

'101 Best Written TV Series Of All Time' From WGA/TV Guide: Complete List

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Los Angeles and New York – Recognizing the essential role that writers have played in creating and elevating



the medium of television since its inception, the Writers Guild of America, West (WGAW) and the Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE) tonight announced the list of the 101 Best Written TV

Series, honoring seven decades of outstanding television programming and the writers who brought it all to life.

The list was determined through online voting by WGAW and WGAE members. A follow-up to the WGA's 101

Greatest Screenplays (2006), the "TV 101" list honors classic,

trailblazing series and miniseries, as well as current and

critically acclaimed programs, from comedies and dramas to

variety/talk and children's programming. "At their core, all of these wonderful series began with the words of

the writers who created them and were sustained by the writers who joined their staffs or worked on individual

episodes," said WGAW President Chris Keyser and WGAE President Michael Winship in a joint statement. "This

list is not only a tribute to great TV, it is a dedication to all writers who devote their hearts and minds to

advancing their craft."



1. ***The Sopranos*** – HBO – Created by David Chase

2. ***Seinfeld*** – NBC – Created by Larry David & Jerry Seinfeld

3. ***The Twilight Zone*** (1959) – CBS – Season One writers: Charles Beaumont, Richard Matheson, Robert Presnell, Jr., Rod Serling

4. ***All in the Family*** – CBS – Developed for Television by Norman Lear, Based on Till Death Do Us Part, Created by Johnny Speight

5. ***M*A*S*H*** – CBS – Developed for Television by Larry Gelbart

6. ***The Mary Tyler Moore Show*** – CBS – Created by James L. Brooks and Allan Burns
7. ***Mad Men*** – AMC – Created by Matthew Weiner
8. ***Cheers*** – NBC – Created by Glen Charles & Les Charles and James Burrows
9. ***The Wire*** – HBO – Created by David Simon
10. ***The West Wing*** – NBC – Created by Aaron Sorkin
11. ***The Simpsons*** – FOX – Created by Matt Groening, Developed by James L. Brooks and Matt Groening and Sam Simon
12. ***I Love Lucy*** – CBS – “Pilot,” Written by Jess Oppenheimer & Madelyn Pugh & Bob Carroll, Jr.
13. ***Breaking Bad*** – AMC – Created by Vince Gilligan
14. ***The Dick Van Dyke Show*** – CBS – Created by Carl Reiner
15. ***Hill Street Blues*** – NBC – Created by Michael Kozoll and Steven Bochco
16. ***Arrested Development*** – FOX – Created by Mitchell Hurwitz
17. ***The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*** – COMEDY CENTRAL – Created by Madeleine Smithberg, Lizz Winstead; Season One – Head Writer: Chris Kreski; Writers: Jim Earl, Daniel J. Goor, Charles Grandy, J.R. Havlan, Tom Johnson, Kent Jones, Paul Mercurio, Guy Nicolucci, Steve Rosenfield, Jon Stewart
18. ***Six Feet Under*** – HBO – Created by Alan Ball
19. ***Taxi*** – ABC – Created by James L. Brooks and Stan Daniels and David Davis and Ed Weinberger
20. ***The Larry Sanders Show*** – HBO – Created by Garry Shandling & Dennis Klein
21. ***30 Rock*** – NBC – Created by Tina Fey
22. ***Friday Night Lights*** – NBC – Developed for Television by Peter Berg, Inspired by the Book by H.G. Bissinger
23. ***Frasier*** – NBC – Created by David Angell & Peter Casey & David Lee, Based on the Character “Frasier Crane” Created by Glen Charles & Les Charles

24. ***Friends*** – NBC – Created by Marta Kauffman & David Crane

25. ***Saturday Night Live*** – NBC – Season One: Writing Supervised by Walter Kempley, Harry Shearer; Written by: Ann Beatts, Chevy Chase, Tom Davis, Al Franken, Rosie Michaels, Garrett Morris, Michael O'Donoghue, Herb Sargent, Tom Schiller, Alan Zweibel

26. ***The X-Files*** – FOX – Created by Chris Carter

27. ***Lost*** – ABC – Created by Jeffrey Lieber and J.J. Abrams & Damon Lindelof

28. ***ER*** – NBC – Created Michael Crichton

29. ***The Cosby Show*** – NBC – Created by Ed Weinberger & Michael Leeson and William Cosby, Jr., Ed. D.

