



“THE VAMPIRE DIARIES”

Thursdays (8:00-9:00 p.m. ET) on The CW

Four months after the tragic car accident that killed their parents, 17-year-old Elena Gilbert (Nina Dobrev, “DeGrassi: The Next Generation”) and her 15-year-old brother, Jeremy (Steven R. McQueen, “Everwood”), are still adjusting to their new reality. Elena has always been the star student; beautiful, popular and involved with school and friends, but now she finds herself struggling to hide her grief from the world. Elena and Jeremy are now living with their cool-but-overwhelmed Aunt Jenna (Sara Canning, “Smallville”), who is doing her best to be a surrogate parent.

Elena manages to find some comfort with her familiar social circle – best friend Bonnie (Katerina Graham, “17 Again”), frenemy Caroline (Candice Accola, “Juno”), and former boyfriend Matt (Zach Roerig, “Friday Night Lights”), but Jeremy is on a more dangerous path, hanging out with the stoners and using drugs to hide his pain. Jeremy is also trying to figure out why Matt’s sister, Vicki (Kayla Ewell, “The Bold and The Beautiful”), is suddenly rejecting him and hanging out with Jeremy’s rival, Tyler (Michael Trevino, “Cane”).

As the school year begins at Mystic Falls High, Elena and her friends are fascinated by a handsome and mysterious new student, Stefan Salvatore (Paul Wesley, “Fallen”). Stefan and Elena are immediately drawn to one another, although Elena is puzzled by Stefan’s increasingly bizarre behavior when he appears suddenly at the cemetery where her parents are buried. What she doesn’t realize is that Stefan is hiding a dark, deadly secret of his own – the fact that he’s a vampire. At a bonfire party the next night, Elena and Stefan are just getting to know each other when chaos erupts after Vicki is attacked and left bleeding from a savage bite to the neck.

Fearing that he knows who is responsible for the attack, Stefan returns home and finds his older brother, Damon (Ian Somerhalder, “Lost”), whom he hasn’t seen for 15 years. Damon is also a vampire, and the two brothers have a long and bitter history. Damon ridicules Stefan for rejecting their legacy of violence and brutality, but he understands his brother’s obsession with Elena, since she looks exactly like a woman Stefan loved more than a century ago; a woman that Damon tried to make his own. Now these two vampire brothers – one good, one evil – are at war for Elena’s soul and for the souls of her friends, family and all the residents of Mystic Falls, Virginia.

(more)

Based on the series of books by L. J. Smith, **THE VAMPIRE DIARIES** is from Alloy Entertainment and Bonanza Productions Inc in association with Warner Bros. Television and CBS Television Studios with executive producers Kevin Williamson (“Scream,” “Dawson’s Creek”), Julie Plec (“Kyle XY,” “Wasteland”), Leslie Morgenstein (“Gossip Girl,” “Private”) and Bob Levy (“Gossip Girl,” “Privileged”). Marcos Siega (“Dexter”) directed the pilot.



CREDITS FOR “THE VAMPIRE DIARIES” ON THE CW

Day and time: Thursday (8:00-9:00 p.m. ET)

Network debut: September 10, 2009

Format: Beautiful high school student Elena Gilbert has no way of knowing that the handsome and mysterious new boy in school, Stefan Salvatore, is a centuries-old vampire. While Stefan struggles to live peacefully among humans, his older brother Damon is the embodiment of vampire violence and brutality. Now these two vampire brothers — one good, one evil — are at war for Elena’s soul and for the souls of her friends, family and all the residents of the small town of Mystic Falls.

Cast: Nina Dobrev as Elena Gilbert
Paul Wesley as Stefan Salvatore
Ian Somerhalder as Damon Salvatore
Steven R. McQueen as Jeremy Gilbert
Sara Canning as Jenna Somers
Katerina Graham as Bonnie Bennett
Candice Accola as Caroline Forbes
Zach Roerig as Matt Donovan
Kayla Ewell as Vicki Donovan
Michael Trevino as Tyler Lockwood

Executive Producers: Kevin Williamson, Julie Plec, Leslie Morgenstein and Bob Levy

Origination: Atlanta, Georgia

Produced by: Alloy Entertainment and Bonanza Productions Inc in association with Warner Bros. Television and CBS Paramount Television

Media contact: Pamela Morrison, (818) 977-6155
Pamela.Morrison@CWTV.com

NINA DOBREV

Elena Gilbert in “The Vampire Diaries”

Nina Dobrev stars as Elena Gilbert, a beautiful young girl caught between two vampire brothers – one good, one evil -- in The CW’s new drama, “The Vampire Diaries.”

