

Paul Barnes

11/6/16

ENG 240

You Need To Watch The Show *Atlanta*

If you ask the average millennial if they saw the latest commercial that's sweeping the nation, they'll probably say no. This is because most millennials don't watch television. This is due mainly to the fact we all either have school, work or a team that we're on or a combination of these. So we don't have time simply. But, since most of us have jobs, we just pay for streaming services and watch our shows there. There's not much we find interesting on television anyway. But, every now and then there's a show that seizes our interest heavily. These are usually very popular across all generations. Such shows like *Breaking Bad* or *Mad Men* and most recently *Game of Thrones* and *The Walking Dead*. But, there's a lesser known show called *Atlanta* which many are calling the greatest show on TV right now. And because of that reason, *you* need to be watching it.

Atlanta is a show like no other. The early teasers of the show set the stage and fans were eager for the premiere. These teasers featured one or more cast members walking through the city, however everything in the background was moving backwards. It was later realized by analytical fans that the cast members were actually the ones moving backwards but the footage of them was played forward. You know your show is something unique when people simply love the trailers/teasers for it. These clips featured the song "Same Old Mistakes" by Tame Impala which fans of the band immediately recognized. Interestingly enough, their single "Feels Like We Only Go Backwards" was *not* used. I guess this would have been too predictable. The songs featured in episodes are definitely notable as well. From the aggressive "Philosopher's Throne" by Xavier Wulf to the soulful "Grandma's Hands" by Bill Withers, you'll never know what song you'll hear on an episode. This has led many people, myself included, to tweet and post about our desire for an official soundtrack release. And, the songs are not always played as actual

Paul Barnes

11/6/16

ENG 240

“background music” either. Sometimes the song can only be heard via the car radio or on the character Earn’s headphones. This truly creates an immersive experience as it’s like we are *in* the show, instead of watching the show. If you’re a fan of rap music you’ll like the soundtrack and even if you’re not you still will. If you can appreciate good music you will enjoy the music on *Atlanta*.

Perhaps the biggest and most important quality of *Atlanta* is the social commentary it provides. And, the *way* it is provided. It’s subtle yet the point comes across very clearly without taking away from the plot of the episode. A great example of this takes place in the second episode where we see Earn observe a mentally disabled man in jail. The others in the room state that the man is always there and laugh at his antics. Earn wonders why he isn’t being helped. Next, his behavior escalates and a security/police officer proceeds to beat him and handcuff him. The others in the room with him react as if nothing has happened. To add insult to injury , the disabled man was black and the policeman was white. Did you catch all that? Another scene that struck me took place in the season finale. In this scene we see an unarmed man shot in the back multiple times as he runs from police Sound familiar? The icing on the cake for this scene is when the character Paper Boi actually says “Did ya’ll really need all those bullets?” This is a direct mirror to the real world we live in today. Scenes like these hit too close for some, but the fact they are included is just part of the relevance of the show. This is why *Atlanta* is such an important show. While it is a comedy it’s not just full of one liners and predictable plots. It manages to blend social commentary with comedy and sometimes comedy that actually makes you think. If you are even casually aware of the world’s events you can appreciate this show.

Paul Barnes

11/6/16

ENG 240

Atlanta was one of, if not *the* greatest show of 2016. While it was only 10 episodes, the series premiere was the largest debut for a cable comedy series since 2013. One of the complaints of the show, however, is that it only took up a 30 minute timeslot. My answer to this is simply “quality over quantity”. I’d rather have 30 minutes of top tier television than an hour of decent, top tier and bad television. If you’re ready for a breath of fresh air in the world of comedy, *Atlanta* is the show for you. If a creative perspective on the world we live in today interests you, *Atlanta* is the show for you. If you’re looking for a show unlike anything you've ever seen *Atlanta* is the show for you.