

= Supernatural (season 2) =

The second season of Supernatural , an American paranormal drama television series created by Eric Kripke , premiered on September 28 , 2006 , and concluded on May 17 , 2007 , airing 22 episodes . The season focuses on protagonists Sam (Jared Padalecki) and Dean Winchester (Jensen Ackles) as they track down Azazel , the demon responsible for the deaths of their mother Mary and father John . They attempt to discover the demon 's plan for Sam and other psychic children ? young adults who were visited by Azazel as infants and given abilities , and whose mothers often then died in a fire . During their travels , they use their father 's journal to help them carry on the family business ? saving people and hunting supernatural creatures .

The season aired on Thursdays at 9 : 00 pm ET in the United States , and was the first season to air on The CW television network , a joint venture of The WB and UPN . The previous season was broadcast on The WB . It averaged only about 3 @. @ 14 million American viewers , and was in danger of not being renewed . The cast and crew garnered many award nominations , but the episodes received mixed reviews from critics . While both the brotherly chemistry between the lead actors and the decision to finish the main storyline were praised , the formulaic structure of the episodes was criticized .

The season was internationally syndicated , airing in the United Kingdom on ITV , in Canada on Citytv and SPACE , and in Australia on Network Ten . It was released on DVD as a six @- @ disc box set September 11 , 2007 , by Warner Home Video in Region 1 . Although the season was split into two separate releases in Region 2 , the complete set was released October 29 , 2007 , and in Region 4 October 3 , 2007 . The episodes are also available through digital retailers such as Apple 's iTunes Store , Microsoft 's Xbox Live Marketplace , and Amazon.com 's on @- @ demand TV service .

= = Episodes = =

In this table , the number in the first column refers to the episode 's number within the entire series , whereas the number in the second column indicates the episode 's number within this particular season . " U.S. viewers in millions " refers to how many Americans watched the episode live or on the day of broadcast .

= = Cast = =

= = = Starring = = =

Jared Padalecki as Sam Winchester
Jensen Ackles as Dean Winchester

= = = Guest stars = = =

= = Production = =

= = = Casting = = =

The writers used the second season to expand upon the concept of hunters , resulting in the introduction of many recurring characters through the hunter @- @ frequented saloon ? Harvelle 's Roadhouse . Samantha Ferris portrayed Ellen Harvelle , proprietor of the Roadhouse and an old friend of John Winchester , while Alona Tal played Ellen 's daughter Jo . This pair complemented the father @- @ son relationship of the Winchesters in the first year . Ferris believes she was exactly

what the producers were looking for : a " tough , strong , yet a little maternal actor " . Tal 's character , on the other hand , was an intended love interest for Dean , and was eventually phased out because she came off as more of a sister figure . Chad Lindberg portrayed the genius Ash , who uses his vast computer skills to track the paranormal . Because the writers felt the character 's " comical " and " wacky " personality was too unrealistic for the show , he was also removed by the finale .

Other characters returned from the first year . Actor Jim Beaver made multiple appearances as hunter Bobby Singer , an old family friend of the Winchesters . Beaver had expected his first @-@ season guest appearance in " Devil 's Trap " to be a " one @-@ shot deal " , and was surprised when he was asked to return . Adrienne Palicki reprised her role as Sam 's deceased girlfriend Jessica in the alternate @-@ reality episode " What Is and What Should Never Be " , as did Samantha Smith as Mary Winchester . Smith also made an appearance in a flashback in the penultimate episode , " All Hell Breaks Loose , Part One " . And though at first reluctant because of his role on Grey 's Anatomy , Jeffrey Dean Morgan returned as John Winchester in the season premiere and finale . However , the character dies in the premiere because the writers worried that having him separated from his sons again ? Sam and Dean spend much of the first season tracking him down ? would " split the show " by having him away " doing more interesting things than the boys are doing " . As a demon , the villain Azazel periodically switches hosts , and was first fully portrayed by Morgan in the first @-@ season finale . The reins passed to Fredric Lehne for the second @-@ season premiere , and the show 's producers enjoyed his performance so much they brought him back for the two @-@ part finale .