Dobrev recently wrapped production on Montecito Pictures’ “Chloe,” with Julianne Moore, Amanda Seyfried and Liam Neeson. Past film credits include “Fugitive Pieces,” with Ayelet Zurer and Rosamund Pike, “Away From Her,” with Julie Christie and “The Poet.”

Other television credits include lead roles on “DeGrassi: The Next Generation” and MTV’s “The American Mall,” as well as a guest appearance on “Eleventh Hour.” She has also appeared in the television movies “Never Cry Werewolf” and “Too Young to Marry.”

Born in Bulgaria, Dobrev moved to Canada at the age of 2 and grew up in Toronto, Ontario. She currently lives in Los Angeles, California, and in Atlanta, Georgia, where “The Vampire Diaries” is filmed.

PAUL WESLEY

Stefan Salvatore in “The Vampire Diaries”

Paul Wesley stars as Stefan Salvatore, a vampire struggling to live at peace with human beings, in The CW’s new drama “The Vampire Diaries.”

On the big screen, Wesley just completed production on “Beneath the Blue,” the sequel to the award-winning feature “Eye of the Dolphin.” Wesley stars as Craig Morrison in this story about an ongoing, inner battle of conscience, trust and loyalty. Wesley was last seen in “Killer Movie,” which premiered at the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival. He played Jake Tanner, a young director who is sent to a remote town to direct a reality series and senses something is not quite right when, one by one, his crew goes missing. His film credits also include “Peaceful Warrior,” opposite Nick Nolte, and the cult favorite “Roll Bounce.”

In the summer of 2007, Wesley starred in “Fallen,” the four-part miniseries based on the hit book series by Tom Sniegoski, chronicling the journey of an 18-year-old (Wesley) who struggles to come to terms with his newly discovered identity as he is drawn into a world where angels – good and evil – walk among us.

Wesley has had recurring roles on television shows such as “24,” “Everwood,” “American Dreams,” and “8 Simple Rules,” to name a few. He was seen as a series regular in “Wolf Lake,” and guest starred on “Law & Order: SVU,” “Shark” and Cold Case.”

Born and raised in New Brunswick, New Jersey, Wesley currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia, where “The Vampire Diaries” films, and Los Angeles, California.

IAN SOMERHALDER

Damon Salvatore in “The Vampire Diaries”

Ian Somerhalder plays Damon Salvatore, the elder and far more dangerous of two vampire brothers who share a long and bitter history, in The CW’s new drama “The Vampire Diaries.”

Somerhalder is well known for his role as Boone on J.J. Abrams’ critically acclaimed drama “Lost.” He won the 2005 SAG Award as part of “Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series” and “Lost” won the 2005 Emmy Award for “Best Television Series - Drama.” The show was also nominated for the 2004 Golden Globe Award and the 2004 People’s Choice Award.

Somerhalder will next appear on the big screen in Scott Mann’s “The Tournament,” opposite Robert Carlyle, Ving Rhames and Kelly Hu. The film is about a battle that takes place every ten years between 40 of the world’s deadliest assassins. Other film credits include starring in Ellen Kanor’s “The Wake,” opposite Bijou Phillips; Aaron Wiederspahn’s “Sensation of Sight,” opposite David Strathairn and Jane Adams; Jim Sonzero’s “Pulse,” opposite Kristen Bell and Christina Milian; Roger Avary’s “The Rules of Attraction,” opposite James Van Der Beek, Kate Bosworth, Kip Pardue and Jessica Biel; Irwin Winkler’s “Life as a House,” opposite Hayden Christensen, Kevin Kline and Kristen Scott Thomas; Martin Guigui’s “Changing Hearts,” opposite Lauren Holly and Faye Dunaway; and Tony Giglio’s “In Enemy Hands,” opposite William H. Macy, Jeremy Sisto and Scott Caan.

