

'Modern Family': An outstanding comedy series

By Neil Hughes
Features Editor

The people that make us laugh the most in our lives are not haughty comedians or random actors.

It's Family.

One upcoming television show took this idea and ran with it. The show, Modern Family, is

an outstanding comedy built to make people laugh.

Currently, Modern Family is emerging as the dominant comedy in television airing Wednesday nights on ABC with its recent Emmy win for Outstanding Comedy Series.

It just began its third season with an hour long special of the Pritchett family visiting a dude ranch.

If this first episode is any indication for how the rest of the season will be then Modern Family is looking to have its best season yet. The actors and the writing continue to get even better with each new episode as the jokes become more hilarious and unique for viewers.

Modern Family displays the life of a contemporary family by following the different households of Jay Pritchett (played by Ed O'Neill from Married with Children), his daughter Claire Dunphy (played by Julie Bowen), and his son Mitchell Pritchett (played by Jesse Tyler Ferguson). It draws its jokes from the real life experiences of a family.

The show delivers an all-star cast. It is designed around a fictitious family, but the Pritchett family feels nothing but real. The show has a character for everyone to



Photo courtesy of ABC.com

Gloria tries to convince her dog to destroy a shoe. Modern Family airs weekly on Wednesday nights.

relate with such as an eccentric gay uncle, nerdy sister, goofy brother, obnoxious Columbian wife, or silly husband who thinks he is the cool dad.

The patriarch of the Pritchett family, Jay Pritchett, is the grandpa everyone dreams of having. Jay's wife, Gloria Delgado-Pritchett played by Sofia Vergara, will leave you in tears with her severe Columbian accent and hilarious

antics. Every actor on the cast is special like these two with no duds or boring odds and ends.

Along with an amazing cast, the writing of the show is superb. Simply, it is clever, comical, and unique. The characters are not stuck in an office or government building. This means the show can travel to any setting like a dude ranch for new and more interesting laughs. Despite the interesting

settings, the jokes like the kids walking into their parents' bedroom at an inopportune moment or a grown women acting like a dog literally ripping up her husband's shoes make Modern Family stand out and the viewer laugh instantaneously.

However, most of the shows best jokes have to be seen and cannot merely be explained in words.

Artist of the month: Dead Prez

M-1 and Stic.man rap their way to a better society

By Zack Styx
Distribution Manager

If an artist speaks the truth, delivers new styles to the world, and has respectable intelligence, it's expected they are reputable in every aspect of rapping. Rap group Dead Prez, formed by rappers M-1 and stic.man, exemplifies these traits because of their realistic criticism of mainstream rap, their intricate flows, and their intellect behind the music.

After meeting at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, M-1 and stic.man quickly befriended each other due to their love of music and strong political interest in the Black Panther Party.

Dead Prez's interest in politics is an important aspect to their lyrics. They appeal to the leftist political

ideology, which supports radical reform strategies. In the past it has been attributed to anarchy, socialism, or communism, but presently supports reformist movements like social democracy and social liberalism.

As their friendship developed so did the fan base of Dead Prez, giving them enough popularity to be heard, but still remained underground enough to avoid the mainstream scene. Their popularity could be attributed to their

extravagant performances, sometimes

lighting dollars on fire and throwing apples into the crowd.



Photo courtesy of Paul Montano

Dead Prez performing at concert. The duo still performs at numerous gatherings today.

Although the group may seem unconventional, it's exactly how they want their audience to feel. They are not on the same level as typical modern-day rappers, and not in a negative way. They avoid the now cliché lines of rap talking about money, champagne, sex, and cars, and instead voice their frustration and disapproval of certain aspects of society.

They are not anarchists who hate everyone and everything, but a group that would like to see change in their country. Dead Prez made the documentary "Bigger Than Hip-Hop" to help convey their messages in a non-violent and educational way. It consisted of their views of reforming the American education system and the importance of minority entrepreneurship.

Because of their involvement in the general public, Dead Prez is truly set apart from many other artist/groups. Their musical work is outstanding; but, what's more important is their passion for their people. Anyone can rap about partying, clubs, and Lamborghinis, but it is the mark of a true artist who can incorporate their passionate ideas and opinions into their musical endeavors.

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