

Women in Television

By Clare Richmond

The Sci-fi and Fantasy genre is usually dominated by male characters. From Lord of the Rings to Star Wars there are few strong female characters, but television with its character driven story lines usually constructs better characters, including women. This is an examination of women in Sci-fi and Fantasy television shows - brief selection to encompass a spectrum of results.

The Main Cast of the Show

The breakdown of the main cast identifying the gender of each of the characters. Selected as the top billed characters, often only those appearing in the opening credit sequence.

Number Named Main/Recurring Characters

Characters, including the main cast and guest stars, who have appeared in multiple episodes and had significant roles.

Average Number of Episodes per Character

The average number of episodes characters (main characters and recurring guest stars) have appeared in.

Permanently Dead Characters

Number of characters (male and female) who have permanently died on the show.

Supernatural

Supernatural is about Sam and Dean, two brothers who drive about the USA in a black impala and kill monsters and demons.

- Dean Winchester
- Castiel
- Sam Winchester



6.5 : 20.5

22 Male : 15 Female

Teen Wolf

Teen Wolf is about a boy, Scott, who suddenly finds himself turned into a werewolf. He has to navigate high school, his love life and the supernatural.

- Scott McCall
- Stiles Stilinski
- Derek Hale
- Peter Hale

- Chris Argent
- Isaac Lahey
- Allison Argent
- Lydia Martin



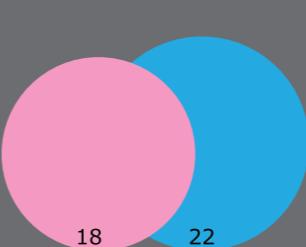
16 : 22.25

6 Male : 8 Female

Buffy

Once a generation there is born a slayer, a woman destined to fight evil. This generation the slayer is Buffy.

- Buffy Summers
- Willow Rosenberg
- Xander Harris
- Rupert Giles
- Dawn Summers
- Angel
- Spike
- Anya



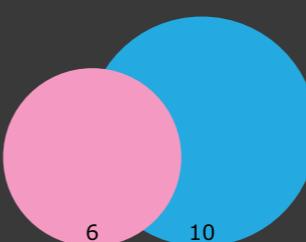
41 : 39

4 Male : 3 Female

Agents of Shield

The missions of the Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division.

- Phil Coulson
- Melinda May
- Grant Ward
- Skye
- Leo Fitz
- Jemma Simmons



12.75 : 9.75

1 Female

Doctor Who (RTD)

The further adventures of the time traveling alien adventurer and his companions. As written by Russell T Davies.

- The Doctor
- Rose Tyler
- Martha Jones
- Donna Noble



16.75 : 22.5

1 Male : 1 Female

Merlin

The adventures of the legendary sorcerer as a young man in a Camelot where magic is outlawed and Arthur is not yet the King he is destined to become.

- Merlin
- Arthur Pendragon
- Morgana
- Gwen
- Uther Pendragon
- Gias
- Kilgharrah



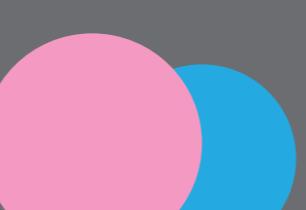
36.25 : 37.75

3 Male : 2 Female

Doctor Who (SM)

The further adventures of the time traveling alien adventurer and his companions. As written by Steven Moffat.

- The Doctor
- Amy Pond
- Rory Williams
- Clara Oswald



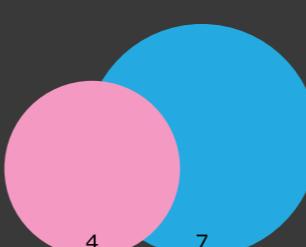
17.75 : 27.75

N/A

The Big Bang Theory

A woman who moves into an apartment across the hall from two brilliant but socially awkward physicists shows them how little they know about life outside of the laboratory.

- Leonard Hofstadter
- Sheldon Cooper
- Howard Hofstadter
- Raj Koothrappali
- Penny
- Amy Farrah Fowler
- Bernadette Rostenkowski



21.25 : 24.75

N/A

Firefly

A motley crew of space smugglers pick up two fugitives, which makes their own illegal business all the more difficult. A sci-fi western in space. Seriously, go watch it if you've not already it's brilliant.

- Malcolm Reynolds
- Zoe Washburne
- Wash Washburne
- Inara Serra
- Jayne Cobb
- Kaylee Frye
- Simon Tam
- River Tam



11.5 : 12

N/A

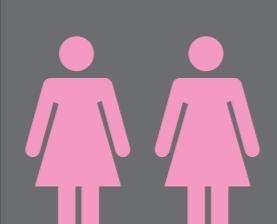
The Bechdel Test

The Bechdel test was created by Alison Bechdel in a comic strip in 1985. It is a way of evaluating women's roles in movies.

