Ally Mcbeal Encyclopedia Article

Ally Mcbeal

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Ally Mcbeal

The Fox Television series *Ally McBeal,* concerning the lives of employees at a contemporary law firm in Boston, struck a chord with viewers soon after its premier in September of 1997. Focusing on the life of the title character, played by Calista Flockhart, the show provoked a cultural dialogue about its portrayal of young, single career women. Fans enjoyed the updated take on working women as real human beings struggling with insecurities; the character of Ally was called a modern version of 1970s television heroine Mary Tyler Moore. Critics, however, derided the miniskirted characters in *Ally McBeal* as female stereotypes obsessed with getting married and having children. The show also gained notice for its frequent use of computer-enhanced effects, such as exaggerated facial expressions and the dancing baby that haunted Ally as a symbol of her desire for motherhood.

Further Reading:

Heywood, Leslie. "Hitting a Cultural Nerve: Another Season of 'AllyMcBeal.'" *Chronicle of Higher Education.* September 4, 1998, B9.

Kingston, Philip. "You Will Love Her or Loathe Her—or Both." *The Sunday Telegraph.* February 8, 1998, 7.

Kloer, Phil. "The Secret Life of 'Ally McBeal': 'Seinfeld' Successor?" *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution.* February 2, 1998, B1.

Vorobil, Mary. "What's the Deal with 'Ally McBeal?" *Newsday.* February 9, 1998, B6.