



BY JAY BOBBIN

“Mayans M.C.” premieres its second season Tuesday on FX.

‘Mayans M.C.’ rides into its second season on FX

The Mayans are ready to roar again.

Executive producer Kurt Sutter’s follow-up to his acclaimed, successful motorcycle-club drama “Sons of Anarchy” returns as “Mayans M.C.” begins its second FX season Tuesday, Sept. 3. Would-be Mayans member Ezekiel “EZ” Reyes (played by JD Pardo) is caught between various factions by agreeing to inform for federal agents on the Galindo cartel, whose leader Miguel (Danny Pino) is married to EZ’s ex-girlfriend Emily (Sarah Bolger). EZ’s brother Angel (Clayton Cardenas) also works against the Galindos as a member of the Rebel group, and last season, the siblings were drawn into the murders of two agents to maintain their own agendas.

“It’s not a coincidence that I’m drawn to damaged characters in very dark worlds,” says Sutter, who co-created “Mayans M.C.” with fellow executive producer Elgin James. “That’s where I tend to thrive creatively, and violence is part of that. The lethal force is part of that. I try to be as responsible as I can creatively, so it isn’t just me working s... out, you know? Ultimately, there is a rhyme and a rhythm and a code to that process.”

Co-star Pardo adds that despite its rough edges, “Mayans M.C.” is “just universal in that it really is a story about family and survival. It’s about a brotherhood. They’re not the elite, maybe not the smartest, but they’re

fighting. They’re trying to survive in this dark world, and I think that there’s honor in that. And with that, you get great stories of family and love and brotherhood.”

The elder statesman of “Mayans M.C.” – not only for his character in the series, EZ and Angel’s father Felipe, but also for his show-business status – is “Miami Vice” Emmy winner Edward James Olmos. He believes “the show is moving in a very, very strong way, and I think the second season is much more intense and much more rewarding to the viewer than the first season, so I’m really proud of it. And the writing is just magnificent.”

Sutter allows that because of its content, “Mayans M.C.” is “an easy target” for complaints about violence on television. However, he stresses that on his show, “It’s never gratuitous, it’s not pretty, it’s not sexy, and there’s always ramifications. Those are the standards that I hold myself to in portraying violence.

“From the time I (was) writing on ‘The Shield’ to ‘Mayans,’ it was never done in a vacuum,” Sutter adds, “and there was always payback, whether it came in the same episode or three seasons later. With stories, as it is in life, violence shatters humanity. And that’s my job, to put that into story, you know? It’s the world I live in.”

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