Los Angeles and New York – Recognizing the essential role that writers have played in creating and elevating the medium of television since its inception, the Writers Guild of America, West (WGAW) and the Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE) tonight announced the list of the 101 Best Written TV Series, honoring seven decades of outstanding television programming and the writers who brought it all to life. 

The list was determined through online voting by WGAW and WGAE members. A follow-up to the WGA’s 101 Greatest Screenplays (2006), the “TV 101” list honors classic, trailblazing series and miniseries, as well as current and critically acclaimed programs, from comedies and dramas to variety/talk and children’s programming. “At their core, all of these wonderful series began with the words of the writers who created them and were sustained by the writers who joined their staffs or worked on individual episodes,” said WGAW President Chris Keyser and WGAE President Michael Winship in a joint statement. “This list is not only a tribute to great TV, it is a dedication to all writers who devote their hearts and minds to advancing their craft.”

1. *The Sopranos* – HBO – Created by David Chase

2. *Seinfeld* – NBC – Created by Larry David & Jerry Seinfeld


4. *All in the Family* – CBS – Developed for Television by Norman Lear, Based on Till Death Do Us Part, Created by Johnny Speight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Creator(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td><em>The Mary Tyler Moore Show</em></td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Created by James L. Brooks and Allan Burns</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td><em>Mad Men</em></td>
<td>AMC</td>
<td>Created by Matthew Weiner</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td><em>Cheers</em></td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Created by Glen Charles &amp; Les Charles and James Burrows</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td><em>The Wire</em></td>
<td>HBO</td>
<td>Created by David Simon</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td><em>The West Wing</em></td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Created by Aaron Sorkin</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td><em>The Simpsons</em></td>
<td>FOX</td>
<td>Created by Matt Groening, Developed by James L. Brooks and Matt Groening and Sam Simon</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td><em>Breaking Bad</em></td>
<td>AMC</td>
<td>Created by Vince Gilligan</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td><em>The Dick Van Dyke Show</em></td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Created by Carl Reiner</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td><em>Hill Street Blues</em></td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Created by Michael Kozoll and Steven Bochco</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td><em>Arrested Development</em></td>
<td>FOX</td>
<td>Created by Mitchell Hurwitz</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td><em>The Daily Show with Jon Stewart</em></td>
<td>COMEDY CENTRAL</td>
<td>Created by Madeleine Smithberg, Lizz Winstead; Season One – Head Writer: Chris Kreski; Writers: Jim Earl, Daniel J. Goor, Charles Grandy, J.R. Havlan, Tom Johnson, Kent Jones, Paul Mercurio, Guy Nicolucci, Steve Rosenfield, Jon Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td><em>Six Feet Under</em></td>
<td>HBO</td>
<td>Created by Alan Ball</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td><em>Taxi</em></td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Created by James L. Brooks and Stan Daniels and David Davis and Ed Weinberger</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td><em>The Larry Sanders Show</em></td>
<td>HBO</td>
<td>Created by Garry Shandling &amp; Dennis Klein</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td><em>30 Rock</em></td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Created by Tina Fey</td>
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<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td><em>Friday Night Lights</em></td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Developed for Television by Peter Berg, Inspired by the Book by H.G. Bissinger</td>
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<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td><em>Frasier</em></td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Created by David Angell &amp; Peter Casey &amp; David Lee, Based on the Character “Frasier Crane” Created by Glen Charles &amp; Les Charles</td>
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</table>
24. **Friends** – NBC – Created by Marta Kauffman & David Crane


26. **The X-Files** – FOX – Created by Chris Carter

27. **Lost** – ABC – Created by Jeffrey Lieber and J.J. Abrams & Damon Lindelof

28. **ER** – NBC – Created Michael Crichton


30. **Curb Your Enthusiasm** – HBO – Created by Larry David


32. **Deadwood** – HBO – Created by David Milch

33. **Star Trek** – NBC – Created by Gene Roddenberry

34. **Modern Family** – ABC – Created by Steven Levitan & Christopher Lloyd

35. **Twin Peaks** – ABC – “Pilot,” Written by Mark Frost & David Lynch

36. **NYPD Blue** – ABC – created by David Milch & Steven Bochco

37. **The Carol Burnett Show** – CBS – Season One: Written by Bill Angelos, Stan Burns, Don Hinkley, Buz Kohan, Mike Marmer, Gail Parent, Kenny Solms, Saul Turteltaub; Writing Supervised by Arnie Rosen


39. **Sex & the City** – HBO – Created by Darren Star, Based on the Book by Candace Bushnell

40. **Game of Thrones** – HBO – Created by David Benioff & D. B. Weiss, Based on A Song of Ice and Fire by George R. R. Martin
<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Created By</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>The Bob Newhart Show</td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>David Davis and Lorenzo Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Your Show of Shows</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Mel Tolkin, Lucille Kallen, Max Liebman</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Downton Abbey</td>
<td>PBS</td>
<td>Julian Fellowes</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Law &amp; Order</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Dick Wolf</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>thirtysomething</td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Marshall Herskovitz &amp; Edward Zwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Homicide: Life on the Street</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Paul Attanasio, Based on the Book Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets by David Simon</td>
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<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>St. Elsewhere</td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Joshua Brand &amp; John Falsey, Developed by Mark Tinker / John Masius</td>
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<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Homeland</td>
<td>SHOWTIME</td>
<td>Howard Gordon &amp; Alex Gansa, Based on the Original Israeli Series Prisoners of War by Gideon Raff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</td>
<td>WB</td>
<td>Joss Whedon</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>The Colbert Report</td>
<td>COMEDY CENTRAL</td>
<td>Season One writers: Stephen Colbert, Rich Dahm, Eric Drysdale, Peter Gwinn, Jay Katsir, Laura Krafft, Allison Silverman</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>The Good Wife</td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Robert King &amp; Michelle King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>The Office (UK)</td>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>Ricky Gervais &amp; Stephen Merchant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Northern Exposure</td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Joshua Brand &amp; John Falsey</td>
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<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>The Wonder Years</td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Neal Marlens &amp; Carol Black</td>
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<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>L.A. Law</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Steven Bochco &amp; Terry Louise Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Sesame Street</td>
<td>PBS</td>
<td>Joan Ganz Cooney</td>
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<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Columbo</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Richard Levinson &amp; William Link</td>
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<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Fawlty Towers</td>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>John Cleese &amp; Connie Booth</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
58. *The Rockford Files* *TIE* – NBC – Created by Roy Huggins and Stephen J. Cannell

