



## TV MOMENTS THAT GOT AMERICA TALKING

TV has become a window into the unique and shared experiences of modern life. TV shows can ask complicated questions and open a dialogue for the entire country in a way that no other creative outlet can.

But the future of TV moments like the ones listed below is in danger. Special interest groups lobbying the government to change shows to conform to their idea of “quality” TV, or to get them taken off the air entirely, send a chill through the TV industry and threaten to stifle the creativity behind shows that get Americans talking... and thinking.

- **March of Medicine (December 2, 1952)** -- A five-pound, seven-ounce boy was delivered by Caesarean section to Lillian Kerr of Denver, Colorado, and shown on more than 49 NBC affiliates nationwide.
- **The Munsters (Debut: 1964)** -- Lily and Herman were the first married couple shown sharing a double bed.
- **The Dick Van Dyke Show (1965)** -- Mary Tyler Moore’s character traded in dresses and skirts for pants, reflecting a trend across the country but breaking TV convention.
- **All in the Family: “Sammy’s Visit” (February 19, 1972)** -- Sammy Davis Jr. kissed Archie Bunker on the cheek as a photograph was taken.
- **Maude: “Maude’s Dilemma” (February 14 and 21, 1972)** -- Maude Findlay decides to have an abortion at age 47.
- **The Jeffersons (Debut: 1975)** -- Helen and Tom Willis are one of the first interracial couples to have major roles in a prime-time TV program.
- **Saturday Night Live (Debut: 1975)** -- The late night show brought together national figures and top comedians with cutting edge, and often controversial, sketch comedies.
- **Roots (January 23, 1977)** -- The controversial mini-series sparked a national dialogue on slavery and race.
- **Hill Street Blues (Debut: January 15, 1981)** -- The gritty, realistic cop drama broke new ground for modern, complicated TV dramas.
- **All My Children (1982)** -- The soap introduced the first gay character to daytime TV.
- **Murphy Brown (1992)** -- Murphy Brown chose to raise her baby alone, and America talked.
- **NYPD Blue (Debut: September 21, 1993)** -- The gritty crime show pushed TV drama to new levels with realistic depictions of adult relationships and violence.

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