

pbs a taste of history

PBS A Taste of History: Exploring Culinary Traditions Through Time

pbs a taste of history offers a fascinating journey into the world of culinary heritage, blending storytelling with delicious recipes that bring the past to life. This unique PBS series delves deep into historical dishes, uncovering the stories behind iconic foods and the cultures that shaped them. Whether you are a food enthusiast, history buff, or someone curious about the origins of your favorite meals, this series provides rich insights into how food connects us with history.

What Is PBS A Taste of History?

PBS A Taste of History is a documentary series that explores the rich tapestry of food history across different regions and time periods. Hosted by culinary historian Walter Staib, the show takes viewers on a flavorful adventure by recreating historical recipes in authentic settings, such as colonial kitchens, ancient castles, and traditional farms. Each episode focuses on a particular era or culture, using food as a lens to understand the social, economic, and political contexts of the time.

The series stands out because it doesn't just present recipes; it provides a narrative that intertwines history, culture, and gastronomy. Viewers get to see how historical events influenced food production and consumption and how culinary practices evolved over centuries. This makes PBS A Taste of History more than just a cooking show—it's an educational experience that appeals to anyone interested in the intersection of food and history.

The Importance of Exploring Culinary History

Food is a powerful storyteller. It reflects migration patterns, trade routes, technological advancements,

and even social hierarchies. By studying culinary history, we gain a better understanding of how people lived, what they valued, and how they adapted to their environments.

Food as a Cultural Identity

Every culture has its signature dishes that tell stories about its origins, traditions, and values. PBS A Taste of History highlights these connections by showing how recipes have been passed down through generations, often adapting to new influences. For example, the show might explore how spices introduced through trade transformed European cooking or how indigenous ingredients shaped American colonial food.

Understanding culinary history helps us appreciate the diversity and complexity of global cuisines today. It reveals that what might seem like a simple dish often has layers of historical significance, reflecting centuries of cultural exchange and adaptation.

Historical Context Behind Popular Dishes

Many dishes we enjoy today have intriguing backstories tied to historical events or social changes. PBS A Taste of History uncovers these narratives, such as:

- How the French revolution influenced the democratization of fine dining.
- The role of food during wartime rationing and its impact on recipes.
- The emergence of iconic American dishes during the colonial era.

These stories add depth to our culinary experiences, turning everyday meals into connections with the past.

Behind the Scenes: How PBS A Taste of History Brings Recipes to Life

One of the most compelling aspects of PBS A Taste of History is the meticulous research and authentic recreation involved in each episode. The production team works closely with historians, archaeologists, and culinary experts to ensure accuracy in both the storytelling and the cooking process.

Authentic Ingredients and Techniques

To truly capture the essence of historical dishes, the show often uses period-appropriate ingredients and cooking methods. This might mean cooking over an open hearth, using handmade utensils, or sourcing heirloom varieties of plants. By doing so, the series offers viewers a sensory experience that goes beyond modern cooking techniques, highlighting how flavor profiles and textures differed in the past.

Educational Value and Engagement

PBS A Taste of History is designed to be accessible and engaging for a broad audience. The host's approachable style makes complex historical contexts easy to understand, while the visual presentation of food preparation keeps viewers hooked. The show also inspires viewers to try historical recipes at home, providing detailed instructions and helpful tips that make recreating these ancient dishes feasible even for amateur cooks.

Impact of PBS A Taste of History on Food Enthusiasts and Educators

This series has gained a loyal following among not only food lovers but also educators seeking innovative ways to teach history. It serves as a valuable resource in classrooms and workshops, where food can be a tactile and relatable entry point into historical study.

Inspiring Home Cooks to Explore History

One of the most delightful outcomes of PBS A Taste of History is how it motivates people to experiment with historical recipes in their own kitchens. By following the show's guidance, home cooks can connect with the past in a tangible way, gaining a newfound appreciation for the origins of their favorite meals. This hands-on approach helps demystify history and makes it enjoyable.

