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CRITICAL MASS

Four Decades of Essays, Reviews, Hand Grenades, and Hurrahs

JAMES WOLCOTT

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Critical Mass Four Decades Of Essays Reviews Hand Grenades And Hurrahs

James Wolcott

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Critical Mass James Wolcott, 2015-04-14 James Wolcott's career as a critic has been unmatched from his early Seventies dispatches for The Village Voice to the literary coverage made him equally feared and famous to his must read reports on the cultural weather for Vanity Fair Bringing together his best work from across the decades this collection shows Wolcott as connoisseur intrepid reporter memoirist and necessary naysayer We begin with O K Corral Revisited Wolcott's career launching account of the famed Norman Mailer Gore Vidal dust off on the original Dick Cavett Show He goes on to consider or reconsider the towering figures of our culture among them Lena Dunham Patti Smith Johnny Carson Woody Allen and John Cheever And we witness his legendary takedowns which have entered into the literary lore of our time In an age where a great deal of back scratching and softball pitching pass for criticism Critical Mass offers a bracing taste of the real thing

American Tantalus Andrew Warnes, 2014-10-23 American Tantalus argues that modern US fictions often grow preoccupied by tantalisation This keyword might seem commonplace thesauruses certainly often lump it in with tease and torment in their general inventories of desire Such lists however mislead Just as most US dictionaries have in fact long recognised tantalise's origins in The Odyssey so they have defined it as the unique desire we feel for objects that like the fruit and water once cruelly placed before Tantalus lie within our reach yet withdraw from our attempts to touch them On these terms American Tantalus shows tantalise not only describes a particular kind of thwarted desire but also one that dominates modern US fiction to a remarkable extent For this term specifically evokes the yearning to touch alienated or virginal objects that we find examined by F Scott Fitzgerald Toni Cade Bambara Richard Wright and Toni Morrison and it also indicates the insatiable pursuit of the horizon so important to Willa Cather and Edith Wharton among others This eclectic canon indeed prefers the dictionary to the thesaurus unreachable destinations and untouched commodities here indeed tantalise inviting gestures of inquiry from which they then recoil This focus while lodging cycles of tantalisation at the very heart of American myth holds profound implications for our understanding of modernity and in particular of the cultural genesis of the commodity as a form Loaded Dylan Jones, 2023-12-05 Drawing on contributions from remaining members contemporaneous musicians critics filmmakers and the generation of artists who emerged in their wake this monumental origin story celebrates the legacy of the Velvet Underground which burns brighter than ever in the 21st century New York Times bestselling author Bob Spitz Variety and Concrete Islands Best Book of 2023 A Must Read by Nylon BookRiot and Town Country Rebellion always starts somewhere and in the music world of the transgressive teen whether it be the 1960s or the 2020s the Velvet Underground represents ground zero Crystallizing the idea of the bohemian urban narcissistic art school gang around a psychedelic rock and roll band a stylistic idea that evolved in the rarefied environs of Andy Warhol s Factory the Velvets were the first major American rock group with a mixed gender line up They never smiled in photographs wore sunglasses indoors and invented the archetype that would be copied by everyone from Sid Vicious to Bobby Gillespie

