

= Carnivàle =

Carnivàle / k??rn??væl / is an American television series set in the United States during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl . In tracing the lives of two disparate groups of people , its story depicts the battle between good and evil and the struggle between free will and destiny ; the storyline mixes Christian theology with gnosticism and Masonic lore , particularly that of the Knights Templar . The show was filmed in Santa Clarita , California , and other Southern Californian locations .

Carnivàle was produced by HBO and ran for two seasons between September 14 , 2003 and March 27 , 2005 . The show was created by Daniel Knauf , who also served as executive producer with Ronald D. Moore and Howard Klein . The incidental music was composed by Jeff Beal . Nick Stahl and Clancy Brown starred as Ben Hawkins and Brother Justin Crowe , respectively .

Early reviews praised the style of Carnivàle but questioned the approach and execution of the story . Carnivàle 's first episode set a new audience record for an HBO original series , but the show was unable to retain its ratings in its second season . Carnivàle was canceled after 24 episodes , cutting its intended six @-@ season run short by four seasons . The show won five Emmys in 2004 , was nominated for 10 further Emmy awards , and received numerous other nominations and industry awards between 2004 and 2006 .

= = Plot introduction = =

The two seasons of Carnivàle take place in the Depression @-@ era Dust Bowl between 1934 and 1935 , and consist of two main plotlines that slowly converge . The first involves a young man with strange healing powers named Ben Hawkins (Nick Stahl) , who joins a traveling carnival when it passes near his home in Milfay , Oklahoma . Soon thereafter , Ben begins having surrealistic dreams and visions , which set him on the trail of a man named Henry Scudder , a drifter who crossed paths with the carnival many years before , and who apparently possessed unusual abilities similar to Ben 's own .

The second plotline revolves around a Father Coughlin @-@ esque Methodist preacher , Brother Justin Crowe (Clancy Brown) , who lives with his sister Iris in California . He shares Ben 's prophetic dreams and slowly discovers the extent of his own unearthly powers , which include bending human beings to his will and making their sins and greatest evils manifest as terrifying visions . Certain that he is doing God 's work , Brother Justin fully devotes himself to his religious duties , not realizing that his ultimate nemesis Ben Hawkins and the carnival are inexorably drawing closer .

= = Production = =

= = = Conception = = =

Daniel Knauf conceived the initial script for the show between 1990 and 1992 when he was unsatisfied with his job as a Californian health insurance broker and hoped to become a screenwriter . He had always been interested in carnivals and noted that this subject had rarely been dramatized on film . The resulting story and its treatment of freaks was strongly informed by Knauf 's experiences of growing up with a disabled father who was not commonly accepted as a normal human being .

Knauf named the intended feature film script Carnivàle , using an unusual spelling for a more outlandish look . Knauf had plotted the story 's broad strokes as well as several plot details from early on and knew the story destination until the final scene . However , the resulting 180 @-@ page long script was twice the length of a typical feature film script , and Knauf still felt that it was too short to do his story justice . He therefore shelved the screenplay as a learning experience . In the meantime , all but one of Knauf 's other scripts were rejected by Hollywood studios , often for being " too weird . "

In the mid @-@ 1990s , Knauf met a few Writers Guild TV writers who encouraged him to revise Carnivàle as a TV series . Knauf turned the script 's first act into a pilot episode , but , having no contacts in the television business , he was forced to shelve the project again and return to his regular job . A few years later , after realizing that his insurance career was not working out , he decided to give his screenwriting efforts a last chance by offering the Carnivàle pilot on his website . The script was subsequently forwarded to Howard Klein by Scott Winant , a mutual friend of the two men . After several meetings and conversations , Klein felt confident that Carnivàle would make a good episodic television series that could last for many years . Klein brought it to the attention of Chris Albrecht and Carolyn Strauss of HBO , who were immediately receptive . The network deemed Knauf too inexperienced in the television business to give him full control over the budget , and appointed Ronald D. Moore as showrunner . (Knauf would replace Moore after one season when Moore left for the reimagined Battlestar Galactica .)

