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Keeping *The Invisible Man* visible:
International Rebroadcast brings on a resurgence of fan interest

Renewed broadcasts of *The Invisible Man*, originally broadcast on Sci Fi from 2000-2002, have drawn a slew of new international fans to the critically acclaimed hit series as evidenced by significant increases in fan club membership and fanfic readership. Savoring twice daily airings during August, September and early October on Sci Fi Channel UK, as well as current airings on Canada's Space Channel, these fans have gone looking for others who share their burgeoning obsession. Visiting many online sites devoted to the show, they have joined the unofficial fan club, the Imaniacs (<http://www.imaniacs.org/>), and have been visiting the official website for news about the cast and the show, Perseus Project (<http://www.perseusproject.com/>) in droves.

Among the other top destinations for these fans has been the online fiction archives at <http://www.fanfiction.net>, featuring fiction written by fans of films, anime, TV shows, and even music videos. There, the over 800 pieces of fiction by fans of *The Invisible Man* (<http://www.fanfiction.net/list.php?categoryid=393>) have been drawing a large influx of readers, and authors who have stories posted there are suddenly finding new - and appreciative - reviews appended to their work. In fact, during peak usage hours, the traffic is frequently so heavy it can be nearly impossible to log onto *The Invisible Man* page - and many others - at Fanfiction.net. Several authors report being unable to upload their newest stories because overall demand on the Fanfiction.net servers is so heavy.

In addition, writers are being approached by new fans for recommendations on additional fiction archives. Among the sites most often suggested is *The Invisible Man Virtual Season*, (<http://www.invisiblemanvs.com/>) a fan effort to continue the story begun in the first two seasons of the series. Comprised, so far, of 28 four-act stories, the Virtual Season has allowed fan writers to engage in speculations of what might have happened to the characters had the series not been unexpectedly canceled in the midst of negotiations for not one but two more seasons.

About The Invisible Man

The Invisible Man -- one of the SciFi Channel's top 3 original series and consistently one of the top 10 genre shows in syndication -- premiered to critical acclaim in June 2000. With a fresh, hip retro style and sly, witty tone, this show is utterly unlike anything else on TV today. The characters are beautifully flawed and human and the sci fi conceit never gets in the way of the wonderful banter and chemistry this top-notch cast and crew created each week. For two seasons the fans have been treated to a roller-coaster ride of plot twists, clever dialogue, comedy, drama, and unpredictable plot lines.

The chemistry between the two lead actors, Vincent Ventresca and Paul Ben-Victor, has garnered numerous accolades and the show has drawn critical acclaim, including several Saturn Award nominations for both its seasons and a best ensemble award from *TV Zone* magazine. Additionally, numerous episodes were included on The Futon Critic's list of the Top 50 Episodes of 2001 and 2002, and the show swept numerous categories in the fan-based voting for the 2002 Roswell Awards.

Created by talented Matt Greenberg (*Reign of Fire*), the show has also created quite a buzz in the creative community, attracting such luminaries as: Armin Shimerman (*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*), Craig Silverstein (*creative consultant, producer, The Dead Zone*), George Huang (director of *Swimming with Sharks*), Greg Yaitanes (*director of episodes of Las Vegas, Cold Case*), Justine Miceli (*NYPD Blue*), Joel Bissonette (*Boulevard, Fight Club*), David Burke (*Joan of Arcadia*), Michael Welch (*Joan of Arcadia, Star Trek: Insurrection*) and Adam Storke (*Mystic Pizza, Prey*).

The Invisible Man was abruptly cancelled after negotiations fell through for not one, but two more seasons in late September 2001. Yet the series' popularity remains high, with a large, international fan base. In fact, a recent chat with the series' two stars had to be cancelled when a record number of fans tried to log on to SciFi.com, accidentally overloading and crashing the server.

I-Maniacs, members of the show's unofficial fan club, are currently spearheading a massive write-in campaign to get *The Invisible Man* picked up by another network. Efforts to date have included a mass mailing to various networks; one online petition that closed as of December 7, 2001, with close to 4000 signatures; and ads in the New York and Los Angeles editions of *Daily Variety*. A new online petition can be found at www.petitiononline.com/imans3/petition.html and has already garnered over 5000 signatures, bringing the total number of signatures to over 9000.

By popular demand, *The Invisible Man* was also added to www.savethatshow.com, an online site dedicated to helping fans voice their support of cancelled or threatened shows, where it has jumped to Number Three on the list of Top Five Vote Leaders with over 20,000 supporting responses, 98 percent of which say the show is "perfect."

For more information on *The Invisible Man*, the Virtual Season, or the campaign to renew the show, please email www.saveinvisibleman.com For in-person contacts, please call:

Suzanne Schellenberg: Operation: High Visibility architect, Virtual Season founder: 415 668-7607

Kathleen Finn, Treasurer, O:VI: 805 523-7310

URLs for your reference:

Message boards:

I-Maniacs.org: pub63.ezboard.com/bImaniacs

Perseusproject.com: www.perseusproject.com/MB/mb.html

Official SciFi board: www.scifi.com/invisibleman

Sites devoted to the show and campaigning for season three:

Operation: Visible Ink: <http://visible-ink.net>

I-Maniacs Fan Club: www.Imaniacs.org

perseusproject.com: www.perseusproject.com/FAQ/Dispatch_Index/I-ManPassion/i-manpassion.html
and http://www.perseusproject.com/Standing_Ovation/standing_ovation.html

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