



chickster

Dec 2009

Magazine



What is a Chickster?

Honestly, we weren't 100 percent sure, even after we decided to name our magazine that. We're not totally sure it's actually a word, but we know we like the sound of it. It sounds really, well, cool.

So to help us determine what it is, we did the only logical thing. We Googled it.

According to the Urban Dictionary, which is something online we've stumbled upon that we've never heard of until this moment (so obviously it's extremely credible), a chickster is a "cool lady."

That seems fair enough. We certainly think we're cool ladies. If you're reading this and carrying around two X chromosomes, you're probably a cool lady too. In fact, we think all our friends, moms and sisters are cool ladies also.

Think our definition of a cool lady is too broad? We think not. We know so many dynamic and interesting women (including ourselves) that live in this amazing city that we wanted to do something to give back. So what are three magazine-obsessed and publishing-savvy chicksters to do? Why create their own magazine, of course.

We hope through Chickster to create a forum and a community of cool ladies hell bent on getting the most out of life, through finding fun new things to do in Austin to revering empowering chick television shows like Buffy the Vampire Slayer and movies starring a character named Darcy with a wet white shirt, to rocking out, whether we're on stage or off. This is our Chickster promise.

We're stylish girls with a penchant for spider rolls, vampires, the Alamo Drafthouse, local artists, thrift store finds, theme parties, SoCo, yoga, brunch, and Mexican Martinis, to name just a few things. If that describes you, then Chickster is for you, but even if it doesn't, we still hope you'll find something within these pages that resonates with you.

-From the co-founders and editors of Chickster



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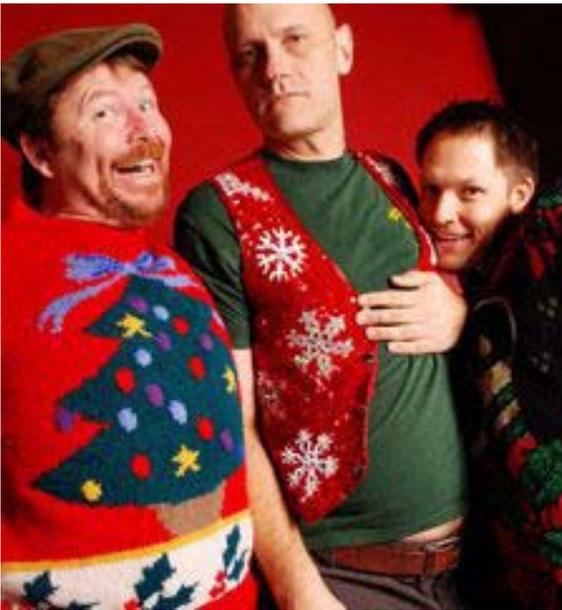
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Master Pancake Theatre Christmas Show



I'll admit it. I am a sucker for Christmas. Usually I've got my decorations up by Black Friday, and I'm usually listening to Christmas music by then too. There are a few Christmas movies (*A Christmas Story*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Love Actually*) that I watch like clockwork every year, and a dozen or so others that I rotate through (*Die Hard* and *Home Alone*, for example) regularly. I just love all the twinkle lights and the green trees and pretty much everything about Christmas. That being said, I also love laughing about Christmas. As far as I'm concerned, *Bad Santa* might be the most ingenious holiday movie ever, because just like pecan pie, it's the perfect mixture of salty and sweet.

The Master Pancake Theatre Christmas Show at the Alamo Drafthouse Ritz may be more on the salty side than the sweet, but either way, it's the best Christmas treat I've had this year. For those of you unversed in the Master Pancake Theatre Signature Series, basically you take three very funny guys (John Erler, Joe Parsons and Owen Egerton), give them mics and let them mock everything that comes across on screen. It began under the name Mr. Sinus Theatre and was similar to "Mystery Science Theater 3000" in theme, but evolved to include two new cast members and a new name. Typically the Master Pancake crew puts their formidable gifts for mockery to use on full-length movies, but for Christmas, they decided to "channel surf," as they say many families who have nothing to say to each other on Christmas are apt to do. They click through everything like animation, claymation, music videos, movies and variety specials drudging up more ridiculous holiday dreck than you could possibly imagine exists. And they make it all hysterically funny. Seriously, I think



