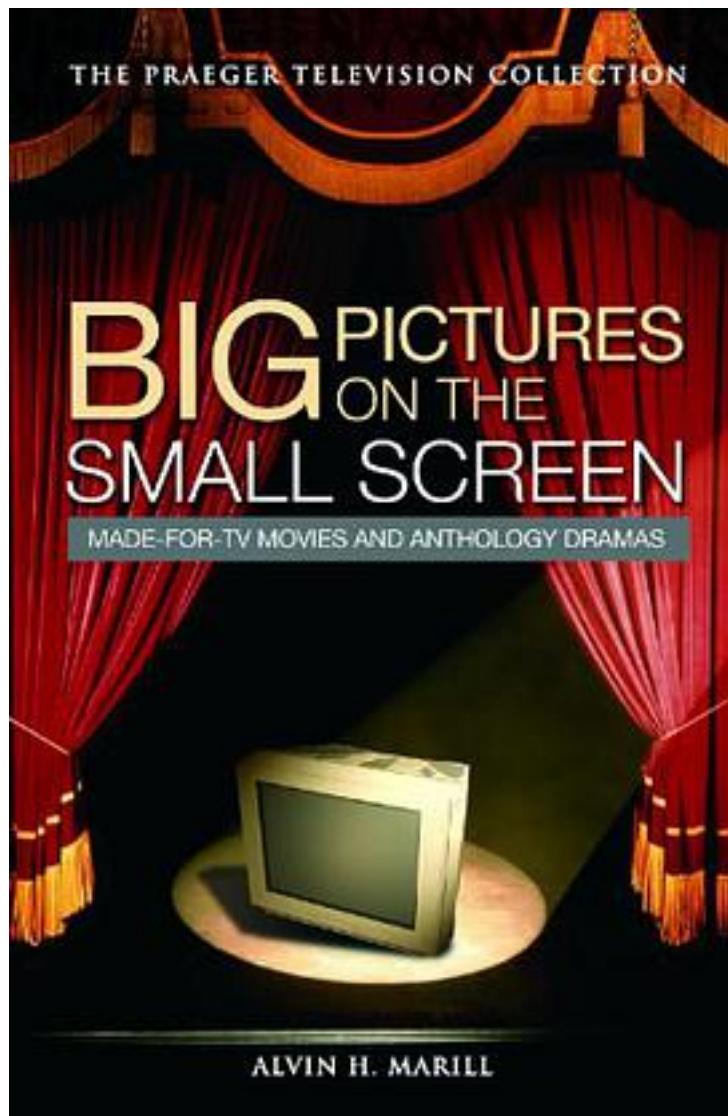


# Big Pictures on the Small Screen



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From the earliest days of television, drama was an integral part of programming. In the 1960s, U.S. networks began to commission feature-length dramas expressly for television, and the genres that became known as "Movies Made for Television" and the "mini-series" emerged. However, when cable and satellite TV appeared in the 1980s and -90s, dramatic productions began falling victim to the bottom line. Just when it seemed that cable was going to kill off such programming, U.S. pay-TV channels like HBO and Showtime began to thrive on such dramas as "Angels in America" and "Band of Brothers". After making many transitions across channels and decades and formats, the television movie is now in a unique position to represent, in a simple and direct way, the various states of the television industry itself over the past 60 years. This volume will cover all of the important landmarks in the genre, from the earliest TV movies, through "Roots", to "Rome", and will provide a parallel history of the relevant events in television and popular culture that helped to ensure the popularity and viability of this genre over time.

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