

## 5 Reasons To Watch The Newsroom This Season

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News At 11? Not For Long. HBO's *The Newsroom* enters its third and last season.

*HBO*

Three may be a charm for HBO's **The Newsroom**. The Golden Globe-nominated drama series, which garnered an Emmy for [Jeff Daniels](#) as beleaguered news anchor Will McAvoy, enters its third and final season Sunday. With just six episodes, it appears that the Aaron Sorkin drama intends to go out with a creative bang.

Take note of five reasons why we're tuning in this news cycle:

### 5. It's The Final Season

So, it's not really News At 11 that the show is ending—we knew about this last year—but it's worth noting more than once. For starters, Sorkin's **Newsroom** has been hit and miss with critics, and, perhaps, its

viewers since it first aired several years ago. However, both critics and viewers remained intrigued over the course of two seasons and the show raked up some Emmy nods and wins, particularly for Daniels. The upcoming season finds most of its characters on more solid ground emotionally, at least in their personal lives—that's a good thing because, like *Greys Anatomy*, everybody seems to be hooking up in the workplace here. Still, the show has succeeded in several things: It has offered a noteworthy reflection about the times in which we now find ourselves living—mostly politically. Beyond that, it's given us more time to appreciate Sorkin's vision and writing. Sure, the monologues on this show can produce a roll of the eyes at times. That doesn't mean it's not well written. Look for more engaging diatribes as we head into Season Three. And it seems there's a wonderful opportunity for the characters to go to emotional places you would not quite have expected.

#### **4: Alison Pill**

Gone: Maggie the mousy, emotional tornado who could not stop pining after *News Night* producer Jim Harper (John Gallagher Jr.). In: Maggie with a spine. I suppose it had to happen to sooner or later, so we'll take this surprisingly more mature Maggie and a chance to see Ms. Pill do something other than unravel. For the first two seasons, that Maggie/Jim story arc, while humorous at times, eventually grew tiresome. What we see here now is a Maggie who appears to be more solid in her footing and dedicated to her work. There are hints, however, that Jim and Maggie will, in fact, end up together down the road. But by the looks of it, if that happens, at least they'll both be more solid in their core.

#### **3. Dev Patel**

One of [TV's](#) finest, yet under-rated actors, is given a robust story arc this season that brings in the Feds to the network. As Neal, *News Night's* self-made newsman, Patel has always been enjoyable to watch and his character has been easy to embrace. But watch how well the show's writers take the character into new creative territory, giving Patel a chance to shine even brighter.

#### **2. Will and Mac Are No Longer Annoying**

It's a miracle, so just relish this development as this often well-written—and just-as-often sigh-inducing—television outing fades to black after its current season. The good news, however, is that now that cable news hotshot Will McAvoy (Daniels) has proposed to his ruminating soul mate/*News Night* executive producer MacKenzie McHale (Emily Mortimer), there's a sense of levity in the creative air. Television history has shown us that a show's producers and writers just love to tease their audiences and drag out potential love affairs—*New Girl* being a wonderful exception—so it's a nod to Sorkin and Co. for giving us a Will and Mac that we can not only root for now, become more invested in seeing evolve further. It will be interesting to see just how these two get to the altar, if, in fact, the winds of fate allow them to. Another nice development is that Mortimer's Mac is clearly more emotionally balanced this round. That's a fine thing indeed as it allows the actress to show off her strengths—and Mac's, too.

## 1. Strong Story Arcs Abound

There are several to relish. Patel's Neal, of course, is offered a fascinating turn that also links Mac to the friendship she has with a government official eager to pounce on ACN, the cable network where our befuddled characters romp. Look for [Jane Fonda](#) to re-emerge as the network's head honcho, who's left her son—a sharp Chris Messina—in charge. Seems as if the network may be in trouble with a potential hostile takeover. These new tensions offer us a new kind of *Newsroom* as the focus shifts from external headlines to the internal events happening within ACN. Refreshing? Yes. It's the kind of *Newsroom* many may have hoped for early on. Regardless, it's a *Newsroom* worth tuning into now.

*Newsroom* airs on [HBO](#) at 9pm Sunday nights.



**Greg Archer**

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