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Sex And The City (DVD) Review

By Britt Gillette

Based on the bestselling novel by Candace Bushnell, the HBO original series Sex And The City

took the television world by storm following its release in the summer of 1998. Following the exploits of four young and educated female friends living and working in New York City, the show revolves around the various relationships and life problems experienced by each member of the group. Sporting an experienced and talented cast, the show has developed a strong, borderline fanatic following...

Sarah Jessica Parker (the de facto lead character of the show) stars as Carrie Bradshaw, a popular sex columnist for a local newspaper who travels in numerous Manhattan social circles. Carrie is engaged in a tempestuous on-again, off-again relationship with a mystery man always referred to as "Mr. Big". The young urban professional shares her life with three best friends who have similarly interesting jobs – Miranda Hobbes (Cynthia Nixon), a lawyer tired of being single given the societal ramifications; Samantha Jones (Kim Cattrall), a promiscuous publicist who enjoys non-exclusive relationships; and Charlotte McDougal (Kristin Davis), an art museum curator who is relatively less open about her sexuality... Together, the women seek each other's advice on the ever-present and varying predicaments in which they find their romantic relationships...

The Sex And The City DVD features a number of hilarious episodes including the series premiere in which the four stars make a pact at Miranda's birthday party that they will start having sex like men (i.e. without feeling or attachment). Charlotte is skeptical of the idea, but Carrie takes to the idea immediately by sleeping with her ex-boyfriend. Meanwhile, Miranda goes out with Carrie's friend Skipper while Samantha and Carrie develop new relationships of their own... Other notable episodes from Season 1 include "Bay of Married Pigs" in which Carrie is set up by her married friends with a man intent on getting married himself (meanwhile, all four women feel the societal pressures to get married), and "The Monogamists" in which each of the four women deals with personal issues involving exclusive/non-exclusive relationships of varying degrees...

Below is a list of episodes included on the Sex And The City (Season 1) DVD:

Episode 1 (Sex and the City) Air Date: 06-06-1998 Episode 2 (Models and Mortals) Air Date: 06-06-1998 Episode 3 (Bay of Married Pigs) Air Date: 06-21-1998 Episode 4 (Valley of the

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Twenty-Something Guys) Air Date: 06-28-1998 Episode 5 (The Power of Female Sex) Air Date: 07-05-1998 Episode 6 (Secret Sex) Air Date: 07-12-1998 Episode 7 (The Monogamists) Air Date: 07-19-1998 Episode 8 (Three's a Crowd) Air Date: 07-26-1998 Episode 9 (The Turtle and The Hare) Air Date: 08-02-1998 Episode 10 (The Baby Shower) Air Date: 08-09-1998 Episode 11 (The Drought) Air Date: 08-16-1998 Episode 12 (Oh Come, All Ye Faithful) Air Date: 08-23-1998

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 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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