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Television - E! Online

"Real World" Hits Lone Star State



Wed Dec 22, 5:15 PM ET



Television - E! Online

By Sarah Hall

The original reality show is making its way down to the Lone Star State.



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E! Online Photo

A music-driven season 16 of MTV's *The Real World* will begin production in Austin early next year, the network and city officials announced Tuesday.

"Austin is one of the most dynamic and diverse cities in the United States," said Lois Curren, executive vice president of MTV Series Entertainment, in a statement.

"As the live music capital of the nation and home to a thriving college community, Austin is the perfect backdrop for *The Real World's* 16th season."

Previous seasons of *The Real World* have taken place in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, London, Miami, Boston, Seattle, Hawaii, New Orleans, Chicago, Las Vegas, Paris and San Diego.

Season 15, shot in Philadelphia, is currently airing on MTV, and has earned strong ratings for the network. The season finale is set for Feb. 22.

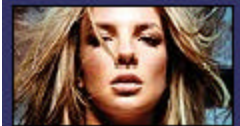
The 14th season, shot in San Diego, was the highest rated season in *Real World* history, proving that the franchise is still going strong.

The series, which debuted in New York in 1992, features a group of late teens and early 20-somethings living together for four months and having every aspect of their life captured on film "to find out what happens when they stop being polite and start getting *real*."

In past seasons, "getting real" has entailed everything from physical

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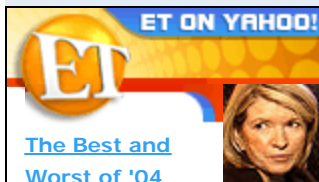
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contact of a friendly nature to physical contact of a violent nature. Feelings have been hurt, hearts have been broken, eating disorders have gone into overdrive...all in the name of good television.

Now, the latest group of camera-hungry strangers is preparing to set off on a televised adventure, unmindful of the utter humiliation almost guaranteed to ensue in months to come, when their respective significant others and grandmothers tune in to their MTV-edited hijinks.

(Our advice to all Real Worlders: yes, there are cameras in the bedrooms! Don't pretend you were never warned.)

"They say everything is bigger and better in Texas, and *The Real World* is no exception," said Jon Murray, creator and executive producer of *The Real World* and president of Bunim-Murray Productions.

"Our Austin cast may be the best we've ever assembled, and I know they're going to feel right at home in this vibrant city."

Austin's mayor, Will Wynn, was enthusiastic about his city playing host to MTV's latest gaggle of hot-tub hopping, booze-swilling, loft-living strangers picked to have their lives taped.

"MTV has discovered what we all know, that Austin is a great place to live, work and play. We have a spectacular quality of life, particularly if you're young, energetic, educated, driven, and have a passion for the outdoors and live music," Wynn said in a statement.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to showcase our city to viewers around the world."

The Real World: Austin is set to debut in June.

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