



Van Helsing Shares First Photo of Lead, Kelly Overton

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Syfy's fresh take on a vampire apocalypse has the perfect gender-flipped hunter in Kelly Overton as seen in this initial photo.

Fresh on the heels of the announcement that Syfy's ***Van Helsing*** had wrapped filming for season one, SFX released the below image of the show's female lead, Kelly Overton, in her role as Vanessa Helsing. Clearly Overton's portrayal of

the descendent of famed vampire hunter, Abraham Van Helsing, has the gritty but gorgeous look one would expect from a horror leading lady in a post-apocalyptic world.



“The contemporary post-apocalyptic setting — and the introduction of Vanessa Helsing as a human-vampire hybrid who is capable of turning vampires back to humans — make ***Van Helsing*** very different from any of the previous versions people have seen,” promises executive producer, Simon Barry, noting that Vanessa’s abilities will make her a target both for vampires and for the human resistance that seeks to destroy rather than save.

“***Van Helsing*** represents a new mythology in sci-fi by challenging traditional vampire rules,” said Chad Oakes, co-chairman of Calgary-based Nomadic Pictures. “The series is unique in exploring a world completely dominated by vampires while the human characters have to learn the importance of working together to ensure their survival.”

Van Helsing Cast

As mentioned, Kelly Overton plays the title role of the upcoming Syfy series as Vanessa Helsing. Overton is probably best known as Rikki Naylor, the alpha female of the Shreveport werewolf pack in the HBO vampire series ***True Blood***. Overton was also featured in *Legends* and ***Beauty and the Beast***.

"We are so fortunate to have assembled this cast for Season 1 of ***Van Helsing***," executive producer Chad Oakes said in a statement. "[Kelly is] an amazing Vanessa and our lead cast is nothing short of outstanding. We have had the honor to work with all of our episodic directors, especially our incredibly talented pilot director Michael Nankin."

Paul Johansson, who starred on ***Mad Men*** and had a recurring role on ***Good Wife***, will play Dimitri, who was turned into a vampire before the Rising and who now leads the vampires. Johansson is best known for playing Dan Scott on the WB/CW television series, ***One Tree Hill***, and Nick Wolfe on the series ***Highlander: The Raven***. He directed the film version of Ayn Rand's novel, ***Atlas Shrugged: Part I***.

Jonathan Scarfe (***Hell on Wheels***) will play Axel, a career Marine who is loyal to duty even after years of vampire attacks.

Christopher Heyerdahl (***Sanctuary***) will play Sam, another survivor of the vampire Rising, whose actions are fueled by “anger, prejudice, suspicion and fear,” according to the official synopsis.

David Cubitt (***Ray Donovan***) will play John, another survivor of the vampire Rising, whose actions are fueled by anger, prejudice, suspicion and fear.

Tim Guinee (***The Good Wife***) will portray Flesh, a vampire foot soldier who does battle with Vanessa and conceals a tragic past.

Van Helsing Directors

Episodes of ***Van Helsing*** will be directed by Michael Nankin (***Hell on Wheels***), Jason Priestley (***Haven***), David Frazee (***Orphan Black***), Simon Barry (***Continuum***) and Amanda Tapping (***The Magicians***).

Van Helsing comes from Nomadic Pictures, which produced ***Fargo***. Neil LaBute (***In the Company of Men***, ***The Wicker Man***) will be running the show and is attached as writer.

Van Helsing will have a presence at San Diego Comic Con 2016 in July and is set to premiere on September 23 on Syfy.