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Law And Order SvU (DVD) Review

By Britt Gillette

Nominated for 7 Emmys in its first five seasons, Law & Order SVU (Special Victims Unit) continues

the success of NBC's blockbuster Law & Order franchise. The brainchild of Law & Order creator Dick Wolf (former writer for hit TV shows such as Hill Street Blues and Miami Vice), Law & Order SVU is filmed on location in New York City. It follows the traditional half-police drama/half-courtroom drama format that made its forerunner a smashing success, yet SVU focuses exclusively on sexually based offenses...

Law & Order SVU tells the story of a group of dedicated detectives who work for the elite group known as the Special Victims Unit. Capt. Donald Cragen (Dann Florek) heads up the unit which includes four regular detectives – Elliot Stabler (Christopher Meloni), Olivia Benson (Mariska Hargitay), John Munch (Richard Belzer), and Odafin Tutuola (Ice-T). While investigating rapes, murders, and other vicious crimes, the detectives often consult with police psychologist Dr. George Huang (B.D. Wong) who provides special insight into the minds of suspected predators. Once the detectives gather the necessary evidence, they turn their case over to Assistant District Attorney Casey Novak (Diane Neal) who brokers deals and prosecutes the cases that put these nefarious criminals behind bars...

The Law & Order SVU DVD features a number of dramatic episodes including the series premiere "Payback" in which a cab driver is discovered stabbed to death with his genitals cut off. When detectives Stabler and Benson investigate, they find out that the man is a former soldier from the Serbo-Croatian conflict and that he was a rapist. Benson, a child of rape, is sympathetic to the actions of rape victims, and Stabler must keep her from crossing the line to protect the probable suspects... Other notable episodes from Season 1 include "Sophomore Jinx" in which a female college student's murder investigation is obstructed by the college when the SVU suspects a member(s) of the school basketball team, and "The Third Guy" in which an elderly woman is tied up and raped in her apartment, but the investigation takes a unique twist when the initial suspects are cleared and a new perpetrator enters the picture...

Below is a list of episodes included on the Law & Order SVU (Season 1) DVD:

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Episode 1 (Payback) Air Date: 09-20-1999 Episode 2 (A Single Life) Air Date: 09-27-1999 Episode 3 (...Or Just Look Like One) Air Date: 10-04-1999 Episode 4 (Hysteria) Air Date: 10-11-1999 Episode 5 (Wanderlust) Air Date: 10-18-1999 Episode 6 (Sophomore Jinx) Air Date: 10-25-1999 Episode 7 (Uncivilized) Air Date: 11-15-1999 Episode 8 (Stalked) Air Date: 11-22-1999 Episode 9 (Stocks & Bondage) Air Date: 11-29-1999 Episode 10 (Closure) Air Date: 01-07-2000 Episode 11 (Bad Blood) Air Date: 01-14-2000 Episode 12 (Russian Love Poem) Air Date: 01-21-2000 Episode 13 (Disrobed) Air Date: 02-04-2000 Episode 14 (Limitations) Air Date: 02-11-2000 Episode 15 (Entitled) Air Date: 02-18-2000 Episode 16 (The Third Guy) Air Date: 02-25-2000 Episode 17 (Misleader) Air Date: 03-31-2000 Episode 18 (Chat Room) Air Date: 04-14-2000 Episode 19 (Contact) Air Date: 04-28-2000 Episode 20 (Remorse) Air Date: 05-05-2000 Episode 21 (Nocturne) Air Date: 05-12-2000 Episode 22 (Slaves) Air Date: 05-21-2000

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

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 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 themn 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.

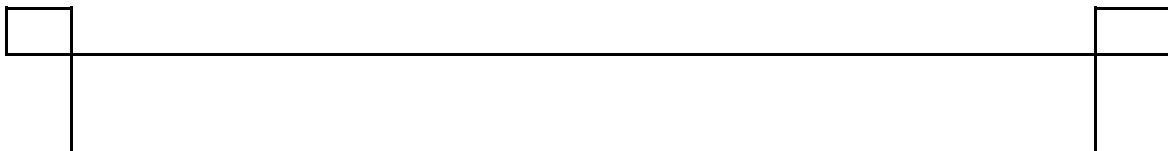
It is also the format used by Philips in its DVD video recorders. Despite not being authorised by the DVD Forum, DVD+RW is claimed by its supporter to be compatible with more DVD video players than DVD-R and DVD+RW writers are found in PCs from quite a few manufacturers.

Kenny Hemphill is the editor and publisher of

The HDTV Tuner



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