

■ TV SERIES ■

# ANDOR

## SEASON 2

### imagines Star Wars at its most devastating



RAIAN ABEDIN

No part of *Andor*, the show that serves as a prequel to a prequel following a side character very few had any prior investment in, should work in theory. But with the first season, Tony Gilroy and team somehow delivered one of the most stellar narratives in the Star Wars canon. Rife with themes of revolution and a continued war against imperial forces, the first season triumphed because of its grounded nature and because of how well it portrayed the banality and bureaucracy of fascism.

While not flawless, season two amps up everything that made season one work so well and stands tall as the best a Star Wars

story has ever been – yes, even including the original trilogy.

*Andor*'s narrative structure splits a season into four chunks of three-episode arcs. For season two, each of these arcs picks up a year after the previous arc. The result is a season that spans a length of four years worth of time, leading seamlessly into the events of the film that *Andor* is a direct prequel to: *Rogue One*. Spending three episodes on one year's worth of events has its drawbacks – some events do not feel fleshed out and the story feels like it's in a rush to get somewhere else – the overall result is peerless.

Each character has their own version of rebellion – and the way the writers handle

their stories is delicate and heartfelt. Very rarely has the character writing in *Star Wars* driven me to tears, and yet *Andor* achieves this with nearly every single one of its major characters.

The highlight of this season, however, has to be the storyline involving the planet of Ghorman. The events that transpire there are handled with some of the most capable writing and filmmaking I have seen in anything all year.

Although it may be easy to dismiss the show both as a long time fan of the franchise as well as a non-fan, very few shows are written with the level of competency as *Andor*, and to overlook it would simply be doing yourself a disservice.

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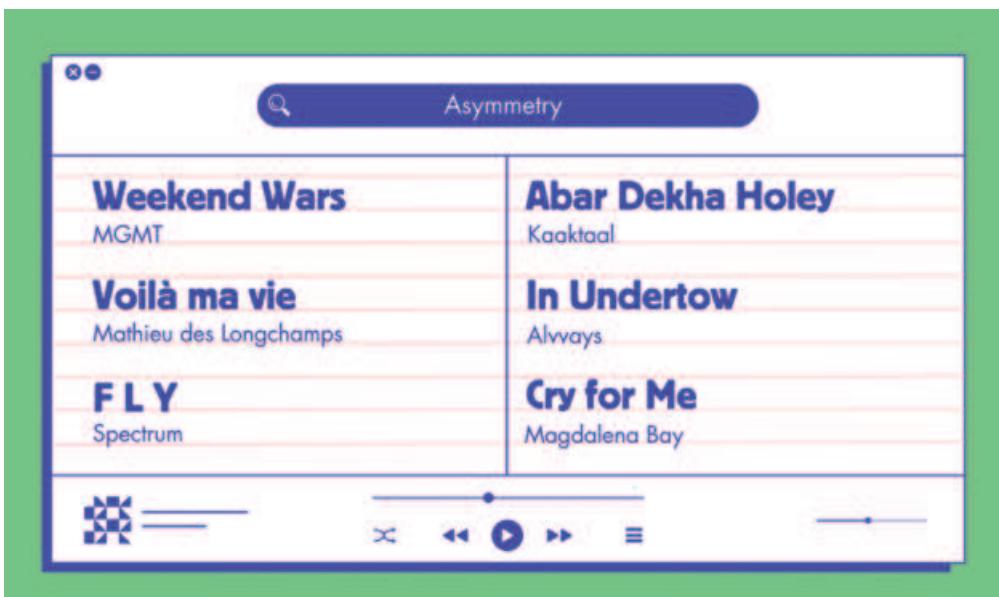
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