The pilot episode , which was filmed over a period of 21 days , served as the basis for additional tweaking of intended story lines . Long creative discussions took place among the writers and the network , leading to the postponement of the filming of the second episode for fourteen months . One major change was the addition of extra material for Brother Justin 's side of the story . Brother Justin was originally conceived as a well @-@ established preacher , and as a recurring character rather than a regular one . However , after perusing the preliminary version of the pilot , Knauf and the producers realized that there was no room for Justin to grow in a television series . Hence , it was decided to make Brother Justin an ordinary Methodist minister in a small town , setting him back in his career by about one or two years . Expanding Brother Justin 's role opened new possibilities , and his sister Iris was created as a supporting character . Little was changed on Ben Hawkins ' side except for the addition of the cootch (striptease) family ; a Carnivàle consultant had elated the producers by calling attention to his research about families managing cootch shows in the 1930s .

= = = Format = = =

The Carnivàle story was originally intended to be a trilogy of " books " , consisting of two seasons each . This plan did not come to fruition , as HBO canceled the show after the first two seasons . Each season consists of twelve episodes .

Airing on HBO benefited Carnivàle in several ways . Because HBO does not rely on commercial breaks , Carnivàle had the artistic freedom to vary in episode length . Although the episodes averaged a runtime of 54 minutes , the episodes " Insomnia " and " Old Cherry Blossom Road " were 46 minutes and 59 minutes , respectively . HBO budgeted approximately US \$ 4 million for each episode , considerably more than most television series receive .

= = = Historical production design = = =

Carnivàle 's 1930s ' Dust Bowl setting required significant research and historical consultants to be convincing , which was made possible with HBO 's strong financial backing . As a result , reviews praised the look and production design of the show as " impeccable , " " spectacular " and as " an absolute visual stunner . " In 2004 , Carnivàle won four Emmys for art direction , cinematography , costumes , and hairstyling .

To give a sense of the dry and dusty environment of the Dust Bowl , smoke and dirt were constantly blown through tubes onto the set . The actors ' clothes were ragged and drenched in dirt , and Carnivàle had approximately 5 @,@ 000 people costumed in the show 's first season alone . The creative team listened to 1930s ' music and radio and read old Hollywood magazines to get the period 's sound , language , and slang right . The art department had an extensive research library of old catalogs , among them an original 1934 Sears Catalog , which were purchased at flea markets and antique stores . The East European background of some characters and Asian themes in Brother Justin 's story were incorporated into the show . Aside from the show 's supernatural elements , a historical consultant deemed Carnivàle 's historic accuracy to be excellent regarding

the characters ' lives and clothes , their food and accommodations , their cars and all the material culture .

= = = Filming locations = = =

Carnivàle 's interiors were filmed at Santa Clarita Studios in Santa Clarita , California , while the show 's many exterior scenes were filmed on Southern California locations . The scenes of fictional California town of Mintern , where the stories about Brother Justin and Iris in Season 1 were based , were shot at Paramount Ranch in Agoura Hills . The carnival set itself was moved around the greater Southern California area , to movie ranches and to Lancaster , which were to replicate the states of Oklahoma , Texas , and New Mexico . The permanent filming location of the carnival in Season 2 was Big Sky Ranch , which was also used for Brother Justin 's new home in fictional New Canaan .

= = = Opening title sequence = = =

Carnivàle 's opening title sequence was created by A52 , a visual effects and design company based in Los Angeles , and featured music composed by Wendy Melvoin and Lisa Coleman . The opening title sequence won an Emmy for " Outstanding Main Title Design " in 2004 .

The production team of A52 had intended to " create a title sequence that grounded viewers in the mid @-@ 1930s , but that also allowed people to feel a larger presence of good and evil over all of time . " A52 then pitched their idea to Carnivàle executives in early 2003 , who felt that the company 's proposal was the most creative for the series ' concept . The actual production included scanned transparencies of famous pieces of artwork , each scanned transparency being up to 300 MB in size . The resulting images were photoshopped and digitally rendered . A last step involved stock footage clips being compiled and digitally incorporated into the sequence .

