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TV REVIEW

The Real Housewives Of New Jersey (2009)

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B+ By Ken Tucker

Having watched the latest season of The Real Housewives of New York City with mounting dismay... I'm grateful to Bravo for the tawdry reward of The Real Housewives of New Jersey.

Yes, there are some Housewives franchise trademarks: the swooping shots of the wives' palatial houses, and the footage of shopping sprees in which recession-hit merchants try to keep saliva contained in their mouths when a Housewife barks, "I'll take that and that and that!"

But unlike the Housewives in New York, Orange County, and Atlanta, the Jersey girls keep it both real and in the family. The majority of them are related by either blood or marriage, so family friction is added to the usual jostling to demonstrate just who has the most money to spend on gaudy chandeliers.

Every show needs a villain, and in this case, the doozy is the 19-times- engaged Danielle, friend to Jacqueline and, apparently, no one else: In the premiere, she's not invited to the "girls' night out."

On its lacquered surface, New Jersey is The Sopranos with five variations on Adriana. But dig a bit under these women's verbal clichés and you glimpse lives that are rooted in an earthier, more clear-eyed view of the world than the other Housewives series.



THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF NEW JERSEY (From left) Jacqueline Laurita, Teresa Giudice, Danielle Staub, Dina Manzo, and Caroline Manzo

Virginia Sherwood/Bravo

TV Release 1 DAY

Credits

Start Date: May 12, 2009; Genre: Reality TV

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existences they lead.

No one's ever going to confuse this happily crass reality show with David Chase's masterpiece, but it's a brain tickler. When Caroline says she doesn't mind if her son Christopher opens a strip club as long as it's "a respectable strip club," your mind goes bada-bing! **B+**

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Bones

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Jawn Mon, May 11, 09 at 03:48 PM

I am honestly excited. The Jersey Wives seem like they will actually bring some flair back to the series! Every place has stereotypes and anyone who takes them seriously (when someone else is joking) is as small minded as the person who created it.

Babs Mon, May 11, 09 at 12:28 PM

Congrats Bravo TV for finding the most stereotypical NJ housewives EVER. No wonder NJ has become the "punchline" state.

Atara Mon, May 11, 09 at 07:17 AM

I'm looking forward to the season. I think the characters look interesting!

J from Jersey Sat, May 09, 09 at 10:22 PM

Furthermore, I'm sick of being automatically connected to the mob just because I live in the state. Seriously, the Sopranos was a fictional television show. Although there are individuals who do partake in shady activities such as those depicted, this does not blanket the State.

J from Jersey Sat, May 09, 09 at 10:16 PM

"NO self-respecting New Jerseyan says "Joisey." Ever." -Dave T YES! I third that! I literally said to myself outloud "what the hell is 'Joisey'?" I can't even pronounce that and I'm a born and raised JERSEY girl! The only individuals that say "Joisey" seem to originate from or around Long Island, New York, go figure.

F RH is Stupid Sat, May 09, 09 at 09:24 PM

These shows are stupid. Bethany looks like she's had one too many face lifts done. And all they ever do is FIGHT. Why do they even bother making these?

Hold it
Grasp it
Clutch it
Grip it
Fold it
Turn it
Bend it
Keep it



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ny fan Fri, May 08, 09 at 10:14 AM

since when does earning your living mean being in the mob?

Dina Fri, May 08, 09 at 09:45 AM

Jacqueline is married to Dina and Caroline's brother, Chris, and Dina and Caroline are married to the Manzo brothers (they are not related to Jacqueline).

Sammie Thu, May 07, 09 at 07:27 PM

"NO self-respecting New Jerseyan says "Joisey." Ever." -Dave T I second that!

Dave T Thu, May 07, 09 at 04:55 PM

NO self-respecting New Jerseyan says "Joisey." Ever.

m Thu, May 07, 09 at 03:42 PM

I watched HW OF NJ and it was soooo bad that it makes the NY wives look good. I won't be watching anymore of that trash. Where or where are the shows that are worth watching - like Seinfeld, I Love Lucy, shows that can make you laugh, smile, and escape for just a few moments?

Rhen Thu, May 07, 09 at 09:51 AM

Come on. Seriously. Like we need MORE of this crap? Are people's lives so pathetic that they have to live vicariously through these people? No wonder I watch DVD's more than regular television. If this is the best you can come up with, I will change the station. I take better dumps than this!

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