

## What to Watch: Sept. 10-16, 2013

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on September 11, 2013 - 4:03pm

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CHICAGO – The most TV-centric column yet advising What to Watch on DVD, Blu-ray, Netflix, Amazon, On Demand, and more is another nearly random collection of offerings that you can use to guide your way through the new releases shelf at Best Buy, the On Demand section on Vudu, the store on iTunes, and maybe even Netflix and Hulu. Pick your favorites. This is the way we'd rank these new releases if you have a free night this weekend or money to burn next week.



Parade's End

Photo credit: HBO

### “Parade’s End”

Fans of “Star Trek Into Darkness” and “Sherlock” really need to see what the great Benedict Cumberbatch (also appearing in “The Fifth Estate” and “August: Osage County” this week (he’s blowing up) does here in this great adaptation of the novels by Ford Madox Ford. He’s simply great and matched perfectly by Emmy-worthy performances from Rebecca Hall and Adelaide Clemens. It’s one of the most impressive productions on any network this year and HBO brought it stateside, meaning that it also gets the great treatment of that company — excellent

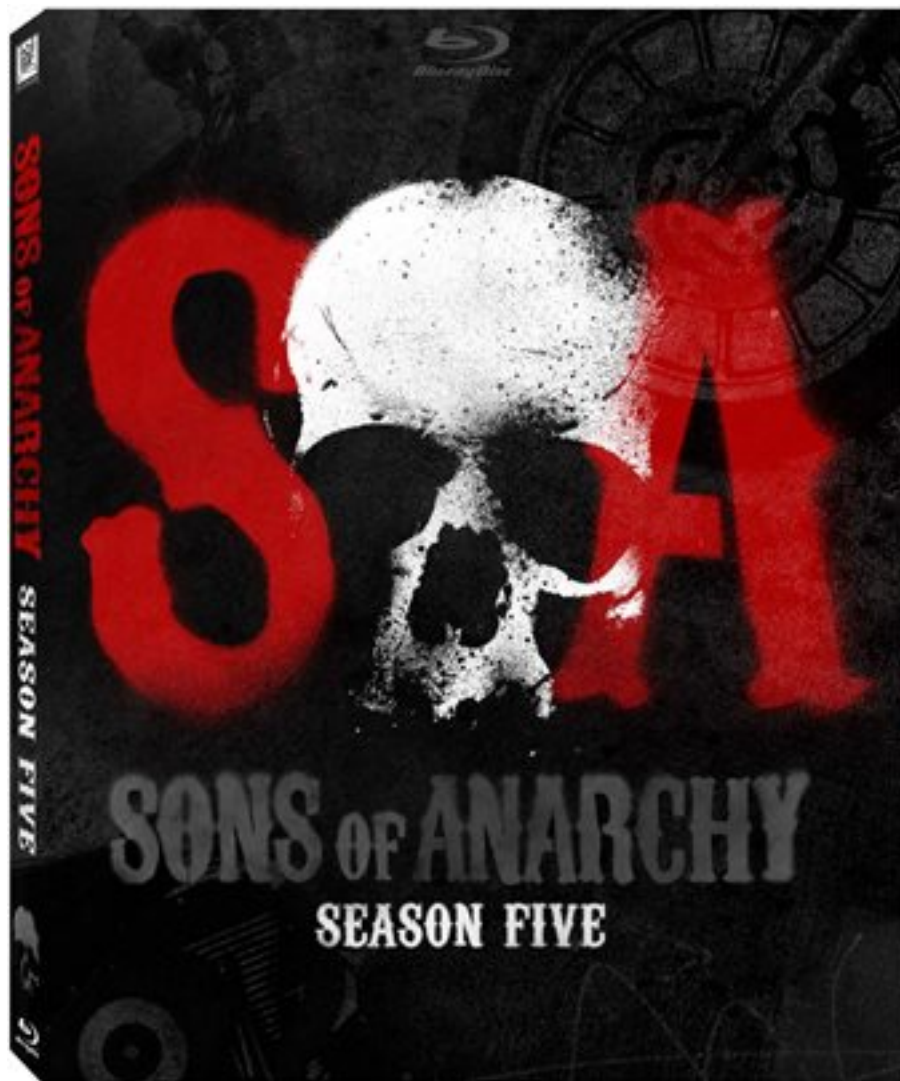
HD quality, an interview with the legendary Tom Stoppard, and an UltraViolet version.