On stage, Somerhalder starred off-Broadway in Trip Cullman’s “Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead,” an “unauthorized parody” of Charles Schulz’ comic strip “Peanuts” that follows the travails of a grown up Charlie Brown and the original gang as their beloved beagle dies. Somerhalder co-starred with Eddie Kaye Thomas, Eliza Dushku, America Ferrera, Ari Graynor and Logan Marshall-Green.

Somerhalder recently starred in the Sci Fi Channel’s “Lost City Raiders,” opposite James Brolin. “Lost City Raiders” premiered to record ratings. He also starred in the miniseries “Marco Polo,” playing the title character opposite Brian Dennehy and B.D Wong. Written by Ron Hutchinson, the film traces the Venetian adventurer’s journey to Mongolia, where he was an envoy to the court of Kubla Khan. Somerhalder’s other television credits include the lead role on The WB’s “Young Americans,” the TV movie “Anatomy of a Hate Crime,” and guest starring roles in “CSI,” “CSI: Miami,” “Law and Order: Special Victims Unit” and “Smallville.”

STEVEN R. MCQUEEN

Jeremy Gilbert in “The Vampire Diaries”

Steven R. McQueen stars as Jeremy Gilbert, a troubled teen on a dangerous and self-destructive path since the death of his parents, in The CW’s new drama, “The Vampire Diaries.”

McQueen has already built an impressive resume of television appearances. He had a recurring role as a musical prodigy on the drama “Everwood,” and a leading role in the Disney Channel movie “Minutemen.” His guest-starring roles have included series such as “CSI: Miami,” “Without a Trace,” “Numbers” and “Threshold.”

On the big screen, McQueen appeared in the independent film “Club Soda,” for which he won the Beverly Hills Film Festival Audience Award for Best Actor. He also has a leading role in the upcoming sci-fi action film “Piranha 3-D,” with Elizabeth Shue and Jerry O’Connell.

McQueen is skilled in martial arts, ice hockey, kickboxing and horseback riding.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, McQueen is the grandson of actor Steve McQueen. He has recently relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, for the filming of “The Vampire Diaries.”

SARA CANNING

Jenna Somers in “The Vampire Diaries”

Sara Canning plays Jenna Somers, the loving aunt trying to care for her teenage niece and nephew after the death of their parents, on The CW’s new drama, “The Vampire Diaries.”

Canning’s love of performing began at a very young age; she was a competitive figure skater for much of her childhood and early adolescence. Later, she graduated from the Vancouver Film School’s prestigious acting program.

Canning made her professional acting debut in the stage production of “1984” at the Citadel Theater in Edmonton, Alberta. She soon began working steadily in television, with guest starring roles in series like “Smallville” and “Kyle XY.” Feature film roles swiftly followed, in projects such as “Paparazzi Princess: The Paris Hilton Story,” “Slap Shot 3” and “Come Dance at My Wedding.”

Her breakthrough role came with the cable film “Taken in Broad Daylight.” In the based-on-a-true story movie, she starred as Anne Sluti, a teen whose bravery and intelligence led the police to locate her captor after she was abducted from a shopping mall by a deranged killer, played by James Van Der Beek.

Most recently, Canning’s classical training and dialect work came in handy for her role in the independent feature “Black Field,” in which she played a 19th Century Scottish émigré making a life in the untamed Canadian wilderness.

Beyond performing, Canning’s passions also include other aspects of entertainment. Last year, she wrote and produced an independent film, which was developed as her student thesis project.

Canning was born in Gander, Newfoundland and currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia, where “The Vampire Diaries” is filming.

KATERINA GRAHAM

Bonnie Bennett in “The Vampire Diaries”

Katerina Graham stars as Bonnie Bennett, the girl with psychic powers who is Elena’s (Nina Dobrev) best friend, in The CW’s new drama “The Vampire Diaries.”

Born in Geneva, Switzerland, Graham speaks four languages, and was exposed to different cultures from an early age. Her father, Joseph, was a music executive. Her grandfather was a United Nations Ambassador from Liberia. The family moved to Los Angeles, California when Graham was 4 years old.

