

## Station Control

# IF YOU CAN'T CREATE NEW

### Copy a Show that's Tried and True

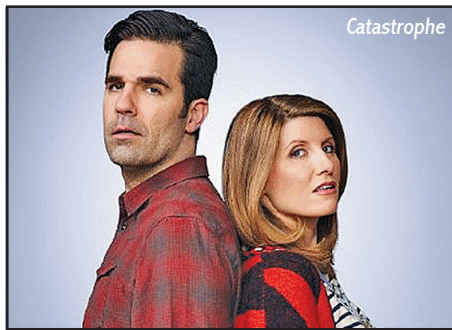
BY BENJAMIN CARR

ONE OF THE BASIC RULES IN television and movies is that if you find a successful hit, rip it off. This may not be the most respectable and idealistic approach to art but it often works. Even if audiences say they're looking for new concepts, it makes good sense (and thus good cents) to give them more of the same.

After the 1980s hit *The Cosby Show*, it seemed every stand-up comedian was given a shot at their own family sitcom. This led to great successes like *Roseanne* and *Home Improvement* along with a dozen other shows that we don't really remember now.

After *Seinfeld* became a hit in the 1990s, another of those stand-up shows (except without a family), it led to other new shows with copycat elements - a group of pals gathered in a coffee shop on shows like *Friends*, *Ellen*, *Two Guys, Two Broke Girls*, etc. The immediate clones to *Seinfeld*, though, didn't capture the spirit of the original recipe. Some of the ingredients in other shows were the same, but *Seinfeld's* dark, bitter, mean-spirited, selfish cruel streak seemed to die in TV comedy after Jerry and the gang headed to jail in the final episode. The closest we've come in the years since was *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, which was made by and starred the co-creator of *Seinfeld* as himself Larry David.

But this year, in case you missed Hulu's pervasive ad campaign touting its streaming of the entire series - or the appearance of its cast members on David Letterman's farewell in May, *Seinfeld* is back in style. And its dark tone has also reappeared on some new sitcoms.



Catastrophe

The best one is called *Catastrophe*, available through Amazon Prime. From creators and stars Rob Delaney and Sharon Horgan, its premise is decidedly adult. On a business trip to London, Rob meets Sharon in a bar. For a week they have constant unprotected sex and then he returns to America without ever learning her last name. A month later she calls him and announces she's pregnant. He returns to London to help her through a high-risk pregnancy even though the two of them barely know each other at all. *Catastrophe* doesn't feel like a romance. It feels like a chat among drinking buddies who hate everyone else around them.

Another show, the Hulu exclusive *Difficult People* is also bitter to its core. Created by Julie Klausner the sitcom stars her and Billy Eichner (*Parks and Recreation*) as two comedians who would prefer to spend their days criticizing celebrities and judging people. They hate everybody but they're really funny in the way that they do. Every episode of the show features at least three laugh-out-loud lines. It's a terrific show, reminiscent of Jerry, George, Kramer and Elaine.

## FILM

## NEW RELEASES

THE LATEST DVD, BLU RAY &amp; VOD RELEASES

BY BRET LOVE AND JOHN MOORE

### The Affair: Season One

Showtime has spent years trying to catch up to HBO.

The network rises to the challenge with this sexy, suspenseful guilty pleasure, starring Dominick West as a teacher/writer who takes his family to Long Island for summer at the beach with his in-laws. At a local diner he meets a waitress (Ruth Wilson) who's trapped in a strained marriage. The two embark on a passionate affair, and the show focuses on the psychological toll it takes. Despite a potentially clichéd storyline, the series is brilliantly written and the acting is exceptional.



### The Hee Haw Collection

It may seem corny in retrospect, but this pickin' and grinnin' ode to country culture (which ran from 1969-1992) was a weekly must-watch for my Southern family. Hosted by Buck Owens and Roy Clark, the variety show was conceived as a rural alternative to *Laugh-In*, with comedy sketches, bluegrass jams and guest performances by legends such as Merle Haggard, Loretta Lynn, Charlie Rich, Conway Twitty and Tammy Wynette. This 3-DVD set from Time-Life features 5 late '60s and early '70s episodes previously unavailable at retail, and includes interviews with cast members Clark, George Lindsey and more.

**The Last Dragon: 30th Anniversary Edition**  
Back in 1985, Motown founder Berry

Gordy produced a cult classic that was part Blaxploitation, part kung fu action, and 100% entertaining. The story follows NYC martial artist Leroy Green (a.k.a. "Bruce Leroy"), who idolizes the kung fu legend and embarks on an epic quest to find a master who can help him develop a mystical power known as "The Glow." Along the way, there are rival gangs, sleazy video arcade impresarios, sexy pop stars and even Prince's associate Vanity as music video jockey... in other words, totally cheesy '80s awesomeness.