From my [TV review](#) [21]: *“Five hours spent in Edwardian England can be a lot to ask for most audiences and I’m a little surprised that HBO is pushing it all out in one week (all five hours are actually available on HBO Go after tonight’s first two hours). Although this seems to be the new model, a la Netflix’s “House of Cards.” And, for the right audience, they’ll happily spend five hours in the impressive world of “Parade’s End.”*”

Special Features:

- o Tom Stoppard Interview on KCRW’s The Treatment with Elvis Mitchell

Where to Watch: Blu-ray, DVD, HBO Go, Vudu, iTunes



Sons of Anarchy: Season Five

Photo credit: Fox

**“Sons of Anarchy: Season Five”**

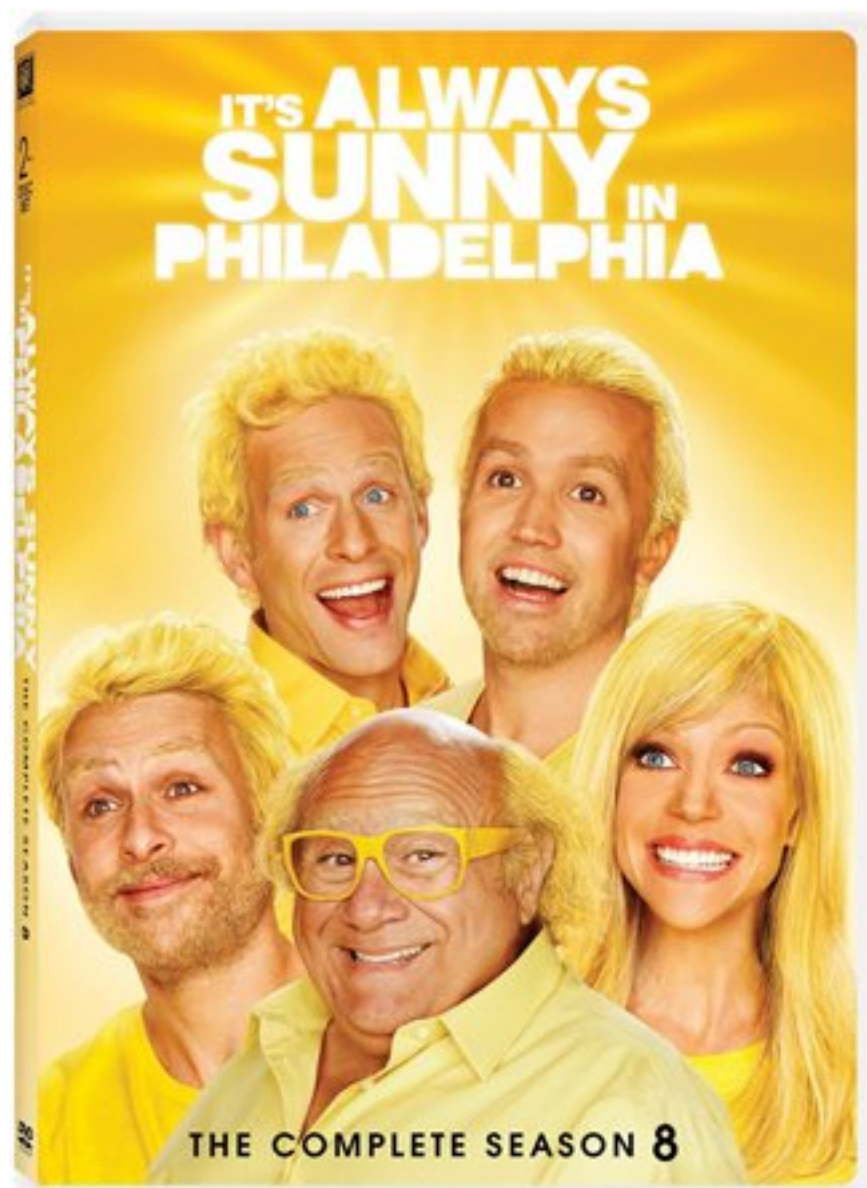
“Sons of Anarchy” had its sixth season premiere last night and you may want to catch up before this season is inevitably available on Netflix (like the first four seasons). Or perhaps you want to own one of the ten best shows of 2012 in HD with the special features that don’t come with streaming services. However you watch, this season of “SoA” was the best yet — dark, captivating, and enlivened by supporting turns from Harold Perrineau, Jimmy Smits and more. “SoA” fans are a loyal, devoted bunch, and Fox treats them very well with their home releases, including extended episodes. More season five SAMCRO? Sign me up.