The opening title sequence itself begins with a deck of Tarot cards falling into the sand , while the camera moves in and enters one card into a separate world presenting layers of artwork and footage from iconic moments of the American Depression era ; the camera then moves back out of a different card and repeats the procedure several times . The sequence ends with the camera shifting from the " Judgement " Tarot card to the " Moon " and the " Sun " , identifying the Devil and God respectively , until the wind blows away all cards and the underlying sand to reveal the Carnivàle title artwork .

= = = Music = = =

Carnivàle features instrumental music composed by Jeff Beal , as well as many popular and obscure songs from the 1920s and 1930s , the time when Carnivàle 's story takes place . The main title was written by Wendy Melvoin and Lisa Coleman , and was released with selected themes by Jeff Beal on a Carnivàle television soundtrack by the record label Varèse Sarabande on December 7 , 2004 . Beal released tracks of Season 2 on his personal website . A complete list of music credits is available on the official HBO website .

Jeff Beal 's score is primarily acoustic sounding electronics , but mixes themes of bluegrass as well as atmospheric rhythmic sounds . Bigger groups of strings support smaller ensembles of guitars , pianos , violins , cellos , and trumpets . The music sometimes uses ethnic instruments such as banjos , harmonicas , ukuleles , and duduks .

Because HBO does not break individual episodes with commercials , Carnivàle 's music is paced similar to a movie , with character @-@ specific leitmotifs from as early as the first episode . Characters get musically identified by solo instruments chosen for the character 's ethnic background or nature . Some characters whose connections would only be disclosed later in the series have intentionally similar themes .

Different music is consciously used to represent the two different worlds of the story . Brother Justin 's world features music of constructed orchestral sound with religious music and instruments . On

the other hand , the score of the carnival side is more deconstructed and mystical , especially when the carnival travels through the Dust Bowl and remote towns . For carnival scenes taking place in the cootch (striptease) show or in cities , however , contemporary pop music , blues , folk , and ethnic music is played . One of the most defining songs of Carnivàle is the 1920s song " Love Me or Leave Me " sung by Ruth Etting , which is used in several episodes to tie characters in the two worlds thematically .

= = Cast = =

The plot of Carnivàle takes place in the 1930s Dust Bowl and revolves around the slowly converging storylines of a traveling carnival and a Californian preacher . Out of the 17 actors receiving star billing in the first season , 15 were part of the carnival storyline . The second season amounted to 13 main cast members , supplemented by several actors in recurring roles . Although such large casts make shows more expensive to produce , the writers are benefited with more flexibility in story decisions . The backgrounds of most characters were fully developed before the filming of Carnivàle began but were not part of the show 's visible structure . The audience would therefore only learn more about the characters as a natural aspect in the story .

Season 1 's first storyline is led by Nick Stahl portraying the protagonist Ben Hawkins , a young Okie farmer who joins a traveling carnival . Michael J. Anderson played Samson , the diminutive manager of the carnival . Tim DeKay portrayed Clayton " Jonesy " Jones , the crippled chief roustabout . Patrick Bauchau acted as the carnival 's blind mentalist Lodz , while Debra Christofferson played his lover , Lila the Bearded Lady . Diane Salinger portrayed the catatonic fortune teller Apollonia , and Clea DuVall acted as her tarot @-@ card @-@ reading daughter , Sofie . Adrienne Barbeau portrayed the snake charmer Ruthie , with Brian Turk as her son Gabriel , a strongman . John Fleck played Gecko the Lizard Man , and Karyne and Sarah Steben appeared as the conjoined twins Alexandria and Caladonia . The cootch show Dreifuss family was played by Toby Huss and Cynthia Ettinger as Felix " Stumpy " and Rita Sue , and Carla Gallo as their daughter Libby . Amanda Aday portrayed their other daughter , Dora Mae Dreifuss , in a recurring role . John Savage played the mysterious Henry Scudder in several episodes , while Linda Hunt lent her voice to the mysterious Management . The second storyline is led by Clancy Brown portraying the primary antagonist , the Methodist minister Brother Justin Crowe . Amy Madigan played his sister Iris . Robert Knepper supported them as the successful radio host Tommy Dolan later in the first season , while Ralph Waite had a recurring role as Reverend Norman Balthus , Brother Justin 's mentor . K Callan performed in a recurring role as Eleanor McGill , a parishioner who became devoted to Brother Justin after seeing his power firsthand .