Tool for Educators and Historians

Teachers and historians have found the series useful for illustrating broader historical themes through the lens of food. Lessons on trade, colonization, class structures, and cultural exchange become more vivid and memorable when paired with culinary examples. This interdisciplinary approach fosters critical thinking and enriches the learning experience.

Popular Episodes and Themes Explored in PBS A Taste of History

Over its run, PBS A Taste of History has covered a wide range of topics that highlight the diversity of

culinary heritage.

Colonial America and Early Settlers

Episodes focusing on colonial America explore how settlers adapted indigenous ingredients and European recipes to their new environment. These stories reveal the challenges of survival, the blending of cultures, and the origins of American comfort food.

European Royalty and Banquets

The show also delves into the lavish feasts of European nobility, showcasing recipes that symbolized power and prestige. These episodes provide insight into the social dynamics of the time and the artistry involved in royal cuisine.

Immigration and the Melting Pot of Flavors

Another recurring theme is the impact of immigration on American food culture. PBS A Taste of History traces how immigrant communities brought their culinary traditions, which then evolved and merged with local tastes to create new dishes that define America today.

Tips for Watching and Enjoying PBS A Taste of History

To get the most out of the series, consider these practical suggestions:

- **Watch with an open mind:** Be prepared to learn about unfamiliar ingredients and cooking

methods that might differ greatly from modern cuisine.

- **Try the recipes:** Engage actively by cooking along with the show. It's a fun way to experience history firsthand.
- **Take notes on historical context:** Pay attention to the stories behind the food to deepen your appreciation.
- **Pair the episodes with reading:** Supplement your viewing with books or articles on culinary history for a richer understanding.

Exploring Further: Related Shows and Resources

If you enjoy PBS A Taste of History, there are several other programs and resources that expand on culinary heritage and food culture:

- *“The Great British Bake Off”* – While more focused on baking competitions, it occasionally touches on traditional British recipes with historical roots.
- *“Cook’s Country”* – This series explores American regional recipes, offering historical context behind classic dishes.
- *Books by Walter Staib* – The host of PBS A Taste of History has authored several cookbooks and history texts that delve deeper into food history.
- *Online archives and cooking blogs* – Many websites specialize in historical recipes and culinary anthropology, providing a wealth of information for curious foodies.

By exploring these resources, you can continue your culinary journey through time, discovering how food has evolved and how it continues to shape our cultural identities.

PBS A Taste of History invites us to savor not only the flavors of the past but also the stories and traditions that have been simmering for centuries. It's a delightful reminder that every bite carries a story, making us part of a timeless human experience. Whether you're watching for entertainment, education, or inspiration, this series brings history to your table in the most delicious way imaginable.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'PBS A Taste of History' about?

'PBS A Taste of History' is a television series that explores historical events and cultures through the preparation and enjoyment of traditional recipes from different time periods and regions.

Who hosts 'PBS A Taste of History'?

'PBS A Taste of History' is hosted by chef Walter Staib, who guides viewers through historical culinary traditions while sharing stories from the past.

Where can I watch 'PBS A Taste of History'?

You can watch 'PBS A Taste of History' on PBS stations nationwide, as well as on the PBS website and streaming platforms that carry PBS content.

What makes 'PBS A Taste of History' unique compared to other

cooking shows?

The show combines cooking with history by not only teaching recipes but also providing historical context and cultural significance behind each dish.

Are the recipes on 'PBS A Taste of History' authentic historical recipes?

Yes, the recipes featured are researched to reflect authentic historical culinary practices, often based on documented recipes from historical records.

How can I find recipes from 'PBS A Taste of History'?

Recipes from the show are often available on the official PBS website for 'A Taste of History,' where viewers can download or view them online.

Does 'PBS A Taste of History' cover international cuisines?

While the focus is primarily on American history and colonial-era cuisine, the show occasionally explores international influences on American cooking traditions.