From my [TV review](#) [22]: *“When you feel your way of life is threatened to the point that you need to take drastic action like murder to save it, what comes from that? Revenge breeds revenge. Crime breeds crime. And as past decisions have piled up at the door of SAMCRO, “Sons of Anarchy” has become more and more stunning television.”*

Special Features:

- o Creator’s Cut Extended Episodes
- o Deleted Scenes
- o Commentary On Select Episodes
- o Gag Reel
- o Opie Winston
- o Kurt Sutter: Creating Anarchy
- o Fan Concert At The Clubhouse

Where to Watch: Blu-ray, DVD, Vudu, Amazon Instant, iTunes



It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia: Season Eight

Photo credit: Fox

### “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia: Season Eight”

“Seinfeld on crack,” “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia” recently helped FX launch their new brand, FXX, and the interesting thing is that the season nine premiere actually did better in the 18-34 demo than last season, meaning that FXX connected with its target audience — young viewers. Eight years in and the gang at Paddy’s Pub is still connecting more often than they fail. It may not be as consistent as it was in its prime but, like “Sons,” fans of “Sunny” are incredibly devoted. Buy one this season and remind them that the show is back and even better on FXX.

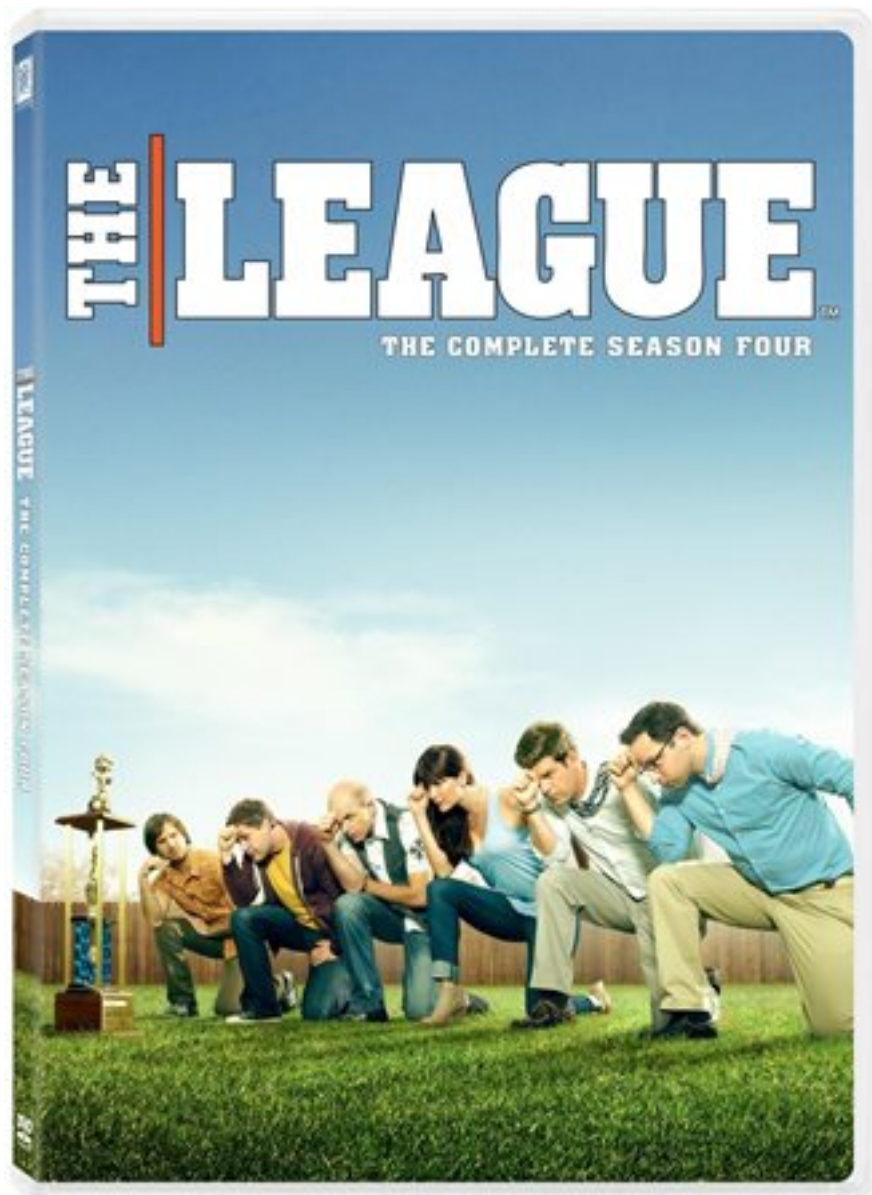
From my [TV review](#) [23]: “Most comedies that have been on eight years show a little bit of wear and tear and the long-underrated “It’s Always Sunny” is no exception. In fact, the gang at Paddy’s Pub are fully aware that they’re repeating the same ridiculous schemes (it’s a theme of both episodes sent for review) and increasingly comment on how they’re running out of dumb ideas.”

