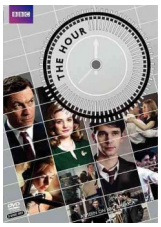
The Hour [1]



view in catalog [2]

This BBC program from last summer (it aired last September on BBC America) follows the lives of three people who work for an newly created television news program at the BBC in 1956. While I did find it to be a bit slow in parts for a 6 episode series, I enjoyed watching the whole of it - especially the ending (no spoilers here, though). 'The Hour' is the name of the news program created within the show that attempts to challenge the then BBC standard of merely promoting the government's official viewpoint on current events. The plot also revolves around the mysterious death of a friend of the young journalist played byBen Whishaw [3]. He is, as usual, amazingly good in this, as are the two other leads;Romola Garai [4], who plays the head producer of the program, and Dominic West [5], the not-quite-ready-for-prime-time head anchor. If you are at all familiar with BBC programming, many of these shorter series can be standalone pieces, usually with all the episodes written by the same author (This one is actually coming back for a second series sometime later in 2012). The show creator here, Abi Morgan [6], seems to be an up-and-coming writer for theater, television, and film. Much of the newsroom work on the program gives some insight intoSuez Crisis [7] of the period, which I found interesting. For those not necessarily keen on a fictionalized history lesson, there is both a romance angle between several of the characters and some post-WWII, early Cold War espionage spy stuff going on here too. If you enjoy more modern-set period dramas of the BBC, give this one a try.

Posted by Brandon R. on May 4, 2012

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[3] http://mcpl.monroe.lib.in.us/search/searchresults.aspx?cbx=1.1033.0.0.7&type=Keyword&term=whishaw,%20ben&by=AU&sort=MP&limit=TOM=dvd&query=&page=0
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