Graham began doing commercials at the age of 6, appearing in spots for Barbie, K-Mart, Pop Tarts, and Edison. Her first big break came when she replaced a young Christina Milian as the host of the series “Movie Surfers.” Her television credits include guest spots on such shows as “Joan of Arcadia,” “Like Family,” “Grounded For Life,” “Lizzie McGuire,” “CSI: Las Vegas,” “The O.C.,” “Malcolm in The Middle,” “Strong Medicine” and “Hannah Montana.”

At the age of 15, Graham was chosen by choreographer Fatima to perform at the BET Awards as a background dancer for Lil’ Bow Wow. That experience led to other stints as a background dancer for Missy Elliott, Pharrell, Jamie Foxx, and choreographers Hi Hat and Michael Rooney.

In addition to her acting and dancing abilities, Graham wrote and sang a song titled “Derailed,” which was featured in a Jean-Claude Van Damme movie. At 17, Katerina was selected by the Coca-Cola Company as part of an international campaign to market their soft drink Fanta. While promoting the campaign as a member of the “Fantanas” (as Capri/Strawberry), Graham simultaneously completed her degree in recording engineering. She recently finished a world tour with The Black-Eyed Peas, and her voice is featured on Will.I.Am’s solo release “Songs About Girls” (“I Got It From My Mama”) and “The Donque Song,” featuring Snoop Dogg.

Graham was seen in the film “17 Again,” with Zac Efron and Matthew Perry. Her upcoming film projects include “Our First Christmas” and “Bleachers,” the remake of “The Breakfast Club.” She can also be seen in “Chicago Pulaski Jones,” directed by Cedric the Entertainer. She recently completed filming the movie “Boogie Town,” with Marques Houston, Brenda Song, and Vanessa Simmons, as well as the upcoming thriller “The Roommate,” with Leighton Meester of “Gossip Girl.”

CANDICE ACCOLA

Caroline Forbes in “The Vampire Diaries”

Candice Accola makes her debut as a series regular in The CW’s new drama “The Vampire Diaries” as the manipulative Caroline Forbes, the nemesis of former friend Elena Gilbert (Nina Dobrev).

Accola recently completed filming the independent film “The Truth About Angels.” She was last seen in a featured role in the smash hit “Juno,” opposite Ellen Page and Michael Cera. She also starred in “Deadgirl,” the independent horror film that was met with much critical attention and internet buzz at the Toronto Film Festival in 2008. The film will be in limited release in the summer of 2009. On television, she has had guest starring roles in The CW’s “Supernatural,” as well as “Greek” and “How I Met Your Mother.”

Accola is best known for her musical talents, and she provided back up vocals in “Hannah Montana: The Movie,” as well as touring with the “Miley Cyrus/Hannah Montana Best of Both Worlds” tour in 2008. An accomplished singer and songwriter since the age of 14, she achieved success in her music career after being signed to a record deal at the age of 16. Her music has garnered international success, and she continues to record and write her own music.

Accola was born and raised in Orlando, Florida, and currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia, where “The Vampire Diaries” films.

ZACH ROERIG

Matt Donovan in “The Vampire Diaries”

In The CW’s “The Vampire Diaries,” Zach Roerig makes his primetime series regular debut as Matt Donovan, the quintessential all-American athlete and big man on campus.

Many viewers will remember Roerig from his recent high-profile arc as Tyra’s (Adrienne Palicki) bad boy beau, rodeo star Cash, on the critically acclaimed drama “Friday Night Lights.”

While 2009 marks Roerig’s true introduction into primetime television, he is no stranger to hard, steady work. Born and raised Northwestern Ohio, Zach assisted in his family business and played competitive sports, including football and wrestling. Growing up in a small, rural town, Roerig has always been avid outdoorsman. In his later years of high school, he caught the acting bug and began commuting to Cleveland (the closest big city) to begin formal training. Upon graduation Zach moved to New York to pursue his dream of a career as an actor.

Within a matter of months, he landed the role of Casey Hughes on the daytime serial “As the World Turns,” where he made such an impression on the producers and fans that he was soon offered a long-term contract. His two-year stint on the soap allowed him to continue to hone his craft while enjoying steady work as an actor. During this time he also shot two pilots: “The Prince” and “Split Decision,” and made a guest appearance on “Law and Order.”