#### Special Features:

- o Lady House: The Lost Premiere
- o Frank Reynolds’ How To Be A Warthog
- o Fat Mac: In Memoriam
- o Commentary On Select Episodes
- o Deleted Scenes
- o Gag Reel

Where to Watch: Blu-ray, DVD, Vudu, Amazon Instant, iTunes





The League: Season Four

Photo credit: Fox

### “The League: Season Four”

Season four of “The League” was undeniably funnier than season eight of “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia” and the ratings for the program have grown to match its more beloved lead-in. Could “The League” be on ten years like “Sunny”? It seems possible as the gang here show no sign of running out of gross-out ideas. The fifth season is now playing on FXX between “Sunny” and “Totally Biased” and the last year is available not only on Blu-ray and DVD but already on Netflix Streaming.

From my [TV review](#) [24]: “What’s happened with “The League” is that the already-talented cast has gelled even more as an ensemble over the show’s four seasons. Katie Aselton & Mark Duplass have become increasingly better actors and the writing has elevated across the board. The idea that Taco owns “DallasCowboys.com” and has to sell it to Jerry Jones (who he calls Jerry Earl Jones and thinks played Darth Vader) is just inherently very funny. Playing a fantasy football match to determine if your son will be circumcised? Also very clever in the gross way that only “The League” seems capable of doing. The comedy ball has been passed on FX from “Sunny” to “The League” and they’re running with it.”

