

Joining the HD Club



There's no avoiding it: I'm an HD snob, plain and simple. My wife and kids get annoyed when I grab the remote and switch to the high-def channel (instead of the lowly "standard-def" broadcast) or check to see if the receiver is in surround sound mode as the movie is about to begin. When I sit down to watch a little TV with my wife, it's not uncommon for me to ask for the remote (politely, of course) and switch from Channel 2 to Channel 233, the latter being WCBS HD.

The difference between the regular and HD broadcasts of *CSI*—one of our favorite shows—is night and day. All that gory crime-scene detail (some of it a bit over the top, actually) just doesn't come through in the non-HD version and colors aren't nearly as vibrant and realistic. The standard broadcast looks soft, even a little fuzzy by comparison. And when it comes to blockbuster movies and sports, there's no going back to that square 4:3 screen—16:9 widescreen is where it's at. Even though I have ready access to almost 20 HD channels, I still want more and often feel like my cable provider (Comcast) is lagging behind. Maybe I need to pay more attention to those satellite TV offers that seem to come in the mail every other week...

All of this is my way of saying, welcome to our HDTV Special and, if you're still sitting on the sidelines, now is a great time to make your move and join the HD Club. HDTV prices have come way down in just the last year and there are more choices than ever before (see "How to Buy an HDTV" on page 34 for the lay of the land). In fact, the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) estimates that some 16 million high-def TVs will be sold this year when all is said and done, and that more than a third of American homes will have an HDTV. Will you be part of this burgeoning minority, soon to be majority? Our HDTV coverage begins on page 33—hopefully it will convince you to take the plunge, if you haven't already done so.

Welcome Aboard!

Please join me in welcoming our new managing editor, Suzanne ("Sioux") Mahadeo, to the TPV family. Sioux has taken over the reigns from Arnie Williams, who has moved to our new sister publication *Playback* (playbackmag.net) where he will serve as executive editor. Best wishes to Sioux and Arnie in their new roles!

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Art & Design

Art Director
Robert Amoroso

Production Designer
Juanita Fralin

Advertising Sales

Senior Sales Executive
Scott Constantine
(609) 275-9594
scconstantine@absolutemultimedia.com

MTM Sales
Marvin Lewis
(718) 225-8803
mrmiles@att.net

Ad Rep
Cheryl Smith
(512) 891-7775
csmith@absolutemultimedia.com

Absolute Multimedia, Inc.

Chairman and CEO
Thomas B. Martin, Jr.

VP and Publisher
Mark Fisher

Reprints and e-prints:
Jennifer Martin, Wright's Reprints; Toll free: (877) 652-5295;
Outside the U.S.: (281) 419-5725; jmartin@wrightsreprints.com

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Publishing Matters
Contact Mark Fisher at address below, or e-mail
mfisher@absolutemultimedia.com

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Austin, TX 78745, (512) 892-8682 Fax (512) 891-0375
theperfectvision@absolutemultimedia.com

