

DVD Review

THE SARAH SILVERMAN PROGRAM: SEASON TWO VOLUME ONE

By Reuben Sturman

Specs:

Disks: Two, individual slims in a 14mm slipcase, Region 1

Audio: Dolby Digital Stereo

Aspect: Full frame

Running Time: 132min, plus unrated bonus features.

Bonus Features: Seven Audio Commentaries (cast and crew), Digital Shorts, Behind the scenes clips, Comic Con 2007 interview segment

Stand Up comedian Sarah Silverman, known best for proving you can yell “nigger” in a crowded theater, as long as you’re cute, has been given a TV series by Comedy Central. Why would anyone other than her most die-hard intellectually lazy fans want a weekly half hour of empty, shock punchlines told with her signature slyness of a child successfully using profanity to entertain drunk adults? The Internet.

In an all too rare merger of the Internet’s unburdened comedic enthusiasm and Comedy Central’s professional approach, the Sarah Silverman Program creates a pleasantly funny series perfect for both drunk adults and the sly children who entertain them.

Teamed with a talented cast, including Channel101.com regulars, The Sarah Silverman Program successfully utilizes the punch of her stand-up act, replacing the self-confessed ‘Aristocrat elements’ with a consistent ‘gee-whiz’ naïve POV, creating a whimsical series full of cookie baking

competitions, small dogs testifying in court, and abortion clinic bombings. Fun for the whole family.

Shot in a clean, straight-forward style with crisp colors, the episodes revolve around the charmingly silly Silverman and her friends in standard comedic plots used to hang a quick rhythm of social jabs, amusing devices and childish puns. Each episode plays like an expensive, extended internet short, making it easy to fall in to. When mastered, the mix creates series high points like “Bored of the Rings” and “Joan of Arf.”

The second disk is a strong compilation of Channel101-esc shorts, a salad of skits, mock interviews and cartoons, including Cookies Come Alive! which has a feeling reminiscent of the infamous House of Cosbys.

Though Silverman’s commentary tracks are little more than her pointing out her friends on screen, the pairing of the show’s Jack of All Trades staff livens the atmosphere of the extra features, and the joy of working on the show is clear during the Comic Con 2007 panel, an extended cast interview in San Diego.

The Sarah Silverman Program Season Two Volume One is a great rental for anyone looking for a laugh, or willing to give Silverman another chance. When she stays away from her shock-comedy roots (mention of which visibly bothers her during the Comic Con interview), and is surrounded by such a talented cast, she’s in a unique position to create a comedy program that may inspire sly kids, entertain open adults, and reinvent her career. Rent it for the laughs. Buy it on the inevitable full season Blu Ray double-dip.