‘ABBOTT ELEMENTARY’ SEASON 6 PREMIERE



The title card of ABC comedy show Abbot Elementary, an award winning sitcom that follows the staff of a public elementary school in West Philadelphia. The sixth season of the show premiered on Wednesday, Oct. 7, and streamed the next day on Hulu.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC

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The season 6 premiere of ABC’s “Abbot Elementary” on Wednesday, Oct. 7, was not only brilliant in its delivery but made the grade again with its warm and lighthearted comedic dialogue delivered by its award-winning star-studded cast.

“Abbott Elementary” is an award-winning sitcom satirically depicting the inner workings of the faculty, staff and students of an underfunded, mismanaged public elementary school in West Philadelphia.

First airing in October 2021, “Abbott Elementary” received widespread critical and commercial acclaim, racking up strong viewership members on Hulu alongside other platforms, with 37 Emmy Awards nominations and 4 wins, including a Best Actress nod to Quina Brunson (who also serves as one of the series’ showrunners) and 3 Golden Globe Awards.

Season 6 will also contain the show’s 100th episode, set to air in December.

Fans of the show are re-introduced to the characters’ lives in the first episode of the season titled “Jungle Classroom.”

Following the near closure of Abbott in Season 5, we see the struggling yet dedicated teachers return, determined to start the academic year off on a positive note. Janine Teagues (portrayed by Brunson), a second-grade teacher and one of the series’ protagonists, continues to lift the spirits of those around her with her signature optimism in any given situation. Janine pairing up with colleague and romantic partner Gregory Eddie (Tyler James Williams of “Everybody Hates Chris” fame) makes for a great give-and-take.

On top of that, we learn that Janine is aware that Gregory, now Abbot Elementary’s assistant principal, plans on proposing to her. She learned the news from O’Shon (Matthew Law), the Philadelphia District IT representative.

The school’s former principal, self-absorbed and sharp-tongued Ava Coleman (Janelle James), augments the storyline with her antics and tone-deafness. Despite her character flaws, viewers see her step into a new role as a step coach this season, managing expectations as the girls on the step team hope for a big win in a city-wide competition. Alongside shifting responsibilities, however, we also see Ava facing latent fears regarding her ability to coach due to her past experiences in stepping into leadership positions in earlier seasons. However, her situation appears to be laying the groundwork for some meaningful character growth.

We also see what the other supporting characters have been up to since season 5’s conclusion: Barbara Howard (Sheryl Lee Ralph) apparently gets hit by a car after crossing the street whilst looking at her phone. Fortunately, Jacob (Chris Perfetti) enlists the help of a crossing guard to prevent situations like Barbara’s from reoccurring. Meanwhile, Melissa Schemmenti (Lisa Ann Walter) has ongoing beef with a newbie teacher (Katy Mixon of “American Housewives”) after the latter was given Melissa’s first-floor classroom.

Even as we see the character dynamics and relationships change, the season 6 premiere of “Abbott Elementary” remains as hilarious and entertaining as ever as the screenwriters preserve the series’ alchemy, comedic chemistry and meaningful dialogue. The characters continue to remain relatable whilst balancing systemic critique alongside personal and interpersonal development.

★★★★★

Rating: 5/5

SUBOG Weekly Events:

October 5th - October 11th

SUBOG x USG Q&A - 10.6 @ 6 pm in the Student Union Theater

Sunset Fest - 10.8 @ 6:30 pm on the SU Mall

Any questions? Email subog@uconn.edu and check out @subogatuconn on Instagram for updates on our events!



A still of actress Quinta Brunson who plays the character Janine Teagues on ABC’s Abbot Elementary in episode one of the shows new season. Fans of the show were re-introduced to the characters’ lives in the first episode of the season titled “Jungle Classroom.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY