

## Van Helsing rises in B.C.

The action-horror series has added three new cast members and is now in its fourth week of production in the province.

By Lauren Malyk



*Van Helsing* is back in action.

The **fifth and final season** of the 13-episode Syfy action-horror series – which shut down in March due to COVID-19 after shooting its first three episodes in Bratislava, Slovakia – is now in its fourth week of production in Vancouver and Kamloops, B.C.

“The safe and efficient return to production is a result of 12 weeks of tireless efforts on behalf of our entire executive team, producers, writers, directors and crew. This would not be possible without the round the clock consultation, drafting and execution of our safe return to work protocols with all the unions and guilds. We thank them for their unwavering support and will continue to craft our execution plan as we enter a new era of filmmaking,” said executive producer and Nomadic Pictures co-chairman Chad

Oakes in a statement about the return, noting that the show “will proceed with every cast and crew member’s safety as our first priority.”

Produced by Oakes and fellow Nomadic Pictures co-chairman Mike Frislev with Morris Chapdelaine and Chris Rudolph, *Van Helsing* is set in a world dominated by vampires. This last instalment of the 60-minute show, which will premiere this fall on Syfy in the U.S. and Super Ecran in Quebec, will track the final showdown between the Van Helsing and the Dark One. The show is expected to hit Netflix globally in 2021.

*Van Helsing*’s fifth season sees Jonathan Lloyd Walker return as showrunner and counts Walker as an executive producer alongside Oakes, Frislev, Dave Brown and Zadoc Angell from Echo Lake Entertainment and Daniel March from Dynamic Television. Dynamic Television handles the worldwide distribution for the series, excluding first-run rights in the U.S. and Canada.

In addition to Kelly Overton (*True Blood*), Jonathan Scarfe (*Hell on Wheels*), Tricia Helfer (*Battlestar Galactica*), Aleks Paunovic (*Continuum*), Keeya King (*Jigsaw*) and Nicole Munoz (*Defiance*), Kim Coates (*Sons of Anarchy*), Ali Liebert (*Bomb Girls*) and Steve Bacic (*Gene Roddenberry’s Andromeda*) have joined the cast.

“Kim, Ali and Steve are incredible talents and we are thrilled to welcome them to our *Van Helsing* family. And we are especially ecstatic to finally be back to work with them,” added Frislev. “We started on our Covid protocols and PPE collection shortly after shutting down. The entire cast and crew have been through our Covid safety training and were tested prior to going to camera. Our extensive and detailed protocols have been blessed by all BC unions, guilds, ActSafe BC and WorkSafe BC. We are ready and look forward to a safe and successful shoot.”

Earlier this week, Vancouver-based production company BRB Pictures said it had wrapped production on its inaugural project *Christmas Forgiveness*. As well, according to CreativeBC’s website, other TV series such as upcoming Canadian drama *Family Law* and season eight of *When Calls The Heart* have started production in the province this week.