Master Pancake Theatre Christmas Show can't

I nearly lost my voice because I laughed so hard. And they even made me laugh when they took potshots at my favorite of the Rankin and Bass holiday specials, “Nestor, the Long-Eared Donkey.” The show lasts about two hours and also includes milk and cookies, live improvised caroling and (at the showing I attended) grown men in their underwear parading around on stage.

So, if you, like me, have heard MAGIC 95.5 play “The Christmas Shoes” for the thousandth time and can't help but laugh at the inanity of the lyrics, then you absolutely **MUST** attend the Master Pancake Theatre Christmas Show to see them make fun of clips of not only the “The Christmas Shoes” music video, but the made-for-television movie starring Rob Lowe and his particular brand of smell-the-fart acting. It's too good to pass up.

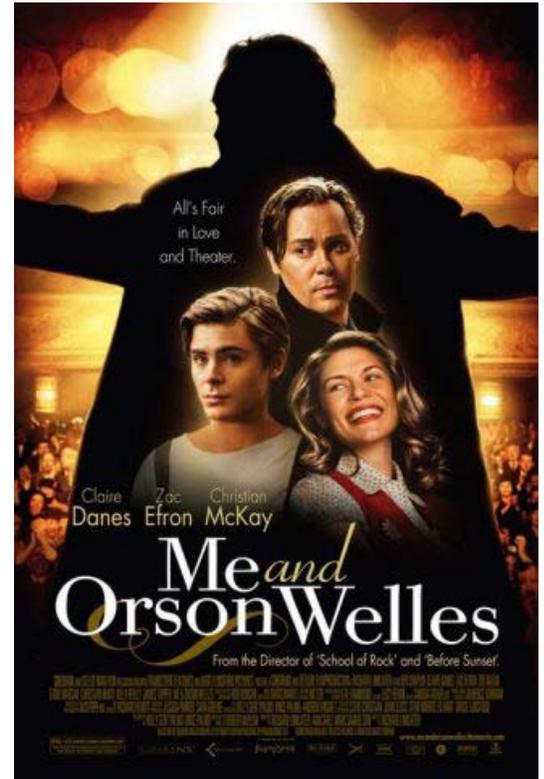
The Master Pancake Theatre Christmas Show has four more performances before Christmas. Most, if not all, of the shows sell out ahead of time, so check www.originalalamo.com for tickets for the 7pm and 10pm showings on Dec. 18 and 19.

Shelby O'Neill



Me and Orson Welles Review

Austin is fiercely loyal to its native sons and daughters who have gone on to make names for themselves in the world. This is especially true in the music and film industries. While Austin has spawned a number of talented filmmakers, perhaps the most famous and most influential has been Richard Linklater. Since he became an indie darling in 1991 with “Slacker”, Linklater has directed 14 films, including the seminal coming-of-age movie “Dazed and Confused,” the endlessly innovative “Waking Life” and the talky romances “Before Sunrise” and “Before Sunset.” In much of his early work, Austin plays as much a character as any of the actors. Watching “Slacker” is a time warp that transports viewers back to early '90s Austin, especially for the Drag. “Dazed and Confused” utilized Austin landmarks like the moon towers and Top Notch, and Spiderhouse popped up in “Waking Life.” All of those paeans to Austin have without a doubt endeared Linklater to the city’s residents. He also helped found the Austin Film Society and the Austin film community that exists today.