Several cast changes took place in Season 2 , some of them planned from the beginning . John Fleck , Karyne Steben and her sister Sarah had made their last appearance in the first season 's finale , while Patrick Bauchau 's and Diane Salinger 's status was reduced to guest @-@ starring . Ralph Waite joined the regular cast . Several new characters were introduced in recurring roles , most notably John Carroll Lynch as the escaped convict Varlyn Stroud and Bree Walker as Sabina the Scorpion Lady .

= = = Casting = = =

The casting approach for Carnivàle was to cast the best available actors and to show the characters ' realness as opposed to depending on freak illusions too much . Carnivàle 's casting directors John Papsodera and Wendy O 'Brien already had experience in casting freaks from previous projects . The producers generally preferred actors who were not strongly identified with other projects , but were willing to make exceptions such as for Adrienne Barbeau as Ruthie .

The script for the pilot episode was the basis for the casting procedure , with little indication where the show would go afterwards . This resulted in some preliminary casting disagreements between the creators and producers , especially for leading characters such as Ben , Brother Justin and Sofie . The character of Ben was always intended to be the leading man and hero of the series , yet he

was also desired to display a youthful , innocent and anti @-@ hero quality ; Nick Stahl had the strongest consensus among the producers . The character of Sofie was originally written as more of an exotic gypsy girl , but Clea DuVall , a movie actor like Stahl , got the part after four auditions . Tim DeKay was cast as Jonesy because the producers felt he best portrayed a " very American " looking baseball player of that period . One of the few actors who never had any real competition was Michael J. Anderson as Samson , whom Daniel Knauf had wanted as early as the initial meeting .

= = Mythology = =

Although almost every Carnivàle episode has a distinctive story with a new carnival setting , all episodes are part of an overarching good @-@ versus @-@ evil story that only culminates and resolves very late in Season 2 . The pilot episode begins with a prologue talking of " a creature of light and a creature of darkness " (also known as Avatars) being born " to each generation " preparing for a final battle . Carnivàle does not reveal its characters as Avatars beyond insinuation , and makes the nature of suggested Avatars a central question . Reviewers believed Ben to be a Creature of Light and Brother Justin a Creature of Darkness .

Other than through the characters , the show 's good @-@ and @-@ evil theme manifests in the series ' contemporary religion , the Christian military order Knights Templar , tarot divination , and in historical events like the Dust Bowl and humankind 's first nuclear test . The writers had established a groundwork for story arcs , character biographies and genealogical character links before filming of the seasons began , but many of the intended clues remained unnoticed by viewers . While Ronald D. Moore was confident that Carnivàle was one of the most complicated shows on television , Daniel Knauf reassured critics that Carnivàle was intended to be a demanding show with a lot of subtext and admitted that " you may not understand everything that goes on but it does make a certain sense " . Knauf provided hints about the show 's mythological structure to online fandom both during and after the two @-@ season run of Carnivàle , and left fans a production summary of Carnivàle 's first season two years after cancellation .

