



NEWS RELEASE

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WRITERS CHOOSE THE *101 BEST WRITTEN TV SERIES* OF ALL TIME

***The Sopranos* tops the list followed by *Seinfeld*, *The Twilight Zone*,
All in the Family, and *M*A*S*H****

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."



<u>Rank</u>	<u>Series Title</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Writer(s)*</u>
1	<i>The Sopranos</i>	HBO	Created by David Chase
2	<i>Seinfeld</i>	NBC	Created by Larry David & Jerry Seinfeld
3	<i>The Twilight Zone (1959)</i>	CBS	Season One writers: Charles Beaumont, Richard Matheson, Robert Presnell, Jr., Rod Serling
4	<i>All in the Family</i>	CBS	Developed for Television by Norman Lear, Based on <i>Till Death Do Us Part</i> , Created by Johnny Speight
5	<i>M*A*S*H</i>	CBS	Developed for Television by Larry Gelbart
6	<i>The Mary Tyler Moore Show</i>	CBS	Created by James L. Brooks and Allan Burns
7	<i>Mad Men</i>	AMC	Created by Matthew Weiner
8	<i>Cheers</i>	NBC	Created by Glen Charles & Les Charles and James Burrows
9	<i>The Wire</i>	HBO	Created by David Simon
10	<i>The West Wing</i>	NBC	Created by Aaron Sorkin
11	<i>The Simpsons</i>	FOX	Created by Matt Groening, Developed by James L. Brooks and Matt Groening and Sam Simon
12	<i>I Love Lucy</i>	CBS	"Pilot," Written by Jess Oppenheimer & Madelyn Pugh & Bob Carroll, Jr.
13	<i>Breaking Bad</i>	AMC	Created by Vince Gilligan
14	<i>The Dick Van Dyke Show</i>	CBS	Created by Carl Reiner
15	<i>Hill Street Blues</i>	NBC	Created by Michael Kozoll and Steven Bochco
16	<i>Arrested Development</i>	FOX	Created by Mitchell Hurwitz
17	<i>The Daily Show with Jon Stewart</i>	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	<i>Six Feet Under</i>	HBO	Created by Alan Ball
19	<i>Taxi</i>	ABC	Created by James L. Brooks and Stan Daniels and David Davis and Ed Weinberger
20	<i>The Larry Sanders Show</i>	HBO	Created by Garry Shandling & Dennis Klein

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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 Honeyymooners	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 <i>Battlestar Galactica</i> 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 <i>A Song of Ice and Fire</i> by George R. R. Martin
41	The Bob Newhart Show *TIE	CBS	Created by David Davis and Lorenzo Music
	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
	Law & Order *TIE	NBC	Created by Dick Wolf
	thirtysomething *TIE	ABC	Created by Marshall Herskovitz & Edward Zwick

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46	Homicide: Life on the Street *TIE	NBC	Created by Paul Attanasio, Based on the Book <i>Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets</i> by David Simon
	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 <i>Prisoners of War</i> 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
	The Good Wife *TIE	CBS	Created by Robert King & Michelle King
	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
	The Rockford Files *TIE	NBC	Created by Roy Huggins and Stephen J. Cannell
60	Freaks and Geeks *TIE	NBC	Created by Paul Feig
	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
	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 Spigelgass, 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 <i>Darkly Dreaming Dexter</i> by Jeff Lindsay
	The Office (US) *TIE	NBC	Created by Ricky Gervais & Stephen Merchant, Developed by Greg Daniels, Based on the BBC Series <i>The Office</i>
68	My So-Called Life	ABC	Created by Winnie Holzman

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69	<i>The Golden Girls</i>	NBC	Created by Susan Harris
70	<i>The Andy Griffith Show</i>	CBS	Episode 1, "The New Housekeeper," Written by Jack Elinson and Charles Stewart
71	24 *TIE	FOX	Created by Joel Surnow & Robert Cochran
	<i>Roseanne</i> *TIE	ABC	Created by Matt Williams, Based on a Character Created by Roseanne Barr
	<i>The Shield</i> *TIE	FX	Created by Shawn Ryan
74	<i>House</i> *TIE	FOX	Created by David Shore
	<i>Murphy Brown</i> *TIE	CBS	Created by Diane English
76	<i>Barney Miller</i> *TIE	ABC	Created by Danny Arnold & Theodore J. Flicker
	<i>I, Claudius</i> *TIE	PBS	Written by Rupert Graves and Jack Pulman
78	<i>The Odd Couple</i>	ABC	Episode 1, "The Fight of the Felix," Written by Peggy Elliott & Ed Scharlach
79	<i>Alfred Hitchcock Presents</i> *TIE	CBS	Season One writers – Gwen Bagni, Samuel Blas, Robert Brees, 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
	<i>Monty Python's Flying Circus</i> *TIE	BBC	Conceived and Written by Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Neil Innes, Terry Jones, Michael Palin
	<i>Star Trek: The Next Generation</i> *TIE	SYN	Created by Gene Roddenberry
	<i>Upstairs, Downstairs</i> *TIE	PBS	Created by Jean Marsh and Eileen Atkins
83	<i>Get Smart</i>	NBC	"Pilot," Written by Mel Brooks and Buck Henry
84	<i>The Defenders</i> *TIE	CBS	Created by Reginald Rose
	<i>Gunsmoke</i> *TIE	CBS	Episode 1, "Matt Gets It," Written by Charles Marquis Warren & John Meston
86	<i>Justified</i> *TIE	FX	Developed for Television by Graham Yost, Based on the Short Story "Fire in the Hole" by Elmore Leonard
	<i>Sgt. Bilko (The Phil Silvers Show)</i> *TIE	CBS	Created by Nat Hiken
88	<i>Band of Brothers</i>	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	<i>Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In</i>	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	<i>The Prisoner</i>	CBS	Premiere Episode: Written by George Markstein and David Tomblin
91	<i>Absolutely Fabulous (UK)</i> *TIE	BBC	Episode 1, "Fashion," Written by Jennifer Saunders, Based on an Original Idea by Jennifer Saunders & Dawn French

