

Might remove

{Edit of me @ the New York County Courthouse in 60 Centre St}

60 Centre on Foley Square in Manhattan, NY is home to the New York County Supreme Court. Some may recognize it as a court of civil jurisdiction, but others may recognize it as the infamous courthouse where court scenes were filmed in Law & Order: SVU. These steps are the ones where our favorite detectives and ADA's trek up and down to finish their cases which is exhausting. Every jaw dropping moment from arrests to convictions to surprise twists was actually filmed here. Outside this courthouse, there have been moments fans will always remember. When Barba said his tearful goodbye to Olivia, where Stabler met his new partner after Olivia, where many defendants have been found not guilty and go on to gloat to the press. If you want to hear more, please keep watching.

2nd P

Crime procedural, police crime drama, or otherwise known as cop shows. There have been tons of cop shows through the years ranging from comedy to drama to reality, and back to comedy-drama. The cop show narrative has been on air since the early years of tv where cops are usually seen as heroes and the criminals are always bad. These portrayals reflecting the current split screen, real & fake times and prejudices of society, set the precedent of every cop show. From the Wild West sheriffs to the 21st century forensic experts, crime shows are the majority of scripted shows on network television. But what makes Law & Order: SVU stand out from the rest? Could it be the quality and consistency of the storylines, the great characters and character development, it's informativeness, <sup>continue watching to find out.</sup> ~~not to mention it's ironically comforting.~~

3rd P

~~What is Law & Order: SVU?~~ SVU is an American crime drama TV series created by Dick Wolf. It's part of the original Law & Order franchise where some episodes were loosely based on real-life crimes; <sup>many of their episodes are</sup> ~~they have been~~ ripped from the headlines like most cop shows but <sup>making each story their own</sup> SVU has its own way of ~~differentiating itself from the rest.~~ Just being a show discussing rape

on intro

This is Law & Order: Special Victims Unit & this currently TV's longest-running prime-time live action series of all time.

makes it stand out on its own when <sup>rape</sup> sex was so taboo in the early 2000s, especially when in every cop show <sup>ever aired has always shown</sup> our noble detectives <sup>(video w/ audio)</sup> are always handling homicide investigations <sup>that are</sup> more bizzare than real-life cops actually see. Every cop show has its own episode formula that they usually don't stray away from <sup>including</sup> even SVU. Most SVU episodes follow the same structure- the discovery of the crime, narrowing the suspect pool, an interrogation, a conviction, and sentencing - with some recurring details such as the detectives making morbid comments <sup>about</sup> of the crime every step of the way and the dramatic looks between characters before commercials. This enables viewers to <sup>after a shocking discovery, & not to mention the occasional surprise guest stars.</sup> make educated guesses of <sup>each</sup> the episode's perp without it being predictable. But SVU is different, they're not afraid to break structure. There <sup>have been</sup> are episodes that start off with one storyline and abruptly go into another completely different storyline that either is or isn't connected to each other, but still maintain a good plot. It remains captivating and suspenseful but without being overwhelming or over the top. Especially the old episodes that had wild stories with 3 plot twists in the 40 min limit. Even the new episodes are still open to experimenting with different structures that can still make viewers talk. And sure not every change is good, but because it's SVU we're willing to look the other way. An article in the Atlantic written by Megan Garber, <sup>(cited</sup> "SVU gets away with a lot, though, because of the kind of work it is doing. At its best, the show is modeling a better world. They're able to include such controversial issues that are still relevant today and make us open our eyes." [They incorporate issues such as rape, male victims, racism, mental health, LGTBQ issues, hate crimes, health care problems, biases, corruption, and police brutality.]

<sup>Re-write for intro</sup> SVU has a memorable <sup>?</sup> cast of characters whose lives are revealed in and out of the station, showing the balance of work and personal time that lets the audience connect with the <sup>beyond their</sup> ~~in~~

<sup>1</sup> Garber, M. 2019. *The Bittersweet Lessons of Law & Order: SVU*. The Atlantic.

responsibilities and challenges of their jobs. Each character is given their own episodes where the case is always the most important thing but the audience also gets a chance to get more backstory and see their inner individual strength that stands out for them. And like any show, SVU has the same overdone character tropes; the bad boy, the strong female lead, the strict boss, the class clown. But the writers manage to go beyond the obvious tv tropes and make us love these characters and connect with them. Characters like...

