

DARING ADVENTURES THAT WENT UNDERCOVER, BETWEEN

THE SHEETS AND EVEN BENEATH THE SKIN By Tom Gliatto

The Good

Wife

CB5

Five seasons

argulies's legal

drama still sets the

platinum standard.

The Americans

This drama about married Soviet spies (Keri Russell and Matthew Rhys) targeted the point at which two blood-red lines-love of country. love for spouse-intersect and part. That it's set near the Cold War's end gives it all a sort of funny, if fatalistic, irony.



Michael Douglas glittered like arbine stone as Liberace. a dazzling showman with a tin heart.



This grim comedyprison unexpectedly study of bad choices



Orange Is the New Black

drama about a women's flowers into a touching and bad karma.



Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Sitcom of the year. As a cop who loves his job. Andy Samberg is as giddlly happy as a kid



tombie series and the

word for its elusive.

xquisite chill: frisson

Masters of Sex Showtime

This dual portrait of sex researchers William

Masters and Virginia Johnson in the

late '50s is elegantly smart and sharp. It's

like being seduced in an Earnes chair.

Hannibal NBC Psychiatrist and cannibal Hannibal Lecter (Mads Mikkelsen) agrees to counsel a troubled FBI profiler of serial killers. This is a diabolical thriller, a vision of hellish anguishalso the sickest buddy comedy ever.



BY JOHN GRIFFITH'S

ENLIGHTENED (HBO)

In the second and final season, New Age crusader Amy Jellicoe (Laura Dern) exposed corruption at work while wrestling with life post-nervous breakdown. An unsparing but hopeful look at how much work it is to be good.

BREAKING BAD (AMC)

Forget Chekhov's gun; the final act of this meth morality drama started with an arsenal-a machine gun, a ricin capsule, Walter White's cancer, a pile of money and several barrels full of secrets.



ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK (NETFLIX)

Netflix emerged as a TV force with House of Cards and Arrested Development. But its most original voice was this prison ensemble drama in which every jailbird had a song worth hearing.

GAME OF THRONES (HBO)

GOT was TV's best drama about politics. The battle for the Iron Throne of Westeros became a complex study of power, leadership and the difference between the two.

THE GOOD WIFE (CBS)

This legal drama had it all: humor, sexiness, political smarts and moral complexity. How do you improve that? By blowing it all up with a thrill-

Photograph by Peter Hapak for TIME

the audience won.

BOB'S BURGERS (FOX)

In its fourth season, Bob's ily sitcom on TV. In the spirit of The Simpsons and King of made it more universal.

RECTIFY (SUNDANCE)

Sundance found a niche for slow-burn series like The this tale of a man who served 19 years for murder then had

THE AMERICANS (FX)

Their identities were fake, but the emotions were real.

MAD MEN (AMC)

the series) approaching, the show found sly angles on the sky-falling zeitgeist of 1968 and ended with chameleon Don Draper on the verge of his

(10)

ORPHAN BLACK (BBC AMERICA)

Tatiana Maslany played the role of the year as a series of clones who discover they're and a dark conspiracy.

with adman Don Draper (Jon Hamm, never better) fiing boardroom war in which nally, even triumphantly, owning his shady past. (AMC

2. BREAKING BAD Meth kingpin Walter White (Bryan Cranston) and this raw drama went out with, yes, an was the most grounded fam- unflinching bong. Required viewing for any year. (AMC

1. MAD MEN As intoxicating and bittersweet as a Man

hattan! The '60s drama proved profoundly moving.

the Hill, its eccentricities only 3. ORPHAN BLACK The thriller's Tationa Maslany cap ivated as seven clones marked for death. (BBC America

4. THE GOOD WIFE Badass lawyer Alicia (Julianna Margulies) opted for power over friends, giving this Returned, Top of the Lake and intelligent drama new sizzle (CBS)

his conviction overturned. 5. SCANDAL The watercooler drama's politicos and assassins riveted with "What next?" chills. (ABC)

Matthew Rhys and Keri Rus- 6.30 ROCK Liz Lemon sell played KGB agents trying work in the Virginia suburbs. TV lost one brainy, surreal funny sitcom. (NBC)

7. HOUSE OF CARDS Kevin

With the end of the '60s (and Spacey's adept turn as a

Fey with James Marsden

sly congressman made this drama bingeworthy. (Netflix

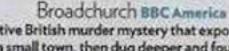
8. THE WALKING DEAD This zombie drama ramped up life's most intriguing change. the action with a classic hero/bad guy rivalry. (AMC)

> 9. BEHIND THE CANDELABRA Famed planist Liberace (Michael Douglas) and his drugged-out boy toy (Matt Damon) were TV's It couple of the year! (HBO)

connected by genetic materia 10. BATES MOTEL Vera Farmiga killed it as Norman Bates' desperate mom in this Psycho prequel. (A&E)

THE GOOD WIFE Forget "good." In its fifth season, CBS's (and network TV's) classiest and most entertaining drama has returned to greatness with an audacious act of reinvention, turning former partners—and lovers—into mortal enemies following Alicia's (Julianna Margulies) split to start her own law firm. Everything is now beyond personal in this dangerously exciting, unpredictable new scenario. Even better, the show has lost none of its smart sex appeal and continues to tell some of the most gripping legal stories anywhere. Bravo.





An addictive British murder mystery that exposed the underbelly of a small town, then dug deeper and found its bruised heart. Olivia Colman and David Tennant (he'll star in FOX's American reboot) were superb as mismatched detectives.



the finale didn't fully come to grips with the sins of Walter White, at least TV now has a myth to equal the fall of Adam. Only he's bald.

