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About this blog

Welcome to Show Patrol, where I, Curt Wagner, hope to spread the joy of lazy days and nights in front of the TV. I hope to make each and every one of you a happy, contented couch potato. With all my TV viewing, I figure I can help steer you to the best shows and away from the worst ones. Sometimes I'll post longer reviews of shows I've written about in RedEye, as well as my thoughts on trends, cancellations or any other TV news. I'll also break down the mysteries of series like "Heroes." Feel free to [e-mail me](#) any TV questions. If I don't know the answer, I'll try to find out for you.

MY FAVORITE SHOWS

New

"Reaper"
 "Chuck"
 "Torchwood"
 "Pushing Daisies"
 "Dirty Sexy Money"

Returning

"Heroes"
 "Friday Night Lights"
 "Battlestar Galactica"
 "Grey's Anatomy"
 "Weeds"
 "Dexter"
 "Ugly Betty"
 "30 Rock"
 "The Office"
 "Brothers & Sisters"

SHOWS I HATE

"Big Shots"
 "Two and a Half Men"
 "Deal or No Deal"
 "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader"
 "The Apprentice"

ALL-TIME FAVES

"Will & Grace"
 "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"
 "Alias"
 "Land of the Lost"
 "The Carol Burnett Show"
 "Friends"

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Originally posted: March 5, 2008

Amazing 'Terminal City' makes light of reality TV, but not cancer

Posted at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5



Maria del Mar injects her Katie with a zest for life and a gallows humor.

The writers of the great drama series "Terminal City" must feel the same way about reality TV shows that many viewers do: What won't they do?

If you feel that way about reality shows—or you just enjoy good drama that can make you laugh too—you need to check out this Canadian series imported by Sundance Channel and premiering at 8 p.m. Thursday.

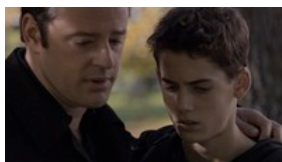
It blew me away.

The story focuses on Katie Sampson and her family, whose posh life is rocked when she learns she has breast cancer. While at the hospital to have a biopsy, Katie runs right into a love broadcast of the reality show "Post Op!" When the clueless host interviews her, she curses and flashes the body part housing a tumor.

The episode is a big hit, of course, and the show's producer spares no expense to track Katie down to offer her the hosting duties.

After she accepts and becomes a reality TV star, Katie, her husband Ari and their three children are faced with two challenges—her cancer and her instant fame.

The series expertly mixes its dramatic moments with dark humor and parody. Katie drinks too much and hits gold balls into her neighbors' windows. Her children act out by smoking pot,



wandering into funerals or blackmailing a hunky teacher into hanging out.

Like I said, the humor is dark. But Maria del Mar's dynamic performance as Katie kept me engaged even in the gloomiest moments.

The stellar cast also include Gil Bellows—yes, Gil Bellows of "Ally McBeal"—as her understanding hubby and Katie Boland, Adam Butcher and Nico McEown as their kids.

Gil Bellows (right) and Adam Butcher play father and son.
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