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24 (Season 2) DVD Review

By Britt Gillette

Premiering in November 2001, 24 set the television landscape on fire as one of the best new series

and cemented its position as a pop culture phenomenon. Making use of an extremely original plot device, each season follows the exploits of a single day in life of hero Jack Bauer, each of the season's 24 episodes chronicling an hour-long action segment from the day. Kiefer Sutherland plays the part of Jack Bauer, a daring government agent with awesome responsibilities. Each year's episodes are similar to an action-packed Hollywood blockbuster, but they're only a glimpse into a normal day in the life of Jack Bauer...

Season 2 supposedly takes place eighteen months after Jack's big day in Los Angeles. Jack is now dealing with the death of his wife and is estranged from his daughter Kim. As a result, he contemplates retirement. But when President Palmer personally requests his help, Jack agrees to take on a new assignment. In so doing, Jack learns that a Middle-Eastern terrorist group called Second Wave is going to detonate a nuclear device in Los Angeles in the next 24 hours. Yet again the clock is ticking, and yet again, only Jack Bauer stands in the way of an evil conspiracy reaching its final fruition...

The 24 (Season 2) DVD features a number of breathtaking episodes including the season premiere which begins with President Palmer and his son fishing in an Oregon lake when he's called away for an emergency. Ushered into an underground bunker, he learns of a terrorist plot to set off a nuclear weapon in the Los Angeles area in the next 24 hours. At the CIA's Counter Terrorism Unit, George Mason is ordered to contact Jack Bauer in respect to the case, but it takes the personal appeal of President Palmer to move Jack into action. Meanwhile Kim, working as a housekeeper/nanny, overhears a domestic dispute between her boss and his wife, and she locks herself and the man's daughter in a bedroom. As the episode concludes, Jack learns that the key to uncovering the whereabouts of the nuclear device may lie with a domestic terrorist organization he once infiltrated... Other notable episodes from Season 2 include (#31) in which Jack and Nina set up a sting to see if a contact can lead them to the site of the bomb, and (#46) in which Jack stands on the verge of making a break in the case but has his efforts thwarted by the president's ex-wife, who's involved in the terrorist conspiracy...

Below is a list of episodes included on the 24 (Season 2) DVD:

Episode 25 (12:00 A.M. - 1:00 A.M.) Air Date: 10-29-2002 Episode 26 (1:00 A.M. - 2:00 A.M.) Air Date: 11-05-2002 Episode 27 (2:00 A.M. - 3:00 A.M.) Air Date: 11-12-2002 Episode 28 (3:00 A.M. - 4:00 A.M.) Air Date: 11-19-2002 Episode 29 (4:00 A.M. - 5:00 A.M.) Air Date: 11-26-2002 Episode 30 (5:00 A.M. - 6:00 A.M.) Air Date: 12-03-2002 Episode 31 (6:00 A.M. - 7:00 A.M.) Air Date: 12-10-2002 Episode 32 (7:00 A.M. - 8:00 A.M.) Air Date: 12-17-2002 Episode 33 (8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.) Air Date: 01-07-2003 Episode 34 (9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.) Air Date: 01-14-2003 Episode 35 (10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.) Air Date: 02-04-2003 Episode 36 (11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.) Air Date: 02-11-2003 Episode 37 (12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.) Air Date: 02-18-2003 Episode 38 (1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.) Air Date: 02-25-2003 Episode 39 (2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.) Air Date: 03-04-2003 Episode 40 (3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.) Air Date: 03-25-2003 Episode 41 (4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.) Air Date: 04-01-2003 Episode 42 (5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.) Air Date: 04-08-2003 Episode 43 (6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.) Air Date: 04-15-2003 Episode 44 (7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.) Air Date: 04-22-2003 Episode 45 (8:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.) Air Date: 04-29-2003 Episode 46 (9:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.) Air Date:

05-06-2003 Episode 47 (10:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.) Air Date: 05-13-2003 Episode 48 (11:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M.) Air Date: 05-20-2003

Britt Gillette is author of The DVD Report (

<http://thedvdreport.blogspot.com>

), a blog where you can find

more reviews like this one.

Recordable DVD formats explained

By Kenny Hemphill

Recordable DVD formats explained by Kenny Hemphill

Picking your way through the ton of information available on recordable DVD formats can be a nightmare. To help you out, we've done our best to distill it into this summary.

There are five recordable versions of DVD; DVD-R for General, DVD-R for Authoring, DVD-RAM, DVD-RW, and DVD+RW. None of the formats is fully compatible with the other although there are drives which will read, and in some cases write to more than one format.

DVD-R for General and DVD-R for Authoring are essentially DVD versions of CD-R. And DVD-RW is a DVD version of CD-RW. All three formats can be read in standard DVD-ROM drives and in most DVD video players. The difference between DVD-R for General and DVD-R for Authoring is that DVD-R for General is a format intended for widespread consumer use and doesn't support 'professional' features such as piracy protection or duplication in mass duplicators. The Pioneer DVD-RW drive which is the most popular PC device for writing to DVD uses the DVD for General format. And as as

the case with CD, DVD-RW is essentially the same as DVD-R except that it can be erased and written to again and again.

DVD-RAM is slightly different as it is a sector based disc which mounts on the desktop of a PC when inserted into a drive. Files can then be copied to it in the same way as any other mounted media. Some single-sided DVD-RAM discs can be removed from their caddy and inserted in a DVD-ROM drive which will then be able to read the content of the disc.

There are DVD video recorders which use the DVD-RAM format. This enables them to pull off clever tricks like timeshifting - where you can watch the beginning of a programme you have recorded while you are still recording the end on the same disc.

DVD+RW is the newest format and not supported by the DVD Forum, the body which sets the standards for DVD. However, it is supported by some of the biggest electronics and computer manufacturers, and is therefore likely to stick around.

It is also the format used by Philips in its DVD video recorders. Despite not being authorised by the DVD Forum, DVD+RW is claimed by its supporters to be compatible with more DVD video players than DVD-R and DVD+RW writers are found in PCs from quite a few manufacturers.

Kenny Hemphill is the editor and publisher of

The HDTV Tuner



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