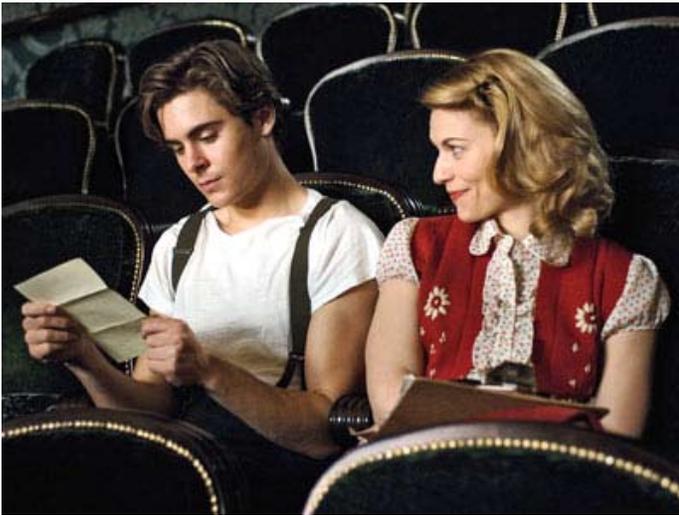
Because of all that, it was particularly sad for my husband and I to be the only two people in the audience to see his latest directorial effort, “Me and Orson Welles,” at the Arbor on a Tuesday evening. I don’t know the reasons why, but “Me and Orson Welles” had a long journey to even make it to the Arbor. The



film premiered at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival and then made its stateside debut at South by Southwest this past March. It opened for a limited release on Nov. 25 and is currently playing at both the Arbor Cinema and the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar.

Like many Linklater films, “Me and Orson Welles” focuses on a young guy trying to figure out what being a guy is all about. This guy is played by Zac Efron. I’d never actually seen the tween favorite in anything other than TMZ before, so I was looking

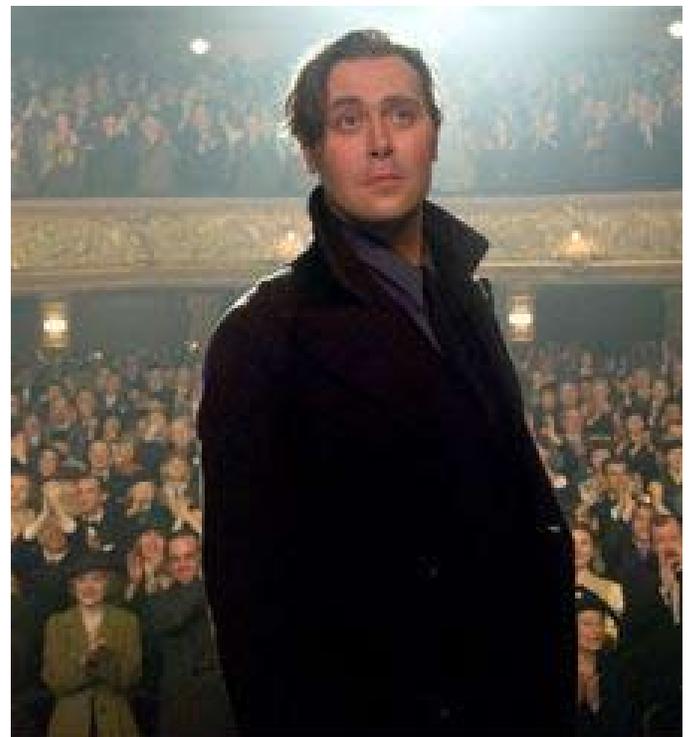
Me and Orson Welles Review con't



forward to uncovering what all the fuss was about. He was convincing in the part of Richard Samuels, a high school student and aspiring actor who bluffs his way into the company preparing to perform “Julius Caesar” at the Mercury Theatre in 1937. But honestly, Efron really had no chance against to stand out on screen when he is up against Christian McKay giving a brilliant performance as Orson Welles. Seriously, his voice sounded so much like Welles’ that it was almost spooky, and he also mastered all the pomp and arrogance of Welles as a man well aware of his own talent and power. Claire Danes plays Sonja, who

works behind the scenes at the Mercury and is the ambivalent third angle between Richard and Orson. Honestly, as someone who grew up on “My So-Called Life,” it’s a bit disconcerting for Danes to be playing someone too old to date Efron’s character. But the love story isn’t the central element of “Me and Orson Welles.” Instead it’s about figuring out what your passions are in life and how far you’ll let those take you. It’s about the sheer luck of being in the right place at the right time. And mostly, it’s about growing up and realizing that the world isn’t fair.

