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**Silk Stalkings (DVD) Review**

**By Britt Gillette**

Nominated for only one Emmy, the entertainment quality of Silk Stalkings is nevertheless evidenced

by its nine season run which is one of the most enduring ever for an original cable TV series. Partly responsible for this lack of critical acclaim is that Silk Stalkings was a trailblazer in the cable genre, and handing out Emmys to original cable series didn't become fashionable until the late-1990s when Sex And The City and The Sopranos broke the cable barrier for good. Another contributing factor to the lack of peer recognition is that Silk Stalkings lasted about four seasons longer than it should have, given that nearly the entire cast and crew were replaced after the first five seasons. Regardless, this hour-long drama series set in Palm Beach, Florida contains all the necessary ingredients for a hit show – beautiful people in a beautiful setting with lots of murder, violence, and intrigue. Silk Stalkings offers everything one could ask for in a TV drama, and the show's success helped pave the way for additional original cable series such as Monk and The Shield...

Silk Stalkings follows the exploits of two Palm Beach, Florida detectives who investigate murders and other high profile crimes in an elite community which is no stranger to fame and fortune. Sgt. Chris Lorenzo (Rob Estes) and Sgt. Rita Lee Lance (Mitzi Kapture) are partners on the local Palm Beach Police Department, and each episode they must investigate one or more high-profile crimes. The dynamic relationship between Chris and Rita is a focal point of the show, and the two will overturn every stone and use every tactic at their disposal to bring justice to those who, either due to fame and/or wealth, believe they are above the laws that govern average people... Veteran entertainer Ben Vereen plays their boss, Capt. Hutchinson, in seasons one through three before being replaced by Charlie Brill (Capt. Harry Lipschitz) for the remainder of the series... Overall, Silk Stalkings is a finely scripted investigative drama cut from the same mold as Law & Order SVU...

The Silk Stalkings DVD features a number of dramatic episodes including the series premiere in which Chris and Rita investigate the case of model murdered in her townhouse. The main focus of the investigation centers around the model's husband, and the couple's impending divorce proceedings only serve to place him under greater suspicion. Digging further, Chris and Rita link a cold case file to the murder, but a wrench is thrown in their investigation when the ex-cop who investigated the case is himself murdered... Other notable episodes from Season 1 include "Dirty Laundry" in which Chris and Rita investigate the mysterious death of a congressman found on the beach near his home, and

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"Internal Affair" in which Chris becomes embroiled in police brutality controversy when he shoots and kills a suspect during a burglary in progress...

Below is a list of episodes included on the Silk Stalkings (Season 1) DVD:

Episode 1 (Pilot) Air Date: 11-07-1991 Episode 2 (Going to Babylon) Air Date: 11-14-1991 Episode 3 (S.O.B.) Air Date: 11-21-1991 Episode 4 (In the Name of Love) Air Date: 11-28-1991 Episode 5 (Men Seeking Women) Air Date: 12-05-1991 Episode 6 (Dirty Laundry) Air Date: 12-12-1991 Episode 7 (Hard Copy) Air Date: 12-19-1991 Episode 8 (Curtain Call) Air Date: 01-02-1992 Episode 9 (The Brotherhood) Air Date: 01-09-1992 Episode 10 (Blo-Dri) Air Date: 01-16-1992 Episode 11 (Intensive Care) Air Date: 01-23-1992 Episode 12 (Squeeze Play) Air Date: 01-30-1992 Episode 13 (Shock Jock) Air Date: 02-06-1992 Episode 14 (The Sock Drawer) Air Date: 02-13-1992 Episode 15 (Internal Affair) Air Date: 02-20-1992 Episode 16 (Witness) Air Date: 02-27-1992 Episode 17 (Domestic Agenda) Air Date: 03-05-1992 Episode 18 (Lady Luck) Air Date: 03-12-1992 Episode 19 (Working

Girl) Air Date: 03-19-1992 Episode 20 (Powder Burn) Air Date: 03-26-1992

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 as

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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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