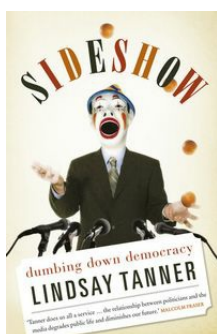


SIDESHOW: DUMBING DOWN DEMOCRACY

'After spending much of my life dedicated to the serious craft of politics, I have to admit that I am distressed by what it is becoming. Under siege from commercial pressures and technological innovation, the media are retreating into an entertainment frame that has little tolerance for complex social and economic issues. In turn, politicians and parties are adapting their behaviour to suit the new rules of the game -- to such an extent that the contest of ideas...



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Sideshow: Dumbing Down Democracy

Author	Lindsay Tanner
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Reader's Opinions

Good outline of the problems in Australian political discourse (and media coverage). It's interesting seeing some of those mechanics explained by an insider. On the negative side: I think Lindsay misunderstands and mischaracterises some of the online changes feeding into this, he suggests no potential resolutions, and some parts are...

I had heard very good things about this when it came out. Having finally gotten around to reading it, I was left very disappointed. Lindsay Tanner has plenty of insight into modern politics and the media but for the most part, this book is just a collection of quotes. The author states the premise but then says, "This commentator agrees...."