Linklater’s movies have a reputation of being more talk than action, but in “Me and Orson Welles” much of the words belong to William Shakespeare and as interpreted by Welles, Samuels and the rest of the Mercury Theatre players, they are never dull and never too much. Aside from the leads, the supporting cast is stocked with talented performers, like Eddie Marsan (“Little Dorrit,” “Happy-Go-Lucky”), Kelly Reilly (“Pride and Prejudice”) and “Men in Trees” James Tupper, unrecognizable as playboy and future movie star Joseph Cotton.



Shelby O'Neill

Chickster vs. New Moon



It's probably no secret by now that these Chicksters have succumbed to all the sparkly Twilight hysteria. We admit it. We're addicts of the books and the movies. So it's only fitting that after seeing New Moon that'd we want to gab about it together.

K: Edward's hair was not poofy enough. I liked his Goku-like hair in the first movie and was disappointed that it got shorter.

S: I didn't really mind the hair being shorter, primarily because all my attention was focused on his jawline throughout the movie. It's pretty incredible.

C: His hair was impressive in the first movie, but I didn't mind the change. Maybe I was distracted by all the sparkling?

K: I missed all the music from the first movie. They couldn't keep that really cool angsty reoccurring song? It really set the mood. I also missed Edward and Bella's piano song and thought it should be in there somewhere.

S: Definitely preferred Carter Burwell's score from last time around, but honestly, I preferred the soundtrack this time. I thought all the sadder sounding songs fit the tone really well, and the placement was nice.

C: While I liked how Debussy and Bella's theme played into the first movie, I thought French music composer Alexandre Desplat's piano work this time around was gorgeous and really set the tone. Some of my personal soundtrack highlights were Lykke Li's "Possibility" (used nicely in the movie I thought, with a sweet circling camera to show passage of time while Bella sits unmoving in her chair staring out her bedroom window), Grizzly Bear with Victoria Legend on "Slow Life" and, of course, the Bon Iver and St. Vincent pairing on "Roslyn".

S: Can I add the Editors' "No Sound But the Wind" to the soundtrack highlights? I've been listening to the soundtrack a lot, and it's really a lot better than it has any right to be, considering the last one included Linkin Park.

Chickster vs. New Moon con't

K: I also liked how Twilight was filmed in cool blues and kinda missed that. Why did they fire that first director anyway? She obviously made a good movie! It was popular and just flowed well.

S: The look of this movie was totally different. I wonder if they intentionally used warmer and richer tones since Jacob is supposed to be Bella's sun in this one. (Did anyone else wish they'd left that line out? The sun/moon mixed metaphors that Stephenie Meyer seems hellbent on using annoy the crap out of me.)

K: I do agree that they used more browns because of the werewolves and that probably is appropriate.

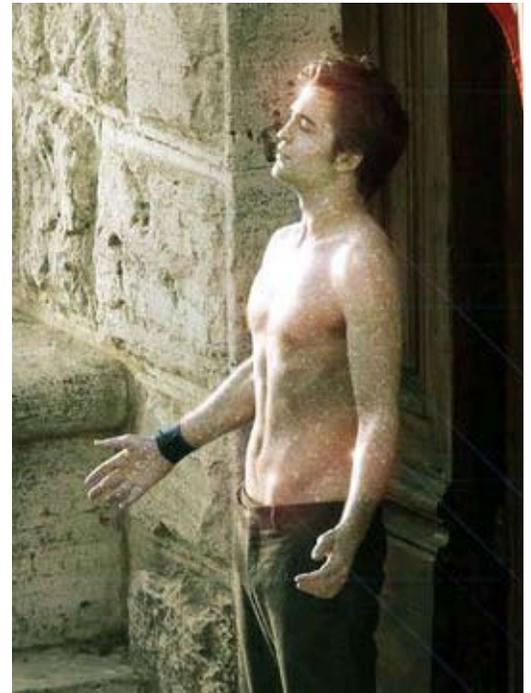
C: I agree they shouldn't have been so quick to dismiss Catherine Hardwicke, she helped create a lucrative movie franchise from something that was supposed to be just a low budget cult film. That being said, I liked the richer and more vibrant look of this movie, and the fast forward and slow down shots totally beat the cheesy sped up sprint shots from the first film. I also think the moon/sun references are bit heavy handed, but I am still a sucker (heh) for them.

