

may have been exhausted for yet another reissue of the first Velvet Underground album (although I hope not!), for true VU fans, it was time for this bottomless proto-punk masterpiece to get the shmancy treatment. Essential.

Here's Edie – The Edie Adams Television Collection DVD (MVD)

Even those of us who fancy ourselves vintage culture vultures sometimes swoop into something seemingly ripe for scavenging that they'd never heard of before. Edie Adams went down in subversive pop culture history for the series of sexy **Muriel Cigar TV commercials** from the early-60s. Her purring invitation, "Why don't you pick one up and smoke it sometime?" was a naughty bit of flirtation during the family TV hours of that era. Okay, that I knew about. What I didn't know was that because of the success of that ad campaign, Adams landed a weekly variety show for two seasons, from 1962-64. Well, we also learn from this lovingly compiled collection (beautifully digitally transferred from original 2-inch videotape), that Adams actually had quite the Broadway/theater/cabaret resume behind her before she hosted this show. From the gorgeous graphics of **the opening credits**, to the scant intrusive audience clap/laugh tracks, to the even mix of seasoned stars (Duke Ellington, Sammy Davis Jr., Soupy Sales) and then fresh envelope-pushers (Peter Faulk, Buddy Hackett), Adams' broadcast was as classy as this genre came. The show mainly rests on Adams' gorgeous, nearly surreal torch song renditions. What was once simple segments of, frankly, fairly square white-bread crooning, many of the bits here can come across today—with their infrequent edits, modernist set design, and Adams' range-impressing vocal histrionics—like languid, dreamlike oddities to our over-populated minds today. And even in the show's silliest comedy bits and corniest moments (though even "corny" has an intriguing weirdness by now)—like the amazing "these kids and their crazy beat music today" duet with Dick Shawn—Adams never loses her smooth, sexy air for a second. You can see where impressionable fans like Paul "Pee Wee Herman" Rubens and Sandra Bernhard (both adding some booklet blurbs here) were inspired by Adams' particular charms. More proof

of her considerable talents come in clips from some late-50s variety shows that she guested on, also added in on the third disc. And finally there's that gorgeous booklet, packed with reminiscences and rare photos.

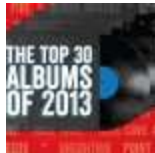


Edie Adams

The dusty notion that the 1950s to early-60s was all just some squaresville desert to forget about once the Beatles were on Ed Sullivan always deserves a face-slap every once in awhile. But

besides the surreal kicks you might find hidden in this gem of a set, it's also beaming with good ol' shiny dress, horns-heaving, show-stopping entertainment. The first time these performances have been available in any format, your cold, snowy, Sunday night in is begging for this collection.

Oh, and damn, there were amazing [Jobriath](#) and [Big Star](#) documentaries out this year too! We are in an age of everything folks. Don't let the weird stuff fall through the cracks.



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