

Lost (TV series)

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Lost is an American serial drama television series. It follows the lives of plane crash survivors on a mysterious tropical island, after a commercial passenger jet flying between Sydney, Australia, and Los Angeles, United States, crashes somewhere in the South Pacific. Each episode typically features a primary storyline on the island as well as a secondary storyline from another point in a character's life, though other time-related plot devices change this formula in later episodes. The pilot episode was first broadcast on September 22, 2004,^[1] and since then five full seasons have aired. The show airs on the ABC Network in the United States, as well as on regional networks in many other countries.

Due to its large ensemble cast and the cost of filming primarily on location in Oahu, Hawaii,^[2] the series is one of the most expensive on television.^[3] It was created by Damon Lindelof, J. J. Abrams and Jeffrey Lieber and is produced by ABC Studios, Bad Robot Productions and Grass Skirt Productions. The score is composed by Michael Giacchino. The current executive producers are Lindelof, Abrams, Bryan Burk, Jack Bender, Edward Kitsis, Adam Horowitz and Carlton Cuse.

Critically acclaimed and a popular success, *Lost* garnered an average of 16 million viewers per episode on ABC during its first year. It has won numerous industry awards including the Emmy Award for Outstanding Drama Series in 2005,^[4] Best American Import at the British Academy Television Awards in 2005, the Golden Globe for Best Drama in 2006 and a Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Ensemble in a Drama Series. Reflecting its devoted fan base, the series has become a part of American popular culture with references to the story and its elements appearing in other television series,^[5] commercials, comic books,^[6] webcomics, humor magazines, a video game^{[7][8]} and song lyrics. The show's fictional universe has also been explored through tie-in novels, board and video games, and alternative reality games, *The Lost Experience* and *Find 815*.

Lost will conclude in its sixth season with its 121st^[9] and final episode airing in May 2010.^[10] Season six will consist of eighteen episodes.^[11] Episodes from the first four seasons of the series have begun airing in off-network syndication in the US, distributed by Disney-ABC Domestic Television, on G4 and Syfy.^{[12][13]}

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Production

Conception

The series began development in January 2004, when Lloyd Braun, head of ABC at the time, ordered an initial script from Spelling Television based on his concept of a cross between the novel *Lord of the Flies*, the movie *Cast Away*, the television series *Gilligan's Island*, and the popular reality show *Survivor*. Gadi Pollack notes that some of "the influences of *Lost* came from...the game *Myst*."^[14] Jeffrey Lieber was hired and wrote *Nowhere*, based on his pitch to write the pilot.^[15] Unhappy with the result and a subsequent rewrite, Braun contacted J. J. Abrams, who had a deal with Touchstone Television (now ABC Studios), and was also the creator of the TV series *Alias*, to write a new pilot script. Although initially hesitant, Abrams warmed up to the idea on the condition that the series would have a supernatural angle to it, and collaborated with Damon Lindelof to create the series' style and characters.^[16] Together, Abrams and Lindelof also created a series "bible", and conceived and detailed the major mythological ideas and plot points for an ideal five to six season run for the show.^{[17][18]} The development of the show was constrained by tight deadlines, as it had been commissioned late in the 2004 season's development cycle. Despite the short schedule, the creative team remained flexible enough to modify or create characters to fit actors they wished to cast.^[19]

Lost's two-part pilot episode was the most expensive in the network's history, reportedly costing between US\$10 and \$14 million,^[20] compared to the average cost of an hour-long pilot in 2005 of \$4 million.^[21] The series debuted on September 22, 2004, becoming one of the biggest critical and commercial successes of the 2004 television season. Along with fellow new series *Desperate Housewives* and *Grey's Anatomy*, *Lost* helped to reverse the flagging fortunes of ABC.^[22] Yet, before it had even been aired, Lloyd Braun was fired by executives at ABC's parent company, Disney, partly because of low ratings at the network and

	
<i>Lost</i>	
	
<i>Lost</i> title screen	
<div> <div> Adventure</div> <div> Drama</div> <div> Fantasy</div> <div> Science fiction</div> <div> Thriller</div> </div>	
Format	Serial drama
Created by	Jeffrey Lieber <p>J.J. Abrams</p> Damon Lindelof
Directed by	Jack Bender <p>Stephen Williams</p> and others
Starring	Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje <p>Naveen Andrews</p> Nestor Carbonell <p>Henry Ian Cusick</p> Jeremy Davies <p>Emilie de Ravin</p> Michael Emerson <p>Matthew Fox</p> Jorge Garcia <p>Maggie Grace</p> Josh Holloway <p>Malcolm David Kelley</p> Daniel Dae Kim <p>Yunjin Kim</p> Ken Leung <p>Evangeline Lilly</p> Rebecca Mader <p>Elizabeth Mitchell</p> Dominic Monaghan <p>Terry O'Quinn</p> Harold Perrineau <p>Michelle Rodriguez</p> Kiele Sanchez <p>Rodrigo Santoro</p> Ian Somerhalder <p>Cynthia Watros</p>
Composer(s)	Michael Giacchino
Country of origin	United States
Language(s)	English
No. of seasons	5
No. of episodes	103 (List of episodes)
Production	
Executive producer(s)	J. J. Abrams <p>Damon Lindelof</p> Bryan Burk <p>Jack Bender</p> Edward Kitsis <p>Adam Horowitz</p> Carlton Cuse
Location(s)	Oahu, Hawaii
Running time	approx. 43 minutes
Production company(s)	Bad Robot Productions <p>ABC Studios</p>
Broadcast	
Original channel	ABC
Picture format	480i (SDTV) <p>720p (HDTV) ABC HD</p> 1080i (HDTV) Sky1 HD,