K: I didn't like Alice in this movie. She seemed really off. Her voice was different. Her acting seemed strange and she dressed like a grandma in the scene where she should've been wearing something awesome because she was in a fast sports car!

S: Dude, we were so different on this! I liked Alice much more this movie. She seemed more girly, which I thought was more in keeping with the book. Speaking of looks, did Kristen Stewart get a new make-up and hair artist? Her make-up and hair looked really different this time around.

C: I was eager to find out more about Alice in the first movie, she seemed quite mysterious. I didn't feel she was quite as odd this time around, and that was a little bit of a disappointment. Honestly, I don't know why she would want to be such good friends with Bella...

S: Haha, I don't get why anyone wants to be such good friends with Bella. She's so whiny. But yeah, I wish they would have put some of Alice's backstory from the first book into one of the movies. Or any of the Cullens' backstories. The only one we really got was Edward's.



Chickster vs. New Moon con't

K: I liked Alice in the birthday scene but then not as much after that and I kept wondering if she were even the same actress. Her voice sounded wrong to me! And was she so hostile towards Jacob on the book? I don't remember that. I remember Rosalie being the problem. Bella's hair and make-up were awesome. I think it was different because she was depressed so her hair was greasy and her make-up looked as if it wasn't there...

C: I always like it when actresses actually look like crap when they are going through a tough emotional time rather than like beautiful mannequins. I dug the dark shadows under her eyes...I mean come on this supposed to be tragedy.

S: I actually meant I thought she looked prettier this time, haha. I guess depression suits her.

K: Other than that I thought it was really good actually. Jacob's character was executed perfectly. They really followed the book which I loved. Dakota Fanning was AWESOME as Jane and so perfect for that part. I liked the whole Volturi cast.

S: Amen about the Volturi being awesome! Loved Michael Sheen and Dakota Fanning. And yeah, I never liked Jacob in the books and have really not gotten the whole Team Jacob thing, but he was great in the movie. And I think I'd rather rewatch the movie than reread the book, if only because Bella's whining got distilled to one hour instead of dragging on for 300 pages.



K: She was only supposed to hear Edward's voice not see him. I thought that was corny-looking but obviously they did it to keep the teenie boppers from freaking out since he's basically only in the beginning and the end.

S: I hate to admit this, but I was kind of grateful that they did that. He's just so nice to look at.

C: I am with Kelly on this, I hated that Edward kept popping up all shimmery and then fading away. Come on! Isn't it enough that he sparkles? Edward left! He needs to deal with the consequences, even if it means less face time on screen. Should have thought of that before he LEFT Bella to be EATEN. Jerk.

Fashism: The New Fashion Strategy

While fascism is something Chicksters could never condone, we have to let you know about Fashism.com – a website created by three former University of Texas students now living in the Big Apple. Rather than a totalitarian dictation of style, the site encourages members to somewhat more democratically vote and comment on user submitted photos of everyday outfits.

how it works



fas · hism [fash-iz-uh m]
-noun

1. *An adjunct political theory to Fascism, whereby the well-dressed in society have all the power. Sometimes described as Fash(ion)ism.*

As someone who misses having a gaggle of roommates, who I could not only borrow fabulous clothes from but also bounce my wardrobe choices off of *before* stepping out, Fashism's site is a great solution. Snapping a photo of yourself (either playing with different ensembles from your closet or even snapping a quick pic from a store's dressing room) and then uploading to site offers nearly instantaneous feedback from fashionistas all over the world. It's not for the fashion faint hearted, however, as the truth about some of your favorite digs might hurt...but now users can learn from a fashion faux pas and even get suggestions from perfect strangers on how to "make it work" [finger snap].



