

perry mason episode guide

Perry Mason Episode Guide: A Deep Dive into the Classic Legal Drama

The enduring legacy of "Perry Mason" continues to captivate audiences with its intricate plots and compelling characters. Based on the novels by Erle Stanley Gardner, this television series originally aired from 1957 to 1966 and has since spawned numerous adaptations and spin-offs. In this article, we will explore the "Perry Mason" episode guide, highlighting key episodes, character developments, and the overall impact of this classic show on the legal drama genre.

Overview of Perry Mason

"Perry Mason" is a legal drama that centers around the titular character, a brilliant defense attorney known for his uncanny ability to uncover the truth. Played by Raymond Burr, Perry Mason takes on challenging cases that often involve murder and other serious crimes. With his keen intellect, Mason unravels mysteries and exposes the real culprits, often in dramatic courtroom showdowns.

The show was known for its unique format, where the resolution typically occurred in the courtroom, and viewers were kept guessing until the final moments of each episode. This structure not only showcased Mason's legal prowess but also highlighted his unwavering commitment to justice.

Episode Guide Overview

The original series of "Perry Mason" consists of 9 seasons and a total of 271 episodes. Each episode is a self-contained story, allowing viewers to jump in at any point without needing extensive background knowledge. Below, we provide a brief summary of the seasons and highlight some of the most memorable episodes.

Season Breakdown

- **Season 1 (1957-1958)**

- Episodes: 30

- Highlight: "The Case of the Restless Redhead" - The pilot episode that established the show's premise and introduced Perry Mason.

- **Season 2 (1958-1959)**

- Episodes: 30
- Highlight: "The Case of the Sleepwalker's Niece" - A gripping episode featuring a complex defense based on sleepwalking.

- **Season 3 (1959-1960)**

- Episodes: 30
- Highlight: "The Case of the Lucky Loser" - A unique case involving a gambling scheme gone wrong.

- **Season 4 (1960-1961)**

- Episodes: 30
- Highlight: "The Case of the Capering Camera" - This episode showcases Mason's investigative skills as he navigates the world of film and deception.

- **Season 5 (1961-1962)**

- Episodes: 30
- Highlight: "The Case of the Frightened Fisherman" - A thrilling episode that explores themes of fear and betrayal.

- **Season 6 (1962-1963)**

- Episodes: 30
- Highlight: "The Case of the Deadly Verdict" - This episode features a shocking twist that keeps viewers on the edge of their seats.

- **Season 7 (1963-1964)**

- Episodes: 30

- Highlight: "The Case of the Silent Partner" - A gripping courtroom drama that tests the limits of Mason's abilities.
- **Season 8 (1964-1965)**
 - Episodes: 30
 - Highlight: "The Case of the Fickle Fortune" - This episode features themes of luck and justice intertwined in a captivating narrative.
- **Season 9 (1965-1966)**
 - Episodes: 30
 - Highlight: "The Case of the Golden Venom" - The series finale, which brings closure to many storylines while delivering a powerful message about justice.

Notable Characters

While Perry Mason is the central figure, the show features a rich cast of supporting characters that add depth and complexity to the narrative. Here are some of the most important characters in the series:

- **Paul Drake** - A private investigator and Mason's trusted ally, often providing vital evidence that helps solve cases.
- **Della Street** - Mason's loyal secretary, who plays a crucial role in managing his law practice and assisting in investigations.
- **Hamilton Burger** - The district attorney who often finds himself at odds with Mason, providing a formidable challenge in the courtroom.
- **Judge** - Various judges appeared throughout the series, each contributing to the show's legal atmosphere and courtroom drama.

The Legacy of Perry Mason

"Perry Mason" has left an indelible mark on television history and the legal drama genre. Its influence can be seen in various modern shows that explore similar themes of justice, morality, and the intricacies of the legal system.

The show's success led to several television movies featuring Raymond Burr reprising his role as Perry Mason, as well as a recent revival series that aired on HBO in 2020. This revival introduced a new generation to the character while staying true to the essence of the original stories.

Conclusion

The **Perry Mason episode guide** showcases a remarkable series that not only entertained viewers but also elevated the legal drama genre. With its clever plots, memorable characters, and thought-provoking themes, "Perry Mason" remains a classic that continues to resonate with audiences today. Whether you're a longtime fan or a newcomer to the series, the intricate storytelling and courtroom intrigue make "Perry Mason" a timeless gem in television history.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the original air date of the first episode of Perry Mason?

The first episode of Perry Mason aired on September 21, 1957.

How many seasons did the original Perry Mason series run?

The original Perry Mason series ran for nine seasons from 1957 to 1966.

What is the premise of the Perry Mason series?

Perry Mason follows a defense attorney who solves complex cases and often exposes the real criminal in court.

Is there a reboot of Perry Mason, and when was it released?

Yes, a reboot of Perry Mason premiered on June 21, 2020, on HBO.

Who played the title role in the original Perry Mason series?

Raymond Burr played the title role of Perry Mason in the original series.

How many television films were made after the original Perry Mason series ended?

There were 30 television films made after the original series ended, airing from 1985 to 1995.

Which actor stars as Perry Mason in the 2020 reboot?

Matthew Rhys stars as Perry Mason in the 2020 reboot.

Where can I find a complete episode guide for Perry Mason?

A complete episode guide for Perry Mason can be found on various TV database websites like IMDb or dedicated fan sites.

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