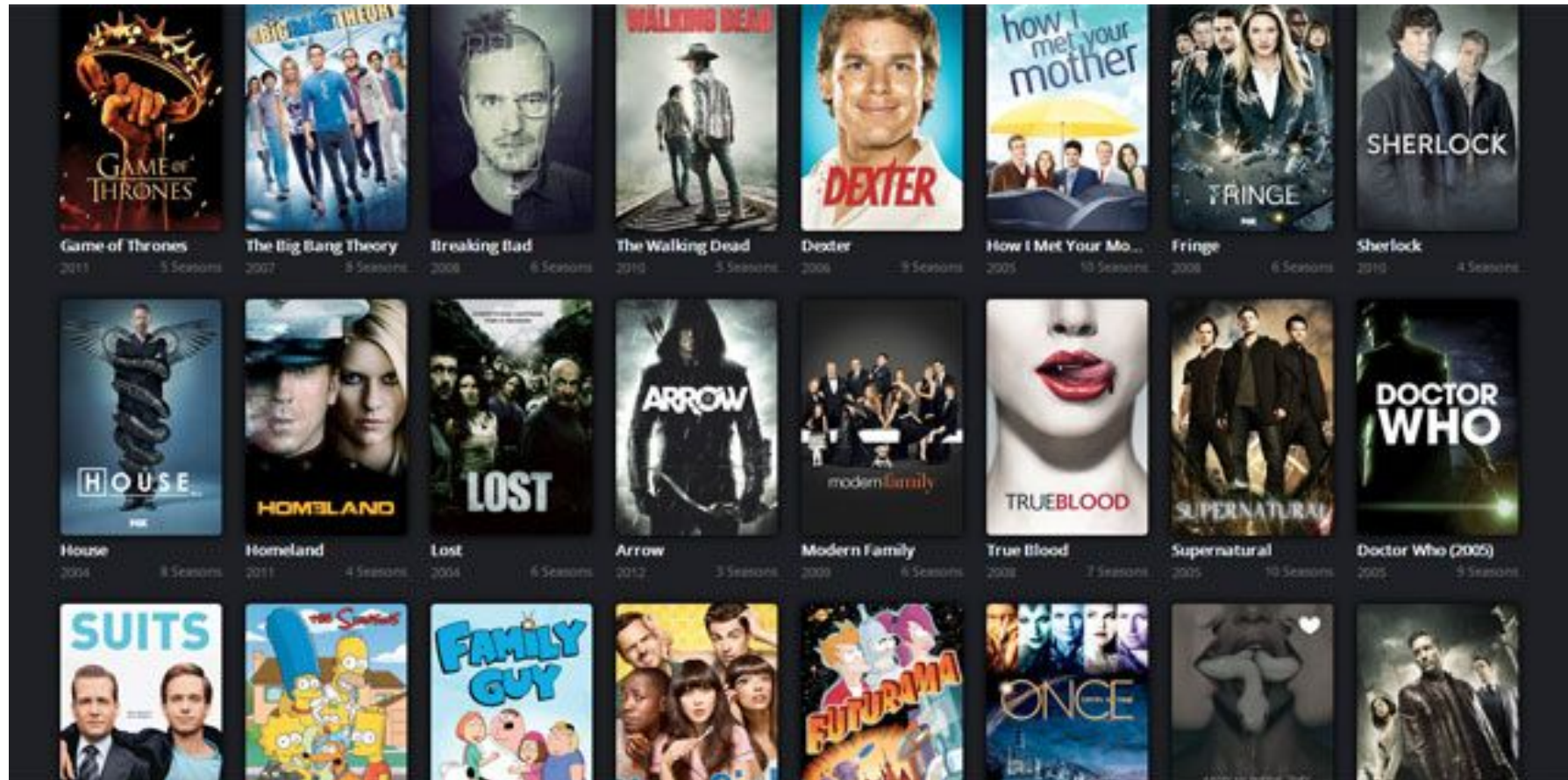


# How time and space are constructed in TV series



# Episodic structure

**“the office” episodes for every mood**

**when you need to laugh...**

- S1 E5 “Basketball”
- S2 E12 “The Injury”
- S4 E13 “Dinner Party”
- S4 E14 “Goodbye, Toby”
- S5 E14 “Stress Relief”

**when you need to cry...**

- S2 E22 “Casino Night”
- S3 E22 “Beach Games”
- S7 E22 “Goodbye, Michael”
- S9 E12 “Customer Loyalty”
- S9 E24 “Finale”

**when you feel loved...**

- S3 E23 “The Job”
- S4 E1 “Fun Run”
- S5 E28 “Company Picnic”
- S6 E4 “Niagara”
- S7 E19 “Garage Sale”

**when you feel sentimental...**

- S2 E3 “Office Olympics”
- S2 E11 “Booze Cruise”
- S6 E14 “The Banker”
- S9 E21 “Livin’ The Dream”
- S9 E22 “A.A.R.M.”

