coverstory

BY GEORGE DICKIE

Paramount+ brings an iconic videogame to television with 'HALO'



Almost a decade in development, a sci-fi action series that's based on an iconic videogame finally arrives amid much anticipation on Paramount+

In "HALO," an adaptation of the Microsoft videogame franchise first introduced in 2001 that premieres Thursday, March 24, an epic 26th century battle of good versus evil plays out in a conflict between humanity and an alien threat known as the Covenant.

At the center of it is Master Chief John-117 (Pablo Schreiber, "American Gods"), a supersoldier fighting for the United Nations Space Command, who through a series of events winds up reconnecting with his humanity and questioning his existence as a walking weapon.

That leads to him going rogue and taking up the protection of Kwan Ha (newcomer Yerin Ha), a shrewd, audacious 16-year-old from the Outer Colonies who he meets when her outpost on the planet Madrigal is decimated by a Covenant attack. Her goal is to liberate her world from UNSC control, and their partnership puts him in direct conflict with his superiors in the UNSC military.

The series, which was originally developed for Showtime by 343 Industries and Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment, also stars Natascha McElhone ("Californication"), Jen Taylor ("Halo: The Fall of Reach"), Bokeem Woodbine ("Fargo"), Shabana Azmi ("Fire"), Natasha Culzac ("The Witcher"), Charlie Murphy ("Peaky Blinders") and Danny Sapani ("Penny Dreadful").

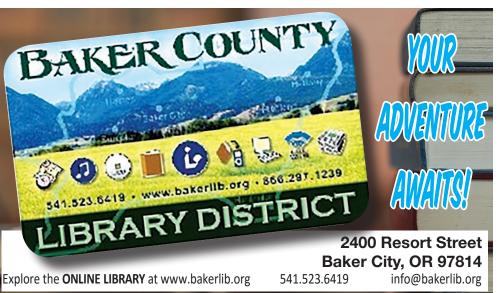
As one would expect of a videogame adaptation, the series is loaded with breathtaking special effects and action sequences. The latter was the easy part for Schreiber, a muscular 6-foot-5-inch actor who had extensive military training when he filmed "Den of Thieves" in 2018. But taking on the videogame was another matter.

"I grew up without television or videogames," the Canadian-born actor explains, "and so I'm on a new journey of learning about 'HALO' that started when I was approached with this. ... I've had all this military training, so I know how to carry guns, use guns. I've shot every gun you can imagine. But as soon as I get into the 'Halo' universe, I get killed by all the beginning stages, and all the grunts can kill me continuously. So, it's been humbling, but I'm getting better as I practice."

But "HALO" isn't strictly about action and effects. The series also promises to explore more deeply the personal stories and humanity, or lack thereof, behind the iconic characters that the game's fans have come to know and love, all set within an epic battle for the future of humanity.

"We set out to build a huge, epic sc-fi 26th century world, with brutal aliens, with Spartan supersoldiers, artificial intelligence, military politics and ancient mystery ...," executive producer Kiki Wolfkill explains. "(So) we really tried to explore: How much of our humanity are we willing to sacrifice in order to save it?"







Gregg Hinrichsen Ins Agcy Inc Gregg Hinrichsen, Agent 1722 Campbell Street Baker City, OR 97814 541-523-7778 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.



ACQUING FOOTS
Riverdance right into our office.

We specialize in quality medical and surgical care for all types of foot and ankle problems.

541-963-0265 888-843-9090 www.GVfootleom Great Team.
Exceptional
Service.

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

GRANITE VIEW

Foot Ankle

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