

1975

The Washington Star

D-3

Monday, March 10, 1975

## Books

# Kovacs Biography

**NOTHING IN MODERATION**, a Biography of Ernie Kovacs. By David G. Walley. Drake Publishers, Inc. 247 pages. \$9.95.

By **Bernie Harrison**  
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Remember the Coty Girl, on a 1956 Ernie Kovacs show, direct from the pages of Vogue, who lifted her head to an admiring camera — and a pie in her gorgeous kisser? Ernie's spoofs of movies and TV shows? In one of his mad quiz lampoons, "Whip the Wrist-watch," panelists who failed to guess the answers were executed off camera.

The irrepressible Kovacs, one of the few comedians who grasped the potential and possibilities of the TV medium, was killed in a tragic, senseless auto crash in 1962 and his luck is still running bad. He is the subject of a confusing, exasperating biography

by David G. Walley, whose idea it was to write it in a style identical to the zany, original scripts that Kovacs would deliver into the hands of directors and producers. It doesn't work.

It wasn't Ernie's scripts, or memos, or letters, or his scribblings as a columnist for the Trenton Times, or his misspelling of words and names that were funny. His shows were. What's Walley's excuse? What's the point of his misspelling producer Irving Mansfield's name? Jacqueline Susann's? Interum for interim? Even the list of Kovacs' shows, at the end of the book, is incomplete; where's "One Minute, Please?"

Kovacs admirers will relish some of the history, prop lists, and scripts, but I think he would advise you to put the \$9.95 this el cheapo production costs into drawing two cards to an inside straight.

