

I live for shows like this



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TELEVISION

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Last Call at The Gladstone Hotel (TVOntario, 10 p.m. on *The View From Here*) is an astute and quietly scathing chronicle of the makeover of the Gladstone - a fixture of Toronto's west end - from grubby, run-down flophouse to chic boutique hotel. Filmmakers Derreck Roemer and Neil Graham lucked out when they began their fly-on-the-wall observation of the changes and the players. They were able to observe the Tippins, a wide-eyed young couple determined to take advantage of the old building and all its charms, and then their eventual retreat. They caught all the muddled hypocrisy of the new owners, who promised to keep the old residents safe and simultaneously establish a chic hotel for artists and prosperous wannabes. Best of all, they caught the essence of Maryanne, an elderly, frail and spirited resident whose fate managed to symbolize everything ugly about urban renewal.