
Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 26-03-2008 15:29

So, what have you seen lately? At the cinema, on DVD, on TV, whatever.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil a fhios agam - 26-03-2008 15:35

Cinema: There Will Be Blood

DVD: The Grapes of Wrath

TV: Mad Men

The first two were excellent. The last one is starting to lose it's fizzle.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 26-03-2008 15:39

I loved the first episode of 'Mad Men' but there seemed to be a massive drop-off in quality in the second, I still have high hopes for it though and much catch up on 3 & 4 soon.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Big Daves Gussett - 26-03-2008 15:40

I saw There Will Be Blood last Friday. It was so good that I have decided that I want to become an oil prospector - not so that I can get rich and live in a big house with a bowling alley, but so that I can earn just enough money to allow me to quit my job and spend the rest of my days watching There Will Be Blood over and over again.

I also watched Die Hard 4.0 on DVD, which was a couple of hours of mindless fun, as you would expect. In fact, it was the perfect film to watch over Easter, as I had eaten so much chocolate that my blood took on the consistency of treacle and having to think about a film might have caused my heart to explode.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 26-03-2008 15:57

Garage Totally excellent. A proper film.

Semi-Pro I really liked this. Will Ferrell is aces. It's almost good enough to be the Slap Shot of basketball.

The Ruins This is silly, gory, predictable and a bit nasty.

Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay This is just silly.

Angel Not the new Ozon, an old thing with Stephen Rea and Ray McAnally. I didn't understand it.

Catch me if you Can What a great story. I hate Tom Hanks, but even so, this was enjoyable.

Arranged Arranged marriages for Jewish and Indian girls in New York. They can work out well!

An adaptation of Solzhenitsyn's The First Circle which I forget the name of, and haven't finished, but it looks pretty good so far.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Pan Tau - 26-03-2008 16:01

I'm going to see Juno tonight. Can't hardly wait.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 26-03-2008 16:01

People keep talking about Mad Men. I've got the series here but have been avoiding it. I must assign myself a couple to see what the fuss is about.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Crusoe - 26-03-2008 16:09

Reaper. Enjoyable way to pass an hour. Imagine Buffy played by Jack Black.

Shoot Em Up. Ridiculous. My mum loves this film; I think Clive Owen and Paul Giamatti need to fire their agents. A soulless, pointless clone of Sin City without any style to redeem it.

Blast From The Past. Better than I expected from a film starring Brendan Fraser and Alicia Silverstone. Harmless time-waster.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 26-03-2008 16:23

DVD: Cowboy Bebop, the movie. Like the TV series, but shorter

TV: Just finished my Angel marathon, now I'm going through season 3 of Arrested Development and Robot Chicken.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 26-03-2008 16:34

I've only seen one Robot Chicken thing and that was a Star Wars thing and it was genuinely hilarious. I didn't even realise it was a series type thing.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Matej - 26-03-2008 16:34

30 Rock

Not that much else at the moment, since we've finished most of the shows.

I just wish Battlestar Galactica would arrive from netflix already though. "Very long wait" my ass.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by JtS - 26-03-2008 16:45

Got through the 6 available episodes of The Big Bang Theory.

Since the start of March I've watched series 5,6,7 and I'm on 8 of South Park. I used to love it when it first came out, then lost track, it's been great catching up.

Watched I now pronounce you Chuck & Larry which was very funny, and much much better than I expected.

Ramsey's Kitchen Nightmares in the US has been very entertaining, although sometimes a bit hard to follow. It's alot more verbal, but alot kinder to the stupid restaurant owners.

The new series of Two and a half men is still keeping me amused.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 26-03-2008 16:47

I've only seen one episode of The Big Bang Theory and it was stunningly disappointing. So very old school, so very telegraphed.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Inca - 26-03-2008 16:49

Ooh, I can't wait to see the new Harold & Kumar, lyra. I don't want any spoilers, but can you tell me: is Neil Patrick Harris in it again? He's on one of the posters, but I just want to be sure.

The American version of Kitchen Nightmares bored me very quickly--too much Fox hype, an embarrassing opening credits sequence, and a lot of the situations seemed obviously scripted to me.

I'm really glad that Paradise Hotel 2 has gotten good. Not near the best moments of the first one, but still entertaining.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 26-03-2008 17:29

I am gradually working my way thru season 1 of "Battlestar Galactica". Very Johnny-come-lately so unable to even read the old thread, in case of spoliars.

I am a "Lost" devotee (still) but apart from that all I've watched on telly this week was the "Mastermind" final. Felt sorry for the bloke who came a close 2nd, who appeared to live with his Mum.

"There Will Be Blood" last really decent film at flicks. "Vantage Point" would've been an entertaining way to spend 2 hours, if the trailer hadn't ruined it, oh and I saw "Bank Job" on a whim yesterday on the way home from work. I thought it was well enough made, though the plot suffered from revealing too early who/what/why, rather than perhaps springing it on us (and them) later.

On dvd/at our Cineclub, I've recently seen Preminger's "Bunny Lake is Missing" which is a very nice, darkly comic satire about swinging London and Renoir's "Le crime de M. Lange", which is one of my all-time faves. At home on dvd I watched "Clockers" at the weekend. Not as good as I remembered, perhaps cos i was remembering Richard Price's novel, rather than Spike Lee's joint.

Apologies: I note the bold function let me down there

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 26-03-2008 18:00

Film

'Michael Clayton'. Enjoyed it very much. Tilda Swinton really is brilliant in it.

TV (Cable)

'Lovespring International'. Silly and fun.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Phoebe Disco - 26-03-2008 18:08

I'm watching Sky Sports News. It's OK, but the plot's a bit weak, and they keep introucing new characters every few minutes and make no attempt to connect it all together.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by JtS - 26-03-2008 18:10

My missus is off snowboarding for a week on saturday, I may have to have some sort of Battlestar Galactica marathon.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Big Daves Gussett - 26-03-2008 18:23

I felt sorry for the Mastermind runner-up too. The clip of him sat at home talking about The Godfather trilogy whilst his mother sat looking into space was pretty tough viewing. Fair play, the chap who won knew a lot about London Bridge. He did have the worst hair I've ever seen on a human being, but I guess you can do whatever you like when you're Mastermind champion.

The Big Bang Theory hasn't made me laugh once, but for some reason I find myself watching it every week. I don't really enjoy Skins that much either, but I'm yet to miss an episode of the current series.

Other TV I'm watching-

Mad Men - Looks great but not exactly pacey. The David Beckham of Sunday night drama.

Curb Your Enthusiasm - when More4 decide to actually show it - they replaced it on Monday night with a re-run of Pheonix Nights for gawd's sake.

Dexter - The scenes with Micheal C Hall are superb and enough to keep me tuning in. It falls down when it throws in sub-plots about peripheral characters though. Last week there was a storyline about one of his colleagues wanting to buy a gift for his wife, which seemed pretty pointless. More killer, less filler please.

Gavin and Stacey - tidy.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by JtS - 26-03-2008 18:28

I've got about another 120 episodes of Seinfeld to watch as well. I could do with a sick day or 12.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 26-03-2008 19:59

I've just finished downloading "Soul Deep", the BBC series about the history of black popular music. No idea whether it's going to be any good or not, though. Other than that, I've been catching up on S19 of "The Simpsons". One word: ropey.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by 1890 - 26-03-2008 20:13

Enjoying "Mad Men", "Ashes to Ashes" and "Wainwright walks" at the moment, nearly always on the BBCI player...

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 26-03-2008 20:21

I've only tried the BBC media player thing once, to watch a programme about Munich. Is it really good as everybody seems to think it is?

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 27-03-2008 00:03

TV: Skins. Imaginative, unpredictable, full of terrific jokes, sexy but above all really heartfelt. Even to point out that it doesn't patronise its audience would be a bit patronising. The best UK drama of recent years. Also watching Love Soup, Gavin & Stacey (series two even better than the first, improbably), the tremendous Mad Men (which is really daringly subtle and uneventful, relying pretty much entirely on densely written two-handers that gradually unravel the characters' horrible personalities), Boston Legal which is as brilliant as ever, and Damages, which is possibly too fiendish for its own good (this week's had a "shock" that wasn't shocking at all, as it was about the only shocking possibility left that hadn't happened already) but by Christ I want to know how it turns out.

Film: the cinema is a distant memory but the last DVD was Transamerica, which I thought was flimsy and contrived.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Hot Orangey Thing - 27-03-2008 10:35

I'm watching Sky Sports News. It's OK, but the plot's a bit weak, and they keep introucing new characters every few minutes and make no attempt to connect it all together.

Stick with it, they'll repeat it all in 20 minutes.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 27-03-2008 10:37

I don't want any spoilers, but can you tell me: is Neil Patrick Harris in it again? He's on one of the posters, but I just want to be sure.

Yes, rest assured, he is. I won't say any more.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 27-03-2008 10:41

Anyway last night I saw The Other Boleyn Girl. It's really quite good. For what it is, I mean, a soap opera about Mary and Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII. It had all the necessary frocks, fab hair, gorgeous headdresses, ornaments, jewellery, bosoms, etc, and the direction and photography I liked a lot. The dialogue and theatrics were very silly, of course, but the main hook of the plot - the relationship between the sisters - worked very well.

Best line...

Mary: "But I love him."

Anne: "Well, perhaps you should stop."

We've *all* been there.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Belhavka - 27-03-2008 12:07

I have just downloaded the Singing Detective. It is along with Berlin Alexanderplatz among those classic European TV series that I have been planning to watch for a long time.

Other series further down that list are Brideshead Revisited, the Danish epic Matador and the recent Russian TV dramatisation of Master and Margarita.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 27-03-2008 12:32

Dexter - The scenes with Micheal C Hall are superb and enough to keep me tuning in. It falls down when it throws in sub-plots about peripheral characters though. Last week there was a storyline about one of his colleagues wanting to buy a gift for his wife, which seemed pretty pointless. More killer, less filler please.

That's partly cos the novel it's based on (which is entirely from the pov of Dexter) is actually quite short by modern standards, and they are filling like mad

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 27-03-2008 14:48

I don't really get Dexter, but I watched them all out of sequence and it was a bit infuriating. I like Darla as his girlfriend but really I think it could have been a LOT better.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Inca - 27-03-2008 14:49

Lyra wrote:

I don't want any spoilers, but can you tell me: is Neil Patrick Harris in it again? He's on one of the posters, but I just want to be sure.

Yes, rest assured, he is. I won't say any more.

Sweet. I was at the theaters to see a different movie (can't remember which now), when I saw the poster last year and I've been waiting for it ever since:

http://images.eonline.com/eol_images/Articles/20071024/293.harold.kumar2.poster.102407.jpg

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 27-03-2008 14:50

Haha I hadn't seen that before. Hahaha. That's pretty good.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 27-03-2008 15:07

Does anyone know if there's a way to stream iPlayer video to an Xbox 360, with or without using Transcode 360? Does Media Center play iPlayer downloads?

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 27-03-2008 15:09

Nope, sorry.

Just recently re-watched Amadeus again. cracking stuff.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 27-03-2008 15:49

Some Robot Chicken for Hobbes (and Lyra)

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 27-03-2008 15:54

Dexter relies heavily on its story arc, so watching them out of order is suicide. I thought it was terrific, supporting characters and all. Doakes is particularly good in the second half of series one - from what I've read about series two (which is as little as I can), he becomes a main character.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 27-03-2008 17:51

So I just finished 4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days. It fits with other recent Palme D'Or winners; depressing European realism, simple story, complex background. I liked the constant use of running taps, water, etc.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Hot Orangey Thing - 27-03-2008 18:24

I've only tried the BBC media player thing once, to watch a programme about Munich. Is it really good as everybody seems to think it is?

Yes. No downloading or anything required, just select your programme and click play. Its introduction has been very timely since my VCR has just called it quits.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by gerontophile - 27-03-2008 21:11

I am currently watching the last episode of Ashes to Ashes.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by King Mob - 27-03-2008 21:36

I have just been watching the last episode of Mitchell and Web which, whilst being as patchy as ever, included a sketch featuring possibly the most accurate portrayal of a smug, self-righteous Liverpool supporter (the kind I've had to share far too many offices with) I've ever seen.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 27-03-2008 22:03

Yeah, I saw that. Football (which I presume they both hate) seems to be one of those things that Mitchell & Webb seem to be able hit square on the head.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nathan Helena Handcart - 27-03-2008 23:48

He Kills Coppers (from Jake Arnott's book) on ITV tonight was brilliant.

I think that's the first time I've used the words brilliant and ITV in a sentence in a decade.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by linus - 28-03-2008 03:23

DVDs

See How They Run 2002 (Embrassez qui vous voudrez)

Interesting, but quite over the top in its portrayal of intertwined cross-generational dysfunctional relationships. Good cast though, especially the women (Carole Bouquet, Charlotte Rampling, Karin Viard)

Waking Life

Enjoyed that one, as a fan of Linklater. The medium (animation based on film) is interesting and lends itself well to the narrative theme and dreamlike tone.

Mr and Mrs Smith the 1941 Hitchcock flick, not the silly one with Brad Pitt. Robert Montgomery and Carole Lombard in a very unusual Hitch, along the lines of a classic vintage American comedy. Very entertaining.

Together Swedish movie that's a bit similar to Elementary Particles (Elementarteilchen) in its critical view of the impact of baby boomer hippy lifestyle on families and offsprings, but very different approaches. The Swedish approach is realistically plain, the German one overly dramatic (SPOILER -could you possibly conceive a more dramatic death for Christiane?-)

Big screen:

Fritz Lang's Metropolis, with live piano accompanist. It's quite a treat to have discovered that classic in the right conditions.

Buster Keaton's College, and General, also with live accompanist. College was with the Octuor de France, a top flight chamber ensemble on tour. Very playful score, with ukelele, whistling and barber shop bits meshed with some more traditional bits and instruments like the french horn, oboe and viola. I can't recall enjoying a movie that much in a theater.

Anita O'Day: Life of a Jazz Singer Great new documentary on the life and craft of this immensely talented and interesting American singer.

<http://anitaoday.com/documentary.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuzWegDm2HY>

Michael Clayton Fairly entertaining, good cast (esp Tilda Swinton) but the storyline is a bit over the top. The kind of movie that would be good to watch in a year or two on a chinese website.

And a bunch of movies on such sites, including Juno, Darjeeling Express, Squid and the Whale, and a few other White People current and future classics.

Current Watching

Posted by Crusoe - 28-03-2008 08:55

Has anyone watched 9th Company ("Russia's Full Metal Jacket")? I recorded it the other week and haven't got round to it yet. From the snippets it looks like a paint-by-numbers mix of Full Metal Jacket (training brutality) and Rambo, First Blood Part 2 (the simple-minded characterisation of screaming mujahideen hordes) but with the novelty factor of Russian tanks and helicopters thrown in.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 28-03-2008 11:44

Has anyone watched 9th Company ("Russia's Full Metal Jacket")?

It's on telly tonight. Don't ask me where or when, but i dimly remember a still of it in the Guardian guide which I was gazing blurrily at over breakfast

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Aldo Simoncini - 28-03-2008 13:16

I watched Der Untergang (Downfall) a few weeks ago. I assume a lot of you have already watched it, but if not, I seriously recommend you do.

Another film I watched recently is Good Bye Lenin. Another subtitled German film, about a Communist woman who wakes up in post-wall Berlin, while those closest to her try to shield her from the truth.

Is it obvious i'm learning German?

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Crusoe - 28-03-2008 13:24

Is Good Bye Lenin any good? I bought it about two years ago and still haven't got round to watching it.

Downfall is excellent.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Aldo Simoncini - 28-03-2008 13:27

Yes it it. I downloaded it with a torrent originally, but enjoyed it so much that I bough the DVD legit.

Both funny and touching in parts, I recommend it anyway.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 28-03-2008 13:45

Good Bye Lenin is GREAT. Really good.

If you're learning German - how about Requiem (fantastic performances, about the same story that inspired The Exorcism of Emily Rose), or Sehnsucht (I really liked this because it was about how ordinary, ugly people have deep grand emotions too, which I think is rarer than it sounds).

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil a fhios agam - 28-03-2008 13:56

Put me down as another fan of Good Bye Lenin.

Obvious German film but worth mentioning as often as possible is The Lives of Others.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The_Liquidator - 28-03-2008 14:17

Skins. Imaginative, unpredictable, full of terrific jokes, sexy but above all really heartfelt. Even to point out that it doesn't patronise its audience would be a bit patronising. The best UK drama of recent years.

I've never disagreed more with anyone on TV, ever. I watched this last night for the first time in ages and it was just as shit as it was when I was first attracted to it by the C4 hype machine. Unrealistic toss.

Last night I watched episodes of My Name is Earl and Arrested Development. I was disappointed that he'd been banged up, but the execution was great. I do wonder if it can be sustained over a whole series though. Speaking of the latter though, surely it's the most underrated comedy of the last decade? Absolutely fantastic performances from pretty much everyone, particularly The Fonz.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 28-03-2008 14:27

I've never disagreed more with anyone on TV, ever. I watched this last night for the first time in ages and it was just as shit as it was when I was first attracted to it by the C4 hype machine. Unrealistic toss. Well, steady on. But I have to admit that last night's Skins was the worst of the series so far. What's usually so great about it is that it's innovative and fantastical - it takes place in a heightened, dreamy parallel universe - and, at the same time, it's emotionally very serious and convincing. It's real without being realistic, if you will. Last night's - which was written by a 23-year-old rookie, rather than 45-year-old showrunner Bryan Elsley - had several scenes that really were bad, and none that were breathtakingly good. Skins is usually stuffed with the latter. I would say watch it again next week - next week's plays it very straight - but, well, if someone told me to watch another episode of something I hated, I wouldn't, so fair enough if you don't. But "the C4 hype machine" has never done Skins any favours - particularly when it started, the trailers and ads for it were wildly misleading, making it seem smutty and cheap, which it isn't. A lot of people criticise it for being smutty and cheap, which just makes me think they've only seen the trailers and ads. (Not you, Liq, obviously. You just saw a duff episode.)