Many factors went into the casting decisions of the season 's guest stars . Linda Blair , famous for her role in the horror film The Exorcist , appeared in the episode " The Usual Suspects " . Though a fan of the show , Blair had turned down a guest appearance in the first season because she did not want to return to horror , having spent years getting a " clean slate " . This changed after the television series Extra aired a three @-@ part profile on her acting career and work with animals . It attempted to find a series that would write a role for her as " an actor 's piece " , rather than a cameo . Kripke , a fan of The Exorcist , offered to write an episode specifically for her , and she was " really touched " when he listened to her request to leave out demons in the storyline . During automated dialogue replacement , Jensen Ackles added in a reference to The Exorcist with the statement , " I could really go for some pea soup . "

The casting of Battlestar Galactica 's Tricia Helfer in " Roadkill " stemmed from the producers ' preference to hire actors important to Supernatural 's fanbase . This was the first episode to have the Winchesters as supporting characters , and Kripke felt " Tricia had the charisma to perform the leading role " . Kripke enjoyed Emmanuelle Vaugier 's work in television series such as Smallville , and believed she was an " easy choice " for the large role of the soon @-@ to @-@ be werewolf Madison in " Heart " . Director Kim Manners felt Vaugier brought to the character a vulnerability like that of Lon Chaney , Jr. in The Wolf Man , which made viewers sympathetic . Conspiracy @-@ theorist Ronald of " Nightshifters " was envisioned by writer and consulting producer Ben Edlund as the unsympathetic " semi @-@ drunk Randy Quaid from Independence Day " . However , this changed with Chris Gauthier 's casting , and Edlund felt that Ronald turned out to be a " really cool " character fans would enjoy . The producers considered Summer Glau for the role of the zombie Angela for " Children Shouldn 't Play with Dead Things " , but she could not accept due to scheduling conflicts .

= = = Writing = = =

When production of the second season started , Kripke wanted to avoid the monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ week formula used in the first year . The writers attempted this by including more " human themes , " mainly " the things Sam and Dean are truly afraid of : death , grief , betrayal , etc . " This change brought the series ' focus onto situations such as the brothers dealing with their father 's death and giving them the task of hunting down Azazel , the demon who killed him . Morgan feels that the brothers ' " inner turmoil " created by the death of his character made them more three @-@

dimensional . While Dean has trouble dealing with his father 's death , Kripke wishes they had focused more on Sam 's reaction . Instead , the episodes dealt more with Sam 's fear of becoming evil , which Kripke regretted since the writers never depicted the character committing malevolent acts . Another main storyline of the season followed Sam and Dean as they track down the various psychic children ? young adults like Sam who were visited by Azazel as infants and given abilities . However , the psychic children storyline made the mythology of the second season " dense " and " confusing " for Kripke .

Kripke instead favored the " unique and structurally interesting " self @-@ enclosed episodes , which sometimes arose from the writers ' unused ideas . From the series ' beginning , Kripke desired to feature an evil clown because he felt that " clowns in a context where they 're not supposed to be are friggin ' terrifying " . To fit with the series , the clown became a shapeshifting Rakshasa of Hindu mythology . This decision made the clown " less satisfying " , to Kripke 's chagrin , because it limited the clown @-@ related scenes . Another element of folklore favored by Kripke was the story of Robert Johnson , which he focused on in his first screenplay as a writer . He found the legend similar to Supernatural , noting , " It 's a piece of real life American history and folklore , it 's an American horror story , it takes place on the dusty back roads of rural America , and it 's got great music . " However , the lore takes place in the early 20th century , and prevented the inclusion of Sam and Dean . To circumvent this , writer Sera Gamble suggested Johnson 's story be made into a subplot detailed in flashbacks , with the Crossroads Demon returning in the present to make more deals . Although Gamble envisioned the demon 's hellhound as being similar in appearance to a Rottweiler , Kripke felt it would " look stupid " . The creature was instead made invisible , which Gamble believes gave it a more terrifying presence .

