



Steve Carell's HBO Comedy Struggles to Impress

Description

HBO's new comedy series, "Rooster," created by Bill Lawrence and co-creator Matt Tarses, stars Steve Carell as Greg Russo, a best-selling author of popular beach reads. Although he enjoys professional success, Greg grapples with the aftermath of his divorce due to infidelity. Seeking a change, he accepts a Writer in Residence position at the fictional Ludlow College, hoping to support his daughter, Katie, an art history professor going through her own marital difficulties.

In the ten-episode season, Greg embarks on an experience he missed in his youth. He aims to connect with Katie and explores a potential romantic relationship while engaging in college life. However, the series unfolds in predictable ways, featuring a mix of unoriginal characters and scenarios. The dynamic between Katie and her estranged husband, Archie, becomes tedious, and the college's politics, including budget cuts and faculty turnover, fail to engage audiences.

The humour in "Rooster" often falls flat. In one scene, Greg faces accusations of body-shaming after an awkward reference to "Moby Dick." Such depictions, including a troubling fall in class, feel outdated and insensitive. The show misses opportunities to delve into the father-daughter relationship, presenting Greg as more empathetic compared to his ex-wife Elizabeth, who adopts a more traditional approach.

Despite its promising cast and the reputation of its creator, "Rooster" ultimately fails to deliver fresh content. Viewers are left with a show that feels overly familiar, lacking the wit and charm expected from such a project. "Rooster" premieres on March 8, with new episodes released weekly.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Infidelity** /,ɪn.fə'del.ə.ti/ (noun): The act of being unfaithful to a spouse or partner (cheating in a relationship).
2. **Aftermath** /'æf.tər.mæθ/ (noun): The consequences or effects that follow an important or unpleasant event.
3. **Grapples** /'græp.əlz/ (verb): Struggles to deal with or try to solve a difficult problem or emotion.
4. **Estranged** /ɪ'streɪndʒd/ (adjective): No longer living with or emotionally close to someone; separated or alienated.
5. **Faculty turnover** /'fæk.əl.ti 'tɜːrn,ʊv.vər/ (noun phrase): The rate or process of teachers or academic staff leaving and being replaced at an institution.
6. **Body-shaming** /'bɒd.i ,ʃeɪ.mɪŋ/ (noun): The act of criticizing or mocking someone's body or appearance in a way that shames them.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Who created the series 'Rooster'?

- Option: Steve Carell
- Option: Bill Lawrence
- Option: Matt Tarses
- Option: Greg Russo

2. What is Greg Russo's profession?

- Option: College professor
- Option: Best-selling author
- Option: Art historian
- Option: Writer in Residence

3. What is the main reason Greg accepts the Writer in Residence position?

- Option: To write a new book
- Option: To support his daughter
- Option: To reconnect with his ex-wife
- Option: To avoid budget cuts

4. How many episodes are in the first season of 'Rooster'?

- Option: 8
- Option: 10
- Option: 12
- Option: 15

5. What issue does Katie, Greg's daughter, face?

- Option: Career success
- Option: Marital difficulties
- Option: Infidelity
- Option: Financial problems

6. What does the show 'Rooster' fail to deliver, according to the review?

- Option: Star power
- Option: Fresh content
- Option: A dramatic storyline
- Option: Comedy



True-False

7. 'Rooster' is set at a real college.
8. Greg Russo has a good relationship with his ex-wife Elizabeth.
9. The humor in 'Rooster' is well-received by audiences.
10. The series explores a potential romantic relationship for Greg.
11. The show features a variety of original characters and scenarios.
12. 'Rooster' premieres on March 8.

Gap-Fill

13. Greg Russo goes to Ludlow College for a Writer in Residence position to support his daughter _____
14. Greg's ex-wife is named _____
15. The show consists of a total of _____ episodes.
16. Greg Russo is a best-selling author of popular _____ reads.
17. Katie is an art history _____ at the college.
18. The series unfolds in _____ ways, featuring unoriginal characters.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Bill Lawrence 2. Best-selling author 3. To support his daughter 4. 10 5. Marital difficulties
6. Fresh content

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. Katie 14. Elizabeth 15. ten 16. beach 17. professor 18. predictable



Answer

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

POST TAG

1. comedy
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. HBO
5. Level 5
6. Steve Carell

Tags

1. comedy
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. HBO
5. Level 5
6. Steve Carell

Date Created

2026/03/06

Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM