

Finding your way through *Lost*

by Zach Baker
Editor

After five seasons and one hundred and three episodes (soon to be six and 121), it's pretty easy to get "lost" in the very confusing storyline of ABC's hit drama "Lost". Much of the confusion comes from the constant addition of new characters, the sudden change between settings and past/present. However, this confusion should go away with a little recap and highlighting some key ideas of "Lost", just in time for the final season.

Season one, like every other TV drama, sets up the story, the characters, and the setting: international flight Oceanic 815 is flying to L.A. when it unexpectedly crashlands on an island in the Pacific, stranding the passengers on an island with no communication to the outside world. However, this is no ordinary island; the island is inhabited by a polar bear, black smoke, a group of natives called "the Others", and seems to cure people of physical and medical problems obtained outside of the island. We also meet all the main characters (Jack, Kate, Sawyer, Hurley, Sayid, Sun, Jin, and Locke). The passengers attempt to leave the island and fail, run into the Others on a few occasions, and find a mysterious "hatch".

Season two brings more conflict with the Others, exploration of the hatch and the Dharma initiative, and a few more characters (Ben, Mr. Eko, and Desmond). We discover that Desmond



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has been living in the hatch, punching a series of numbers into a computer in order to prevent "something bad" from happening (the numbers are recurrent throughout the series). The passengers help him with this job until Locke decides that "eventually nobody will be able to punch them in, so why not find out now". This causes a huge electromagnetic to activate, an explosion and a "whiteout".

Season three features more problems with the Others, introduction to a few main Others, and the discovery of more Dharma Stations. This season is pretty straightforward with little side stories. The main conflict revolves around the imposing war between the

survivors and the Others. Near the end of the season, the survivors manage to contact a rescue ship, despite the impediment of the Others.

Season four takes an interesting turn of events in which six of the survivors make it off the island on the rescue boat. The whole season takes place in two settings, L.A., where the six are adjusting to normal life, and the island where the rest of the survivors must try to find another way off the island as well as deal with the Others. We are also introduced to the crew of the rescue boat, some of whom stay on the island.

In season five, we learn that the survivors who left the island were "not

meant to leave" and now must try to find a way back onto the island in order to save all the other survivors who are still stranded there. At the same time, the island begins to jump through time itself, launching the other survivors into different years and decades in the past and future. This is due to the absence of the other six. The season ends when everyone is reunited back on the island and Jack tries one last time to get everyone off in a last ditch effort.

From episode one, *Lost* has been an intriguing and symbolic show. With deep character development and an amazing story already in place, season six aims to be the end to one of the best series on TV.