#### Special Features:

- o Extended Episodes
- o Deleted Scenes
- o Taco Tones
- o Rafi’s Helpful Holiday Hints
- o Witchy Woman Podcast
- o Gag Reel
- o Alt Nation

Where to Watch: Blu-ray, DVD, Netflix, Vudu, Amazon Instant, iTunes



Supernatural: The Complete Eighth Season

*Photo credit: Warner Bros.*

### “Supernatural: The Complete Eighth Season”

Even the creators of “Supernatural” are surprised it’s still on the air. The show was designed to end years ago but The CW keeps bringing it back, as it’s proven to be one of their few hits; a show with a loyal audience who absolutely loves it. Part of the success of “Supernatural” can be attributed to its incredibly charismatic stars but I also think that the care with which their previous seasons have been treated by Warner Bros. couldn’t possibly have hurt. The show has been long available on Blu-ray, unlike a lot of teen-driven shows, which means it has been given the loving HD treatment. And it’s rare for a show eight years into its run to still be able to scrounge up people for commentary tracks and featurettes but every season of “Supernatural” includes them. Every year, the release of “Supernatural” is one of the best TV on Blu-ray offerings. Even years after everyone thought it would be over.

#### Special Features:

- o 3 Episode Commentaries
- o Finding Supernatural: Creating The Found Footage Episode - Uncover The Challenging Storytelling and Production Techniques Brought Together in Bitten
- o For The Defense Of Mankind: The Tablets Revealed - Cultural Explorations Of History’s Mysterious Relics Inspire An Exciting New Storyline
- o Angel Warrior: The Story Of Castiel - Explore How A Legendary Angel Earns And Blemishes His Wings With Misha Collins And Series Creators
- o Unaired Scenes
- o Gag Reel

Where to Watch: Blu-ray, DVD, Vudu, Amazon Instant, iTunes



Chicago Fire: Season One

Photo credit: Universal

### “Chicago Fire: Season One”

“Chicago Fire” was far from one of my favorite shows of the 2012-13 season but it proved to be a solid hit for NBC, never hitting huge numbers but connecting with people looking for an old-fashioned, emotional drama. It was one of the few new 2012 offerings renewed for another year and it feels like a program that could maintain that small-but-loyal audience for years. Based on calls to my weekly WGN appearances, people really care about these characters. Catch up before you blink and it’s been on six seasons.

From my [TV review](#) [25]: *“I might be more forgiving of the dramatic failings of the saga of Matthew Casey if I had never met Tommy Gavin. For years, we felt the pain and drama of life as a firefighter on FX’s “Rescue Me,” and, while I had some issues with that show, it definitely casts NBC’s “Chicago Fire” in a different light. However, even without Denis Leary’s hit show, I don’t think this melodrama would work. It just doesn’t connect on a realistic level like we need shows like this to do.”*

