



101 Best Written TV Series

- 1. THE SOPRANOS**
Created by David Chase
- 2. SEINFELD**
Created by Larry David & Jerry Seinfeld
- 3. THE TWILIGHT ZONE (1959)**
Season One writers: Charles Beaumont, Richard Matheson, Robert Presnell, Jr., Rod Serling
- 4. ALL IN THE FAMILY**
Developed for Television by Norman Lear, Based on *Till Death Do Us Part*, Created by Johnny Speight
- 5. M*A*S*H**
Developed for Television by Larry Gelbart
- 6. THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW**
Created by James L. Brooks and Allan Burns
- 7. MAD MEN**
Created by Matthew Weiner
- 8. CHEERS**
Created by Glen Charles & Les Charles and James Burrows
- 9. THE WIRE**
Created by David Simon
- 10. THE WEST WING**
Created by Aaron Sorkin
- 11. THE SIMPSONS**
Created by Matt Groening, Developed by James L. Brooks and Matt Groening and Sam Simon
- 12. I LOVE LUCY**
“Pilot,” Written by Jess Oppenheimer & Madelyn Pugh & Bob Carroll, Jr.
- 13. BREAKING BAD**
Created by Vince Gilligan
- 14. THE DICK VAN DYKE SHOW**
Created by Carl Reiner
- 15. HILL STREET BLUES**
Created by Michael Kozoll and Steven Bochco
- 16. ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT**
Created by Mitchell Hurwitz
- 17. THE DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART**
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**
Created by Alan Ball
- 19. TAXI**
Created by James L. Brooks and Stan Daniels and David Davis and Ed Weinberger
- 20. THE LARRY SANDERS SHOW**
Created by Garry Shandling & Dennis Klein
- 21. 30 ROCK**
Created by Tina Fey
- 22. FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS**
Developed for Television by Peter Berg, Inspired by the Book by H.G. Bissinger
- 23. FRASIER**
Created by David Angell & Peter Casey & David Lee, Based on the Character “Frasier Crane” Created by Glen Charles & Les Charles

- 24. FRIENDS**
Created by Marta Kauffman & David Crane
- 25. SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**
Season One writers: Anne Beatts, Chevy Chase, Al Franken, Lorne Michaels, Marilyn Suzanne Miller, Paul Mooney, Garrett Morris, Michael O'Donoghue, Herb Sargent, Tom Schiller, Rosie Shuster, Alan Zweibel
- 26. THE X-FILES**
Created by Chris Carter
- 27. LOST**
Created by Jeffrey Lieber and J.J. Abrams & Damon Lindelof
- 28. ER**
Created Michael Crichton
- 29. THE COSBY SHOW**
Created by Ed Weinberger & Michael Leeson and William Cosby, Jr., Ed. D.
- 30. CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM**
Created by Larry David
- 31. THE HONEYMOONERS**
Season One writers: Herbert Finn, Marvin Marx, A.J. Russell, Leonard Stern, Walter Stone, Sydney Zelinka
- 32. DEADWOOD**
Created by David Milch
- 33. STAR TREK**
Created by Gene Roddenberry
- 34. MODERN FAMILY**
Created by Steven Levitan & Christopher Lloyd
- 35. TWIN PEAKS**
"Pilot," Written by Mark Frost & David Lynch
- 36. NYPD BLUE**
Created by David Milch & Steven Bochco
- 37. THE CAROL BURNETT SHOW**
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)**
Developed by Ronald D. Moore, Based on the Series *Battlestar Galactica* Created by Glen A. Larson
- 39. SEX & THE CITY**
Created by Darren Star, Based on the Book by Candace Bushnell
- 40. GAME OF THRONES**
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**
Created by David Davis and Lorenzo Music
- YOUR SHOW OF SHOWS**
Season One: Written by Mel Tolkin, Lucille Kallen, Max Liebman
- 43. DOWNTON ABBEY**
Created by Julian Fellowes
- LAW & ORDER**
Created by Dick Wolf
- THIRTYSOMETHING**
Created by Marshall Herskovitz & Edward Zwick
- 46. HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET**
Created by Paul Attanasio, Based on the Book *Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets* by David Simon
- ST. ELSEWHERE**
Created by Joshua Brand & John Falsey, Developed by Mark Tinker / John Masius
- 48. HOMELAND**
Developed by Howard Gordon & Alex Gansa, Based on the Original Israeli Series *Prisoners of War* by Gideon Raff
- 49. BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER**
Created by Joss Whedon
- 50. THE COLBERT REPORT**
Season One writers: Mike Brumm, Stephen Colbert, Rich Dahm, Eric Drysdale, Peter Gwinn, Jay Katsir, Laura Krafft, Allison Silverman
- THE GOOD WIFE**
Created by Robert King & Michelle King
- THE OFFICE (UK)**
Created by Ricky Gervais & Stephen Merchant

53. NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Created by Joshua Brand & John Falsey

54. THE WONDER YEARS

Created by Neal Marlens & Carol Black

55. L.A. LAW

Created by Steven Bochco & Terry Louise Fisher

56. SESAME STREET

Created by Joan Ganz Cooney

57. COLUMBO

Created by Richard Levinson & William Link

58. FAWLTY TOWERS

Written by John Cleese & Connie Booth

THE ROCKFORD FILES

Created by Roy Huggins and Stephen J. Cannell

60. FREAKS AND GEEKS

Created by Paul Feig

MOONLIGHTING

Created by Glenn Gordon Caron

62. ROOTS

Written by William Blinn, M. Charles Cohen, Ernest Kinoy, James Lee; Based on the Book by Alex Haley

63. EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND

Created by Philip Rosenthal

SOUTH PARK

Created by Matt Stone & Trey Parker

65. PLAYHOUSE 90

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

Developed for Television by James Manos, Jr., Based on the Novel *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* by Jeff Lindsay

THE OFFICE (US)

Created by Ricky Gervais & Stephen Merchant, Developed by Greg Daniels, Based on the BBC Series *The Office*

68. MY SO-CALLED LIFE

Created by Winnie Holzman

69. THE GOLDEN GIRLS

Created by Susan Harris

70. THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW

Episode 1, "The New Housekeeper," Written by Jack Elinson and Charles Stewart

71. 24

Created by Joel Surnow & Robert Cochran

ROSEANNE

Created by Matt Williams, Based on a Character Created by Roseanne Barr

THE SHIELD

Created by Shawn Ryan

74. HOUSE

Created by David Shore

MURPHY BROWN

Created by Diane English

76. BARNEY MILLER

Created by Danny Arnold & Theodore J. Flicker

I, CLAUDIUS

Written by Robert Graves and Jack Pulman

78. THE ODD COUPLE

Episode 1, "The Fight of the Felix," Written by Peggy Elliott & Ed Scharlach

79. ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS

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

MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS

Conceived and Written by Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Neil Innes, Terry Jones, Michael Palin

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

Created by Gene Roddenberry

UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS

Created by Jean Marsh and Eileen Atkins

83. GET SMART

"Pilot," Written by Mel Brooks and Buck Henry

84. THE DEFENDERS

Created by Reginald Rose

GUNSMOKE

Episode 1, "Matt Gets It," Written by Charles Marquis Warren & John Meston

86. JUSTIFIED

Developed for Television by Graham Yost, Based on the Short Story "Fire in the Hole" by Elmore Leonard

SGT. BILKO (THE PHIL SILVERS SHOW)

Created by Nat Hiken

88. BAND OF BROTHERS

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

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

Premiere Episode: Written by George Markstein and David Tomblin

91. ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS (UK)

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

THE MUPPET SHOW

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

93. BOARDWALK EMPIRE

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

94. WILL & GRACE

Created by David Kohan & Max Mutchnick

95. FAMILY TIES

Created by Gary David Goldberg

96. LONESOME DOVE

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

SOAP

Created by Susan Harris

98. THE FUGITIVE

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

LATE NIGHT WITH DAVID LETTERMAN

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

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

101. OZ

Created by Tom Fontana

Voted by the members of the
Writers Guild of America, West and Writers Guild of America, East



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