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Women's Comedic Art as Social Revolution: Five Performers and the Lessons of Their Subversive Humor

Domnica Radulescu

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Domnica Radulescu : Women's Comedic Art as Social Revolution: Five Performers and the Lessons of Their Subversive Humor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women's Comedic Art as Social Revolution: Five Performers and the Lessons of Their Subversive Humor:

Though comic women have existed since the days of Baubo, the mythic figure of sexual humor, they have been neglected by scholars and critics. This pioneering volume tells the stories of five women who have created revolutionary forms of comic performance and discourse that defy prejudice. The artists include 16th-century performer Isabella Andreini, 17th-century improviser Caterina Biancolelli, 20th-century Italian playwright Franca Rame, and contemporary performance artists Deb Margolin and Kimberly Dark. All create humor that subverts patriarchal attitudes, conventional gender roles, and stereotypical images. The book ends with a practical guide for performers and teachers of theater.

"Never before has the history of Western women in comedy been written with such historical scope or comparative detail. Radulescu brings the astute eye of the theatre historian to a socially committed feminist inquiry into women's humor, creating a study useful for scholars and practitioners, teachers and students." --Jill Dolan, Princeton University.
About the Author Domnica Radulescu is a professor of French and Italian at Washington and Lee University and the cofounding chair of the Women's and Gender Studies Program. She has authored, edited, or coedited nine scholarly books and collections of essays, two best-selling novels, and numerous articles. She is the founding director of the National Symposium of Theater in Academe. She is a 2011 recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.