New Dollhouse Episodes



Season 2, Episode 5: The Public Eye

“A former active once made a passing reference to us in his blog,” said DeWitt in this new installment of Joss Whedon’s *Dollhouse*. “That was his last entry.”

As this contains slight spoilers, let’s hope I fare better. In the first episode aired of this two-episode time slot on Dec. 4, they revealed that one of the people in the senator-wife partnership introduced in the previous episodes was a doll. Very tricky.

I don’t think I would’ve seen that coming if I hadn’t unknowingly tuned in during the last half of an episode that was actually episode 2 in a two-episode time slot! (Just FYI, *Dollhouse* starts at 7pm central time this Friday [Dec. 11] as well and will be two hours.)

The long-awaited Summer Glau also finally appeared in her excellent role as a doll brainwasher who mirrors Topher (Fran Kranz) in her character of Bennett, except with even less humanity, which is novel considering that Topher referred to dolls in this episode as not being “real people” like him.

Glau conveys this character with a level of weirdness that even surpasses Dr. Saunders’ (Amy Acker) character—which is pretty weird—and with craziness reminiscent of her performance as the brilliant but unbalanced River in the movie *Serenity*, the topper on the *Firefly* series.

Madeline (better known as the doll November/Mellie from Season 1) also makes an appearance in this episode, with the goal to bring down the dollhouse by talking to the press about her time there. But it makes you wonder why the dollhouse allowed her to be aware of her connection to them. Couldn’t they have just wiped that from her memory as well? They took everything else, but I do admit that it does make for an interesting turn.

Season 2, Episode 6: The Left Hand

Victor (Enver Gjokaj) portraying Topher’s character was one of the most convincing performances on this show



New Dollhouse Episodes con't

that there has been, aside from Victor humorously portraying the horny school girl Kiki in an earlier episode. He's even modified his voice and mannerisms to match Topher's exactly. That topped off with the sweater vest was a close to perfect reflection.

The nerdy love and admiration taking place between the Bennett and Topher characters was also priceless, and even though her intentions turned out to be malicious, I still hope that they continue that storyline.

The twist ending in this episode puzzled me. The Dollhouse isn't taken down, and it's the character plotting for the entire season to uncover them that lies unblinkingly that "There is no Dollhouse." Not sure what Joss is doing but I'm certain it's brilliant and will unfold and amaze.



Season 2, Episode 7: Meet Jane Doe

I'm not really sure what training to get a woman out of jail has to do with learning to break out of the Dollhouse so I suspect that this is just a filler episode, though it obviously has its highlights like Topher continuing to obsess over his crush on the seemingly evil Bennett.

Also, who really threatens to call the police over trying to use food stamps? Sure, they may not accept them but you'd think that they would just politely decline and apologize

about their policy. Plus having a woman clapped in prison for 3 months because someone else handed her stolen bread seems a little over the top, as did all the prison scenes.

Plus if Echo is the best than why has she totally messed-up every mission she's ever had? Sure it would be less interesting if they always went exactly to plan but they should go to plan sometimes. Though she always pulls it off in the end, they always go terribly wrong. Wouldn't that make her the worst instead of the best? And she basically failed this training session. Wouldn't that mean she needs more training?

New Dollhouse Episodes Con't



Season 2, Episode 8: A Love Supreme

This was a much better episode than the previous (and a great episode period) especially since Alpha returns, in a lounge-singer-like suit that he still somehow manages to pull off. And someone gets blown up, though I was a little sad about who (and a little grossed out). But Alpha's "Who doesn't love a pun?" line after having the guy repeat to the onlookers how he would describe his time with Echo, was a blast.