Before he entered the television industry , writer and consulting producer Ben Edlund had wanted to pen a metafictional script dealing with television production , but decided against it because he did not have production knowledge . He later returned to it for the episode " Hollywood Babylon " . Edlund decided to have the production staff look like " goofballs " , and made fun of Supernatural 's production staff , the network , and the studio . For example , comments made by Gary Cole 's " studio suit " character were based on notes from the network and studio for Supernatural during both seasons of production . Other metafictional references include a character commenting on the " terrible script " of Boogeyman , a film written by Kripke ; Sam becoming uncomfortable as the studio tour passes the set of Gilmore Girls , a television series in which Padalecki had a recurring role ; and Sam proclaiming Hollywood 's weather to be " positively Canadian " .

Other stories were developed from simple concepts . For example , the reformed @-@ vampire episode " Bloodlust " was developed to suggest that all monsters should not be killed indiscriminately . The plot alluded to " racial issues " , but not blatantly ; rather , as Padalecki noted , they explored it in a " fun way " . The episode " The Usual Suspects " emerged from the writers ' desire to keep the audience guessing . Cathryn Humphris pitched a story with a ghost serving as a death omen ? warning people of future tragedy , rather than trying to kill them , unlike previous ghosts on the series . However , Humphris had trouble developing the script 's outline . Kripke noted a part of the episode in which brothers are arrested and have to explain to police what had happened ; this scenario ultimately became the framework of the episode , which begins with Sam and Dean being taken into custody . The concept for " Tall Tales " originated as a " he said , he said " episode , in which the brothers would recount conflicting versions of the same storyline . The writers deliberated over the use of five or six monsters in trying to find one appropriate for the episode , but eventually settled on a trickster because it " can do everything [they] want it to " . Although the writers typically prefer to put their own spin on folklore , they decided in this case to remain faithful to the archetypal trickster mythos . Because the season alluded to the possibility of Sam becoming bad , the writers wanted to portray how an evil Sam would behave and what Dean 's reaction would be . One of the writers ' first creative ideas of the season was depicted in the teaser of " Born Under a Bad Sign " , in which a blood @-@ covered Sam wakes up not remembering the past week of his life . The plot , which " fell into place " during the writing process , included demonic possession to explain Sam 's actions ? an event that resulted in the return of the vengeful Meg Masters demon .

After the plotlines were developed , major deviations sometimes occurred in the writing process . Like in the final version of the script , twins with mind @-@ control abilities were the focus of Edlund 's original pitch for the episode " Simon Said " . However , the more powerful twin ? kept secluded due to deformities ? forced his brother to perceive himself as retarded . At the end of the episode , his brother ate him in retaliation . The story was eventually changed , and instead focused on questions such as " What do you do with power ? " . Kripke felt that this fit greatly with the series ' storyline , because Sam was uncomfortable with his developing abilities ; the writers wanted to explore one of the psychic children who took his ability as a gift . " Folsom Prison Blues " stemmed from Kripke 's desire to feature prison ghosts , and the initial plot had FBI Agent Henriksen finally capturing the brothers and sending them to prison . However , this caused a major complication : the writers would have to devise a way for Sam and Dean to escape in the end . Writer John Shiban suggested that the brothers be arrested on purpose in order to work a job , with the prison 's head guard being revealed as a family friend .

The two @-@ part finale " All Hell Breaks Loose " brought many storylines to a close . The psychic children were killed off because the writers felt the characters were not as interesting as demons and monsters . The Roadhouse was destroyed due to Kripke 's disliking of the concept ; he felt it gave a home to the road show . Fearing that he would disappoint fans by creating too much anticipation , Kripke also decided to answer many questions regarding Azazel 's plans in " Part One " . The second part ended the brothers ' quest to kill Azazel , but also opened more storylines for the third season , such as Dean 's demonic pact to resurrect Sam and the question of whether what returned was " one hundred percent pure Sam " . Additionally , the " war of demons against humanity " ? hinted at throughout the first two seasons ? finally started at the finale 's end .