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The_Liquidator - 28-03-2008 14:40

I just find it very cartoony, which isn't a quality I'm a fan of. There's just something really smug, north London and dare I say it, very Guardian. It grates on me, particularly as I can't see any relation between their adolescent years and mine or anyone else's I know. It's almost as though the writers are transplanting all their adolescent longings and missed opportunities on screen.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 28-03-2008 14:53

Ah, see, yeah it is cartoony, but I think underlying that are universal truths. Fundamentally it's about people who are nominally young adults but have no idea how to function as grown-ups, which is pretty much yer all-encompassing teen emotion. All the characters are lost souls fighting big problems they're not equipped to deal with, so I don't think it's smug at all - its total lack of smugness is what I like. I don't understand why it's Guardian-ish at all.

Yeah, crazy stuff happens, but apart from that being fine because, y'know, it's fiction, you have to look beyond that. To take a small example: the kids often go to clubs, raves and house parties, which are much bigger, much druggier and much more frequent than they were for me and my teen friends - but without exception these events are wild, scary things where someone always gets the fear and someone else suffers some kind of emotional catastrophe. That resonates with me. Another cartoonish thing is the way all the mums and dads are hammily played by famous comedians - but that's done to emphasise that the parents are, to the kids, distant, alien figures. All the cartoony stuff has a point above and beyond being funny, which it usually is.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by 1890 - 28-03-2008 22:31

Just seen that Liverpool supporter sketch on M&W...spot on!

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 29-03-2008 02:32

I rolled in from the local bar tonight and sat down to do a bit of zapping. Just starting was 'The Golden Child', 'starring'

Eddie Murphy. So I began watching, and as I'd feared, it was painfully inept - the only saving grace perhaps the little boy of the title, who had a certain calm grace.

I did a scriptwriting course once where the teacher said that we should watch everything, good and bad, the latter to see how it's not done. I stoutly followed her advice this time, but there came a point, about an hour in and possibly coinciding with yet another of those trademark Murphy chortles that he and his directors think so endearing, when I could stand it no more.

Suffice it to say that cleaning the cat-boxes suddenly became a much more attractive proposition.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Pan Tau - 29-03-2008 09:38

Goodbye Lenin is indeed a fine movie. The recreation of the DDR news, "Aktuelle Kamera", was spot-on satire.

I also would recommend Bella Martha, which was recently remade in the US with, I think Catherine Zeta-wotsit and the dude from Thank You For Smoking.

Another German film which I rather enjoyed, despite its flaws, was Kopf Gegen Die Wand.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 29-03-2008 15:15

Pan Tau wrote:

Another German film which I rather enjoyed, despite its flaws, was Kopf Gegen Die Wand.

Have you seen Akin's new one? I haven't (for political reasons to do with the cinema industry in London, not cos I don't want to, I will have to wait for a DVD).

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 30-03-2008 00:00

On a whim, I downloaded "Belleville Rendez-Vous" this afternoon - I had a quick look at it and it looks visually stunning.

Also, I downloaded "A Boy Named Charlie Brown". Not sure why I did this.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Pan Tau - 30-03-2008 10:12

No I haven't, lyra. What political reasons?

I watched a couple of episodes of a 1973 German TV series called Der Bastian yesterday. It's lightweight prime-time fodder I care about only for reasons of nostalgia. But watching old TV shows is also an enjoyable exercise in social anthropology.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 30-03-2008 12:20

According to wiki, there are three films called Sehnsucht, two of which are extant. Which do you mean: the 1990 one or

the 2006 one?

(There are also two albums with that name, it turns out: one by Rammstein and one by Schiller. The former is very good.)

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 30-03-2008 13:10

Oh the most recent one, 2006. I didn't know of the other - I will check it out.

PT - just rubbish to do with bookers and stuff

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 30-03-2008 14:23

Jon wrote:

However, one small favour - could you possibly make 2 seperate threads in the Film and TV section - ie 'Current Watching - TV', and 'Current Watching - Film.' Lumping them both together makes it all rather unwieldy.

(on the Current Listening thread)

Unless anyone objects I don't see why not. This one could stay as Film and then I could make a TV one. And films on DVD could stay here and TV shows on DVD could go there. Does anyone object?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by King Mob - 31-03-2008 09:26

Two of the least appetizingly titled programmes to have ever been scheduled on British TV were running concurrently last night - BBC1 had 'Casualty 1904' whilst ITV treated us to 'He Kills Coppers'.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by EIM - 31-03-2008 09:43

Casualty 1904? Really? Fuck. I've just lost a bet (but on the plus side, as it was a bet with myself, I've also won a bet) that the next Casualty/Holby spin-off would be fire brigade based.

I never saw going back in time as an option. That's why these BBC imagineers get paid so much, I guess. Intuitive, original thinking is at a premium, and these fuckers are pushing the envelope as far as it will possibly go.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by King Mob - 31-03-2008 10:07

Fire brigade? And look like a cut-price London's Burning? Nah, I'm waiting for Casualty 2204.

=====

Current Watching

Posted by Crusoe - 31-03-2008 10:09

It'll be that, CSI: Holby or Casualty, P.I.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by EIM - 31-03-2008 10:12

Holby She Wrote.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 31-03-2008 10:17

I saw a trailer for that "Casualty 1904" show and the concept just seemed like comedy gold.

"Get me 20ccs of chloroform, stat!"

"I'm a doctor, man, not a butcher. Bring me my leeches!"

Presumably the Beeb will be rolling out a series of shows apparently modelled on Marvel 1608.

Top Gear 1904: Hammond crashes a horse drawn cart, while Clarkson tests one of these new fangled motor vehicles.

Other suggestions welcomed.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by JtS - 31-03-2008 10:42

News at 8pm

Re:Current Watching

Posted by JtS - 31-03-2008 10:43

Oh and I really can't get enough Pimp my Ride.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 31-03-2008 10:46

Tonight's Skins (E4) is terrific: it completely puts paid to those unrealistic/cartoony/titillating criticisms.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 31-03-2008 11:52

Todd Solondz's Storytelling which has been on the shelf for about 6 years waiting to be watched. It is of course really good. It reminds you of how poor a lot of US output in the 'indie' kind of category is nowadays; Solondz always seems to me to have something genuine, which is lacking in a lot of films these days; I need to think a bit more about how exactly to define it, though.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Aldo Simoncini - 31-03-2008 13:27

I can't believe how crap the TV viewing has been over the past 2 weeks or so. I can't get Freeview at present, so am stuck with the 4 basic channels (no Channel 5 and S4C rather than Channel 4). Because I hate reality/celebrity shows, the choice is absolutley diabolical. It's been mostly youtube videos that have passed my time.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil a fhios agam - 31-03-2008 13:54

I've decided to watch the films of Almovodar from Pepi, Luci, Bom onwards starting from last night. Some memorable characters and scenes and very enjoyable film. I assume there was a deeper significance to the lax attitude to rape and beatings.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 31-03-2008 16:53

I've never got on at all well with Almodovar...be interested in how you find it as you go along.

I am right now starting on the adaptation of Porterhouse Blue which I am tremendously looking forward to. I remember reading the book about 75 years ago and laughing an awful lot...

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 31-03-2008 16:55

Oh goodness, excuse my self-indulgence but it opens with the camera panning around a view that is almost exactly* that of a room I used to live in. *nostalgic sigh*

*they must be at the top of Great St Mary's I guess.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 01-04-2008 14:07

a deeper significance to the lax attitude to rape and beatings

Films made in Spain within a few years of Franco's death were full of lurid 'let's see what we can get away with now the censors've gone' experiments.

In Almo's case this became a kind of manifesto of filth, kitsch and trivia both celebrating the new freedom to represent and using it to question attitudes to gender, violence, sexuality etc.

So without imagining those films, or yourself, in a newly post-fascist context, they can seem gratuitous.

Having said that, Spain still has an appalling record of domestic violence (something like 60 murders a year by male partners), so the hangover of those attitudes/gender roles etc certainly still lingers, making the representation/questioning of such violence arguably still perfectly relevant/ungratuitous.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 01-04-2008 19:03

Lyra: Market Hostel girl, eh? There's a smallish but non-zero chance I may have had sex in your room.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Eggchaser - 01-04-2008 20:20

Torchwood. Finally caught up on all the SKY + episodes, so I await the reintroduction of James Marsters with baited if slightly detached breath as he trawls through his early Buffy Spikeisms.

Coincidentally, I'm also watching early episodes of Buffy seasons 1-3. Looking forward to Band Candy immensely.

I watched Die Hard With A Vengeance. Stupid, mindless fun and Jeremy Irons is rather dishy, all pumped up like that.

I'm not watching anything socially redeeming otherwise. Sorry.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by dglh - 01-04-2008 21:32

The Real Housewives of New York, and Rock of Love 2 (ft. Bret Michaels - again) are about the only things I reliably see.

I love car-crash TV, and both of these clearly are.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 01-04-2008 23:11

I've found a source for the complete Seinfeld, which falls into the category of TV Programmes That Everyone Loves But That I Have Never Watched. I've just downloaded the first couple of series now, which should be enough to be getting on with.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Aldo Simoncini - 01-04-2008 23:25

The only shows I can't really miss is Sgorio (Euro Footy Highlights and discussion show), and Y Clwb Pel-Droed (Welsh Footy Highlights). Everything else is pretty much take it or leave it, Football-wise.

I downloaded an entire series of a documentary called 'Cold War'. It must have been on the BBC a few years ago, but don't recollect it. Great insight if you like that kind of thing.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 01-04-2008 23:36

"Cold War" is excellent - it is a travesty that it has never been released on DVD.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Kowalski - 01-04-2008 23:38

Is that the series like World at War?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 01-04-2008 23:42

Yes - it was directed by Jeremy Isaacs, who directed "The World At War". For the record, the BBC's "The Great War" (which was made in about 1962, I think) makes up the final piece of the Holy Trinity of TV war series.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Kowalski - 01-04-2008 23:52

Speaking as a professional they're good in A Level lessons too.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 01-04-2008 23:58

Yeah, I've just stuck "The Great War" on now. It's a critically important series - talking heads with people that fought in the First World War. In many ways, the production values are such that it could have been made at any point in the last few years.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Kowalski - 02-04-2008 00:05

And there's none of those bloody re-inactments so beloved of recent history documentaries on TV

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 02-04-2008 00:09

Well, the archive film is incredible. The amount of footage used in "The Great War" is more than I would have guessed even existed.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 02-04-2008 09:36

Lyra: Market Hostel girl, eh? There's a smallish but non-zero chance I may have had sex in your room.

Haha! No, 15 King's Parade. Now I think about it though, I may have had sex in more than one room in Market...

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Aldo Simoncini - 02-04-2008 13:35

I've never heard of the Great Way series. Any ideas how I could get hold of it?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Jimski - 02-04-2008 22:17

I've seen Sehnsucht - I thought it was fairly involving, but nothing particularly special. Perhaps not quite enough dialogue for my liking. I did enjoy (slight spoiler) the little post-modern touch at the end though. It actually raised the film quite a lot in my estimation.

A German film I'd recommend is Life Is All You Get, which I just looked up on IMDB and discovered it was directed by the guy who went on to do Goodbye Lenin!.

Then of course there's Herzog and Wenders. The latter's Alice in the Cities is probably my all-time favourite German-language film.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Not me - 06-04-2008 11:44

Tell you what, the BBC is running things on the comedy front at the moment.

I've not heard anyone talking about it, but Pulling is fantastic. The latest episode (with the recovering flasher) doesn't have a wasted line in it. It's there on their download thingy - watch it. Johnny Vegas's thing, Ideal, is good, and I'm enjoying Gavin and Stacey (which has its own thread) too.

I also watched the fourth season of Curb Your Enthusiasm last week, which must constitute its imperial phase. Unbelievably great.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 06-04-2008 17:48

I find Pulling really crude. (In terms of the way it's written and performed, not its subject matter.)

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Not me - 06-04-2008 20:05

Wow, I would have said anything but about that episode. Not a cliché anywhere in the script, seriously.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 06-04-2008 21:23

That was the one where I tried to reacquaint myself with it, having given up after two eps of series one. No clichés, but it's all such sledgehammer wit. I'd have welcomed a couple of clichés.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 07-04-2008 00:35

Actually scratch that, I just watched a bit more of it and it's full of dark/embarrassing cliches.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 09-04-2008 11:41

I've just received tapes of The Iron Man. This is going to be great.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Fuzzy Dunlop - 10-04-2008 12:42

Oz; The Sopranos; Curb Your Enthusiasm; Entourage; The Shield; The Wire; The X Files; The 4400; Jekyll and a bunch of other stuff.

Since I gave up on watching TV back in January, I've watched pretty much nothing else but DVD boxsets rented from the library. If I ever go back to the box, I'll have to get used to watching weekly episodes instead of whole series in a couple of days.

I watched the first three episodes of The Sarah Connor Chronicles last night. Surprisingly good.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by JtS - 16-04-2008 09:32

Ok, so as well as catching Two and a half men, I'm watching The Apprentice and Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares when it's on. Started Chuck too which seems a bit weird.

When I'm on the tube or bus, or at lunch I watch a SouthPark episode on my iPhone. In a month I've got through about 5 series, I'm upto Ginger Kids.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 16-04-2008 10:37

Bully the Larry Clark film. I expected to hate this as I did all the others of his I've seen, but actually it's pretty good. Maybe because it's loosely based on a true story, and the handling of the kind of group psychology was done well.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by marsupialman - 16-04-2008 17:04

I watched 'London to Brighton' last weekend. What a nasty little shit of a film that is. It's 'underclass porn' designed for safe middle class types such as myself to watch and think 'what nasty horrible scummy people these are. I'm glad my life isn't like that'.

Rank.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed Miller - 16-04-2008 18:05

I watched Appleseed: Ex Machina over the weekend. It's a CG-anime film produced by John Woo based on the manga by the same guy who wrote Ghost in the Shell and directed by the same guy too, I think. It's better than the first Appleseed film. The dialog is a bit stiff, but the giant robots/mech suits, flying machines, shoot-up sequences and overall visual look of it is really sweet. Did I mention the mech suits?

<http://img528.imageshack.us/img528/6268/20071020appseezv9.jpg>

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by WornOldMotorbike - 16-04-2008 18:45

I've been actively avoiding "Only Sitcom in The Top 10" Two and a half men for, what, three or four years now. It looks like a train wreck. Two '80s has-beens and a kid. If there's anything I hate more, I can't think of what it might be. So, the other night, of the 600-odd channels on our satellite, there's just plain NOTHING on. I end up watching 2 1/2 Men. And you know what? It was funny. Not Seinfeld funny. Not ironic The Office/CYE/Arrested Development funny. No; genuine, plain-old laughs funny. The kid is surprisingly good, and the larfs aren't as cheap and obvious as I figured they might be. So now I've got a fair bit of catching up to do.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 17-04-2008 08:14

I think you might get tired of it pretty fast. It's basically one joke. Well, two jokes (one of them's uptight, the other one's irresponsible).

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 17-04-2008 09:52

Also it seems based on the idea that Charlie Sheen is irresistibly attractive to women, rather than a slightly simple looking bloke with no lips and a weird chin.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 17-04-2008 14:49

The Eye - the new remake that is. I actually quite enjoyed this, for what it is, it's not bad at all.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 21-04-2008 11:21

Camping Sauvage I liked this; it's really lovely to look at, in total contrast to the content; it's weirdly romantic though, too.

Iron Man what an odd odd film. At first I thought it was politically very dubious - then it totally reversed that - but what an odd mixture of comic superhero and commentary on US foreign policy.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 21-04-2008 13:40

Having spent my Easter break on a fast-paced 'Battlestar Galactica' dvd marathon, I'll soon be able to read the thread on it without fear.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Aidan - 21-04-2008 14:38

Desperate Housewives. How will Gabi dump Carlos ?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Jon - 21-04-2008 22:01

Dunno, but last week I watched Desperate Housewives for the first time since the first series.

There was a scene in it that was so similar to my life it was spooky. One of the Housewives (the one married to the guy from Fargo in real life) came down the stairs dressed like a slutty cheerleader and said to her husband - 'Are you coming to bed now?' To which he replies - 'Not quite yet, I'm got to change my Fantasy Football team.'

All exactly like my life every Friday night (except for the slutty cheerleader bit).

By the way, Lyra - I'm impressed you could slip in the fact that you'd seen Iron Man so casual, like. I'll be starting a brand new thread when I see it - as shiny as his armour.

And - grrrr - when are you going to sort out Current Watching into 2 seperate threads? Is it only me who is annoyed by it?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 21-04-2008 22:12

The last two weekends, I've been downloading films that I either haven't seen for years or that I've never seen before. Yesterday, I had the curious double bill of "Death Race 2000" and "Manhattan". They were, I thought, both great.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by EIM - 21-04-2008 22:37

The Shield, season 3.

Still brilliant. If The Wire is better than this, I can't fucking wait to get stuck in to it.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 21-04-2008 22:50

Only rank amateurs make fantasy football transfers on a Friday, without the benefit of Saturday morning's team news.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 22-04-2008 08:23

On old OTF, there was a thread about cultural phenomena that has passed you by, and I don't think that I was the only person to say "Star Wars". So, I downloaded all six of the "Star Wars" films last night, and I'm planning to watch them over the course of Friday night and Saturday morning. Should I be watching them 4-6, and then 1-3 (ie, in chronological order), or 1-6?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 22-04-2008 08:29

4-6, then smash the hard disk to pieces with a hammer.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 22-04-2008 09:16

I'm almost certain that my concentration will start to wane after I've seen Darth Vader's big old head at the end of, ummm, whichever one of them that is.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 22-04-2008 10:23

Jon, I don't know, no one else seems bothered, and actually I quite like the interplay between films and TV... I think since people watch both on DVD anyway these days it becomes less of a divide anyway.

Like for example, the new X-Files film! I am SO over the top excited about this already.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 22-04-2008 10:35

I think mixing film and TV is stimulating more discussion of both than there ever was before.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Jimski - 22-04-2008 18:40

I watched 'London to Brighton' last weekend. What a nasty little shit of a film that is. It's 'underclass porn' designed for safe middle class types such as myself to watch and think 'what nasty horrible scummy people these are. I'm glad my life isn't like that'.

Really? It's a while since I watched it, but I remember thinking it was fairly good. I didn't think the people were particularly 'scummy'. The bad guys were bad, sure, but the others were sympathetically drawn, weren't they?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 01-05-2008 13:22

Ae Fond Kiss the other day.

