

= Justice League (Smallville) =

The Justice League is a fictional group of superheroes on the television series , Smallville , who were adapted for television by Alfred Gough and Miles Millar . The Justice League originally included Oliver Queen , Bart Allen , Victor Stone , and Arthur Curry ; Clark Kent did not accept a role until three seasons later . As the team continued to appear in the series , new characters were introduced and subsequently joined the team . The original Justice League first appeared in the DC comic book The Brave and the Bold # 28 (1960) , and consisted of members Superman , Batman , Wonder Woman , Flash , Green Lantern , Aquaman , and the Martian Manhunter . In Smallville , the team did not make its first official appearance until the season six episode " Justice " , although each member had been previously introduced individually on various episodes since season four . In the series , the team never formalized a name for themselves , although the cast and crew officially recognized the team as the " Justice League " .

Series ' writers wanted to make sure the characters had similar characteristics to their comic book counterparts , but at the same time , could become a means for Clark Kent to learn about himself . The creative team attempted to stay true to the spirit of the comic in costume design for certain characters , while costumes for other characters were changed dramatically . All of the characters possess superpowers , with the exception of Green Arrow / Oliver Queen , so Entity FX was brought in to digitally create each character 's powers using 3 @-@ D and 2 @-@ D technologies .

In addition to the live @-@ action television series , the Justice League has also been featured in a promotional tie @-@ in with Toyota , through an interactive , online comic book . On an individual level , Oliver Queen received his own tie @-@ in that provided Sprint users with animated episodes depicting Oliver 's backstory on their mobile phones . Overall , the reception for the characters has been mixed . Critics have viewed Ritchson 's acting ability and the shortened introductory storylines for the team negatively , while the characters of Green Arrow and Black Canary were viewed more positively .

= = Roles in Smallville = =

= = = Individual storylines = = =

Although the Justice League first appeared in season six 's " Justice " , each member had their own introduction and recurring storylines in the series prior to the formation of the team . The first member to appear on Smallville , other than Clark Kent (Tom Welling) , was Bart Allen (Kyle Gallner) , who was introduced in the season four episode " Run " . In the episode , Bart is the first person Clark discovers to have a superhuman ability ? being able to run at supersonic speeds ? that was not created from exposure to kryptonite . When Clark and Bart first meet , Bart is a pickpocket who saves Jonathan Kent (John Schneider) from being hit by a truck . Eventually , Clark convinces Bart to give up his life of crime . Arthur Curry (Alan Ritchson) , who has the ability to swim at superhuman speeds and create energy blasts through the water , is next to appear in the season five episode " Aqua " . Arthur arrives in Smallville to stop an underwater weapon developed by Lex Luthor (Michael Rosenbaum) , which is killing the surrounding ocean life . Arthur and Clark initially clash on Arthur 's tactics ; Arthur tries to blow up Lex 's lab , while Clark insists that they should simply talk to Lex face @-@ to @-@ face and ask him to stop . Eventually , Arthur and Clark locate and destroy the weapon outright . Season five also introduced Victor Stone (Lee Thompson Young) in the episode " Cyborg " . Here , it is revealed that Victor was mortally wounded in a car accident that also took the lives of his family , but Lex 's company , LuthorCorp , took Victor 's body to a research lab where they experimented on him ? ultimately replacing his bone skeleton with a metal one . Clark attempts to provide Victor with a safe haven after Victor escapes from Lex 's facility . Clark manages to convince Lex to stop hunting Victor , who eventually leaves Smallville with his girlfriend .