They don't bother to show us how Alpha got into the Dollhouse this time, which is actually alright with me since the interest about him breaking in last time revolved around the fact that you had no idea he was Alpha. This time they skip that detail, and get to the really interesting stuff like him trying to take out Ballard, for daring not to sleep with Echo, apparently. Best exchange between Alpha and Ballard:

"For months you shared the same room. You never slept with her. You could have but you didn't. If that's not love...are you gay?"

"No."

"Then it's love."

Who knows? Alpha's crazy. And kinda awesome. So I won't give anymore spoilers.

Unfortunately it does sound as if this will be the last season of the *Dollhouse*, and I think that's very regrettable, but hope that Fox will have a twist ending of its own after the inevitably brilliant closer of this series airs.

Season 2, Episode 9: Stop Loss

There were several things about this episode that I found brilliant. For instance, we finally got to see the exit process for a doll who didn't need to escape. Victor's time at the dollhouse was up, so he woke up, was shocked that it had been 5 years, filled out some paperwork, shook Boyd's hand and found



himself (after checking out his dollhouse provided suite) compelled to sleep in his elongated tile shower instead of his bed (nice touch Joss). So obviously there was some impression left-over of his time at the Dollhouse on a subconscious level, but he didn't remember anything, not even Sierra at first, whom he was supposed to have dinner with that evening whom continued to wait for him.

Aside from the good points, I found the whole “soldier, one-mind” storyline a little cheesy and I'm not sure any of that was necessary. But the parts where Victor could physically see the soldiers' planned strategy ahead of time was interesting and slightly eerie in its choppy cinematography.

Season 2, Episode 10: The Attic

Joss jokingly claimed once, on a *Buffy* special feature, that he “invented” the twist ending. In this episode he convinced me that was true. I predict most writers' twist endings, but not Joss's most of the time, which is why most un-Joss shows bore me. But Joss doesn't disappoint, especially in this episode. I could've done without Joss's creative version of nightmare-sushi though. Ick.

That aside I found the attic a very interesting place, and I like the Terry-Gilliam-esque sleeping contraptions the dolls were stored in and the dream-like sequences all shared by minds trapped together. I also love that Joss managed to tie the attic to Epitaph One! How interesting that the unaired 13th episode was merely a possible outcome of the Doll's technology taking over the world, or perhaps it wasn't? Hopefully Joss will address that as the rest of the season unfolds. The *Dollhouse* returns to its regular 8pm (central time) slot on January 8th.



For more options, like to view the episodes reviewed above or to watch the 15-second “*Dollhouse* Simplified” recap, go to www.fox.com/dollhouse/.

The Chicksters



Cynthia Webmaster/Publisher

Cynthia loves to write and find new adventures. Bitten by the travel bug at an early age, she enjoys discovering new places both near and far away. She always has her nose in a book and has a weakness for chick lit like *Bridget Jones' Diary* and *Anthropology of An American Girl*. Sometimes she wishes people would burst into song and dance like in so many musicals. A few of her favorite things include art, hatha yoga, guitar, and a good cup of coffee. Cynthia has a Bachelor's in English Lit and hopes to one day publish a graphic novel.

Kelly Writer/Editor

Kelly loves to write in her spare time and not spare time. As a child she was obsessed with the concept of time travel and still presently loves time travel lore (like novels such as *The Time Traveler's Wife*) and stories featuring superheroes or anyone with superpowers. She loves the *Twilight* trilogy and can quote the entire *Buffy* series as well as most other Joss Whedon shows. She has a Master's degree in creative writing, loves to diagram sentences, and is our resident vampire expert.



Shelby Managing Editor

Shelby reads and writes more than any sane person should. She is a wedding photographer, veggie burger snob and unabashed fan of *Gossip Girl*, *Gilmore Girls* and *The Golden Girls*. She considers the Alamo Drafthouse her home away from home. Now that she's in her late 20s, she's a little embarrassed by her undying love for teen movies and YA fiction, so she prefers to consider it research for her future career as a screenwriter and novelist. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism and a fetish for copy-editing.



Photos by Annie Ray

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