

# ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS

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## Prime time shows off to a rocky start



### **House (season five)**

Fox Tuesday's at 8:00 pm

*House* is two episodes into its fifth season, and judging by the premiere episode last Tuesday night, five is definitely one season too many.

Eli Attie is the writer responsible for disappointing and even offending multitudes of now-former fans, a feat not easily managed, as we *House* fans are thick-skinned. The biting wit Hugh Laurie delivered so well in past seasons sounded more like bitter rancor as written by Attie. *House* seemed shallow, cruel and sexist to a ridiculous degree: "Yesterdays sluts are today's empowered women, today's sluts are celebrities."

That was really deep Attie, thanks for clearing that up for us.

Go back to season one,

buy it if you haven't—it's amazing, and you'll see the difference. Discerning fans saw season one's vicodin-popping doctor's harsh words for what they were: Uncomfortable truths unmasked. He may not have been pleasant, but he was always honest. His frank way of speaking was his way of rejecting society's idea that politeness should trump honesty in conversation.

The new season has the visual style of the original, even most of the actors and some of the concepts from the original, but its heart has been replaced with meaningless spectacle.

***Fringe*** Fox Tuesday's at 9:00 pm

Much ado before the fact was made over *Lost* co-creator/writer JJ Abrams new show *Fringe*, but ratings are sketchy. The first episode was not as watched as Fox had hoped, but the second episode followed the season premiere of *House*, causing ratings to go up dramatically. But will they stay there?

The concept of the show has promise: A tough-tragic-hot FBI chick (picture Kate from *Lost* but less cool) pairs up with a bad-boy genius and his crazy-smart (and crazy-crazy) sci-

entist father, whom they rescue from the asylum in the season premiere. The three of them must team up to solve a rash of strange phenomenon using fringe science, science that addresses the more theoretical and paranormal aspects of life.

Dawson's Creek fans, don't deny it—I know there are some of you out there—may want to tune in to see a grown-up Pacey (actor Joshua Jackson) in his first starring television role. Pacey grew up, and he's brave—he's returning to the set after suffering injury on the job, where a run in with a copper wire pierced a vein in his nose.

The first couple episodes have been engaging, but pale in comparison to the thrall we were under during the first season of *Lost*. Will this become just another prime time soap opera like *Lost* eventually did? I guess we'll have to watch and see.

