

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910464242003321
Autore	Robinson Peter M. <1958->
Titolo	The dance of the comedians : the people, the president, and the performance of political standup comedy in America / / Peter M. Robinson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amherst, [Massachusetts] ; ; Boston, [Massachusetts] : , : University of Massachusetts Press, , 2010 ©2010
ISBN	1-61376-037-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 257 p.) : ill. ;
Disciplina	973.09/9
Soggetti	Presidents - United States - History Political satire, American - History and criticism Stand-up comedy - United States - History American wit and humor - History Presidents - United States - Public opinion - History Public opinion - United States - History Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Prologue : "I'm not kidding" -- An American company of comedians -- Dance partners -- A presidential crinoline -- New frontiers -- All lies and jest -- Rebellion by the pound -- Epilogue : Back to the future.
Sommario/riassunto	"Why did Barack Obama court Jon Stewart and trade jokes with Stephen Colbert during the campaign of 2008? Why did Sarah Palin forgo the opportunity to earn votes on the Sunday morning political talk shows but embrace the chance to get laughs on Saturday Night Live? The Dance of the Comedians examines the history behind these questions - the merry, mocking, and highly contested anarchies of standup political comedy that have locked humorists, presidents, and their fellow Americans in an improvisational three-way "dance" since the early years of the American republic." "Peter M. Robinson shows how the performance of political humor developed as a celebration of democracy and an expression of political power, protest, and

commercial profit. He places special significance on the middle half of the twentieth century, when presidents and comedians alike - from Calvin Coolidge to Ronald Reagan, from Will Rogers to Saturday Night Live's "Not Ready for Prime Time Players" - developed modern understandings of the power of laughter to affect popular opinion and political agendas, only to find the American audience increasingly willing and able to get in on the act. These years put the longstanding traditions of presidential deference profoundly in play as all three parties to American political humor - the people, the presidents, and the comedy professionals - negotiated their way between reverence for the office of the presidency and ridicule of its occupants." "Although the focus is on humor, *The Dance of the Comedians* illuminates the process by which Americans have come to recognize that the performance of political comedy has serious and profound consequences for those on all sides of the punch line." -- Publisher's description.
