

"Has anyone else noticed the uncanny similarities between *Remember WENN* and *Babylon 5*?"

Way back when ("Remember when dinosaurs roamed the earth..." to quote Hilary Booth), when the *Remember WENN* discussions took place on Usenet groups instead of Facebook, someone named Blaise Feint made a curiously interesting post paralleling *WENN* and the breakout SF series *Babylon 5*. And the longer we looked, the more parallels appeared. This is a concatenation of all the posts in handy-dandy table form.

From post by Blaise Byron Feint

From posts by Linda M. Young

From posts by Rodney W. Walker

From other posts unidentified (also explanatory commentary)

<i>Remember WENN</i>	<i>Babylon 5</i>
Rupert Holmes is a singer who writes a great TV show.	J. Michael Straczynski is a TV writer who wrote a couple of decent songs.
Show set in another time that shows that great writing/performance more important than big budget.	Show set in another time that shows that great writing/performances more important than big budget.
Changed "captains" after first season.	Changed Captains after first season.
Groovy soundtrack featuring big band sound.	Groovy soundtrack featuring big band sound.
Hot blonde left for less impressive <i>Men Behaving Badly</i> .	Hot blonde left for less impressive <i>JAG</i> (then <i>NYPD Blue</i>).
Setting (radio station) attracts wide range of characters from all over the United States. [And later Europe-this was written before third season.]	Setting (space station) attracts wide range of characters from all over the galaxy.
Episodes explore a wide range of styles/genres.	Episodes explore a wide range of styles/genres.

Remember WENN	Babylon 5
Original "captain" returns to fulfill Hilary's prophecy and then goes on to make significant contribution to defense of freedom in second World War.	Original "captain" returns to fulfill Minbari prophecy and then goes on to make significant contribution defense of freedom in intergalactic war.
In an article about the new [third] season, Holmes states that not everyone at WENN is exactly who they seem. (From "Emmy" magazine interview.)	In an episode of B5, Straczynski has a character [G'Kar] state that no one at Babylon 5 is exactly what they seem.
In an episode of RW, the outbreak of war makes a character abandon all entertainment programming for news and other serious programming, and is admonished by a second character because humor and entertainment will be needed to improve the morale of people impacted by the war.	In an episode of B5, a period of unrest between two wars makes two comedy actors wish to abandon their profession and go into a more serious one, and they are admonished by two other characters who tell them their humor and entertainment was essential in improving the morale of people impacted by the war.
Replacement character for original male lead likes to quote Abraham Lincoln.	Replacement character for original male lead likes to quote Abraham Lincoln.
Series features lead character named Elizabeth.	Series eventually featured lead character named Elizabeth.

<i>Remember WENN</i>	<i>Babylon 5</i>
<p>Victor and Scott have their first on-screen meeting before they have their first on-screen meeting.</p> <p>Explanation: "From the Pen of Gertrude Reece". Gertie writes a radio play based on people she's known at WENN. Within the play, Victor Comstock is found to be alive and for the first time, interacts with Scot (Scott) on-screen. However, it's a play and Victor and Scott have yet to meet.</p>	<p>Sheridan and Delenn have their first kiss before they have their first kiss.</p> <p>Explanation: "War Without End". Sheridan's consciousness is thrown twenty years into the future into his body of that time. While there, he meets the 20-years-hence Delenn. Upon meeting her, she rushes into his arms and kisses him. Within the chronology of the series, though, Sheridan and Delenn have yet to have their first kiss.</p>
<p>Typical foreshadowing: Jeff plays a character injured by the war in Europe who marries someone who looks like his wife. In the first season finale, Jeff is injured by the war in Europe and returns to marry someone who looks like his wife...Hilary herself.</p>	<p>Typical foreshadowing: An old friend of Garibaldi prevents him from being attacked from behind and asks him when he's going to learn to watch his back. In the season finale, Garibaldi doesn't watch his back because he trusts the person behind him. Garibaldi is shot in the back.</p>
<p>Holmes stated that the third season of RW would be somewhat darker in tone. The third season builds toward WWII.</p>	<p>In the third season of B5, Straczynski has things grow darker in tone as the story ramps up towards the Great Shadow War.</p>
<p>The original male lead (Comstock) leaves to join a foreign culture (Germany) where he becomes one of them (Jonathan Arnold).</p>	<p>The original male lead (Sinclair) leaves to join a foreign culture (Minbar) where he becomes one of them (Valen).</p>
<p>Fans believe Victor and Betty will become romantically involved. When he's replaced by Scott and it looks like he may get romantically involved with Betty, fans debate Victor vs. Scott.</p>	<p>Fans believe Sinclair and Delenn will become romantically involved. When he's replaced by Sheridan and it looks like he may get romantically involved with Delenn, fans debate Sinclair vs. Sheridan.</p>
<p>The overall arc of the series follows a varying group of characters through the events leading to a major war, and, had it been allowed to continue [hiss! Boo! AMC!], the war itself, and its aftermath.</p>	<p>The overall arc of the series follows a varying group of characters through the events leading to a major war, the war itself, and its aftermath.</p>

