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television

Best of 2010: Television

By LeoArteche on December 7th, 2010 (4 hours ago)

BEST OF 2010 television

As the semester winds down and we prepare for our imminent death by writing papers we've known about all semester, and 2010 becomes but a hazy memory of Albert malfunctions gone by, it is time to reflect on the single most important aspect of our lives: television. The first year of the 2010's brought about the end to some classics, the promise of new gems, and most importantly, meaning into my life.

BEST DRAMA | Friday Night Lights



The most underrated show on television is also the best. Friday Night Lights is deserving of way more attention than it's garnered. The cast is stellar, and the fourth season managed to do what most shows can't: start fresh. With an almost entirely new cast of characters and a new high school (East Dillon Lions 4ever,) the series was able to tackle a new host of topics. The fifth season, currently airing on Direct TV's 101 Network, is stellar and will surely be loved by fans when it airs on NBC in 2011.

BEST COMEDY | Modern Family



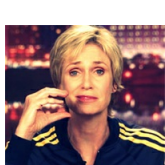
It's a rare feat when critics and audiences alike love a series, but Modern Family is entirely deserving of its praise and accolades. It completely reinvented the family sitcom, breathing fresh air into a genre that had largely become stale by the mid-nineties. The series has a stand out cast with not a single weak link. Though its sophomore season has been slightly uneven, slightly uneven for Modern Family is still better than everything else on television.

BEST ACTOR | Jon Hamm



Over the past four seasons of Mad Men, we've gotten to know and love (and hate) Don Draper. However, Jon Hamm's strongest work comes from its latest season. Throughout, we saw Don unravel because of his failed marriage, his growing drinking problem, and his problems at Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce. His season's high point? The seventh episode, "The Suitcase", which showcased Hamm's epic talents and gave us [this gem](#).

BEST ACTRESS | Jane Lynch



The indomitable Jane Lynch reigned as Glee's bitchtastic cheerleading coach, Sue Sylvester. She is in large-part responsible for catapulting the series into the pop culture vernacular. Her delivery is flawless, but her performance is incredibly complex. Over a season and a half, we've seen her tick, and we've seen her heart. She's at her best when she's delivering evil insults, but its her tender side that's compelling.

WORST SHOW ON TELEVISION | The A List: New York



This disgusting mess of trashy is helping to set back the gay rights movement by about fifty years. Logo's answer to "The Real Housewives," the

About the Author

Leo Arteche is a senior at Gallatin and a Writing for TV Major. Not surprisingly, he spends most of his time watching television and living vicariously through the lives of fictional characters.

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Photo of the Day — Friday, December 3, 2010

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show features vain, bitchy, and shallow New York City gays who fancy themselves "pseudo-famous." Yes, the formula has been done before, but perhaps because we're currently saddled with the mess that is "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and Proposition 8's Court Appeals, the timing is terrible. What's worse, they're casting for a new season in LA and Dallas. This gay is not amused.

SADDEST CANCELLATION | Ugly Betty



Before anyone cries foul, *Lost* wasn't cancelled, it ended on schedule. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for *Ugly Betty*, which found a tremendous creative resurgence during the final season. The show was a pioneer for Latin-Americans and gays (and transgenders!) on primetime, and featured an incredibly diverse cast that is so far unparalleled. The series ended on a high note, though, with Betty jetting off to London to pursue her own dream, basically owning every chick click in the history of time.

BIGGEST LETDOWN | True Blood



The first season was fantastic. The second season was pretty great. The third season was... WTF? Despite having the **greatest villain in the history of the series**, the secondary characters and plotlines were an epic mess. Sam's dog-fighting storyline? Boring. Jason's obsession with Crystal and the werepanthers? Ridiculous. But worst of all... the revelation that Sookie is a fairy, and everything that that entailed? Go to hell, HBO. Here's hoping Season 4 can bring us the comeback Sookkeh deserves.

REALITY HIGH POINT | Real Housewives of New Jersey



The *Real Housewives of New Jersey* really is the gift that keeps on giving. After a trashtacular first season, the second season delivered on its promise of "Bigger, Bolder, Unbeweavable." The season focused on Danielle Staub's encounters with the Dirty Jerz mafia women and her attempts at incarcerating Ashley after having her weave pulled "OUT OF MY SCALP" on national television. If that wasn't enough, the **reunion special** was the single greatest moment in the history of television, and that is not an exaggeration.

REALITY LOW POINT | Dancing With the Stars



It's *American Idol* 2.0, but worse, because it keeps monstrosities like Kate Gosselin, and unsuspecting teen moms like Bristol Palin, in the national dialogue. First of all, Kate Gosselin doesn't need one show, let alone two, to demonstrate that she's **Satan's Representative** on *Dancing With the Stars*. Secondly, whatever your opinions on the Palin family are, a dancing show should not be hijacked to remain politically relevant/reach out to Middle America.

If 2010 is any indication of what's to come in television, expect the following... infinite seasons of reality TV competition shows, an exodus of quality programming from network to cable, and Kate Gosselin's run as US President in 2016. Things are looking bleak. Let's hope that 2011 is a return to form of the glory days of television...

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Matthew Taylor
Today

Couldn't even get an honorable mention for *Bad Girls Club Miami*? What'air, Leona.

Leo Artech
Today

Um, *Bad Girls Club Miami* did NOT bring "I just want to smell her... I just want to smell my mom" into the common vernacular. So what'air to you, Matthew.

Brian Chae
Today

Saddest cancellation goes to *Lone Star*.

Luis Paez-Pumar
Today

Community > MoFam.

I said it.

Andy Heriaud
Today

Ditto on Brian and Luis. *Lone Star* and *Community* are far superior to *Ugly Betty* and *Modern Family*. Plus *Lone Star* only got two really fantastic episodes before it was taken from us, who the hell wants to watch *Lie To Me*?

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Also, Archer.

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