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Nota di contenuto Bloody laughter: war and the birth of New Zealand comedy -- Comedy

and writers: blokes bastards and outbreaks of beauty -- Lessons in comedy: universities and capping revues -- 'Bold and blue': female impersonators, cabaret and variety -- Comedians and politicians: 'stuff that doesn't really matter' -- Comedy and theatre: million-dollar ideas -- Directors on the edge: comedy on screen -- The start of it: TV comedy up to the 1980s -- John Clarke: the man from the audience -- Billy T. James: between two worlds -- The Topp Twins: only in New Zealand -- The Front Lawn: sons of the suburbs -- Live comedy in the 1980s and 1990s: looking for a place to stand (up) -- Breaking the rules: TV in the 1990s and beyond -- Naked in the house of spirits: Samoan comedy -- Live comedy in the twenty-first century: the new establishment -- Kin folk: Flight of the Conchords -- Taika Waititi: a

Maori in space -- Rose and other names: a new comedy generation.

Sommario/riassunto

"From the Kiwi Concert Party to The Topp Twins, Billy T. James to Rose

Matafeo, Fred Dagg to Flight of the Conchords, New Zealanders have made each other laugh in ways distinctive to these islands. The book

takes us inside the comedy clubs, cabarets and television studios where comedians work; it charts the rise of cartoons and skits, parody and stand-up; it introduces us to how New Zealand's funniest men and women have made sense (and nonsense) out of this country's changing culture and society"--Publisher information.