

New
Episodes!

PIONEERS OF TELEVISION

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More than 200 stars bring their stories to life in the Emmy®-nominated documentary series *Pioneers of Television*. Each episode melds compelling new interviews with irresistible clips to offer a fresh take on TV's breakthrough celebrities and beloved programs.

Superheroes –These iconic characters have morphed into massive movie franchises. *Superheroes* traces their television ancestry from the 1950s to the 1980s, featuring *The Adventures of Superman*, *Batman*, *Wonder Woman*, *The Incredible Hulk*, and *The Greatest American Hero*.

Science Fiction –In the early to mid-1960s, a number of innovative television writers, producers, and actors began exploring science fiction on the small screen with shows such as *Star Trek*, *Lost in Space*, and *The Twilight Zone*.

Primetime Soaps –*Dallas* and *Dynasty* kicked off the nighttime soap frenzy in the late 1970s. Primetime Soaps offers surprising new details about the legendary “Who Shot J.R.” episode of *Dallas*, and reveals the backstage personalities that shaped *Dynasty* and *Knots Landing*.

Crime Dramas –Pioneering television crime dramas established new rules for viewers, amping up violence and quick dialogue and delivering reluctant, but likeable, heroes. The groundbreaking crime dramas featured in this episode include *Dragnet*, *I Spy*, and *Police Woman*.

Miniseries – Miniseries still rank among the top-rated programs in television history. This episode covers the very first miniseries, *Rich Man, Poor Man*, as well as the biggest TV miniseries, *Roots*, and the landmark romance miniseries, *The Thorn Birds*.

Westerns –Viewers idolized the gritty and romantic version of the American West. Westerns like *Gunsmoke*, *Bonanza*, and *The Big Valley* left an indelible impression on audiences that still informs our identities.

Standup to Sitcom –This star-packed episode reveals how America's top standup comics made the transition to the sitcom form; and includes dozens of side-splitting clips from *Seinfeld*, *Home Improvement*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *Roseanne*, and more.

Doctors and Nurses – From George Clooney on *ER* to Richard Chamberlain on *Dr. Kildare*, television's long love affair with doctors and nurses shows no signs of letting up. Noah Wyle, Anthony Edwards, Gloria Reuben, Howie Mandel, Ed Begley Jr., Chad Everett and others tell their stories.

Acting Funny –Peek behind the curtain to see the backstage techniques of America's favorite comedic actors—ranging from Robin Williams' manic improvisational style to Tina Fey's measured, highly-prepared approach.

Breaking Barriers –Trace the story of people of color on American television—including the breakthroughs of African-Americans Diahann Carroll (*Julia*) and Bill Cosby (*I Spy*); Latinos Desi Arnaz (*I Love Lucy*) and Edward James Olmos (*Miami Vice*); and Asian-Americans George Takei (*Star Trek*) and Margaret Cho (*All American Girl*).

CREDITS

Director, Producer: Steven J. Boettcher
Writer, Producer: Michael J. Trinklein
Narrators: Ryan Seacrest & Kelsey Grammer

Photos: Courtesy Library of Congress, Photographs and Prints Division; Courtesy Pioneers of Television archives

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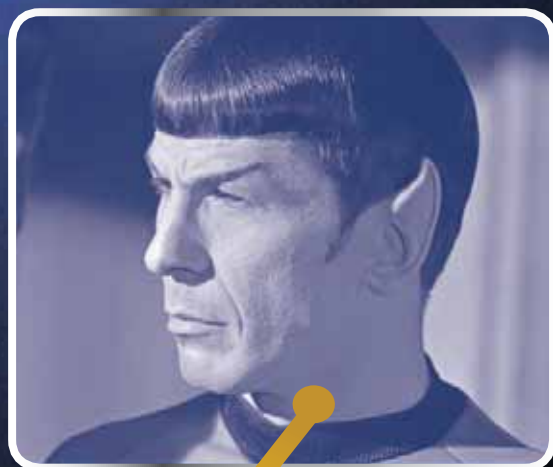


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