

The aim of the Bachelor thesis “*Behind the Curtain of Saturday Night Live*” is to map general principles that have created an American sketch show *Saturday Night Live*. The main emphasis is put on creation, structure and protagonists of this television show. Last but not least, the author deals with the big socio-political themes incorporated in the show by its creators.

The author proposes three main research questions. Question no. 1: What is the casting procedure for *Saturday Night Live*? Question no. 2: What is the structure of *Saturday Night Live*'s creative week? Question no. 3: How successful were the individual *SNL* teams?

The author is using qualitative content analysis method. The theoretical part focuses on television entertainment, the role of television in the society and role of television in the USA. The practical part focuses on the creation of *Saturday Night Live*, the casting process and the overall structure of the show. Additionally, the thesis takes a look on the individual teams, star guests and it also examines influences of socio-political themes on this TV show.