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography took place in Vancouver , British Columbia . The crew used two cameras simultaneously for each scene , which allowed for two different angles to be filmed of the same sequence . The series usually has a dark atmosphere , though production purposefully created a contrasting appearance for certain episodes . " Hollywood Babylon " details the filming of a fake horror movie , and the use of two filming styles helped make a distinction ; scenes of the fake film used more saturated colors , while scenes for the actual episode were " down to reality " . To depict the perfect world of " What Is and What Should Never Be " , the usual shadows and " moody lighting " more made colorful and warm .

Problems during production sometimes arose . For his scenes as the yellow @-@ eyed demon Azazel throughout the season , Fredric Lehne wore hard , colored contact lenses that greatly obscured his vision . The production crew placed sandbags on the floor to help him locate his marks . Lindsey McKeon , who portrayed a Reaper briefly possessed by Azazel in " In My Time of Dying " , also experienced the same problem . Her scene ? she touches Ackles ' forehead ? took nine takes to film because she kept missing . Filming for " What Is and What Should Never Be " was interrupted in order to accommodate the busy Adrienne Palicki . Production shifted to the following episode after five days of filming , and resumed when Palicki became available for the final three days .

Because the series uses few standing sets , set designer Jerry Wanek often had to construct entirely new sets for each episode . Outside elements had an influence on some designs , with the bar in the hotel of " Playthings " being an homage to The Shining . A Wisconsin native , Wanek was able to incorporate personal items into the motel set for the Wisconsin @-@ based episode " Nightshifter " ; because polka is part of the state 's culture , he used posters from his father 's old polka band , as well as photos of his nephews and Wisconsin landmarks . Due to " Tall Tales " ' s atmosphere , that episode 's motel was designed to be " over the top " . Wanek noted , " They were in this really odd @-@ looking motel that had crystal chandeliers and carved beds , turquoise stove and refrigerator , and this wonderful period linoleum on the floor . I thought it really matched the tempo and emotion of the show . " At times , however , Wanek was able to reuse old sets . The loft set from " No Exit " was redesigned into an apartment for " Crossroad Blues " , and the bar in " Born Under a Bad Sign " was a refurbished Roadhouse set .

Not all scenes could take place in the studio , and some were instead shot on location . The vault scenes in " Nightshifter " were filmed in an actual bank safe , as production would not have been able to construct one on set . Outside shots were filmed in downtown Vancouver , forcing streets to be closed off . The crypt of " Houses of the Holy " was built underneath St. Andrew 's @-@ Wesley United Church , with plastic used to imitate sculpted stone . Riverview Hospital ? used as a filming location in previous episodes ? was used for the premiere " In My Time of Dying " . It also functioned as a jail in " Folsom Prison Blues " due to , as Wanek describes , " the texture on the walls , the lack of any humanity in the design , and the materials used to build it ... " However , the prison block was built on a sound stage . The final scenes of " Simon Said " were filmed at Cleveland Dam , and " All Hell Breaks Loose , Part One " made use of a pre @-@ existing set built for the Western television series Bordertown . The climax of " Part Two " was originally to take place in an actual cemetery , but numerous issues forced production to film the scene in the studio .

= = = Music = = =

The mostly synthesized orchestral score of the season was composed by Christopher Lennertz and Jay Gruska . The pair try to base the music on the visuals of each episode , with about a third of each episode 's score being newly written for the supernatural legend . For example , when the werewolf 's point of view is depicted in " Heart " , Gruska tried to make the score predatorial . For " Roadkill " ' s emotional ending , Lennertz used cello and piano to " [tug] at the heart strings " and " push the tears " . The music was supposed to " become part of the sinister wallpaper " in " In My Time of Dying " . Thus , in the scene involving John Winchester selling his soul to Azazel , Gruska wrote the music as " dark and dank " , but feels the viewer would only notice the music if it was removed from the scene .

