

'V' fans have much to look forward to in upcoming season

When I was a kid, I was completely into "V," the show about the seemingly peaceful, human-looking aliens, who were actually lizards committed to taking over the planet. My friends and I even played "V" on the school playground, complete with gummy worms so we could accurately recreate the Visitors' diet.

Although we were supposed to root for the resistance who were fighting to save mankind, I actually found myself most often cheering for the Visitors. I have always liked a good villain and you were hard pressed to find a better one than the Visitor leader, Diana, played brilliantly by Jane Badler.

So because "V" was such a special part of my childhood, I was nervous about ABC's reboot when it premiered last season. But it very quickly became my favorite new show of the year. And now, as the show is set to return for its second season, I am just as giddy as I was on that playground. Why? Because Diana is back.

Now, I probably should say that Jane Badler is back and we have no indication that the Diana she is playing is the Diana from the original series. But you can still understand my excitement. Badler is playing Anna's (Morena Baccarin) mother, the former queen. From the moment she comes on the screen, Badler completely steals the show, giving Anna a perfect sparring partner as the current queen is forced to deal with her developing human emotions.

But Badler's return is not the only homage to the original series. Everyone who was disappointed that this new "V" didn't give us any of those squirm inducing scenes of visitor reveals and mice eating are going to be thrilled with the first two episodes. There were at least two instances where I had to cover my eyes — just like I did when I was a kid.

And if you were concerned



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that the show's plot wasn't moving fast enough, you needn't worry about that anymore. The first two episodes move at a breakneck pace with plenty of chases, fights, shootouts and explosions. Plus, by the end of the first episode, you'll know exactly what the Visitors are really doing on Earth. And we're introduced to an intriguing subplot involving the origin of one of the characters — a possibility I think the show has hinted at for a long time.

But if all of that wasn't enough, we also get the always adorable Bret Harrison ("Reaper," "Grounded for Life") who joins the cast in a recurring role as a scientist who becomes part of the Fifth Column. Harrison adds some nice levity to all of the drama.

I'm still a little nervous about the future of the show — especially since ABC has cut its episode order from 13 to 10. And I'm a little worried too many squirmy moments may hurt the story. But with Badler involved, I'm willing to give the show the benefit of the doubt. In fact, I'm thinking some gummy worms would taste really good right now.

"V" returns Tuesday, Jan. 4, at 9 p.m. on ABC.

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