
Last season for Starting Over

Posted by Houston_lisa41 - 2006/02/02 15:19

Hi All,

I wrote to my local station today to see why they pulled SO out of the normal 2pm slot and got back an email stating that SO has ceased production and will not be back next season. I'm wondering if it will be on cable somewhere. Anyone know?

Below is the email from the station:

Lisa,
We have two reasons for moving "Starting Over" to 4am weekdays. First, the program will cease production and will no longer be available to us after this season. Second, "Starting Over" has been our poorest performing show in daytime. While there is a small audience for the program, it just doesn't get good ratings. We're adding a second airing of Maury to improve our competitive situation, and to offer our new WB daytime show, ER, a stronger lead-in program.

Thank you for watching Houston's WB.

Jeff Clemons
KHQB-TV/DT

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by Tara - 2006/02/02 15:23

I haven't seen anything either way about the show coming back for another season. I can't remember if we had heard stuff at this time in previous years about it being renewed.

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by Tara - 2006/02/02 15:25

Stations also are preparing to replace NBC Universal's Starting Over in their lineups. NBC U admits the reality show is on the bubble but says it still isn't sure whether the show will return for season four. Meanwhile, Martha, with two-year deals, is returning and NBC U says Megan Mullally has been sold in more than 50% of the country. King World's Rachael Ray has already surpassed 85% of the U.S. Smaller market stations are still waiting to get a look at the Harpo-backed show, which is seen as the most competitive offering this year.

From: <http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6295528.html?display=Breaking+News>

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by Jackee - 2006/02/02 15:27

That was predictable. I have been curious to know for sure. Thanks for the heads-up Lisa. What a pity!

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by Tara - 2006/02/02 15:29

The Tony Danza Show and Starting Over also both tied season highs, Danza up 8% to a 1.3 and Starting Over gaining 9% for the week to a 1.2.

From: <http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6303707.html?display=Breaking+News>

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/02/02 16:24

I wouldn't be so shocked if it didn't come back. They took a good concept and tinkered with it to the point that alot of it becomes ludicrous by overly focusing on the dramatics...and creating nonexistent storylines by making plays on words..

I happened to see Dr. 90210 last night... for the very first time. And it sure struck me that alot of the shooting and editing was almost identical to SO. Even blurbs on the camera shots.... and panned out shots of L.A.

(Dr. 90210 seems to be a reality type tv show about the plastic surgery industry and the surgeons and patients in the LA area.) Not sure if I'll watch again... :S

I heard Iyanla wasn't coming back...and that Rhonda was upset about editing... The coaches SHOULD be upset with the editing... and they SHOULD have some input into the editing...

In some ways, I wonder if it will even survive the season in my market!

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/02/03 00:43

Yeah, I think it would have had so much more success if the show had stayed truer to it's original version.....which I have been able to catch at least some of on different satellite channels!

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by asparagus - 2006/02/03 04:31

Season 1 is still my favorite. The women had realistic goals and their issues were more in line with what a life coach, as opposed to a therapist, should be doing. While I like Dr. Stan, I think the show thought that by bringing on this sort of professional they could handle larger issues and go for more drama. I don't think it really worked, though I am still glad they brought in Dr. Stan. I think he'd have been a wonderful addition to the Season 1 type format.

I'll be surprised if this show is around next year.

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by dbmcmommy - 2006/02/03 13:12

Thanks for the link, Tara.

I agree that SO1 was the best season. The first six women in the house were phenominal and a lot was learned from those ladies. I just think they have gone too much for the extreme to bring in more viewers but it is moving the show in the opposite way. That's sad.

Even if there is no season 4 I will still still appreciate the wonderful friends I have made here on this site. That to me is the greatest gift SO has given me.

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by StephG - 2006/02/03 14:54

Thanks for the info. I'm bummed about that. Hope it comes on another station.

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by _lyn - 2006/02/03 18:15

I recently starting watching the show again and have to say not much has changed. Sad. What a great concept.

I really believe the show received a lot of mail from women who feel, as I do, that the episodes became more and more insulting to our intelligence and common sense. If ratings tanked they only have themselves to blame and they should have listened and not underestimated their viewers.

And I have to say--referring fans to that hate-site forum, RealityTv, was a terrible mistake. You don't build a fan base by plugging a site that hates the show, hates the houseguests and doesn't even mind harassing them after they are graduated.

To Tara and the others who manage this site:

Thanks for having this SOH forum and providing the civilized discussions which I read from time to time...it's why I even decided to start watching SOH again.

