This week Law & Order Special Victims Unit began its 13th season, and with it came many changes. The most notable of the changes is the departure of actor Christopher Meloni as Detective Stabler who decided after last season to not return to the series.
I think he made the right decision.

This season had an as usual ripped from the headlines story; this time in particular was inspired by the Dominique Strauss-Kahn case that has recently been in the news.

I won't bore you with the details of the plot since it bored me. To be honest I think this franchise has officially jumped the shark so to speak and did it at least 2-3 seasons ago.
Why it continues to be renewed is a mystery to me.
But then again it is still a popular NBC show and gets a decent rating.
But how much was that to do with the story or the stars?

In addition to Meloni's departure actress Mariska Hargitay will also be departing the series at some point this season.

Hargarity & Meloni have been replaced by actors Kelli Giddish and Danny Pinto.

Also gone form the series are BD Wong and Tamara Tunie (who will still make occasional appearance albeit in a guest role).

The show has gotten to the point where the stories are unappealing and the actors just seem to be going thru the motions. I believe it is time to put this series out to pasture and end it. With the departure of the 2 leads, that is a very good possibility it will happen. But knowing NBC anything can and will happen.