

TV Feature: The 10 Biggest Emmy Snubs of 2011

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on July 15, 2011 - 11:08am

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CHICAGO – Before getting too deep into what the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences did wrong this year, they deserve a few moments of high praise. First-time Best Series nominations for “Boardwalk Empire,” “Game of Thrones,” “Friday Night Lights,” and “Parks and Recreation” — those were stellar choices to fill those slots. And some of their acting choices were inspired with special shout-outs to recognizing the incredible talents of Louis C.K. (“Louie”), four actors from “Justified” (Timothy Olyphant, Margo Martindale, Walton Goggins, Jeremy Davies), the notable ensemble of “The Good Wife,” and even the mega-talented Melissa McCarthy (“Mike & Molly”). The cast of “Modern Family,” all six of which were nominated, may have been deserving but those were obvious choices. I was more pleasantly surprised to see the Academy make a few calls that weren’t as obvious.

But they didn’t always make the right ones. As we do every year, we’re back to speak for the underappreciated, the shows and actors who should have been nominated. Sometimes it’s an entire show being ignored. Sometimes it’s just a deserving nominee or two that we wanted to see make the cut. For the most part, there were ten programs that the Academy should have shown more love.

10. “The Closer”



Kyra Sedgwick
Photo credit: TNT

How does Kyra Sedgwick go from winning the Emmy for Best Actress in a Drama in 2010 to not even being nominated in 2011? Does that seem right? I’ve never been a huge fan of TNT’s mega-hit but it’s just illogical to me for Sedgwick to go from the best of the six to #7 or lower a year later. Was the last season that bad? I didn’t see all of it, but what I saw certainly wasn’t bad enough for that kind of a fall from glory. And you simply can’t convince me that Sedgwick didn’t deliver as memorably as Kathy Bates for “Harry’s Law” or the always-nominated-always-overrated Mariska Hargitay of “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.” Maybe they signed a pact that they’d give Sedgwick the trophy last year and not even invite her to the party this year. It just doesn’t make sense.

9. "True Blood"



True Blood
Photo credit: HBO

Like most people, I believe that season three of "True Blood" was a bit of a step down creatively but to see the program completely shut out of all major categories was a bit disappointing nonetheless. I would have loved a left-field supporting nod for Alexander Skarsgard or even Nelsan Ellis (over Andre Braugher or Alan Cumming). And Anna Paquin would have made a smarter choice than Bates or Hargitay. The Academy briefly recognized "True Blood" last season but seems to have woken up with a bit of a hangover. The Emmys rarely recognize genre, having ignored shows like "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" for their entire run, so maybe the few nods that "True Blood" got in the past were the anomaly, not the program being left out this year. But this won't be the last time we mention problems with the Emmys and genre.

8. "Big Love" & "In Treatment"



Big Love
Photo credit: HBO

While we're on the HBO tip, the network said goodbye to two of its best dramatic series this year with final seasons of "Big Love" and "In Treatment" and I thought at least one acting nomination per show would have been a nice way to send these excellent programs into history. Who should have made the cut? Emmy voters love a comeback and when film stars come to their medium (the only way to explain the Bates nomination) and so I'm honestly stunned that Debra Winger didn't land a nod for "In Treatment." I also would have finally nominated Jeanne Tripplehorn, who delivered the best work of her career on the final season of "Big Love." The adoration for "The Good Wife" was clear with its five acting nods, but I'd pick Winger & Tripplehorn over both of those ladies.

7. "Luther" & "Carlos"



Luther

Photo credit: BBC America

Both were eligible for Best Movie/Mini-Series. “The Kennedys” was nominated instead. Let that sink in for a minute. “The Kennedys” deserved maybe a single nomination for Barry Pepper, who found a way to keep his head above water despite some of the worst writing on TV this year, but that’s IT. I might even let a few tech nods slide because of the scope of the piece, but to suggest that the overall series was in the same league as fellow nominees “Downton Abbey” or “Mildred Pierce” isn’t just wrong, it’s disturbing. This is a choice on par with “Burlesque” getting a Best Picture nomination from the Golden Globes. In that case, there weren’t that many obvious alternates but the Academy clearly saw “Luther” and “Carlos,” nominating both Idris Elba and Edgar Ramirez for Lead Actor. So, they saw “Luther” & “Carlos” and thought “The Kennedys” was better. No, wait, that sentence doesn’t make any sense. My head hurts.