Additional Resources

PBS A Taste of History: Exploring Culinary Traditions Through Time

pbs a taste of history is an evocative phrase that calls attention to a unique approach to understanding the past—not through textbooks or artifacts alone, but through the universal language of food. The PBS series "A Taste of History" ventures beyond conventional historical narratives to explore how cuisine reflects cultural identity, economic shifts, and societal changes. This professional review delves into the show's structure, content, and educational impact, while also examining its place within the broader landscape of culinary history programming.

The Premise and Format of PBS A Taste of History

At its core, PBS A Taste of History combines documentary storytelling with culinary exploration. Each episode focuses on a specific historical period, event, or cultural milestone and investigates the role food played within that context. The series goes beyond mere recipes, intertwining historical facts, expert interviews, and on-location shoots to provide viewers with a multi-dimensional understanding of food as a historical artifact.

The show's format typically involves a host or culinary historian guiding the audience through the selected era's food culture. This narrative is enhanced by reenactments, visits to historical sites, and demonstrations of traditional cooking methods. Such a multi-sensory approach helps to create a vivid picture of the past, engaging audiences who may not otherwise be drawn to history programming.

Integration of Historical Context with Culinary Practices

One of the defining features of PBS A Taste of History is its commitment to authenticity and accuracy. The series often consults historians, archaeologists, and culinary experts to reconstruct recipes and dining customs as precisely as possible. This scholarly grounding ensures that the portrayal of historical foodways is not romanticized or oversimplified but reflects the complexities and constraints of the time.

For example, episodes focusing on colonial America examine how indigenous ingredients and European cooking traditions merged, illustrating the socio-political dynamics of cultural exchange and colonization. In contrast, segments on the Renaissance period highlight the opulence and symbolism of aristocratic banquets, connecting food to power and social hierarchy.

Educational Impact and Viewer Engagement

PBS A Taste of History offers more than entertainment; it serves as an educational tool that enriches viewers' understanding of history through an accessible medium. By anchoring historical narratives to familiar sensory experiences like taste and smell, the series fosters a deeper emotional and cognitive connection to the past.

The show's appeal extends across demographics. History enthusiasts appreciate the detailed research and contextual analysis, while food lovers enjoy the practical cooking segments and recipe recreations. This dual appeal has helped the program carve a niche in educational broadcasting, complementing other PBS offerings that focus on history or cooking independently.

Comparative Analysis with Similar Programs

When compared to other food-history shows such as "The Great British Bake Off: History of Baking" or Netflix's "Chef's Table," PBS A Taste of History distinguishes itself by placing a stronger emphasis on the historical narrative rather than culinary artistry alone. While "Chef's Table" centers on individual chefs and their innovations, and many cooking shows focus on skill and competition, PBS's offering prioritizes the socio-historical significance of food traditions.

This focus positions the series as a valuable resource for educators and cultural historians. Unlike purely entertainment-driven programs, PBS A Taste of History balances storytelling with factual rigor, making it suitable for academic settings as well as casual viewing.

Production Quality and Presentation Style

The production values of PBS A Taste of History are consistent with the standards expected of PBS documentaries. Cinematography is carefully crafted to capture both the beauty of food preparation and

the ambiance of historical locations. The use of natural lighting and period-appropriate props enhances the immersive experience.

Narration is delivered in a clear, measured tone that reflects the show's professional and investigative stance. The pacing allows sufficient time for viewers to absorb information without feeling rushed, which is a crucial aspect given the show's educational objectives.

Strengths and Limitations

- **Strengths:**

- Comprehensive integration of history and culinary arts
- Expert contributions ensure accuracy and depth
- Visually appealing and well-paced production
- Accessible to both academic and general audiences

- **Limitations:**

- Occasional episodes may prioritize historical detail over entertainment value, potentially limiting appeal to casual viewers
- Some regional food histories are less explored, which could narrow the scope
- The series may benefit from more interactive or digital content to engage younger

audiences accustomed to multimedia experiences

The Role of PBS A Taste of History in Promoting Cultural Awareness

In an increasingly globalized world, food serves as a bridge connecting diverse cultures and histories. PBS A Taste of History plays a crucial role in promoting cultural awareness by illuminating the origins and evolution of culinary traditions. By tracing how recipes and ingredients traveled across continents due to trade, migration, and colonization, the series encourages viewers to appreciate the interconnectedness of global history.

