

Anna Paquin, Allen Leech, Shawn Doyle Committed To 'Bellevue' CBC Crime Drama



by Nancy Tartaglione
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True Blood alum [Anna Paquin](#) has been set to star in *Bellevue*, an eight-part detective drama set in a blue-collar Canadian town. Actress-turned-writer Jane Maggs and producer/director Adrienne Mitchell co-created the series which will also star *Downton Abbey's* [Allen Leech](#) and Shawn Doyle (*House Of Cards*). [Muse Entertainment](#) (*The Kennedys*) and Back Alley Film Productions (*Bomb Girls*) are producing for Canadian broadcaster the [CBC](#). Shooting starts September 19 in Montreal.

The action takes place in a small town where a lot of 'good people' who 'live right' take it upon themselves to make sure the neighbors do too. Paquin is Detective Annie Ryder, a cop whose intense and brazen personality has always been at odds with her hometown. When a transgender teen goes missing, Annie dives in to unravel the disappearance that suggests foul play, despite finding herself in a difficult position as she must cast suspicion on people she has known all her life.

As the case pulls her further away from her family, she is also confronted by a mysterious person from her past with disturbing answers and a terrifying need to get inside her head. Leech will play Annie's on again/off again ex. Doyle is her police chief.

This is the second recent CBC drama that Paquin has joined. The Canadian-born actress is also starring in *Alias Grace*, a six-hour miniseries from Sarah Polley and Noreen Halpern's Halfire Entertainment to be broadcast on Netflix and the CBC.

Leech, *Downton's* erstwhile Tom Branson, was in 2014's Oscar-winning *The Imitation Game* and will next be seen in Jonathan Mostow's action thriller *Hunter's Prayer* with Sam Worthington. Canadian actor Doyle is a series TV vet who's currently in CBC drama *This Life*; Syfy series *The Expanse*; and Netflix's upcoming *Frontier*.

Maggs is senior writer, exec producer and co-showrunner with *Back Alley's* Mitchell, who is pilot director and will exec produce. Also exec producing are *Back Alley's* Janis Lundman and Muse's Michael Prupas, Morwyn Brebner (*Saving Hope*) and Jesse Prupas. Muse Distribution International is handling offshore sales.