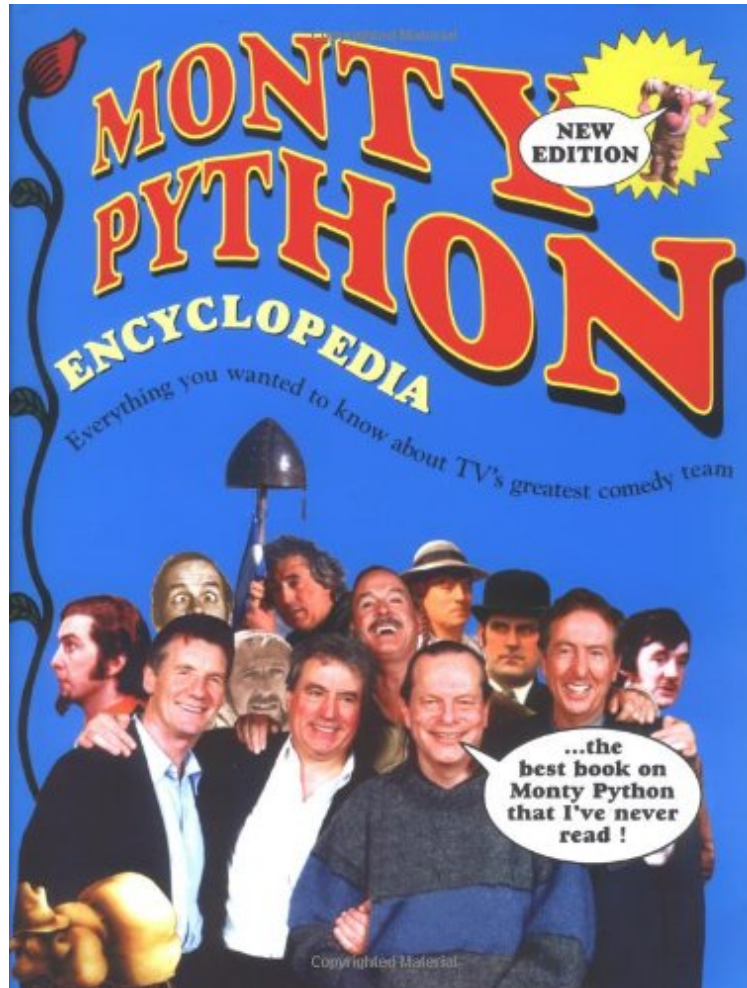


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Monty Python Encyclopedia

Robert Ross

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Robert Ross : Monty Python Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Monty Python Encyclopedia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love Python!By Shelby T MitchellLove it as really am a Python fan!9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Not quite what it professes to beBy F. BehrensI find this flawed effort nevertheless very enjoyable; but I am of two minds about its not quite being what it professes to be. An encyclopedia should (as Sgt. Friday used to insist) just give the facts. Almost every sentence here is concerned with Mr. Ross's personal opinion about the facts--opinion, by the way, stated as fact. When he says, for example, that episode 7 of the 1st series of MP's Flying Circus is "one of the most unfunny," this can scarcely be accepted as fact (it is the one about the transformation into Scotsmen). The format is also inconsistent. A complete treatment of an Avengers episode is offered because John Cleese makes a brief appearance but another episode in which Carol

Cleveland plays a major role is not featured and barely mentioned in her own write up. Also--and this is a Good Thing--Ross includes any film or tv show in which even a single Pythonite has had a hand. So with an eye open for typos and occasional inaccuracies, I will continue to peruse this book but always careful to separate fact from opinion. And all the more so now that the MPFC tapes and DVDs are being made available by AE!9 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Utterly Useless To Real Pythophiles!By Harvey J.SatanThe back cover alone,should be the biggest tip off,to this gigantic rip-off! Mr.Ross is payed to write books about British television shows. Besides Python,he has written books on The Avengers,and The Saint. (Heaven help their fans as well!).He doesn't have to be a fan of the show,just a flunky who collects information. It's easy enough to get a Python endorsement as well,since a book about them,obviously generates intrest in their own projects.One thing I wonder about is this: why do the authors of books about funny people,naturally assume they themselves are the comic event of the decade? (Please,leave the comedy to the professionals.). Mr.Ross is no more a comedian,than Geoffrey Guiliano is a musician. Mr.Ross's overly long decriptions of every Python episode,are like being trapped in a pub with a drunken neo-Python fan,intent on retelling every joke to you until you laugh at it.Frankly,if you wanted a run down of cast and crew for any Python film,you could run it down on the Internet Movie Data Base.(And more than likely see the information spelled correctly as well.).Obviously all Mr.Ross had to do,was pay someone to surf for the information,and copy it down for his book.This book would benefit from being,simply,the facts. Most "encylopedias" tend to state facts,rather than personal opinions. As a Python fan,I frankly don't care if Mr.Ross laughs at the same jokes I do,or "gets" the social ramifications of certain subjects.We all laugh differently,and Python offers much to laugh about.Instead of having every film,ruined by a full out synopsis that kills every joke,why not give just a general overview? Instead of merely listing the albums,why not list the variants? (And yes,original Python vinyl came with extras!). Instead of going over every episode with a fine tooth comb,why not give just a season intro?Mr.Ross wants too hard to be Kim Johnson,and fails.

This guide includes everything you ever wanted to know about the history and stars of the Python comedy team from And Now For Something Completely Different to The Wind In The Willows via Dead Parrots, Twelve Monkeys and Basil the Rat.