

John Cleese at the Beeb

John Cleese

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John Cleese : John Cleese at the Beeb before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Cleese at the Beeb:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Shedding no light on the days when Cleese was funnierBy Jean E. PouliotThis album attempts a retrospective of Cleese's BBC career as comic and writer, but I found it rather irksome and spotty. The CD does deliver some of Cleese's classic highlights. There is "The Dead Parrot Sketch," "The Cheese Shop," the "Don't Mention the War" bit from Fawlty Towers, the Four Yorkshiremen poverty one-upsmanship sketch and many more. The Three-inch String sketch manges to be silly and a rare satirical look at the advertising industry. Cleese wraps the skits inside a mock interview in which he plays Wing Commander Murial Volestrangler. Kudos for at least attempting something new, but this was a huge miss -- no pun intended, given Cleese's height. It only showed how much Cleese's comic talent lies in the past. A full stomach and head full of praise seem to have dull the comic wit.I would have preferred a more serious approach to the Cleese's carrer -- talkabout "something completely different!" Getting to know Cleese -- avoiding both the maudlin and the pompous -- would have been a great adjunct to the Python material I already know and love. A portion of a show with Robin Skynner, his therapist/collaborator on Families and how to survive them was a good yet insufficient move in this direction. Those unfamiliar with Cleese could use a few clues about which pieces originated on "The Frost Show" or "Monty Python" or elsewhere.These two disks neither function as a primer for those who are unfamiliar with Cleese (too many great bits are missing) nor does it provide useful and fascinating tidbits for fans. I'd give it a miss.

A double audio cassette released to tie in with reissues of the "Fawlty Towers" TV comedy series. Cleese celebrates the highlights of his long BBC career with extracts from all his best-known shows.

From AudioFile The funniest moments from John Cleese's BBC career are compiled into a program that will have you screaming with laughter from beginning to end. Skits from "Fawlty Towers," "The Frost Report," "Monty Python," and others are interspersed with short comments from the modest and likable Cleese. He tells us about the obnoxious inn-keeper he encountered while making a film in Morocco who provided the model for Basil Fawlty. After playing the famous "Don't Mention the War" skit from "Fawlty Towers," Cleese relates how gratified he was to meet locals in Germany who also appreciated it. Cleese is a comic genius--he even does the "funny walk" on the radio and somehow gets away with it. A.B. AudioFile 2005, Portland, Maine-- Copyright AudioFile, Portland, Maine