



Calgary's Nomadic Pictures announces production of new paranormal series Ghost Wars

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Vincent D'Onofrio will star in Ghost Wars, a new series being produced by Calgary's Nomadic Pictures and shot in Vancouver. *STAN BEHAL / STAN BEHAL/TORONTO SUN*

Calgary's Nomadic Pictures, producers of Hell on Wheels and Van Helsing, and Canadian producer for Fargo, on Wednesday announced the start of production of a paranormal action series titled Ghost Wars for Syfy and Netflix.

The show's cast includes Vincent D'Onofrio (Jurassic World, Daredevil), Kim Coates (Sons of Anarchy), Avan Jogia (Tut, Victorious, Twisted), Kristin Lehman (Motive) and Meatloaf (Fight Club). David Von Ancken (Tut, Code Black, Salem, Californiacation), who previously worked with Nomadic Pictures on the pilot and multiple episodes for the five season AMC series Hell On Wheels, will direct.

The 13-episode, hour-long drama will premiere in the U.S. on Syfy and elsewhere globally on Netflix in 2017.

Ghost Wars series creator, Simon Barry (Continuum, Van Helsing) will also serve as the Showrunner. Production began May 1 in Vancouver and will run until the end of August. Other episodic directors on board include Leslie Hope (Aftermath), Michael Nankin (Van Helsing), Mathias Herndl (Motive), Jason Priestley (Private Eyes) and Simon Barry (Continuum).

The series is set in a remote Alaskan town that has been overrun by paranormal forces. Local outcast Roman Mercer (Avan Jogia) must overcome the town's prejudices and his own personal demons if he's to harness his repressed psychic powers and save everyone from the mass haunting that's threatening to destroy them all.

"We are very fortunate to be working again with Chris Regina and his creative Syfy team on Ghost Wars," said Chad Oakes, co-Chairman of Nomadic Pictures, in a statement. "Adding Simon Barry's writing and leadership skills with the directing talent of our dear friend David Von Ancken ... with our amazing cast ... we could not be happier."

Asked why the series isn't being shot in Calgary, where the company produced Hell on Wheels and was the Canadian producer for Fargo, Oakes pointed to the ongoing dispute over the Alberta Media Fund that the provincial government has capped, to the detriment of multi-year series.

"We would have love to shoot Ghost Wars in our home town of Calgary," Oakes said, "but the existing cap on film rebates puts Alberta at a huge disadvantage for bigger budget TV series to land in Alberta."

Mike Frislev, co-chairman Nomadic Pictures, said the company is "ecstatic" to be partnering with Netflix on the project.

Describing the series, Barry said "Ghost Wars is not just a contemporary homage to classic psychological horror, it's also an opportunity to tell stories about human politics and how we shape our beliefs and lives based on our individual perspectives and biases. Science, Humanism, Religion and the Paranormal all get a seat at the table."

Ghost Wars is produced by Nomadic Pictures. Executive Producers are Chad Oakes and Mike Frislev (Fargo, Van Helsing, Hell On Wheels), Simon Barry (Continuum), Dennis

Heaton (Motive) and David Von Ancken (Code Black). Nomadic Pictures will distribute the series within Canada, the U.S. and the rest of the world.

Nomadic is also presently shooting Season 2 of Van Helsing, which also airs in the U.S. on Syfy and globally outside the U.S. on Netflix.