



What to Watch Guide Part 2

By Meghan O'Dell

Many of us will be hiding out from the latest Covid-19 variant at home for a while longer, so our screens might be our main source of entertainment for the next few weeks. To help us get through this next wave, I've rounded up several of the shows I loved in 2021. (Please note that these are all geared toward adults, so if you have kiddos, you might want to save these for after their bedtime!)



Succession (HBO Max)

If you haven't yet entered the dysfunctional and highly entertaining world of the Roy family, I implore you to do so now! The series, loosely modeled after the Murdoch empire, follows patriarch Logan Roy as he tries to determine which of his four children will succeed him as CEO of the family business. Countless twists and turns ensue, and

you'll love to hate this immensely flawed but somehow charming group. As an added bonus, be sure to follow the Instagram account No Context Succession for some hilarious screen grabs from each episode.



Insecure (HBO Max)

Issa Rae's beautiful show about friendship, love, and coming into your own concluded in December after five seasons. The series focuses on life in LA (Inglewood, to be precise) for a group of Black women, particularly main character Issa Dee (a fictionalized but somewhat autobiographical version of Rae) as she builds her career, maintains (and struggles with) friendships, falls in love, experiences heartbreak and loss, and much more. The show is a funny, heartwarming, and

occasionally devastating love letter not only to Inglewood but also to female friendships.



Reservation Dogs (FX)

With an almost entirely Indigenous cast and writers' room, this coming-of-age story follows four teenagers who are trying to come up with enough money to get off the reservation they live on and start anew, even if it means breaking the law (a lot). The acting and writing is superb, and you'll feel immersed in their world – and come to understand why it's so hard for them to leave.



Only Murders in the Building (Hulu)

What do Martin Short, Steve Martin, and Selena Gomez have in common? They're all great actors who make this Hulu series a complete joy to watch! On the show, they all have an interest in true crime – and they live in the same building, which happens to become a crime scene when someone is murdered. The three unlikely pals team up and create their own podcast

as they try to solve the murder. It's all very meta, and very good.



Hacks (HBO Max)

If you weren't already enamored by Jean Smart after her recent turns in *Watchmen* and *Mare of Easttown*, get ready for *Hacks*! This smart, funny, and affecting show takes us inside Smart's character's world as an aging Las Vegas comic who suddenly finds that her career is on the line. When her manager hires a young writer to jazz up her jokes, the two women are immediately at

odds with each other, but have to learn to make their acerbic relationship work.



Yellowjackets (Showtime)

Forget the comparisons to *Lost* and *Lord of the Flies* – sure, there may be elements of each, but this show stands on its own. After a high school soccer team's private plane crashes in the Canadian wilderness, the survivors have to continue to stay alive for what turns out to be the next 19 months. The show's multiple timelines follow the girls before, during, and after the crash, as well as a group of those who were rescued as they try to pass as functional adults in the present. With a great cast playing both the teens and adults and multiple mysteries to solve, this show will have you on the edge of your seat waiting to find out what happens next.



Ghosts (HBO Max/BBC)

In between regular series viewings, I gave this show a try on a friend's recommendation and instantly fell into a binge session. (There's now an American version as well, but I've found that the original British versions are almost always superior—*The Office* being one exception.) When a young woman inherits a giant mansion from a distant relative, she and her husband move in and attempt to fix it up with the hopes of turning it into a hotel. But it turns out that they're very much not alone, as the ghosts of those who have died before their time on the property continue to hang around, from a caveman to a 1990s-era politician. Despite the title, this show is a delightful comedy above all else, and a portrait of unlikely friendship.

Other Shows I Loved in 2021:

HBO Max: *The Other Two*, *Landscapers*, *How to with John Wilson*, *The White Lotus*, *Mare of Easttown*, *Made for Love*, *Painting with John*

Hulu: *Pen15*, *The Great*, *Cruel Summer*

Netflix: *Squid Game*, *Maid*, *I Think You Should Leave*, *Midnight Mass*, *You*, *The Chair*

Apple+: *The Shrink Next Door*, *Ted Lasso*, *The Morning Show*, *Schmigadoon!*

FX: *What We Do in the Shadows*

Disney+: *WandaVision*

Meghan O'Dell, a freelance writer and editor, has been a Long Beach resident for 16 years. She loves reading, seeing live music, and watching too many shows, and she lives with her husband and their Calico cat in the Bluff Heights neighborhood.