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## review: ROBSON ARMS (SEASON 1)

Eclectic // Buy from [Amazon.com](#)

*Robson Arms is a half-hour dramedy series that follows the lives of the tenants in a once-grand low-rise in Vancouver's eclectic West End. Robson Arms is about community and all the word implies: people sharing a space and place; sometimes connected, sometimes occupying different worlds. All of the tenants are stuck at some crossroads in their lives, each in their own unique way in a job, in a relationship, in time, or in a headspace. They do not know it yet, but their time in this building eventually changes them moves them forward, moves them back, denies their wishes, or grants their dreams*



Despite the fact that I am a Canuck, despite the fact that, until 9 months ago, I resided north of the border for my entire life, and despite the fact that there are literally only a handful of Canadian-made television shows, I had never watched a single episode of the esteemed "Robson Arms" before moving to the U.S., establishing DVDschlock.com, and having the opportunity to request the title for review. What makes this even more interesting (is that even possible?) is that I grew up with one of the actors in this ensemble cast (Tobias Mehler) -- thankfully, this DVD set allows me to now see even more of his (top-notch) work.

In a nutshell, this series is a bunch of 1/2 hour glimpses into the lives of people living in an apartment building in Vancouver. Simple & straightforward. What's interesting is how real this show is - it's far less "Melrose Place" and far more the people you know (and/or are), which makes it seem almost fly-on-the-wall documentary-ish... (yes, I made that word up. So?)

I don't know how many people south of the border have ever heard of this show, but hopefully more than a few pic up this first season on DVD, as it's a truly well-done series, with great characters and solid acting throughout. Now Toby - remember when we acted together (as the dynamic duo) in front of our entire high school at that pep rally? Can you put me in touch with your agent?

#### Video

This first season is given a nice 16x9 anamorphic widescreen transfer that delivers each episode in fine form.

#### Audio

Surprisingly, we get a Dolby 5.1 surround mix for each episode -- not too shabby for a Canuck production!

#### Extras

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- trailer
- Season 2 preview
- "making of" featurettes
- commentaries with series creators
- discussion of opening sequence + tone of series

#### Closing Thoughts

Really well-done and intelligent dramatic fare from north of the border + assortment of decent extras = little show that could that's worth checking out

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