Oliver Queen (Justin Hartley) , a billionaire who left Star City to live in Metropolis , arrives in the

season six episode " Sneeze " to investigate Lex Luthor . In the episode " Arrow " , Oliver begins masquerading around Metropolis as a costumed vigilante , named " Green Arrow " by Lois Lane (Erica Durance) , who robs from the rich ? only taking objects he knows were already stolen by those wealthy individuals ? and gives to the poor . Oliver also begins a romantic relationship with Lois . Eventually , Oliver 's vigilante life takes priority , and he and Lois break up when Oliver is forced to leave town to investigate more of Lex 's machinations . In season eight 's premiere , Oliver moves back to Metropolis , and begins searching for Lex , who has been missing since the season seven finale . Oliver believes he has tracked Lex 's whereabouts in the episode " Bride " , but he does not find Lex when he arrives ; instead , Oliver reveals that he plans to kill Lex when he does find him because of the threat he perceives Lex poses to both Clark and the rest of the world . In the episode " Requiem " , Oliver takes controlling interest in LuthorCorp after Tess Mercer (Cassidy Freeman) , Lex 's handpicked successor for LuthorCorp , sells him the company . As a result , Lex attempts to kill him . Oliver tracks Lex down and blows @-@ up the medical caravan that Lex was supposedly traveling in .

John Jones (Phil Morris) is also introduced in season six , where he appears in " Labyrinth " , guiding Clark out of a fictitious reality that was created by Dr. Hudson , a Phantom Zone criminal attempting to take over Clark 's body . It is revealed in the season 's finale that he has been working with Lionel Luthor (John Glover) , and was once an emissary of Clark 's biological father , Jor @-@ El . John explains that he has been watching over Clark since his arrival on Earth , instructed by Jor @-@ El only to interfere if Clark 's life was in true danger . In the season seven premiere , John lends assistance to Clark in defeating the last of the Phantom Zone criminals , which turned itself into Clark 's doppelganger . In the season eight premiere , John sacrifices his own abilities to save Clark 's life . In season eight 's " Prey " , John informs Clark that he has taken a job as a Metropolis police detective so that he can be around if Clark needs assistance . In season nine 's " Absolute Justice " , John has his Martian powers restored by Dr. Fate (Brent Stait) and then helps Clark and other members of the Justice Society of America defeat a mutual enemy .

== Justice League storylines ==

The Justice League made its first official team appearance in the season six episode " Justice " . Here , Clark discovers that Oliver has also met Bart , Arthur , and Victor , and that he has organized them into a team of superheroes focused on stopping those who believe that they are above the law . Oliver reveals that Lex has been conducting experiments on people who developed special abilities thanks to exposure to kryptonite . Clark and Chloe Sullivan (Allison Mack) work alongside the team to dismantle Lex 's local experimental facility , known as Level 33 @.@ 1 , and after destroying the building , Oliver and his team leave Smallville to seek out Lex 's other facilities around the world . Oliver asks Clark to become a full fledged member of the team , but Clark turns Oliver down explaining that he is not ready to do that . In the season seven episode " Siren " , Lex puts a bounty on Oliver and his team , convincing the vigilante Dinah Lance (Alaina Huffman) , who goes by the name " Black Canary " and has the ability to emit an ultrasonic sound wave with a single scream , that these individuals are terrorists . In the end , Clark proves to Dinah that Lex lied to her , so she decides to join Oliver 's team . In the season eight premiere , the Justice League set out to find Clark , who has disappeared following the destruction of his Fortress of Solitude in the previous season 's finale . Clark is eventually found , but the true identities of the League 's members are compromised , so the team decides to disband until it is safe again for them to work together . In the season eight episode " Hex " , Oliver reforms his team and gives Chloe the role of " Watchtower " . In that season 's finale , it is revealed that the League has been tracking the genetically engineered Kryptonian known as Doomsday . Oliver tries to convince Clark to kill the creature , but Clark refuses and instead informs Dinah and Bart that Oliver murdered Lex , while simultaneously kicking Oliver off of the team . Using subterfuge , Dinah and Bart betray Clark , revealing that they were in agreement with Oliver 's plan all along , and capture Doomsday to force Clark into a fight . Their plan backfires , and Doomsday injures all of them during his escape . In the end , Clark defeats the creature by burying him a mile underground , and Oliver and his team apologize for not following

Clark 's plan from the start . The League leaves Metropolis afterward , feeling responsible for the death of Jimmy Olsen (Aaron Ashmore) , who was killed after Doomsday escaped . In response , Chloe turns a Metropolis clock tower , which is also the tallest building in the city , into the Watchtower base with the hope that the team will one day return home . The team eventually reforms off screen , and assists Clark in hunting down other Kryptonians who are attempting to take over the Earth . Starting with the ninth episode of the final season , " Patriot " , the Justice League are alerted to the arrival of Darkseid , and for the rest of the season they attempt to stop him before he destroys Earth . Subsequent episodes " Dominion " and " Prophecy " also imply that Michael Carter (Booster Gold) and Kara have joined the team .

