

MORE 24?

July 24th, 2014 By Jovel Johnson

Fox CEO weighs in on the show's return.



24: Live Another Day finished its unusual ninth season last Monday on a pretty neatly wrapped note. Unusual because its usual 24 episodes depicting 24 hours this time came with just 12. The **initial announcement of its return** stated as much, which left fans and casual viewers of the show wondering how they were going to pull that feat off and still keep it in a supposed 24 hour format. They pulled it off though, condensing the 24 hours into those 12 episodes and facilitated that with time jumps. But even with the condensation it still felt like the REAL 24 – mayhem, action, unexpected deaths and Jack being all screamy and breathy. Though to **some critics**, the familiarity was a little too...familiar.

But now that the fans' appetites have been whetted, they of course crave more, and obviously want to know if there will be more Jack Bauer in the future. During the Television Critics Association press tour in Beverly Hills on Sunday, Fox chairman and CEO, Peter Rice was asked by critics if there was ever a chance 24 would be coming back for future seasons. "I loved this year's season of 24. I've always been a fan. We haven't had a specific conversation...I'm sure we will in the future," Rice said.



Fox CEO and chairman, Peter Rice sees the potential for future 24 seasons. (tv.com)

Needs More Closure?

If they are to return with a 10th season, they will have an open ended finale to continue from that with Bauer negotiating with the Russians and orchestrating an exchange – Bauer for Chloe's release. Jack went willingly of course, helping to save his friend who was always there to help him whether he was right or wrong, always for the greater good. The last time we see Bauer, he's taken up in a helicopter by the Russians who are taking him back to Russia to answer for the murder of their Foreign Minister, **Mikhail Novakovich** (from season eight). And seeing that we don't know EXACTLY what they'll do to/with him, there are different possibilities and scenarios that could come from the non-conclusion.

A Refresher Course

Before we saw Jack take flight, needless to say, there were a lot of “I can’t believe that just happened” moments.

- While searching the now dead Russian to find some way to get to Cheng, Cheng calls and tells Jack that he has Audrey and she will be shot by a sniper if anyone tries to stop him (with Russia’s help, he got a boat to escape to China). So, naturally, Jack tries to stop him. He sends Kate to rescue Audrey and he goes to find Cheng.
- Chloe, battered and bruised from escaping from Cheng and his men, met a couple who saw her wandering the streets and got to use their phone. She calls Jack and lets him know that Cross lied to her and she knew nothing of Cross’s plans. She wants to make it right by helping him run comms in his search for Cheng.
- With Jack-like ingenuity, Kate manages to save Audrey, but only for a while, because another one of Cheng’s men shows up, and in a barrage of bullets, Audrey got shot. She eventually died. WHHHAAAAAT?!



Audrey (Kim Raver) gets caught in the shootout. (24spoilers.com)

- Jack and his sidekick, with Chloe's help, take out basically all of Cheng's men stationed outside on the dock. While he's there, Kate calls him and tells him the bad news of Audrey's death, and he goes mental. With guns blazing, Jack heads into the boat and manages to have Cheng all to himself. But Jack can't do anything until the Chinese government has proof that Cheng is still alive. President Heller provides the connection between the Chinese president and Jack, and with facial recognition, the Chinese president gets the proof he needs. Once Jack sees the president seems satisfied (and World War III is no longer on the table), he aahhmm...OK, let me just come out with it...he beheaded Cheng! Yeah, I know, right?! And they showed it too. Yikes!

- President Heller finally hears about Audrey's death and collapses. He escorts her body (in a coffin with the American flag covering it) to Air Force One. In another top notch performance from William Devane, he manages to bring heartache, sadness and resignation to Heller's demeanor and delivery...pointing out the ravages of his declining health due to Alzheimer's.

"The day before we left for London I was sitting in my office looking at a picture at my desk of a beautiful woman. I kept staring at it. It's been on my desk since my first day in office. And I knew that I knew that woman, but I couldn't think of her name. Ten seconds...15 seconds go by, then...poof...pops into my head. It was Audrey. I won't remember anything that happens today. I won't remember anything that happens period. I won't remember that I had a daughter that died in such a horrible fashion."

- Kate quits the CIA and Boudreau is in custody to be tried for treason.



Jack is

taken to Russia, but will we be seeing him again? (24spoilers.com)

More 24?

Apart from closing up the open ended finale, I think there's something else the fans want to see happen for Jack. They just want to see him settle down. And not settling down in the sense of a relationship (well, that too, although we were hoping it would be with Audrey), but settle down, literally. Come to a point where he can just sit back, put his feet up and chug down on some kind of alcoholic beverage, not having to worry about terrorists blowing stuff up, kidnapping people or killing family members, and no more pesky CTU, FBI, CIA or White House moles. I think we need to see Jack be able to spend time with **his daughter and granddaughter** and finally enjoy life. You know, grow old. And that could be something to explore in the 10th season. Plus, 10 is such a nice, round number. But the jury is still out on its future.

"It's a wonderful franchise ... they did a great job this year. When you look at the show itself, it has many more stories to tell," Rice said.

Sounds like a little glimmer of hope.



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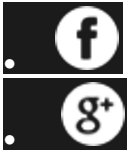
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