitcom Stars Talk Stan and Ollie before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Laurel and Hardy Legacy: Sitcom Stars Talk Stan and Ollie:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great book!By Irv HyattBarry has put together a great collection of interviews. He's been able to take people involved in comedy and draw out their feelings on Laurel and Hardy. It's

really great fun to see how much influence Laurel and Hardy had on today's television and movies. A very good read.

Laurel and Hardy are one of the finest comedy acts to have graced our screens. From their Foreign Legion campaign in *Beau Hunks* to their improvised song and dance routines in *Way Out West*, their comic genius is known, loved, and celebrated by viewers of all ages across the world. In turn, their influence on other comedies has been profound. British sitcoms abound with Oliver-Hardy-like idiots who don't realise they're idiots such as: *David Brent*, *Basil Fawlty*, *Harold Steptoe* and *Father Ted*; as well as their Stan-Laurel-like sidekicks: *Gareth Keenan*, *Manuel*, *Albert Steptoe* and *Dougal*. Many people in comedy today are heavily influenced by a black-and-white double-act who made their best films 80 years ago. *The Laurel and Hardy Legacy* traces the impact of Stan and Ollie, and offers reflective insights into fundamental comedy questions. Why were Laurel and Hardy's features not as good as their shorts, and why are film versions of sitcoms never as good as the originals? Why do sitcoms have studio audiences and how did Laurel and Hardy fine-tune their films for the cinema audiences they couldn't see? Why do actors like Oliver Hardy, not comedians, so often play the lead roles in sitcoms? Based on a series of exclusive interviews with some of the top comic actors and writers of the last 30 years, this book looks at the immense comic legacy of Laurel and Hardy. *Stephen Merchant*, *Richard Wilson*, *Bruce Forsyth*, *Ray Galton* and *Alan Simpson*, *Tony Robinson*, *Barry Cryer*, *Ardal O'Hanlon*, *Graham Linehan*, *John Dunsworth*, *Nigel Planer* and *Andrew Sachs* all talk about their love of Laurel and Hardy and how they influenced their own work. From *Blackadder* and *The Young Ones*, to *Hancock's Half-Hour* and *One Foot in the Grave*, *The Laurel and Hardy Legacy* is a fascinating insight into the hidden workings of comedy.