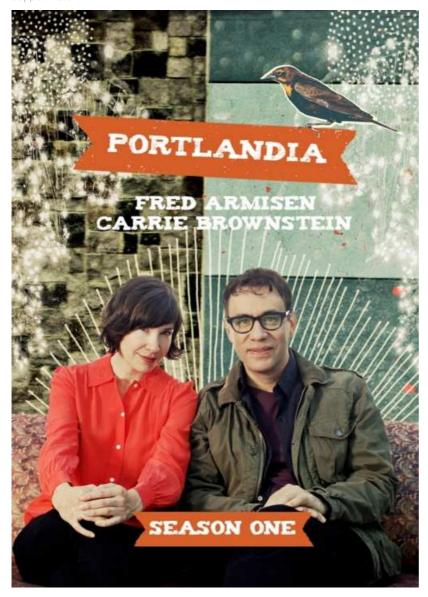
The Impaler Speaks

Portlandia: Season One

@IFCtv @mvdentgroup The Impaler's verdict: 'too damn good to ignore'. Review will also be published in Mass Movement 32. Music, comedy, indie - what's not to support here?!?



Portlandia – Season One (VSC/MVD Visual)

The six-episode first season of this amazing new comedy series from IFC (the Independent Film Channel) stars Fred Armisen (he was the drummer for Chicagobased post-hardcore band Trenchmouth and is a truly funny and talented actor, with a long run as a cast member on 'Saturday Night Live' and a scene-stealing player in films such as 'Anchorman', 'Easy A', 'Cop Out', and dozens more) and Carrie Brownstein (she was the guitarist and vocalist for riot grrl heroes Sleatter-Kinney and currently fills those same roles for the grrl supergroup Wild Flag - and she, too, is a funny and talented actor, as evidenced in this very show). 'Portlandia' is a sketch-comedy show of sorts, not unlike 'The Tim & Eric Awesome Show' which shares some of the same writers, directors, and actors (including Jonathan Krisel, the show's creator) – but it flows seamlessly from bit to bit, doesn't overwhelm any episode with too many sketches, and features a unifying theme to each episode. Additionally, this show features a recurring cast of characters (most of whom are played by Armisen and Brownstein, of course), such as the ultragreen couple who refuse to order chicken at a restaurant until they actually visit the organic farm on which it was raised to meet its family, and the proprietors of the women-only bookstore who find fault with everyone and everything but themselves and find ever-more-inventive ways to keep from ever actually selling anything to anyone. The biggest unifying aspect of the show is that it is all set in Portland,



The Impaler Speaks... supporting local music worldwide, from Austin TX to the United Kingdom and everywhere else. The Impaler has been a member of the Mass Movement creative team since it was a cut-n-paste fanzine many years ago. This is a way to add some depth to the coverage I am able to provide in MM, and so much more....

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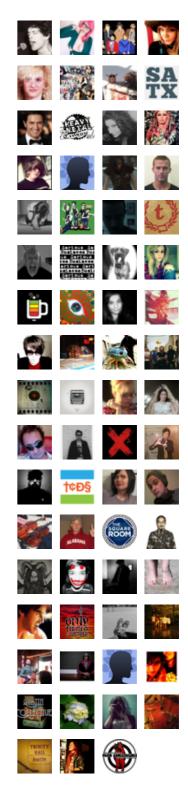




Oregon — a city where 'the dream of the 90s is still alive... the tattoo ink never runs dry... all the hot girls wear glasses... and young people go to retire', according to the hilarious music video that opens the first episode. Adding to the already seductive appeal of this show is the wealth of guest stars — some, like Aimee Mann and Sarah McLachlan, playing themselves, others, like Kyle MacLachlan (the mayor of Portland) and Steve Buscemi (a terrorized bookstore customer) and Heather Graham (oh, just watch it and see for yourself!) playing characters that add significant color and dimension to the format. With just six episodes and such a perfectly executed style, 'Portlandia' Season One — available as a single-disc DVD or Blu-Ray, and as a special package with discs in both formats — plays more like a movie... an untamed, hysterical, thoroughly enjoyable movie that is too subversive for the Hollywood machine and too damn good to ignore. The Impaler @impalerspeaks

Posted 2 months ago

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