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Gilligan's Island (DVD) Review

By Britt Gillette

Nominated for zero Emmys in its short three-season stint, Gilligan's Island nonetheless has carved itself a notable niche in the television hall of fame. The brainchild of TV icon Sherwood Schwartz, longtime TV writer and creator of The Brady Bunch, Gilligan's Island quickly gathered a strong cult following, reaching successive generations of fans via syndication following its cancellation and even spawning a cable TV reality show four decades later. An original CBS series, the show was shuffled between time slots (much like its contemporary program Star Trek), but later became more popular than ever in its syndicated reruns. With a memorable theme song the average viewer will find stuck in his head for days, Gilligan's Island is classic family-friendly television entertainment the way it used to be...

Gilligan's Island follows the adventures of a tour group of varying personalities whose boat, the SS Minnow, falls victim to a torrential rain storm during a three hour tour. Shipwrecked upon a deserted Pacific island, the seven guests and crew spend their days and nights trying to escape the island or be rescued by passersby. In addition to Gilligan (Bob Denver) who is the SS Minnow's first mate, the island plays host to the Skipper (Alan Hale, Jr.), millionaire couple Thurston (Jim Backus) and Eunice Howell (Natalie Schafer), college professor Roy Hinkley (Russell Johnson), movie star Ginger Grant (Tina Louise), and Mary Ann Summers (Dawn Wells). Most every episode revolves around the group's feeble attempts to escape the island, undertakings usually thwarted and foiled by Gilligan's trademark buffoonery...

The Gilligan's Island DVD features a number of hilarious episodes including the season premiere "Two on a Raft" in which the cast is initially stranded on the island. Crafting a homemade raft, the Skipper and Gilligan set sail to find help. Along the way, they face dangerous sharks, the relentless sun, and hunger pains, until they eventually land on an island (not knowing it's the very one they set sail from). But Gilligan and the Skipper think the island is inhabited by unfriendly natives, while the rest of the cast believes that Gilligan and the Skipper are unfriendly natives themselves... Other notable episodes from Season 1 include "So Sorry, My Island Now" in which Gilligan's Island is captured by a Japanese Admiral who thinks World War II is still in full swing, and "My Fair Gilligan" in which Mr. Howell declares Gilligan his adopted son after Gilligan saves Mrs. Howell's life...

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Below is a list of episodes included on the Gilligan's Island (Season 1) DVD:

Episode 1 (Two on a Raft) Air Date: 09-26-1964 Episode 2 (Home Sweet Hut) Air Date: 10-03-1964
Episode 3 (Voodoo Something To Me) Air Date: 10-10-1964 Episode 4 (Goodnight Sweet Skipper) Air
Date: 10-17-1964 Episode 5 (Wrongway Feldman) Air Date: 10-24-1964 Episode 6 (President
Gilligan) Air Date: 10-31-1964 Episode 7 (The Sound of Quacking) Air Date: 11-07-1964 Episode 8
(Goodbye Island) Air Date: 11-21-1964 Episode 9 (The Big Gold Strike) Air Date: 11-28-1964 Episode
10 (Waiting for Watubi) Air Date: 12-05-1964 Episode 11 (Angel on the Island) Air Date: 12-12-1964
Episode 12 (Birds Gotta Fly, Fish Gotta Talk) Air Date: 12-19-1964 Episode 13 (Three Million Dollars
More or Less) Air Date: 12-26-1964 Episode 14 (Water, Water Everywhere) Air Date: 01-02-1965
Episode 15 (So Sorry, My Island Now) Air Date: 01-09-1965 Episode 16 (Plant You Now, Dig You
Later) Air Date: 01-16-1965 Episode 17 (Little Island, Big Gun) Air Date: 01-23-1965 Episode 18 (X
Marks the Spot) Air Date: 01-30-1965 Episode 19 (Gilligan Meets Jungle Boy) Air Date: 02-06-1965
Episode 20 (St. Gilligan and the Dragon) Air Date: 02-13-1965 Episode 21 (Big Man on Little Stick) Air
Date: 02-20-1965 Episode 22 (Diamonds are an Ape's Best Friend) Air Date: 02-27-1965 Episode 23
(How to Be a Hero) Air Date: 03-06-1965 Episode 24 (The Return of Wrongway Feldman) Air Date:
03-13-1965 Episode 25 (The Matchmaker) Air Date: 03-20-1965 Episode 26 (Music Hath Charm) Air
Date: 03-27-1965 Episode 27 (New Neighbor Sam) Air Date: 04-03-1965 Episode 28 (They're Off and
Running) Air Date: 04-10-1965 Episode 29 (Three to Get Ready) Air Date: 04-17-1965 Episode 30
(Forget Me Not) Air Date: 04-24-1965 Episode 31 (Diogenes, Won't You Please Go Home?) Air Date:
05-01-1965 Episode 32 (Physical Fatness) Air Date: 05-08-1965 Episode 33 (It's Magic) Air Date:
05-15-1965 Episode 34 (Goodbye, Old Paint) Air Date: 05-22-1965 Episode 35 (My Fair Gilligan) Air
Date: 06-05-1965 Episode 36 (A Nose By Any Other Name) Air Date: 06-12-1965

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.

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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