

5 things we learnt from Raw's debut on Netflix



The WWE Netflix era started off with a bang as Monday Night Raw emanated from the Intuit Dome in Inglewood California. The debut episode had the feel of a premium live event with stars being showcased both in the crowd and in between the ropes.

Legends such as the Rock, The Undertaker and John Cena made their returns and current stars like Roman Reigns and CM Punk performed on the red brand in singles competition for the first time this decade.

The Netflix debut will go down as one of the most historic episodes of Raw and I am going to list five things that fans learnt during the opening episode on the streaming service.

The Rock is probably not going to wrestle at Wrestlemania 41

Dwayne Johnson was the first man down to walk down the aisle after the epic cold open, however he addressed the Californian crowd as High Chief Seuli and not as the Final Boss character that the fans have seen for the past year.

His promo involved praising both Roman Reigns and WWE Champion Cody Rhodes, two men that have carried the main event scene over the past few years.

The breaking of the fourth wall in that moment may be indicative of the Rock's status for the upcoming Wrestlemania in Las Vegas.

It was reported a few months ago by Dave Meltzer that the Rock is not currently scheduled to compete at Wrestlemania 41, despite the Raw after Mania 40 teasing a potential Rock vs Rhodes match.

The infamous dream match between the Great one and his distant cousin Roman Reigns is also in doubt given the conclusion of the tribal combat match between Reigns and Solo Sikoa.

The Rock placed the Ula Fala, a cultural Samoan necklace, around the neck of the Reigns after his victory in the opening match of the night but nothing was intentionally teased regarding a future match between the two men.

The Royal Rumble takes place on February 1st which means that there is time to pivot should the People's Champion and WWE come to an agreement for the Rock to wrestle at the headline event in April, but for now this remains in doubt.

Celebrity appearances made this episode feel special

The Netflix premiere of Raw was made to feel like a big deal and was displayed as such throughout the live broadcast. The show was confirmed to be the largest arena gate in WWE history was attended by many passionate fans, including those with celebrity status.

Celebrities with previous ties to the WWE including That 70's show star Ashton Kutcher, Grammy nominated rapper Wale and Arrow actor Stephen Amell were all in attendance to name a few.

A sense of nostalgia was evident as beloved 90's child stars Macaulay Culkin and Danielle Fishel from Home Alone and Boy Meets World respectively received huge pops from the fans in the Intuit Dome.

There were too many celebrities to name that Macaulay's younger brother Kieran Culkin failed to get a shoutout despite his Golden Globe win the previous night.

The one celebrity that happened to actively participate in the theatrics of the night was when rap icon Travis Scott accompanied Main Event Jey Uso during his entrance.

The Utopia rapper, who is also coincidentally referred to as Cactus Jack (similar to legend Mick Foley), happened to be smoking marijuana whilst his anthem "Fein" blared through the arena speakers.

Scott was also credited for creating the new theme song for Raw called "4x4" which is an unreleased track as of now.

Rhea and Liv's feud is done

Rhea Ripley defeated Liv Morgan to regain her Women's World Heavyweight Championship for the second time in a dramatic clash, ending Morgan's reign at 226 days.

The feud between the two superstars has been ongoing for almost 9 months and started off intensely when Morgan legitimately injured Ripley's arm in a backstage assault on the Raw after Wrestlemania XL, forcing the Eradicator to vacate her championship.

Ripley returned and failed to win back her title at SummerSlam in August and Bad Blood in October, but with Ripley winning back the gold on Raw it seems like the feud is done.

The rivalry between the two women has allowed Ripley to cast away from the Judgement Day faction and become the top babyface for the women's division on Raw.

For Morgan, her revenge tour storyline has enabled her to be seen as a credible threat to any woman on the roster and her interactions with the likes of Dominik Mysterio has showcased her development as a performer.

As for Dominik, his attempt to win back his ex-girlfriend Ripley ended with a kick below the belt and a vicious riptide. An emphatic ending to both women's best career programs.

Hulk Hogan is dead and Terry Bollea is a real life heel

Hulkamania is dead. It is as simple as that. The mere presence of Hulk Hogan caused an eruption of boos inside the Intuit Dome.

Hogan was accompanied by legendary manager Jimmy Hart and was tasked to promote his Real American Beer brand partnership with the WWE but his promo was overshadowed by its reception from the fans.

Hogan was wildly popular during his run as the face of the WWF during the 1980's however he seems to illicit the opposite reaction from today's generation of fans.

There seems to be multiple reasons as to why Hogan is not resonating with younger fans but the main reason arguably is Hogan's racist remarks that came to light in 2015.

In those recordings Hogan admitted that he was "racist to a point", he had issues with his daughter being involved with black men and even used the N word.

Hogan's political affiliation with Donald Trump was also speculated to be a reason as to why he was booed, however The Undertaker, despite having the same political affiliation, was celebrated with loud cheers when he appeared earlier on in the show.

WWE would be wise to not put Hogan in front of fans any time soon unless they are hoping for a negative reaction.

PUNK AND CENA ARE THE FAVOURITES TO WIN THE RUMBLE

It is that time of the year where WWE superstars go out in front of a crowd and declare themselves as an entrant for the Royal Rumble match.

The conclusion of the Netflix premier episode of Raw has made it clear that two men are the favourites to win the annual event.

The first man being the 16 time world champion John Cena. Cena has revealed that he is retiring from in ring competition at the end of 2025 and will be a full time performer for the duration of the year.

He cut an impassioned promo where he suggested that he was undeserving of competing for a world championship, however he wants to win the Royal Rumble.

Cena is tied with Ric Flair when it comes to winning World Championships and one more win for Cena will make him the record holder.

The other man that bookmakers believe will outlast 29 other men on February 1st is CM Punk.

The Second City Saint defeated his nemesis Seth Rollins in the main event of Raw in an exciting contest but it was on his way down the ramp where he made his future plans clear.

Whilst talking to interviewer Jackie Redmond, Punk said that the Royal Rumble was next on his list and that he was coming for both the Undisputed WWE Universal Champion Cody Rhodes and the World Heavyweight Champion Gunther.

Regardless if Punk wins the Rumble or not, his rivalry with Seth Rollins is yet to be concluded and the two will definitely be back in the ring again for a rematch.