= = Portrayals = =

The producers wanted to use either Wally West or Barry Allen as the Flash alter ego for the show , but DC Comics would only approve the use of Bart Allen . In DC Comics , Bart typically goes by the codename of " Impulse " , but did have a short series in 2006 where he took over the role of Flash . Kyle Gallner learned through his agent about a superhero role being called for on Smallville , and when he learned that it was going to be Impulse , he convinced himself that he was going to win the role . Gallner went in for two auditions , but was so disappointed with his performance during the second audition that he believed he had failed to get the role . His fear was unfounded when the producers offered him the part .

After being cast as Arthur Curry , a character who had previously never been officially portrayed in any live @-@ action form , Alan Ritchson did some research on his character when he discovered that Aquaman had a " serious ... fan base " . Ritchson wanted to live up to the expectations he felt fans of the character would have . Like Gallner , Ritchson did not expect to be a part of the show again . After season five , there was an attempt to launch an Aquaman television series , which ultimately was never picked up . Ritchson relished the opportunity to return when he was called in to appear in the episode that would feature the first official appearance of the Justice League .

Until season five 's " Cyborg " , the DC Comics superheroes who had paid Clark a visit on the show were all members of the Justice League of America , but Gough and Miller felt that Victor Stone shared a " relatable dilemma " with Clark ? the fact that both Victor and Clark 's abilities get in the way of their romantic relationships with the women they love ? and was someone the developers felt was just an interesting character . Victor normally goes by the alias " Cyborg " and is a member of the Teen Titans in the comics . Casting Lee Thompson Young was something the producers had always wanted to do , even before they had decided to bring in Cyborg . The actor revealed that his first contact with the Cyborg character came not from the comics , but from the Teen Titans animated television series . According to Young , he was fortunate that this version of Victor Stone was Smallville 's spin on the character , and as such , the majority of the character 's background was in the script . While preparing , Young expressed his pleasure in the fact that the producers decided to keep Victor 's robotic parts internal , as opposed to the comic version , where half of Cyborg 's visible body is covered in metal .

According to Gough , Justin Hartley was the producers ' first choice to play the role of Oliver Queen , and his alter ego Green Arrow . Oliver was designed to provide an alternative view for what it means to be a hero . At the same time , the producers wanted a character that could impact the lives of both Clark and Lois . The actor is also the first to portray Oliver Queen / Green Arrow in any live @-@ action media . Hartley believed that it was the season six episode " Reunion " that really helped him to understand his character . In the episode , it is revealed that Oliver was " a jerk to Lex " when the two were at school together , and after another kid falls into a coma because of Oliver and Lex 's actions , Oliver decides to start a new path for himself . According to Hartley , this allowed the actor to " justify why someone would put their life in danger every night and have such strong feelings about going out and being this social advocate " . Hartley was a recurring guest in the sixth and seventh seasons , but became a series regular in season eight .

Alaina Huffman auditioned for Smallville without being aware of which role was being cast , and was offered the part of Dinah Lance / Black Canary . When the producers informed her of how major

this character is to the DC mythology , Huffman used various comic books and online sources to learn more about her character . Approached by the producers , Phil Morris auditioned twice for the role of John Jones / Martian Manhunter , and then waited three weeks before receiving confirmation of the role . Morris relished the new design of the character , stepping away from the cape and tights , and going with a more contemporary look . He classified John Jones as " Jor-El's " tool , security force , his guardian , and his protector " . The actor has stated that he would like his character to lead the future Justice League on the show , as he sees John Jones as a natural leader .

