

[Ebook free] The Very Best of Bob and Ray: Legends of Comedy

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Ray Goulding, Bob Elliott

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#900493 in Books HighBridge Company 2010-09-28 2010-09-28 Formats: Audiobook, CD, Unabridged Original language: English PDF # 4 5.30 x 17.53 x 6.40l, .37 Running time: 18000 seconds Binding: Audio CD | File size: 48.Mb

Ray Goulding, Bob Elliott : The Very Best of Bob and Ray: Legends of Comedy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Very Best of Bob and Ray: Legends of Comedy:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. They are not to everyone's taste By Steven L. Wilson but if you get it, you get it. Despite having heard the routines dozens of times I still laugh at the Komodo Dragon interview and the President of the Slow Talkers of America. In the first, Ray is the clueless interviewer who is clearly not listening to the answers as the additional information volunteered by the expert in response to the preceding question answers the following one. Ray's plodding ahead, eyes on the ground, heedless to the answer manner never changes while Bob's irritation level increases almost as palpably as hearing the click of a ratchet as each question comes along. In the second bit with the Slow Talkers, roles are reversed as Ray tries to speed the interview along and even goes to the point of finishing the clichéd answers. Unperturbed Bob supplies the answers at his own pace. As I said, it's not for everyone but if you get it, you get it. It will have you when you are peckish looking about for a House of Toast when you are driving around New England. A prune milkshake--yum. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. More like the Very Best of Producer Larry Josephson! By J.D. Guinness If the only sure sign of an entertainer's greatness is that you literally never tire of them, then to me, personally, Bob and Ray were the greatest comedy team that ever lived. None other than David Letterman referred to the mild-mannered Bob Elliott and Ray Goulding as the gold standard of comedy, and indeed there is something irresistible and uncannily reliable about these seemingly gentle puncturers of pomposity, two nimble-minded guys whom for forty years played a huge cast of characters, always with great comic ideas delivered dead-straight serious. So it should be celebrated that there is a brand-new, glossy, handsomely-designed collection gathering the cream of Bob and Ray's huge backlog of radio and stage sketches. And I

would celebrate it, were it not for the haphazard editing of the items themselves. This set is really a sampler of producer Larry Josephson's previous Bob Ray collections, which themselves date back to, I believe, the late 1980s. I was grateful he put those out then as I took them out of my local library and literally laughed myself silly every time. Those albums were divided into themes, rather than recreating complete shows. Josephson's done that again here. The editing is not very good; abrupt cuts where fades, cross-fades or full stops would have been better (See Andre Jacquemin's sterling work on The Monty Python Instant Record Collection for peerless audio comedy editing...should that in fact turn your crank...). The album starts off erratically, with Bob Elliott in mid-sentence (!); indeed the whole first disc is from their Carnegie Hall concert, which, impressive though it may have been to see, makes lousy audio. What I mean is that the crowd is SO big and so far away, the laughs sound like a long, drawn-out ocean roar ("Raaaaahhhhhh..."), and as a result Bob Ray's timing on disc one is a bit off. It's a real shame nothing was included from their live album "The Two Only", (copyright restrictions, perhaps?) which was a strong, confident show noted for the infectious and unmistakably rapt, joyous laughter of its audience in what I'm sure was a smaller, more intimate venue and really a better match for Bob Ray's smaller, more intimate style. Fortunately, the aforementioned strength of Bob Ray's material, its great ideas and fine writing as well as its immaculate performances, does triumph over its enforced compartmentalization (One disc for soap opera parodies, one disc for commercials, etc.). And it IS a generous gathering, such irresistible, hilarious stand-outs as Slow Talker, Komodo Dragon Expert, The Gathering Dusk, Dining Out and so much more over what was literally a forty-year span (unheard of in comedy teams). I just wish Larry Josephson had modeled these discs on the Bob Ray books, which were edited in such a way to make it seem like one long continuous broadcast with a clear beginning, middle and end; it was not monotonous; it worked...on paper. Ah, but anything including Ray Goulding's warbling of the unforgettable Mary McGoon ditty I'd Like To Be A Cow in Switzerland is far from bad. Again it's that thing about content triumphing over presentation. Bob Ray never failed, and all these years later they still don't. It is interesting how high-octane intense comedy (The Goon Show, Jim Carrey) gets tiresome and this stuff doesn't! Someone, probably Kurt Vonnegut, tried to explain Bob Ray's timeless appeal by seeing in their comedy the silliness of trying to look lusty and purposeful when less than nothing is in fact going on. Absolutely right. Absolutely Bob Ray. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. You wanna laugh? Buy this! By Maria Bettina Really, how can any sampling from these two characters be anything but 5 stars?? Definitely for those who love the ridiculous.

Before Bob Ray, comedians told jokes. After Bob Ray, they told stories. When they first got together in 1946 on WHDH-AM Boston, no one guessed that their subtle, intelligent, deadpan brand of humor would revolutionize the comedic landscape. With a gift for an improvisation and a keen understanding of the absurd, Bob Elliott and Ray Goulding created a universe of wonderful characters and rewrote the rules for what's funny. Consider any important comedy star since Bob Newhart, Garrison Keillor, Woody Allen, Johnny Carson, George Carlin, Jay Leno, David Letterman, Jerry Seinfeld and you can hear the debt to Bob Ray. This collection honors the two and only with selections from their early years (1950s, 60s, and 70s) and public radio years (80s), their 1984 Carnegie Hall performances, and three previously unreleased archival recordings.

Fans of Bob and Ray's timeless wit and intelligent humor will rejoice . . . Priceless listening. AudioFile