Matt Roush of TV Guide called Carnivàle " the perfect show for those who thought Twin Peaks was too accessible " . The Australian stated that Carnivàle " seems to have been conceived in essentially literary terms " which " can sometimes work on the page but is deadly on the large screen , let alone a small one . It 's almost like a biblical injunction against pretension on television . " A reviewer admitted his temptation to dismiss the first season of Carnivàle as " too artsy and esoteric " because his lack of involvement prevented him from understanding " what the heck was going on , [which] can be a problem for a dramatic television series . " TV Zone however considered Carnivàle " a series like no other and [...] the fact that it is so open to interpretation surprisingly proves to be one of its greatest strengths . " Carnivàle was lauded for bringing " the hopelessness of the Great Depression to life " and for being among the first TV shows to show " unmitigated pain and disappointment " , but reviewers were not confident that viewers would find the " slowly unfolding sadness " appealing over long or would have the patience or endurance to find out the meaning of the show .

= = Cancellation and future = =

At the time , HBO made their commitments for only one year at a time , a third season would have meant opening up a new two @-@ season book in Daniel Knauf 's six @-@ year plan , including the introduction of new storylines for current and new characters , and further clarification and elaboration on the show 's mythology . HBO announced that the show had been cancelled on May 11 , 2005 . HBO 's president Chris Albrecht stated that the network would have considered otherwise if the producers had been willing to lower the price of an episode to US \$ 2 million ; but the running costs for the sizable cast , the all @-@ on @-@ location shooting and the number of episodes per season were too enormous for them .

The cancellation resulted in several story plot lines being unfinished , and outraged loyal viewers organized petitions and mailing drives to get the show renewed . This generated more than 50 @,@

000 emails to the network in a single weekend . Show creator Daniel Knauf was unconvinced of the success of such measures , but explained that proposed alternatives like selling *Carnivàle* to a competing network or spinning off the story were not possible because of HBO owning *Carnivàle* 's plot and characters . At the same time , Knauf was hopeful that , given a strong enough fan base , HBO might reconsider the show 's future and allow the continuation of the show in another medium ; but because of the amount of unused story material he still had , Knauf did not favor finishing the *Carnivàle* story with a three @-@ hour movie .

Knauf would not release a detailed run @-@ down of intended future plots to fans , explaining that his stories are a collaboration of writers , directors and actors alike . He and the producers did , however , answer a few basic details about the immediate fate of major characters who were left in near @-@ fatal situations in the final episode of Season 2 . Knauf additionally provided in @-@ depth information regarding the underlying fictional laws of nature that the writers had not been able to fully explore in the first two seasons . June 2007 however marked the first time that a comprehensive work of detailed character backgrounds was made public . Following a fundraising auction , Knauf offered fans a so @-@ called " Pitch Document , " a summary of *Carnivàle* 's first season . This document was originally written in 2002 and 2003 to give the writers and the studio an idea about the series ' intended plot , and answered many of the show 's mysteries .

= = Marketing and merchandise = =

= = = Pre @-@ broadcast marketing = = =

HBO reportedly invested in *Carnivàle* 's promotion as much as for any of its primetime series launches . The series ' unconventional and complex narrative made the network deviate from its traditional marketing strategies . Teaser trailers were inserted on CD @-@ ROMs into *Entertainment Weekly* issues to draw attention to the show 's visual quality . 30 @-@ second TV spots were aired in national syndication , cable and local avails for four weeks before the show 's premiere instead of the usual seven days . The historical context of *Carnivàle* was deliberately emphasized in the show 's print art , which depicted the 17 @-@ member cast surrounding a carnival truck . This image was accompanied by a tagline of the show 's good versus evil theme : " Into each generation is born a creature of light and a creature of darkness . " These measures were hoped to be backed up by positive critical reviews . To give ratings an initial boost , HBO placed the premiere of *Carnivàle* directly after the series finale of the successful *Sex and the City* . The series continued to receive extensive online advertisement for almost its entire run .

= = = Games = = =

Personalized and interactive online games inspired by tarot divination were created for *Carnivàle* 's internet presence . The official HBO website collaborated with RealNetworks to offer FATE : The *Carnivàle* Game , a downloadable game made available for trial and for purchase .

