

Reality Squared



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Through the 1980s and 1990s, the television industry and its critics have identified and promoted the reemergence of "reality-based" television. During the past two decades, this type of programming has come to play a major role in both production decisions and network strategy. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, viewers' desire for "reality TV" shows no signs of diminishing, as evidenced by the meteoric rise of shows such as *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, *Survivor*, and MTV's *Real World*. Although debates concerning the relationship between representational media and reality have occupied scholars and artists for quite some time, a surprisingly small number of books have examined this subject. As the title suggests, *Reality Squared* examines the representation of reality within the squared televisual viewing frame, as well as the exponential growth of these representational programs on broadcast, cable TV, and even beyond, to the worldwide web. The contributors approach the issues surrounding television and reality from a wide range of theoretical and methodological perspectives. Topics include the internet, the impact of global news events, weather predictions on the Weather Channel, and the representation of criminality on

America's Most Wanted. This diverse volume contributes to the ongoing conversation about reality and representation, history and fiction, text and context, and the "inside" and "outside" of that box we call television.

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