

8. The Good Wife (CBS)

Yes, yes, Alicia and Will getting together was the series' most audacious move, but this is a drama that achieves its best effects through accretion of detail. No other network show crams as many subplots that reveal so much about the characters' characters. So ultimately Alicia-Will was less important than the way *The Good Wife* has taken chances in allowing Chris Noth's Peter to become more vindictive, Archie Panjabi's Kalinda more marginalized, and Alan Cumming's Eli more humble. All these shifts cohere to create a more vivid, realistic life for the show. It's been a growing season for *The Good Wife*, and while its ratings suffered in its move to Sunday

nights, it remains lively with manifold pleasures.

9. Enlightened (HBO)

In what is the year's most polarizing new comedy, creator-costar Mike White and star Laura Dern teamed up to present a portrait of a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Dern's Amy is high-strung and intelligent, stubborn and sympathetic. It's the rare piece of pop culture that doesn't sneer at an attempt to achieve spiritual bliss. End-of-year plea to HBO: Renew *Enlightened* for a second season!

10. The Colbert Report (Comedy Central)

Don't let its position at No. 10 mislead you. *Report* is funny, sometimes unexpectedly moving—the interview with Stephen Sondheim was a magnificent example of deep



Laura Dern on *Enlightened*

knowledge and affection—and more influential than ever (which will only become more apparent as the presidential race heats up). Stephen Colbert continues

to make TV's most sustained piece of performance art as satire, activism (never underestimate the influence of the Colbert Super PAC), and pure silliness.

OUR FAVORITE Commercials of the Year

Tommy Hilfiger, "House Par-tay"

No ugly Christmas sweaters or awkward family drama here. At this impossibly attractive yuletide dance par-tay, there's a sea of undulating tartan, shirtless guys in winter accessories, and an older gentleman who knows how to get down. But before you can overdose on holiday hotness, the family basset hound pulls the plug on the festivities.

Our only question: Where's our invite?

Google Chrome, "It Gets Better"

Dan Savage's It Gets Better Project has made a huge impact this year, as seen in this poignant and moving ad that features celebrities like Lady Gaga and Adam Lambert rallying in support of gay youths dealing with bullying, depression, and suicide.

Volkswagen, "The Force"

Channeling the powers of the dark side, a boy in a Darth Vader costume starts his dad's Passat using the Force—or so he thinks. You have learned much, young one.

Dior, "Dior J'adore"

In arguably the most glamorous spot of the year, a radiant and oh-so-chic Charlize Theron breezes in late to a Versailles fashion show where she encounters

screen sirens Grace Kelly, Marlene Dietrich, and Marilyn Monroe—brought to life by CGI—before fiercely taking command of the runway.

Education Connection featuring Shannen Doherty

Is this what a diploma from West Beverly High gets you? In a hilariously low rent spot, former *Beverly Hills, 90210* star Shannen Doherty dresses up as a nurse, a crime-scene investigator, a flapper, and more to prove you can do anything with an online degree! —Stephan Lee



Tommy Hilfiger



Volkswagen



Dior



Education Connection