- TV series as a type of medium that tries to build itself into the schedule of its typical viewer.



“It has memory, referring back to previous episodes and seasons in the development of plot.” Robert Thompson



“Breaking Bad”

“Referring back” can be done with a help of a significant item

## Clip show

an episode of a television series that consists primarily of excerpts from previous episodes.



“The One With The Invitation”

# Commercial breaks



- Commercial breaks “break” the involvement in a TV show-watching experience. Therefore, kind of breaks continuity and the flow of the events happening on the screen and brings the viewer **back to real space/time from medium-constructed space/time**.

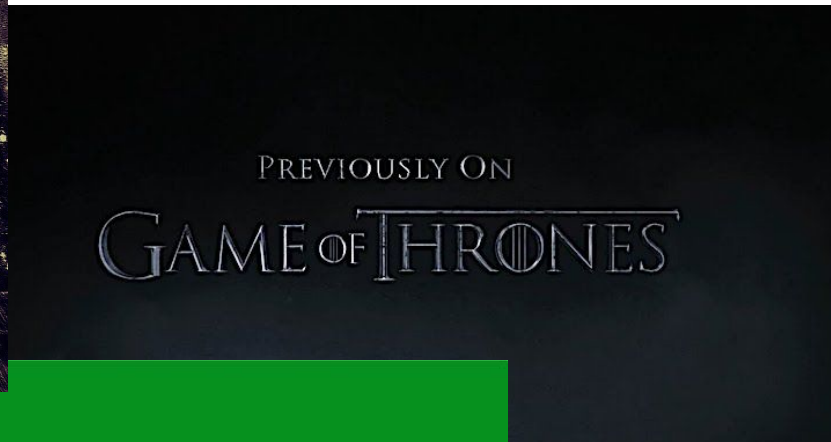
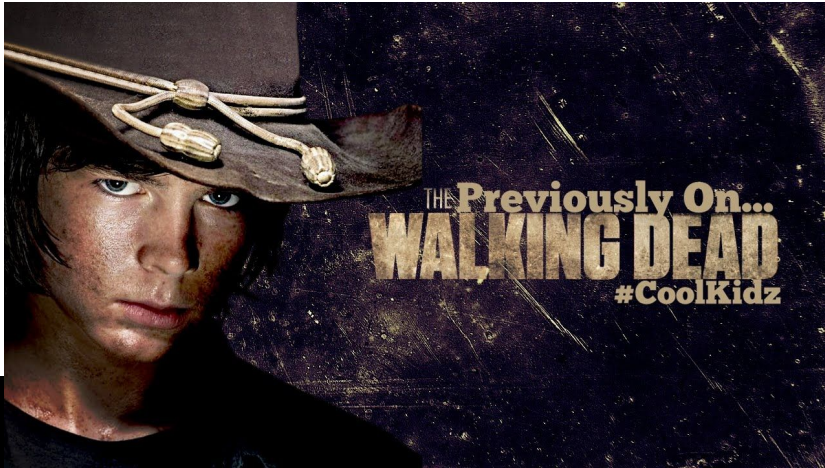
# The nature of TV series

It's a story that is told through a long period of time. So, there's certain familiarity that comes with it.



# Recaps

- “Previously on...” used in TV series structure in order to bring the viewer up to speed on what’s been going on, to emerge the viewer to the perception of a new reality.



# Laugh tracks in sitcoms

"laughter is social. It's easier to laugh when you're with people."



While still one of the top genres of contemporary American television, sitcom has been making room for a new breed of comedy series, which rely on different technical specifications and take a new stance on television making - to the point of redefining what comedy is. (A, Savorelli)

The effects of the laugh track are twofold: firstly, they signal not only that sitcom is intended to be funny, but also exactly where specific jokes are, and how the audience at home should be reacting to them; secondly, they create a communal, theatrical experience for that domestic audience, for it's assumed that people laugh more, and find things funnier, if they hear other people laughing too. (Brett Mills)



# Space in situational comedies

- The use of three or four cameras crates an effect of openness
- One of the most space-defining elements in American sitcom is the couch, usually places in the center of the room or the shot.



“In any room containing a couch, the main shot is the frontal one, with a slightly diagonal variant that allows those sitting on the sides to be shot at an angle similar to those sitting on the couch, thus eliminating or diminishing any possible hierarchies among actors.” (A. Savorelli)

“Spatial ranking”:

- Important actions – higher-rank space
- Collateral action (episode tag) – lower-rank space



# Modelling time and space with filmmaking tools

