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**Review On The First Episode Of Gene Simmon's Family Jewels**

**By Edward Charkow**

A&E is the place to watch the latest version of the family reality show genre started by the

Osbournes on MTV. However, there are a few major differences between Gene Simmon's Family Jewels, and the Osbournes, the zany British family led by rocker Ozzy Osbourne and boisterous wife Sharon. The Osbournes enjoyed such a huge audience mainly because the viewers really felt like they were getting a true, fly-on-the-wall view of one of rock's first families. Ozzy, Sharon, Jack and Kelly really never came across as actors; they didn't need to. Their own reality was so completely odd and unpredictable that watching paint dry in the Osbourne household was a privilege. However, Kiss frontman Gene "The Tongue" Simmons comes across as the lead actor in a show where his family looks to him to identify their individual roles, especially Simmons' common-law wife, Shannon Tweed, who was once Playboy Playmate of the year. In the premiere episode we see Shannon trying to one up Gene, who announces (to the cameras) that he is planning a surprise party for her birthday. The kids respond to his announcement in a predictable fashion - with disbelief. How on Earth would daddy Gene, whose clueless approach to the real world (we see him bathing the family dog by throwing the dog into the pool and struggling to run a dishwasher), know the very basics of party planning? Also, given the theme of the first episode - that Gene is truly the King of his manse, to whom all must defer - would Gene be unselfish enough to give his time and energy to his common-law wife?

Gene and Shannon have been together for 23 years, and remain (in Gene's view) "happily unmarried." We learn quickly that Gene's reluctance to commit to the woman who has borne both of the couple's children is a source of amusement to the two teenagers, Nick and Sophie, and a source of distress to Shannon. But, does Gene care? Not if you believe what you see at the outset of the episode. Gene says to the camera "Marriage is an institution. You also have to be committed to it. If that does not sound like a nuthouse," he says, studying his nails, "nothing does." Shannon's answer to Gene's indifferent attitude is "If someone does not marry you after 23 years, it means you're a loser." Could you imagine Sharon Osbourne being so self-effacing? Are you kidding - Sharon was the ultimate matriarch! Shannon's own teenage son even chimes in to support his wayward father. "It's good being a bachelor," he says laughing. Sad. Another future divorcee or serial monogamist in the making, compliments of Gene Simmons.

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Gene then takes the cameras along for an all out bachelor night in Vegas. Just for the heck of it, he leaves his family and goes to Hooters. The girls are draped all over Gene, seeing a human cash register because there is not much else to look at. We see the Alpha male at his coolest - driving the bubbleheads around in a limousine all the while spouting out pathetic lines such as, "I believe that I should have as many women as possible and I believe you should have as many women as possible." Please. I am humiliated for him, and for his whole family who support his delusional reality in which he is front and center. When Gene appears at home, Shannon asks how Vegas was. His reply? "There were lots of boobs and they were all bouncing into each other." Yawn. At the end of the day, Shannon pulls a big ol' staged surprise on Gene and plans an ambush wedding. I'm too bored to even write another word about it, but if you're worried, Gene is still the man, the myth and the unmarried legend. In his own eyes, at least.

Find more out about Gene Simmon's Family Jewels and the entire reality t.v. world at

<http://www.reality-fan.info>

## Everybody Loves Raymond (Season 2) DVD Review

**By Britt Gillette**

Premiering in Fall 1996, Everybody Loves Raymond struck an instant chord with TV audiences, becoming a beloved fan favorite that would last for nine successful seasons. Modeled after other successful TV series that cast stand-up comics in starring roles – Seinfeld, The Drew Carey Show, and Home Improvement – all come to mind, Everybody Loves Raymond relied on the talents of comic Ray Romano, but also drew upon a vast well of hilarity present in his fellow cast members...

The Everybody Loves Raymond (Season 2) DVD features a number of hilarious episodes including the season premiere in which Ray appears on a television sports talk show only to turn in a less than flattering appearance. When his family reveals the truth about his awkwardness, Ray is determined to perform better on TV, but his second stint is worse than his first... Other notable episodes from Season 2 include "Brother" in which Ray attempts to bond with Robert on the anniversary of his divorce, and "The Children's Book" in which Debra's noble attempt to write a children's book is turned into a one-on-one writing competition by Ray... Season 2 also features guest appearances by sports figures Roy Firestone, James Worthy, and Pat O'Brien...

Below is a list of episodes included on the Everybody Loves Raymond (Season 2) DVD:

Episode 23 (Ray's on TV) Air Date: 09-22-1997 Episode 24 (Father Knows Least) Air Date: 09-29-1997 Episode 25 (Brother) Air Date: 10-06-1997 Episode 26 (Mozart) Air Date: 10-13-1997 Episode 27 (Golf) Air Date: 10-20-1997 Episode 28 (Anniversary) Air Date: 10-27-1997 Episode 29 (Working Late Again) Air Date: 11-03-1997 Episode 30 (The Children's Book) Air Date: 11-10-1997 Episode 31 (The Gift) Air Date: 11-17-1997 Episode 32 (High School) Air Date: 11-24-1997 Episode 33 (The Letter) Air Date: 12-08-1997 Episode 34 (All I Want for Christmas) Air Date: 12-15-1997 Episode 35 (Civil War) Air Date: 01-05-1998 Episode 36 (Mia Famiglia) Air Date: 01-12-1998 Episode 37 (Marie's Meatballs) Air Date: 01-19-1998 Episode 38 (The Checkbook) Air Date: 02-02-1998

## Review On The First Episode Of Gene Simmon's Family Jewels

Episode 39 (The Ride-Along) Air Date: 02-23-1998 Episode 40 (The Family Bed) Air Date: 03-02-1998  
Episode 41 (Good Girls) Air Date: 03-09-1998 Episode 42 (T-Ball) Air Date: 04-06-1998 Episode 43  
(Traffic School) Air Date: 04-20-1998 Episode 44 (Six Feet Under) Air Date: 04-27-1998 Episode 45  
(The Garage Sale) Air Date: 05-04-1998 Episode 46 (The Wedding: Part 1) Air Date: 05-11-1998  
Episode 47 (The Wedding: Part 2) Air Date: 05-18-1998

Britt Gillette is author of The DVD Report (

<http://thedvdreport.blogspot.com>

), a blog where you can find

more reviews like this one.



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