Contents

Why You Can’t Cancel Dave Chappelle
MARK RALKOWSKI xi

I When Keeping It Real Goes Wrong 1
1. My Money, My Choice
LUIS FELIPE BARTOLO ALEGRE 3
2. Is Dave Chappelle a Good Role Model?
ANDY WIBLE 15
3. How Old Is Fifteen, Really?
DAVE LYREWOOD 25
ROGER HUNT 33

II Going Hard in the Paint 45
5. A Master of Comedic Irony
RAYMOND PERRIER 47
6. Dave Chappelle Knows Better than That
MIA WOOD 55
7. Introduction to White Stupidity: Philosophy 101
MUKASA MUBIRUMUSOKE 63
8. Dave Chappelle’s Positive Propaganda
Chris A. Kramer 75

III Everything’s Funny Until It Happens to You 89
9. Blouses and Pancakes
MONA ROCHA AND JAMES ROCHA 91
10. Upsetting the Alphabet People
ZOE WALKER 99
# Contents

11. Is Dave Chappelle a Feminist?  
   **Christopher M. Innes**  
   111

12. Why Chappelle Needs to Get Over His #MeToo Headache  
   **Neha Pande**  
   123

## IV Overwhelmed by the Irony

13. Clayton Bigsby and the Social Construction of the Self  
   **Richard Bilsker**  
   133

14. The Many Contradictions of Dave Chappelle  
   **Duncan Gale**  
   145

15. Well, Look No Further, Fella, You Found Me!  
   **John V. Karavitis**  
   153

16. Dave Chappelle Meets Sigmund Freud  
   **Dru Graham, Bennett Soenen, and Adam Barkman**  
   161

## V Speaking Recklessly

17. Revolution or Illusion?  
   **Brandyn Heppard**  
   171

18. Dave Chappelle Does Not Trust Us  
   **Steven A. Benko and Scout Burch**  
   183

19. Hard Truths and Dangerous Jokes  
   **Lauren Olin**  
   195

20. Dave Chappelle Says He Doesn’t Mean It, So Just Shut Up Already  
   **Steven Burgess**  
   207

## VI Revealing People to Themselves

21. Why Do You Feel Guilty for Loving Dave Chappelle?  
   **Eliza Wizner**  
   219

22. How Dave Chappelle and Saint Augustine Help Us See Ourselves  
   **Conor W. Hanson**  
   227

23. Original Gangsta  
   **Marisa Diaz-Waian**  
   237
Dave Chappelle’s Positive Propaganda

CHRIS A. KRAMER

Americans are told in a multitude of ways, from a variety of sources, from a very young age, that the United States of America is the land of freedom and opportunity—it’s the greatest. If you work hard, you can make it because everyone is treated equally and therefore has the same opportunities in our schools, granted equal concern in our hospitals, equal access to our free markets, and is equally respected under the law. We should therefore be perplexed to hear stories like this about Dave Chappelle and his white friend Chip encountering the police, while high:

My white buddy, he was smoking a joint. [Chappelle as Chip shouts] “Dave! It’s the goddamn cops. [Chip takes a long comfortable drag on a joint] I’m gonna ask him for directions.” I said “Chip, no! Chip, don’t do it!” It was too late. He was walking over there. This man was high as shit. “Excuse me. Excuse me, sir. Excuse me!!! I need some information.” He starts confessing things he shouldn’t confess. “I’m a little high. All I wanna know . . . which way is Third Street?” The cop is like, “Hey, take it easy. You’re on Third Street. You better be careful. Go ahead. Move it. Move it.” [Chappelle in his own voice] That’s all that happened, that’s the end of the story. Now, I know that’s not Black fellas here, that shit is fucking incredible. (Killin’ Them Softly)

Chappelle is not describing anything new, especially for Black folks, and it should not be news for white people either, but largely due to what Jason Stanley refers to as undermining, demagogic, negative propaganda, the reality of situations like this has not filtered through, certainly not in 2000 when this was performed, even with decades of forceful argument and direct protests highlighting police brutality against Black