Shortly after leaving “As The World Turns,” Roerig made his feature film debut in the ensemble comedy “The Assassination of a High School President.” The film, which stars Bruce Willis, was an official selection at The 2008 Sundance Film Festival. This summer, Roerig completed a lead role the independent feature film “Strawberry Wine,” and also served as one of the film’s executive producers.

Roerig currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia, where “The Vampire Diaries” is filming.

KAYLA EWELL

Vicki Donovan in “The Vampire Diaries”

Kayla Ewell plays Vicki Donovan, a small town girl who is caught up in the violent feud between two vampire brothers, in The CW’s new drama, “The Vampire Diaries.”

Ewell first discovered her love of acting when she participated in the children’s chorus for the national tour of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” Since then she has landed lead roles in the films “Fired Up,” “Impact Point” and “Senior Skip Day,” as well as roles in Martha Coolidge’s “Material Girls,” with Hilary Duff, and Donald Petrie’s “Just My Luck,” with Lindsay Lohan.

Ewell’s television credits include a series regular role on “The Bold and the Beautiful,” where she originated the role of Caitlin Ramirez. She had recurring roles on the hit shows “Entourage,” “The O.C.,” “Boston Public,” “Freaks and Geeks” and “The Sullivan Sisters.” Additional guest starring roles include “Bones,” “Close to Home,” “Veronica Mars,” “The Profiler” and “Gulliver’s Travels.” In addition, her appearance as the girl on the beach in the Counting Crows’ national Coca-Cola campaign garnered her national attention.

Ewell is accomplished in tap, jazz, and hip-hop dance. She also enjoys surfing, rock climbing and white water rafting. She currently resides in Los Angeles and in Atlanta, Georgia, where “The Vampire Diaries” films.

MICHAEL TREVINO

Taylor Lockwood in “The Vampire Diaries”

Michael Trevino plays Taylor Lockwood, a volatile young man who clashes with the mysterious new student in The CW’s new drama “The Vampire Diaries.”

Born to Mexican parents in Valencia, California, Trevino was raised in East Los Angeles. Once he discovered his passion for acting, he enrolled at Playhouse West for theater studies. One of his first jobs was an Old Navy Commercial. Since then, Trevino has had guest spots in various shows, including “Charmed,” “Summerland,” “Bones,” “90210,” “The Mentalist” and “CSI: Miami.” Most recently he had a five-episode guest spot on “The Riches,” co-starring Minnie Driver and Eddie Izzard. In 2007, he was selected to play Jimmy Smits’ oldest son Jaime on the family drama “Cane.”

In the past year, Trevino was one of the leads in the Hallmark movie “Love Finds a Home,” which also starred Patty Duke. He has also completed work on “The Factory,” a motion picture starring John Cusack, set to be in theaters in 2010.

An avid sportsman, Trevino enjoys football, surfing, body boarding, snow boarding and deep sea fishing. He is also a talented dancer.

Trevino now divides his time between Los Angeles and Atlanta, Georgia, where “The Vampire Diaries” films.

KEVIN WILLIAMSON

Executive Producer of “The Vampire Diaries

At the helm of both film and television, Kevin Williamson has established himself in Hollywood as a true visionary whose unprecedented success created immediate attention. He has garnered respect not just as a writer, but also as a producer and director whose visions have resulted in some of the most lucrative franchise vehicles ever made.

Williamson’s first foray into television was the series “Dawson’s Creek,” a show that instantly became a pop culture phenomenon. The show launched then-unknown actors James Van Der Beek, Katie Holmes, Joshua Jackson and Michelle Williams into instant stardom.

Preceding his success in the world of network television, Williamson’s rise into the spotlight began in 1996 with the modern cult-classic feature film “Scream” and its 1997 sequel “Scream 2”. Drawing on his childhood love of scary movies, Williamson created and wrote the franchise that reinvigorated the horror genre and also tapped into the previously ignored market of teen viewers. The Miramax/Dimension Films would go on to become the highest grossing horror films of all time, amassing more than \$345 million worldwide. With his self-referential wit and biting dialogue, Williamson was quickly named one of *Entertainment Weekly’s* Entertainers of the Year for 1997 and listed on the 1998 *Premiere Magazine* Power 100 list.

