

The Complete Uncensored History of Saturday Night Live, As Told by Its Stars

In its 46 seasons, *Saturday Night Live* has launched the careers of some of the biggest stars in comedy. But the show has also had its share of scandals, controversies, and behind-the-scenes drama.

The early years of *SNL* were chaotic and unpredictable. The cast was constantly changing, and the show often went off the rails. But there were also moments of pure comedic genius, and the show quickly became a cultural phenomenon.



Live From New York: The Complete, Uncensored History of Saturday Night Live as Told by Its Stars, Writers, and Guests by Tom Shales

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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In the 1980s, *SNL* became a hit machine, launching the careers of stars like Eddie Murphy, Adam Sandler, and Chris Rock. But the show also faced criticism for its raunchy humor and its lack of diversity.

In the 1990s, *SNL* went through a period of decline. The cast was stale, and the show was losing its edge. But in 1999, a new group of cast members, including Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, and Will Ferrell, brought the show back to its former glory.

The 2000s were a golden age for *SNL*. The cast was strong, and the show was consistently funny. But in 2017, the show was rocked by the departure of Lorne Michaels, the show's creator and executive producer.

Since Michaels' departure, *SNL* has struggled to find its footing. The cast has been weaker, and the show has been less consistent. But *SNL* remains a cultural institution, and it is still capable of producing some of the best comedy on television.

The Cast

The cast of *Saturday Night Live* has always been one of the show's most important assets. Over the years, the show has featured some of the biggest stars in comedy, including:

* Chevy Chase * John Belushi * Bill Murray * Dan Aykroyd * Jane Curtin * Gilda Radner * Eddie Murphy * Adam Sandler * Chris Rock * Tina Fey * Amy Poehler * Will Ferrell * Jimmy Fallon * Seth Meyers * Kristen Wiig

The cast of *SNL* is constantly changing, but the show has always managed to find new and talented performers to keep it fresh.

The Sketches

The sketches on *Saturday Night Live* are some of the most iconic moments in television history. The show has produced some of the most memorable

characters and catchphrases in comedy, including:

* The Coneheads * Wayne and Garth * Stuart Smalley * The Californians *
The Church Lady * Stefon * Drunk Uncle

The sketches on *SNL* are often political, but they can also be topical, cultural, or even just plain silly. The show has always been able to find humor in the news, and it has often been a voice for the voiceless.

The Hosts

The hosts of *Saturday Night Live* are some of the biggest stars in Hollywood. Over the years, the show has been hosted by everyone from Steve Martin to Tom Hanks to Lady Gaga.

The host of *Saturday Night Live* is responsible for introducing the show and the cast, and they often participate in sketches. The host also gets to deliver the show's iconic opening monologue.

The Controversies

Saturday Night Live has been no stranger to controversy over the years. The show has been criticized for its raunchy humor, its lack of diversity, and its political bias.

In 1975, the show was criticized for a sketch that featured a character named "The Festrunk Brothers." The sketch was accused of being racist, and it led to the firing of cast member Chevy Chase.

In 1980, the show was criticized for a sketch that featured a character named "The Ayatollah." The sketch was accused of being anti-Islamic, and

it led to the resignation of cast member Gilda Radner.

In 2013, the show was criticized for a sketch that featured a character named "The Unfrozen Caveman Lawyer." The sketch was accused of being sexist, and it led to the firing of cast member Vanessa Bayer.

Despite the controversies, *Saturday Night Live* has remained a cultural institution. The show has been on the air for over 40 years, and it has produced some of the most iconic moments in television history.

The Future

The future of *Saturday Night Live* is uncertain. The show has been declining in ratings in recent years, and it is unclear how much longer it will be able to continue.

However, *SNL* remains a cultural institution, and it is likely that the show will continue to be produced for many years to come. The show has always been able to adapt to the changing times, and it is likely that it will continue to do so in the future.

Saturday Night Live is a cultural institution that has been on the air for over 40 years. The show has produced some of the most iconic moments in television history, and it has launched the careers of some of the biggest stars in comedy.

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