60. *Freaks and Geeks* *TIE* – NBC – Created by Paul Feig

60. *Moonlighting* *TIE* – ABC – Created by Glenn Gordon Caron


63. *Everybody Loves Raymond* *TIE* – CBS – Created by Philip Rosenthal

63. *South Park* *TIE* – COMEDY CENTRAL – Created by Matt Stone & Trey Parker


66. *Dexter* *TIE* – SHOWTIME – Developed for Television by James Manos, Jr., Based on the Novel Darkly Dreaming Dexter by Jeff Lindsay

66. *The Office (US)* *TIE* – NBC – Created by Ricky Gervais & Stephen Merchant, Developed by Greg Daniels, Based on the BBC Series The Office

68. *My So-Called Life* – ABC – Created by Winnie Holzman

69. *The Golden Girls* – NBC – Created by Susan Harris


71. *24* *TIE* – FOX – Created by Joel Surnow & Robert Cochran

71. *Roseanne* *TIE* – ABC – Created by Matt Williams, Based on a Character Created by Roseanne Barr

72. *The Shield* *TIE* – FX – Created by Shawn Ryan

74. *House* *TIE* – FOX – Created by David Shore
74. Murphy Brown *TIE – CBS – Created by Diane English

76. Barney Miller *TIE – ABC – Created by Danny Arnold & Theodore J. Flicker

77. I, Claudius *TIE – PBS – Written by Rupert Graves and Jack Pulman

78. The Odd Couple – ABC – Episode 1, “The Fight of the Felix,” Written by Peggy Elliott & Ed Scharlach


79. Star Trek: The Next Generation *TIE – SYN – Created by Gene Roddenberry

79. Upstairs, Downstairs *TIE – PBS – Created by Jean Marsh and Eileen Atkins

83. Get Smart – NBC – “Pilot,” Written by Mel Brooks and Buck Henry

84. The Defenders *TIE – CBS – Created by Reginald Rose


86. Justified *TIE – FX - Developed for Television by Graham Yost, Based on the Short Story “Fire in the Hole” by Elmore Leonard

87. Sgt. Bilko (The Phil Silvers Show) *TIE

CBS
Created by Nat Hiken

88

Band of Brothers
HBO

Written by Erik Bork, E. Max Frye, Tom Hanks, Erik Jendresen, Bruce C. McKenna, John Orloff, Graham Yost; Based on the Book by Stephan E. Ambrose

89

Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In

NBC

Season One: Written by Chris Beard, Phil Hahn, John Hanrahan, Coslough Johnson, Paul Keyes, Marc London, Allan Manings, David Panich, Hugh Wedlock, Digby Wolfe

90

The Prisoner

CBS

Premiere Episode: Written by George Markstein and David Tomblin

91

Absolutely Fabulous (UK) *TIE

BBC

Episode 1, “Fashion,” Written by Jennifer Saunders, Based on an Original Idea by Jennifer Saunders & Dawn French

The Muppet Show *TIE

SYN

Season One: Written by Jack Burns, Jim Henson, Jerry Juhl, Marc London

93

Boardwalk Empire
HBO

Created by Terence Winter, Based on the Book Boardwalk Empire by Nelson Johnson

94

Will & Grace

NBC

Created by David Kohan & Max Mutchnick

95

Family Ties

NBC

Created by Gary David Goldberg

96

Lonesome Dove *TIE

CBS

Teleplay by Bill Wittliff, Based on the Novel Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry

Soap *TIE

ABC

Created by Susan Harris

98

The Fugitive *TIE

ABC

Episode 1, “Where the Action Is,” Written by Harry Kronman
Late Night with David Letterman

CBS

Season One: Writing Supervised by Merrill Markoe, Writers: Andy Breckman, Tom Gammill, David Letterman, Richard Morris, Gerard Mulligan, Max Pross, Karl Tiedemann, Steve Winer

Louie

FX

Season One: Written and Directed by Louis C.K.

101

Oz

HBO

Created by Tom Fontana

For additional information about the WGA’s 101 Best Written TV Series and a complete list of credited writers, please visit: http://www.wga.org/101tv.html or www.wgaeast.org/tv101.

Writers Guild members had a broad and dynamic TV programming field to choose from, as eligibility criteria included any series that aired from the early years of television through the present, on broadcast TV and basic or pay cable. All genres of scripted series were eligible for consideration, including animation, children’s, comedy, daytime/serial, drama, scripted anthologies, miniseries with six hours or more of programming, and variety/talk series. Series must have been written in English, have aired in the U.S., and featured onscreen writing credits. (Individual episodes, specials, non-serialized or individual programs including telefilms/movies-of-the-week, and miniseries with less than six hours of programming, were not eligible.)