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The Masters of Sitcom

From *Hancock* to *Steptoe*

By Christopher Stevens,
Ray Galton & Alan Simpson

This unique anthology – written with unprecedented access to 600 classic Galton and Simpson scripts – is the seminal work on the nation's most popular scriptwriters and their well-loved creations.

- Ray Galton and Alan Simpson are the fathers of British sitcom, having written *Hancock's Half Hour*, *Comedy Playhouse* and *Steptoe and Son*
- Their work starred comedy heroes including Frankie Howerd, Kenneth Williams, Sid James, Tony Hancock, Harry H Corbett and Wilfrid Brambell
- This treasure trove collects together their funniest scenes and sketches, including exclusive, never-before-published extracts and long-lost scripts
- Includes anecdotes from the writers, interviews with the actors and critical insights from today's comedy writers
- With exclusive, previously unpublished photographs from Ray and Alan's private collections

"Galton and Simpson are the un-deposed masters of British sitcom. Comedy without Galton and Simpson would be like literature without Dickens" – Harry Enfield

"Galton and Simpson are the Beatles of British comedy"
– Frank Skinner

"Galton and Simpson devised a radio comedy with no songs, no stand-up gags, no sketches, no catchphrases and no silly voices: *Hancock's Half Hour* was the first real situation comedy. It was so funny that it cleared the streets every Sunday evening: pubs emptied and taxis idled as millions gathered round their radios."

Christopher Stevens is an author and journalist whose previous books include the authorized biography of Kenneth Williams, which was Book of the Week on BBC Radio 4 and serialized in the *Mail on Sunday*. Many of Galton and Simpson's comedies are available as audiobooks: visit www.audiogo.co.uk for details.

Media Opportunities

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