Contents

Preface ix

PART I INITIAL HORIZONS

1 Mediating democracy
  Desiring democracy 3
  The public sphere as historical narrative 7
  Four dimensions 11
  Media institutions 12
  Media representation 15
  Social structures 17
  Interaction: social bonds and social construction 18
  Subjectivity, identity, interaction 21

2 Prismatic television
  Three angles of vision 24
  Industry: organization, professionalism, political economy 26
  Mimetic televisual texts 31
  Two worlds? 37
  Sociocultural TV: ubiquity, culturology and critique 39

3 Popular television journalism
  Television journalism: an essential tension 47
  Probing ‘the popular’ 50
  Old and new formats 53
  Elusive information, accessible stories 57
  Tele-tabloids 60
  Talk shows: élite and vox-pop 62
  Morality and dialogue 67

PART II SHIFTING FRAMES

4 Modern contingencies
  Falling rates of certitude 72
  Flowing capitalism 76
  Destabilized microworlds 80
  The semiotic environment 83
  Going global? 88
  The problematics of public and private 90
  Political permutations 94