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A TOAST TO TELEVISION'S BEST



CBS PHOTO ARCHIVE

COUPLES COUNSELING

What would a family therapist say about Lucy and Ricky's relationship on *I Love Lucy*, or that of other classic TV couples? See [page 92](#).



HE LOVED LUCY

TV's first couple blazed comedy history on screen and off

"LUCILLE BALL AND DESI ARNAZ had already been married for 11 years by the time they got the idea to do *I Love Lucy*," says Michael Stern, author of the upcoming *I Had a Ball*, a memoir of his friendship with the legendary Lucy. (Can you believe that 2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the show's debut on CBS?)

"As a bandleader, Desi was always on the road, and Lucy was home doing movies or radio. But to keep their marriage alive, they wanted to be able to work together," Stern says. And so, Arnaz invented the way most TV comedies are shot today—on film, in Hollywood. "They both had to wear many hats: They were the actors, they were the producers, and they owned the studio."

The couple used only one attorney when they divorced in 1960. "And look at all they had to separate between them!" Stern says. "But they did it professionally and amicably. Afterward, they would still get together, and ask each other for help or advice. They raised two wonderful kids. They still loved each other to the end, but they knew they just couldn't live together." — *Jim Colucci*