They were avant garde nihilists writing about drug abuse prostitution paranoia and sado masochistic sex at a time when the rest of the world was singing about peace and love In that sense they invented punk and then some It could even be argued that they invented modern New York Drawing on interviews and material relating to all major players from Lou Reed John Cale Mo Tucker Andy Warhol Jon Savage Nico David Bowie Mary Harron and many more award winning journalist Dylan Jones breaks down the band's whirlwind of subversion and in a narrative rich in drama and detail proves why the Velvets remain the original kings and gueens of edge American Audacity William Giraldi, 2018-08-21 One of the most gifted literary essayists of his generation defends stylistic boldness and intellectual daring in American letters Over the last decade William Giraldi has established himself as a charismatic and uncompromising literary essayist a literature besotted Midas of prose Cynthia Ozick Now American Audacity gathers a selection of his most powerful considerations of American writers and themes a gorgeous fury of language and sensibility Walter Kirn including an introductory call to arms for twenty first century American literature and a new appreciation of James Baldwin's genius for nonfiction With potent insights into the storied tradition of American letters and written with a commitment to the dynamism and dimensions of language American Audacity considers giants from the past Herman Melville Edgar Allan Poe Harper Lee Denis Johnson some of our most well known living critics and novelists Harold Bloom Stanley Fish Katie Roiphe Cormac McCarthy Allan Gurganus Elizabeth Spencer as well as those cultural literary themes that have concerned Giraldi as an American novelist bestsellers the problem of Catholic fiction the art of hate mail and his viral essay on bibliophilia Demanding that literature be audacious and urgent in its convictions American Audacity is itself an act of intellectual daring a compendium shot through with Giraldi s emboldened and emboldening critical voice Sven Birkerts At a time when literature is threatened by ceaseless electronic bombardment Giraldi arques that literature must do what literature has always done facilitate those silent spaces remain steadfastly itself in its employment of slowness interiority grace and in its marshaling of aesthetic sophistication and complexity American Audacity is ultimately an assertion of intelligence and discernment from a maker of perfectly paced prose The New Yorker a book that reaffirms the pleasure and wisdom of the deepest literary values American Literature in Transition, 1970-1980 Kirk Curnutt, 2018-03-22 American Literature in Transition 1970 1980 examines the literary developments of the twentieth century s gaudiest decade For a quarter century filmmakers musicians and historians have returned to the era to explore the legacy of Watergate stagflation and Saturday Night Fever uncovering the unique confluence of political and economic phenomena that make the period such a baffling time Literary historians have never shown much interest in the era however a remarkable omission considering writers as diverse as Toni Morrison Thomas Pynchon Marilyn French Adrienne Rich Gav Talese Norman Mailer Alice Walker and Octavia E Butler were active Over the course of twenty one essays contributors explore a range of controversial themes these writers tackled from 1960s nostalgia to feminism and the redefinition of masculinity to sexual liberation and rock n roll Other essays address New Journalism the rise of blockbuster culture memoir

and self help and crime fiction all demonstrating that the Me Decade was nothing short of mesmerizing *Metaphysical* Sociology Sara James, 2018-05-11 This volume critically engages with the work of the acclaimed Australian sociologist John Carroll It makes the argument for a metaphysical sociology which Carroll has proposed should focus on the questions of fundamental existence that confront all humans Where do I come from What should I do with my life and What happens to me when I die These questions of meaning in the secular modern West have become difficult to answer As contemporary individuals increasingly draw on their inner resources or ontological qualities to pursue quests for meaning the key challenge for a metaphysical sociology concerns the cultural resources available to people and the manner in which they are cultivated Through wide ranging discussions which include film romantic love terrorism and video games Metaphysical Sociology takes up this challenge The contributors include emerging and established sociologists a philosopher a renowned actor and a musician As such this collection will appeal to scholars of social theory and sociology and to the general reader with interests in morality art culture and the fundamental questions of human existence Вуди Аллен. Комик с грустной душой Why Patti Smith Matters Caryn Rose, 2023-09-13 Eine liebevolle W rdigung von Том Шон, 2019-02-10 ВАГТА 100 250 і і Patti Smiths wahrhaftigem Genie und ihrem gro en Beitrag zur globalen Kultur der letzten f nfzig Jahre Shirley Manson Garbage Why Patti Smith Matters ist das erste Buch ber die ikonische K nstlerin das von einer Frau geschrieben wurde Die Musikjournalistin Caryn Rose untersucht Smiths kreative Arbeit ihren Einfluss und ihren weitreichenden und sich immer noch entwickelnden Einfluss auf die Rock n Roll Geschichte bildende Kunst und das geschriebene Wort Rose steigt tief in Smiths Werk ein von ihrem ersten Album Horses bis hin zu ihren gefeierten Memoiren die weit ber ihre Musik hinausreichen

Liberties Journal of Culture and Politics Leon Wieseltier, 2025-01-21 Liberties a Journal of Culture and Politics is essential reading for those engaged in the cultural and political issues of our time Liberties is a collection of the most significant writers today as well as launching the voices of tomorrow Published quarterly Liberties Culture Politics features serious independent stylish and controversial essays by significant writers and introduces the next generation of writers and poets to inspire and impact the intellectual and creative lifeblood of today s culture and politics Nobel Prize winners leading scholars well known fiction and non fiction writers rising talents and poets from around the world are part of the Liberties series. There is a reason why engaged citizens cultural warriors political leaders opinion makers and activists from across the cultural and political spectrum read and cherish Liberties.

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