

Reviews of *The Affair* episodes Steven Fierberg directed

In 6 years of reviewing 53 episodes, *only* Steve's two episodes and the pilot (which Steve shot) received praise for direction. Two or three paragraphs in each article by the NY Times and Daniel Kurland focused *solely* on his directing achievements. A few excerpts...

Episode 503

The New York Times:

'A mere rundown *can't do justice to the imagery* in this episode, either, which particularly in Noah's point-of-view segment is ***the season's strongest*** to date. A wide shot frames him and the interviewer as if the desk that separates them is a gulf between them, visually representing his inability to answer her question about whether he has redeemed himself. An argument with Sasha takes place in front of infinite reflections of the pair in a men's room mirror, as the actor tells him "Noah, you can't see yourself."

A smash cut takes us from Noah drunkenly singing karaoke at an after-hours function for the cast and crew of his film to him passed out in a booth in a Mexican restaurant with his loathsome new principal Jake, as accurate a representation of getting blackout drunk as I've ever seen.'

Daniel Kurland, Den of Geek:

'The scenes ***are almost shot like a horror film*** and there are some evocative images there.

[Compared to previous episodes], this episode does *stronger work* to bring everything together...the material that works, really works...'

Episode 507

The New York Times:

'Noah's segment of the episode, in which he shares most of his screen time with his daughter Whitney, is ***one of the season's high points***.

Noah has no easy explanation for why he left Helen and the kids for Alison. In fact, he has no explanation at all. Watching the face of Dominic West as Noah's mind works overtime to put what moved him into words, and then fails to deliver, is *a study in the almost physical effort required to articulate complex emotions*.'

[That physicality is specifically what Dominic & Steve rehearsed]

Daniel Kurland:

'The Affair looks to its past when considering the future in ***a cathartic entry that's a high point for both the season and Noah Solloway***.

I didn't think that an episode where Noah and Whitney complete errands in Montauk would make for ***the season's best episode***, but The Affair's "507" is a strange ***triumph*** that finds a comfortable energy.'

In what's not only *the most profound moment of the season*, but also perhaps ***the most eloquent that either Noah or The Affair has ever been***, Whitney confesses that she cheated on her fiancée to Noah.'

"507" is a high mark for The Affair's final season.'