= = = DVDs = = =

Carnivàle : The Complete First Season was released as a widescreen six @-@ disc Region 1 DVD box set on December 7 , 2004 , one month before the premiere of the second season . It was distributed by HBO Home Video and contained three audio commentaries and a behind @-@ the @-@ scenes featurette . The outer slipcover of the Region 1 set was made of a thick cardboard to mimic a bound book . The same set was released with less elaborate packaging in Region 2 on March 7 , 2005 , and in Region 4 on May 11 , 2005 .

Carnivàle : The Complete Second Season was released as a widescreen six @-@ disc Region 1 DVD box set on July 18 , 2006 , in Region 2 on August 7 , 2006 , and in Region 4 on October 4 , 2006 . Each of these releases was distributed by HBO Home Video and contained three audio

commentaries , on @-@ stage interviews of the cast and producers , a featurette about the mythology of the series , and four short " Creating the Scene " segments about the concept , inspiration and execution process .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

Carnivàle aired on HBO on a Sunday 9 : 00 pm timeslot during its two @-@ season run between 2003 and 2005 . " Milfay " , Carnivàle 's pilot episode , drew 5 @.@ 3 million viewers for its premiere on September 14 , 2003 . This marked the best ever debut for an HBO original series at the time , caused in part by the established HBO series Sex and the City being Carnivàle 's lead @-@ in . This record was broken on March 21 , 2004 by HBO series Deadwood , which debuted with 5 @.@ 8 million viewers as the lead @-@ out of The Sopranos .

Viewership dropped to 3 @.@ 49 million for Carnivàle 's second episode but remained stable for the remainder of the season . The final episode of season one finished with 3 @.@ 5 million viewers on November 30 , 2003 . Season one averaged 3 @.@ 54 million viewers and a household rating of 2 @.@ 41 .

Viewership for the second season premiere on January 9 , 2005 was down by two @-@ thirds to 1 @.@ 81 million . The ratings never recovered to their first @-@ season highs , although the season two finale experienced an upswing with 2 @.@ 40 million viewers on March 27 , 2005 . Season 2 averaged 1 @.@ 7 million viewers , not enough to avert an imminent cancellation .

= = = Critical reviews = = =

Many early reviews gave Carnivàle good marks but also stated that its unique characters and story might prevent it from becoming a huge mainstream audience success . Daily Variety TV editor Joseph Adalian predicted that " it will get mostly positive reviews but some people will be put off by the general weirdness of the show . " Phil Gallo of Variety described Carnivàle as " an absolute visual stunner with compelling freak show characters ? but the series unfortunately takes a leisurely approach toward getting to a point , " and Eric Deggans of the St. Petersburg Times suggested that " it 's as if executives at the premium cable network want to see how far they can slow a narrative before viewers start tossing their remotes through the screen " . James Poniewozik of Time called the first three episodes " frustrating " as well as " spellbinding . " Amanda Murray of BBC said " With so little revealed , it 's almost impossible to pass judgment on the show ? it 's hard to tell if this is just good , or going to be great . "

Later reviews were able to judge the series based on full seasons . While the acting , set design , costuming , art direction and cinematography continued to be praised , some reviewers disfavored the writing , especially of Season 1 , saying " the plot momentum is often virtually non @-@ existent " or as " sometimes gripping but mostly boring . " Other reviewers pointed out that Carnivàle may " demand more from its audience than many are willing to invest . [...] Without paying close attention , it 's tempting to assume that the show is unnecessarily cryptic and misleading . " Carnivàle 's story was surveyed as long and complex , " and if you don 't start from the beginning , you 'll be completely lost . " IGN DVD 's Matt Casamassina , however , praised the show in two reviews , writing that the " gorgeously surreal " first season " dazzles with unpredictable plot twists and scares " , and that the " extraordinary " second season was " better fantasy ? better entertainment , period ? than any show that dares to call itself a competitor . "

A significant portion of reviews drew parallels between Carnivàle and David Lynch 's 1990s mystery TV series Twin Peaks , a show in which Carnivàle actor Michael J. Anderson had previously appeared . Knauf did not deny a stylistic link and made comparisons to John Steinbeck 's novel The Grapes of Wrath . When Lost began to receive major critical attention , Carnivàle and its type of mythological storytelling were compared to Lost 's story approach in several instances .

