

REVIEW: 'Outlander' – Sassenach



Starz is giving everyone a little treat by allowing you to watch the first episode of **Outlander** for free online before the official broadcast premiere this Saturday. I have been waiting all summer to finally see what this time traveling love drama based off the best-selling series is all about, so of course I watched the first episode!

Overall, I think that the series has promise. I have not read the book, I know I know, but I thought the script was very nice as well as flowed and transitioned very well. Of course what stuck out to me the most was the cinematography, which was very lovely, not sure how much that had to do with the beauty of Scotland in general. Just from watching this first episode, it is very clear that Starz is upping their production value to compete against other premium channels, as well as Netflix.

Gaelic Lesson: Sassenach means English or an English person. It also means outsider or outlander.

Basic Recap:

Claire

In this first episode we meet our main characters and the three points that make up the series love triangle; **Claire Randall** alias **Claire Beauchamp**, **Jamie Fraser**, and **Frank Randall**. After the end of WWII, two Brits, Claire and Frank, take a second honeymoon in Scotland. Frank has become a bit obsessed with his family lineage. The couple is getting reintroduced to one another after spending a majority of the past 5

years apart. One morning the two decide to watch a “witch” ritual in a meadow. Claire returns later that afternoon to pick a flower she wants to study, though once she touches one of the stones in the meadow she is transported back to the 18th century.

Black Jack Randall, why yes he is related to Frank, who does not seem to be a very nice man, greets Claire. A Scotsman saves Claire and takes her hostage. She then gets her first tastes of what it is like to be in the 18th century. Claire saves Scots soldier, Jamie, not once but twice. The episode ends with Claire being taken to a Castle in Scotland that no more than a day ago she visited in 1945.

What Works and What Annoyed Me:

Like I stated above I did generally enjoy the episode and will most likely continue to watch the series. I think the story is very interesting. May not be the most original concept, I was waiting for the Doctor to show up in his Tardis. I think I am most looking forward to seeing how the whole time traveling, past meets future, future meets past thing works out.

I am thinking that we will be staying in 18th century Scotland for the most part, not sure if there is going to be as much time traveling through out the two centuries. As much as I want to look up spoilers, I am trying very hard not to.

Jamie

Clearly, most people are Team Jamie. Which is not much of a surprise...sorry Edmure Tully, yep Frank is played by a Tully.

Also, who else was reminded of Brave when that whole witch dance thing was happening?

The one and really only thing that bothered me about *Outlander* thus far is Claire herself. My first thought of Claire was that she was a stuck up, stick in the mud British chick. And, I hate the fact that I dislike her. Granted, I love that she is a strong, intelligent, smart mouth chick, but she just delivers herself in a very off-putting way. Simply, she seems cold. Hopefully some nights spent by the fire in 18th century Scotland will warm her up.

So if you haven't already watched *Outlander* head over to Starz online to check it out for free or watch the first episode on Saturday. Let me know if you agree or disagree with what I had to say about the first episode. Tags:

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