Moreover, the program highlights underrepresented food histories, including Native American, African American, and immigrant culinary contributions, thereby broadening the narrative beyond Eurocentric perspectives. This inclusive approach reflects evolving trends in historiography and public media, aiming to democratize historical knowledge.

Impact on Public Perception of History and Food

By focusing on food as a historical lens, PBS A Taste of History invites audiences to reconsider how everyday practices shape and reflect societal changes. The program challenges the notion that history is confined to political events and monumental figures, emphasizing instead the lived experiences of communities through their foodways.

This perspective can inspire viewers to explore their own culinary heritage and recognize food as a

dynamic element of cultural identity. In doing so, PBS A Taste of History contributes to a more nuanced and empathetic public understanding of history.

Ultimately, PBS A Taste of History stands out as a thoughtful, well-produced series that successfully marries the disciplines of history and gastronomy. Its investigative approach, combined with engaging storytelling and scholarly input, makes it a valuable addition to the landscape of educational television. As interest in food history continues to grow, this PBS series offers a meaningful and flavorful journey into the past.

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winter at Valley Forge to Cornmeal Fried Oysters, the greatest staple of the 18th century diet to Boston's eponymous Boston Cream Pie, *A TASTE OF HISTORY COOKBOOK* is a must-have for both cookbook and history enthusiasts alike.

pbs a taste of history: *The Road That Made America* James Dodson, 2025-07 In the bestselling tradition of Rinker Buck's *The Oregon Trail* and Tony Horwitz's *Confederates in the Attic*, *The Road That Made America* is a lively, epic account of one of the greatest untold stories in our nation's history—the eight-hundred-mile long Great Wagon Road that 18th-century American settlers forged from Philadelphia to Georgia that expanded the country dramatically in the decades before we ventured west. Little known today, the Great Wagon Road was the primary road of frontier America: a mass migration route that stretched more than eight hundred miles from Philadelphia to Augusta, Georgia. It opened the Southern frontier and wilderness east of the Appalachian Mountains to America's first settlers, and later served as the gateway for the exploration of the American West. In the mid-1700s, waves of European colonists in search of land for new homes left Pennsylvania to settle in the colonial backcountry of Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas. More than one hundred thousand settlers made the arduous trek, those who would become the foundational generations of the world's first true immigrant nation. In their newly formed village squares, democracy took root and bloomed. During the Revolutionary War, the road served as the key supply line to the American resistance in the western areas of the colonies, especially in the South. Drawing on years of fieldwork and scholarship by an army of archeologists, academics, archivists, preservationists, and passionate history lovers, James Dodson sets out to follow the road's original path from Philadelphia to Georgia. On his journey, he crosses six contiguous states and some of the most historic and hallowed landscapes of eastern America, touching many of the nation's most sacred battlefields and burying grounds. Due to its strategic importance, military engagements were staged along the Great Wagon Road throughout North America's three major wars, including the early days of the bloody French and Indian conflict and pivotal Revolutionary War encounters. In time, the Great Wagon Road became America's first technology highway, as growing roadside villages and towns and cities became, in effect, the first incubators of America's early Industrial age. The people and ideas that traveled down the road shaped the character of the fledgling nation and helped define who we are today. Dodson's ancestors on both sides took the Great Wagon Road to Maryland and North Carolina, respectively, giving him a personal stake in uncovering the road's buried legacy. An illuminating and entertaining first-person history, *The Road That Made America* restores this long-forgotten route to its rightful place in our national story.

