

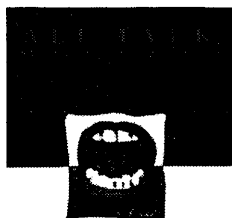
## New in the library

The following books have been selected from the range of new additions. These notes are indicative of a book's subject matter, but are not intended as critical comment or review. The ABA invites the public to use the Library for research purposes, by appointment. The Library's e-mail address is [library@aba.gov.au](mailto:library@aba.gov.au)

### All talk: the talkshow in media culture

**Wayne Munson. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1993. ISBN 0 87722 995 3**

As in Australia, the talkshow has become a powerful force in contemporary culture. It has become a political instrument as well as an advice-giver, entertainer and promoter. The talkshow mixes amusement with dogmatic and prescriptive opinion, celebrity with anonymity, the expertise with the amateur. The audience appetite for talkshows appears insatiable. This book endeavours to illustrate the points of intersec-



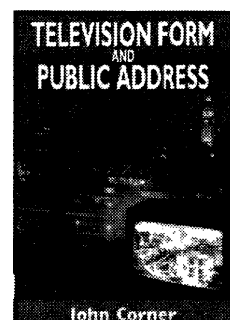
The Talkshow in Media Culture  
Wayne Munson

tion between audiences, media culture and history. The author offers an appreciation of the genre, discusses how it works and assesses its cultural position in both symptomatic and explanatory terms.

### Television form and public address

**John Corner. London: Edward Arnold, 1995. ISBN 0 340 62538 4**

This book is a critical study of the connections between the 'public' character of television and the various ways it works as communication. Fundamental questions are asked about the nature of what appears on the screen and how it variously engages, informs and entertains viewers. The coherence of the book is based on bringing together certain ideas about television form with ideas about its social character. The movement of the book is from an overall emphasis on formal questions to an emphasis on consequences. The early chapters spend some considerable time establishing specific aspects of television form as well as



connecting with wider questions. Chapters on the specific but changing forms of news, documentary and advertising provide a vivid and detailed analysis of some of television's most controversial ways of addressing the viewer as citizen and consumer.

### The vanishing vision: the inside story of public television

**James Day. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995. ISBN 0 520 08659 7**

James Day chronicles the evolution of public television in the USA from its inauspicious beginnings in the 1950s to its strong presence in contemporary culture. He discusses the political and economic forces that have shaped public television. In his view, it is a complicated bureaucracy kept on a leash by an untrusting Congress, within a fragmented leadership that lacks a clearly defined mission in today's multimedia environment. The author contrasts public television's uneven creative record with the impressive achievement of public television in the United Kingdom. He calls for a bold new rethinking of public television's mission, advocating a system that is adequately funded, independent of government and capable of counterbalancing private and cable television programming with a full range of substantive programs.

