

10. *The Night Of*

Just when you thought you were true-crimed out, this adaptation of British miniseries *Criminal Justice* crept its way on to HBO. The pilot opens with a grisly murder, introducing our assumed perp and the cast of detectives, lawyers, and family members, each with their own stake in the confounding case. Every episode walks the razor's edge between tension and melodrama, all while exploring the human collateral of a case fast-tracked to trial. We see Rikers Island inmates bend Nas (Riz Ahmed) from wide-eyed college student to shaven, thuggish drug-runner; the struggle for his dad's taxi partners to get their cab, their livelihood, back from police; and more of John Turturro's eczema-scabbed feet than we ever wanted or needed as John Stone, legal advocate for the downtrodden. The end product is immersive and quietly explosive, an edge-of-your-seat caper more tragic than it is bombastic -- as in the real world. Crime doesn't get truer than that.

Where to stream it: HBO GO or HBO NOW



TBS

9. *Search Party*

The last thing we thought we needed in 2016 was a millennial gumshoe show. TBS proved us wrong with this December surprise, starring Alia Shawkat, all grown up from her tween gig as *Arrested Development*'s Maeby, as a 20-something drifter desperate to find meaning in the disappearance of a college acquaintance. With *Bored to Death*-esque rookie sleuth slip-ups and sly, self-aware performances from Shawkat and the rest of the cast, *Search Party* cracks the case.

Where to stream it: TBS.com

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PATRICK HARBRON/FX

8. *The Americans*

The art of spycraft is enigmatic and sexy -- but Philip (Matthew Rhys) and Elizabeth (Keri Russell) are veterans who know that the deadliest weapon in their arsenal is trust. As such, this FX drama is rooted in interpersonal relationships,

tracking the longest of long cons. Season 4 saw the teenage Paige (Holly Taylor) respond to the espionage career thrust upon her by birthright, and she learned to manage her pastor and his wife, now her "sources"; and Philip's secret fake wife Martha (Alison Wright) flexes her dramatic muscle as her storyline approaches potential resolution. The tension is tremendous, and there's not an ounce of narrative fat in any episode.

Where to stream it: This season's episodes on [iTunes](#) or [Amazon Video](#)



HBO

7. *Silicon Valley*

Now that the plot exposition is out of the way, the *Silicon Valley* dudes can just goof off as their sharply drawn characters. The trials that Pied Piper endures are secondary to Gilfoyle's (Martin Starr) endless ribbing of co-engineer Dinesh (Kumail Nanjiani) and every absurd word uttered by [Jared](#) ([Zach Woods](#)). Thanks to the cast and writers' faithful depictions, *Silicon Valley* doesn't need to feature pyrotechnics like a million-dollar Alcatraz party to skewer its titular culture -- though that sure helps.

Where to stream it: [HBO GO](#) and [HBO NOW](#)



NETFLIX

6. *BoJack Horseman*

Despite abundant goofy sight gags and dad-worthy puns, Raphael Bob-Waksberg and Lisa Hanawalt's cartoon animal sad-com is not an easy watch. Season 3 is its darkest one yet, which is no small feat for a show about a washed-up alcoholic actor and his depressive frenemies. *BoJack* leans into its existentialism, and with each season delves deeper into its characters' backstories to explore the pains of personal growth, or lack thereof, asking big questions: what happens when you achieve your dream, but you still feel empty? Season 3 begins with BoJack on the Oscar campaign trail, but circles back to 2007, around to Todd's and Princess Carolyn's respective romantic struggles, and proves success is a tenuous concept, no more tangible than the anthropomorphic animals parading across our screens.

Where to stream it: Netflix



HBO

5. *Game of Thrones*

Season 6 went down in history as the year the show (mostly) outpaced George R.R. Martin's source text -- and the year the show treated its female characters as conquerors on par with their male counterparts. After that Jon Snow bait-and-switch, Sansa's crushing confrontation with Littlefinger, Hodor's tragic origin story, all of Bran's time-travel malarkey, and Lady Lyanna's eviscerating speech, *GOT* has shocked us at every turn, truly earning its eternal place in all your water-cooler conversations. The mega millions in production value are a mere afterthought.

Where to stream it: HBO GO and HBO NOW

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NETFLIX

4. *Stranger Things*

Who thought the 1980s would bring us this summer's sleeper TV hit? Netflix's campy mystery looks plenty familiar, and that's the point -- the nostalgia-baiting saga of small-town kids gone missing is anchored by the warm-fuzziest tropes of our childhood, from the banging '80s soundtrack to its close-knit friendships.

Its eight tantalizing episodes (a short series by Netflix standards!) left so many cliffhangers to unpack, so we'll be sharpening our conspiracy theories till we get more news about Season 2.

Where to stream it: Netflix



FX

3. *Atlanta*

This is that rare TV species: a deeply funny show offering pointed social commentary, probing Georgia's racial climate in between chuckles. Whether it's casting a black actor as Justin Bieber, lambasting social media obsessives, or just making a freaking great rap song, creator and star Donald Glover's massive endeavor manages to feel effortless and capture a specific experience with wit and precision.

Where to stream it: FXNOW



PRASHANT GUPTA/FX

2. *American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson*

FX's *The People v. O.J.* is a perfect time capsule from 20 years ago, made all the more prescient by how familiar each episode looked today. Building up from the Rodney King race riots through to the emergence of Court TV and that Earth-shattering verdict, Ryan Murphy's miniseries focused on the trial that defined '90s America could have failed spectacularly -- but he and writers Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski did their research. Every performance, drawn from a well-publicized real-world analogue, was uncanny in its accuracy (though some were more believable than others, of course). Most important, ACS took the mass hysteria seriously, breaking the case of a generation down into bite-size beats. Combine that precise empathy with its formidable scope, and *O.J.* triumphs in our TV court.

Where to stream it: FXNOW



JOHN P. JOHNSON/HBO

1. *Westworld*

Watching *Westworld* is not a spectator sport. From its murky timeline to its fully fleshed artificially intelligent robots, HBO's upgrade of the mediocre 1973 Michael Crichton movie requires intense theorizing and precise concentration. Jonathan Nolan and Lisa Joy weren't content just to build an expensive foundation for the Western wish-fulfillment amusement park -- they jam-packed that breathtaking scenery and carefully plotted backstory with a killer cast, heady neurology, cheeky musical cues, and conspiracy theories to spare. If you look carefully behind all those diversions, *Westworld* offers subtle commentary on the nature of TV writing and production at a period recognized as the medium's peak, on a network known for its commitment to narrative prestige. It'll raise questions about the nature of consciousness you never knew you had.

Where to stream