

Red Alert



Oil Ducting and bombing are prohibited, you know.



Hub with his badass mum Kitty (Beth Grant).



Hub Halloran (Kevin Bacon) is in a bad way.

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Musician Jennifer Nettles plays Maryanne.

WRITER EXCLUSIVE

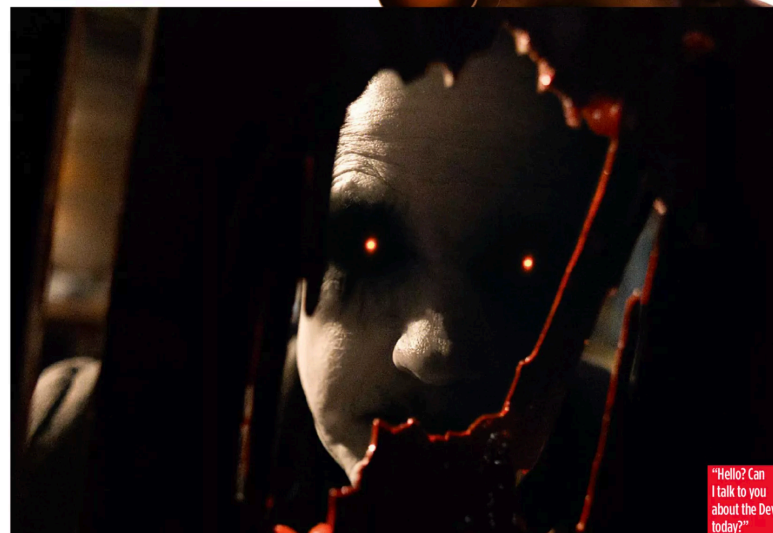
# Kevin Bacon: Demon Hunter

Showrunner Erik Oleson embraces the absurd for **The Bondsman** WORDS: STEVE O'BRIEN

AS SMALL-SCREEN CONCEPTS GO, there are few juicier than "Kevin Bacon hunts demons". That was the back-of-a-fag-packet idea put to writer/producer Erik Oleson in 2023, a job offer he simply couldn't say no to. "It was very exciting to develop the tone of Appalachian noir mixed with horror," he enthuses to Red Alert, "and to bring my stamp to it." The idea had been brought to Prime Video by Bacon himself, alongside Blumhouse

supremo Jason Blum who'd been sent the treatment by newcomer Grainger David. Realising they had the DNA of something special, Amazon turned to Oleson, a veteran of shows such as *Daredevil*, *Carnival Row* and *The Man In The High Castle*, to shape David's concept into a potential series. The result, *The Bondsman*, stars Bacon as Hub Halloran, a grizzled bounty hunter who is murdered, before being brought back to life by the Devil with an order to hunt rogue demons

that have broken out of Hell. And yes, with a concept as batshit as that, it does poke fun at itself, as Oleson is keen to point out. "I like it where the audience doesn't know whether or not they're going to be in a moving, dramatic scene, or laughing their ass off, or watching a demon get a chainsaw to the face," he says. There are plenty of quirky touches in the show. Though Hell and the Devil aren't actually shown, our connection to the netherworld is depicted through old-style fax machines (through which Hub gets his orders). "We didn't want to show the Devil," Oleson explains, "but we really were attracted to the idea that he had this goofy front company, Pot O' Gold, that communicated by fax. This anachronistic element, it just made me laugh!" And then there's its star Kevin Bacon. Tonally speaking, the actor's movie *Tremors* isn't a million miles from *The Bondsman's* dizzying mix of action, drama and comedy. "If you're treating the story honestly and it were really happening to you, you would have this Kevin Bacon question mark expression of "What the fuck is actually happening?" Oleson laughs. "This is very much a WHAT THE FUCK show, right? Like, what the fuck are these idiots writing? What the fuck is happening? What's going to happen next? Let's be honest, we've seen countless stories about demons from Hell. We've seen countless stories about



"Hello? Can I talk to you about the Devil today?"

**"I had finally made it in Hollywood when I got texted a Kevin Bacon meme by Kevin Bacon"**

Oleson says about the series' central pairing. "I wanted to make Kitty a former bounty hunter herself, and give us the ability to send her out into the field. "Beth was just hopping up and down with delight, saying, 'Roles like this aren't usually created for women in Hollywood!' She was so excited for the opportunity." Oleson says he can't talk about season two but confirms he does have plans should Amazon okay a second run. For the moment, though, he's just excited for audiences to feast their eyes on this gleefully bonkers show. "Kevin Bacon in a deal with the Devil hunting demons - hey, come on!" he laughs. "What's that quote from the Super Bowl [Uber Eats advert]? 'Everybody loves bacon'. "Put him in a deal with the Devil where the only way he can get out of it is to hunt down escaped demons from the prison of Hell, put a chainsaw and a shotgun in his hands and yeah, I'm in!"

*The Bondsman* is on Prime Video from 3 April.

**SCI-FACT!** Beth Grant isn't the only *Donnie Darko* alum in the show - *Jolene Purdy* also appears as Hub's contact from *Pot O' Gold*.