Hmm. I always think with Loach that if we didn't have him someone would have to invent him; he does seem to fill a necessary kind of gap inbetween Mike Leigh and Shane Meadows and after Alan Clark etc etc. But I'm never *surprised* by his films in the way that I want to be. They're safe in their territory, I suppose. That's not to say they can't be funny and affecting and interesting and moving, but they just don't quite do it for me and to understand why I'd have to analyse a bit more how I feel about Shane Meadows and the Dardennes and Pavel Pawlikowski and so on.

Anyway the subject matter of this - Pakistani Muslims and their settlement in a Scottish community in Glasgow - is something that touches my own experience and films about this always reduce me to a weeping wreck anyway (see also My Son The Fanatic in particular). And I also often feel that trying to avoid stereotypes isn't what these films should be doing so much as attempting to analyse where they come from. In that respect this didn't do too badly, and even the character of the strict dad was rounded; and he was emotional in the way that I think Pakistani-English men of his age often actually are, which is kind of what I mean about stereotypes.

But in the end, I couldn't love it the way I love My Son The Fanatic. Could this be because Hanif Kureishi and Udayan Prasad really do understand what they're doing in a fundamental way that Loach can't? Normally I would reject this kind of thought, but here.. I don't know. Probably too personal for me, anyway.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 02-05-2008 16:01

I watched 88 Minutes (Al Pacino) last night.

Flee.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 09-05-2008 14:51

You, the Living. The new Roy Andersson film. Unbelievably brilliant. Så fantastisk. It's just as good as Songs from the Second Floor, which I also loved very much. Amazing film.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Big Daves Gussett - 09-05-2008 14:59

I'm really pleased I stuck with Dexter. Absolutely cracking stuff. David off Six Feet Under is clearly better at choosing his projects than Nate off Six Feet Under. Dirty Sexy Money? Yeeurch!

Re:Current Watching

Posted by bckjags - 09-05-2008 14:59

Liam Neeson chasing Pierce Brosnan across america back in the cowboy days. I can never remember names of films but this one was bloody good.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 09-05-2008 15:07

I've got to get through the whole of Dexter series 2 before Wednesday. I'm hoping to manage to watch it in order, unlike series 1...

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 09-05-2008 15:20

Is the Andersson film in cinemas or on DVD, Lyra? Songs from the Second Floor was indeed brilliant.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 09-05-2008 15:46

It's been and gone at the cinema, I believe; the DVD won't be ready yet (that's why I was watching it today) but I imagine it'll be out in a month or so. I can't get over how good it was, and I had high expectations after SFTSF.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Not me - 09-05-2008 16:26

Yeah, it came out in March I think. I couldn't persuade anyone to go.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 09-05-2008 20:53

Saw My Blueberry Nights last night (I was forced). Very dull opening, and Norah Jones will never win an Oscar, I mean never. But it had some good things - David Strathairn as the obsessed, alcoholic, cuckolded husband, for instance(identification?). And it looks very good. In the end I kinda liked it.

*** possible spoiler ***

There are two very creepy moments, though: in both of them, Our Norah is slumped comatose over the counter of a café, bits of blueberry pie and cream on her lips, and Jude Law (yes he - awful) leans over and kisses them clean.

Ooh - a shuddering down the spine just thinking of it.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Coffy - 13-05-2008 22:23

I can't stop thinking about Marie Antoinette after having watched it over the weekend. I know I should start its own thread instead of using this one, but I have nilophobia. Would there be any takers for a separate discussion?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 13-05-2008 22:39

Me. I *adored* Marie Antoinette.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 14-05-2008 18:44

So over the last 2 days I have watched Dexter series 2. It was pretty enjoyable. Yes. I liked it a bit more than series 1. Apparently they didn't stick to the storyline of a book this time.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by noby - 15-05-2008 08:58

Since Channel 4, E4, and More4 became FTA last week I find myself watching a lot of Grand Designs, interspersed with the likes of My Name is Earl.

I'm sure the novelty will wear off soon enough.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 18-05-2008 14:10

Doomsday last night. I actually really loved this. It's totally stupid, and it has that glorious kind of breathtaking pomposity with an undercurrent of humour that you get in all the best action films. There's also stacks of gore, there's a real culture of a very particular sort of violence, which always gives a film character. And it's set in that kind of future world where there's great technology, but everything's useless and rusty and falling apart, like, you know, Firefly type thing.

And it's a hilariously audacious mishmash of genres, which is kind of delightful. You can't decide whether to make a zombie film, a war film, a gladiator film, a disaster film, a sci-fi dystopia film, a Robin Hood drama - never mind, no need to choose.

It actually really reminded me of the Australian series The Tribe, which I used to absolutely love. Same theme of post apocalyptic punk and discussion of how religions arise.

Oh I meant to add - there's not one plot point that stands up to even a moment's thought. You have to just accept that and go with it, otherwise it would be no fun at all.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Kowalski - 19-05-2008 19:51

Dempsey and Makepeace ITV 3. After not watching it for 20 years I'd forgotten how believable it all is.

In this installment they're performing undercover surveillance.

Their vehicle of choice; an open-top Escort XR3i.

Their uniform; a bow tie and blonde bubble perm for her, head to toe stonewashed Denim with a lovely padded collar for him.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 20-05-2008 13:21

Cloverfield - on an outstandingly good naughtily-downloaded DVD copy. Excellent quality.

Dramatically non-existent (and I'm glad I didn't see it in a cinema - motion-sickness as entertainment isn't a concept I wish to embrace), but technically superb and a mind-boggler in so far as wondering How They Did That (yes, I know it was CGI, but it's so seamless these days I have trouble figuring out where pixels start and sets end). The shaky-cam, documentary style was a novel choice of approach even though it's been done to death now, and it did exert a frenzied creepiness of some kind - and a sense of wary anticipation prior to the first jolt.

One amusing aspect - you've seen the head of the Statue of Liberty flying down the street, you've got a skyscraper-large creature visiting apocalypse on your city....and you can't shout FUUUUUCK?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 20-05-2008 13:23

I'm nearing the end of Six Feet Under, and there have been some outstanding episodes. Notably the one where there's a party at the art gallery where Claire has her work displayed, and the one (which I watched last night) where they all throw a surprise 40th birthday party for Nate, and a blue bird flies in through the window.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ykikamoocow - 20-05-2008 13:33

It's Mad Men for me – it is compulsive not only for the storyline and acting (both flawless) but the sheer attention to detail shown in the all aspects of life that was pertinent to 1960 is staggering – it's a real period piece. The theme tune kicks ass too, it's the best I've heard in a long time.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 20-05-2008 13:36

Mad Men is incredibly good.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 20-05-2008 15:06

Planet Terror - utter bollocks. Untidy, thrill-less and with only a few inventive moments here and there to lift it. Disappointing after hearing so much of this word of mouth that said it was by far the better of the two Grindhouse movies intended for a double-bill. A waste of time.

That said, Rose McGowan (she of the machine-gun leg) is cute.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by gerontofiel - 20-05-2008 22:28

New Tricks which has been running on UKTV Drama, and I have been taping whilst otherwise engaged.

Its a really good programme, and the weak link is Dennis Waterman, although he doesnt get too much to do except chat up 'birds' and cook Cordon Bleu occasionally. I love it. Especially Amanda Redman who isnt too vain to show the huge burn scars on her arm. Alun Armstrong and James Bolam are not even trying to be brilliant.

West Wing (reruns)

I have been a total slave to this since it first came out, and in the second complete run, I have forgotten half of the storylines which is BRILLIANT, as I get to see them all again with a new eye.

Peep Show

I have seen one episode, and I almost did myself a mischief through laughter... I keep forgetting its on, as I have a routine (dont ask)

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Rabbitoh - 20-05-2008 23:17

Saw a repeat of the Art of Spain tonight; brilliant.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by gerontofiel - 21-05-2008 05:31

Shrink Rap with Kathleen Turner.

Either Ms Turner is the best actress ever (possible) or she has, with Pamela Stephenson, nudging and prodding (guidedly), just participated in the most honest thing on TV. (Stephen Fry was far too knowing, in his)

Either way, she is fucking PHENOMENAL.

Now, I am with the judges on this one... why are these celebrities allowing their 'stuff' to be shown on TV? Salman Rushdie did one, and I didnt watch it. Robin Williams did one, and again, I didnt watch it. Are these all mates of her husband, or is that sheer, unadulterated sexism on my part?

Whatever it is, Kathleen Turner is just superb.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by gerontofiel - 21-05-2008 06:04

I like Pamela Anderson, but she reminds me of:

<http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Academy/3108/janice2.jpg>

and of course I meant Stephenson/Connolly

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Eggchaser - 21-05-2008 14:57

The Supersizers Go...1940s

Giles Coren and Sue Perkins live for a week on rationing food. Brilliant, especially when he pissed off to the War Rooms

to dine like Churchill whilst she was forced to forage in the field for snails.

Can't wait for the Restoration one next week. Any programme with a trailer containing the line "I've been drunk since 9 a.m." sounds good to me.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Fred Keenor - 21-05-2008 18:00

I happened on that for the last 20 minutes or so and it was very enjoyable, mainly because Coren and Perkins are very personable.

I hope to find a BBC3/4 repeat and am going to record the next one, was it the first in a series?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 22-05-2008 08:53

I Am Legend - watchable, yet undernourished sci-fi, with only a stunning depiction of New York as a wilderness as its trump card. A magazine reviewer once commented that when Isaac Asimov's I, Robot came to the screen, it stopped being a film about Isaac Asimov's tale and just became A Will Smith Film.

The same is here, with Will Smith the centre of everything. He's actually good, but it seems to be Will Smith, not any particular character he's playing, who's engaged in the story's events. A case of the Gene Hackmans - being himself, but doing it well.

Faintly compelling, but ending up flaccid and saccherine in the end (and the CGI zombies - or whatever the makers intended them to be called - were ineffective. Well done, but blah). Wasted opportunity.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Eggchaser - 22-05-2008 09:12

Yes, Fred, they're doing Restoration, Regency, 70s, Victorian and Elizabethan.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Big Daves Gussett - 23-05-2008 14:20

I was completely wrong about Mad Men upthread. It is utterly captivating. The best-looking programme I think I have ever seen. Don Draper is so silky smooth that he makes the rest of mankind look like Skreech from Saved by the Bell.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Kowalski - 23-05-2008 23:49

Dempsey and Makepeace wardrobe update -

Him; Thin tie, tweed sports jacket, aviator shades

Her; Victorian style lacy blouse, leather trousers

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Moral Animal - 24-05-2008 18:49

I hope to find a BBC3/4 repeat and am going to record the next one, was it the first in a series?

Harry - bit of a late shout, but the Wartime episode is on BBC2 again at 7p.m. tonight.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 24-05-2008 20:59

Dempsey and Makepeace wardrobe update -

Him; Thin tie, tweed sports jacket, aviator shades

Her; Victorian style lacy blouse, leather trousers

I'd like to say 'I remember that', but I can't: it was shit.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Kowalski - 26-05-2008 19:18

D & M wardrobe Update:

Him: No-nonsense Blue pullover

Her: Cream jumpsuit embellished by belt, then Trilby, Cream chunky sweater, mackintosh

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Not me - 26-05-2008 23:33

Mad Men is unreasonably good, isn't it? The period piece stuff and the veneer of good looks (Draper and the red-headed woman in particular) slip aside quite quickly to reveal genuinely grown up drama, delivered at an admirably stately pace. I've not been so drawn into a TV programme since The Sopranos ten years ago.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Kowalski - 26-05-2008 23:49

I started to watch Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy today, that's very nicely paced

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Eggchaser - 28-05-2008 09:19

Oh Lord, the Supersizers go..Restoration. Apart from the obvious comedy of seeing them boozed to the gills for a whole week and a grown man pissing in a bucket at a formal meal, the food was beyond belief. And watching the cook dispatch the eels and then chop their still twitching carcasses was fantastic.

Thank heavens I don't have to undergo the gallstone operation is all I can say.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 28-05-2008 11:57

I've not been so drawn into a TV programme since The Sopranos ten years ago.

It's more or less the same show, isn't it? Which is fine by me.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 28-05-2008 12:42

I've just finished the second series of an American show called "It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia". The best way to describe it would be to say that it didn't really help my already fragile mental state on Monday afternoon.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 28-05-2008 13:09

Poor man's Curb, innit.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 28-05-2008 15:13

CYE on the list of cultural phenomena that have passed me by.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Not me - 28-05-2008 15:34

It's more or less the same show, isn't it? Which is fine by me

It is in essence, but it obviously feels a lot less busy due to the office-or-home setting and the lack of beatings, nightclub scenes, multitudinous cousins stuffing their pottymouths with food etc. It focusses a bit more explicitly on the female characters and gender roles too, I think.

It's does the same job in a strikingly understated way, dunnit. I still have the same reaction to Pete as I did whasisname, the horrible blonde one in The Sopranos.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 04-06-2008 11:46

So I watched the Ed Wood Bride of the Monster yesterday. It was pretty cool. Bela Lugosi makes any film watchable I reckon. It was both terribly incompetent and completely charming all at once, like most of his stuff. Comforting.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Mercedes Actros - 04-06-2008 15:42

Supersizers is excellent. I must admit to having a bit of a thing for Sue Perkins. Wasn't there a thread a few weeks ago about people you fancy, but you probably shouldn't?

Another programme that is absolutely superb is Magnetic North with Jonathon Meades(BBC2, Thursday nights).

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by JtS - 04-06-2008 17:15

After watching both series of Gavin & Stacey on holiday, the missus and I are now working our way through Peep Show, we finished series one last night. Due to our Virgin TV package there are 4 series to view at no additional cost.

Tv on Demand is aces.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Coffy - 04-06-2008 17:18

I saw Bride of the Monster as an episode of Mystery Science Theater 3000, and even then Bela Lugosi's struggle with the giant octopus looked fishy, as if he were encouraging it instead of fighting it off. Seeing the movie Ed Wood explained that, even if some of the things in Ed Wood weren't exactly accurate.

Ed Wood, what a great movie.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 06-06-2008 09:38

Cassandra's Dream

Oh it wasn't that bad. I got quite absorbed by the middle section, incompetencies notwithstanding. Is anyone else going to bother?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nuno Gomes Loves Lyra - 15-06-2008 12:14

California Dreamin'

Overly long, this was. It was OK. Only OK, really, although it was absorbing enough to watch (partly because Jamie Elman is gorgeous) but yeah, pretty forgettable. The sort of film that sets up something massively thematic and allegorical and then kind of forgets to do anything with it (ironically, one of those things is an unexploded bomb).

I also forgot to write about The Love Guru. I sort of enjoyed this despite not really caring for Mike Myers or his Peter Sellers obsession. Basically though all it really is is a string of knob jokes, and some of them are amusing enough.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 18-06-2008 00:20

.

Just watched The Swimmer, with Burt Lancaster (1968). I remember seeing this reviewed positively at the time, but

never got round to seeing it. Brilliant, brilliant film.

(*** possible spoilers ***)

If anyone doesn't know it, an upper-middle-class guy resolves to make his way home over the valley by swimming ... in a chain of swimming pools belonging to friends and acquaintances. The choice of project is a hint to the man's state of mind, which gets increasingly rocky as the film progresses.

I was never a BIG fan of Burt Lancaster, but here he's absolutely magnificent - his deterioration from beaming cockiness to a floppy rag of a man in a single day is in turn spellbinding and excruciating.

The only minus, maybe, is the strident, string-based score ... could have been something more laid back, jazzy, like for example Point Blank, perhaps.

But I was knocked out by it. And it ticked loads of boxes for me on the way.

Highly recommended.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by toro toro - 18-06-2008 01:57

My flatmate has just got the first series of Dexter, since we're running out of FYC dvds. What should I expect?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nuno Gomes Loves Lyra - 18-06-2008 09:40

Dexter is all right, it's watchable enough. I had to watch both series in about 3 days each at work so I might have had too concentrated an experience of it. It's got a nice level of blood and gore, bit of humour, and David from Six Feet Under and Darla both do pretty good jobs with their characers. But it's a bit samey, and you wouldn't want to watch it if you need things to have any level of plausibility. It's good but not great, maybe.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nuno Gomes Loves Lyra - 18-06-2008 09:42

FYC? Fine Young Cannibals?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ursus arctos - 18-06-2008 11:05

erwin, Burt Lancaster was an excellent actor who suffered considerably from being typecast and hamstrung by the Hollywood system. If you liked The Swimmer (which I agree is excellent), you should be sure to see Atlantic City (if you haven't done so already).

Lancaster also has a bit part in Bertolucci's 1900.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 18-06-2008 11:57

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Yes, ursus - I've seen Atlantic City but it was a long time ago. Worth a re-see, I reckon ... if only for Susan Sarandon and the lemons.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 18-06-2008 16:25

Can't let Burt Lancaster go without a mention for Visconti's 'The Leopard' too.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by toro toro - 18-06-2008 19:19

Lyra - "for your consideration". her line of work entails getting loads of dvds from Bafta.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Not me - 18-06-2008 20:38

Anguished PM for you, Bully boy.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by J1s - 18-06-2008 20:42

Agree about 'California Dreamin'; enjoyable but not brilliant and a bit overlong. I know the director died in post-production so maybe whoever supervised the final cut decided to try and leave as much in as possible?

Also agree about Burt Lancaster and would like to add 'Sweet Smell Of Success' to the list of great films mentioned.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Max Payne - 19-06-2008 12:41

Does anyone know where to find a copy of series 1 of The Secret Life of Us that isn't prohibitively expensive?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Max Payne - 19-06-2008 12:42

Mrs Max is an Aussie if that helps solve the randomness.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nuno Gomes Loves Lyra - 19-06-2008 13:16

her line of work entails getting loads of dvds from Bafta.

d'oh.

In my house there are always 457 screeners waiting to be watched. And yet never anything I feel like watching.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nuno Gomes Loves Lyra - 19-06-2008 13:23

I remember the Secret Life of Us. We all got hopelessly addicted to it at work. I just googled it and there were 4 series, I didn't know that. Um. it looks like it might have been deleted. Likely there'll be a reissue at some point though.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nuno Gomes Loves Lyra - 19-06-2008 13:26

You can rent it off Lovefilm...

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nuno Gomes Loves Lyra - 20-06-2008 15:07

Before the Rains with Linus Roache. I liked it well enough - it's beautiful, Kerala is always photogenic. and the story is so sad. Kind of in the Merchant Ivory type style.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 25-06-2008 23:52

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The Flock, with a solid Richard Gere (despite the absurd plot) and an absolutely woeful Claire Danes (I'm afraid).