30. ***Curb Your Enthusiasm*** – HBO – Created by Larry David

31. ***The Honeymooners*** – CBS – Season One writers: Herbert Finn, Marvin Marx, A.J. Russell, Leonard Stern, Walter Stone, Sydney Zelinka

32. ***Deadwood*** – HBO – Created by David Milch

33. ***Star Trek*** – NBC – Created by Gene Roddenberry

34. ***Modern Family*** – ABC – Created by Steven Levitan & Christopher Lloyd

35. ***Twin Peaks*** – ABC – “Pilot,” Written by Mark Frost & David Lynch

36. ***NYPD Blue*** – ABC – created by David Milch & Steven Bochco

37. ***The Carol Burnett Show*** – CBS – Season One: Written by Bill Angelos, Stan Burns, Don Hinkley, Buz Kohan, Mike Marmer, Gail Parent, Kenny Solms, Saul Turteltaub; Writing Supervised by Arnie Rosen

38. ***Battlestar Galactica*** (2005) – SYFY – Developed by Ronald D. Moore, Based on the Series Battlestar Galactica Created by Glen A. Larson

39. ***Sex & the City*** – HBO – Created by Darren Star, Based on the Book by Candace Bushnell

40. ***Game of Thrones*** – HBO – Created by David Benioff & D. B. Weiss, Based on A Song of Ice and Fire by George R. R. Martin

41. ***The Bob Newhart Show*** *TIE – CBS – Created by David Davis and Lorenzo Music
41. ***Your Show of Shows*** *TIE – NBC – Season One: Written by Mel Tolkin, Lucille Kallen, Max Liebman
43. ***Downton Abbey*** *TIE – PBS – Created by Julian Fellowes
43. ***Law & Order*** *TIE – NBC – Created by Dick Wolf
43. ***thirtysomething*** *TIE – ABC – Created by Marshall Herskovitz & Edward Zwick
46. ***Homicide: Life on the Street*** *TIE – NBC – Created by Paul Attanasio, Based on the Book Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets by David Simon
46. ***St. Elsewhere*** *TIE – CBS – Created by Joshua Brand & John Falsey, Developed by Mark Tinker / John Masius
48. ***Homeland*** – SHOWTIME – Developed by Howard Gordon & Alex Gansa, Based on the Original Israeli Series Prisoners of War by Gideon Raff
49. ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer*** – WB – Created by Joss Whedon
50. ***The Colbert Report*** *TIE – COMEDY CENTRAL – Season One writers: Stephen Colbert, Rich Dahm, Eric Drysdale, Peter Gwinn, Jay Katsir, Laura Krafft, Allison Silverman
50. ***The Good Wife*** *TIE – CBS – Created by Robert King & Michelle King
50. ***The Office*** (UK) *TIE – BBC – Created by Ricky Gervais & Stephen Merchant
53. ***Northern Exposure*** – CBS – Created by Joshua Brand & John Falsey
54. ***The Wonder Years*** – ABC – Created by Neal Marlens & Carol Black
55. ***L.A. Law*** – NBC – Created by Steven Bochco & Terry Louise Fisher
56. ***Sesame Street*** – PBS – Created by Joan Ganz Cooney
57. ***Columbo*** – NBC – Created by Richard Levinson & William Link
58. ***Fawlty Towers*** *TIE – BBC – Written by John Cleese & Connie Booth

58. ***The Rockford Files*** *TIE – NBC – Created by Roy Huggins and Stephen J. Cannell
60. **Freaks and Geeks** *TIE – NBC – Created by Paul Feig
60. **Moonlighting** *TIE – ABC – Created by Glenn Gordon Caron
62. **Roots** – ABC – Written by William Blinn, M. Charles Cohen, Ernest Kinoy, James Lee; Based on the Book by Alex Haley
63. **Everybody Loves Raymond** *TIE – CBS – Created by Philip Rosenthal
63. **South Park** *TIE – COMEDY CENTRAL – Created by Matt Stone & Trey Parker
65. **Playhouse 90** – CBS – Season One writers: Edna Anhalt, Edmund Beloin, Harold Jack Bloom, Marc Brandel, George Bruce, James P. Cavanagh, Whitfield Cook, Helen Doss, Scott Fitzgerald, Devery Freeman, Frank D. Gilroy, Helen Howe, Speed Lamkin, Ernest Lehman, Herbert Little, Jr., Don Mankiewicz, Elick Moll, Paul Monash, Dean Reisner, Norman Retchin, Selma Robinson, William Sackheim, Rod Serling, Leonard Spiegelgass, Leslie Stevens, Brandon Thomas, David Victor, Charles M. Warren, Hagar Wilde, Cornell Woolrich
66. **Dexter** *TIE – SHOWTIME – Developed for Television by James Manos, Jr., Based on the Novel *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* by Jeff Lindsay
66. **The Office (US)** *TIE – NBC – Created by Ricky Gervais & Stephen Merchant, Developed by Greg Daniels, Based on the BBC Series *The Office*
68. **My So-Called Life** – ABC – Created by Winnie Holzman
69. **The Golden Girls** – NBC – Created by Susan Harris
70. **The Andy Griffith Show** – CBS – Episode 1, “The New Housekeeper,” Written by Jack Elinson and Charles Stewart
71. **24** *TIE – FOX – Created by Joel Surnow & Robert Cochran
71. **Roseanne** *TIE – ABC – Created by Matt Williams, Based on a Character Created by Roseanne Barr
72. **The Shield** *TIE – FX – Created by Shawn Ryan
74. **House** *TIE – FOX – Created by David Shore

