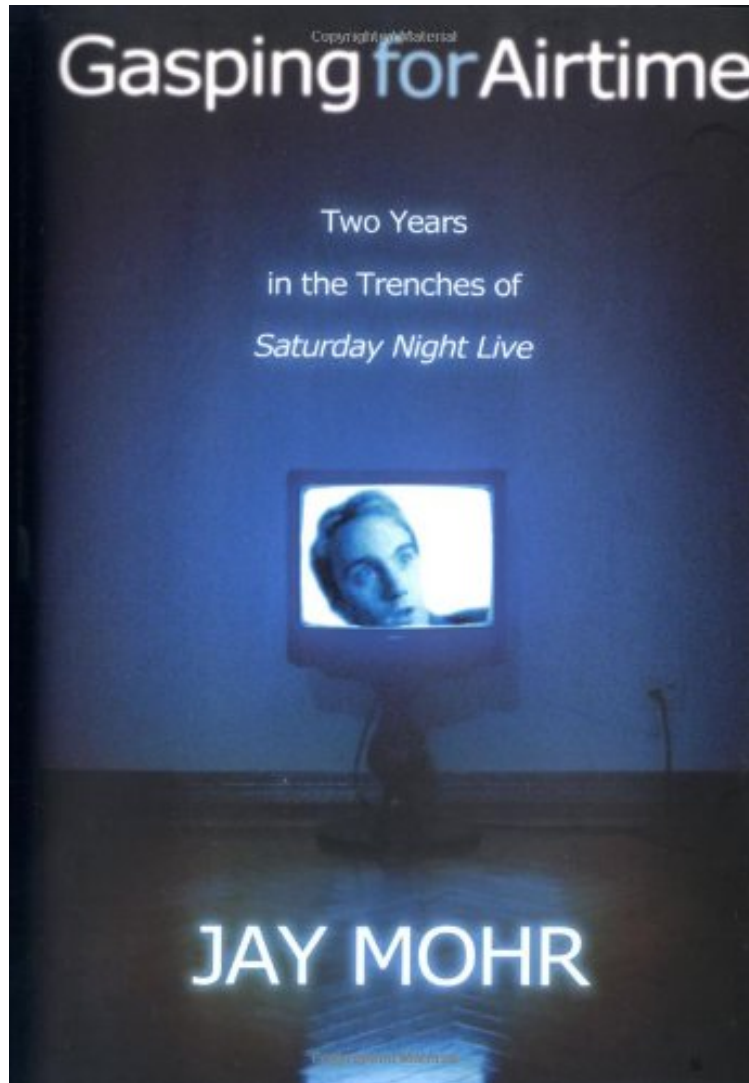


[Download ebook] *Gasping For Airtime: Two Years In the Trenches of Saturday Night Live*

# **Gasping For Airtime: Two Years In the Trenches of Saturday Night Live**

*Jay Mohr*

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#1053466 in Books 2004-06-09 2004-06-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .0 x 5.50l, .99 #File Name: 1401300065304 pages | File size: 42.Mb

**Jay Mohr : Gasping For Airtime: Two Years In the Trenches of Saturday Night Live** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Gasping For Airtime: Two Years In the Trenches of Saturday Night Live*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not Bad But FrustratingBy TEN90XPurchased the download for this book and had high hopes that it would capture the true chaos and frustration that it must be for a young rookie cast member who got stuck working at a time when SNL was struggling, but Jay really missed a lot of opportunity to bring

you into this world at that time. I understand that clearly based upon the title his fuel for writing this memoir came from his panic attacks he was struggling with as his dream job quickly turned into a living nightmare, but there are way too many "I can't breathe and must run" moments. This eventually becomes tiresome and I found myself wanting to know more about what was going on with the other new cast members like Dave Attel and Sarah Silverman and just how much frustration and disappointment they were experiencing. I also found myself wondering how he could write about those two seasons and barely talk about his interaction with the show's major cast members. How does Phil Hartman become a talking point at the very end of the book? Not to mention once Jay learns his fate concerning his future with the show after his second season (it's not a spoiler to say that he was not picked up) the book basically ends as if there really is nothing more to write about. The quick ending feels like a freshman college report where once the student has their 3 page minimum they quickly jump into the closing paragraph. To mention Sarah Silverman so prominently but not address her quick exit from the show is odd. The part about Jay stealing another comedian's material out of desperation is good but he never truly apologizes for lying to Lorne or for committing the ultimate comedian sin. I never knew that Jay had done this, but I now know where the short lived tv show "Studio 60" got the idea for one of their fictional cast members stealing material. I feel like this book could have been so much better. I would have given it 2.5 stars if I could but since I can't I rounded up. It's a decent book but don't get your hopes up that it will be anything but I good early try for someone new at writing something like this and don't pay anything more than \$10 for it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Read for A Different Take on SNL  
By Laura Neutzling  
This book was honest and gave and SNL enthusiast a backstage look at the show. Jay was completely vulnerable about his struggles there (albeit somewhat victim-esque) but I think the nature of the show seems to be pretty hard on those who are struggling to get "seen." I applaud Jay for being so frank and for having the guts to say "no" when he knew the toll show was taking. Overall, fast read and good insight into the show and Jay personally, showing their triumphs and foibles.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must Read for 90s SNL Lovers  
By Amber Lee  
I liked this more than a lot of recent better-reviewed SNL alum memoirs because, for the most part, it's all about SNL, and Jay Mohr's experience at the show. That's not to say it doesn't have its faults  
Mohr's issues with panic attacks and generalized anxiety obviously shaped his own personal experience at the show, but his dramatized accounts don't always ring entirely true but the behind-the-scenes stories alone are enough to make this worth a read. The book is surprisingly short and an exceptionally easy read I finished the whole thing in just (one sitting) over three hours.

