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Friends (DVD) Review

By Britt Gillette

Along with Seinfeld and Frasier, Friends dominated the must-see TV of the 1990's. Winner of innumerable television awards, the show features the lives of six friends in their late-twenties/early-thirties living in New York City – Monica Geller (Courteney Cox), Phoebe Buffay (Lisa Kudrow), Rachel Green (Jennifer Aniston), Ross Geller (David Schwimmer), Joey Tribbiani (Matt LeBlanc), and Chandler Bing (Matthew Perry). The six friends spend the majority of their time in a coffee house named "Central Perk" or in either Monica's apartment or Joey and Chandler's apartment.

The Friends DVD offers a number of hilarious episodes including season premiere in which Rachel leaves her fiancée Barry at the altar and moves in with Monica. Without her daddy's credit cards to live off of, Rachel is forced to get a job at the Central Perk coffee house. As the season progresses, we learn that Ross has harbored a life-long crush on Rachel, but he is continually unable to tell her because of a number of obstacles that get in his way. Season 1 also features the antics of Ross's pet monkey Marcel who would later be fazed out of the show because of the strain an animal placed on the show's production schedule...

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

Episode 1 (The One Where Monica Gets a Roommate) Air Date: 09-22-1994 Episode 2 (The One with the Sonogram at the End) Air Date: 09-29-1994 Episode 3 (The One with the Thumb) Air Date: 10-06-1994 Episode 4 (The One with George Stephanopoulos) Air Date: 10-13-1994 Episode 5 (The One with the East German Laundry Detergent) Air Date: 10-20-1994 Episode 6 (The One with the Butt) Air Date: 10-27-1994 Episode 7 (The One with the Blackout) Air Date: 11-03-1994 Episode 8 (The One Where Nana Dies Twice) Air Date: 11-10-1994 Episode 9 (The One Where Underdog Gets Away) Air Date: 11-17-1994 Episode 10 (The One with the Monkey) Air Date: 12-15-1994 Episode 11 (The One with Mrs. Bing) Air Date: 01-05-1995 Episode 12 (The One with the Dozen Lasagnas) Air Date: 01-12-1995 Episode 13 (The One with the Boobies) Air Date: 01-19-1995 Episode 14 (The One with the Candy Hearts) Air Date: 02-09-1995

Episode 15 (The One with the Stoned Guy) Air Date: 02-16-1995 Episode 16 (The One with Two Parts: Part 1) Air Date: 02-23-1995 Episode 17 (The One with Two Parts: Part 2) Air Date: 02-23-1995

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Episode 18 (The One with all the Poker) Air Date: 03-02-1995 Episode 19 (The One Where the Monkey Gets Away) Air Date: 03-09-1995 Episode 20 (The One with the Evil Orthodontist) Air Date: 04-06-1995 Episode 21 (The One with the Fake Monica) Air Date: 04-27-1995 Episode 22 (The One with the Ick Factor) Air Date: 05-04-1995 Episode 23 (The One with the Birth) Air Date: 05-11-1995 Episode 24 (The One Where Rachel Finds Out) Air Date: 05-18-1995

Britt Gillette is author of The DVD Report (

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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.

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

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