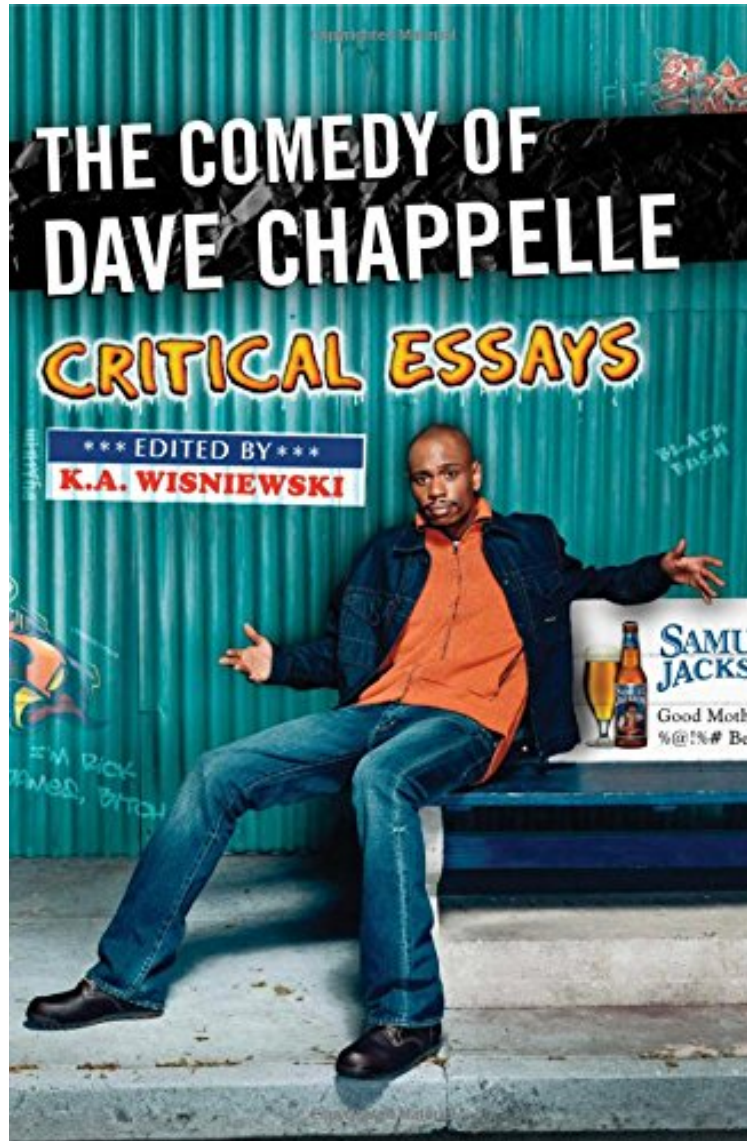


(Free pdf) The Comedy of Dave Chappelle: Critical Essays

The Comedy of Dave Chappelle: Critical Essays

K. A. Wisniewski

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K. A. Wisniewski : The Comedy of Dave Chappelle: Critical Essays before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Comedy of Dave Chappelle: Critical Essays:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. "What?!" By Kathleen L. Brown In this fine book, addressed not only to Dave Chappelle's numerous fans from all walks of life but also to scholars searching for an interesting application of critical theory, Kevin Wisniewski gathers 12 essays that collectively might be said to answer the question that rapper Lil Jon asks--"What?!" This question and its answers are related to a panoply of popular culture examples, such

as Jerry Seinfeld's comedy about nothing, Bambi Haggins' examination of popular "buddy" films like *Half-Baked*, Sarah Silverman's inheritance of Chappelle's torch, his embracing of "the digital culture in which he lives" (7), and the flexible nature of comedy itself. For Wisniewski, Chappelle's "canon . . . is truly an archetypal model for postmodern society" (1). Making use of theorists, including Foucault, Kristeva, Pratt, Baudrillard, and Marx, upon whom to scaffold and bolster his thesis, Wisniewski concludes that "Chappelle has, in fact, shaped public culture" (185) by creating "a comfortable crossroads" where viewers "confront the often contradictory, awkward, and painful questions that have troubled our past and continue to haunt our present" (192), the most painful question of the postmodern age, being, of course, "What?!"² of 6 people found the following review helpful. Table of ContentsBy ReviewerTable of ContentsAcknowledgments viiIntroduction K.A. WISNIEWSKI 11. Exploring Niggerdom: Racial Inversion in Language Taboos RICHARD J. GRAY II and MICHAEL PUTNAM 152. Comic Genius or Con Man? Deconstructing the Comedy of Dave Chappelle NOVOTNY LAWRENCE 313. The Comedian Is a "Man" Gender Performance in the Comedy of Dave Chappelle ANDREA CUMBO 474. Dave Chappelle, the Wu-Tang Clan and Afro-Asian America GRAHAM CHIA-HUI PRESTON 605. Laughing Whiteness Pixies, Parody, and Perspectives BRIAN GOGAN 726. Impersonating Hollywood: The Conflicting Identity Discourses of Charlie Murphy's True Hollywood Stories JULIA ROUND 867. The Artistry of Ethnography in Dave Chappelle's Block Party C. RILEY SNORTON 1028. Gramsci, Selling Out, and the Politics of Race Loyalty: Exploring Chappelle's No-Show AMARNATH AMARASINGAM 1159. "When Keeping It Real Goes Wrong" Subversions of Racial Authenticity KATHERINE LEE 12710. When "Keeping It Real" Goes Right KIMBERLEY A. YATES 13911. "White People, Run for Cover" Dave Chappelle's Festival of Misrule FRANCESCA GAMBER 15612. Haunted: Dave Chappelle's Radical Racial Politics in the Context of Co-opted Blackness CHIWEN BAO 167Conclusion: Legacy and Dave Chappelle K. A. WISNIEWSKI 184Filmography 195Chapter Notes 197Bibliography 217About the Contributors 229Index 231

Perhaps best known for his highly acclaimed, short-lived Comedy Central program *Chappelle's Show*, Dave Chappelle is widely regarded as one of today's most culturally significant comedians. Through the sketch comedy show and his stand-up act, Chappelle has offered truly memorable commentary on racial and ethnic tensions in American society. This book assembles 13 essays that examine motifs common in Chappelle's comedy, including technology and digital culture; race, gender, and ethnicity; economics and politics; music, television, film, and performance; and memory, language, and identity.

About the AuthorK.A. Wisniewski is an assistant professor of English at Cecil College in North East, Maryland. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in a variety of publications including journals *Genre*, *The Mochila*, *Welter*, and *the Small Press*.