

FANSIDED

Kelly Overton Is Saving The (End Of The) World In 'Van Helsing'

by Brittany Frederick

Kelly Overton is getting her heroine on as Vanessa "Van" Helsing, the title character of Syfy's new post-apocalyptic drama 'Van Helsing'. Get to know her.



It's the end of the world and Kelly Overton feels fine. The actress stars in Syfy's latest original series, *Van Helsing*, as the title character and she wastes no time in kicking vampire behind and taking names.

A longtime veteran of TV with major roles in TNT's *Legends*, HBO's *True Blood* and CBS's *Three Rivers*, Kelly has her meatiest part yet in her new series.

Vanessa "Van" Helsing, the daughter of the legendary Abraham Van Helsing, finds herself resurrected into a post-apocalyptic future where vampires run rampant and she must lead the human resistance.

Thankfully Overton is more than up to the challenge. You're about to see one of the best performances of her career, in super-cool style. Hidden Remote spoke to her last week about what made her dive into Van Helsing and how much fun it's been playing the newest savior of mankind.

Hidden Remote: What was it about Van Helsing that made you decide this would be your next project?

Kelly Overton: I love blood. I wanted to do as many fight scenes as I could. (laughs) I loved the idea of playing this character that wakes up and goes on this journey of self-discovery realizing she has superpowers, and the audience gets to go on that journey with her.

I thought that was amazing and it just harkened back to all those things that got me excited about the business when I was a kid. Using my imagination in some really cool fantasy world where I get to run around and have a lot of fun, and it being the apocalypse and getting to play this really bad character who has really heroic qualities in her core. All of that, it was kind of my favorite things combined in one.

Hidden Remote: We've seen a lot of supernatural-themed shows on TV in recent years. What would you say separates your show from what's already on the air?

Overton: I think one of the things that's really cool and separates the show and that's going to be different for the audience is that we don't hold back with the darkness of the vampire folklore of this world – the darkness of the vampires, the darkness of the apocalypse and the darkness of the characters' psychologically. We don't hold back from the blood and the gore and the reality of what it would be like to live in this world.

Hidden Remote: You've been in a couple of those shows, too, including True Blood and more recently, Beauty and the Beast. So were you looking to play more in the sci-fi/fantasy genre when Van Helsing came along?

Overton: It isn't something that I've intentionally sought after. I'm always open to many different genres. I think there's a common theme in my career of playing just strong female characters. I think I've played these strong female characters I should say first largely because of my athletic background, because I can do the fight scenes and I have that kind of toughness from playing sports and stuff in my upbringing. I think that when you're venturing into the supernatural world, if you're playing the female werewolf leading a pack [in True Blood] or you're playing Vanessa who wakes up and is the savior or destroyer of the new world, they look for those kind of qualities.

I think it's more that the genre itself has called for really strong athletic female characters and I've kind of found a niche in that way but I don't know. That's kind of

how I can make sense of it because it hasn't been something really deliberately sought after. And the business is such that once you start kind of riding the horse in one direction and getting fame in one genre, it's easy for that to keep generating more of the same stuff.

Hidden Remote: So really, once you got into Van Helsing and were sinking your teeth into the role, how much fun was it to go to work every day and be this butt-kicking heroine?

Overton: It's really fun. The great thing is that the group of actors were so lovely and so kind. Everybody got along and the stunt team and the stunt coordinators were amazing. It felt like we were kids playing and having a good time. I love a good fight scene, I love getting a good hit in, I love picking up a pole and beating someone. It's really fun.

But the reality is that I am one of those actors that I'm like oh, I don't want to hurt you. I start off by going let me do one cautious take, and then they're [saying] come on Kelly, you can do it, hit me. And then I'm like okay here we go, you gave me permission, I'm going for it. I'm one of those people that are like, 'Are you okay? Did that hurt? Sorry!'

Hidden Remote: What fans may not know is that you're also doing something very cool to actually help the world off-camera.

Overton: I helped launch this company called Benevolence LA. It's a jewelry company and a large portion of the proceeds go to providing clean water to the parts of the world that don't have access. We just funded our third village in Africa, so that's really exciting. It's jewelry with a cause.

Van Helsing premieres Friday, September 23 at 10/9c on SyFy. Kelly Overton Is Saving The (End Of The) World In 'Van Helsing'