It's a cross between 8mm with Nicolas Cage and Se7en. But nowhere near as good as either of them ... no, not even 8mm.

I think bits might have been chopped out for general release, because it was very confused in places.

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=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 27-06-2008 00:52

Wanted.

This was aces fun. Silly plot, as you would expect, but a cut above the usual VFX fests thanks to a sharp, witty script. And what VFX! Nice to see innovative effects actually used innovatively, cleverly, even sometimes meaningfully.

And oh, the pretty. I am totally in love with both James McAvoy and Angelina Jolie.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 27-06-2008 01:08

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I am in love with only one of those mentioned.

But it appears that Nuno Gomes has fallen out of love with you, Lyra. And it was going so well ...

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=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 27-06-2008 11:13

'S all right really - I'm used to it...

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 29-06-2008 03:41

I just watched Hannibal on TV cos now I've been to Florence I was interested to see it again. I think Scott did a pretty OK job in the end with this. There's a few rubbish moments but generally it's thoughtful enough. greatly helped by the photography of course.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 30-06-2008 05:01

I saw Wanted this weekend. It's not bad. It's not great either.

This is one of those rare films "based on" a book that deviates wildly from the book and manages to be better for it. The beginning is roughly the same. But the premise of the graphic novel by Scottish writer JG Millar is that the world's supervillians have killed all the superheroes or brainwashed them to forget they were ever superheroes. They've also brainwashed the world's population to forget the world was not always as shitty as it is now. There's some kind of rift among the ruling cabal of supervillians, but I don't recall what.

The film has nothing to do with supervillians or superheroes.

The book is beyond dark. It's nihilist. Wesley kills lots of people just for the hell of it. Nothing gets better. Nobody learns anything. Actually, come to think of it, it's kind of stupid. The film is actually more interesting in that regard.

Tonight I saw Pixar's WALL-E. It's fantastic. Another triumph for Pixar. My brother said that my four year old nephew and two year old niece liked it, but didn't understand it completely. A lot of the story probably won't make sense to small children because it's not explicit. But they may enjoy it anyway because of all the clever robots.

Also, the film is proceeded by a clever animated short that was written and directed by a guy that I knew growing up. His sister was born within hours of me in the next room and my mom got to know his mom.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Heliotrope - 01-07-2008 15:21

I thought I saw a mention of the new Will Smith movie Hancock somewhere on these boards, but I can't seem to find it. Haven't seen it myself (so not really Current Watching), but it was raved about in the local paper today--3.5 stars out of 4.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 01-07-2008 15:25

The Independent gave Hancock one star out of five. The trailer looks amusing enough - I'll probably go when it opens here.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 01-07-2008 15:39

I saw Wall-E at Glasto. It's a pretty bold move to release a feature length cartoon these days with basically no dialogue for the first half and only two characters who have any number of actual lines. It's definitely a good film, but I was a little underwhelmed. The trademark Pixar moments (the traffic system on the spaceship, for instance) were brilliant, but there didn't seem to be much meat to the film as a whole.

*****SPOILERS*****

As you say the backstory was hinted at rather than told, in a way that wasn't quite satisfying to me. It threw up a lot of questions that would have been fun to address directly but never were. What are the politics/religions like on the spaceship? How do they deal with waste if they couldn't on Earth? How would the people cope when they returned to Earth? Wouldn't they be better off on the ship? How do you go about recolonising a planet with one plant?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 01-07-2008 15:49

The Orphanage - seriously creepy, several jumps out of seat and lots of "don't go in there you stupid woman!" moments ... but as I said on another thread, the ending is a bit diappointing.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 15-07-2008 12:46

Finally - the mini series and first 4 episodes of Battlestar Galactica. Yeah, I will keep watching. I liked it. I like the aesthetic and the miserableness.

also Charlie Wilson's War, which I found nauseating in the extreme. and last night rewatched Things We Lost In the Fire,

which made me cry, again, but her films always make me cry.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 15-07-2008 16:05

I'm in the middle of "The Death Of Yugoslavia" at the moment. Cheery, cheery stuff.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 15-07-2008 16:17

I watched The Machine Girl on Sunday. It's as mental and as awesome as Chris Sims says.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 15-07-2008 16:22

I went to see Hellboy II last night. It is awesome.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Sir Fabio - 16-07-2008 18:46

The High Chaparral on DVD. I got it for Christmas and have so far watched 80 episodes. I'm saving the last 18 episodes from series 4 so I have something to look forward to in my sad uneventful life.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by gerontophile - 16-07-2008 23:41

Welcome Sir Fabio.

Tonight I watched Marco's Feast and I thought his menu choices were brilliant. The Gulls egg mayonnaise looked stunning.

However, he is a bit of a twat. He didnt want to be seen on camera slagging off the people who had been in the previous clip (eels) and had the resounding hump about it all.

Last week he served up venison tartare, and much as I am not a fan of raw meat, I would have given my left bollock to have a taste of that.

He did fish and chips tonight, and I was sat on the couch with the partner, screaming, 'Fuck! Thats how I make the batter! Thats how I (double) cook my chips! This Michelin star shit is a piece of piss, innit'

To which, my mate replied, 'Yes, but he doesnt fuck up gravy like you do. More chuffing lumps than Jordan and her triplet sisters'

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 17-07-2008 17:03

Sergei Bodrov's Mongol was a substantial slice above my expectations. The first film I've seen in ages that uses David Lean/John Ford style panoramas with anything approaching their skill, or battle scenes with minimal CGI. Most of all I liked the way the story retained oral storytelling forms: chronological but episodic, with big chunks of exposition omitted. Watch for the kid who plays the young Genghis Khan — I was scared of him — and the actor who plays Borte, his wife, is excellent. She is every bit as heroic as the Great Khan himself (possibly more so) and the film is very much "their" story not his. I'm bouncing up and down in anticipation of the next part of the trilogy.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 21-07-2008 11:05

Lust, Caution which was very good. Not quite up there with say, In The Mood For Love, as I think despite the complex emotional situations of the plot, Lee's film lacked the extraordinary degrees of subtlety that Wong can achieve when he's at his best; nevertheless it was lovely to look at (it almost feels like cheating, making a period piece set in Shanghai and Hong Kong - how could it not look amazing?) and the performances were great. And I have to love a film in which they play mahjong constantly. A concealed kong of Red Dragons! That's pretty nice to have in your hand and probably symbolised something that I'm a bit too dim to grasp.

also The Edge of Love which was a bit pointless really - disappointing from John Maybury. Keira Knightley was OK, with her comedy Welsh accent and her grown up problems; Sienna Miller was ridiculous, I thought Caitlin Thomas was Irish but her accent veered from London posh through a kind of imitation of Keira's 'Welsh' and everything in between. And the story didn't have any kind of resonance as far as I was concerned. I think it's possible it was trying to say something about the artistic process (cf Love Is The Devil) but that just translated to Dylan Thomas being a bit of a childish twit and then reading some poems out at appropriate times. and I so cannot be doing with the 'female friendship' theme in films that think it should be handled as a mixture of jealousy, resentment, and closeted lesbianism. Cillian Murphy was really great, though, seemed to live at a different emotional register to the rest of them.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by King Mob - 21-07-2008 12:19

Grundy's Northern Pride

In which writer, historian, broadcaster and all-round Northern bloke John Grundy traverses the breadth of Northern England looking at examples of great Northern architecture, with the emphasis firmly, in case you hadn't realised, on the North. This has become a don't-miss fixture recently, not least because it's a decently-made bit of regional programming that provides an agreeable and informative alternative to the slew of soaps on the other channels. And also, it's on when no-one else is in the house, so I can sink into an armchair and watch it in peace.

Currently showing, in Granada at least, on Thursday evenings.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 24-07-2008 12:01

I'm watching Tropic Thunder. It's fucking hilarious so far I have to admit.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ykikamoocow - 25-07-2008 15:16

Found myself watching On The Buses this morning - I couldn't stop chuckling whenever Arthur put down Olive, no matter that it was predictable every time.

It is a truly terrible programme though, but like a car crash or a drunken argument I feel drawn to it. I'm like Harry the mosquito heading towards the luminous bug zapper in A Bug's Life;

"No Harry. Stay away from the shite,"
"I can't help it, it's so awful..."

Re:Current Watching

Posted by gerontophile - 29-07-2008 08:00

New Tricks again, and

*****SPOILER*****

I didnt realise how good James Bolam is in it, until he came back.

*****SPOILER UNDONE*****

The other 3 are absolutely great, but James Bolam is acting their socks off. I am a huge fan of Alun Armstrong, and I think he is possibly giving way due to the storyline. Superb stuff (although the storylines are starting to look a wee bit jaded)

Top Gear the other night, was brilliant, again. I am so pleased about Jay Kay (although he was smashed out of his knickers on the show)

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 29-07-2008 09:35

Not current, but I had a gander at that Martin Clunes vehicle, Doc Martin last week, if only for the sight of Felicity Montagu divested of all the frumpy trappings of Alan Partridge's mousey assistant, Lynn, looking svelte, slim and convincingly washed out as the coastal town's resident alcoholic. Which is a pointer to how damn good she was in Coogan's masterpiece. Blimey, she even looked a bit...erm..foxy at times.

Carry on.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 29-07-2008 10:23

Doc Martin is great. And yeah, Felicity Montagu is a fox. Quite fanciable in Nighty Night.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Purves Grundy - 29-07-2008 10:30

Top Gear the other night, was brilliant, again. I am so pleased about Jay Kay (although he was smashed out of his knickers on the show)

Yeah, he and Jeremy did come across as very excitable. They could barely sit still. And so talkative.

And it's always nice to see Sabine Schmidt swearing. Brings out my inner Max Mosley.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by gerontophile - 29-07-2008 10:31

gratuitous Felicity Montagu shot:

<http://www.timeout.com/img/23876/w198/image.jpg>

sumptuous, although she does have a touch of the 'Big Brother contestant' about her.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Purves Grundy - 29-07-2008 16:20

6 hours later and still no takers. That's what's wrong with off, you've all gone soft. Time was there'd have been a queue of people lining up to put that one away.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 29-07-2008 16:48

The last segment of Top Gear on Sunday - I mean, I really like Top Gear, usually despite/because of stuff like that, but... really?

I hope Robin Carmody didn't see it.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 29-07-2008 16:57

That's Carmen Electra in that picture.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 04-08-2008 12:26

I watched There Will Be Blood, well, I fell asleep for a couple of hours and when I woke up the same stuff seemed to be happening, and then I left the room for a bit and an hour or so later it was still the same and...Jesus wept, this is what all the frenzied hype was all about? Good Christ. One of the worst bits was the THX-trailer soundtrack.

and a really lovely film about Vashti Bunyan who is lovely anyway, it was about her horse and cart journey to Skye and it was gorgeous.

and that Channel 4 Boy A thing which was OK, predictable, good performances, blah blah etc blah

and an unbelievably awful, awful, gruesome Julian Temple thing that I am trying very hard to forget I ever knew about.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 04-08-2008 13:27

Girding loins and wuss that I am, I braved Hostel Part 2 on cable, and found it so patently ridiculous and straining to shock - even parodic - that I needn't have been too worried. It was like French and Saunders Do TorturePorn (without F&S, obviously), heading towards spoof country at times in its eagerness to gross out.

Bleh.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 04-08-2008 13:30

I quite enjoyed both Hostel films. Oh dear. I know they're appalling and I know the message of the-US-screws-developing-economies-over is a bit heavy handed but... I quite liked them anyway. I found them surprisingly thoughtful.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 04-08-2008 15:09

I don't know if they're that thoughtful, seeing that Roth's need to lay on the somewhat overdone 'horror' smothers any well, for lack of better word, subtlety or thought behind what he's doing.

There's a good, strong film to be made in the concept Roth presented, but - as Mark Kermode pointed out - his adolescent need to look with goggle-eyed excitement at all that sadism and gore spoils everything.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 04-08-2008 15:51

I just hope he isn't doing a Michael Haneke.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Eggchaser - 04-08-2008 17:14

Well, I watched the first part of The House of Saddam. Excellent stuff. Probably about as true to life as The Tudors, but who gives a shit when it's so good? And lovely how they were hammering home the bits about Saddam being "our monster" back in the day.

Also caught a repeat of Fantabulosa, which I'd not seen before. Very, very good and Michael Sheen was brilliant as Kenneth Williams.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 04-08-2008 18:02

I didn't know the Tudors was back on until it was on. What a lovely treat that was. I love it.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Heliotrope - 04-08-2008 18:24

I've been watching the heck out of Mad Men over the past week, catching up on last season's episodes via On Demand. I know it there were threads about it on the old board, but was there a discussion here? The new search function is pretty bad when it comes to a title like that.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 04-08-2008 19:33

There was a cursory discussion of it on pp7-9 of this thread. Feel free to reactivate it!

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 04-08-2008 20:23

I spent the entire weekend watch the first series of Mad Men. So I'd be up for a thread about it.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Heliotrope - 04-08-2008 20:50

If someone wants to start a thread about it, I'd definitely chip in. I just never start threads myself, being crippled with nilophobia.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 04-08-2008 22:49

I've given up on Man Men. I watched the whole first season and Episode 1 of number 2, but just couldn't be bothered after about 10 minutes of 2:2 last night. It moves at such a glacial pace. I just don't care anymore. Am I a bad person?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 04-08-2008 23:50

No. But you obviously have the attention span of an earwig.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 04-08-2008 23:59

C'mon! I sat with it for a whole season waiting for something to happen. That's a lot of attention, I think.

I don't think it's really the pace that bothers me, but the characters. I dislike them all. Except the gay guy.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 05-08-2008 00:10

I certainly agree with you about the guys, I think the lack of positive male traits might be one of the series's faults. The gals are OK though.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 11-08-2008 10:31

Le Diner de Cons which I had never seen; I looked forward to it so much that it couldn't live up to the level of hilariousness that I had hoped for, but nevertheless it was pretty damn funny. A nice old fashioned one-set farce.

and the first decade or so of Inland Empire. I thought initially that it was just really, really bad-Lynch (shrieking singing; weeping women dripping mascara everywhere, bad motel room decor, strange focus pulls, bizarre close-ups, footsteps running away in the shadows that you somehow know belong to a deformed dwarf) but it was keeping watchable as well. Experience suggests that it may not have been going anywhere, I shall have to wait and see.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Jimski - 11-08-2008 17:49

Inland Empire was awful, awful, awful. I can't actually remember if I bothered watching it to the end - I think I did - but it felt like forever anyway.

Le Diner de Cons was indeed very funny. It's a few years since I saw it, but I still recall that it had me in real fits of laughter. I am a fan of farce, which seems to be pretty unusual these days. Many reviews seem to dismiss it as a genre.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 16-08-2008 18:30

Atonement. Same problem as the book, really, which I guess is worse on film: after the section in the country house, nothing happens. (I realise that's the point - that it ruinously defines everyone's lives - but still.) The film does benefit from having to heavily edit McEwan's endless, research-heavy sections in France and in the hospital, but what it's left with is a bit cursory: you don't feel that there's a huge amount at stake as Robbie tries to get home, and Briony's stint as a nurse doesn't really have a point to it at all.

Worth seeing for the first section, though, which I thought was superbly directed and edited: there's some very economical, stylish visual storytelling, a tasteful use of sound and music (often there isn't any), and I liked both McAvoy and Knightley when they weren't doing their silly who-can-talk-quickest thing. But it does telegraph SPOILER who the rapist is (later on, its heavy-handed, in retrospect, treatment of BIG SPOILER Robbie dying - "You won't hear another peep from me" - doesn't matter so much because if you don't know the story you wouldn't guess that the next morning is a fiction).

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 16-08-2008 20:27

I'd go along with all of that. Except the second half had Dame Vanessa being...well, quite magnificent.

I am a fan of farce, which seems to be pretty unusual these days. Many reviews seem to dismiss it as a genre.

Do you think that's why no one really knows how to do it anymore? I sometimes think so. I watched Death at a Funeral recently which, I realised afterwards, is essentially a farce, but is far too static to raise anything but the odd titter. Farce has to snap, timing is everything, you just can't have dead expository bits, or have people sitting next to each other in cars having conversations. Most of all under no circumstances can you be given time to think about how ludicrous it all is.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 16-08-2008 20:38

Frasier had a pretty damn good go at it a few times: springing to mind are the one in the ski lodge with the French bloke called Guy, and the, if you will, verbal farce of the one where Daphne's ex, Clive, comes to dinner.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 16-08-2008 22:02

Something a bit bad has happened; I switched the tv on and became almost instantly addicted to Last Choir Standing.

This can't be a good sign.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by robw - 17-08-2008 22:27

Recently i've watched the whole of the US Office, which is absolutely fantastic. Today i've watched In Bruges which was excellent and as good i've been told.

I don't watch TV too much but i'm enjoying watching Britain from Above on Sunday nights.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by JtS - 18-08-2008 11:36

Anyone else watching the new comedy series Unhitched

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lucia Lanigan - 19-08-2008 13:08

I watched The Holy Mountain for the first time at the weekend. I am still speechless.

<http://www.sensesofcinema.com/images/directors/07/42/holy-mountain.jpg>

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 19-08-2008 15:47

Jodorowsky=genius, of that there is no doubt.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 19-08-2008 17:50

I love the footage in Britain from Above, but by Christ Marr can be annoying.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Jon - 19-08-2008 20:09

And he's never been more funny looking too.

The BBC are doing more and more of this aerial stuff. Coast and the Apprentice and that Alan Titchmarsh programme about British wildlife all do it. All to push High Definition definition TV I suspect.

And in Britain from Above you often have this majestic shot of Andrew Marr doing his link to camera on the prow of a boat. Kenneth Clark will be turning in his grave.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 22-08-2008 16:38

I've Loved You For So Long. Kristin Scott Thomas acting in French. It's a moving drama about the relationship between sisters, the nature of parenthood, sacrifice, redemption, etc etc, set in the familiar French environment of over the top gorgeous houses, cafes, bars, a world where it's easy to find someone to have anonymous sex in hotel rooms with and everyone has 16 people round to dinner every single evening. It was one of those deeply emotional pieces that make you feel that all French films are and will always be essentially the same. People sit around discussing how knowing Rohmer helps you understand literature, and play classical piano a lot.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Eggchaser - 22-08-2008 16:51

Well, House of Saddam was brilliant from start to end. It even achieved the difficult feat of feeling sorry for (or at least empathising with) the old monster after his sons were killed, as well as other total bastards gunned down throughout the program (like the General shot by his family).

