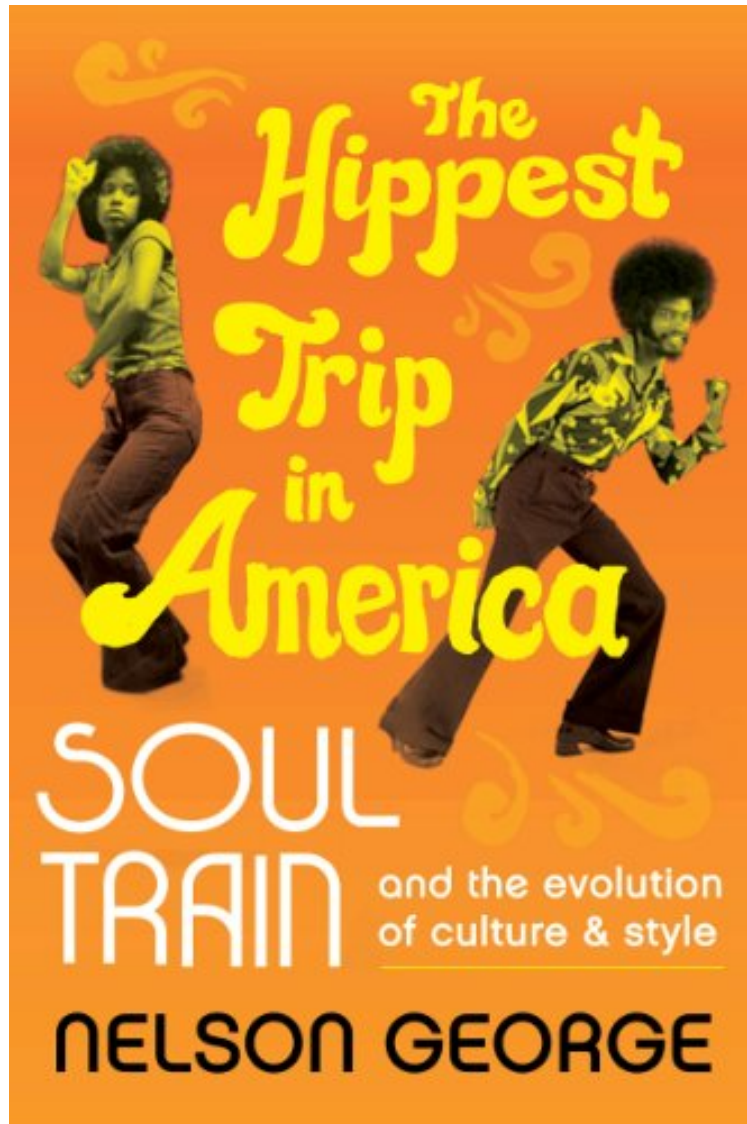


The Hippest Trip in America: Soul Train and the Evolution of Culture Style

Nelson George

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Nelson George : The Hippest Trip in America: Soul Train and the Evolution of Culture Style before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hippest Trip in America: Soul Train and the Evolution of Culture Style:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Does SOUL TRAIN deserve a better book than THE HIPPEST TRIP IN AMERICA? By Stacy Helton Does SOUL TRAIN deserve a better book than THE HIPPEST TRIP IN AMERICA, journalist Nelson George's slapdash examination of what was often referred to as the "black

AMERICAN BANDSTAND? Most definitely; however, George creates an enjoyable read but skips around so much, paying little attention to the times, both tumultuous and serene, that made up the late 1960s through the mid-2000s. Lip service chapters are given to the fashion and the music, as well as the show's roots, but little is revealed about the late Don Cornelius and the lasting legacy the show has left, with the exception of Questlove, who seems to be the only person who remembers the show fondly. The rest of the book is page after page of dancer biographies with few pictures. With the exception of Rosie Perez and Nick Cannon, none stand out, though their reflections are valid. This is apparently a companion book to the VH-1 special, but George points out that the doc is unavailable on DVD due to music clearance issues. It just seems to me that a book that celebrated the black experience from the days of the 1960s riots through 9/11 should have more sociology and history and less reflections on the history of dance. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Nelson George's weakest book By Scott Boggs This book was a huge disappointment. It's short. Just 256 pages. There isn't very much new information. It doesn't feel like George did a great deal of research. I think most hardcore fans of Soul Train our age could write more pages than that with no research and just our memories of this iconic show. The biggest disappointment? He mentions several individual dancers (other than Jody Watley and Jeffrey Daniel) from the show and THERE ARE NO PICTURES OF ANY OF THEM. A lot of the music that was used on the show over the years is trashed by George. He does get across the importance of Don Cornelius as a producer and businessman, but it's far too brief and you can't tell this story without pictures while trashing the music. Oh, and the early Chicago years of Soul Train, which some argue was the best period of the show, is dismissed in a few pages. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So interesting! By Aireleo So much information I never knew about. Great read!

