



NBC Situation Comedy (1989-1998), created by Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David. Named by TV Guide as the Greatest Show of All Time

Go here to find my *Seinfeld* website: <http://mtsu32.mtsu.edu:11072/Seinfeld/>



Seinfeld was not really about how evil humanity is, though it's about that to some extent. The show is really about the joy of charting, in exquisite, unrelenting, almost celebratory detail, the infinitely variegated human interactions that, closely watched, will ultimately tell the story of the disintegration of our species.

Bill Wyman, *Salon.com*

What relief to encounter comedy which does not mistake itself for anything else. Its characters are free to start from zero each time, free to indulge the marvelous shallowness which is the privilege of the creatures of farce. Nothing counts here, nothing has consequences: as one of the show's writers (Larry Charles in *Entertainment Weekly*) has observed, the crucial guideline is that the characters do not learn from experience and never move beyond what they intrinsically and eternally are.

Geoffrey O'Brien, "The Republic of *Seinfeld*"

Characters (Actor/Actress)

Bania, Kenny (Steven Hytner)
 Benes, Alton (Lawrence Tierney)
 Benes, Elaine (Julia Louis Dreyfuss)
 Bhatt, Babu (Brian George)
 Braun, Lloyd (Peter Keleghan, Matt McCoy)
 Chiles, Jackie (Phil Morris)
 Choate, Ms. (Frances Bay)
 Costanza, Estelle (Estelle Harris)
 Costanza, Frank (Jerry Stiller)
 Costanza, George (Jason Alexander)

Dalrymple, Russell (Bob Balaban)
 Davola, Crazy Joe (Peter Crombie)
 Drake, The (Rick Overton)
 Glickman, Rabbi (Bruce Mahler)
 Hernandez, Keith (Keith Hernandez)
 Jimmy (Anthony Starke)
 Klompus, Jack (Sandy Baron)
 Kramer, Babs (Sheree North)
 Kramer, Cosmo (Michael Richards)
 Kruger (Daniel Von Bargen)
 Leo, Uncle (Len Lesser)

Lippman, Mr. (Richard Fancy)
 Maestro, The (Mark Metcalf)
 Mandelbaum, Izzy (Lloyd Bridges)
 Mickey (Danny Woodburn)
 Mischke, Sue Ellen (Brenda Strong)
 Morgan (Tom Wright)
 Newman (Wayne Knight)
 Peterman, J. (John O'Hurley)
 Ping (Ping Wu)
 Pitt, Mr. (Ian Abercrombie)
 Poppie (Reni Santoni)
 Putty, David (Patrick Warburton)
 Rachel (Melanie Smith)

Reston, Dr. (Stephen McHattie)
 Ross, Mr. (Warren Frost)
 Ross, Mrs. (Grace Zabriskie)
 Ross, Susan (Heidi Swedborg)
 Seinfeld, Helen (Liz Sheridan)
 Seinfeld, Jerry (Jerry Seinfeld)
 Seinfeld, Morty (Barney Martin)
 Sidra (Terri Hatcher)
 Soup Nazi (Larry Thomas)
 Stan the Caddy (Armin Shimerman)
 Whatley, Tim (Bryan Cranston)
 Wilhelm (Richard Herd)

Some Seinfeldian Terms

Anti-Dentite
 Baldist
 Bizarro
 BBO
 Bombable
 Break-up by Association
 Bro
 Bump Into
 Call Waiting Face-Off
 Cell-Phone Walk and Talk

Changing Teams
 Close Talker
 Consolation Guy
 Dating Decathlon
 Degifting
 Double Dipper
 Excuse Rolodex
 Festivus
 Hand
 High Talker

Home Bed Advantage
 "Hoochie Mama:"
I love you Return
 "It's Not You, It's Me"
 Kiss Hello
 Long Talker
 Low Talker
 Make-Up Sex
 Mansierre
 Master of My Domain

Mimbo
 Nonvite
 Pop-In
 Regifting
 Sentence Finisher
 "Serenity Now"
 Schmoopy
 Shiksappeal
 Shrinkage Factor
 Shusher/Shushee

Spongeworthy
 Spare a Square
 Tap, The
 Undateable
 Unshushables
 Unvitation
 Yada, Yada, Yada
 "You're so Good Looking"