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 22-08-2008 19:50

Kristin Scott Thomas was very good in Tell No One. She was acting in French there too. Maybe one twist too many but a very good film nonetheless.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by jamestown - 22-08-2008 20:55

just bought the box set of absolutely , at the mo alternating between that & sledgehammer (retro time)

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Johanista - 25-08-2008 00:23

Recently saw Russian film The Banishment. I loved director Andrei Zvyaginstev's first film The Return and, whilst this one isn't as good (it loses its sure-footedness a little towards the end), it certainly kept me absorbed for its two-and-a-half hour running time. The Arvo Part on the soundtrack helped.

I also recently watched Southland Tales, Richard Kelly's follow-up to Donnie Darko . It completely bombed on its release and it's easy to see why. And yet, despite its somewhat heavy-handed satire, deliberately crass casting and the sheer overload of crazy ideas and pop culture, I found it oddly compelling and, in places, visually amazing. It's one of those films with its own logic that you just have to, you know, roll with. This did become a bit problematic when battle-scarred war veteran Justin Timberlake started miming along to that Killers song recently discussed on the music thread (the "I'm not a soldier" one) but it was worth it in the end. A fascinating mess.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by robw - 25-08-2008 01:58

Today i've finished watching Ken Burns' excellent documentary The American Civil War despite receiving it as a Christmas gift. No doubt i'll keep re-watching it.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Kid Dynamite - 25-08-2008 12:52

I thought Southland Tales was great. A lot more interesting, and definitely a lot more fun, than Donnie Darko.

It seemed as much a satire of Hollywood attempts at heavy-handed satire as anything - hence the bewildering film within a film stuff. And any movie that worships so devoutly at the altar of Repo Man is fine with me.

I'm hoping for a 4 hour long director's cut that restores all the original musical sequences.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Johanista - 25-08-2008 13:53

Yeah, there did seem to be bits of the film "missing", as it were. There were some graphic novels released explaining the back story but I never read them. Kelly did eventually bring out a 'director's cut' of Donnie Darko which sort of "explained" it more but I personally thought it weakened the film. I don't mind filling in the blanks myself sometimes (The two films I mentioned by Andrei Zvyaginstev require a little of this and are all the better for it).

Speaking of Repo Man, I remember Alex Cox assembling a version of that for tv that restored about 10 extra minutes. Unfortunately, all the swearing was dubbed over. The word "flipping" was used quite a lot and it was also the first time I'd ever heard anyone referred to as a "melon farmer".

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 25-08-2008 15:36

Speaking of Repo Man, I remember Alex Cox assembling a version of that for tv that restored about 10 extra minutes. Unfortunately, all the swearing was dubbed over. The word "flipping" was used quite a lot and it was also the first time I'd ever heard anyone referred to as a "melon farmer".

Unfortunately? The dubbing of banalities over the swearing was a superb touch by Cox and made everything even funnier (a deliberate riposte to the inane sensibilities of censors who cut too much out of films and blot out swearing to the edge of pointlessness). I'd love to see that cut again.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Johanista - 25-08-2008 18:08

Yeah, now I think about it, it's the only time I can remember "flipping" being used this way in an American film (UK censors generally used "freaking"). I always assumed Cox dubbed it himself simply to avoid what happened to the tv version of "Robocop". Everyone who saw that still remembers it.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by EIM - 25-08-2008 18:15

I started on The Wire last night. As in Series 1, Episode 1.

I'm in for a treat, right?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 25-08-2008 20:04

You lucky man.

You may find this helpful.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 26-08-2008 08:16

I've been watching Britain From Above as well. Marr's "dine on the grind" accent does my head in and his mouth is not only so ill-governed it looks like it is trying to escape from his face, but is grotesquely lopsided. A balanced view from that? In a chimp's cock.

But the actual footage and factual stuff is frequently amazing.

Like the tracking of the migration of individual birds which shows that they now use man-made landmarks such as motorways as guides (and have even been known to use roundabouts).

And the mountain on Skye which is so magnetically-charged that compasses are useless.

And the Luftwaffe photos of Manchester, with bombing targets marked in red pen.

The stuff about Rangers-Celtic seemed a bit misplaced and gratuitous, though. Marr encounters a football crowd and discovers that they sometimes engage in jovial banter rather than full-scale warfare, and that softly-softly policing can be more effective than riot squads. Er, right. With a few overhead shots to justify the inclusion.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 26-08-2008 08:24

I always assumed Cox dubbed it himself simply to avoid what happened to the tv version of "Robocop". Everyone who saw that still remembers it.

Oh, nothing beats the ITV cut of Aliens screened in the early 90's (I think) where, to avoid all that nasty swearing, voices completely different to those of the actors replaced the more salty language. It was so jarring, I spent most of that showing thinking 'what the fuck was that?'

Insistences by ITV's movie chief that it was Sigourney Weaver's own voice didn't wash to a lot of people who actually complained about the dumb-down effect applied to the film.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by gerontophile - 26-08-2008 09:09

Last episode in the current series of New Tricks was on last night.

One of the characters (played by Alun Armstrong) is an AFC Wimbledon fan, and there was a crowd scene in a bar after a friendly, full of Dons fans... I was surprised not to see TonTon there, although they must have been ACTORS, as there was a fracas, and there was lots of studious tutting in the background.

Excellent series. James Bolam is superb... although all 4 main actors are good.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 26-08-2008 13:12

The "melon farmer" dub of Repo Man is infamous, and has since been copied, apparently without irony, for other films like Die Hard With A Vengeance.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by gerontophile - 28-08-2008 07:40

Just watched Monday's The Last Word with Sheila Hancock doing a monologue just before she commits euthanasia (yes, I know).

Absolutely magnificent. I rarely use the word, but she was awesome.

If she doesnt win every UK TV acting award, I will send the boys round (to redecorate).

If you havent seen it (and the two companion pieces with Rhys Ifans and Bob Hoskins) go immediately to bbc.co.uk/iplayer and watch. They will be there for a month, I think.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 28-08-2008 09:56

Female Agents. It was all right. I feel like I don't have much to say about it. I think it was a little heavy handed with some of the points it wanted to make - "What does it matter? After the war men will make us whores and slaves again. At least now we have GUNS and can choose DEATH" etc. I did enjoy the stereotype of the gorgeous, cultured, multilingual, sensitive Gestapo interrogator and his forbidden love for a member of the French Resistance.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by gerontophile - 28-08-2008 10:05

OOO I saw that in the cinema two months ago... very wordy, bit melodramatic, very FRENCH but I enjoyed it.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 28-08-2008 13:52

Just watched Monday's The Last Word with Sheila Hancock doing a monologue just before she commits euthanasia (yes, I know).

Absolutely magnificent. I rarely use the word, but she was awesome.

If she doesnt win every UK TV acting award, I will send the boys round (to redecorate).

If you havent seen it (and the two companion pieces with Rhys Ifans and Bob Hoskins) go immediately to bbc.co.uk/iplayer and watch. They will be there for a month, I think.

They're all on again on Monday. I didn't like the Hancock one much but the Ifans one (which isn't a companion piece - all

three are self-contained) is tremendous.

(Oh and things are on iPlayer for a week, not a month.)

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 28-08-2008 14:10

Yeah, I saw the last two of those, the Ifans one in particular was a peach.

They're by Hugo Blick, who was co-writer and director of Marion and Geoff, and they were similar in tone and style to that show. Although I like Rob Brydon, if you look at stuff like this, compared with the Keith Barrett Show (which Blick wasn't involved in), you get the impression that Blick was responsible for a lot of tgh e pignancy and subtlety of that programme.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Tony C - 28-08-2008 14:20

Brydon wrote 'Anually Retentive' though, which was great.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 28-08-2008 20:20

I had a row with my Multiplex cinema over their scheduling of Female Agents. They decided to show it Monday to Thursday 10:10am and 2:00pm.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Johanista - 29-08-2008 00:30

I liked Female Agents too. A bit silly and cliched in places but very enjoyable. However, one thing bugged me:

-----SPOILER ALERT-----

What happened with Louise's pregnancy? It was mentioned a few times and then seemingly forgotten until the end title-card revealed she died childless. Did she miscarry whilst being tortured? Did I miss something? (It's possible. I was occasionally distracted by the whispery-chatty people sat near me in the cinema)

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 29-08-2008 01:51

I'm really looking forward to the restart of the Sarah Connor Chronicles in two weeks time.

Also, I've just been informed by the agency that manages the block of flats I live in that we've got a communal satellite set up. Is Sky worth it these days, and what would be a good package for me if so? Bear in mind that I've got an HD TV and I'm not too bothered about sport (although NFL and an Oxford United channel would be nice).

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 29-08-2008 14:36

Johanista - you know, I have no idea. How odd.

I can't believe Sarah Connor Chronicles is coming back and I won't be here. I bet Swiss TV is useless.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by EIM - 29-08-2008 14:39

lyra - <http://www.surfthechannel.com>

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 29-08-2008 14:55

Er, thanks! What does it do? I can't work it out.

Re Sky, 99.999% of the channels are beyond awful. I wouldn't bother with any of the extra money ones unless you felt like having the movie channels. BBC Four is good but that's free anyway. To give you an idea, the most watchable things on are Friends, Property Ladder, and Top Gear, and those are on 24 hours a day. The rest is shopping channels, Britain's Most Violent Police Chases, religion and pointless soft porn.

Oh I suppose the documentary ones are OK. I watch Animal Planet when it's not too sad. History and National Geographic and Discovery and that. Too much WWII by far though.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by EIM - 29-08-2008 15:02

Go to videos, pick TV, and watch any of those shows.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Harri Saer - 29-08-2008 16:17

I notice that 'How I Met your Mother' is showing on BBC2 with that channel's traditionally useless scheduling for US sitcoms (double episodes around midnight on a Thursday). It's not a great show (and owes huge amounts to 'Friends' and 'Coupling') but I do find it watchable.

I have similar feelings towards 'The Big Bang Theory' but again the scheduling means it's hard to keep track of, I think I have seen it four times but three of those were exactly the same episode.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 29-08-2008 16:23

Yeah, I like both those shows. Totally missable but pretty funny.

How I Met Your Mother is a rerun of series one, which was contemptuously scheduled even the first time, so I assume BBC2 haven't bought series two.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 29-08-2008 16:26

I had a look at Sky's channel listings after I posted and, yeah, it does seem really lacklustre. I'm mildly interested in the documentary channels, but from previous experience the vast majority are rubbish. I also thought there would be more HD channels by now. The movies are very tempting, but I think I'll stick with Freeview.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 29-08-2008 16:31

I thought that the Big Bang Theory was really poor - a lot of stuff that presumably resembled witty repartee, but just wasn't funny. It looked like the kind of thing that doesn't usually make it beyond Paramount Comedy in the small hours of the morning.

However, The Office season 5 starts again in a month, so all is well. I've got Bittorrent poised and ready.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 30-08-2008 02:35

Big Bang Theory has grown on me. It's very broad and the nerd archetypes are sometimes off (for example, in my experience the sort of nerds that are into comics are not the same type that are physics prodigies) but the main characters are appealing and it's on at 8 pm on Monday night, which is prime vegging time for me.

How I Met Your Mother is on right after that. That's also grown on me.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 30-08-2008 10:28

Big Bang Theory is very rubbish.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 30-08-2008 11:34

As I think I said when we had a thread on it, I was quite looking forward to TBBT after I read some very positive comments on US blogs, but I thought it was utter tosh. The IT Crowd but worse. All the jokes are telegraphed from miles away and the characters aren't believable at all.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by robw - 31-08-2008 00:36

Just watched Be Kind Rewind tonight. Disappointing really. Not too many laugh out moments, and although the performances were solid it didn't really do anything for me.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 02-09-2008 17:50

Ghost Town. New romcom with Ricky Gervais and Tea Leoni. Er. I really enjoyed it. It made me both laugh and cry. I know people will hate the idea of Gervais in this sort of role, but he's really good. So, yeah.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 02-09-2008 18:02

I've got a bit of a crush on Tea Leoni, so I might have to watch that against my better judgment.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 02-09-2008 18:10

She plays a scientist! Some sort of archaeologist/anthropologist sort of thing. She does the clever-and-pretty-but-also-quite-ditzy thing very well.

Maybe all this stuff about her husband going back to rehab is quite cleverly timed too.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Harri Saer - 02-09-2008 18:59

Ginger Yellow wrote:

I've got a bit of a crush on Tea Leoni, so I might have to watch that against my better judgment.

A bit of a crush on Tea Leoni? Is such a thing possible?

When she was in that not very good but watchable sitcom where she was the hot girlfriend of a nerd (name of show? Flying or something?) she was beautiful, I will have to check how she has aged.

Edit after research : Flying Blind, that was it. I liked that show. She looks pretty wonderful in this new one as well.

I used to have the biggest crush on Helen Hunt in 'Mad About You' as well, enjoyed the show too until it got really stupid.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 02-09-2008 23:06

"She does the clever-and-pretty-but-also-quite-ditzy thing very well."

Indeed. I'm a sucker for that. See also: Fred off of Angel.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 03-09-2008 11:11

For the last couple of months I've been watching a lot of American TV shows that I missed. The joy of upgrading to a 20MB broadband and a rapidshare account means the world is my oyster.

I've watched the first season of Veronica Mars. It's a bit Basil Exposition and large dollops of suspension of belief are required but I quite like it. I'm not sure how my interest is going to be after the end of the season long case. I watched the first episode of the second series and it didn't do much for me.

I've watched four seasons of Weeds now. I thought the first season was very good with some laughs. It's quality has gone massively downhill with the seasons though and I only keep watching because of my fondness for the lead character and the occassional laugh from Doug or the younger son.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 03-09-2008 11:18

Re: Veronica Mars. Season two is still pretty good, although not as great as season one. It adds a lot of depth to Veronica and to her relationships with her dad, Wallace and some of the other characters. Don't bother with season three, though, unless you want your memories of the previous seasons ruined.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 03-09-2008 11:35

Tips for other TV series to pursue would be nice too. The Wire and The Sopranos have been devoured already. Deadwood, Freaks and Geeks, Friday Night Lights and Battlestar Galactica are on my "To Watch" list.

edit - Thanks GY.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 03-09-2008 12:07

Dexter.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 03-09-2008 13:28

Fred off of Angel.

I love her too. She's so thin though it breaks my heart.

Anyway has anyone seen Babylon AD?I really need to just go and watch something big and stupid and amoral with car chases and things blowing up every few minutes.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by EIM - 03-09-2008 14:13

The theme tune for season 2 of the wire isn't as good as the one for season 1.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 03-09-2008 14:43

And yet it's the original version.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 03-09-2008 14:49

I like the Season 4 version as well, with the Bal'm'r kids singing.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 03-09-2008 15:14

Ginger Yellow wrote:

"She does the clever-and-pretty-but-also-quite-ditzy thing very well."

Indeed. I'm a sucker for that. See also: Fred off of Angel.

And, it goes without saying, which is why I didn't, Willow.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 03-09-2008 15:32

I will never understand the Willow thing. Almost everyone in Buffy was hotter than Willow.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 03-09-2008 15:42

W.O.H.P!!!!

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Mitch - 03-09-2008 16:15

The fifth series of the Wire has the worst theme. It sounds horribly like the bloke from Nickleback.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 03-09-2008 16:16

Futurama, Willow... Your judgement with regard to cult TV is seriously suspect.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 03-09-2008 16:26

Lyra wrote:

I will never understand the Willow thing. Almost everyone in Buffy was hotter than Willow.

We agree on lots, and disagree on lots, but I honestly don't think you and I are further apart on anything than we are on this...

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 03-09-2008 16:27

Mine? Huh. Here is a list of ten people in Buffy who are more attractive than Willow

- 1/ Spike
 - 2/ Faith
 - 3/ Angel
 - 4/ Oz
 - 5/ Darla
 - 6/ Drusilla
 - 7/ Glory
 - 8/ Riley
 - 9/ Jonathan
 - 10/ Adam
-

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 03-09-2008 16:28

Mitch wrote:

The fifth series of the Wire has the worst theme. It sounds horribly like the bloke from Nickleback.

It is, in fact, Steve Earle, and I think it's pretty good. But then I would. I've not heard it in situ, though; just on Earle's most recent album.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 03-09-2008 16:30

Earle is in s5 a bit more than usual too.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Mitch - 03-09-2008 16:37

It is, in fact, Steve Earle, and I think it's pretty good.

Really? Blimey, I'd never have guessed that.

Oops. Soz Wyatt.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 03-09-2008 16:55

DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT SERIES FIVE YOU AWFUL MAN.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by JtS - 03-09-2008 17:26

<http://snarkerati.com/movie-news/files/2008/06/willow-warwick-davies.jpg>

I'm with Lyra, I just don't see the attraction

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 14-09-2008 23:47

So there's nothing to do here so I just went to see Get Smart and then The Dark Knight. Get Smart was much better than I thought it was going to be. Quite inventive and sweet. The Dark Knight was a bit meh. Do we really need Michael Caine and Gary Oldman explaining the exact nature of each moral dilemma/social comment as we go along? No, we don't. And I thought Cillian Murphy was going to be in it and then he wasn't and that was a shame.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 30-09-2008 12:41

Not sure any of these is in circulation enough to merit own threads:

saw 'Jar City' (Icelandic cop film) at the weekend and really loved it. I'd read the novel already, but didn't get bored at all - the grainy and claustrophobic images were brilliantly done. Hardly an advert for Iceland's tourist board, tho' (unless you like sheep's head).

also saw French sisters-reunited-after-15-years- with-dark-secret 'Il y a longtemps que je t'aime' in which Kristin Scott Thomas really impressed. Felt it copped out a bit sentimentality-wise towards the end, but still a decent film.

And also saw 'Wall E' in a matinee - is there a thread on it?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 30-09-2008 12:54

I really want to see Jar City - I liked the book a lot too. I didn't enjoy I loved you so long as much as you did though - I guess I found it a bit too generic. Nicely miserable though.