pbs a taste of history: *Consuming History* Jerome de Groot, 2016-02-08 *Consuming History* examines how history works in contemporary popular culture. Analysing a wide range of cultural entities from computer games to daytime television, it investigates the ways in which society consumes history and how a reading of this consumption can help us understand popular culture and issues of representation. In this second edition, Jerome de Groot probes how museums have responded to the heritage debate and how new technologies from online game-playing to internet genealogy have brought about a shift in access to history, discussing the often conflicted relationship between 'public' and academic history and raising important questions about the theory and practice of history as a discipline. Fully revised throughout with up-to-date examples from sources such as *Wolf Hall*, *Game of Thrones* and *12 Years a Slave*, this edition also includes new sections on the historical novel, gaming, social media and genealogy. It considers new, ground-breaking texts and media such as YouTube in addition to entities and practices, such as re-enactment, that have been underrepresented in historical discussion thus far. Engaging with a broad spectrum of source material and comparing the experiences of the UK, the USA, France and Germany as well as exploring more global trends, *Consuming History* offers an essential path through the debates for readers interested in history, cultural studies and the media.

pbs a taste of history: *The Gilded Age Cookbook* Becky Libourel Diamond, 2023-08-01 The American Gilded Age (1868 to 1900) and its extreme extravagance continue to be a source of wonder and fascination, particularly for foodies. The style and excessiveness of this era has ties to

modern popular culture through books, films, and television shows, including *The Alienist* and the Julian Fellowes TV series *The Gilded Age*, on HBO. *The Gilded Age Cookbook* transports the reader back in time to lavish banquet tables set with snow-white linen tablecloths, delicate china, and sparkling crystal glasses. Cuisine featuring rich soups, juicy roasts, and luscious desserts come to life through historic images and artistic photography. *Gilded Age* details and entertaining stories of celebrities from the era—the Vanderbilts, Astors, Goelets, and Rockefellers—are melded with historic menus and recipes updated for modern kitchens.

pbs a taste of history: "A Rich Spot of Earth" Peter J. Hatch, 2012-04-24 Featuring more than 150 stunning full-color illustrations, this volume traces the history of Jefferson's unique vegetable garden, which has been painstakingly restored by the author, from the artichokes and asparagus first planted in 1770 through the horticultural experiments of Jefferson's retirement years.

pbs a taste of history: A Century of Restaurants Rick Browne, 2013-10-15 From the public television host, a tour of the US's oldest and greatest dining spots—with "delightful tales, delicious recipes, and hundreds of photographs" (Ted Allen, host of Food Network's *Chopped*). Come along on a pilgrimage to some of the oldest, most historic restaurants in America. Each is special not only for its longevity but also for its historic significance, interesting stories, and, of course, wonderful food. The oldest Japanese restaurant in the country is profiled, along with stagecoach stops, elegant eateries, barbecue joints, hamburger shops, cafes, bars and grills, and two dueling restaurants that both claim to have invented the French dip sandwich. The bestselling author and host/producer of *Barbecue America* shares the charm, history, and appeal that made these establishments, some as many as three hundred years old, successful. Each profile contains a famous recipe, the history of the restaurant, a look at the restaurant today, descriptions of some of its signature dishes, fun facts that make each place unique, and beautiful photos. It's all you need for an armchair tour of one hundred restaurants that have made America great. "Browne spent three years traveling more than 46,000 miles to profile the 100 restaurants, inns, taverns and public houses he selected as being the most historic, most interesting and most successful." —Orlando Sentinel "It is Browne's exploration of the history behind each place that I found most interesting...The White Horse Tavern gave him the Beef Wellington recipe. Peter Luger, the legendary Brooklyn Steakhouse, shared one for German Fried Potatoes and Katz's Delicatessen in New York City offered Katz's Noodle Kugel. And, Ferrara in Little Italy in New York City parted with its cannoli recipe." —Sioux City Journal "Ask any chef: It's not easy keeping a restaurant alive for a week, let alone a year or a decade. So what does it take to last a century? After five years of criss-crossing the country and gobbling up regional specialties from chowder to chili, Rick Browne reveals the answer to that question." —Ted Allen, host of Food Network's *Chopped*