= = Character development = =

= = = Characteristics = = =

When Steven S. DeKnight was writing the episode " Run " for the first official appearance of Bart Allen , he knew he had to give the character certain characteristics that embodied his comic book counterpart . DeKnight knew Bart had faster than Clark , because in the comic , that is one advantage Flash has over Superman . DeKnight also featured Bart as a " smart @-@ ass " , after being inspired by the sarcastic Flash that appears in the animated television series , Justice League . DeKnight 's belief is that Bart enjoys his powers , and would not exhibit the more " somber or serious " characteristics of other character . As Gallner pointed out , Bart accepts who he is , and what he can do , and he even abuses his gifts somewhat . The difference between him and Clark is that Bart is not afraid to show the world what he can do . Gallner also suggested that in his character 's initial appearance , Bart is living in a " confused " state , because he has developed these extraordinary powers , his parents do not accept him , and he ends up turning to thievery just to take care of himself .

Ritchson described Arthur Curry as someone who will " do anything to save what he loves " . The actor goes on to say that Arthur is " passionate about nature , about the earth , and about the seas " , and is not afraid to use his abilities to save those things that are dear to him . When comparing his character to Clark , Ritchson stated that Arthur is more confident in his abilities , and already knows what he can do and what his path is in life . Another big difference the actor pointed out is that unlike Clark , Arthur is willing to sacrifice people and things if it means preserving the greater good . When he first appears , one of Victor Stone 's key characteristics is that both he and Clark can relate to the fact that they feel their abilities inhibit them from having a true relationship with the women they love . The writers tried to create parallels between the characters to emphasize this more , like Victor 's fear of telling his girlfriend the truth about what LuthorCorp did to his body , and Clark 's fear of Lana Lang discovering he is an alien . Writer Tracy Bellomo characterized Oliver as a guy that does not take himself very seriously , and enjoys making fun of people that try to take him that way . Bellomo believed that this is one of the reasons that Oliver is attracted to Lois , with the other being that Lois provides a challenge for him . Oliver 's relationship with Clark is designed to " broaden Clark 's rather limited horizons " , and to teach Clark that a world exists beyond Smallville .

= = = Costumes = = =

In the episode " Wither " , Oliver and Lois attend a costumed ball , where Oliver dresses up as Robin Hood . The designers decided to model Oliver 's costume after the comic book character Green Arrow . Costume designer Caroline Cranstoun designed Oliver 's official Green Arrow costume in conjunction with illustrator Andy Poon . To hide his face , Green Arrow typically wears a mask over his eyes , but Cranstoun and Keith Christensen , of Ocean Drive Leather , opted to use a hood and a pair of dark sunglasses to hide Oliver 's face . Cranstoun revealed that Miles Millar was the one who came up with the hood idea . The costume is also made entirely out of leather , as the creative team wanted to keep away from using tights . Hartley was very impressed with the costume , but confessed that it was uncomfortable to wear because it had layers of leather , and he had to

wear boots with four inch lifts .

After creating Oliver 's Green Arrow costume , Cranstoun had the task of crafting updated costume looks for Bart , Arthur , and Victor for the " Justice " episode . Cranstoun explained that even though Victor does not have any metal on his physical body like his comic book counterpart , she wanted to include a metallic look to his costume . The designer tried to give Victor a more " futuristic " feel , along with " a bit of Transformer @-@ y " essence , by including angular pieces on his vest and coloring them silver , black , and purple . For Bart , the costume designers tried to take what was used in his season four appearance and move that to the next level . In season four , Bart wore a red hoodie with yellow cargo pants , which were used to reflect his teenage identity . With his Justice League appearance , they tried to give the character an appearance that seemed faster . His yellow cargo pants were replaced with red jeans , and his red hoodie was updated to incorporate more of a lightning bolt logo throughout the piece .

