

# POPULAR

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WEEKLY

## THE BA\*\*\*DS OF BOLLYWOOD

A young director makes his debut quite forcefully

## THE LONGEST RUNNING SERAL OF INDIA - RAMAYANA

The BBC called the show that transformed Hinduism

## ATYPICAL, 24 AND PANCHAYAT

Netflix, Prime, JioStar, Sony....

## NOOMI RAPAPCE

Swedish Actor





**Cover: Sahher Bambba**

PIC COURTESY: PUBLIC DOMAIN

LEAD ACTOR IN THE BA\*\*\*DS OF BOLLYWOOD TV SERIAL

POPULAR

**Phil Dass**  
Editor

## Editor's Note

I am hard pressed to ignore The Ba\*\*\*ads of Bollywood, directed by the young Aryan Khan, son of Shah Rukh Khan. I rarely see Hindi serials with some exceptions. I saw one episode and that was enough. The direction is good, the actors good... but not my fare.

We look at some of the classic TV serials and also at some reigning ones across the TV and some, on movie screens. One of the impactful series to watch is 'Atypical' which is poignant and a touching tale, told skillfully.





# Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood

TONGUE-IN-CHEEK TV SERIAL ON THE CINEMATIC WORLD

On Netflix

IMDb Rating 7.7

[Watch Trailer here](#)

The Bads of Bollywood is a comical and semi-serious take on Bollywood's image and its life. Coming from the cinematic world and a degree in film making, the young Aryan Khan is more than suited to make this serial.

The actors are good and the plot is something which can be moulded by the actors as one would and can do. Or me thinks.



# RAMAYANA

The show was created, written, and directed by Ramanand Sagar.

Ramayana is one of the most iconic and record-breaking television series in Indian history. Its records and viewership have been remarkable, both during its initial broadcast and its re-telecast.

Original Broadcast (1987-1988)

**Most-Watched Television Series in the World:** During its original run, the show achieved a record-breaking viewership of 82%, making it the most-watched television series in the world at the time.

**National Phenomenon:** The show's popularity was so immense that it would

bring the entire nation to a standstill. Reports from the time indicate that streets would be deserted, shops would be closed, and people would gather at homes with televisions to watch the weekly episodes.

**Limca Book of Records:** Till at least 2003, it held the record in the Limca Book of Records as "the most watched mythological serial in the world."

**Global Viewership Record:** The show was re-telecast on Doordarshan in 2020 due to the nationwide lockdown. On April 16, 2020, a single episode was watched by a staggering 77 million viewers, making it the "highest-viewed entertainment program globally" in a single day.

**IMDb Rating: 9**

**Deepika Chikhalia, Sunil Lahri, Arun Govil, and Kapil Sharma**

**Only 78 Episodes, Ran in 1987-88**

**Director: Ramanand Sagar**





# Game of Thrones

For almost a decade, 2011-19, this fantastic show had the world drooling as it led them across the lives of 9 families and over two dozen characters and landscapes that were truly astounding. The storyline is good, but some taboo content can turn some people off.

A cultural phenomenon due to its complex characters, intricate political plotlines, and a morally ambiguous, realistic approach to the fantasy genre. The series is set on the fictional continents of Westeros and Essos and follows three main story arcs that eventually converge.

**IMDb Rating:** 9.2

**Not suitable for children below 18**

**On Prime Video**

**No. of episodes:** 73

**No. of seasons:** 8 | 2011 -2019

**Writers:** David Benioff, George R. R. Martin, Vanessa Taylor, Jane Espenson, D. B. Weiss, Bryan Cogman, Dave Hill

**Adapted from:** A Song of Ice and Fire, A Game of Thrones

**Genre:** Action; Adventure; Fantasy; Serial drama; Tragedy

**[Watch the trailer here](#)**



Autism is seen through a new lens and it is a winner. The plot of this light hearted comedy is likeable and the direction and acting is brilliant.

You have to watch it if you like that pinch of salt in life. Diseases are not be laughed at but we can rejoice when we see the affected handle it deftly.

# ATYPICAL

IMDb Rating: 8.3

SJennifer Jason Leigh · Elsa Gardner ; Keir Gilchrist · Sam Gardner ; Jack Haven · Casey Gardner ; Michael Rapaport · Doug Gardner ; Nik Dodani · Zahid.

Aired **2017 - 2021**

**No. of seasons: 4**

**Network:** Netflix

Directed by Seth Gordon, Robia Rashid (the show's creator), Michael Patrick Jann, Ken Whittingham, and Ryan Case.