I think SOH will be history after this season. As it should be.

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by DixieDove - 2006/02/03 23:27

The Starting Over show has become a part of my day now, so i would really miss it!

I've watched SO since day one.

Last year, there was a big to-do about the show not returning. But it did!

Maybe it will rise from the ashes once again!

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by DaveG - 2006/02/20 10:55

Bunim-Murray (BMP) made a calculated decision when they moved production from Chicago to LA. BMP is an LA, based company. What they gained in efficiency, they may have lost in the authenticity provided by the Chicago setting.

Unfortunately, I've seen some editing techniques in use on SO that clearly have migrated from Real World and the challenge shows. This has probably hurt their overall audience, since the SO core audience is not likely impressed with the contrived drama so key to the other BMP shows.

I'm not sure where BMP goes from here, if there is no season 4 deal with NBC. They could try to take SO to another distribution company for syndication or to another network. There is no reason it would not work well on WE, FX, USA or Lifetime where the core SO audience would likely follow.

While ratings for it's Real World/Road Rules Challenge "Gauntlet 2" placed it #1 in January for all cable shows in the critical 18-49 demographic, MTV has only ordered two more shows. Road Rules was cancelled and the Real World audience is fading. Perhaps the company may go the way of their website -- into stagnation.

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by Debby - 2006/02/20 11:35

I don't doubt the information you received from your local station, but it confuses me. If SO production has ceased, why

does the Official SO website still say they are accepting applications for new housemates? Has anyone out there actually tried to submit a video tape for acceptance recently?

Although I'm a long time viewer, I just started to take a look at the SO websites. Today I tried to submit a request for a newsletter from the Official SO website and it was not accepted. This concerns me. Do any of you receive that on-line newsletter and if so what does it say about ceasing production?
I think the idea of writing to see if Opray will pick up the show is great! I will do it. I think it will require many e-mails to get her staffs attention on the matter.

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/02/20 12:24

I think someone mentioned that a planned casting call in one of the cities was cancelled. Maybe they are still weighing their options. I think they ought to get it out of L.A. though... Maybe someone will buy rights to the show from Bunim Murray. It is really up to the production company if they want to continue and what markets they want to promote it. With so much junk on tv these days...I'd really think they could shop the show around and find a new home...

Someone suggested getting Oprah involved! Maybe she'd buy the show! She sure would know how to promote it properly! and hopefully put the brakes on some of the over the top drama...Or misleading story lines. At the very least the women should be screened alot more to weed out the Lisa's... and those whose motives are contrived and their for the wrong reasons. (15 minutes of fame!)

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by kbsantafe - 2006/03/07 21:19

I got the straight scoop on the cancelation of SO.
I spoke with someone high up in the Fearless Living Institute (the organization that Rhonda Britten started) today. I called about possible going to a workshop and asked the coach who runs the workshops in Denver (Rhonda lives in Denver when she's not living in LA doing Starting Over). He said that NBC is running scared from "reality shows" since they are being sued by many people from other reality shows that they air, for one reason or another. He said NBC is dropping these types of shows (even though of course SO is the only one that actually is REAL!). SO hopes that another network, perhaps cable, will pick the show up. He said that this season will finish out on NBC. Also, he said that both Rhonda and Iyanla still want to do the show, if it gets picked up. Also he said, if there's any chance of keeping the show on NBC, people should write in to the LOCAL stations that air it, not NBC. I know a lot of people are doing that and that's great. He said if enough people wrote in to the local stations, that the local stations would/could put pressure on NBC. I also told him that I had emailed the Oprah show about them doing a show on Starting Over (someone had suggested that in one of the threads and so i did it). So, everyone write Oprah and your local stations and we'll cover all our bases! Maybe Oprah's oxygen network could pick up the show! krista.)

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by pmpnjc16 - 2006/03/07 23:49

I third that Season 1! Was the bomb!!! :woohoo:

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by rocky916 - 2006/03/11 14:29

Why did they move it to Calif anyway?

I also wonder what happens to each house after each season---if it's just a house they are renting from someone or if they purchase it? Either way they are beautiful!

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by pmpnjc16 - 2006/03/11 16:33

i dont know i liked the cute lil chicago house with the cute innocent women who were there for the right reasons, and everything was real!

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/03/11 20:51

pmpnjc16 wrote:

i dont know i liked the cute lil chicago house with the cute innocent women who were there for the right reasons, and everything was real!