Arthur 's costume was the easiest to create , as the color scheme mirrored his comic book counterpart , and was constructed to give a " wetsuit look " . The costume was also designed to be more form @-@ fitting , to complement Ritchson 's physique . Victor and Arthur 's tops were also hoodie variations . When designing Dinah Lance 's Black Canary costume , certain aspects of the comic book character were kept , while others changed entirely . For instance , the character retains her classic fishnet stockings , but the external , black mask the character wears is swapped for a painted mask . Cranstoun researched the various versions of Black Canary 's costume , looking through the 1940s and 50s , to try to come up with the right version for the show . Cranstoun explained that she primarily came across two versions . One version reminded the designer of a Playboy Bunny , with a " curvy , corseted , strapless thing that was not at all action @-@ friendly " . The other was more reminiscent of Lara Croft and Tank Girl , which is the route Cranstoun took . What Cranstoun created was a " zipped , sleeveless body suit with a boot that was really flat and practical " . The designer also kept the yellow accents the comic version had , as well as the long gloves . The filming crew did test shots with various masks for the character , including a leather mask reminiscent of the comic book character 's look , before going with the painted variation .

Hartley is quick to point out that before " Justice " , the series did not focus on " the costumes and the capes , the flying and the superhero stuff " , because they have their " no flights , no tights " rule in effect . That changed with " Justice " , and Hartley suggested that the actors really had to commit themselves to their roles while wearing the costumes , " otherwise you look like a standup comedian who doesn 't like his jokes very much " . Young stated that he was one of the luckiest out of the group , because he only had to wear a silver vest and regular pants , unlike Ritchson , who had to put on a " onesie Speedo " . Ritchson felt you could get distracted by what you were wearing , but it was best to try to take your mind off of the subject . Hartley , Ritchson , and Young stated that they felt sorry for Gallner for having to wear a costume that they believed " sucked " . The group described Gallner 's costume as something his mom might have made with " some cotton fabric and a Magic Marker " .

= = = Creating superpowers = = =

In order to illustrate the special abilities of the Justice League members , special effects company Entity FX had to come in and digitally create the powers for each character . Senior Producer at Entity FX , Trent Smith , explained that they wanted to give Bart 's super speed a " more current " look , so they employed 3D techniques in conjunction with the 2D graphics from season four to create a " hybrid " image for the screen . Smith explained that the 3D technology allowed the team to " [choose] a path for [Bart] that he may not be able to achieve in the 2D composite world " . Entity FX used Autodesk Maya and Adobe After Effects to create the 3D stream that follows Bart when he is running at super speed .

For Victor , Entity FX tried to create digital imagery of the character 's inner workings to give the audience the chance to see how his robotic side operates . For instance , Entity FX visually walked the audience through the process of how Victor 's CPU downloads the schematics and diagrams to Lex 's Level 33 @.@ 1 facility , as well as disarming the security . Creating abilities for Arthur posed

their own challenges , as there were not a lot of opportunities to put the character in the water when he was in the Mid @-@ West . Using the technology they had when Arthur first came to Smallville , as well as the effects used in the unaired pilot for Aquaman , Entity FX was able to digitally create both Arthur and the water he swims in for the character 's arrival shot at Level 33 @.@ 1 . When creating Arthur 's super swimming speed , the team attempted to give the imagery a look similar to that of a torpedo gliding through the water . The team battled back and forth on how to illustrate Arthur 's movements , deciding between having the character leave a trail of bubbles like a torpedo , or " maneuvering around the water and ... actually traveling with the bubbles " .

= = Reception = =

When judging individual appearances , DVD Verdict 's Jennifer Malkowski felt that Alan Ritchson 's performance as Arthur Curry in " Aqua " was rather " wooden " , while Filip Vuckevic , of IGN , felt that the introductions for Victor Stone and Arthur Curry were simply wasted , as the characters are not " given anything to do " in the episodes . Commenting on the introduction of Oliver Queen 's Green Arrow persona in the season six episode " Arrow " , IGN 's Chris Carabott felt that the series took its time developing a character that fit the style of the show . Carabott acknowledged that Green Arrow 's costume , though not exactly like in the comics , respects the spirit of the character in its design ; the gadgets he uses make it feel like the producers are taking a page out of the Justice League Unlimited book , which makes for " quality entertainment " .

