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**Six Feet Under (DVD) Review**

**By Britt Gillette**

Nominated for 39 Emmys and 8 Golden Globes, including 3 (and one win) for Best TV Series –

Drama, Six Feet Under is widely considered one of the best dramas currently on television. Creator Alan Ball, Oscar-winning screenwriter for American Beauty, introduces a series known for its darkly comical portrayal of a typical dysfunctional American family attempting to live their lives while running a business that thrives on death. Boasting a catchy main title theme song composed by Thomas Newman (brains behind the scores of Real Genius, Shawshank Redemption, American Beauty, Finding Nemo, and many others), Six Feet Under continues the long-running string of critically and popularly acclaimed original drama series created by HBO, following in the footsteps of Oz (1997), Sex And The City (1998), and The Sopranos (1999). Premiering in mid-summer 2001, the series takes a unique look at the highs and lows of life and death, sporting the tagline, "Your whole life is leading up to this..."

Six Feet Under follows the lives of a hardworking American family in Pasadena, California as they deal with the everyday rigors of running their family business – an independent funeral home. Nate and Ruth Fisher (Frances Conroy of The Aviator) operate the business on a daily basis with the aid of their youngest son David (Michael C. Hall), while their daughter Claire (Lauren Ambrose) deals the tribulations of high school life and their eldest son Nate Jr. (Peter Krause) works in an organic grocery store in Seattle. But family affairs take a turn for the worse when Nate Jr.'s latest visit is marked by the tragic death of his father. With the family in mourning, it's soon revealed that the late patriarch left the funeral home to be owned and run jointly by David and Nate Jr. With a massive corporation hounding the family to sell out, coupled with their own personal problems, the Fishers must learn to deal with their grief as well as each other. Well-written and well-cast, Six Feet Under continues to offer some of the most entertaining drama on TV today...

The Six Feet Under DVD features a number of dramatic episodes including the series premiere in which viewers learn of the death of Fisher family patriarch Nathaniel Fisher in a tragic auto accident. Eldest son Nate Jr. returns home to help out, while David, who is struggling to deal with his homosexuality, faces difficulty heading up the business. Meanwhile, teenage daughter Claire is searching for her own identity, and Ruth grapples with feelings of guilt over her long-running affair with her hairdresser... Other notable episodes from Season one include "An Open Book" in which David

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attempts to become deacon at the family church, and "The New Person" in which the Fisher brothers hire a replacement for Rico, the outspoken and unpredictable Angela...

Below is a list of episodes included on the Six Feet Under (Season 1) DVD:

Episode 1 (Pilot) Air Date: 06-03-2001 Episode 2 (The Will) Air Date: 06-10-2001 Episode 3 (The Foot) Air Date: 06-17-2001 Episode 4 (Familia) Air Date: 06-24-2001 Episode 5 (An Open Book) Air Date: 07-01-2001 Episode 6 (The Room) Air Date: 07-08-2001 Episode 7 (Brotherhood) Air Date: 07-15-2001 Episode 8 (Crossroads) Air Date: 07-22-2001 Episode 9 (Life's Too Short) Air Date: 07-29-2001 Episode 10 (The New Person) Air Date: 08-05-2001 Episode 11 (The Trip) Air Date: 08-12-2001 Episode 12 (A Private Life) Air Date: 08-19-2001 Episode 13 (Knock, Knock) Air Date: 08-19-2001

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

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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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