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BEST TELEVISION SHOWS BASED ON VIDEO GAMES: CASTLEVANIA

Robert Collins | September 27, 2022

FEATURE STORIES

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Based on the classic video game series of the same name, *Castlevania* is widely regarded as one of the very best video game-to-television adaptations ever. And it is the show that kickstarted the current trend of bringing video games to TV.

BACKSTORY

Originally conceived as a film, *Castlevania* was written by British comic book writer and screenwriter **Warren Ellis**, and produced by **Powerhouse Animation Studios**. After years of development purgatory, the show was picked up by **Netflix** in 2015. Upon release in 2017, the first season was well-received and garnered praise for its writing, visuals and voice acting. By the second season, the show had an estimated viewership surpassing **30 million viewers** and became one of Netflix's most successful animated series to date.

RECEPTION

As critics have put it: "Castlevania sinks its fangs into vampiric lore during a devilishly fun second season that benefits from an expanded sense of scale and episode tally that allows the series to fully spread its leathery wings." *Castlevania* currently enjoys a **94% "average tomatometer" score** and an **89% average audience score** on **Rotten Tomatoes**. It was the first video game television adaptation to get a "Fresh" rating on the site.



PREMISE

Castlevania follows the story of an outcast vampire hunter named Trevor Belmont. Along with the mage Sypha Belnades and the dhampir Alucard, Trevor sets out to destroy the vampire Count Vlad Dracula Țepeș, who declares war on the people of Wallachia when his wife, Lisa, is mistakenly executed as a witch.



Alejandra
Reynoso
Sypha Belnades



Richard Armitage
Trevor Belmont



James Callis
Alucard



Graham
McTavish
Dracula



Theo James
Hector



Lance Reddick
The Captain



Jessica Brown
Findlay
Lenore



Bill Nighy
Saint Germain

The show's excellent cast includes **Richard Armitage** (The Hobbit) as Trevor; **James Callis** (Battlestar Galactica) as Alucard; veteran voice actress **Alejandra Reynoso** as Sypha; and **Graham McTavish** (also of The Hobbit fame) as Dracula.

SEASON 1 (RELEASED: JULY 7, 2017)

The last surviving member of a disgraced clan fights to save Eastern Europe from Dracula. Inspired by the classic video game series.



SEASON 2 (RELEASED: OCTOBER 26, 2018)

As Dracula and his legion of vampires prepare to rid the world of humanity's stain, an unlikely trio of heroes dares to stand in their way.

The image is a promotional graphic for the Netflix anime series Castlevania. It features a close-up of the character Alucard, who has long, light-colored hair and yellow eyes. He is holding a sword across his chest. The background is dark and moody. The text 'NETFLIX' is in the top left, 'OFFICIAL TRAILER' is in the bottom left, and a red YouTube play button icon is centered over Alucard's face.

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SEASON 3 (RELEASED: MARCH 5, 2020)

Belmont and Sypha settle into a village with sinister secrets, Alucard mentors a pair of admirers, and Isaac embarks on a quest to locate Hector.

A NETFLIX ORIGINAL SERIES

CASTLEVANIA

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SEASON 4 (RELEASED: MAY 13, 2021)

Dracula's influence looms large as Belmont and Sypha investigate plans to resurrect the notorious vampire. Alucard struggles to embrace his humanity.



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WRAP UP

If you haven't checked out *Castlevania* by now, you should hop on over to [Netflix](#) and remedy that immediately. And you don't need prior knowledge of the long-running video game series to enjoy it.

A follow-up series to be titled *Castlevania: Nocturne*, is officially in production.

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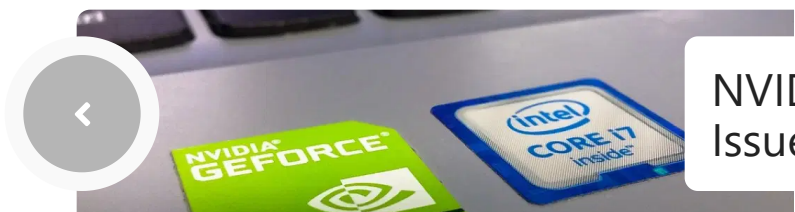
| ANNOUNCEMENT

All we know at the present is that the show will feature characters **Richter Belmont and Maria Renard**, and will reportedly be set against the backdrop of the French Revolution in the late 18th century. It appears as though Warren Ellis will not be returning as script writer, nor will *Castlevania* showrunner Adi Shankar be reprising his role as executive producer for the sequel.

Featured image via netflix.com.

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