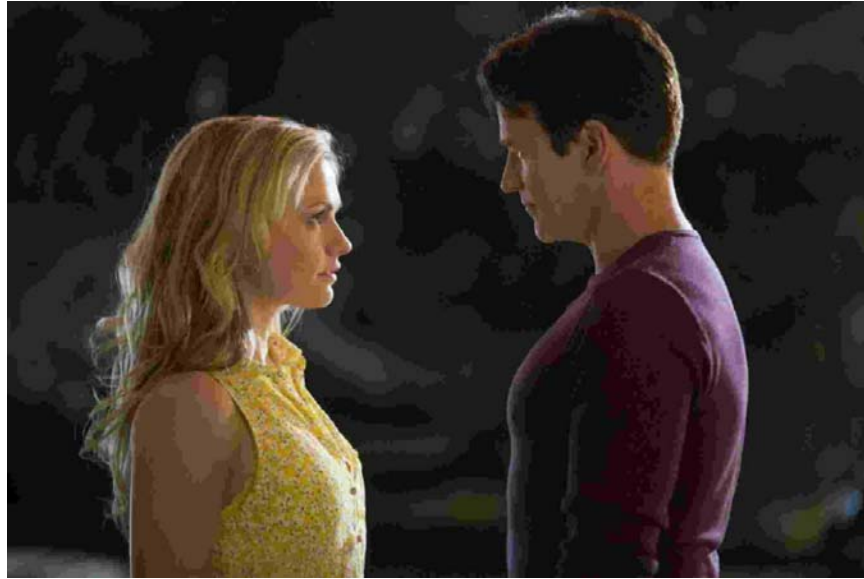


Anna Paquin and Allen Leech to star in CBC drama

True Blood and Downton Abbey stars head mystery series Bellevue alongside Shawn Doyle.



By DEBRA YEO

Mon., Aug. 29, 2016

True Blood's vampire muse and *Downton Abbey's* chauffeur made good will star in a new drama commissioned by the CBC.

Canadian actor Shawn Doyle (*House of Cards*) will star alongside *True Blood's* Anna Paquin and *Downton's* Allen Leech in *Bellevue*, a mystery series set in a small blue-collar town.

Paquin, an Oscar winner for *The Piano* best known for her role as Sookie Stackhouse in *True Blood*, will play Detective Annie Ryder, a cop with a brazen personality who investigates the disappearance of a transgender teen, CBC said in a news release.

Irish actor Leech, who co-starred as Tom Branson on *Downton*, will play Annie's on-again, off-again ex-boyfriend, Eddie. Doyle, a native of Wabush, NL, with a long list of TV credits, will play her boss, police chief Peter Welland.

Paquin, who was born in Winnipeg but raised in New Zealand, will also appear in the Canadian miniseries *Alias Grace*, based on the Margaret Atwood novel.

“Anna Paquin is the perfect actress to bring this brilliant and complex detective to life,” executive producer Michael Prupas said in the release. “Anna, Allen Leech and Shawn Doyle are internationally recognized actors whose strong talents will draw audiences from across the globe into the rich world of *Bellevue*.”

Bellevue is produced by Muse Entertainment (*The Kennedys*, *Tut*) and Back Alley Film Productions (*Durham County*, *Bomb Girls*), and created by Jane Maggs and Adrienne Mitchell (*Bomb Girls*).

Filming is to begin Sept. 19 in and around Montreal with an air date in winter 2017.