74. **Murphy Brown** *TIE – CBS – Created by Diane English

76. **Barney Miller** *TIE – ABC – Created by Danny Arnold & Theodore J. Flicker

77. **I, Claudius** *TIE – PBS – Written by Rupert Graves and Jack Pulman

78. **The Odd Couple** – ABC – Episode 1, “The Fight of the Felix,” Written by Peggy Elliott & Ed Scharlach

79. **Alfred Hitchcock Presents** *TIE – CBS – Season One writers – Gwen Bagni, Samuel Blas, Robert Blee, Ray Bradbury, Richard Carr, James Cavanagh, Eustace Cockrell, Francis Cockrell, Marian Cockrell, John Collier, Robert C. Dennis, Mel Dinelli, Stanley Ellin, Fred Freiberger, Irwin Gielgud, Gina Kaus, Terence Maples, Richard Pedicini, Louis Pollock, Joseph Ruscoll, A.J. Russell, Stirling Silliphant, Andrew Solt, Harold Swanton, Victor Wolfson, Cornell Woolrich

79. **Monty Python’s Flying Circus** *TIE – BBC – Conceived and Written by Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Neil Innes, Terry Jones, Michael Palin

79. **Star Trek: The Next Generation** *TIE – SYN – Created by Gene Roddenberry

79. **Upstairs, Downstairs** *TIE – PBS – Created by Jean Marsh and Eileen Atkins

83. **Get Smart** – NBC – “Pilot,” Written by Mel Brooks and Buck Henry

84. **The Defenders** *TIE – CBS – Created by Reginald Rose

84. **Gunsmoke** *TIE – CBS – Episode 1, “Matt Gets It,” Written by Charles Marquis Warren & John Meston

86. **Justified** *TIE – FX - Developed for Television by Graham Yost, Based on the Short Story “Fire in the Hole” by Elmore Leonard

87. **Sgt. Bilko (The Phil Silvers Show)** *TIE

CBS

Created by Nat Hiken

88

Band of Brothers

HBO

Written by Erik Bork, E. Max Frye, Tom Hanks, Erik Jendresen, Bruce C. McKenna, John Orloff, Graham Yost;
Based on the Book by Stephan E. Ambrose

89

Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In

NBC

Season One: Written by Chris Beard, Phil Hahn, John Hanrahan, Coslough Johnson, Paul Keyes, Marc London,
Allan Manings, David Panich, Hugh Wedlock, Digby Wolfe

90

The Prisoner

CBS

Premiere Episode: Written by George Markstein and David Tomblin

91

Absolutely Fabulous (UK) *TIE

BBC

Episode 1, "Fashion," Written by Jennifer Saunders, Based on an Original Idea by Jennifer Saunders & Dawn
French

The Muppet Show *TIE

SYN

Season One: Written by Jack Burns, Jim Henson, Jerry Juhl, Marc London

93

Boardwalk Empire

HBO

Created by Terence Winter, Based on the Book Boardwalk Empire by Nelson Johnson

94

Will & Grace

NBC

Created by David Kohan & Max Mutchnick

95

Family Ties

NBC

Created by Gary David Goldberg

96

Lonesome Dove *TIE

CBS

Teleplay by Bill Wittliff, Based on the Novel Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry

Soap *TIE

ABC

Created by Susan Harris

98

The Fugitive *TIE

ABC

Episode 1, "Where the Action Is," Written by Harry Kronman

Late Night with David Letterman *TIE

CBS

Season One: Writing Supervised by Merrill Markoe, Writers: Andy Breckman, Tom Gammill, David Letterman, Richard Morris, Gerard Mulligan, Max Pross, Karl Tiedemann, Steve Winer

Louie *TIE

FX

Season One: Written and Directed by Louis C.K.

101

Oz

HBO

Created by Tom Fontana

For additional information about the WGA's 101 Best Written TV Series and a complete list of credited writers, please visit: <http://www.wga.org/101tv.html> or www.wgaeast.org/tv101.

Writers Guild members had a broad and dynamic TV programming field to choose from, as eligibility criteria included any series that aired from the early years of television through the present, on broadcast TV and basic or pay cable. All genres of scripted series were eligible for consideration, including animation, children's, comedy, daytime/serial, drama, scripted anthologies, miniseries with six hours or more of programming, and variety/talk series. Series must have been written in English, have aired in the U.S., and featured onscreen writing credits. (Individual episodes, specials, non-serialized or individual programs including telefilms/movies-of-the-week, and miniseries with less than six hours of programming, were not eligible.)

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