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Vision On

Film, Television, and the Arts in Britain

Vision On narrates the turbulent yet distinguished history of one of the fundamental pillars of British broadcasting—the arts. This volume chronicles the years of dynamic and often controversial collaboration between broadcasters and the Arts Council, a key player in bringing art films to the wider public audience. Beginning with the earliest TV documentaries, the arts became central to the remit of public broadcasters, and by the 1980s Channel 4 and the Arts Council were boldly redefining the relationship of the arts and the media by commissioning and airing exclusive and innovative films. With detailed discussion of the cultural role of television programmes such as *Civilisation* (1966) and *Arena* (1974 onwards), close analysis of over 25 films and exclusive access to the Arts Council's collection of the 450 films supported between 1953 and 1999, this volume illuminates the vanguard role the arts have played in the proud history of British public broadcasting, and attempts to locate the place of arts broadcasting in today's multi-channel, multi-media world.

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107,03 €

100,03 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781905674404

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-1-905674-40-4

Verlag: Wallflower Press

Erscheinungstermin: 20.12.2007

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2007

Serie: Nonfictions

Produktform: Gebunden

Gewicht: 539 g

Seiten: 224

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25.07.2024 | 03:00 Uhr

