



# **I Spy: A History and Episode Guide to the Groundbreaking Television Series**

*Marc Cushman, Linda J. LaRosa*

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One of the most popular and award-winning television series of the sixties, *I Spy* was the first weekly broadcast to star both a white and a black actor. In 1964, though, producer Sheldon Leonard had, with heavy risk, financed the show himself, and his idea for a racially incorporated cast had earned his show the moniker "Sheldon's Folley." Pairing established white actor Robert Culp with Bill Cosby, a black comedian with barely an acting credit to his name, certainly turned some heads at NBC, and many wondered whether affiliates in the South would ever air the show. Only two years later, Cosby accepted the Emmy for leading actor-and *I Spy* cemented its role in history. This is a complete history of *I Spy* and the profound change it evoked in broadcasting, social ideals and racial equality. Rich with interviews and photographs, it discusses *I Spy*'s unique approach to race, co-starring interracial actors as equals. It also describes how the show became the template for popular "buddy genre" shows and films that followed, covers the show's significance as the first series to shoot episodes around the world, and puts *I Spy* in context with other works within the spy genre at a time when spy books, shows and films exploded in popularity. A complete episode guide includes writers, directors, cast, crew, plot synopsis and commentary.

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