<i>Remember WENN</i>	<i>Babylon 5</i>
Regular characters disappear from the series (Celia), even major ones (Comstock). Some leave and come back (Eugenia).	Regular characters disappear from the series (Talía), even major ones (Sinclair, Ivanova). Some leave and come back (Lyta).
One regular character speaks what appears to be gibberish, but from a certain viewpoint, is wisdom (Mr. Eldridge).	One regular character speaks what appears to be gibberish, but from a certain viewpoint, is wisdom (Kosh).
Some characters have secrets they keep that end up being used to extort them (a reporter threatens to expose that Hilary and Jeff are not married).	Some characters have secrets they keep that end up being used to extort them (Londo's purple files).
It's hard to peg any character as being a stock role. Eventually, we get to see each character has traits we admire and dislike. They are distinct characters. Even when a particular role must be replaced by a character fulfilling the same function (Comstock by Sherwood, Celia/Eugenia by Maple), the new character is distinctly different.	It's hard to peg any character as being a stock role. Eventually, we get to see each character has traits we admire and dislike. Even when a particular role must be replaced by a character fulfilling the same function (Sinclair by Sheridan, Talía by Lyta), the new character is distinctly different.
Humor arises from the natural interaction of the well-drawn characters. It doesn't rely on stock situations and cheap toilet humor.	Humor arises from the natural interaction of the well-drawn characters. It doesn't rely on stock situations and cheap toilet humor.
The original male lead (Comstock) makes a post-regular-status appearance in episode 27 and reveals secrets to Betty. [By the end of the series he has seemingly "returned" but is often absent.]	The original male lead (Sinclair) makes a post-regular-status appearance in episode 31 and reveals some secrets to Garibaldi. By the end of his next appearance on the series, his character appears to be irretrievably gone from the series. [But his name is frequently mentioned.]

<i>Remember WENN</i>	<i>Babylon 5</i>
Original male lead character was more like a British lead, usually quiet and understated. Replacement male lead character was more "brash American." [Rupert pointed this out himself.]	Original male lead character was more like a British lead, usually quiet and understated. Replacement male lead character was more "brash American." [Fans noted this frequently on B5 message boards.]
Series creator wrote (or co-wrote) 53 of the 56 episodes (an anomaly at the time).	Series creator wrote 92 of the 110 series episodes (an anomaly at the time).
Series creator is over six feet tall, bearded, and wears glasses. Parents participated in World War II. Has undergone tragic familial events.	Series creator is over six feet tall, bearded, and wears glasses. Parents participated in World War II. Has undergone tragic familial events.

I went back to the Google archives for alt.tv.remember-wenn but didn't find any others. If there are some I have missed let me know.

Just to note that someone did ask Straczynski in April 1996 if he had seen *Remember WENN*. However this would have been during the first seasons, when most of the parallels had not taken place. I know Rupert Holmes did not watch *Babylon 5*.