	<i>The Muppet Show</i> *TIE	SYN	Season One: Written by Jack Burns, Jim Henson, Jerry Juhl, Marc London
93	<i>Boardwalk Empire</i>	HBO	Created by Terence Winter, Based on the Book <i>Boardwalk Empire</i> by Nelson Johnson
94	<i>Will & Grace</i>	NBC	Created by David Kohan & Max Mutchnick
95	<i>Family Ties</i>	NBC	Created by Gary David Goldberg
96	<i>Lonesome Dove</i> *TIE	CBS	Teleplay by Bill Wittliff, Based on the Novel <i>Lonesome Dove</i> by Larry McMurtry
	<i>Soap</i> *TIE	ABC	Created by Susan Harris
98	<i>The Fugitive</i> *TIE	ABC	Episode 1, "Where the Action Is," Written by Harry Kronman
	<i>Late Night with David Letterman</i> *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
	<i>Louie</i> *TIE	FX	Season One: Written and Directed by Louis C.K.
101	<i>Oz</i>	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.)

TV Guide Magazine Joins WGAW L.A. Tribute, WGAE Set to Host NYC Celebration

Tonight, the Writers Guild of America, West hosted a special tribute event, panel discussion, and reception to formally unveil the WGA's **101 Best Written TV Series** at the Writers Guild Theater in Beverly Hills. *TV Guide Magazine*, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, co-sponsored the event that featured a line-up of panelists including iconic TV series creators, showrunners, and writers whose shows made the 101 TV list, including **Steven Bochco** (*Hill*

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Street Blues), **James L. Brooks** (*The Mary Tyler Moore Show*), **Vince Gilligan** (*Breaking Bad*), **Winnie Holzman** (*My So-Called Life*), **Norman Lear** (*All in the Family*), **Steven Levitan** (*Modern Family*), **Ronald D. Moore** (*Battlestar Galactica*), **Gail Parent** (*The Carol Burnett Show*), **Carl Reiner** (*The Dick Van Dyke Show*), **Matthew Weiner** (*Mad Men*), and host/moderator **Merrill Markoe** (*Late Night with David Letterman*).

The program featured several segments, covering TV's early days, the Golden Age, and present day. Panelists discussed the craft of TV writing in an ever-changing industry and media landscape over the past several decades, as well as writers' primary role in creating innovative programming that has made an indelible mark on the culture from TV's inception to today. WGAW Vice President **Howard A. Rodman** and TVGM L.A. Bureau Chief **Michael Schneider** introduced the evening. Writers who created and/or wrote on series that made the "101 TV" list included **Carlton Cuse** and **Damon Lindelof** (*Lost*), **David Shore** (*House*), **Terence Winter** (*The Sopranos*, *Boardwalk Empire*), **Jason Katims** (*Friday Night Lights*), **Shawn Ryan** (*The Shield*), **Semi Chellas**, **Jonathan Igla**, **Erin Levy**, **Andre & Maria Jacquemetton** (*Mad Men*), **D.C. Fontana** (*Star Trek*), **Bill Odenkirk**, **Mike Scully**, **Matt Selman**, and **Patric M. Verrone** (*The Simpsons*), **John Rappaport** (*M*A*S*H*), and **Kenny Solms** (*The Carol Burnett Show*). Also in attendance were several actors who starred on TV shows that made the WGA's 101 TV list, including **Harry Hamlin** (*Mad Men*), with wife/actress **Lisa Rinna**, **Tricia Helfer** (*Battlestar Galactica*), **Tony Danza** and **Marilu Henner** (*Taxi*), **Devon Gummersall** (*My So-Called Life*), **Dan Castellaneta** (*The Simpsons*). CÎROC was the West Coast event's bar sponsor.

The WGAE is set to host its event to celebrate the 101 TV list this Wednesday, June 5, on the rooftop of the Guild's headquarters in downtown Manhattan. Event participants include Guild members **Seth Meyers**, **John Markus**, **Tom Fontana**, **Bill Persky** and **Liz Tuccillo**. Expected attendees include **Andrew Bergman**, **David Chase**, **Sabrina Dhawan**, **Lena Dunham**, **Diane English**, **Scott Frank**, **Gina Gionfriddo**, **Howard Korder**, **Steve O'Donnell**, **Michael Rauch** and **Jacquelyn Reingold**.

The WGAW's "101 TV" committee, which conceived the initiative, includes Guild members Aaron Mendelsohn (Chair): W. Bruce Cameron, Michael Conley, Diane Driscoll, Gary Goldstein, Katherine Fugate, Margaret Howell, Ken Pisani, Ari Rubin, and Susan Walter.

**Editor's Note on listing writers and/or writing credits for the WGA's 101 Best Written TV Series list: A series' "Creator" or "Developer" was listed if WGA writing credits were available. If no "Created by" or "Developed by" writing credits were available, credited writers for series' pilot, premiere episode, or first season were listed.*

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The Writers Guild of America, West (WGAW) and the Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE) are labor unions representing writers in motion pictures, television, cable, new media, and broadcast news. The Guilds negotiate and administer contracts that protect the creative and economic rights of their members; conduct programs, seminars, and events on issues of interest to writers; and present writers' views to various bodies of government. For more information on the Writers Guild of America, West, visit www.wga.org. For more information on the Writers Guild of America, East, visit www.wgaeast.org.