### Mad Max: Fury Road

Over 35 years after his directorial debut, George Miller returned to the franchise that made him famous and delivered an action epic for the ages. The cinematography of the apocalyptic desert wasteland is stunning, the stunts are eye-popping from start to finish, and Charlize Theron (as the one-armed heroine Imperator Furiosa) leads a largely female cast that steals the show right out from under Tom Hardy's feet. His Max is serviceable, but the biggest star here is Miller, who somehow manages to rival (if not top) his previous career best, 1981's *The Road Warrior*.

### Soaked in Bleach

It'd be easy to dismiss this as another exploitative title in the growing "Kurt Cobain Was Murdered" genre. But its theories are put forth by the PI hired by Courtney Love when Cobain went missing in 1994, and he has plenty of incriminating recordings to add reasonable doubt that this was simply a suicide by a conflicted, drug-addicted rock star. In addition to bizarre recordings from Love, Tom Grant has recordings of Cobain's lawyer/close friend Rosemary Carroll, who seriously doubts Kurt was suicidal. It's a compelling documentary, regardless of where you stand on the murder vs. suicide spectrum.

CHEESEBURGER  
**BOBBY'S**  
Burgers • Fries • Frozen Custard

# Delicious!

Buckhead, 4365 Roswell Rd.  
Marietta, 125 Barrett Pkwy.  
Sandy Springs, 5975 Roswell Rd.

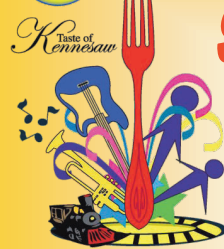
**\$7** Bobby's Classic  
Single Cheeseburger  
Meal Deal!

Includes Burger, Fresh Cut  
Fries & Med. Drink

Expires 10/31/15. Valid at Buckhead,  
Marietta & Sandy Springs locations.



[www.cheeseburgerbobbys.com](http://www.cheeseburgerbobbys.com)



## Taste of Kennesaw

### Saturday - Sept. 12th



**FREE concert 6:00 PM**

**OVER 40 GREAT RESTAURANTS**

**SAMPLES FROM \$1 - \$4**

**California Dreaming BEER GARDEN**

**ENTERTAINMENT ~ KID'S ZONE**

**Carrabba's Culinary Throw Down**



**11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Downtown Kennesaw, GA**

(Main Street / Depot - Downtown Kennesaw)

**FOR MORE INFO 770-423-1330**

**KennesawBusiness.org**



**BEST PATIO in Buckhead**

# TWIN PEAKS

Vote For Us  
**Best of ATLANTA**  
INSIDE - 2015

## YOUR FOOTBALL HEADQUARTERS

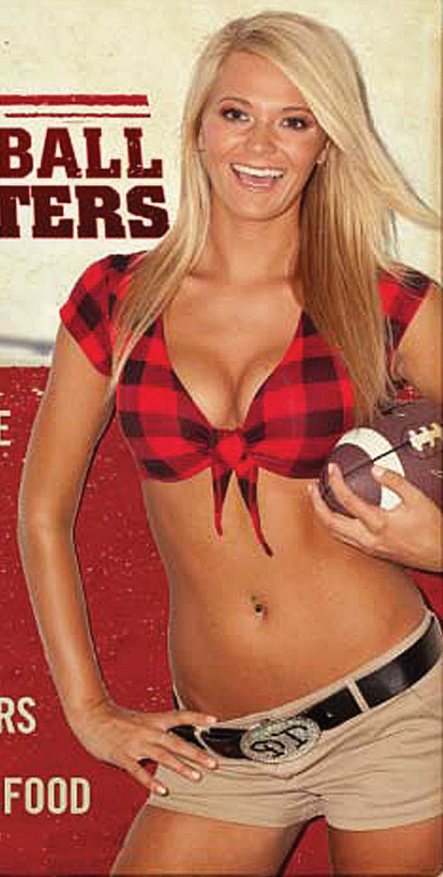
★ CATCH EVERY COLLEGE AND PRO FOOTBALL

★ 100 TVS

★ 29 DEGREE BEER

★ OPEN AIR BAR UPSTAIRS

★ MADE FROM SCRATCH FOOD



**TWIN PEAKS | 3365 PIEDMONT ROAD**

**ATLANTA, GA 30305 | (404) 961-8946**

[TwinPeaksRestaurant.com](http://TwinPeaksRestaurant.com)