Critical opinion remained divided about *Carnivàle* in the years after the show's cancellation . Alessandra Stanley of the Australian newspaper *The Age* remembers *Carnivàle* as a " smart , ambitious series that move [s] unusual characters around an unfamiliar setting imaginatively and even with grace , but that never quite quit the surly bonds of serial drama . " *Variety* 's Brian Lowry remembers the show as " largely a macabre fantasy " that eventually suffered from " its own bleakness and eccentricities " . The A.V. Club dwelled on *Carnivàle* 's cliffhanger ending in a piece on unanswered TV questions and called the show " a fantastically rich series with a frustratingly dense mythology " .

= = = Fandom = = =

Like other cult television shows , *Carnivàle* gained a respectable following of dedicated viewers . *Carnivàle* fans referred to themselves as " Carnies " or " Rousties " (roustabouts) , terms adopted from the show . *Carnivàle* 's complexity and subliminal mythology spawned dedicated fansites , although most discussion took place on independent internet forums . Show creator Daniel Knauf actively participated in online fandom and offered story- and mythology @-@ related clues . He also gave insight into reasons for *Carnivàle* 's cancellation on a messageboard before speaking to the press .

One year after *Carnivàle* 's cancellation , a major *Carnivàle* convention called *CarnyCon 2006 Live !* was organized by fans . It took place in Woodland Hills , California on August 21 ? 23 , 2006 . Many of the show 's cast and crew attended the event and participated in discussion panels , which were recorded and made available on DVD afterwards .

= = = Awards = = =

Despite its short two @-@ season run , *Carnivàle* received numerous awards and nominations . The show 's inaugural season received nominations for seven Emmy Awards in 2004 , winning five including " Outstanding Art Direction For A Single @-@ camera Series " and " Outstanding Costumes For A Series " for the pilot episode " Milfay " , " Outstanding Cinematography For A Single @-@ Camera Series " for the episode " Pick A Number " , " Outstanding Hairstyling For A Series " for the episode " After the Ball Is Over " , and " Outstanding Main Title Design " . In 2005 , the second season received eight further Emmy nominations without a win .

Other awards include but are not limited to :

Win ? Artios Award : " Best Casting for TV , Dramatic Pilot " , 2004

Win ? VES Award : " Outstanding Special Effects in Service to Visual Effects in a Televised Program , Music Video or Commercial " , 2004

Win ? Costume Designers Guild Award : " Excellence in Costume Design for Television ? Period / Fantasy " , 2005

Nominated ? two Golden Reel Awards , 2003

Nominated ? two Saturn Awards , 2004

Nominated ? two VES Awards , 2004

Nominated ? Costume Designers Guild Award , 2005

= = = International reception and broadcasters = = =

HBO president Chris Albrecht stated that *Carnivàle* was " not a big show for foreign [distribution] , " but did not go into more detail . Reviews however indicate that the show 's cryptic mythology and inaccessibility to the casual viewer were major factors . Nevertheless , *Carnivàle* was sold to several foreign networks and was distributed to HBO channels abroad . The DVD releases of *Carnivàle* extended the availability of the show further .

= = Lawsuit = =

On June 9 , 2005 , a lawsuit was filed in United States district court by Los Angeles writer Jeff Bergquist . He claimed that the creators of Carnivàle did not originate the idea for the show , but rather stole it from his unpublished novel Beulah , a quirky drama set amid a traveling carnival during the Depression that Bergquist had been working on since the 1980s . Bergquist sought both recognition and punitive damages by arguing that HBO and Carnivàle creator Daniel Knauf violated his copyright on Beulah , but HBO and Knauf denied any claims as having " absolutely no merit . "