

Review-Portlandia: Season 1



David Voigt, Toronto TV Examiner

December 6, 2011 - Like this? [Subscribe to get instant updates.](#)

Add a comment

StumbleUpon

reddit

Email

Print



The Dream of the 90's is back...

Credits: oregonlive.com



Video: [Portlandia](#)

Rating for Portlandia: Season 1:

Created by and starring [Fred Armisen](#) & [Carrie Brownstein](#)

The joy of new release Tuesday begins a new as the all the latest and greatest new releases are hitting the stores on DVD & Blu-Ray. One of the many titles gracing the video stores shelves across the city of Toronto, is a comedy series that from an SNL veteran where we get drawn into a dreamy absurdist rendering of Portland, Oregon through a series of sketches. It's time to explore the first season of "Portlandia".

"Portlandia" starring co-creators Fred Armisen (SNL) & Carrie Brownstein (Vocalist/guitarist of Sleater Kinney) this series of overlapping shorts in their world of Portlandia includes a cavalcade of unique recurring characters including an organic farmer/cult leader, members of an adult hide and seek league and an artsy couple who attach cut-outs of birds to everything to name a few. The six episodes that comprise season one include a variety of guest stars including Selma Blair, Kyle MacLachlan, Steve Buscemi, Heather Graham, Sarah McLachlan, Jason Sudekis and many others.

Advertisement

Related Topics

[Portlandia](#)

[Fred Armisen](#)

[Carrie Brownstein](#)

[Portland](#)

[Satire](#)

[The Nineties](#)

Despite being a little too clever by half, there were some genuinely funny moments in "Portlandia". Essentially a self-mocking satire full of hipster nonsense this show from stars and creators Armisen & Brownstein as well as director Jonathan Krisel (Tim & Eric's Awesome Show) has some fun moments but it also has some flat ones, as is the nature of any sketch comedy show. Filmed on location in Portland we follow the various adventures of all the characters that Armisen & Brownstein introduce us and it is actually Brownstein who surprises here with her comedic chops playing off of Armisen.

She captures the intended understatement of the characters which is the overriding theme of the show.

Extras include a blooper reel, extended and deleted scenes, a season 2 preview, commentary from Fred, Carrie and director Jonathan Krisel over all six episodes, Thunderrant videos and footage of Fred Armisen speaking to OES graduates.

If you grew up in the nineties, "Portlandia" is a smart satire that is skewering the general pathos of existence and pop culture in the 90's. If you grew up in that time frame, you'll get the joke and it will generate a few smiles and even some laughs because when it works, it works quite well; but when it doesn't you'll just be left scratching your head.

3 out of 5 stars.

"Portlandia" is available today at video stores across Toronto; click [here](#) for a list of some of the finer independent video stores near you.

Don't forget to follow me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as the Pop Culture Poet for all the latest and greatest news and reviews from the world of entertainment.

Suggested by the author:

- [Review-Spartacus: Gods Of The Arena](#)
- [Review-Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy \(1979\)](#)
- [Review-Call Me Fitz: Season 1](#)
- [Review - Community: Season 2](#)
- [Review-SNL presents: A Very Gilly Christmas](#)



By David Voigt
Toronto TV Examiner

David Voigt, a regular contributor to the Examiner.com, was a content manager in entertainment industry. His 12 years of experience have provided...

[Read full bio](#)

- [Get my newsletter](#)
- [Follow me on Twitter](#)
- [Get my RSS feed](#)
- [Become an Examiner](#)

Don't miss...



Slideshow: The Scottish Loony Dook tradition continues
[See them take the plunge](#)



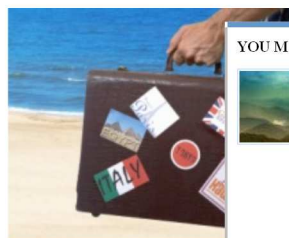
Catch all the college football action on and off the field
[Scores, stats and more](#)



We're recapping the best (and worst) films of 2011
[See what made the list](#)



It all came down to 8 votes. See who won in Iowa
[Get the latest updates](#)



YOU MIGHT LIKE »



Enjoy 2012 on the Blue Ridge Parkway

It's Curtains for the US — the Unapologetic Truth About Our Economy (Moneynews)

[?]

Slideshow: Did Lady Gaga tone down her outfits in 2011?

[See these 50 pics and decide](#)

Get inspired by everyday heroes making a difference

[See their stories of hope](#)

Dodge the cold and take a winter escape

[Plan your getaway](#)

See the stories and photos that helped shaped 2011

[The year in review](#)



Company Links

- [Advertise with us](#)
- [Career opportunities](#)
- [Examiner.com blog](#)
- [Mobile site](#)
- [RSS feeds](#)
- [Sitemap](#)
- [Today in photos](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)

Partner Links

- [AEG Worldwide](#)
- [Foundation for a Better Life](#)
- [NowPublic.com](#)
- [Walden Media](#)

YOU MIGHT LIKE »



[Enjoy 2012 on the Blue Ridge Parkway](#)

It's Curtains for the US — the Unapologetic Truth About Our Economy (Moneynews)

[?]