

Before Superman

Syfy takes us back to the planet Krypton

By Andrew Warren

TV Media

Before Superman: He may be Superman's grandfather, but Seg-El isn't faster than a speeding bullet or more powerful than a locomotive. No, despite being an alien native to the planet Krypton, he's just as fallible as any ordinary human, and he and his fellow Kryptonians are heading back into our lives.

"Krypton" returns to Syfy for a second season on Wednesday, June 12, with new stories, new faces and a lot more revelations about this previously unexplored chapter of the Superman mythos. The series is set years before the legendary Man of Steel is even born and revolves around his family's fall from grace, its redemption and the beginning of the events that would eventually lead to their planet's destruction.

Cameron Cuffe ("The Halycon") leads the cast as Seg-El, the handsome young scion of his house who is destined to be Superman's grandfather. Early on in the first season, he was visited by a time-traveling human named Adam Strange (Shaun Sipos, "The Vampire Diaries"), who told him about his legendary descendent, but who also warned him about the coming trials for himself, his house and his people.

Of course, a new season means some new faces, and the highest-profile addition for "Krypton's" sophomore outing is Emmett J. Scanlan ("Constantine"), who will be playing the motorcycle-riding anti-hero, Lobo. All of the main cast is also expected to return, including Blake Ritson ("Da Vinci's Demons"), who plays Brainiac, the time-travelling alien intent on destroying Krypton. Wallis Day ("The Royals"), Georgina Campbell ("Black Mirror"), Aaron Pierre ("Brittania") and Ann Ogbomo ("Wonder Woman," 2017) are also returning.

There are lots of shows on TV right now that are based on the DC Comics universe, but "Krypton" doesn't fit into the same continuity as the rest of them. It's busy telling its own distinct story



Blake Ritson as seen in "Krypton"

that isn't beholden to any other media, and it's been a wild and exciting ride so far. The second season premieres Wednesday, June 12, on Syfy.

Basket case: It must be a heartbreaking feeling to have your dreams shattered, to have wanted something all your life only to be told that you just aren't good enough. Luckily some people always see the basket as half full.

FX's "Baskets" returns for a fourth season on Thursday, June 13. Actor Zach Galifianakis does double duty as twin brothers Chip and Dale Baskets, with Chip hogging the spotlight as the com-

edy's central character. Multiple Emmy-winning comedian Louie Anderson ("Life With Louie") also stars in a gender-bending role as their mother, Christine.

Chip Baskets is what many would consider to be a failure. All his life he's wanted to be a professional clown, and he even got accepted to one of the world's most prestigious clowning schools in Paris, but he couldn't cut it and flunked out. Unwilling to give up on his dream, he found work as a rodeo clown, and over the past three seasons his career has had its ups and downs (mostly downs) while his relationships with his family and friends have

likewise been a laugh-inducing roller-coaster ride.

In the fourth season, it looks like Chip may be finally turning his life around. At 49 years old, he's finally moved out of his mother's house and hired a life coach to help him with some much-needed self-improvement. Of course, if precedent tells us anything, it's that he'll be taking at least two steps backward for every step he takes forward, and that there will be an enormous number of laughs along the way.

There's a lot more clowning around to come in the fourth season of "Baskets," premiering Thursday, June 13, on FX.

Lone Star Lowe: Two seasons in, Fox's "9-1-1" is a hit. The network's top drama has been renewed for a third season, which is exciting news for its fans, but in even bigger news, Fox has announced that a spinoff is in the works. "9-1-1: Lone Star" will premiere next TV season and will take the action to beautiful Austin, Texas. Just like its parent series, the show will follow the lives and careers of a number of first responders who must work together to save lives in desperate and life-threatening situations.

Headlining the cast — most of which has yet to be announced — is an iconic actor whose career spans more than four decades.

Rob Lowe (St. Elmo's Fire, "1985") will not only star in the new series but will also serve as an executive producer. He'll play a New York police officer who has recently moved to Austin with his son and struggles to find the right balance between saving the lives of others and keeping his own life in order.

That right there is exactly the magic that's made "9-1-1" resonate so strongly with audiences. The series shows off just how human these everyday heroes really are, and that they have all the same problems, struggles and desires as the rest of us. Watch for both "9-1-1" and the new "9-1-1: Lone Star" next season on Fox.