

cléo Volume 3, Issue 1: *Boob Tube*

Say what you will about its "status" as an art form, or its effect on our eyes and morals, there's no denying the television that graces our screens and eats up our bandwidth these days is good. It's really good. It's so good we are dedicating an entire issue to it. Riffing off of television's early rebuffs by social critics and moralists of the 1960s, we lovingly christen this seventh issue of *cléo* "Boob Tube."

To be sure, pretentious and misguided TV criticism still abounds—look no further than the *New York Times* and their asinine assessment of Shonda Rimes (creator of *Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal*, and *How to Get Away With Murder*) as an "angry black woman." But as Linda Williams' new book-length feminist reading of *The Wire* attests, it's not all bad either. What we want to focus on is the ways in which questions of race, queer identity, class tensions, and feminism are being tested and explored on the smaller screen. Think of the wonderful *Transparent*, a show starring Jeffrey Tambor as a transwoman coming out to her grown children (made by the newly minted Amazon Studios). Or the excellent web series *High Maintenance* and *Broad City*, both of which cast off the constraints of season-long story arcs in favour of funny and gripping character snapshots.

Of course, there's also Netflix, which has entangled us in the lives of the women of Litchfield Penitentiary and Frank and Claire Underwood—and reunited us with all seven seasons of *Gilmore Girls*. From new ways to watch the tube, to even newer means of its production, we've got plenty of ground to cover.

Some points of departure may be, but are not limited to:

- Film and TV (à la Jane Campion and *Top of the Lake*, or Callie Khouri and *Nashville*)
- True crime, fake crime, crime procedurals (*Scandal*, *Veronica Mars*, *True Detective*, *The Fall*, *The Wire*, *How to Get Away With Murder*)
- Netflix, HBO, original series, content creation, digital production,
- Show-runners (Jenji Kohan, Lena Waithe, Lena Dunham, Shonda Rimes, Elizabeth Meriwether)
- Witches: *Bewitched*, *Charmed*, *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*
- Cut Down in Their Prime: *My So Called Life*, *Freaks and Geeks*, *Enlightened*, *Dead Like Me*, *Pushing Daisies*
- Television's female warriors: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Xena: Warrior Princess*, *The Mindy Project*, *Wonder Woman*, *Charlie's Angels*
- Friendship! *Girlfriends*, *Sex and the City*, *Blossom*, *Orange is the New Black*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Friends*
- Other possibilities include: *Olive Kitteridge*, *Friday Night Lights*, *Breaking Bad*, *Mad Men*, *Homeland*, *Girls*, *Family Matters*, *Full House*, *I Love Lucy*, or your pick of reality TV

Send us your pitch of roughly 300 words. Please also include three writing samples. The deadline for submissions is **January, 6 2015**.

We will be in touch regarding accepted pitches. Articles should be between 1500-2000 words.

Submissions and general inquiries: cleofilmjournal@gmail.com