Films I have seen recently: mostly too rubbish to really need talking about

Bangkok Dangerous - stupid, predictable, I hate Nicolas Cage

Babylon AD - stupid, less predictable, didn't like the muddy style, not what I expect from Kassowitz

Mamma Mia - had run out of other films to see - truly awful but passed the time. They did ought to have got someone else to sing for the men.

In Bruges - Liked the look of the city. The plot was stupid - it was obvious all these little things were going to come together at the end and pay off, and it was appalling

The Mummy 3 - see under Mamma Mia. It passed the time. If you even try to attempt to make sense of it you're wasting your time. Lots of action and that which is what I wanted I guess.

Mad Money By far the best and most fun film of the week. I'm sure I've seen it before though. I must check that. But yeah, really enjoyable crime caper.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 30-09-2008 12:57

I checked and it is a remake of a TV movie. Which I must have seen and forgotten.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 08-10-2008 22:09

Vicky Cristina Barcelona. Well I still love Woody Allen and I don't think I could fail to enjoy one of his. The plot, about whether it's possible to love and be in love and it to be reciprocal and romantic (answer: duh, no, of course not) is beside the point really. It's all very lovely and nice. Oviedo looks lovely too.

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead Depressing as all hell, this. Despairing and bleak and grim. Worth a watch.

Eagle Eye Entertaining silly fun. Enough car chases and things blowing up to keep you entertained and a nice twist on the conspiracy plot.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Jimski - 08-10-2008 22:31

Ah yes Jar City was good. Another in the long line of films that screams "don't come to Iceland", but that perversely makes me miss it all the more.

Vicky Christina Barcelona is supposed to be a return to form for Allen. I know you quite liked even the more derided items in his recent output, Lyra, but was this one a cut above those?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 08-10-2008 23:08

Hehe, yeah, I think so. More about people/relationships this time without the more fanciful bits that he felt London needed, maybe. Better than Cassandra's Dream, not as good as Melinda and Melinda, maybe.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 09-10-2008 17:21

I thought In Bruges was fantastic.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by gerontophile - 15-10-2008 08:36

Fringe A decent piece of X-Files-alike hokum with a woman lead, and one of the guys from Dawson's Creek ('Pacey' rings a bell) in it. Lots of reanimation/cloning/weird science. Enjoyable nonsense. One of the things which I (childishly) like, is when a location is mentioned (eg Harvard University) it comes up in 3D as part of the landscape. Cool.

Burn Notice A blacklisted spy has to put all the details of his life back together in his hometown of Miami, while helping out people in need. A lot better than it sounds. The lead actor (Jeffrey Donovan) is a tiny bit too clean-cut and good looking for me, but otherwise, I love this, after the two pilot episodes. A huge plus point is, the lead character does the voiceover.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 28-10-2008 13:10

After getting a nil thread with my Buddha Collapsed out of Shame thread I'm going to play things safe now. It's getting cold out and I've no exams to worry about until April so I'm watching quite a few films lately.

The Fireman's Ball

Really enjoyed this. Starts off as a comedy but becomes so much more about a study of human and group behaviour. Couldn't believe it was only 70 minutes, it packed so much in.

The Birds

I love Hitchcock. The only film that I didn't really enjoy of his that I've watched was The Trouble with Harry. I was expecting much more from this. The special effects have dated horribly and I felt more of an urge to laugh than be scared. The last twenty minutes were excellent though. The tension ratcheting up whilst waiting for the attack was expertly done.

By the Bluest of Seas

Russian film from the thirties. Lovely imagery and explores friendship, love and lost love. Really impressed by it.

Sunset Boulevard

I'm not sure how I missed out seeing this until now but it's as good as everybody says it is. Billy Wilder could well be my favourite director.

Aguirre, Wrath of God

Stunning scenery, great feeling of the journey derailing. Kinski was scarily convincing. I can't put my finger on why I thought it was short of excellent but I did.

TV wise, I got around to watching Pushing Daisies. I like the premise, the bright colours and look of the programme. Anna Friel is beautiful and the Kristin Chenoweth character is endearingly ditz. It's just too sweet though. It's brainless TV though so I'll probably keep watching. I fear Entourage has jumped the shark, the mushrooms episode was terrible.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 31-10-2008 11:01

I am in the fervid grip of a full on Battlestar Galactica addiction. It's got everything I like. Spaceships, ghosts and religious fervour. And it's so sad so much of the time, so hopeless. I love it.

I am about halfway through series 2. I have THE most ridiculous crushes on Starbuck (I so want to be Starbuck) and Helo (so beautiful). Literally the only duff thing about it is the elder Adama's scary teeth, but luckily the plot doesn't call for many smiles.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Andy C - 31-10-2008 11:35

The Firemen's Ball is fantastic, and you've prompted me to go and find a copy so that I can revisit it.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ursus arctos - 31-10-2008 13:41

We really aren't a film family, but there are some familiar names in recent posts.

We were in Bruges/Brugge a few weeks ago and the locals absolutely detest In Bruges (though they evidently made a decent piece of change out of it and are getting more yoofs from the US and the UK as a result thereof). I haven't seen it.

The Wall-E thread.

What Nil said about Sunset Boulevard, though I have never ever been as terrified by a film as I was when I first saw The Birds (when I was 8 or 9). I've been meaning to go back and watch it again (in part because we've been frequent visitors to Bodega Bay, where it was filmed, over the last 25 years), but still haven't managed to do so. It also so happens that one of my closest friends in the world considers The Trouble With Harry to be one of her two or three favourite films of all time, which I find completely inexplicable.

I have some transatlantic flights coming up, and may actually see some relatively recent films as a result thereof.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by garcia - 31-10-2008 17:10

last week i watched hunger, a movie about the IRA hunger strikers by a guy called steve mcqueen. it's all about shit and piss and police brutality. the IRA men all seem rather noble, especially the strong, handsome, idealistic bobby sands, who is played by one of the spartans from 300.

***** these aren't really spoilers, it's not a twist ending, but if you want to see it maybe don't read on *****

the director says he's trying to get across a sense of what it was like being in the maze, and i suppose, before seeing this, i had never really thought about how utterly squalid and filthy it was. but many sequences drag. the worst one has a guy slopping out the corridor for what seems like half an hour. he walks down pouring out his bucket on the piss then walks back and comes all the way back down the corridor slowly sweeping away the piss and disinfectant yes yes the unimaginable filth yes the quotidian slopping yes in the bowels of hell yes yes the caged horror yes you see the man is cleaning while behind the doors human beings cower in their own shit i get the fucking point yes. maybe the internet has ruined my attention span.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 01-11-2008 11:10

I seen it reviewed, but only in That Paper, who of course loved it. Have the Mail and that lot had a go at it yet? Whenever there's an Ireland film in which it's suggested that Britain's role may not have been wholly benign, the right-wing press tend to strike attitudes all over the place.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 01-11-2008 17:11

Literally the only duff thing about it is the elder Adama's scary teeth, but luckily the plot doesn't call for many smiles

True, but he bares his teeth when he's angry or sobs, as well.

Anyway, BSG is up there with the best telly of the last 20 years, if you ask me.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by twohundredpercent - 01-11-2008 18:30

I've started on the fourth season of "My Name Is Earl", and it's quite a return to form, after the third season really lost its way.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 02-11-2008 23:11

Anyway, BSG is up there with the best telly of the last 20 years, if you ask me.

I couldn't agree more. I just watched the one with Lee and the prostitute and it was like, you had to rearrange all your ideas about him, but it also made total sense as well. Really great TV. Poor angsty Lee, I do love him.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nico Rijnders - 03-11-2008 09:32

Wyatt Earp wrote:

I seen it reviewed, but only in That Paper, who of course loved it. Have the Mail and that lot had a go at it yet? Whenever there's an Ireland film in which it's suggested that Britain's role may not have been wholly benign, the right-wing press tend to strike attitudes all over the place.

The Mail didn't need to bother, that paper have done it for them:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/filmblog/2008/nov/03/hunger-bobby-sands>

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by garcia - 04-11-2008 03:52

david cox is plainly trying to provoke with his talk of how he wished the prisoners were "properly tortured" (what we see in the film is pretty bad). we could sit here all day saying i'll see your birmingham bombing and raise you a set of penal laws, but like DC, we would be missing the point.

the film is not meant to finally settle the question of who was right and who was wrong during the troubles. neither is it meant to "heroise" the republicans, as he says (though i can see why he thinks that: there is lots of brutality towards the prisoners, but only one IRA killing, and the victim in that case is a guard we have seen presiding over some terrible beatings).

the film is about the prison and how it systematically strips both prisoners and guards of their humanity and eventually their lives.

at least twice we see a prison guard grimace while he soaks in water the fists that are bleeding from beating men up. the bleeding fists are a metaphor for these guards who have the terrible job of administering the violence that is the ultimate logic of british state policy towards the prisoners. we keep hearing the voice of margaret thatcher on the radio saying things like "crime is crime is crime". we see the prisoners refuse to wear their "clown suits", we see the guards respond with brutal beatings. in this system of state-sanctioned violence the guards are the fist; the violence cuts them up too. the closing credits remind us that 10 men died on hunger strike, and 18 guards were assassinated by paramilitaries between 1976 and 1981.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 04-11-2008 14:31

Nicely put, garce.

I went to see it last night. Very impressive.

More than can be said for my colleague who arrived trailing her teenage son, and THEIR TEA IN A TUPPERWARE (spaghetti of some sort)!

I think they gave up eating around the time the maggots started crawling.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 04-11-2008 20:41

Spaghetti-flavored tea? That sounds revolting.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 04-11-2008 22:21

'Tea' as in evening meal. But you probably knew that.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 04-11-2008 22:46

I didn't think you could have spaghetti for tea. I thought it was more of a snack a few hours before supper.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 05-11-2008 00:32

You're a very rigid man, Reed. What time of the day do you have tea?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 05-11-2008 11:41

I just watched the one with Lee and the prostitute and it was like, you had to rearrange all your ideas about him, but it also made total sense as well.

Yeah, they do that sort of thing quite a lot as the series goes on, and it really makes you appreciate the quality of the writing and characterisation.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 05-11-2008 11:58

I've just been reading about Dollhouse. Because of Helo being in it. It sounds amazing. And Helo and Faith! What a great combination.

I'm also getting obsessed with the parallels between Galactica and Sarah Connor chronicles. Because they both have essentially the exact same plot. I think it took the Terminator series (films included) a while to start addressing the 'why' of it all whereas Galactica had it down from the start with all the God's plan/new life stuff. And TTSCC seems to be coming to the same conclusions, with the increasing religious talk. Because the machines do need to have the same existential problems we do otherwise, what's the point? This is why I never really understood stuff like Tolkein and his many copiers, where all the dark side wants to do is kill and lay waste to stuff - what is the point of fighting to gain ultimate power when having it means having power over nothing very much? It's still a religious fight - ie presented in terms of good v evil - but evil that believes it's *morally* right is the only way to make it make sense. And I think the Terminator people have really realised that machines that are supposed to be more intelligent than people doing nothing

but revelling in sheer destruction don't make much dramatic sense.

Next thing we know, Cameron will reveal that she can have babies...

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 05-11-2008 12:17

I'm not sure the parallels are quite that strong (and in recent episodes the focus has shifted away from philosophical questions about AI to the psychodrama between Sarah and John), but they are interesting nonetheless. I think I prefer Galactica's approach in that the show (as opposed to the Colonials) more or less assumes that the Cylons have meaningful and complex inner lives - a soul if you will - and then explores what that implies in various contexts. Whereas TtSCC seems to start from a default position that they don't, before hinting that maybe they do. As someone who finds the philosophical zombie argument almost nonsensical, the BSG route makes much more sense to me. Of course Cameron has a soul. Just get on with it and show it to us!

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 05-11-2008 14:40

Well, I mean, parallels in basic terms eg humans create AIs that then cause a nuclear holocaust to try to wipe humans out, the surviving humans have to fight a war with them, they are infiltrated by machines looking like people with their own agendas (happening more now in s2 of TTSCC - Shirley bloody Manson, for heaven's sake!) and all stuff about how interesting is it that the machines seem to want to mix human/robot either in "cybernetic organisms" or actually in a new hybrid species; do the machines think of themselves as doing what humans did to the world ie make it extremely hostile to other species, etc, etc.

But yeah, I was trying to say the same thing essentially about Galactica doing it in a more satisfying way.

Spoiler for TTSCC s2e4

Perhaps Cameron's soul is going to be Alison's in some way?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 07-11-2008 11:52

The latest beautiful people American comedy TV series that I've watched is Chuck. Any fans here? There's plenty of cracking one-liners from Casey and gorgeous people to ogle for both sexes. Pretty much zero thought required but I've been entertained by the first season.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 07-11-2008 12:02

I thought the premise was too stupid. Comedy bits not funny enough, action bits not exciting enough, whole thing really unwieldy.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 07-11-2008 12:43

I wouldn't argue too strongly with you. It didn't help that episode 2 was the weakest episode in the season. They realised

quickly that the action bits weren't good enough and made them more comic based.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 07-11-2008 12:49

Ah, I only saw eps 1 + 2. (And didn't get to the end of either.)

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by wingco - 07-11-2008 16:09

Lyra?? What was that you said about In Bruges??? It's fantastic!!! Four exclamation marks!!!! No, make that five!!!! It's a minor masterpiece, in fact.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 07-11-2008 16:27

Nico Rijnders wrote:

The Mail didn't need to bother, that paper have done it for them:

Blimey, so they have. It was the Peter Bradshaw "official" review (no play on words intended) that I'd read.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lucia Lanigan - 07-11-2008 16:28

I missed Lyra's comment the first time round, but I'm with wingco all the way.

!!!!!

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 07-11-2008 21:33

You're a very rigid man, Reed. What time of the day do you have tea?

I thought tea was like an afternoon snack to tie one over until supper. Spaghetti would be too heavy for that purpose, I'd think.

In that sense, I don't always have tea, but sometimes I have a snack like some pretzels and a diet coke in the mid-afternoon and then I have dinner around 6:30 or 7. Sometimes I actually have some tea at my tea, but I don't drink much tea. It's not usually very good here.

I like Chuck. It's pretty mindless but it's easy on the eyes and it's funny sometimes.

I'm surprised that Wingco and I agree so emphatically (assuming he's not being sarcastic). I thought In Bruges was one of the best movies I've seen in the last few years.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 08-11-2008 10:16

Lyra?? What was that you said about In Bruges??? It's fantastic!!! Four exclamation marks!!!! No, make that five!!!! It's a minor masterpiece, in fact.

in protest at wingcos reprehensible use of exclamation marks i am posting in a crude way without use of the punctuation desired so as to resemble the idiot texts sent in by football fans to tabloid sports pages that go along the lines of hur hur you everton clods ar gunna get beet on satrday this is our yeer gerrard is god from jimbo

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 11-11-2008 13:39

I've kept this quiet for a while but it's time to confess. I'm pretty much addicted to Gossip Girl. 95% of it is pure garbage but I can't stop watching.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by wingco - 11-11-2008 14:01

Reed, no I wasn't being sarcastic. In Bruges is great.

Tonight, set your whatevers for True Stories which is all about Ali-Frazier's last fight, told very much from a pro-Frazier standpoint. It's fascinating.

Incidentally, have opinions been expressed here on 30 Rock? I saw the pilot and found the Tina Fey character a bit irritating, insofar as she seemed to be created simply to point up the obvious foibles of the other characters. Should I persist?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 11-11-2008 14:03

I saw a few eps and didn't enjoy them, but I seem to be almost alone in this.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Moral Animal - 11-11-2008 18:33

Very much looking forward to the Frazier documentary.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 11-11-2008 20:51

I've kept this quiet for a while but it's time to confess. I'm pretty much addicted to Gossip Girl. 95% of it is pure garbage but I can't stop watching.

The women on the show are nice to look at but I can't stand it because of the guys on the show, especially the one with

the weird eyebrows. He creeps me out like a twelve-cylinder, super-charged creeping-out machine.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nogoalsnoglory - 12-11-2008 07:10

We recently acquired that clever IQ gizmo allowing us to record series with a couple of button presses.

The good side is I am now able to record all episodes of (nerd alert) Voyager. I was also really enjoying NYPD Blues until the dickheads at Foxtel suddenly took it off air.

I have however, now discovered the Sweeney is on. I love that theme tune, love it.

On the down side the wife has a backlog of Medium and Dead Zone to get through so I might have to go on holiday.

Time Team's okay, but don't tell her I said that.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by amp - 18-11-2008 23:38

wingco wrote:

Incidentally, have opinions been expressed here on 30 Rock? I saw the pilot and found the Tina Fey character a bit irritating, insofar as she seemed to be created simply to point up the obvious foibles of the other characters. Should I persist?

I absolutely love 30Rock. Fey's got a great line in self deprecating humour. It's quite an old fashioned sitcom in many respects but it's 'modern' and so brilliantly written. As you get to know the characters it gets better and better. I love Kenneth

Anyway I came on to see if anyone was talking about the new Screenwipe. Seems not so I'll start. Brooker spot on about the Brand/Ross debacle but the joke about him being a sad old man in front of the TV is wearing thin.

But the main thing I'm raising is the little interlude from Tim Key. <http://www.timkey.co.uk/>

Seems he's been on before but this is the first I've seen or heard from him. I didn't get it AT ALL. Complete shit. Seemed like wannabe, trying too hard BlueJam to me. Am I the only one? Can someone explain what's good about this to me?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 19-11-2008 14:47

Getting back to Terminator, the latest episode does some really interesting things with the time travel paradoxes.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 19-11-2008 14:54

Anyway I came on to see if anyone was talking about the new Screenwipe. Seems not so I'll start.

Ahem.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 20-11-2008 11:50

Our Cineclub showed 'Taxi Driver' last night.

What a film that is. All the people present who had seen it before said it struck them differently this time. I think it's one of those 'anthologized' films, that clips get shown from a lot, or gets referenced a lot, but really does bear watching again.

I reckon I'd seen it properly twice before. The 1st time, the violence and the mohawk get the attention.

Can't remember exactly what I thought the 2nd time, I guess it struck me as more satirical/knowing than I'd thought as a teen, but last night i loved the sequences where he's cruising the night streets, with the Bernard Herrman trumpets rising in volume, like waves of paranoia.