On the heels of his “Scream” success, Williamson also wrote and created the Columbia Pictures hit thriller “I Know What You Did Last Summer,” featuring debut performances of some of the hottest young actors in Hollywood, including Sarah Michelle Gellar and Ryan Phillippe. Immediately following that success, Williamson produced “Halloween: H2O,” which starred Jamie Lee Curtis and one of his “Dawson’s Creek” stars, Michelle Williams. Next, he collaborated with director Robert Rodriguez on the hit sci-fi thriller “The Faculty.” Looking for the next challenge in his career, Williamson made his feature film directorial debut in 1999 with “Teaching Mrs. Tingle.” This black comedy centers around a group of students who hold their teacher hostage after a series of innocent events turn dangerous. Helen Mirren starred in the title role along with Katie Holmes. The project was shot from the first script Williamson ever wrote and was inspired by comments from his real-life English teacher, who repeatedly predicted Williamson would never amount to anything.

JULIE PLEC

Executive Producer of “The Vampire Diaries”

Julie Plec skillfully juggles work in film and television as both a producer and a writer. Currently, she is the co-creator and co-executive producer of “The Vampire Diaries” with Kevin Williamson. Prior to that, Plec was a co-executive producer on “Kyle XY” for ABC Family. She actually produced the pilot for “Kyle XY” as the head of Benderspink’s television production arm, then joined the show as a writer/producer in its first season. She shared the showrunner duties through the show’s three-year run.

Plec’s other produced television credits include “Wasteland” and “Dawson’s Creek.” Past feature co-producing credits include “Scream 3,” Greg Berlanti’s “Broken Hearts Club,” Wes Craven’s “Cursed” and “The Breed.”

LESLIE MORGENSTEIN

Executive Producer of “The Vampire Diaries” and “Gossip Girl”

Leslie Morgenstein has served as president of Alloy Entertainment and its predecessor, 17th Street Productions, Inc., since 1999, overseeing the company’s operations, strategy and creative mission. He produces or executive produces Alloy Entertainment’s television and feature film projects. In addition to “The Vampire Diaries,” Alloy is currently in production on The CW series “Gossip Girl,” now in its third season, and the web series “Private.” Morgenstein additionally served as executive producer on The CW series “Privileged,” the ABC Family six-hour series “Samurai Girl” and “The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants” feature films. He produced the feature film “Sex Drive” and the DVD-premiere movie “The Clique.”

In addition to film and television, Alloy is the most successful independent packager of fiction in the world. Approximately 50 of the company’s titles have achieved *New York Times* bestseller status, including “The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants” “Gossip Girl,” “The Clique,” “The Luxe” and “Pretty Little Liars.” Their newest book launch, “Hollywood is like High School with Money,” is set for release in summer 2009.

Morgenstein has an undergraduate degree in writing and photography from Sarah Lawrence College, a MBA in finance from New York University’s Stern School of Business, and completed his master’s work in English and creative writing at the City College of New York. He lives in New York City with his wife and two sons and is an avid runner.

BOB LEVY

Executive Producer of “The Vampire Diaries” and “Gossip Girl”

Bob Levy, Alloy Entertainment’s executive vice president of film and television development and production, has worked in the entertainment industry for more than two decades, spanning network, cable and public television. He joined Alloy Entertainment in 2001 following ten years at NBC, where he was the vice president of primetime series and was closely involved with such shows as “Mad About You,” “Caroline in the City,” and the critically acclaimed “Working.”

As head of Alloy Entertainment’s West Coast office, Levy oversees the company’s extensive involvement in film and television development. He is an executive producer on all of Alloy Entertainment’s television projects including The CW series “Gossip Girl” and “The Vampire Diaries,” as well as last year’s critically acclaimed series “Privileged” and “Samurai Girl,” which aired on ABC Family. Levy was a producer on the company’s 2008 feature films “Sex Drive” and “The Clique.”

Levy holds a bachelor’s degree cum laude from Brown University. He resides in Los Angeles.

