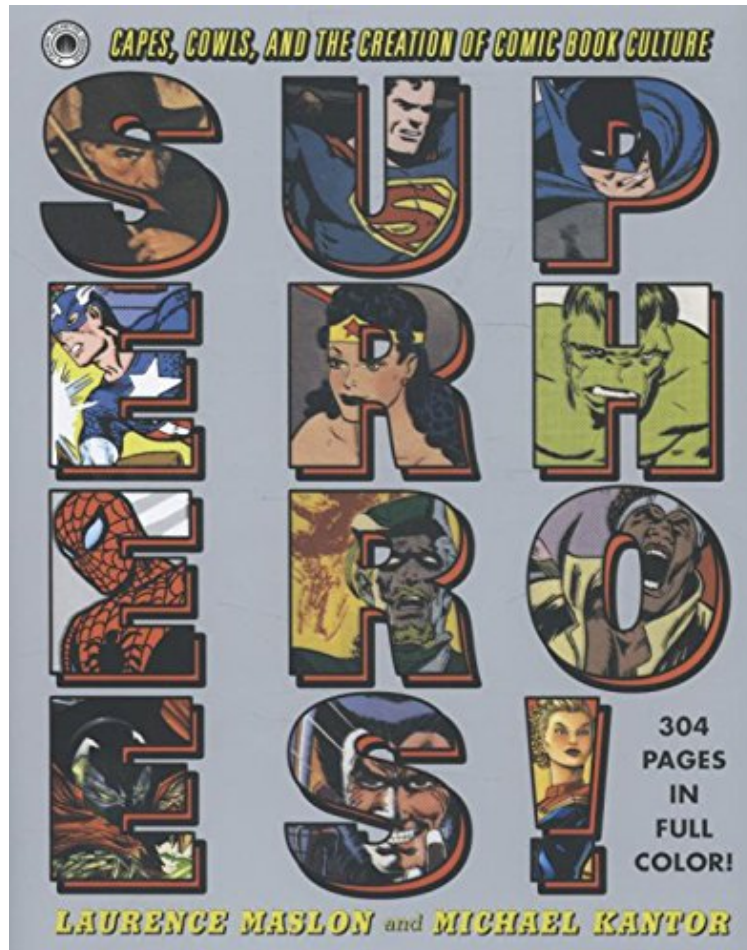


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Superheroes!: Capes, Cowls, and the Creation of Comic Book Culture

Laurence Maslon, Michael Kantor
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Laurence Maslon, Michael Kantor : Superheroes!: Capes, Cowls, and the Creation of Comic Book Culture
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Superheroes!: Capes, Cowls, and the Creation of Comic Book Culture:

19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. AmazingBy Donald J. Wurzelbacher I am not a huge comic book fan. My favorite Superhero has always been and always will be Superman. But I'm mostly interested in his stories through media of cartoons, radio, TV and films. With the exceptions of the infamous Doomsday storylines from the 90s, I find comics interesting at times but not worth the inflated prices that would be spent purchasing them each week. However, this book intrigued me partially because it is a companion to the PBS special "Superheroes: A Never-Ending Battle" which I found very well done. I literally did not put this book down for the day I spent reading its 304 pages. I read it when it came in the mail by in the mid afternoon and it rarely left my hands other than short 'potty'

breaks and a simple supper. The book is easily the best written history of comic book heroes I've ever read. Maslon and Kantor did an amazing and thorough job researching over 75 years of CB history. As I stated earlier, I never was a big comic book fan but I have kept up with what's going on in the comic book world partly because my daughter and son in law ARE big comic book fans. This book discussed much of what I did know about some characters (Mainly Superman and Batman) but also gave me some real lessons on the behind-the-scenes' origins of some of these Superheroes and what caused such appeal to audiences. It discussed some of the best DC and Marvel has to offer as well as the flops. They briefly touched on television and movie incarnations but mostly it was an incredible look into the world of the comic book Superheroes. The pages are full of color and as exciting as the characters themselves. So if I, a so-so comic book fan, can read this large 300 page book in less than 24 hours, anyone who is a true comic book fan should be even more excited about this wonderful history of the genre. Five stars. Hope you find it as exciting as I did. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Gregory M. great 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but this book did an excellent job of walking me through the history of the ... By Friend of the Adoni I have followed and collected Comics for years, but this book did an excellent job of walking me through the history of the comic industry and giving insight in to the backgrounds, the current events and many of the outside forces that drove the comic industry. It was a refreshng and interesting read.

Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Wonder Woman, the Avengers, the X-Men, Watchmen, and more: the companion volume to the PBS documentary series of the same name that tells the story of the superhero in American popular culture. Together again for the first time, here come the greatest comic book superheroes ever assembled between two covers: down from the heavens Superman and the Mighty Thor swinging over rooftops the Batman and Spider-Man; star-spangled, like Captain America and Wonder Woman, or clad in darkness, like the Shadow and Spawn; facing down super-villains on their own, like the Flash and the Punisher or gathered together in a team of champions, like the Avengers and the X-Men! Based on the three-part PBS documentary series Superheroes, this companion volume chronicles the never-ending battle of the comic book industry, its greatest creators, and its greatest creations. Covering the effect of superheroes on American culture in print, on film and television, and in digital media and the effect of American culture on its superheroes, Superheroes: Capes, Cowls, and the Creation of Comic Book Culture appeals to readers of all ages, from the casual observer of the phenomenon to the most exacting fan of the genre. Drawing from more than 50 new interviews conducted expressly for Superheroes! creators from Stan Lee to Grant Morrison, commentators from Michael Chabon to Jules Feiffer, actors from Adam West to Lynda Carter, and filmmakers such as Zach Snyder this is an up-to-the-minute narrative history of the superhero, from the comic strip adventurers of the Great Depression, up to the blockbuster CGI movie superstars of the 21st Century. Featuring more than 500 full-color comic book panels, covers, sketches, photographs of both essential and rare artwork, Superheroes is the definitive story of this powerful presence in pop culture.

From Booklist In this companion to the documentary Superheroes: A Never-Ending Battle, Maslon and Kantor (Make Em Laugh, 2008) track the history of superhero comic books, beginning with the humble birth of Superman in 1938, through the momentum-crushing Comics Code Authority, and to the superheroes defiant comeback, leading to the multibillion-dollar industry of today. Along the way, the authors note comics deep connection to American history, from Captain America punching Hitler on the cover of his debut issue to the benchmark Spider-Man story depicting the aftermath of 9/11. Using interviews from the documentary, they profile writers, artists, actors, and the characters themselves on splashy, colorful pages bursting with well-reproduced panels, covers, and film stills. Its more of a browsable survey than a narrative history, and most of the attention is paid to big-name figures, but, all the same, Maslon and Kantor have admirably included profiles of the women, minorities, and LGBT individuals involved, super and otherwise. Readers hoping to fill in their knowledge of superhero backstory will find a lot to like, as will diehard fans looking for a cheery swagger down memory lane. --Sarah Hunter From its roots in the pulp novels of the early 1900s to its contemporary ubiquity, Superheroes! provides intriguing fodder for those of us who wonder how this age of adolescence dawned, and why its stuck around so long. . . . colorfully and copiously illustrated . . . the companion volume to the three-part PBS documentary series Superheroes: A Never-Ending Battle. If the television series represents an express ride through 75 years of comics history, its more comprehensive coffee-table iteration is ideally suited to those of us nerds whod prefer to take the local."--The New York Times Book A deeply knowledgeable, engaging, and respectful history . . . will enlighten the casual fan and challenge lifelong fans. Mark Squirek, New York Journal of Books Exceptionally comprehensive ComicsGrinder.com "Abreezy, imaged-filled narrative perfect for someone who wants a single volume history of comic superheroes. . . . I enjoyed it. If you have someone who still cant believe you read superhero comics, this is a nice volume to explain the power and history of the genre."--dcwomenkickingass.tumblr.com About the Author Laurence Maslon is an associate arts professor and associate chair at NYUs Graduate Acting Program. He has written the companion volumes to Michael Kantors documentary series, Make Em Laugh and Broadway: The American Musical, in addition to writing several other books about the theater and editing three volumes for the Library of America. He is the host of Broadway to Main Street, a weekly

radio show and lives in New York and Long Island with his wife and son. Over the past twenty-five years of work in public television, Michael Kantor has established himself as one of the nation's leading independent documentary filmmakers. As a writer, director, and producer, his works include *Quincy Jones: In the Pocket*, *Broadway: The American Musical*, and *Make Em Laugh: The Funny Business of America*. He lives in a fortress of solitude 28 minutes north of New York City, inhabited by his family of superheroes.