



CHRONICLE BOOKS

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**KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY AND ELLE KEY TO PUBLISH
THE HISTORY OF SKETCH COMEDY WITH CHRONICLE BOOKS**

San Francisco, CA, March 29, 2023— Building on the monumental success of their Webby award-winning hit podcast, the creative powerhouse team of Elle Key and Keegan-Michael Key have collaborated on the book, *THE HISTORY OF SKETCH COMEDY: A Journey Through the Art and Craft of Humor* scheduled for publication **OCTOBER 3, 2023**. This new book takes readers on an illuminating journey through the entertaining history of comedy, from the stock characters of commedia dell'arte in the sixteenth century, the rise of vaudeville and burlesque, and the golden age of television to the ascension of comedy films and TV specials and even provide a look at the future of sketch on social media.

Part masterclass, part memoir, the book is an inventive and informative examination of comedy through the ages. It is seasoned with hilarious commentary and interwoven with stories from throughout Keegan's own career along with the influence of his comedy heroes. Exclusive essays based on conversations with legendary performers and writers including Mel Brooks, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Mike Myers, Chris Rock, John Oliver, Tracy Morgan, Carol Burnett, Jim Carrey, Jordan Peele, and more add unprecedented perspective into the art of crafting humor that delights and endures.

The book is highly visual. Keegan also dips into his own personal photo archives, sharing moments from formative experiences from *The Second City*, *Mad TV*, *Key & Peele*, and even his days as a Renaissance fair performer.

Reflecting on this creative journey, Elle Key says, "The idea for a book came to us many years ago when we first became partners. It was our love of comedy that helped bring us together. These pages reflect our joint passion for making others—and ourselves!—laugh. We gathered as many stories as our editing team would let us make room for to create something special to share with our friends, comedy heroes, and all fans of sketch."

"*The History of Sketch Comedy* is not only smart, savvy and endlessly entertaining but destined to be the definitive book on comedy for decades to come," says Tyrrell Mahoney, President of Chronicle Books. "It is a tremendous privilege for all of us at Chronicle Books to be working with the exceptionally gifted and hilarious creative duo, Elle Key and Keegan-Michael Key."

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About the Book

The History of Sketch Comedy: A Journey Through the Art and Craft of Humor

By Keegan-Michael Key and Elle Key

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About the Authors

KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY is an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning actor, writer, and producer. Keegan is perhaps best known for starring alongside Jordan Peele in their multiple-award-winning show *Key & Peele*. His other credits include Apple TV+'s Emmy-nominated *Schmigadoon!*, Netflix's *The Prom*, the Critic's Choice-nominated *Reboot* on Hulu, and starring alongside Timothée Chalamet in the Warner Brothers feature *Wonka*. His voicework in animated features includes *The Lion King*, *Toy Story 4*, and *The Super Mario Brothers Movie*. He made his off-Broadway debut in *Hamlet* with Oscar Isaac, and his Broadway debut in Steve Martin's *Meteor Shower* with Amy Schumer. Keegan redefines what it means to be a multi-hyphenate in the worlds of film, television, and theater, and his wildly varied and indelible performances have won him fans of all ages and backgrounds.

ELLE KEY is an award-winning film, television, and commercial director, writer, and producer. She was born in New York City and spent her early years working off-Broadway with theater companies such as Malaparte, Naked Angels, and the Atlantic. Early in her career she produced a number of independent feature films including Nanette Burstein's Sundance award-winning documentary *American Teen; August* with Josh Hartnett, Naomi Harris, and David Bowie; and was a second unit producer on Doug Liman's *Fair Game* with Sean Penn and Naomi Watts. She is the co-president and founder of Bigger Picture Media Group and has been writing and directing with, and for, her partner Keegan-Michael Key for almost a decade. She has written and directed numerous commercial campaigns as well as several projects for the NFL, the Pro-Bowl, the Peabody Awards, the Gotham Awards, and she was the first female head writer for *The NFL Honors*. She was an executive producer on *Brain Games* for Disney/Nat Geo, as well as an executive producer with James Corden for *Game On!* for CBS. She is a member of the Creative Coalition, Women in Film, and is on the Leadership Council of RFK Human Rights. In 2022, Elle won the People's Voice Webby Award for Best Writing for her original Audible series *The History of Sketch Comedy*.

About Chronicle Books

Founded in 1967 in San Francisco, **Chronicle Books** is one of the world's most admired publishers and distributors of illustrated books, gifts, and games for all ages. Its highly acclaimed list spans art, photography, food, lifestyle, pop culture, humor, self-help, wellness, children's books, and stationery, among other categories. Chronicle is the home of numerous award-winning authors, bestselling series, and trend-setting titles. Chronicle Books is committed to partnering with artists and writers who represent the diversity of our world and to maintaining an inclusive and equitable working environment for its employees and business partners. For more information visit www.chroniclebooks.com