

**Plain Dealer**  
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**“Here’s Edie”**

Edie Adams had it all: personality, glamor and talent. The Tony winner could sing, act, dance and joke with the best. But when her husband and showbiz partner, Ernie Kovacs, died in a tragic 1962 car crash, she had to remake her act to provide for her family. [Adams](#) created this innovative half-hour ABC music-variety show, airing Thursdays at 10:30 p.m., alternating weeks with “The Sid Caesar Show.” Her show ran from April 1962 to March 1964, and she enjoyed complete creative control, allowing her to book highbrow guests such as Duke Ellington, Al Hirt, Lionel Hampton and Count Basie. The sultry siren joked with Bob Hope, Soupy Sales, Spike Jones, Allan Sherman, and Rowan and Martin, and she sang with Johnny Mathis, Bobby Darin, Eddie Fisher and, in a TV first, on an equal basis with Sammy Davis Jr. The first eight episodes each had a theme, including London, the bossa nova and Las Vegas. Her Marilyn Monroe impersonation was campy fun, but she sizzled as the Muriel Cigar spokeswoman, purring her trademark line, “Why don’t you pick one up and smoke it sometime?” She also owned the rights to the show, so this is the first time these episodes have been seen anywhere in half a century. The digital transfer isn’t the highest quality because the black-and-white tapes are from her personal collection. But that’s a minor complaint about what is a rare treasure. Four DVDs, 21 episodes, 720 minutes. Extras: classic cigar commercials, musical sketches and a 16-page booklet. From [MVD Visual](#). Released in November.

by Chris Ball