

Textual Gamekeepers: The Importance of Fans in Television Revivals



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Abstract

The involvement of fans in the revival of television shows is an increasing occurrence. This thesis will examine the process of the fan turned producer, known as the 'textual gamekeeper,' a term used by fan theorist Matt Hills. I have selected three case studies to show this process at work. Chapter One provides an introduction and literary review and demonstrates the theory of the textual gamekeeper regarding the area of fan theory. Chapter Two covers *Doctor Who* and the fan takeover that has occurred regarding the new series that began in 2005. Chapter Three is a study of *The Goodies*, which was revived through a series of fan assisted live shows and finally Chapter Four covers *Red Dwarf*, which returned with new episodes in 2009 on cult digital channel 'Dave.' The thesis will conclude showing how this process is at work and has provided benefits for the medium of television and its fans.

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