Other musical elements were based on aspects of the episode , and often used less conventional instruments . For " Simon Said " ? featuring characters with the ability of mind @-@ control ? Gruska tried to make the score more " mind @-@ trippy " , opting to mainly use " synthy , spacey electronica pads " to give it a science @-@ fiction sound . Toy @-@ piano sounds were included in " Playthings " by Gruska to make the score more childlike . Because of the Robert Johnson theme of " Crossroad Blues " , Lennertz made sure to be specific to Johnson 's style when writing the music for the opening scene . A blues guitarist was brought in , and played on a " beat @-@ up old acoustic guitar " . However , they added in dissonant notes to foreshadow the " grittiness to come " . Lennertz used organ , drums , bass , and guitar to have a " retro bluesy approach " for " Folsom Prison Blues " , mimicking the style of film composer David Holmes . Likewise , he wanted the episode " Nightshifter " to have a " feature film feel " , with the score ending up similar to The Bourne Identity . With Linda Blair of The Exorcist guest starring in " The Usual Suspects " , Gruska used tubular bells as an homage to the film 's score .

In addition to the score , the series makes use of rock songs , with most being selected from Kripke 's private collection . Among the many bands featured in the second season are AC / DC , Lynyrd Skynyrd , and Boston . Rock songs are also usually featured in " The Road So Far " montages at the beginning of select episodes that recap previous events . The premiere used Ted Nugent 's " Stranglehold " , and a " coming soon " sequence midway through the season was set to Nazareth 's " Hair of the Dog " . The finale recapped the entire season to Kansas ' " Carry On Wayward Son " . The second season also began the tradition of naming many episodes after classic rock songs , with Kripke preferring Led Zeppelin songs .

= = = Effects = = =

The series makes use of visual , special , and make @-@ up effects , as well as stuntwork . Beginning with the second season , visual effects became an in @-@ house department . Visual effects supervisor Ivan Hayden feels this improved the series because a fixed budget allowed them to compensate for other scenes that lacked effects , such as in " Nightshifter " . Wide shots of the bank 's exterior ? featuring closed @-@ off streets , police , and SWAT helicopters ? were

accomplished with visual effects . The series ' catchphrase ? " Scary just got sexy " ? was added to a billboard in the background . For the episode " Houses of the Holy " , production did not want viewers to be able to determine that the " angel " was in actuality a priest . Thus , the shape engulfed in light was a girl wearing a skintight white leotard . At times , the visual effects used were subtle . Cockroaches were digitally inserted into the sewer scenes of " No Exit " ; director Kim Manners did not ask for it , but thought the addition " made it really creepy " . The episode " Playthings " featured a scene of a man dying after falling down stairs . The department added blood flowing from underneath him , and also made his fingers twitch and his mouth open and close to create a more lifelike appearance .

The special effects and makeup departments are also important assets to production . Dean has an out @-@ of @-@ body experience in " In My Time of Dying " , and some scenes feature him looking at his own body in a hospital bed . To forgo the use of visual effects , the special effects department sculpted a full gelatin face from Ackles , and applied it to a body double . To depict a woman burning to death in the episode " Simon Said " , the actress was sealed inside a full body silicone designed to look like her , and was doused with fire accelerant . She was required to breathe through a straw , as well as don underwear soaked in ice @-@ cold fire @-@ retardant gel . Prior to " Heart " , Kripke had not wanted to include werewolves in the series , as he felt that the budget would only allow for " a guy with fur glued to his face " . As he prefers to have monsters be able to walk among humans , production made the transformation subtle ? the character 's eyes change , and her canine teeth and fingernails grow . However , writer Sera Gamble believes that they " dropped the ball " in the design , feeling that the creature looked too similar to a vampire .

= = Reception = =

Supernatural had low ratings during its second season . Viewers consisted mainly of teenage girls , with the CW trying to attract more males . It ranked No. 216 relative to the position of other prime time network shows . With an average viewership of 3 @. @ 14 million Americans , the show 's future was in doubt at the season 's end . Despite this , the series was renewed for a third season . According to Special Forces Soldier Master Sergeant Kevin Wise at a 2007 Supernatural convention , the DVDs most requested by armed forces personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan were the first two seasons of the series .