When 21-year-old Jay Mohr moved from New Jersey to New York City to pursue his dream of stand-up stardom, he never thought the first real job he'd land would be on Saturday Night Live. But, surprisingly, that's just what he did. What followed were two unbelievable, grueling, and exciting years of feverishly keeping pace with his talented cohorts, out-maneuvering the notorious vices that claimed the lives of other cast members, and struggling at all costs for the holy grail of late-night show business: airtime.

In *Gasping for Airtime*, Jay offers an intimate account of the inner workings of Saturday Night Live. He also dishes on the guest hosts (John Travolta, Shannen Doherty, Charles Barkley), the musical guests (Kurt Cobain, Steven Tyler, Eric Clapton), and of course his SNL castmates (Chris Farley, Adam Sandler, Mike Myers, and David Spade). Refreshingly honest and laugh-out-loud funny, this book will appeal both to fans of Jay Mohr and to devotees of Saturday Night Live.

From Publishers Weekly  
Twenty-three-year-old actor and stand-up comic Mohr was playing college campuses after a brief stint hosting an MTV game show when he landed every comic's dream job: featured performer and writer on Saturday Night Live. In this stilted but honest memoir, he chronicles his frustrating two seasons on the show, from 1993 to 1995. Few of his sketches aired, and aside from his impressions of Ricki Lake, Christopher Walken and Dick Vitale, he was rarely on camera. (When he was on air, he admits, he often couldn't keep a straight face.) Mohr treats readers to some affectionate, entertaining tales of the late Chris Farley, but his book is less a juicy inside story of the comedy institution than a tale of an immature young man's struggle with a high-stress, erratic workplace: "The schedule for putting together Saturday Night Live was made back in the seventies when everyone was on coke.... Problem was, no one did coke [anymore] and we were expected to keep the same hours." Floundering in the unstructured work environment, Mohr suffered crippling panic attacks, which he treated with alcohol and pot until he finally found real relief with a prescription for Klonopin. Even panic-free, Mohr still felt like the odd man out and chafes at his less than meteoric rise. He serves up mostly superficial dish (watching Nirvana rehearse, shooting hoops with various celebrities) and offers unflattering self-revelations (desperate competitiveness, jealousy and sulking)-resulting in a memoir that will appeal only to die-hard Mohr fans. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist  
Most know Mohr from his role in *Jerry Maguire* or from his stand-up comedy. Most will not remember him from his time on Saturday Night Live, a two-year stint during which the 21-year-old served as a writer and secondary cast member. Mohr chronicles those years with the sly wit he's become known for, as well as nostalgia for both the time he had and the kid he was. That's not to say things went well. He barely got any sketches on air, his dressing room was once an elevator shaft, and he suffered panic attacks so severe he

thought he would die on camera. But he also met some encouraging people (Mike McKeon) and was able to spend a little time hanging out with various luminaries (Eric Clapton), so even though he moans and whines about what he endured on the show, he ends up describing the experience as glorious. Fans of the show will especially like the snippets about such SNL figures as Chris Farley, Lorne Michaels, and Mike Myers. Good insider dish. Ilene Cooper  
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About the Author  
Jay Mohr was a featured performer and writer on Saturday Night Live from 1993 to 1995. His breakthrough film role was in Jerry Maguire. Other film credits include Picture Perfect, Go, Pay It Forward, and SIMONE. Jay often guest hosts Premiere Radio's Jim Rome Show. He recently produced and hosted a weekly comedy/music/sports talk show for ESPN, and he is the creator and executive producer of NBC's hit series Last Comic Standing. He lives in Los Angeles.