#### Special Features:

- o Behind The Scenes
- o Otis’ Podcasts

Where to Watch: DVD, Vudu, Amazon Instant, Hulu, iTunes





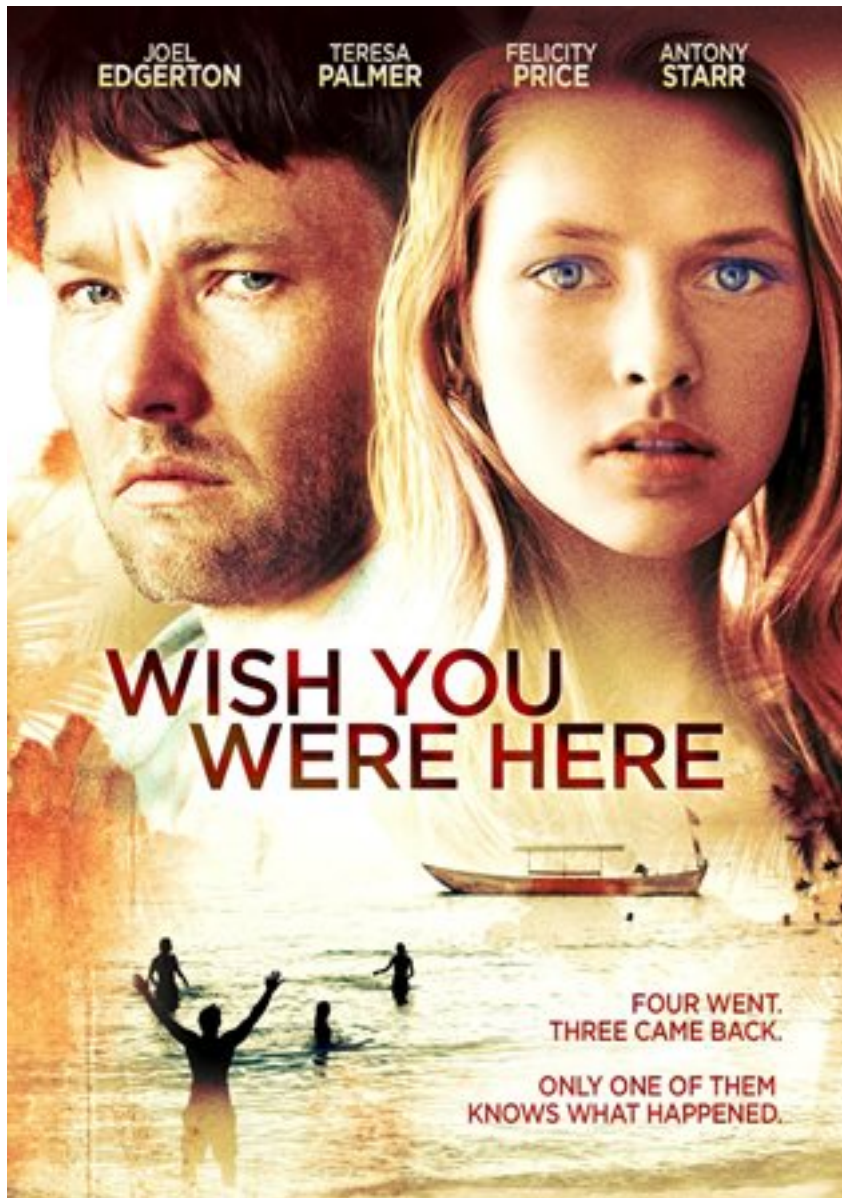
All the Boys Love Mandy Lane

*Photo credit: Radius-TWC*

### “All the Boys Love Mandy Lane”

We include an On Demand entry in every week’s “What to Watch” and this one was made long before streaming services were even a possibility. Long before he shot “50/50” and “Warm Bodies,” Jonathan Levine made this quasi-referential horror flick that recently played at the 2013 Chicago Critics Film Festival. It’s a near-miss for me, never finding the right balance between satirizing what it’s trying to do and actually doing it. However, there’s more to like here than most of the 100 or so horror movies that have come out since it was made. Genre fans need to check it out just to see the cautionary tale of a decent flick that sat on the shelf for almost a decade and got a little stale in the process.

Where to Watch: On Demand, Vudu, Amazon Instant, iTunes



Wish You Were Here

Photo credit: E1

### “Wish You Were Here”

Released on DVD only but an interesting curiosity for fans of Joel Edgerton and the underrated Teresa Palmer, this drama has elements that would have worked better if the writer had trusted his producer to get a cast strong enough to make its drama more important than its mystery. The script is a bit too cluttered but Edgerton and Palmer are captivating enough to keep you engaged. It's a decent rental and this week's What to Watch was too TV-heavy anyway.

From my [film review](#) [26]: “Sadly, the truth of what Edgerton brings to the role of a man who carries a dark secret is shrouded by a filmmaker who refuses to let us in on the cause of his pain. “Wish You Were Here” is a thriller/mystery that should have been a drama and feels more like it’s playing games with its audience than offering truthful characters or engaging storytelling.”

#### Special Features:

- o Making-of Featurette
- o Cast and Crew Interviews with Kieran Darcy-Smith, Felicity Price, Joel Edgerton, Teresa Palmer, Antony Starr, and more

Where to Watch: DVD, Vudu



[27]

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- [25] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/20246/tv-review-nbc-s-chicago-fire-generates-little-heat#ixzz2ecTFt0sJ>
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