The second season of the series received mixed reviews from critics . The review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reported a 100 % approval rating with an average rating of 8 @. @ 2 / 10 based on 5 reviews . Jim Kaz of IGN gave the season a similar score at 8 / 10 . While at first hesitant of the series , believing it to be " another horror / sci @-@ fi / occult hybrid currently igniting ratings " , he found the " eerie and intricate storylines " to overcome the " initial impressions of Clearasil ads and Paris Hilton in House of Wax " . Praising the cliffhangers and the brotherly chemistry between the lead actors , Kaz deemed Supernatural " one @-@ helluva edge @-@ of @-@ your @-@ seat , ball @-@ burner of a series with a forceful script , excellent acting (said pretty boys included) and some fine special effects " . Maureen Ryan of the Chicago Tribune thoroughly enjoyed the season , and " really , really liked " the Roadhouse . Not understanding why the Roadhouse was not used more throughout the season , she was " pretty annoyed " when it was destroyed . Ryan also favored the new hunter characters , especially Ash , and was " not thrilled " when Ash was killed . Regarding Sam and Dean , she noted the series ' " ability to hone in on [sic] the brotherly conflicts and emotions threaded through a well @-@ plotted monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ week story " . While she enjoyed Tricia Helfer 's guest appearance , she did not enjoy the stunt casting of Linda Blair and would have preferred a " more skilled actress " . The season received a grade of a B- from Brian Tallerico of UGO , who found it " frustrating " due to the use of the " same predictable formula " that did not meet the standards of the first season . Other problems he found included " the brothers [turning] whiny and mopey and [taking] everything too seriously " . However , he believed that the season ended " strong " ? he liked how the main storyline was wrapped up , opening new storylines ? and noted that there were some " excellent " episodes . Tallerico praised the " tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek Winchester adventure " " The Usual Suspects " ,

feeling that it had " enough pop culture references to make Tarantino jealous " and the " pitch @-@ perfect mix of tones that make the show so great " . He also found " Nightshifter " to be the " best action hour of Supernatural 's second year " , deeming it " riveting from beginning to end " . Also applauding the season 's cliffhanger was Peter Brown of iFMagazine , who gave the season a B + . He enjoyed the expansion of the series ' mythology , as well as the new characters introduced . He also praised the " haunting music and sounds that really give a chilling feel to each and every episode " , feeling them to be Emmy @-@ worthy .

The season 's cast and crew received the attention of multiple award programs . Writer Raelle Tucker won the Constellation Award for " Best Overall 2007 Science Fiction Film or Television Script " for the episode " What Is and What Should Never Be " , and work on " All Hell Breaks Loose , Part Two " garnered a Golden Reel nomination for " Best Sound Editing in Television : Short Form ? Sound Effects and Foley " . Conchita Campbell gained a Young Artist Award nomination for " Best Performance in a TV Series ? Guest Starring Young Actress " for her performance in " Playthings " , and Jessica Harmon was nominated in 2008 for a Leo Award in the category of " Best Guest Performance by a Female in a Dramatic Series " for the episode " All Hell Breaks Loose , Part One " .

= = Home media release = =

The second season of Supernatural was released as a six @-@ disc Region 1 DVD box set in the US on September 11 , 2007 , two weeks before the premiere of the third season . Including all 22 episodes of the second season , the set also featured DVD extras such as episode commentaries , deleted scenes , bloopers , Jared Padalecki 's original screen test , and a featurette on the making of the season finale . The season was ranked No. 13 in DVD sales for its week of release , selling 67 @,@ 735 sets for \$ 2 @,@ 573 @,@ 253 . However , it slipped out of the top @-@ 30 list the following week . For Region 2 , the season was divided into two parts , being released on May 14 , 2007 , and September 10 , 2007 ; the complete set was released on October 29 , 2007 . The season was also released in Region 4 on October 3 , 2007 . The second season was released on Region A Blu @-@ ray Disc on June 14 , 2011 , including a new special feature ? " The Devil 's Road Map " , an interactive guide featuring interviews about every episode .