Carabott felt that Phil Morris did well as John Jones / Martian Manhunter but lacked a proper introduction , stating : " Phil Morris does a respectable job of portraying John Jones in the few scenes we see him in . He lacks the screen presence of someone like Carl Lumbly , who voiced the character on Justice League , but Morris holds his own and delivers the lines in that strong , straight forward tone that is signature Manhunter . " Alan Blair , editor of Airlock Alpha , felt that Smallville 's approach to Black Canary succeeded where the television series Birds of Prey failed . First , Smallville dropped the idea of " meta @-@ humans " , which Blair believed is what doomed Birds of Prey , managed to make Black Canary look more like her comic book counterpart , and also give her Canary Cry " some level of credibility " . Carabott acknowledged that Smallville created a " fairly good depiction " of Black Canary , but disagreed with certain aesthetical choices . First , Carabott did not appreciate the removal of Black Canary 's long , blonde hair , or the addition of make @-@ up around the eyes that gave the character the look of " Pris from Blade Runner " . Carabott stated that Huffman 's acting came off as " a little over @-@ the @-@ top at times " , but overall he felt that she was the right choice for Smallville .

Carabott also had his own feelings about the first official " Justice League " appearance in season six 's " Justice " . The writer suggested that the first live @-@ action appearance of the League since the failed pilot back in the 1990s deserved more than just a single episode . Carabott stated that at least two or three episodes would have been needed to properly tell the narrative of their introduction . Instead , he felt like the character introductions were rushed , even though they had all appeared on the series prior to season six . " Justice " would go on to earn the highest ratings of any episode in season six , with 5 @.@ 26 million viewers .

= = Merchandise = =

Following the end of the sixth season , DC Direct announced at the San Diego Comic @-@ Con that they would be releasing new action figures , this time modeled after Smallville 's Justice League as they appeared in the season six episode " Justice " . The toys featured detailed likenesses of Welling , Hartley , Ritchson , Gallner , and Young .

= = Other media appearances = =

= = Spin @-@ offs = = =

At various points throughout the series , the studio discussed developing individual shows for Bart , Oliver , Arthur , and the entire Justice League . The topic of a television series based on the Flash came underway a year before the character made his first appearance on Smallville . According to writer Steven S. DeKnight , there was creative differences over how a Flash television series should be handled , given the previous attempt at translating the character to the small screen in 1990 . DeKnight explained that the studio wanted to create a Flash who was a " time @-@ traveling college student from Gotham City " . As a result , the series never materialized , and the character was ultimately brought to Smallville .

Following the appearance of Arthur Curry , which became one of the highest rated episodes of that season , Smallville developers Al Gough and Miles Millar began work on an Aquaman pilot for The WB Television Network , with Justin Hartley as Arthur Curry . As work progressed on season five 's " Aqua " , the character was recognized to have potential for his own series . The season five episode was never meant to be a backdoor pilot for an Aquaman television spin @-@ off , so Alan Ritchson was never considered for the role . Gough stated in a November 2005 interview that the series would have put a different spin on the Aquaman mythology . Although Gough did not look at the new series as a true spin @-@ off , he did suggest an interest in doing a crossover with Smallville . Aquaman is currently the only series to go into production , though it was ultimately not picked up by The CW network , which had formed from a merger between The WB and UPN during the production of the pilot .

During the sixth season , there was talk about creating a new series based on the Green Arrow / Oliver Queen character . Hartley refused to talk about the possibility of a spin @-@ off during the filming of the sixth season out of respect for his role on Smallville . The actor felt he should respect what Smallville had accomplished in five seasons , and not " steal the spotlight " by thinking he was better than he was just because there was " talk " of a spin @-@ off after only two appearances on the show . According to Hartley , " talking " was as far as the spin @-@ off ever got . According to Gough , the Green Arrow spin @-@ off would have introduced the idea of Oliver acting in more of a " Professor X " role , where he takes in people with superpowers who have no place to go and trains them . The series would have used characters that would be more easily cleared by the film division at Warner Bros. As DeKnight clarified , the series would have featured the introduction of new characters ? some from the Teen Titans and others from the DC Comics Universe ? as well as going into more depth for the background story of its primary characters , like Bart , Victor , and Arthur . As with the other potential series , this one never came to fruition .

