

coverstory
BY JAY BOBBIN



Jon Seda stars in "La Brea," premiering Monday on NBC.

Jon Seda discovers a world beneath Los Angeles in 'La Brea'

After "Chicago P.D." and "Homicide: Life on the Street," Jon Seda didn't expect his career to go into a sinkhole.

That's not even a figure of speech: His character is among those who fall in when a sizable chunk of Los Angeles literally opens up in "La Brea," a NBC adventure-drama series premiering Monday, Sept. 27. Those who are forced to take the plunge find themselves in primeval surroundings, while others who have remained above ground try to determine what happened and how to reunite with those they apparently have lost.

Natalie Zea ("Justified"), Eoin Macken ("The Night Shift"), Zyra Gorecki and Jack Martin play members of a family separated by the phenomenon, while Seda portrays an ex-Navy SEAL turned thoracic surgeon who's thrust into the land beneath L.A. "I've been really fortunate in my career to play different types of characters," the pleasant Seda reflects, "so when this opportunity came up, I knew it really was something different.

"I hadn't been thinking about doing something like this, but it was something I could enjoy wholeheartedly. To me, it's the epitome of a Hollywood project ... almost like watching a 'Star Wars' movie that takes you away on an adventure. I thought, 'Wow! I definitely have to grab onto this.' I lived in L.A. for about four years, but I was more

worried about earthquakes. I never really thought about sinkholes."

One of the ironies of "La Brea" is that while its setting is very American, it's actually being filmed in Australia. Seda has worked there before – when he made HBO's 2010 limited series "The Pacific" – and he says, "The landscape is amazing. It adds so much, especially since with 'La Brea,' you have the sinkhole and this crazy world that we find ourselves in. A lot of the same crew members worked on 'The Pacific,' so we've been doing a lot of reminiscing."

Still, working in Australia means a long separation for Seda (who terms himself "an East Coast kind of guy") from his U.S.-based family, underscored by the quarantining that's required for international travel now.

"That's the tough part," Seda allows. "The pilot was filmed in Vancouver, and I thought even that was a stretch (distance-wise). Then the pandemic happened and delayed things for a while, and when this came back around and it was moving from Vancouver to Australia, I had to talk with my wife about it. We're a really close family and we went over it, with the possibility that we might not see each other for six months. Our kids are older now, so we decided, 'We'll handle it. We'll make it work.' It's been tough, but we all make sacrifices.

WINDSHIELD DOCTOR
FREE MOBILE SERVICE
"Give us a break, we'll fix it."
541-523-5839 Baker City • 541-963-0832 La Grande

Home & Auto go together. Like you & a good neighbor.
Some things in life just go together. Like home and auto insurance from State Farm®. And you with a good neighbor to help life go right. Save time and money. **CALL ME TODAY.**
State Farm®
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, Dallas, TX
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL
State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
1601976

BAKER COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
541.523.6419 • www.bakerlib.org • 866.297.1239
YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS!
2400 Resort Street
Baker City, OR 97814
Explore the **ONLINE LIBRARY** at www.bakerlib.org 541.523.6419 info@bakerlib.org

Are Your Feet Ready?
We specialize in quality medical and surgical care for all types of foot and ankle problems.

BACK TO SCHOOL

GRANITE VIEW Foot & Ankle

Travis T. Hampton, D.P.M.
Foot and Ankle Surgeon

541-963-0265
888-843-9090
www.GVfoot.com

La Grande 1408 N Hall Street
Enterprise 601 Medical Parkway
Baker 3175 Pocahontas Rd.