I agree.....well, MOST of them anyway!!!!!! We DID have a couple ego-maniacs!!!:blink: :woohoo: :ohmy: ;)

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by canadianFan - 2006/03/12 13:19

:(:(:(Please tell me it isn't so SO has been such a part of my life...I tivo it everyday and can't live without it. How will I be able to afford the therapy that I get daily. This show has saved my life and my sanity. I have grown so much from it and I'm sure that i am not the only one who has learned so much from this and the courageous women who have had the courage to go and share their story.:(:(:(:(:(

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by SASSYPAM - 2006/03/12 14:37

It's pretty obvious network TV just doesn't get it! I think the excuse about fear of "reality shows and getting sued" is just that..... AN EXCUSE. Starting Over needs to be on a woman's network such as Oxygen, Lifetime, etc, where it is appreciated for its intrinsic value. I am not trying to be sexist as I know men watch SO too; so they can watch it on Oxygen just as women watch sports on ESPN, I'm just saying, lets give SO the home it deserves so we don't have to go through this agony every season!

Pam:cheer:

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by moondreamer - 2006/03/14 15:42

I am theorizing that the reason for the demise of SO is that it was a pet project of Bunim, who died. I don't think Murray gave a Nat Sass about it, but kept doing it due to contract agreements. I think he's more into the exploitive, explosive crud he does for MTV.

That Iyanla is leaving would be a huge plus. She's so phoney. All she cares about is looking like an all wise Earth Mother, and it doesn't come off. She's insincere, cruel, and uncaring. Anyone else would be an improvement. (Welllll, except Rhonda, that is)

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by Anoel - 2006/03/16 07:42

First, I don't agree with moondream above re the life coaches - but don't think it would be a bad idea to have a new one.

DO agree that the first season was what hooked me and this past one not so much. Now they keep bringing back former housemates so perhaps there's been a casting problem. Well, think about it - would you want to be on national TV to discuss all of your problems, secrets, etc. ?

It would be great if oprah took over the show!

P.S. Are the camera folks or directors trying to impress us with their artistic (sigh) shots of vegetation, people in the streets, city scenes, etc. ?

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by honeyspur - 2006/03/16 07:51

Personally, I have come to accept SO going off the air.

I'm sure it will be rerun and that three seasons of SO to continue to learn from. (I watch old episodes - always learn something new)

Also, Rhonda's website is like Starting Over in itself. A huge community, spanning the country, life coaches all over the place with their own sites - sites like this one - past hg's sites - this list goes on and on. We'll all make it if we stay connected and keep the outcry up to the networks and producers.

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by moondreamer - 2006/03/16 15:14

If they were renewed for a Season 4, they'd know it by now, and be shouting it from the rooftops. they aren't. What does that tell you?

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by DaveG - 2006/03/16 16:06

moondreamer wrote:

If they were renewed for a Season 4, they'd know it by now, and be shouting it from the rooftops. they aren't. What does that tell you?

It really doesn't tell me anything except that neither BMP nor NBC has made any announcement about Season 4. The show is still accepting applications. If it is true that NBC has informed affiliates that SO will not be returning to the network's daytime schedule next week, that report did not reach MTV execs who work with BMP on other shows. I was in NYC for the taping of a BMP show a client is on, and I specifically asked about SO. They had heard nothing official or even speculative, but thought it was a perfect show for syndication.

Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by skorped - 2006/03/16 22:48

I e-mailed my local NBC station and asked about SO being cancelled. I received a reply this week and they said they had NOT heard that the show was cancelled. They said to contact them again in a month or 2. So according to them it is still not decided. Thanks.

K.H.

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Re:Last season for Starting Over

Posted by DaveG - 2006/03/17 04:38

This announcement was posted by an administrator at another web site:

"Written by Administrator

Friday, 03 March 2006

We've signed electronic petitions. . . we've written and emailed our local tv stations. . .and now it's time for the next step to make our goal a reality! Tummy hungry? Pick up the phone and order a pizza. SOUL hungry? Pick up the phone and call NBC! Rhonda Britten, Starting Over Life Coach, feels that an electronic petition may NOT be effective in garnering the attention of the decision making executives at NBC. Instead, she suggests flooding the switchboards at NBC with our message--KEEP STARTING OVER ON THE AIR! Here's the plan--call NBC Universal at 212 664 6046 and ask to speak to the CEO. Let them know that we want to keep our show on the air! (Call between 9am to 5pm EASTERN time). Let's take Rhonda's advice and make our voices be heard!"

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