An authoritative history of the groundbreaking syndicated television show that has become an icon of American pop culture, from acclaimed author and filmmaker Nelson George, "the most accomplished black music critic of his generation" (Washington Post Book World). When it debuted in October 1971, seven years after the Civil Rights Act, Soul Train boldly went where no variety show had gone before, showcasing the cultural preferences of young African-Americans and the sounds that defined their lives: RB, funk, jazz, disco, and gospel music. The brainchild of radio announcer Don Cornelius, the show's producer and host, Soul Train featured a diverse range of stars, from James Brown and David Bowie to Christine Aguilera and R. Kelly; Marvin Gaye and Elton John to the New Kids on the Block and Stevie Wonder. The Hippest Trip in America tells the full story of this pop culture phenomenon that appealed not only to blacks, but to a wide crossover audience as well. Famous dancers like Rosie Perez and Jody Watley, performers such as Aretha Franklin, Al Green, and Barry White, and Cornelius himself share their memories, offering insights into the show and its time—a period of extraordinary social and political change. Colorful and pulsating, The Hippest Trip In America is a fascinating portrait of a revered cultural institution that has left an indelible mark on our national consciousness.

From Booklist Music critic and novelist George (The Plot against Hip Hop, 2011) runs down the story of the barrier-breaking and hugely influential television show Soul Train, which for 35 years delivered "love, peace, and soul" to households everywhere in the form of hit songs, innovative dance moves, and "freaky, fantastic" fashions. Inspired by the civil rights movement, Chicago radio reporter turned television trailblazer Don Cornelius, whom George describes as the epitome of cool, boldly carved out the first mass-media space for "black dance by black dancers presented by a black producer." In this lively, documentary-style biography of an instant hit show with remarkable draw and staying power (1971–2006), George considers Cornelius's complexities (he took his own life in 2012), recounts the appearances of stellar performers (James Brown, Patti LaBelle, Kurtis Blow), profiles the show's most memorable dancers (Damita Jo Freeman, Jeffrey Daniel, Jody Watley, Rosie Perez), and chronicles the launching of dance trends (locking, waacking, the electric boogaloo). George's swift ride through the decades of Soul Train is a kaleidoscopic trip through one of the brightest zones in the evolution of American culture. --Donna Seaman "A kaleidoscopic trip through one of the brightest zones in the evolution of American culture." (Booklist) "George's in-depth look at a revered TV show is one of those rare music-centric books that will transcend its subject's core fan base. Even those with just a casual interest in Soul Train will be happy to take this trip." (Kirkus's (starred review)) "30 years of rapier-keen social history and street-savvy cultural criticism." (USA Today) "George's book does a great job of assessing the sociological, stylistic and economic power of 'Soul Train.'" (New York Daily News) "The definitive book on 'Soul Train.'" (New York Times Book Review) "George is one of the best music writers around; he crafts a compelling narrative." (Andrea Battleground, AV Club) "A loving history." (Pitchfork.com) "An engaging read for those wanting to understand more clearly why Soul Train is such a monumental part of popular-music history." (SoulTracks.com) From the Back Cover Soul Train boldly went where no variety show had gone before, showcasing the cultural preferences of young African Americans and the fashions and sounds that defined their lives: RB, funk, jazz, disco, and gospel music. The brainchild of Don Cornelius, who was the show's producer and host for decades, Soul Train featured a diverse range of stars, from James

Brown and David Bowie to Gladys Knight and R. Kelly; from Marvin Gaye and Elton John to the New Kids on the Block, Stevie Wonder, and the Beastie Boys. From acclaimed author and filmmaker Nelson George, *The Hippest Trip in America* tells the full story of this legendary pop-culture phenomenon. A landmark program in black music and culture, *Soul Train* presented a positive image of black America; for black America; and became destination television every Saturday. Here famous dancers like Rosie Perez and Jody Watley, performers such as Aretha Franklin, Al Green, and Barry White, and Don Cornelius himself all share their memories, offering insights into the show and its time; a period of extraordinary social and political change. *The Hippest Trip in America* is a vivid and vital portrait of a revered cultural institution that has left an indelible mark on our national consciousness.