

## Supergirl is Stellar Entertainment

By Paula Tudor

If you have watched anything on CBS the last six months or so you have undoubtedly seen the endless string of promos for their new fall series Supergirl. Superheroes are pretty big business these days, so it was not surprising that they would jump on that bandwagon to try to draw in the younger viewers. I honestly thought this show was better suited to be on the CW with shows like *The Flash* and *Arrow*, where there is already a large built-in following of younger viewers. That prediction may still turn out to be accurate. Obviously only time will tell how viewers embrace Supergirl, but I hope they will at least give it a chance.

Most of the promos we have seen of Supergirl have been superficial. They feature a young woman in a skirt, cape, and a top emblazoned with the letter "S", flying around saving the city. Basically we see a female version of Superman. These promos did not do the show justice and they could have proven disastrous for the ratings. In fact, they were the reason I almost didn't check it out. It wasn't until I saw an extended sneak peek that I really felt like this might be a show I could care about.

Supergirl, also known as Kara Danvers, is played by relative newcomer Melissa Benoist, though some will recognize her from *Glee*. The cast also includes former *Ally McBeal* star, Calista Flockhart, *Grey's Anatomy's* Chyler Leigh, and Jeremy Jordan from NBC's *Smash*. However, my favorite bit of casting was the surprise cameo by Dean Cain, as Supergirl's adoptive father. You may recall he played Superman in the ABC series *Lois and Clark*.

There is much to like about Supergirl. To begin with, it's an epic drama that really feels more like a movie than a series. Unfortunately I think this could also become problematic for the show after a while, once that novelty begins to wane. The show is heartfelt though. The audience is really given a chance to care about Kara, apart from her alter ego as a super heroine. As a result I feel like the audience can root for her in a way that is different from the way people root for Superman. Right away Supergirl feels like the underdog superhero and we want to see her succeed. This makes her relatable. We are with her as she finds her inner strength and learns how to use her powers to fight the forces of evil, of which there are many. She has numerous archenemies, which I am sure will provide plenty of material for future episodes. Being female, it also looks like Supergirl will be encountering some naysayers along the way. In a world where Superman has long been established, Supergirl has something to prove. This is true of both the character and the series itself.

Supergirl premiered on CBS, Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, between *The Big Bang Theory* and *Scorpion*. I felt like this was the perfect time slot for the show. In terms of ratings, *The Big Bang Theory* is the ideal lead-in. Moreover, both it and *Scorpion* fit in with Supergirl's core audience. Unfortunately CBS decided to make Supergirl their

Monday night lead-in opposite Dancing with the Stars on ABC, thereby bumping The Big Bang Theory back to Thursdays. Scorpion will keep its 8pm timeslot on Mondays following Supergirl. So at least for their sake I hope Supergirl's ratings soar.

Supergirl airs Monday nights on CBS at 8/7c pm, immediately followed by Scorpion. The Big Bang Theory airs Thursday nights on CBS at 8/7c pm.

Paula Tudor is a freelance writer, and a distinguished blogger/online correspondent, with more than two thousand followers on twitter. The bulk of her work can be found at <http://www.paulas-soapbox.blogspot.com>