To pass the test four simple criteria must be met:

A movie either passes or fails the Bechdel test, but for television the test has been adapted so that each episode either passes or fails and the show is given a percentage of passes.

1. There must be at least two women.



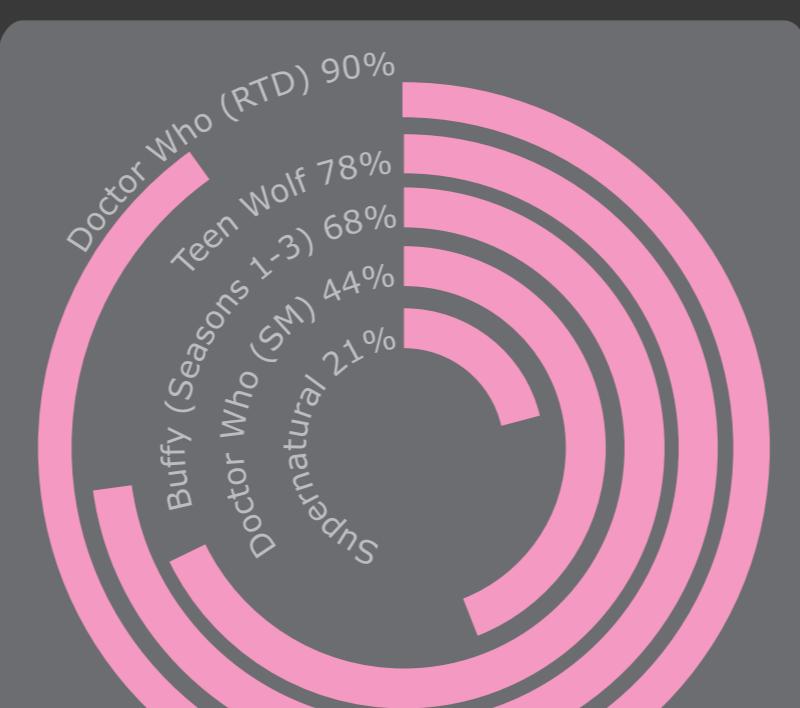
2. Who have names.



3. Who talk to each other.

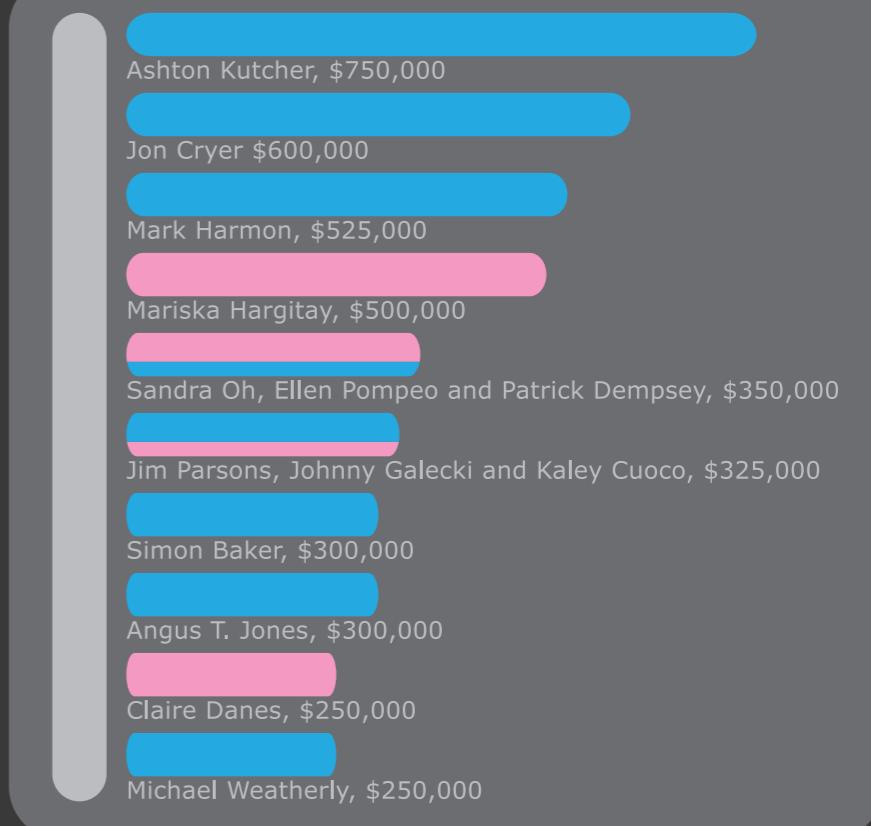


4. About something that is not a man.



Percentage of episodes passing the Bechdel test.

Top Earning Actors in Television (Dollars/episode)



Bibliography

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