



Classic TV reference site BRBTV turns 10

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BRBTV marks its 10th anniversary all year long in 2008, with special deals on the full line of BRBTV products as well as other fun stuff.

PR9.NET January 01, 2008 - ATLANTA, Georgia - BRBTV, the web and print brainchild of author Billie Rae Bates, celebrates its 10th year in 2008, and Bates says she's got lots of fun stuff planned for the anniversary year.

"In 1998, BRBTV was just a crazy idea I had while working in the newspaper business in Detroit," Bates says, "and sometimes, when I look back at the past decade, I can't believe how it's grown."

As part of the anniversary celebration, BRBTV.com is featuring signed copies of the print editions of the BRBTV reference books, special bundle packages of the BRBTV electronic products and other features like original press kits of '90s TV shows.

BRBTV was officially launched in 1998 with the Destination: Dallas fan website, dedicated to the popular CBS-TV primetime soap "Dallas" with episode guide, character guide and "fun and useless information" about the show and its stars. Bates followed it up with fan sites for "Dynasty" and "The Dukes of Hazzard," following the same general format and learning as much about HTML as she could in her free evening hours.

As the years passed, she added more and more content to the sites, based on her own viewing of the episodes as well as news stories and items she'd clipped over the years. An editor and writer who holds a bachelor's degree in journalism who by then had worked at three different daily newspapers, Bates applied her love of research and reporting to the BRBTV sites.

"The appeal of these shows is eternal," she laughs. "Every time one of them begins airing again on a cable network, a whole new era of fans is born, especially when you look at a show like 'The Dukes of Hazzard.'"

It was in 2003 when Bates, who'd already published a Detroit-based novel, "Rubi," realized that she had enough content to actually parlay these fan sites into books, themselves. Thus, the BRBTV series of reference books was born, in printable, letter-sized, PDF format, with hyperlinks and full interactivity throughout.

Not long afterward, Bates added a fourth show to the BRBTV lineup, the '80s daytime soap "Santa Barbara," which she watched and loved all through high school and college.

In late 2004, the first print edition of a BRBTV reference book was published: "Dynasty High," named for the website it evolved from. "Them Dukes! Them Dukes!" followed in early 2006, and "Destination: Dallas" rounded out the third print edition of the original three e-books in late 2007. This year, as part of the anniversary celebration, Bates will sign copies of the BRBTV print books for a special price, available via BRBTV.com. She'll also be making several personal signing appearances during the year (see the "Events / Media" page of BillieRae.com to find out where).

But for this longtime writer and editor, whose first newspaper clip was printed in 1987 and who has also worked in communications management positions in the corporate world, BRBTV hasn't just been a set of books. In 2006, with the advent of the electronic Amazon Short, Bates launched another BRBTV product: the BRBTV Report, a magazine-length, electronic feature story on an animated TV series complete with episode guide and other features such as cast list, credits and more. Bates launched a daily news blog at the beginning of 2006, expanding on the news pages of the original BRBTV sites. She also has written an entertainment blog for the professional networking site Congoo.com.

"It's been a lot of fun," Bates says of the whole BRBTV thing, "and it's definitely been a labor of love. At times over the past 10 years, it seemed like another full-time job on top of the full-time job I already had! But we live in interesting times -- our generation has the privilege of knowing what life was like before the Internet and knowing what it's like after the Internet. Without the web, there would be no BRBTV, at least not the BRBTV that exists right now, and because of that I've felt very blessed in the past decade."

For the 39-year-old Gen-Xer, born and raised in Michigan but now living in Metro Atlanta, it's meant the fulfillment of several key dreams.

"I'd always wanted to write books, since I was a small child. Journalism, and newspapers, were an easy way for me to channel my love of writing and editing -- and they were an easy way to pay the bills! But because of the Internet, like many folks out there, I got a new forum and new opportunities. And that's really what this 10th anniversary celebration is all about."

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About BRBTV.com

Created in 1998, BRBTV is a web tribute, and a series of fun fact books, on certain classic 1980s television shows: primetime soaps "Dynasty" and "Dallas," the action-adventure "The Dukes of Hazzard" and the daytime soap "Santa Barbara." Founded with the mission of spreading "peace, love and useless information about television," BRBTV seeks to inform, with a solid journalistic expertise, on these shows and their stars, as well as a sprinkling of the TV world in general. Sticking to facts and not gossip, the BRBTV fact books are designed as look-it-up reference guides to have at your side if you're rewatching the episodes on cable or just reliving the times. BRBTV welcomes your comments or questions at comments@brbtv.com, and you can learn more at the BRBTV home page: www.brbtv.com. Learn more about BRB and her other work at her own home page: www.billierae.com

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