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pbs a taste of history: The Official Chase 'N Yur Face Cookbook Chase Bailey, 2016-11-10 Who can resist the likes of fanciful Pizza Skewers or Grilled Chicken Panini? What about Cherry Cucumber Limeade or Pineapple Express Cupcakes? Pick up a copy of YouTube's young celebrity chef Chase Bailey's boldly designed and photographed book—*The Official Chase 'N Yur Face Cookbook*—and you'll be surprised and impressed by what may have looked like a cookbook for young adults. What you'll find is an exciting collection of sixty or so delightfully sophisticated, truly mouth-watering recipes for cooks of all ages that are as simple to create as they are original. Chase's appealing personality captivates with comments like "desserts are a kind of 'soul-food.'" His inventive recipes include everything from Grilled Portobello Rice Bowl with Five-Spice BBQ sauce to Brownie S'Mores Sandwiches to Baked Tilapia over Veggie Potato Almighty (potato and veggie hash) covered with Cheesy Gravy. This wonderfully balanced cookbook covers the culinary spectrum from breakfast to vegetables, meats to desserts, and nutritious to fun. You'll want to cook everything in

this book the first time you read it—whether you're an omnivore, a vegetarian, a vegan, or gluten-free, you'll be running out the door to the market to collect ingredients! Chase and Chase 'N Yur Face have received attention from Mario Batali and Guy Fieri and additional accolades in the form of two Foreword Indies book honors. Diagnosed with autism as a toddler, Chase's success shines the spotlight on food as the common language that binds us all together. Relevant "fun facts" artistically designed into every recipe and additional information on food history and current trends provided via references at the end of the book will further pique your interest in what this bright teenage chef has to say.

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pbs a taste of history: *International Documentary*, 2003

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pbs a taste of history: *A History of Public Health: From Past to Present* Jan Kirk Carney, 2022-03-10 *A History of Public Health: From Past to Present* uses a structured format to study public health from antiquity to the present time. After a brief introduction, this concise text illuminates defining moments in public health history through stories that illustrate people, principles, and challenges. These are followed by a discussion of history's relevance to contemporary practice. Suggestions for additional study, discussion questions, and references complete each chapter. Key Features: • Emphasis on selected narratives - more detailed stories - to highlight defining moments in public health history and help readers to remember key historical events, their significance, and determine their relevance to today's issues and practice. • Easily accessible references and primary sources are included for additional study and context. • Ample visuals and graphics highlight people, priorities, art, public opinion, and trends relevant to the time period,, and more.

pbs a taste of history: *99 Jumpstarts for Kids' Social Studies Reports* Peggy Whitley, Susan Williams Goodwin, 2007-06-30 Building on the success and maintaining the 99 Jumpstarts format of the two previous books, *99 Jumpstarts for Kids' Social Studies Reports* is divided into broad topical sections. Each topic is arranged in alphabetical order under its section. Topics are all new to this title and include the Ancient World, Historic World Events, State and Local History, US History, Government and Citizenship, Sociology, Culture and Economics. The book includes the following sections in each Jumpstart: A cited quote about the topic, Related Jumpstarts, New Words, You are There, Topics to Consider, Books, Internet, For the Teacher, and a relevant activity. Each

Jumpstart provides a helpful pathfinder that enables students to efficiently access information and learn new information literacy skills as they research topics of personal interest or gather information for school reports. Grades 3-8.