4th P Olivia Benson played by Mariska Hargitay has been on since its 1st episode aired in 1999 being the heroine of the unit for the past 2 decades. Even when our other favorite characters left the series, Benson has remained a constant as we watched her go through some of the toughest moments of her life. From dealing with the fact that she's a product of her mother's rape, losing her partner, several relationships, being kidnapped and sexually assaulted, adopting her son, and the multiple close calls where she almost lost him. We've seen her rise in her career going from a rookie detective to sergeant to lieutenant to captain of the Special Victims Unit. But what does this tell us? Well for one, Olivia goes through a lot of shit in this show more than any other character and two, since day one Benson has fought for the justice of the victims and has never stopped fighting. And that's what we love about her. Besides, what other cop shows show the struggle of being a single mother and adapting to the effects of aging while managing a job as a high ranking officer in a police precinct?

1st P This moment is when audiences everywhere were first introduced to... Then there's Odafin "Fin" Tutuola played by Ice-T joined the show in its 2nd season in 2000. When I saw my first episode of SVU and saw Ice-T, I thought it was so ironic that a rapper who hates cops plays a cop and that it couldn't work. But the more episodes I watched, the more I thought how perfect he was for the role. Dock Wolf and the writers were able to create a character that was relatable to Ice-T's background but also someone who could help show audiences what it's like being a black detective in the NYPD. And while that's a challenge for

(Videos of Fin's one-liner) → Fin is a man of few words, but when he speaks, he makes them count. Not many actors can make their characters so relatable & easy to connect with especially on cop-show.

1cc-T  
some, for ~~Fin~~ it's simple... (video). He's a rough around the edges character but once you get to know more about him, you see he has a big heart, loves and supports his gay son, is sassy, always backs up his partners, and gets the job done in his own way. In a recent interview, ~~1cc-T~~ gave his thoughts on Fin. (video) But the <sup>best</sup> greatest thing about Fin is that he takes orders from a woman and doesn't act like an asshole about it instead he backs her up on it. He knows how important being in charge of SVU is to Olivia and is okay with being her second in command.

5th But the very best thing to come out of the show is how comforting it is. The routine of the process of solving a case from start to finish gives viewers a sense of stability. It's a known entity with familiar characters and a pretty great formula where you can jump in and out of the episode, but you're still able to understand what's happening. It's a good way to distract ourselves from our worries without asking too much from us. The main cast is always really well acted and I like the idea of watching a cop show that's not a fantasy show with unrealistic action shots, but one about justice and healing. I find it comforting that besides being dark, "SVU takes sex crimes seriously, but the show isn't a grueling, depressing experience."<sup>2</sup> It's a twisted subject matter, but it's well acted and the idea that the justice system can and should help all kinds of victims is nice. Victims are taken seriously and they're more likely to get justice than in real life, <sup>where it</sup> ~~which~~ usually doesn't happen. Corrupt politicians and Cops actually <sup>are</sup> ~~get~~ held accountable for their actions and oftentimes are arrested. It brings a little satisfaction of seeing evil people brought to justice, like an escape from reality with reality.

[ The reason I continued watching the show besides the characters was because I wanted to be informed. In 2019, when the news had been depressing, to lighten the mood, Jena Friedman started watching true crime shows. (Video) <sup>What</sup> The comedian <sup>comedian</sup> Jena Friedman has observed, <sup>was</sup>

<sup>2</sup> James, C. 1999. Television Review; Sex Crimes Featured In a Spinoff Of Top Series. New York Times

*Video*  
"Women, we don't watch true crime, we study it to make sure we don't end up on it." As a woman, the subject of rape is scary topic that is always a possibility but with SVU, I was able to *educate myself* learn more and become more aware. A 2015 study conducted by Washington State University revealed, the Law & Order franchise might also be educating viewers about rape. The study, published in the Journal of Health Communication, took 313 college freshmen and surveyed them on whether they watched the three main procedural franchises on network television: Law & Order, CSI, and NCIS. Students were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with statements that explored rape-myth acceptance. The study was able to concluded that "Given the Law & Order producers' conscientious efforts to not glamorize rape and to portray punishment of the crime, they have essentially created a program that could be used to reduce sexual assault."  
*6th P*

*Myth review*  
*+ 2019 In article called, why published on Vice*  
And Although this is a great show, it still has a lot to improve. "SVU has also evolved when it comes to expanding the roles of minority characters, allowing people of color to live other places besides Harlem or the Bronx and rendering LGBTQ characters as complex individuals rather than caricatures."<sup>3</sup> But we still see that many of the victims that episodes revolve around are young white women. I would hope to see more people of color playing roles as main characters & not just victims in the same storylines of racism & Immigration.

But other than that, SVU is an amazing show that you should all watch. It is TV's longest-running prime-time & <sup>the</sup> writers have managed to create another spinoff Law & Order: Organized Crime with Christopher Meloni reprising his original role & the 06 series Law & Order returning after a 12 year hiatus in 2010. There are still new surprises happening each seasons that fans & new viewers can enjoy.

<sup>3</sup> Smith, M. 2019. Why Do So Many Women Love 'Law & Order: SVU'?. Vice