

[SEARCH BLOG](#)[FLAG BLOG](#)[FOLLOW BLOG](#)[Next Blog»sal1mineo@hotmail](#)

POPSURFING.COM

SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2007

I Complain Because I Love

In a NYTimes DVD review of "Family Ties: Season One" (a perfectly reasonable review that says the universal jokes are better than the hippie parent jokes and that Michael J. Fox is really talented), there's an odd claim:

"Family Ties" was one of the first contemporary family sitcoms, preceding both "The Cosby Show" and "Growing Pains."

I don't know whether to say I disagree or simply that I don't understand.

What could they possibly mean by saying "Family Ties" was one of the first contemporary family sitcoms? Seriously, what could they POSSIBLY mean? Obviously, family sitcoms (parents and kids, so we won't really include "The Honeymooners" or "I Love Lucy" despite Little Ricky) have been a constant staple of television from the very beginning. Not a single week has ever gone by since TV's earliest days without a family comedy being on the air. Not a single one, starting with "Mama" (a spin-off from the movie "I Remember Mama") in 1950 and "The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet" (which ran from 1952 to 1966, the year I was born) right up to today.

Without even counting workplace families like "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," the family comedy has been more of a staple than the western, the primetime soap or just about any other genre except the evening news. And even the evening news will end before the family comedy. Just to name obvious, popular shows, "Ozzie & Harriet" ended in 1966, when "The Andy Griffith Show" was on the air. "Andy Griffith" overlapped with "Family Affair," which overlapped with "My Three Sons" which overlapped with "All in the Family" which overlapped with "Happy Days" which overlapped with "One Day At A Time" which overlapped with "Family Ties" which overlapped with "The Cosby Show" which overlapped with "Roseanne" which overlapped with

FAVORITE LINKS

[Americablog](#)

[Five O'Clock Lightning baseball blog](#)

[Deep Pop -- Lori Lakin's Blog](#)

[The Back Page -- Jason Page on ESPN Radio](#)

[Cine-Blog -- George Robinson's Blog](#)

[Documents On Art & Cinema - Daryl Chin's Blog](#)

[Brucie G's Wondrous Blog Of Adventure and Mystery -- Bruce Greenspan's Blog](#)



BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ [2009 \(17\)](#)

▼ [July \(3\)](#)

[1939 -- The Greatest Year For Movies](#)

[Swimming Bans Those Hi-Tech Suits!](#)

[Best Movies Of The Year -- The Master List](#)

▶ [June \(3\)](#)

▶ [May \(1\)](#)

▶ [March \(2\)](#)

▶ [February \(1\)](#)

▶ [January \(7\)](#)

▶ [2008 \(86\)](#)

▶ [2007 \(781\)](#)

▶ [2006 \(2412\)](#)

▶ [2005 \(5\)](#)



CONTRIBUTORS

[Biboy](#)

[Michael in New York](#)