pbs a taste of history: *A Taste of Heaven on Earth* Carol Stone White, 2020-04-16 *A Taste of Heaven on Earth* explores the spiritual foundation of the nineteenth-century utopian Oneida Community founded by John Humphrey Noyes, whose members sought purity of heart in all thoughts, words, and activities. Following graduation from college with honors, Noyes studied at two theological seminaries, opening his heart to receive God. He discovered the Holy Spirit as our ever-present teacher, revealing the wisdom and experiences of Christ, and that the purpose of human life is preparing the heart to hear this Internal Teacher and implementing its teachings. Spend pleasant hours with many of the nearly three hundred members of Noyes's communities, people of all personalities and proclivities—how they loved and learned, worked and played, prayed and made music, and lived together with openness and harmony. All were married to all in this unique community, showing that a happy marriage may exist between two hundred and fifty as well as two. They practiced enlightened sexuality, learned emotional intelligence and spiritual self-examination, thrived with variety in work, enjoyed lifelong learning, and nurtured all children as their own. Most of all, they practiced openness to God, the only source of lasting joy and contentment.

pbs a taste of history: *Jazz/Not Jazz* David Ake, Charles Hiroshi Garrett, Daniel Goldmark, 2012-06-12 “*Jazz/Not Jazz* is an innovative and inspiring investigation of jazz as it is practiced, theorized and taught today. Taking their cues from current debates within jazz scholarship, the contributors to this collection open up jazz studies to a transdisciplinarity that is rich in its diversity of approaches, candid in its appraisals of critical worth, transparent in its ideological suppositions, and catholic in its subjects/objects of inquiry.”—Kevin Fellezs, author of *Birds of Fire: Jazz, Rock, Funk and the Creation of Fusion*. “This collection is a delight. Each essay opens up some previously ignored aspect of jazz history. Anyone who knows the New Jazz Studies and is wise enough to acquire this book will immediately devour it.”—Krin Gabbard, author of *Hotter Than That: The Trumpet, Jazz, and American Culture*. “This volume is truly one of a kind, eminently readable and filled with new insights. It will make an extremely important contribution to jazz literature.”—Jeffrey Taylor, Director, H. Wiley Hitchcock Institute for Studies in American Music, Brooklyn College.

pbs a taste of history: *The Producer's Playbook: Real People on Camera* Amy DeLouise, 2016-04-14 *Producer's Playbook: Real People on Camera* is a no-nonsense guide for producers looking to get the best performances from real people to tell powerful stories on video. Director/producer Amy DeLouise brings years of experience to this resource for creating the best on-screen impact with non-actors for interviews, re-enactments, documentary and direct-to-camera messages. With useful case studies and tips on everything from managing locations and budgeting to strategies for managing crews and the expectations of executive producers and clients, this is an invaluable resource for professionals working in reality TV, documentary, corporate video, and more. Ample case studies with perspectives from industry professionals interviewed by the author, as well as her own plentiful stories from the field. Tips are featured in sidebars throughout the text, so that readers can see how the information applies to real situations. Full-color photographs allow readers to visualize real world production situations. The appendix includes useful templates and checklists for working producers.

pbs a taste of history: *Reflexiones* 1998 Yolanda C. Padilla, 1999 *Reflexiones* is an annual review of the work in progress of scholars affiliated with the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. It may also include outside works derived from center-sponsored presentations. *Reflexiones* 1998, the second volume in the series, invites us to view Mexican American identity in a new light. In the rich interdisciplinary tradition of Mexican American studies, the contributors to *Reflexiones* 1998 come from a variety of fields. Martha Menchaca (anthropology) and Mauricio Tenorio and David Montejano (both in history) open with a three-part piece on the 150th anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Angela Valenzuela (sociology, Rice

University) discusses the practice of cultural assimilation in our educational system. Américo Paredes (anthropology and English) offers a telling vignette of borderland life. Sheila Marie Contreras (English) considers the question of Mexican American ancestry in a study of a poem by Teresa Palomo Acosta. Lalo Alcaraz, the Los Angeles-based satirist, delivers a trenchant autobiographical cartoon story. James Nicolopoulos (Spanish and Portuguese) delves into the corrido tradition and the effects of the advent of sound recording. Richard Flores (anthropology) explores the myth of the Alamo and the film *Martyrs of the Alamo*. And finally, Charles Ramírez Berg (radio, television, and film) examines Mexican American border documentaries.

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