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Cheers (DVD) Review

By Britt Gillette

One of the greatest television comedies in history, Cheers is an absolute must see for anyone

who's ever had a regular hangout "where everybody knows your name". The shows centers itself around a friendly neighborhood Boston bar named Cheers. The bar is owned by former Boston Red Sox relief pitcher Sam Malone (Ted Danson). Sam has two employees - bartender Ernie "Coach" Pantusso (Nicholas Colasanto) and waitress Carla Tortelli (Rhea Perlman). Things are great for Sam until he hires a jilted graduate student named Diane Chambers (Shelley Long) to waitress in the bar. Regular barflies Norm Peterson (George Wendt) and Cliff Clavin (John Ratzenberger) round out a strong supporting cast...

The Cheers DVD offers a number of hilarious episodes including the season premiere "Give Me A Ring Sometime" in which the gang at Cheers first meets Diane when she spends the day in the bar waiting for her fiancé, distinguished Boston University professor Sumner Sloane, to return from meeting with his ex-wife (where he hopes to retrieve his grandmother's ring for Diane). Sumner never returns, resulting in Diane accepting a job at the bar... Other notable episodes from Season 1 include "Sam At Eleven" in which Sam's ex-teammate turned sportscaster Dave Richards (Fred Dryer) arrives at the bar to interview Sam for the eleven o'clock news only to end up ditching him for John McEnroe, and "Pick a Con... Any Con" in which Coach is being played by a conman, prompting Sam to enlist the help of Harry the Conman (Harry Anderson) in order to get Coach's money back. Only Coach has a few surprises of his own...

Below is a list of episodes included on the Cheers (Season 1) DVD:

Episode 1 (Give Me A Ring Sometime) Air Date: 09-30-1982 Episode 2 (Sam's Women) Air Date: 10-07-1982 Episode 3 (The Tortelli Tort) Air Date: 10-14-1982 Episode 4 (Sam At Eleven) Air Date: 10-21-1982 Episode 5 (Coach's Daughter) Air Date: 10-28-1982 Episode 6 (Any Friend Of Diane's) Air Date: 11-04-1982 Episode 7 (Friends, Romans, Accountants) Air Date: 11-11-1982 Episode 8 (Truce Or Consequences) Air Date: 11-18-1982 Episode 9 (Coach Returns To Action) Air Date: 11-25-1982 Episode 10 (Endless Slumper) Air Date: 12-02-1982 Episode 11 (One For The Book) Air Date: 12-09-1982 Episode 12 (The Spy Who Came In For A Cold One) Air Date: 12-16-1982 Episode 13 (Now Pitching, Sam Malone) Air Date: 01-06-1983 Episode 14 (Let Me Count The Ways) Air Date:

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01-13-1983 Episode 15 (Father Knows Last) Air Date: 01-20-1983 Episode 16 (The Boys In The Bar) Air Date: 01-27-1983 Episode 17 (Diane's Perfect Date) Air Date: 02-10-1983 Episode 18 (No Contest) Air Date: 02-17-1983 Episode 19 (Pick A Con... Any Con) Air Date: 02-24-1983 Episode 20 (Someone Single, Someone Blue) Air Date: 03-03-1983 Episode 21 (Showdown 1) Air Date: 03-24-1983 Episode 22 (Showdown 2) Air Date: 03-31-1983

Britt Gillette is author of The DVD Report (

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), a blog where you can find

more reviews like this one.

Recordable DVD formats explained

By Kenny Hemphill

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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 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.

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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 supporter 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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