I'm a sucker for neon at the best of times, but I really could've watched those sequences with the camera fixed to the cab all night.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Tactical Genius - 20-11-2008 12:10

24 is back this weekend.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 20-11-2008 12:13

I'd read Scorsese on Scorsese (and seen a lot of his other films) before I saw Taxi Driver for the first time, so my first impression was more analytical than visceral. Which isn't true of, say, Mean Streets.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 21-11-2008 01:20

re Terminator: yeah I'm really liking this series. I wonder if young Warren is now on the evil path rather than the good one... I also, damn it, fancy John now that he has short hair.

Galactica progress, end of series 2 and I am very annoyed about the very stupid Lee/Dualla story. Ugh. So wrong.

also I saw Max Payne which is pointless bollocks, and it has that murky grey look which seems so popular nowadays but actually just makes films look cheap and depressing. That Olga Kurylenko has THE most amazing body ever though.

and Changeling which is not the sort of thing I usually bother with, worthy BOATS Oscar contending type thing, but it was that or Duchess and I love Angelina and I do not like Keira. It was OK. The story itself is mad and that's what kept me going; otherwise it was like every other earnest period drama about injustice and corruption and victimisation. albeit with a few neat little tricks.

And there was the trailer for Valkyrie which of course looks like the usual sensationalist WWII guilty fun bobbins, but Tom Cruise's hair and eyepatch are so splendid that they make it worthwhile. And Kenneth Branagh! It cannot go wrong.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 21-11-2008 22:13

Oh also - also! Six says, "Judgement Day".

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 24-11-2008 02:06

The Hills Have Eyes remakes. Ewww. But the thing is the desert scenery is so amazing and it contributes so much; there are moments in these films that almost approach the sublime atmospheric surreal spine tingling fear of Picnic At Hanging Rock. Otherwise of course they're just slasher gore-fests of the guess which daft chick is going to get picked off next and oh look the normal civilised man is driven to the brutality of the creatures he has to fight variety. With a kind of hilarious reference to Aliens in part II.

And I have started Galactica series 3 and I cannot quite believe my eyes. Fat Lee? I mean wtf have they done? Is that a fat suit? Body double? Is it meant to be a physical representation of moral decline? All I can say is they BETTER NOT have one scene of him doing situps and chinups and then be magically back to the gorgeous muscly buff Lee we know and love.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 24-11-2008 17:30

Heh. First time I saw Adama's 'tache, I nearly fell off my chair.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 27-11-2008 13:32

That too! I thought it was Hallowe'en or some kind of alternate universe or something,

Body of Lies. Meh. I thought was going to be much better. A bit like a dumbed-down Syriana in its seriousness about middle eastern politics, and it was certainly depressing and quite cynical about CIA incompetence and the general the US is bad mmmkay stuff, but it lacked something, seemed both heavy handed and less authoritative at the same time.

Also I hate films where a character is fat and that is his entire character. Like, Crowe is tubby, so his clothes are automatically awful crumpled up ill fitting suits, and also Leo gets to yell at him for being a fat fuck/incompetent like the two are actually related, also there is no scene in which he is not snacking on something. Leo cannot talk about looks, anyway, because he sports a dreadful Johnny Drama moustache, you know, with the middle missing, that slopes down on each side and makes the wearer look both mean and stupid.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 02-12-2008 12:20

Idly popping into 'Cash Converters' on the way home from work the other day nabbed me two boxsets, '2nd one half price':

Star Trek: Voyager season 7 (the only one I haven't seen, cos I lived in Madrid when it ran and some of which I was watching on VHS last year when the machine's insides melted)
and

Homicide: Life on the Street season 1

now this was the real prize, as they are infuriatingly expensive on ebay, so I have quickly seen 3 episodes and like it, even if a significant part of the pleasure is seeing aspects of cop life from 'The Wire' tried out earlier, plus recognizing younger actors who turn up in 'The Wire' (Gus! Orlando! The mayor's adviser bloke!...)

As for 'Cash Converters'-it's like an episode of Shameless even setting foot in there.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by delicatemoth - 02-12-2008 12:49

Thought Wallander was reasonably watchable, they certainly got the downbeat feel pretty spot-on. Any other Mankell fans have an opinion?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 02-12-2008 13:34

Eagle Eye was crap but had a couple of interesting ideas. Not enough to justify the stupid plot and dialogue though.

I watched the first 15 minutes of Pineapple Express. I was getting angry with it and figured life is too short to watch shit like that. Was I wrong?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 02-12-2008 14:05

Any other Mankell fans have an opinion?

Well I watched it all thru, despite having a fairly good memory of the plot. I was on here recently howling in horror at Branagh-as-Wallender, but he was as un-Branaghlike as he could've been. (Helped by the fact he was largely silent..?)

Some of the locations were great-I loved the modernista 1950s copshop. Decent effort, worth watching-not what I thought I'd be saying.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Matej - 02-12-2008 14:36

Third Season of My Name is Earl. It's pretty poor so far. They seem to have gotten lazy, and are totally wasting Jason Lee and the best stache on TV.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 05-12-2008 12:12

Homicide: Life on the Street season 1

now this was the real prize, as they are infuriatingly expensive on ebay, so I have quickly seen 3 episodes and like it, even if a significant part of the pleasure is seeing aspects of cop life from 'The Wire' tried out earlier, plus recognizing younger actors who turn up in 'The Wire' (Gus! Orlando! The mayor's adviser bloke!...)

Now half way through the season...(D'Angelo!)

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 06-12-2008 18:21

So I only have 3 episodes left to go of Galactica series 3. It has been really great. Things I have loved the most: Leoben and his mad stalking of Kara that they have made somehow romantic - I *love* Leoben!; the depressing stuff about collaborators and unions; the mad but brilliant Baltar-is-Jesus Christ stuff; Helo, always, just for existing; Unfinished Business, of course. The most recent one I saw was Maelstrom and I have to admit it made me cry buckets because it was totally relevant to me and I know it's the laws of average or whatever, but it feels kind of profound when that happens.

Otherwise I have watched not much except corporate videos for work. Oh and a thing called Hotel Ground Zero, the thrilling story of those guests at the Marriott that survived. Somehow it takes an hour to tell us that people heard explosions and sirens; turned on their TVs; walked out of the hotel and down to the water and got evacuated by boat. Oh and one woman lost her mum in the crowds, but she waited a bit and then they found each other.

Oh and also Bromwell High which I think they only ever made 13 episodes of but I find utterly hilarious.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 07-12-2008 13:11

I forgot, the Resident Evil trilogy. I enjoyed it. Nothing really original about it but it was suitably scary and grim. I like that if you are off zombie hunting you should always wear a vest, hot pants and knee boots.

And Californication series 2 is *great*. 8 eps in and it's really enjoyable. And it says some true stuff about relationships, man. And Leoben is in it! It could not get much better really.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 18-12-2008 17:14

Lots more shite recently.

The Day The Earth Stood Still - I see there's a thread so I will go there in a moment.

Burn After Reading - Slight but hugely enjoyable, really a nice treat for when you need to have a proper old fashioned laugh. Good stuff.

Quantum of Solace Well it was OK, etc. I'll check out the thread now. I like that Craig is a bit of a mindless thug as Bond but I think maybe to have *no* gadgets at all and *no* Q or Moneypenny or anything is a tiny shame. I guess a young cute gay male Moneypenny would be too much even for Bond.

Wolf Creek, Cabin Fever, The Cottage Wolf Creek is singularly lovely to watch, for the scenery I mean, but otherwise eugh. I have no idea why I will insist on watching serial killer slasher zombie gore fests when i have a problem with nightmares as is, but they're highly addictive. The Cottage was kind of above average, Cabin Fever well below.

And I've only 2 episodes left of Galactica, s4, oh and Razor. I might try to save them for next week, a little Christmas treat.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 18-12-2008 21:52

Cabin Fever is just weak, isn't it? I couldn't understand how it had achieved any success at all.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 18-12-2008 22:57

Lyra wrote:

Vicky Cristina Barcelona. Well I still love Woody Allen and I don't think I could fail to enjoy one of his. The plot, about whether it's possible to love and be in love and it to be reciprocal and romantic (answer: duh, no, of course not) is beside the point really. It's all very lovely and nice. Oviedo looks lovely too.

The voiceover annoyed the hell out of me. It was used more sparingly a third of the way in and it improved a little after that. Both Barcelona and Oviedo looked gorgeous but I found the arty stuff very cliched and the relationship between Cruz and Bardem was laughably portrayed. I was quite taken by the Vicky character though. There's enough good stuff in it to make it watchable.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 22-12-2008 10:32

The Strangers. Why do I keep doing this to myself? I'm alone for a week in an old creaky house in the middle of the countryside. So I watch a film about psychotic Manson familiesque nutjobs breaking in to an old house in the middle of nowhere and psychologically terrifying Liv Tyler and Scott Speedman. It was really fucking scary, and not too Funny Games, which I was worried it would be. Ultimately a bit empty, just a slicker than usual stalk and slash chiller. But I do love Liv Tyler and her magical face.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 15-01-2009 16:31

I saw The Spirit. It was SHIT. it was really really awful. Do not go.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lucia Lanigan - 15-01-2009 17:04

I've tried to find out what Kenneth Anger's all about, this week. Not much, as far as I can tell.

Fair play for being the first to use pop music properly as an integral soundtrack (or so Martin Scorsese says) but there's not really much going on in his stuff, is there? Shame, cause he seems very intelligent and likeable guy in the interviews I've watched.

Lucifer Rising has one or two nice images, and a whole lot of meandering guff. Poor old Marianne Faithfull really didn't look well back then, when she was an NHS-registered addict - sad to see. Scorpio Rising and Kustom Kar Kommandos have vague historical interest for fetishising early-ish street-level pop culture, I guess, but that's about the best you could say about them.

I guess the main problem is, Satanism's inherently adolescent and impossible to take seriously. Anger took it seriously.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by hobbess - 15-01-2009 19:22

Just finished watching the whole of Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip. Not a patch on West Wing, but still pretty good.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Tactical Genius - 15-01-2009 22:45

I saw True Blood, ok but nothing special.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 16-01-2009 01:05

I've tried to find out what Kenneth Anger's all about, this week. Not much, as far as I can tell.

Probably not, at least nowadays. At the time though his stuff offered tantalising glimpses of the possible and unexplored. The blatant homoeroticism of Fireworks (and the more inferential Scorpio Rising), the He's a Rebel soundtrack to Christ entering Jerusalem in the latter. The plotless, textured decadance of Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome. Most of us had seen nothing like it at the time, it was very exciting and a bit scary. I can see why it hasn't aged well though.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lucia Lanigan - 16-01-2009 10:24

Yeah, I can definitely see how Anger's films would have felt transgressive and exciting at the time (and a lot of it still feels impressively raw). But, as you say, outside of the context in which it was made, there's just not much there beyond historical interest.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 16-01-2009 13:51

Untraceable. It was boring! How can a gruesome thriller be boring? But it was.

I've also been getting into 30 Rock. It's pretty cool.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by G.Man wants a hyphen - 17-01-2009 12:58

30 Rock is brilliant. I can't believe somebody here said that Tina Fey's character is annoying.

I finally saw In Bruges a few days ago. A fine movie indeed. Some classic one-liners in there ("...my cuntin' fuckin' children...", "...of course you cant fuckin' see...").

Less so the Indiana Jones movie. If you watch Indy and miss that little fucker from the second movie, then it's really bad. That Shia Leboeuf dude must be the most uncharismatic actors ever to appear in a Spielberg or Lucas film. And he's beating some serious competition there.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Harri Saer - 21-01-2009 16:54

The Big Bang Theory season 2 started on C4 last night, with the crap scheduling (11.05pm on a Tuesday?!) and lack of publicity that has become the norm for the UK channels' treatment of US sitcoms. C4 especially used to exist on it's US sitcom output, even if the shows now aren't of the standard of Friends, Frasier, Roseanne and Cheers why don't they do more with them?

Anyway, I really like the show even if I can't really put up a convincing argument as to why.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Harri Saer - 21-01-2009 16:56

Matej wrote:

Third Season of My Name is Earl. It's pretty poor so far. They seem to have gotten lazy, and are totally wasting Jason Lee and the best stache on TV.

This confirms my point, I didn't even know C4 had aired a third series yet, when is it on?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by The Horse - 21-01-2009 17:02

Series three: Tuesdays C4 (late)

Series four: Thursdays E4 (9pm)

I think series three is generally thought of as poor, because they monkeyed around with the format. They went back to basics in s4.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Heliotrope - 21-01-2009 17:06

I actually liked the prison stories.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Harri Saer - 22-01-2009 13:07

The Horse wrote:

Series three: Tuesdays C4 (late)

Series four: Thursdays E4 (9pm)

I think series three is generally thought of as poor, because they monkeyed around with the format. They went back to basics in s4.

Fuck, I thought those time slots were more repeats of season 2! C4 is totally fucked.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 22-01-2009 13:10

Ditto. We totally missed the last one, 'cos I hadn't a clue when it was on.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 14-03-2009 06:03

Some things I have watched recently;

Teeth Dear god this was dire. OK the subject matter, ooh! a real vagina dentata! is pretty rubbish, but they could have

made a kind of OK Ginger Snaps type (well, Ginger Snaps' first 2/3, as the end of that film is really terrible) piece about fear of sexuality and growing up and blah. nothing new but a bit of style or wit would have made something watchable. Instead it's quite literally just spoilers if you care several episodes of girl bites guy's cock/fingers off-lots of screaming ensues nonsense. DULL. Dullness is the worst crime in horror films!

Hellboy I watched this with my flatmate and we both agreed we had literally no idea what was going on. Was the man with the mechanical hand at the start sucked into the portal then spewed out again as a devil baby? Anyway, there were cute kittens. The rest of it was something about giant tentacle faced things and Nazis and mental patients and I don't know what.

The Insider rewatch as we are having a sort of Michael Mann season. Still terrific; the trademark aesthetics work so well with the understatement of the subject matter. Pacino is great. I remember when I saw it on release thinking cripes Crowe had to get fat for this. But now he looks trim compared to his usual self. Why can't women do this eh Hollywood eh?

Aliens for about the 40 trillionth time. It never gets old! I still love it. Convinced we were watching some different cut though. I'm sure I'd never seen some of the scenes (Newt with parents, for example) before.

Also stacks of TV; rewatched all of Galactica with flatmate. Up to s04e15. But he is going away next weekend! I'm gong to have to wait till tuesday after next to watch the last 5 eps. And Dollhouse and TTSCC but I've blathered about those elsewhere. Oh and started on Law and Order UK; yep it's Law and Order all right. Jamie Bamber is so gorgeous though, I will probably keep watching just for shallow reasons. Next up is Castle, which I am reliably informed has Nathan Fillion being sweet in it.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 06-04-2009 18:30

La Vie Moderne Lovely film, lots of details about nature, the seasons, etc, really bittersweet in its portrayal of a vanishing way of life. Go see it!

Neon Genesis Evangelion (three part film squished up version) I have really NO CLUE what happened. A lot of giant robots with blood and guts interiors ripped each other up in really gruesome ways, and there was some spiritual justificatory stuff about Lilith and Adam etc. It was quite pretty.

Alien 3 special edition Never seen this version before. Like a whole different film! Some of it an improvement, some of it not.

REC It was quite scary but a bit too kind of Cloverfield really.

Doomsday again, still stupid, still fun.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lucia Lanigan - 06-04-2009 19:34

I've been working my way through more-or-less surrealist cinema from the late 20th century.

Jacques Rivette's Celine and Julie Go Boating is unbelievably lovely, charming in the way only French things can be (although it could have done with being 30 minutes shorter, I thought). I've never seen anything else like it.

Andrzej Zulawski's Possession is absolutely fucking demented. It should be as hammy as the acting, which is no doubt so stilted because the actors had no more idea what was supposed to be going on than I do, but it's just too weird to be schlock (the wall-era Berlin setting is a treat to watch, too). Safe to say, I've never seen anything else like it.

Wojciech Has's The Hour-Glass Sanatorium is a stone-cold classic. A true visual feast, and those two hours felt like just one. The nekkidness is completely one-sided, but I'm sure Has would justify that by pointing out that those are the images that would have a plave in the protagonist's psyche. No ifs, ands or buts - I've never seen anything else like it.

And finally, Nic Roeg's Eureka.

*****SPOILERS*****

At first, I thought it was shaping up to be Roeg's masterpiece, and only the film *There Will Be Blood* could have been. But then what promised to be one of the most spectacular achievements in cinema fell apart and left us with what felt like 4hrs, 57mins of Theresa Russell in a drama-free courtroom scene. Can't bloody stand that woman, she's just awful.

*****END OF SPOILERS*****

Still, you can bet your sweet fanny I've never seen anything else like it.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 06-04-2009 20:57

Lyra wrote:

REC It was quite scary but a bit too kind of *Cloverfield* really.

What I liked about REC (apart from the creepiness) was that the central conceit (i.e. all the events are filmed on hand-held video camera) is a very convincing one: they're dedicated journalists and that's their job. Even at the end, when they're past caring about their job, there's still a very good reason for continuing to film ...

There's been an American re-make released quite recently - naff by all accounts ... par for the course for American re-makes of good European films (cf '*The Vanishing*').

Re:Current Watching

Posted by axel - 11-04-2009 20:43

Sacha Baron Cohens new film now has a trailer. Personally I loved the *Borat* film, but realise not everybody liked it. More of the same basically.

<http://mitbruno.com/bruno-movie/brunomovietrailer.php>

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 14-04-2009 11:52

The 400 Blows

Watching classic films on the big screen really brings them alive in a way that home viewing can't no matter how many inches your plasma has. This film was extraordinarily good. It draws you in with humour and tenderness, lets you get comfortable and then lets pressure build until you're scrambling for air. It's in the cinema at the moment, try to get to it if you can.

Antoine et Colette, Stolen Kisses, Bed and Board

They don't have the immediacy and vibrancy of the first of the story but they have maddening romance and longing, betrayal and trace the process of saying goodbye to immaturity better than any film I've seen.

Chuck

This show gets better and better. Any US viewers who are looking for laughter, cheesy 80s references and some kick ass action could do a lot worse than watch.

How I Met Your Mother

Little or no insight into modern romance but I'm a sucker for shows in New York and Neil Patrick Harris is possibly my favourite comic actor of the moment.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by G.Man wants a hyphen - 14-04-2009 12:01

Oh yeah, How I Met Your Mother is indeed legen - wait for it... and I hope you're not lactose intolerant because the second half of that word is - dairy.