6. “Parks and Recreation”



Parks and Recreation

Photo credit: NBC

The funniest show on television landed a much-deserved Best Comedy series nod, one for Amy Poehler for Best Actress, and....well, nothing. The ensemble on this program is spectacular and I’d like to think that perhaps votes canceled each other out instead of Academy members thinking none were worthy. The problem this year is that “Modern Family” took up 66% of Best Supporting Actor and 50% of both supporting categories combined and, while I love that show as much as the next critic, it left a lot of worthwhile nominees snubbed. Perhaps next year there needs to be a representative from “Modern Family” so the voters don’t take the easy route to filling these categories. Who should have gotten in from “Parks and Rec”? Well, Rob Lowe stupidly submitted himself as lead, so screw him, but they could have nominated Aziz Ansari, Adam Scott, or Chris Pratt. But my choice would be the great Nick Offerman (in place of Ty Burrell or Jesse Tyler Ferguson, both great but not as good as the other two “MF” men and someone’s got to go.)

5. “Sons of Anarchy”

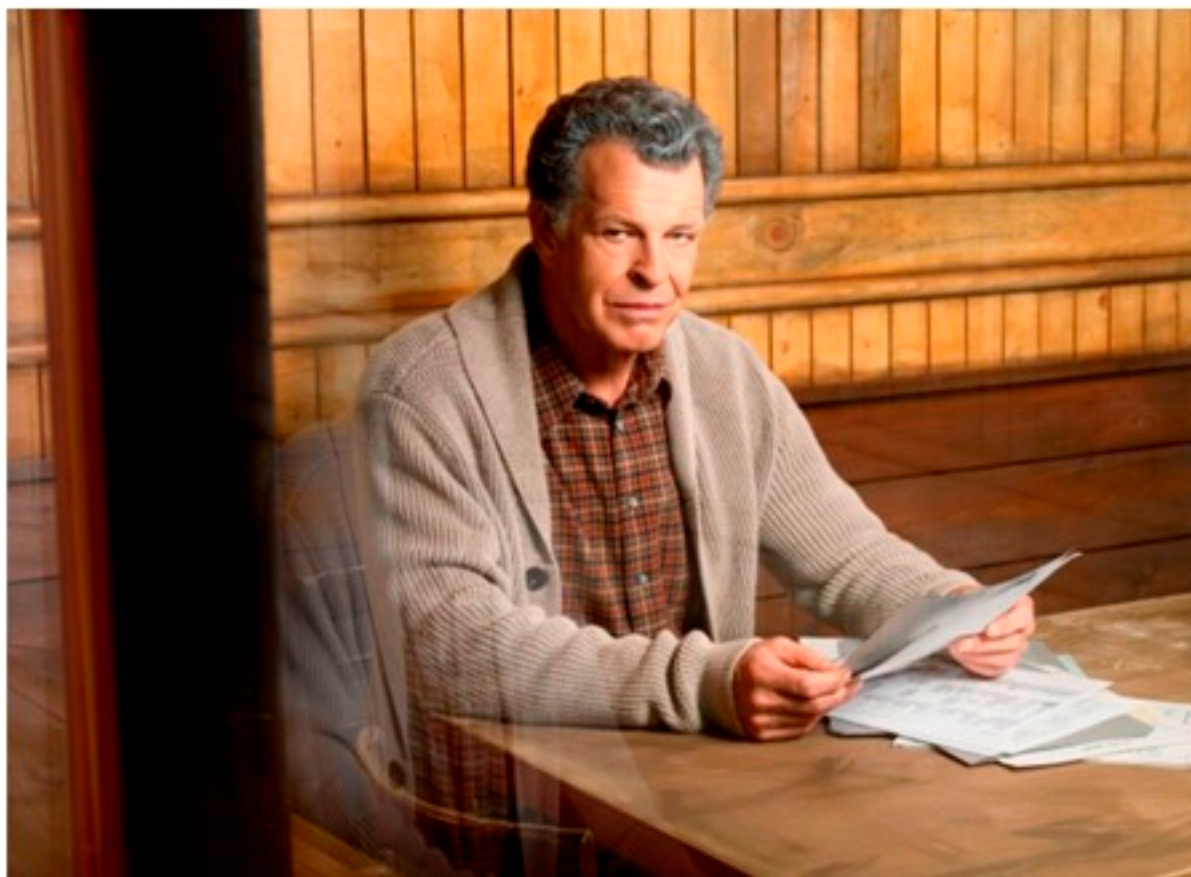


Sons of Anarchy

Photo credit: FX

I'm always thrown off when there's as massive a disconnect between voting bodies as the one between the Golden Globes and the Emmys on this program. Katey Sagal was not only nominated but **WON** for Best Actress in a Dramatic Series at the Golden Globes earlier this year. And she can't even get an Emmy nod? The fact is that the Emmys have been slow to recognize what FX is doing creatively. I think that's finally starting to turn around this year with the multiple nods for "Justified" and "Louie," but they ignored "The Shield," "Nip/Tuck," and "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" for years. And "Sons of Anarchy" is one of their most beloved and critically-acclaimed programs. Hopefully, "Justified" kicked open the door and the bikers can follow next year.

4. "Fringe"



Fringe

Photo credit: FOX

The most anger in the Twitterverse the morning of nominations seemed to center around the dismissal of "Fringe." While I had been telling people that I thought that the love for John Noble would finally be too much for Emmy voters to ignore, that's the **ONLY** place I thought the show might actually peek through and we need to remember how incredibly crowded Best Supporting Actor was this year. Those of you that thought that "Fringe" might get a Best Drama nod need to talk to your older siblings who cried every year that "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" was ignored. Even "Battlestar Galactica" was regularly shut out. The fact is that with only a few exceptions ("The X-Files," "Game of Thrones"), Emmy voters and genre shows don't mix. Every year we hope that the someone will knock down that double standard and it should have been John Noble. Maybe next year.

