

TV News: HBO's 'True Blood' Renewed For Fifth Season

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CHICAGO – The trend of vampire culture in movies and television seems to be continuing strong in the entertainment and pop culture world. The HBO hit series "True Blood," which is currently on the air in its fourth season, has been renewed for a fifth season set to begin production later this year. The fifth season is scheduled to debut in the summer of 2012.

"True Blood," which received four Emmy nominations about a month ago, has received critical praise in its fourth season and the show continues to air in the valued Sunday 7 p.m. CST slot on HBO.

President of HBO Programming Michael Lombardo was excited to make the announcement on Thursday: "I am thrilled that TRUE BLOOD continues to enjoy a phenomenal reception from both subscribers and critics. Alan Ball and his gifted team have devised the greatest thrill ride on TV."

Show creator and executive producer Alan Ball added his own feelings of gratitude: "I remain amazed and delighted by the enthusiasm of our viewers. I can't imagine having more fun than this."

The show, based on a series of novels by Charlaine Harris, follows the story of Sookie Stackhouse (played by Anna Paquin), a human who can hear people's thoughts and has an on-again-off-again romance with vampire Bill Compton (Stephen Moyer). The series is extremely unique for establishing that the humans in the show are aware of the vampire's existence.

"True Blood" has five episodes left in the fourth season, but fans can rest easy knowing that these won't be the final five episodes of the series.