A Partial list of *Seinfeld* Intertexts/Allusions

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9 ½ Weeks | Croft, Steve | Johnson, Lyndon Baines | Nightingale, Florence | <i>Spartacus</i> |
| 90210 | <i>Cry in the Dark, A</i> | Jorel | O'Neil, Paul | Spider Man |
| <i>Alien Autopsy</i> | <i>Crying Game, The</i> | Kennedy, John F., Jr. | Oswald, Lee Harvey | Stalin, Joseph |
| <i>Alive</i> | C-Span | Kennedy, John | <i>Outlaw Josey Wales</i> | <i>Star Trek</i> |
| <i>All My Children</i> | Danson, Ted | Fitzgerald | Pacino, Al | <i>Star Wars</i> |
| Anderson, Loni | De Gaulle, Charles | Kevorkian, Dr. | <i>Pagliacci</i> | Steel Cage Death Match |
| Anthony, Susan B. | Desperado | Kix | Pandora's Box | Stella |
| Anti-Christ | Docker's | Kool Aid | <i>Paper Chase</i> | Streep, Meryl |
| <i>Apocalypse Now</i> | <i>Edward Scissorhands</i> | Koop, C. Everett | Parks, Rosa | <i>Sunset Boulevard</i> |
| Aquaman | <i>Elephant Man, The</i> | Kowalski, Stanley | <i>Patty Duke Show</i> | Superman |
| Archie | Endora | <i>Last Tango in Paris</i> | <i>Penthouse</i> | Svengali |
| Barton, Clara | <i>English Patient, The</i> | Lee, Spike | <i>Penthouse</i> | Thomas, Clarence |
| <i>Basic Instinct</i> | <i>Fatal Vision</i> | Leonard, Sugar Ray | Peter Pan | <i>Three Stooges</i> |
| Batman | <i>Few Good Men, A</i> | <i>Lord of the Flies</i> | Pinter, Harold | Three Tenors, The |
| <i>Beaches</i> | <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> | Loren, Sophia | <i>Plan 9 from Outer Space</i> | <i>Today Show</i> |
| Bermuda Triangle | Fossey, Diane | Lorre, Peter | <i>Planet of the Apes, The</i> | Tolstoy, Leo |
| Bernsen, Corbin | Fudd, Elmer | Machado, The | <i>Ponce de Leon: The</i> | <i>Tonight Show</i> |
| <i>Blob, The</i> | Gandhi | <i>Mad About You</i> | <i>Movie</i> | Torme, Mel |
| Boggle | Ghostbusters | Mansfield, Jayne | Pottery Barn | <i>Tropic of Cancer</i> |
| <i>Bold and the Beautiful,</i> | Godzilla | Mattingly, Don | <i>Private Life of Henry</i> | <i>Tropic of Capricorn</i> |
| <i>The</i> | <i>Great Gatsby, The</i> | McArthur Park | <i>VIII, The</i> | Tupperware |
| Book Depository | Green Lantern | McPherson, Elle | <i>Punky Brewster: xxx</i> | <i>TV Guide</i> |
| Bosco | Greenpeace | Meir, Golda | (xx) | Tweetie Bird |
| Boutros-Ghali, Boutros | Grodin, Charles | <i>Melrose Place</i> | Regis and Kathy Lee | <i>Twilight Zone, The</i> |
| <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> | Gumbel, Bryant | Mendes, Sergio | Rivera, Chita | Two-Face |
| Brezhnev, Alexander | <i>Guys and Dolls</i> | Merv Griffin Show, The | Rivera, Geraldo | Utopian |
| Brown, Helen Gurley | Hackett, Buddy | Meyer, Russ | Roker, Al | Vale, Jerry |
| Bruce, Lenny | Hart, Mary | Middler, Bette | <i>Runaway Train</i> | Voight, Jon |
| Bullock, Sandra | <i>Hazel</i> | <i>Midnight Cowboy</i> | Rushdie, Salman | <i>War and Peace</i> |
| Caligula | Hezbollah | minimalism | Safire, William | War, What is it good for |
| <i>Cape Fear</i> | Ho, Don | <i>Moby-Dick</i> | Savage, Fred | Wendt, George |
| Capote, Truman | Hoffman, Dustin | Monet, Claud | <i>Scent of a Woman</i> | Will, George |
| Captain and Tenille | <i>Holocaust</i> | <i>Murphy Brown</i> | <i>Schindler's List</i> | Winnie the Pooh |
| Carlyle, Thomas | Horne, Lena | Murrow, Edward R. | Scientology | Witchy Woman |
| Ceausescu, Nikolai | Housman, John | <i>Naked Gun</i> | Seals and Croft | Woodpecker, Woody |
| Chamberlin, Neville | Hubbard, L. Ron | Nedda | Seles, Monica | Yo Yo Ma |
| <i>Chapter Two</i> | Hulk, The Incredible | Neeson, Liam | Selma | Ziggy |
| Cheever, John | Hussein, Saddam | Nelson, Ozzie | <i>Shaft</i> | |
| Confucius | James, Rick | <i>Net, The</i> | Showalter, Buck | |
| Coniff, Ray | Jennings, Peter | <i>New Yorker</i> | Simon, Neil | |
| Cotton, Joseph | <i>JKF</i> | Nick at Nite | Skinheads | |

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Edited by David Lavery, with Sara Lewis Dunne, Middle Tennessee State University

Robert J. Thompson (Syracuse University)

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