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Movies Turned into TV Shows: Good or Bad Idea?

By Jason Hahn

There is a long history of movies that hit the silver screen diving into television sets in the forms of TV shows. Some were met with huge success and longevity, but the majority of them were virtual train wrecks.

On the surface it seems like a logically brilliant idea: take a film that audiences adored and extend it into a more digestible, bite-sized version that they could watch every week from the comfort of their homes. But carrying over the success of a movie into the television realm seems to involve a tricky and delicate science that no one seems to know the formulas to.

A television series adaptation of the Blade trilogy and the recent news of a live-action Star Wars television series coming to life near the end of this decade beg us to ask whether or not either will succeed. Of course, success in this sense can be interpreted in a variety of ways. Does it depend only on the quality of the show? Most likely not, since there have been movie-to-television cross-overs that were critically acclaimed but were only given a few months to run. Does it depend solely on the popularity of the show? Not as much as one would think. So what does success in this genre depend on?

Let's take a look at some TV shows that were originally movies that ran for long periods of time, and then some that burnt out quickly to see if there is a visible pattern.

Distance Runners

- M*A*S*H*: Many people forget that M*A*S*H* was originally a movie (1970) that was met with approval in the theaters. It made its way onto television screens in 1972 and ran all the way to 1983.
- Buffy the Vampire Slayer: The movie was released in 1992 and was met with very mixed results. Somehow the show managed to run for seven solid years (1997–2003) as a television series with a huge fan base.
- Stargate SG-1: Stargate was a film released in 1994. It was met with mixed responses, but the show fared much better, running from 1997 all the way till now.
- Highlander: The film version hit theaters in 1986. Audience response was decent, but the TV

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series that was launched in 1992 found a faithful following. It ran until 1998.

– La Femme Nikita: Nikita was a film directed by Luc Besson that was released in 1990 and received good responses from audiences. The television series had a strong following and ran on TV from 1997 to 2001.

Short-Distance Losers

– My Big Fat Greek Life: Though movie studios underestimated My Big Fat Greek Wedding's chances for success on the big screen, CBS overestimated its chances for similar triumph as a television series. This big fat disaster ran for seven episodes in 2003.

– Clueless: In 1995, Clueless did well in movie theaters as a comedy-romance. However, when the movie became a TV show in 1996 it was nothing more than a vain, painful, and lame television experience. The show somehow managed to remain on air until 1999.

– Ferris Bueller: Ferris Bueller's Day Off was a huge hit in 1986, but the TV series only lasted one

miserable season in 1990. Ferris has had plenty of days off since then.

– Planet of the Apes: The Charlton Heston-infused movie did well in the theaters in 1968, but for some reason the TV version only lasted one season in 1974.

– Uncle Buck: Was the movie really that great in 1989? It was just a standard comedy that tried to teach youngsters the idea of appreciating your family. So was the TV series in 1990 really necessary? One season tells us "no."

There are countless other movie-to-TV shows that only lasted a few months, if that. Dangerous Minds, Fast Times, and Parenthood are just three of many, many failures in this genre.

The odds are against the soon-to-be Blade television series and George Lucas' live-action Star Wars TV show. Though Blade does not really seem to be anything special, it will be interesting to see whether the vampires and monsters that carried the film trilogy will be able to do the same on television screens.

Star Wars does have an insanely huge and loyal fan base, the likes of which no movie-to-TV series has had the luxury of having, and could be the tipping point for the show's potential longevity and success. But in no way will this guarantee the triumph of the adaptation. Neither will high caliber storylines or acting.

It seems that television audiences and studios are infinitely more fickle than their movie counterparts, so good luck to both the creators of Blade and Star Wars' Lucas, both of whom will be at the complete mercy of factors that are virtually unknown.

Jason Hahn is editor of the first resource and forum dedicated to the new Star Wars TV Series:

Star Wars TV

Is Direct TV Right For Me?

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By DeWayne Strickland

Are you confused with satellite choices? There is no doubt, that satellite is better than cable, and the choice comes down to Directv or Dish Network. Are you ready to find out which service is better? Are you ready to watch the exact selection, of the networks you so earnestly desire? Get ready to make the choice of a lifetime!

When it comes down to choosing between Directv or Dishnetwork, you need to focus on what you watch the most! Are you a sports fanatic? Are you a person that likes watching movies, with non-stop action? Do you want programming that is safe for your children? Do you like sexy movies?

Whatever your choice may be, Directv seems to be the sports dominator! If you cannot not live without sports, then Directv is the clear winner! Hands Down! Imagine watching the football game with crystal clear clarity! Picture what your friends will say, when you have Directv, and they come over every sunday!

One impressive point about Dish Network, is the "new" Dish Family! If you are concerned about, what influences your children, then Dish Network will bring "joy" and "fun" to your home. Just think, your children can watch all their favorite shows and you can rest assured, that they will not see any type of violence or bad language.

"Let's face it, kids get curious and this will be one powerful way, you can control what goes into their minds and ears. This is the finest, in satellite tv control!"

The pricing for Directv or Dish Network is outstanding, considering the basic packages. You can go with the basic package and pay a small amount every month. Directv offers more, when it comes to sports, with NFL Sunday!

People get afraid of the prices, but when you look at what you really want, it is very easy. Look at how much people pay for cable! Do you want to pay for cheap cable and then six months later, watch as your spending money disappears! This is the satellite tv age, not the cable age.

As both companies get more competitive, you will see more deals and amazing rebates. Both Directv and Dish Network give free products and outstanding rebates. When you compare both networks you will see Directv is the winner! With all the deals, which ever you choose, it will only get better!

You will see a lot of Directv dishes, wherever you live and the reason is customer service! Even more of a reason, is Directv's rebates! You get a free DVR after rebate and Tivo! The DVR allows you to record your favorite shows and movies, while Tivo gives you the ultimate control!

Tivo will automatically find and record programming that you request for later viewing. Imagine a search that can record the show by title, channel, actor, and keyword! You can literally watch what you want when you like. Say good bye to the tape-based recorders and hello to watching a program that gives you the option of not recording reruns. Also, you do not have to reprogram every week. Directv gives you the dream and it is for your convenience.

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People, the search is over and it is Directv! I love movies and I love being able to watch, what I want, when I want! Directv, combined with Tivo, is a miracle for the lover of movies and sports. You have the selections you want and the price is very affordable.

Copyright © 2006 DeWayne H. Strickland has been an Internet Marketer for the past 6 years. He is a webdesigner and is a crazy movie review critic. You make the choice at:

<http://hollywoodsatellite.homestead.com/keanureeves.html>



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