24 was a groundbreaking television series that aired from 2001 to 2010, with additional seasons and spin-offs extending its run. The show's central premise is its unique real-time format, where each 24-episode season covers a single 24-hour day in the life of federal agent Jack Bauer.

This signature element created unprecedented urgency and suspense for viewers. A race against the clock: Each one-hour episode depicts one hour of events, with an on-screen digital clock emphasizing the constant time pressure.

The clock would appear at key moments, especially before and after commercial breaks. The series used split screens to show multiple, simultaneous events, such as a phone call or different plotlines unfolding at the same time. This intensified the drama and kept audiences on edge.

Propulsive storytelling: Because the narrative had to progress without losing a sense of time, producers often used a "Russian doll tactic," where one threat would be exposed to reveal a bigger, more sinister one.



IMDb Rating: 8.4

No. of seasons: 9, 204 + 24 Episodes

Starring: Kiefer Sutherland

Awards: Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Drama Series

First episode date: 6 November 2001 (USA)

Final episode date: 24 May 2010

You can Watch the trailer here.

Available on Prime Time

24

The series centres on Kiefer Sutherland as Jack Bauer, a highly-proficient but ruthless federal agent working for the Counter Terrorist Unit (CTU). The protagonist: Bauer is portrayed as an agent who believes the ends justify the means.

His methods, including the frequent use of torture, became a subject of real-world debate.

His personal life is often entangled in the conspiracies he investigates, as his family is frequently put in harm's way.

The series was highly successful, winning numerous awards, including an Emmy for Outstanding Drama Series.

### **Spin-offs**

24: Redemption: A two-hour television film aired between seasons six and seven.

24: Live Another Day: A 12-episode limited series revival in 2014.

24: Legacy: A 2017 spin-off series lasting a single season.

An Indian adaptation starring Anil Kapoor has also been made.





# The Lincoln Lawyer

The Lincoln Lawyer is a popular legal thriller franchise that exists in both film and television. It is based on a series of novels by author Michael Connelly.

#### The Novels

- Author: Michael Connelly
- Main Character: Mickey Haller, a criminal defense attorney who operates out of his Lincoln Town Car.
- Connection: Mickey Haller is the half-brother of Connelly's other well-known character, LAPD Detective Harry Bosch, and they occasionally appear in each other's books.

#### The Film

- Release Date: 2011
- Starring: Matthew McConaughey as Mickey Haller
- Plot: The film follows Mickey Haller as he takes on a high-profile case defending a wealthy real estate scion accused of assault.

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#### The TV Series

**IMDb Rating: 7.8**

**Starring: Manuel Garcia-Rulfo as Mickey Haller.**

**Adaptations: Each season of the series is based on a different book from Connelly's series.**

**Season 4: Based on the sixth book, The Law of Innocence, with a release date of October 16, 2025.**

**[You can Watch the Trailer Here](#)**





The series follows Abhishek Tripathi, an engineering graduate who, due to a lack of better job opportunities, reluctantly accepts the position of a Gram Panchayat (village council) secretary in the fictional, remote village of Phulera, in Uttar Pradesh. The series is known for its heartwarming humor, relatable characters, and realistic depiction of village life.

IMDb Rating: 9

#### Prime Video

Jitendra Kumar · Abhishek Tripathi ;  
Raghbir Yadav · Brijbhushan Dubey ;  
Chandan Roy · Vikas Shukla ; Faisal  
Malik · Prahlad Pandey ; Neena Gupta

