## Contents

Preface	XI
Introduction How Real Is Politics? The Mediation of Political Realities	1
How Real Is Real?	2
Welcome to Fantasyland: It's Not All Mickey Mouse!	5
Soap Opera Politics: The Logic of Mediated, Fantastic Rea	
Mediating the Realities of Mediated Politics	17
Notes	18
PART I Mass-Mediated Politics	21
Chapter 1 What's Happening? TV News Lights the Way	23
TV News In Fantasyland	25
Fantasies of Illumination in TV News	
Conclusion: Acquaintance with, Not Knowledge about	
Notes	50
Chapter 2 A Man for All Seasons: The Mediated	
Contests of Presidential Campaigning	52
Presidential Campaign Contests as Ritual Dramas	
The Man Who : Hype and Hope in Presidential Control	ests 65
This Is as Real as It Gets	
Notes	70
	vii

Chapter 3	The Re-Presentation of History in Popular Culture	72
Docuda	sentation by Romantic Representation rama Fantasies: What Is, Was, or Might Have Been Past? No, Your Past!	73 75 88 88
Chapter 4	The Fortunes and Misfortunes of Fame: Women and Political Celebrity in Popular Periodicals	90
Politica to " Fantasi	rth of Celebrity al Celebrity: From 15-Minute Fame Where Are They Now?" es of Court Life	91 94 101
Twinkl Notes	e, Twinkle, Little Star, How I Wonder Who You Are	103 104
Chapter 5	The Vision from Sunset Boulevard: The Political Fantasies of Hollywood	106
Movies The Po Hollyw	s for Sale as Rituals of Power pulist Fantasy in the Films of the 1930s cood Goes to, and Returns from, World War II: Commitment Fantasy	106 110 112
The Al Change Doubt Renewa	ien Fantasy in the 1950s and Hope in the 1960s and Drift in the 1970s al and Reflection in the 1980s g Forward	118 120 123 124 126 127
Chapter 6	Fantasies of the Arena: Popular Sports and Politics	129
Sports Sports: Sports	orts Vision of the American Dream and Mediated Heroic Fantasies School for Political Virtue or Scandal? as a Dramatic Setting of Politics ower and the Glory of Popular Sports	131 134 137 141 144 145
PART II	Group-Mediated Politics	147
Chapter 7	Elite Political Fantasies: Groupthink Sources of Massthink	149

	CONTENTS	ix
From th Group V	Greater than the Sum of Their Parts to Horse's Mouth: Fantastic Decision-Making Wrestling: Fantasy-Building through Informed Discussion Fantasies, Whose Realities?	151 154 157 164 165
Chapter 8	Inside-Dopesters: The Mediated Realities of Political Celebrities	166
	See the Wizards! and Seers Examining the Fantasies of Inside Dope	168 182 183
	The Fantasies of Religious Movements: Political Perspectives of Contemporary Evangelicals	185
The Rhe	ess-Mediated World of the Electronic Church etorical Vision of the Christian Right est for Redemption	187 194 200 201
Chapter 10	Devils and Demons: The Group Mediation of Conspiracy	203
They're	monic Melodrama in the Popular Mind Here: Conspiracies and the American	205
Old Win	cal Tradition ne, New Bottles: emporary Responses to Conspiracies	209
Bad Mel Notes	lodrama as Entertaining Theater	219 221
Conclusion	The Age of Fantasy: Fictions, Facts, and Pipedreams	223
_	d Political Experience Age of Fantasy	224
	d Political Pluralities, Not Realities	228 232
Author	Index	233
Subject	Indox	220