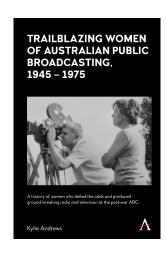


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Trailblazing Women of Australian Public Broadcasting, 1945–1975

By Kylie Andrews

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Series: Anthem Studies in Australian History

Trailblazing women of Australian Public Broadcasting, 1945 – 1975 offers a compelling new perspective of Australian radio and television history. It chronicles how a group of female producers defied the odds and forged remarkable careers in the traditionally male domain of public-affairs production at the ABC in the post-war decades. Kay Kinane, Catherine King, Therése Denny and Joyce Belfrage were ambitious and resourceful producers, part of the vanguard of Australian broadcasters who used mass media as a vehicle for their social and political activism. Fiercely dedicated to their audiences, they wrote, directed and produced ground-breaking documentaries and current affairs programs that celebrated Australian life, while also challenging its cultural complacency, its racism and sexism. They immersed themselves in the ABC's many networks of collaboration and initiated a range of strategies to expand their agency and authority. With vivid descriptions of life at the ABC, this book traces their careers as they crossed borders and crossed mediums, following them as they worked on location shoots and in production offices, in television studios, control rooms and radio booths. In doing so it highlights the barriers, both official and unofficial, that confronted so many women working in broadcasting after World War II.

Readership

Trailblazing women of Australian Public Broadcasting, 1945-1975 is aimed at scholars of women's history, gender and labour studies, and Australian social history. It will also appeal to media practitioners, both past and present and anyone interested in histories of broadcasting.

Key selling points

- Provides a complex perspective of how post-war women modified feminism to suit their vocations, a social maternalism framed as active citizenship.
- Uses group biography to vividly reconstruct what it was like as a woman to work in broadcasting in the post-war decades.
- Updates the historical narratives that shape the present-day media cultures.
- Adopts a fresh transmedial and transnational focus to media history, demonstrating the importance of looking beyond one nation and one medium to capture women's achievements.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Kylie Andrews is an historian who writes about media, production cultures and gender. Her recent research focuses on women and work in Australian public broadcasting.

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