

WKRP IN CINCINNATI: SEASON ONE (1978-1979)

Category : DVD REVIEWS (S-Z)

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Released by Fox

Running Time: 532 minutes

Rating: G

Color format: Color

Audio/Subtitles: English mono

Region Code: 1, NTSC

Aspect Ratio: Full screen

Special Features: Commentary on two episodes, two featurettes

Trailer On Line: No

WKRP IN CINCINNATI: SEASON ONE is now available on a three disc set. Airing on CBS from 1978 through 1982, the sitcom is based around the colorful characters working at the struggling rock station. What's interesting about the show is just how well defined all the characters are from the very first episode. Everyone here has their many quirks and are so much different from each other, yet in their many dysfunctions, they are really a "family". Johnny Fever, Herb Tarlek, Les Nessman, Jennifer Flowers, Andy Travis, Venus Flytrap, etc. are incredibly memorable characters. The show's writing is hilarious and easy to digest yet often features underlying important themes. It's also impressive that some of the most memorable episodes of the show happened within the first season (when they sponsor the concert for "Scum of the Earth", the live turkey give-away, or even Herb dressed as the station's Karp mascot fighting rival WPIG's mascot, etc.).

All 22 season one episodes are featured with mildly interesting commentary provided for two. There are also two disappointing short featurettes that focus on small aspects of the show yet don't deliver any insights into the its creation. The most controversial aspect of this release is the exclusion of the majority of the show's original music from such popular bands at the time as Foreigner, Beach Boys, Pink Floyd, Elvis Costello and so many more. Generic music has been substituted and portions of some episodes have even been modified to work around this issue. It also appears that a couple episodes are in fact shorter syndicated versions cutting a few minutes of running time. This has caused quite a bit of upset for longtime fans of the show and those interested in the struggles that occurred to bring this series to DVD can read more [here](#). I do admit that the DVD version does suffer from the exclusion of its original tracks as that really was an integral and now nostalgic part of the show, yet the writing and characters are so great, I can personally overlook the loss of the original music.