Having missed The West Wing when it was on TV, I've started watching it from the beginning on DVD. Annoying pro-Israel propoganda aside, it is as good as the hype had suggested. Up to the end of season 3 anyway.

I wonder how much the show suggested to the US electorate the feasibility and desirability of an ethical presidency.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 14-04-2009 13:28

Burn After Reading - very, very good, but has that feeling of being a film the Coen Brothers made between bigger movies. It has that feel of not really being a Coen Brothers film - just a sprightly black comedy made by a different sort of director with a similarly impish sense of humour. The cast - terrific, with stand-outs from John Malkovich and the superb Frances McDormand. Moments: laugh-out-loud with that chair Clooney's character makes in his cellar. And the big, unexpectedly fat-faced grin on Brad Pitt's face as he appears out of the wardrobe and - next bit prohibited if you haven't seen it yet.

Ghost Town - a small treat in Ricky Gervais's funny ghost story. Veers away from sentimentality, and has what our American cousins call 'smarts'. An economic story, well told, with Gervais in winning form and even a few tears towards the end. Tea Leoni is very good indeed.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 15-04-2009 00:54

Tea Leoni is very good indeed.

Ditto ... in fact magnificent ... knowaddimean?

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by ian.64 - 15-04-2009 07:58

Will you kindly stop digging your elbow into my side and winking at me? No, I mean that Leoni puts in a performance that doesn't have to trade on any cute business or forced comedy. She plays it with a straightforward, grown-up way that doesn't involve sentimentality and complements Gervais's own likeable - yes, likeable - turn.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lucia Lanigan - 15-04-2009 13:12

The 400 Blows

Watching classic films on the big screen really brings them alive in a way that home viewing can't no matter how many inches your plasma has. This film was extraordinarily good. It draws you in with humour and tenderness, lets you get comfortable and then lets pressure build until you're scrambling for air. It's in the cinema at the moment, try to get to it if you can.

Seconded and then some. I saw this for the first time at the weekend, right up close in the Barbican cinema. Amazingly

good film, with all the technical touches of the French new wave, but a more moving, human story at its heart; I think just about anyone would enjoy it, which is something you couldn't say about any of his peers' films. Bust your ass to see it if it's on near you - I think they've remastered it, so it should look even better than you remember, if you've seen it before.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Johanista - 18-04-2009 21:48

Thirded and then some.

I've seen The 400 Blows a few times but it's only recently that I've began watching the other Antoine Doinel films. I often wonder if Truffaut hadn't died so young (he was 52) whether he'd have continued making them. I haven't watched Love On The Run, the final one, yet but I suspect Antoine would continue being restless and directionless into old age.

Incidentally, one of my favourite ever scenes in a film comes from Truffaut's Small Change / L'Argent De Poche. A small child plays precariously on a high window ledge. He slips and falls ten or so storeys down but lands unscathed. It's an utterly ridiculous scene - when he is shown falling, it's an obvious and pretty crap dummy being used and, of course, it's a completely unrealistic outcome - yet somehow it's perfect.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 20-04-2009 19:03

Martyrs. Utter fucking horrible shite. Avoid like the plague.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 22-04-2009 01:29

Please tell me that there are other fans of Chuck on the site. The last episode was the most awesome episode of any entertainment/comedy show ever.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by hobbess - 22-04-2009 12:23

Just been watching Battlestar Galactica from the start. I've seen the odd episode, but not in any order. Good so far.

I'm also watching Fringe which is silly beyond belief but rescued by a truly excellent turn by John Noble as the mad professor, an ably deadpan Joshua Jackson as his son and a dreamily intense performance by Anna Torv that has me melting every episode.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by axel - 22-04-2009 21:08

Watching lots of South Park online, up to series 7 and still very funny.

Keeping up with Lost, good and not half as complicated as people seem to think.

Newswipe, ok mix of Daily Show and Day Today, but not half as good as either of those.

Stewart Lee, really enjoyed this but anyone who hasn't seen him live needs to, NOW!

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Dynamo Kev - 22-04-2009 21:26

DirecTV started showing Trailer Park Boys on Thursday evenings- two episodes per week- all 7 series- in order. It has to be one of the top 10 shows ever created- make that top 5. I saw maybe half of one episode a few years ago when it was on BBCAmerica and was none too impressed. I keep telling myself I didn't like it because they only showed edited version- gawd what was I thinking. The show is fantastic.

Bravo's Flipping Out season 3 is scheduled to start in July- I think.. Can't wait for that one.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Matej - 23-04-2009 13:33

Nil Arshavin wrote:

Please tell me that there are other fans of Chuck on the site. The last episode was the most awesome episode of any entertainment/comedy show ever.

I keep forgetting to record this. It looks promising.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 23-04-2009 15:29

It has to be one of the top 10 shows ever created- make that top 5.

Hi praise Kev. It was certainly a brilliant series. Started to lose it's way around season six, they ended it at just the right time. I hope the Christmas special is included, without a doubt it is the best ever.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Dynamo Kev - 23-04-2009 18:43

It took me a couple episodes until I went 'fuck me, this is Dukes of Hazard on meth/pot/vodka and coke':

Dukes / Trailer Park
Bo & Luke / Ricky & Julian
Boss Hog / Jim Lahey
Rosco P. Coltrane / Randy
Cooter / Bubbles
Daisy Duke / Lucy
Uncle Jesse / Ricky's dad
moonshine / pot
the General Lee / Ricky's doorless car

to be continued...

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 23-04-2009 20:35

No equivalent to J-Roc though, or Cory and Trevor. But I take your point.

It's hard for me to see the series as anything other than a particularly magnificent example of Canadian small-town

humour. A genre that goes back to Stephen Leacock at least. SCTV* was maybe the best TV example until Trailer Park Boys came along, and Corner Gas is a more mainstream current version of the same thing.

*For Bob and Doug read Ricky and Julian.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 26-04-2009 16:26

I keep watching horrible horror films. Eden Lake last night, which was like an English version of Wolf Creek - innocents go to visit a remarkable natural feature and find themselves being hunted down by murderous locals. Only being English it was a much crappier "beauty spot" and teenage yobs rather than an Ed Gein psychopath. It was grim anyway. (But not as bad as Martyrs) I think I need to stop watching depressing horror and just go for rom coms or things with Anne Hathaway in.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 26-04-2009 18:50

Nacho Libre today - good Sunday afternoon fare.

Very silly and very funny.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 01-05-2009 15:48

'The International', with Clive Owen and a very uncomfortable-looking Naomi Watts. A (very) poor cousin of 'Michael Clayton' - slow, predictable, and packed with clumsy exposition.

Not recommended.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 01-05-2009 17:52

Silent Hill which was terrifying, just like I remember the game being all those years ago. I love Radha Mitchell, too. Loses its way a little in the last third, but, properly scary.

Unlike Outbreak which we watched in honour of la grippe porcine, which is just silly nonsense, if entertaining enough if you're bored.

And Deep Rising and Ghost Ship which are pretty similar, one has sea monsters, the other, demons & ghosts, but otherwise are much the same thing. Again they pass the time. I used to watch so many more proper films. It's sad.

TV wise I have added Fringe and It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia and The Inbetweeners to my list. Loving Fringe, even though I was wary of it's being an XFiles clone, but it is humorous about being such a total ripoff, and it has the Abrams factor which I personally like a great deal. Also, Cedric Daniels plays the Walter Skinner character. Considering he also pops up in Lost all the time, I feel like I see him almost a little too much, but he is great. Also, the beautiful FBI agent and her gorgeous maverick sidekick Pacey off Dawson's Creek are pretty cool. The other two are just funny in the current vein of let's laugh at idiots and racists. I made the mistake of suggesting watching the Inbetweeners with the family at Easter. Oops. But I still love it. I fear that 'clunge' is going to go mainstream any minute now.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Matt P - 02-05-2009 17:39

Got the first series of Life On Mars on disk, so i'm working my way through that. I only saw the odd episode when it was on telly. It's um, good.

Waiting for the first series of The Wire to turn up from amazon. I haven't seen a single episode of it ever, just going off the fact it's so rated.

I've been watching a lot of horror films too. Mainly Dario Argento ones i'd never seen before and early Mario Bava ones like Baron Blood, which is set in the Rhineland, but was probably filmed somewhere in Italy. I liked it. It had Joseph Cotten in it(the badass uncle from Hitchcock's 'Shadow of a Doubt' in it as a disabled aristocrat in a wheel-chair).

Also i've been watching bleeding loads of old episode of the Avengers. There's this Honor Blackman one called 'The Wringer' with this sort of part-Beat Poet part-psychologist villain in it, that's just completely out there.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 02-05-2009 19:18

Shifty

A very good British small scale gangster movie. Calling it a gangster movie is doing the film disservice as it stirs memories of mockney accents and ridiculous glamourisation of old school crime bosses. This film is anything but detailing the realities of the attractions of drug dealing and the miserableness of life for those who have hardcore drug dependencies.

The film clearly borrows a lot from the style and playbook of Shane Meadows but that's no bad thing. The actor who plays Shifty puts in a very strong performance and the storytelling devices employed kept me engrossed even if there was a couple of moments of cliché. The look and feel of the film was astonishing considering it only cost £100,000.

The only major criticism I had was someone lost their nerve in thinking that the story could be told to the audience in a non expository way. Hence, we were treated to a few moments of Scooby Doo whodunit stuff after what should have been the real ending. A shame but not enough of one to complain too vociferously.

Tony Manero

For the first time in my life I was the only person in the cinema watching a film. It felt like I was at home with my own personal 40 foot screen. The film convincingly portrayed the daily life of Pinochet era Chile. The main character is a man obsessed with Tony Manero in Saturday Night Fever who happens to be a serial killer.

It's an odd film with graphic sex (although in fairness most of it has to do with the portrayal of characters than exploitative) and will be mentioned in dispatches when people are listing noteworthy defecation scenes in movies but I can't help but think that I missed out on some metaphor for Chilean society in this period along the way.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 04-05-2009 02:26

Anvil

Crazy Heavy Metal dudes trying to recapture success in to their fifties with a Robb Reiner. It's as good as Spinal Tap but this is for real and not played for laughter.

Helen

I was very impressed, my girlfriend was bored to tears. Slow, methodical with non-professional actors. Dealt with identity in a way I hadn't really seen done on film before. Worth checking out.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 06-05-2009 14:13

Blow-up

I think Austin Powers has ruined any possibility of me enjoying a film about the swinging sixties in London without wanting to take the piss. There is thirty minutes of an excellent movie here and 70 minutes of window-dressing.

I get that the window-dressing explains why the main character is bored with life and searching for something deeper but I don't think that it is enough to excuse the lecherous and stone-age attitudes towards women. I was bored by long stretches of this film and I didn't think the intention was to bore me.

The extended silent sequence with the development of film was truly gripping and brilliant though. Even this gets interrupted by a need to have girls rolling around naked. I'm as red-blooded as the next man but what the fuck was that about? The guy is convinced that he's just seen an attempted murder but he just cavorts instead of doing something?

I quite like the ending and lack of definite answers to what we've seen but a lot of the film was just rubbish padding or is there something I'm missing?

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 06-05-2009 14:56

Started on The Shield yesterday. Yeah, I like it after 4 eps. I see why people mention it when they mention The Wire, the complexity of characters' morals & motivations could develop really well, plus gritty life on the streets &c and the horrible political machinations that screw everyone's lives up. Although otherwise they're not really that similar.

Re Blow-Up - I don't think you're missing anything, I think you're being generous. I loathe that film.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lucia Lanigan - 06-05-2009 15:40

Yeah, it's fucking terrible isn't it. I watched it before the whole Austin Powers thing happened, when I was well into the history of mod, but it bored me to tears.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 06-05-2009 19:39

Even this gets interrupted by a need to have girls rolling around naked. I'm as red-blooded as the next man but what the fuck was that about?

A career opportunity for Jane Birkin?

Blow Up isn't a good film, when you get right down to it none of Antonioni's are; no coherent plot, no internal dynamic, no interesting characters. But it's edges are arresting. To start with he's a real chroma guy and, though it's not as in your face as it is in The Red Desert the expressive use of colour in Blow-Up is very fine. The vibrancy and saturation of the central character's world — the women's clothing, the (dyed) green of the grass — contrasted with his monochromatic self: clothes, studio, and photographs which, I suppose, some would say illuminates the emptiness of his life. I just think it looked nifty.

Also, this is entirely personal but the dark-room scenes: the magnification, processing and studying of prints I found galvanizing. Getting lost in the grain of a picture, seeing things that might be there or not. I've done all that and so, for me, it's the most realistic and dramatically loaded aspect of the film and I wish it had been more emphatic. (As a footnote it's also nice to have a well filmed record of the Beck/Page Yardbirds too.)

But overall, as I said, it's not so much that emperor has no clothes. The clothes are fine, at times even brilliant, it's just that there's no emperor inside them.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Jon - 07-05-2009 00:13

"Started on The Shield yesterday."

Which series, Lyra? I'm adoring the latest (which is to be the last) one.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 07-05-2009 18:21

Oh starting at the very beginning, series 1. I reckon it will get even better as it hits its stride, good to know that it is still good at the end!

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 07-05-2009 20:10

The final series is brilliant. The final episode a stunner.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by axel - 09-05-2009 22:44

Current reading about soaps most bizaare moments
Forgotten how mental some of these primetime programmes can be

<http://entertainment.uk.msn.com/tv/galleries/gallery.aspx?cp-documentid=16580708>

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Paul Quack - 10-05-2009 19:08

My good wife and I have recently discovered Lost. We're watching the first series on DVD.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by wingco - 10-05-2009 19:49

Echoing A de C re the last episode of The Shield.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 11-05-2009 12:18

I watched The Faculty for the first time since the cinema and I think it held up pretty well, it was still fun and funny and quite fresh and not annoyingly 'postmodern', just a tiny bit.

And then Knowing which almost challenges Martyrs for the 'worst film I have seen this year'. What a gigantic bag of shit, honestly. Loathsome right from the start, as so many films of this kind of subgenre seem to be - mawkish, vile. I think I prefer the cloyingly sentimental Deep Impact and even the staggeringly boring Last Night to this heap of drivelling nonsense.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 13-05-2009 14:15

State of Play

I didn't manage to catch the TV series so I had nothing to compare this to. Every review I've heard or read has the same opinion - good, but not a patch on the TV show. As politic thrillers go it's very good.

Russell Crowe gives a strong performance but isn't helped by the fact that the character has been written as the all knowing god of journalism. The issue of privatised armed forces is sensationalised but gives stark warnings of the practise. The film is full of cliché (rookie earns respect of master, twists, car park rendez-vous) but remains gripping throughout. Big questions such as the demise of journalism and corruption of officials are raised throughout the film. It's worth seeing without being mind-blowing.

Human Resources

The first film of Laurent Cantet, director of The Class, set in a factory. The son of long time factory worker starts as a trainee in the HR department of the factory. The conflict between cost-cutting management and unions is explored in the form of the 35 hour week. Only one professional actor is used and the factory appeared to be producing during shooting. I thoroughly enjoyed it because I emphasised to a large extent with the main character. Not perfect by any means but deals with social class, workers rights and management aspirations in a thorough manner. There are a few emotional family scenes too and they manage to hit the right spot without melodrama.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 13-05-2009 17:43

Central do Brasil (ten years late), with the absolutely magnificent Fernanda Montenegro in the lead role of cynical old woman who finds her heart. It gets a bit maudlin in places, but it provides an interesting contrast to all those frenetic favela flicks.

But really, it's a master-class in screen acting from FM.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Lyra - 13-05-2009 17:58

Human Resources is one of my favourite films.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Moonlight shadow - 13-05-2009 19:49

Gave a whizz to "Sons of Anarchy", the new biker gang saga from the US yesterday. Interesting, quite brutal and the absolute star of the show is the wife of the gang leader and mother to the vice-leader, Lady Macbeth in leather.

I'll stick with it for the time being.

=====

Re:Current Watching

Posted by MsD - 13-05-2009 22:33

axel wrote:
Current reading about soaps most bizaare moments
Forgotten how mental some of these primetime programmes can be

<http://entertainment.uk.msn.com/tv/galleries/gallery.aspx?cp-documentid=16580708>
Jonathan Harvey (Beautiful Thing) is one of several writers currently serving up some truly camp and loopy Coronation Street scripts.

Tonight's was a corker ... Mary the Comper Queen trying to seduce Norris the newsagent in her motorhome (parked outside the Rovers), with kiwi bellinis and Sheena Easton.

Other things I'm currently watching apart from BBC music docs .. Mad Men, The Apprentice and Ashes to Ashes.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by Nil Arshavin - 14-05-2009 14:41

Lyra, you have great taste.

Is Anybody There?

Small film from John Crowley featuring Michael Caine and the boy from Son of Rambow. The two actors are superb together. Dementia and death are explored without simple platitudes. No answers are present here but the film doesn't shy away from asking questions about life, death and regrets.

With Intermission, Boy A and now this John Crowley is shaping up to be a director of note.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by linus - 16-05-2009 21:43

I'm going to see two Antonionis in 35mm this week, The Passenger and Zabriskie Point. I haven't seen the former. I do like Antonioni a lot.

Tomorrow night I'm watching Melville's "Le Cercle Rouge" on the big screen, classic French noir.

Best film I saw last month: "Les Plages d'Agnès", a new auto-biographical memoir from Agnès Varda, very whimsical and beautiful self-portrait.

Re:Current Watching

Posted by erwin - 16-05-2009 23:49

That last ten minutes or so of 'The Passenger' is something else.

(Can't remember much about the rest of the film, I must admit).

Re:Current Watching

Posted by linus - 17-05-2009 10:14

Are you thinking about Zabriskie's last 10 min erwin, the psychedelic scene with the Floyd soundtrack, or does the Passenger also have something like that? Pasolini's Teorema also had that disconnected late segment with blownout psychedelic landscape allegoric scenes.

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Re:Current Watching

Posted by Paul Quack - 17-05-2009 13:02

I've just watched the new DVD about Brian Clough. Strangely enough it's called Clough. What a wonderful DVD. At times when he and Don Revie are interviewed together Cloughie comes across as a naughty schoolboy. What a great bloke.

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