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## RT IN THE *HOUSE*

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## In ADVANCE

BY JOSEPH F. JALKIEWICZ

# There's No RT in the *HOUSE*, But Hey, That's OK



I must confess, I don't watch much television.

While everybody around me recently argued over whether Tony Soprano got whacked in the series finale of *The Sopranos*, all I could do was lend a sympathetic

ear (and chuckle at the brilliance of the ending). Other legendary TV shows like *Friends*, *Cheers* and, yes, even *Seinfeld* all came and went to rerun heaven over the years without me. I wouldn't know Kiefer Sutherland if he bumped into me in the next 24 hours.

I am, however, an unabashed fan of Fox Television's *HOUSE*. If you're not familiar, the show stars Hugh Laurie as Gregory House, MD, a caustic physician genius who alienates just about everyone he works with or treats as he and his team of three young doctors work to solve baffling medical cases.

Besides the mysteries, I enjoy the show's characters—especially House, who gets away with saying and doing the kinds of things those of us in the real world can only dream of. For example, could you imagine having the following exchange with your boss?

*Dr. Lisa Cuddy:* Your reputation won't last if you don't do your job; the clinic is part of your job. I want you to do your job.

*Dr. Gregory House:* But as the philosopher Jagger once said "You can't always get what you want."

Whole websites are devoted to "House-isms" such as "Everybody lies" and "Arrogance has to be earned. Tell me what you've done to earn yours."

Another reason I enjoy the show is the way it highlights the radiologic technology we cover in every issue of *ADVANCE*. In any given episode, you'll find anything from the latest MRI equipment from Siemens to multidetector CT scanners from Philips. This season's finale featured a full-blown cardiac cath lab from GE Healthcare. Radiologic technology makes similar appearances on shows like *Grey's Anatomy* and *ER*.

I dare say that medical imaging has never

received so much exposure on television.

I know some may be critical of the lack of radiologic technologists and other professionals in today's medical dramas. It is disappointing. But then again, they're not alone.

I don't think I've met anyone from any field who has ever been entirely pleased with the medium's portrayal of their profession.

Taking a quick run through some random blogs, I came across complaints from lawyers who don't like how they look on *Law and Order*, nurses who criticize the absence of their profession on *Grey's Anatomy* and

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prosecutors who complain about *Close to Home*. As a journalist, I still cringe when I see TV-drama reporters in tweed sport coats with elbow patches asking things like "How do you feel, Mrs. Jones?"

So rather than just steam over the fact that real techs aren't portrayed operating the equipment, I take great delight in "marveling" at how adept House and his team are when it comes to performing radiologic procedures.

And I take a certain smug satisfaction in telling my wife and dog, "That's a nuclear medicine gamma camera from GE Healthcare. They use that to detect perfusion defects in the heart, and in the real world, a specially trained and certified nuclear med tech would be running it, not some doctor."

Daisy wags her tail and looks at me with awe, while Lori just rolls her eyes and says, "That's great, honey. Can we just watch the show?"

It's all very entertaining—and isn't that what TV's supposed to be about? ■

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