3. "Southland"



Southland

Photo credit: TNT

Emmy voters recognized the ensembles of “Boardwalk Empire,” “Mad Men,” “Justified,” and “The Good Wife,” but they missed one of the best casts on television. TNT clearly didn’t play to voters this year (with this and the odd Sedgwick shut-out) but Michael Cudlitz and Regina King both deserved nominations (and I would have been happy with Shawn Hatosy or Ben McKenzie being recognized as well). I think the “Southland” shut-out is purely a case of not enough voters having seen the program, especially in its increasingly-superior TNT incarnation. While voters made some good choices this year, they pretty much picked candidates who had been championed by critics during the voting period and there’s not enough love for “Southland” in the critical community. At least not as much as the show deserves.

2. “The Walking Dead”



The Walking Dead

Photo credit: AMC

Was it because it was only six episodes long? Or because of its genre? Or the fact that it was based on a graphic novel? All of the above? Whatever reason that “The Walking Dead” was left out of multiple categories, it is simply ludicrous to not nominate Frank Darabont for Best Director for the pilot of this amazing program. The premiere was arguably the most riveting single program of 2010 and it’s because of the unbelievably accomplished direction from the great Darabont. It’s great that the voters recognized the work of Martin Scorsese (for the premiere of “Boardwalk Empire”), Neil Jordan (“The Borgias”), and Tim Van Patten (“Game of Thrones”), but couldn’t the second “Boardwalk” nod have gone to Darabont? Imagine that list of nominees — Scorsese vs. Jordan vs. Darabont.

1. “Community”



Community

Photo credit: NBC

It's hard to even talk about this snub without getting angry. Dan Harmon's incredible show should have been a multiple nominee including writing, Joel McHale, Alison Brie, Danny Pudi, and Best Comedy. Hell, it should have been a strong contender to WIN in some of those categories, much less even be nominated. There's a part of me that wonders if they didn't decide that one of the Thursday night NBC shows had to go. They couldn't nominate all four and "Community" drew the short straw. Never mind that it had a stronger season than "The Office" or "30 Rock." I honestly thought that McHale couldn't be ignored this year (and never imagined that anyone in their right mind would think that Johnny Galecki on "The Big Bang Theory" is better than Joel) and so this snub hurts the most because it was the most surprising. Next year. It's got to be next year. Right? Right?!?!



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