No. of episodes: 32

No. of seasons: 4

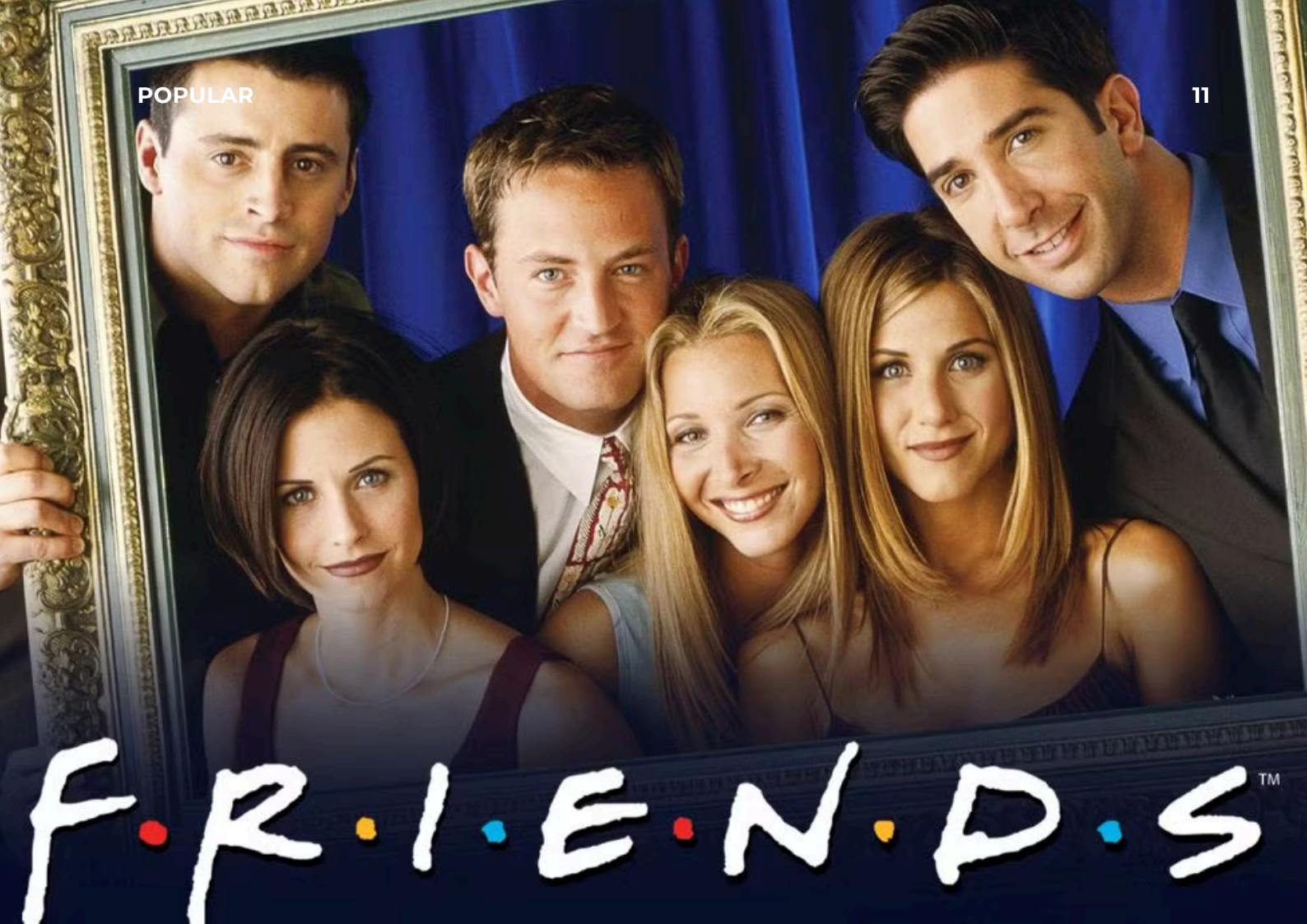
First episode date: 3 April 2020 (India)

Written by: Chandan Kumar

Directed by: Season 1-4: Deepak  
Kumar Mishra; Season 4: Akshat  
Vijaywargiya

[You can Watch the Trailer Here](#)





Friends was one of the most popular and influential American television sitcoms of all time. The series followed the lives of six close friends—three men and three women—living in Manhattan, New York City, as they navigate the challenges of adulthood, careers, and relationships in their 20s and early 30s. Much of the show's action takes place in their apartments and their favorite coffee house, Central Perk.

For Gen Zee that's really an old show. But it had its moments. It launched Jennifer Aniston's career in films and she led the fashion world with her changing tresses. It was truly a show that leaped into the new millennium with aplomb.

**IMDb Rating: 8.9**

#### **Prime Video**

**Jennifer Aniston · Rachel Green ;  
Courteney Cox · Monica Geller ; Lisa  
Kudrow · Phoebe Buffay ; Matt  
LeBlanc · Joey Tribbiani ; Matthew  
Perry · Chandler Bing.**

**The show aired on NBC from  
September 22, 1994, to May 6, 2004.  
It ran for 10 seasons and had 236  
episodes.**

**Creators: David Crane and Marta  
Kauffman.**

**[You can Watch the Trailer Here](#)**



## Noomi Rapace

Noomi Rapace is a Swedish actress. She achieved international fame with her portrayal of Lisbeth Salander in the Swedish film adaptations of the Millennium series.

Noomi Rapace has starred in films including the "Millennium" trilogy (The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, The Girl Who Played with Fire, The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest), the sci-fi films Prometheus and Alien: Covenant, Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows, Bright, Black Crab, Lamb, and What Happened to Monday.