

A BISON ORIGINAL

Backstage

Stories from My Life in Public Television

Ron Hull

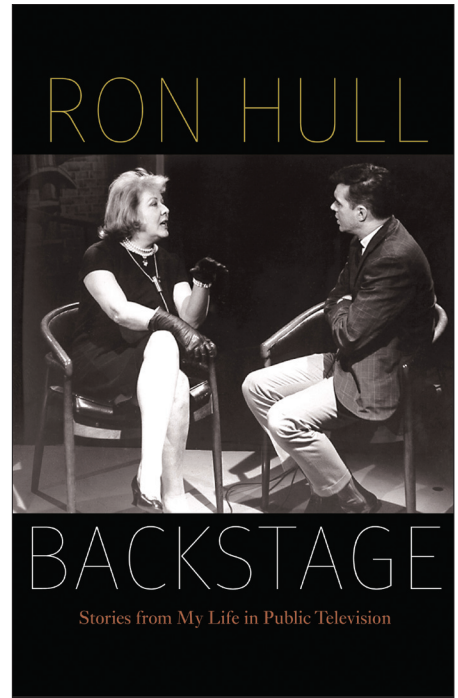
Born in 1930 in “Diddlin’ Dora’s” establishment on the banks of Rapid Creek and carried by the Madam herself to a social worker at the Alex Johnson Hotel in Rapid City, Ron Hull was destined from the outset to live an interesting life. And interesting it has indeed been, at the very least. A well-known and much-loved figure after six decades in television, Hull sets out in *Backstage* to tell his story—from playing a bellhop in a junior class play in South Dakota (and meeting his “real” mother backstage) to initiating the *American Experience* series for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Before he even owned a television set, Hull produced a military TV show at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. But it wasn’t until he got a job in public broadcasting in Lincoln, Nebraska, that he truly found his medium. Hull has a lifetime of fascinating anecdotes to tell: working as a producer and director, encountering celebrities like John Wayne and William Shatner, befriending famous Nebraskans like writers Mari Sandoz and John Neihardt and actress Sandy Dennis, moving to Saigon in 1966 to bring television to embattled Vietnam, and working in Washington as director of the program fund for the CPB. Through it all, though, Hull’s story is a tribute to his adopted Nebraska, a celebration of the people—stars and unsung heroes—he’s known, and a moving memoir of the dramas of life, large and small.

“Ron Hull’s book is a compelling read. It’s the story of a life filled with richness of experience, personal and professional success, invaluable public service, and authentic high adventure—and all following about as inauspicious beginnings as it’s possible to imagine.”—Dick Cavett, talk-show host

“You must read this book! I found myself weeping, laughing, and above all, caring.”—Eva Marie Saint, Academy Award-winning actress

“Who says you can’t get anything done in Washington? Read how Ron Hull was key to bringing some of the best work of Bill Moyers, Joseph Campbell, and Ken Burns to public television and how he got that (and more) done in his terrific years at CPB.”—Jeffrey Hayden, producer, director, and writer



Ron Hull is senior advisor to Nebraska Educational Telecommunications and professor emeritus of broadcasting at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

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