= = = Mobile phone / online tie @-@ ins = = =

Although the team 's prominent appearances are on the television series , there have been additional media appearances based around marketing tie @-@ ins . In early 2007 , Oliver Queen received a personal treatment with a promotional tie @-@ in with Sprint , titled Smallville Legends : The Oliver Queen Chronicles . The series looked at the origins of Oliver 's alternate identity . On April 19 , 2007 , a tie @-@ in with Toyota promoting their new Yaris featured an online comic strip as interstitial programs during new episodes of Smallville ? titled Smallville Legends : Justice & Doom . The interactive comic was based on the episode " Justice " , and picks up after the events of that episode , following Oliver , Bart , Victor and Arthur , as they seek to destroy all of LuthorCorp 's secret experimental labs . The team eventually uncovers a prototype soldier LuthorCorp is working on , that combines the superpowers of various kryptonite enhanced individuals and places them into a single soldier . The online comic then directly ties @-@ into the television series when Oliver and his team , off @-@ screen , contact Clark in the episode Prototype , and tell him how to defeat one of these soldiers . The online series allowed viewers to investigate alongside the fictional team in an effort to win prizes . Stephan Nilson wrote all five episodes , while working with a team of artists for the illustrations . The plot for each comic episode would be given to Nilson at the same time the production crew for Smallville was filming their current television episode . Artist Steve Scott would draw comic book panels , which would be sent to a group called Motherland . That group would

review the drawings and tell Scott which images to draw on a separate overlay . This allowed for multiple objects to be moved in and out of the same frame . Before and after the first appearance of the League on Smallville , there were talks among studio heads about spinning off individual characters , or the entire team , into their own television shows , but nothing came to fruition . Smallville is the first series ? television or film ? to feature live @-@ action portrayals of Aquaman , Green Arrow , and Cyborg .

= = = Comic books = = =

In 2012 , the Smallville series was continued through the comic book medium with Smallville : Season 11 . Written by Bryan Q. Miller , who also wrote for the television series , the first issues features Chloe Sullivan referencing that each team member has established an info hub on their own territory , with communication systems linked to the Watchtower . In the second issue , Lex Luthor discovers that Queen Industries is building a facility on the far side of Earth 's moon as a base for the Justice League , and its construction is under John Jones ' supervision . Despite having died after her encounter with Lex Luthor , the League 's liaison is Tess Mercer , whose consciousness is revealed to be bonded to her half @-@ brother 's mind . Luthor sees this as an opportunity to learn the heroes ' secrets before removing Tess from his mind , and creates measures to prevent them from finding out his situations with Tess . Despite his efforts , Tess still manage to send her message to the League of her predicaments with Lex , and they extract her consciousness from him and uploaded it to the Watchtower computer system as a temporary home for her mind .

In issue five , the Justice League begins to investigate the warning given by a parallel universe version of Chloe Sullivan about a " Crisis " . It is also implied that Oliver Queen has known Bruce Wayne , who is secretly the vigilante Batman of Gotham City , since childhood , due to Wayne 's father Thomas Wayne was invited to join the secret society , Veritas , by Lionel Luthor . Batman , along with his partner , Nightwing (Barbara Gordon) , arrive to Metropolis in search of his parents ' killer Joe Chill , who works as a contact for Intergang .

Bart Allen returns in the ninth issue , donning a new costume and explores the source of his powers : the Speed Force , as well as encountering the Black Flash from it while battling a bunch of super @-@ intelligent gorillas in Paris . Bart once again challenges Clark to a race , this time with the latter in flight . In the eleventh issue , it reveals that Bart got his powers after the JSA member Jay Garrick refuses to run , forcing the Speed Force 's sentience to create a new speedster to take his place . In a story arc chronologically parallel to Clark and Bart 's , while Batman and Nightwing chase members of the criminal gang in Gotham , the Mutants , the latter is attacked by a White Martian and left injured . John Jones appears and offers his assistance to Bruce on investigating the attack . Jones also adapts the superhero identity " Martian Manhunter " . In addition , the new Watchtower outpost on the Moon is shown being built , and that S.T.A.R. Labs is helping Queen Industries in its construction , as well as using Emil Hamilton 's Hazardous Environmental Drones as crew . It also reveals that Batman has joined the Justice League .