

= American Horror Story =

American Horror Story is an American anthology horror television series created and produced by Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk . Described as an anthology series , each season is conceived as a self @-@ contained miniseries , following a disparate set of characters and settings , and a storyline with its own " beginning , middle , and end . " Some plot elements are loosely inspired by true events .

The first season , retroactively subtitled Murder House , takes place in Los Angeles , California during the year 2011 and centers on a family that moves into a house haunted by its deceased former occupants . The second season , subtitled Asylum , takes place in Massachusetts during the year 1964 and follows the stories of the patients and staff of an institution for the criminally insane . The third season , subtitled Coven , takes place in New Orleans , Louisiana during the year 2013 and follows a coven of witches who face off against those who wish to destroy them . The fourth season , subtitled Freak Show , takes place in Jupiter , Florida during the year 1952 and centers around one of the few remaining American freak shows . The fifth season , subtitled Hotel , takes place in Los Angeles , California during the year 2015 and focuses on the staff and guests of a supernatural hotel . The only actors to appear in all five iterations of the show are ; Evan Peters , Sarah Paulson and Lily Rabe .

The series is broadcast on the cable television channel FX in the United States . The fifth season premiered on October 7 , 2015 , and concluded on January 13 , 2016 . On November 10 , 2015 , the show was renewed for a sixth season ; set to premiere , for the first time out of October , September 14 , 2016 .

American Horror Story has been well received by television critics , with the majority of the praise going to the cast , particularly Jessica Lange , who won two Emmy Awards , a Golden Globe Award , and a Screen Actors Guild Award for her performances . Additionally , Kathy Bates and Lady Gaga won an Emmy Award and a Golden Globe Award , respectively , for their performances . The series draws consistently high ratings for the FX network , with its first season being the biggest new cable series of 2011 .

= = Overview = =

= = = Murder House ( 2011 ) = = =

The story takes place in 2011 and follows the Harmon family : psychiatrist Ben ( Dylan McDermott ) , his wife Vivien ( Connie Britton ) , and their teenage daughter Violet ( Taissa Farmiga ) , who move from Boston to Los Angeles after Vivien has a miscarriage and Ben had an affair . The Harmons move into a restored mansion and soon encounter the home 's former residents , the Langdons ? Constance ( Jessica Lange ) and her two children ( although Constance has four children ) , Tate ( Evan Peters ) and Addie ( Jamie Brewer ) ? and the disfigured Larry Harvey ( Denis O 'Hare ) . Ben and Vivien try to rekindle their relationship , as Violet , suffering from depression , finds comfort with Tate . The Langdons and Larry frequently influence the Harmons ' lives , as the family discovers that the home is haunted by the ghosts of anyone who has ever died on the property . The season is primarily set in the modern day , with flashbacks to the 1920s , 1940s , 1960s , 1970s , 1980s , 1990s , and 2000s .

= = = Asylum ( 2012 ? 13 ) = = =

The story takes place in 1964 and follows the patients , doctors and nuns who occupy the Briarcliff Mental Institution , located in Massachusetts and founded to treat and house the criminally insane . The wardens who run the institution include the stern Sister Jude ( Jessica Lange ) , her protégé Sister Mary Eunice ( Lily Rabe ) and the founder of the institution , Monsignor Timothy Howard ( Joseph Fiennes ) . The doctors charged with treating the patients at the asylum include psychiatrist

Dr. Oliver Thredson ( Zachary Quinto ) and the sadistic scientist Dr. Arthur Arden ( James Cromwell ) . The patients , many of whom claim to be unjustly institutionalized , include lesbian journalist Lana Winters ( Sarah Paulson ) , accused serial killer Kit Walker ( Evan Peters ) , nymphomaniac Shelley ( Chloe Sevigny ) and alleged murderer Grace Bertrand ( Lizzie Brocheré ) . Briarcliff 's inhabitants are routinely subject to supernatural and scientific influences , including demonic possession and extraterrestrial abduction . The season primarily takes place throughout the 1960s with flash @-@ forwards to 2012 .

== Coven ( 2013 ? 14 ) ==

The story takes place in 2013 and follows the descendants of the witches who survived the Salem Witch Trials , who are nearly extinct and are in danger once again . Those who share this genetic affliction are being subjected to strange and violent attacks . A mysterious all @-@ girls boarding school has opened in New Orleans to protect and house young women who carry this unique bloodline , and keep them from the dangers of the outside world . The long @-@ absent Supreme , and most powerful witch of her generation , Fiona Goode ( Jessica Lange ) , arrives to ensure the safety of the Coven , but also to fulfill her own hidden agenda . Fiona 's daughter , Cordelia ( Sarah Paulson ) , teaches at the school and welcomes its newest student , Zoe Benson ( Taissa Farmiga ) , who harbors her own harrowing secret . Events reveal a long @-@ held rivalry between the witches of Salem and the voodoo practitioners of New Orleans , as well as a historic grudge between Voodoo Queen Marie Laveau ( Angela Bassett ) and socialite serial killer Delphine LaLaurie ( Kathy Bates ) . Other themes include witchcraft , voodoo , racism , death , and family , such as the relationships between mothers and daughters . The season is set primarily in the modern day and includes flashbacks to the early 1970s , 1960s , and the 1830s .

== Freak Show ( 2014 ? 15 ) ==

The story takes place in 1952 in the quiet town of Jupiter , Florida and follows a struggling freak show led by Elsa Mars ( Jessica Lange ) . Decades have passed since the public has looked upon freak shows as a form of entertainment , but Elsa dreams of finding a home for her " monsters " , as well as her own fame . When conjoined twins Bette and Dot Tattler ( Sarah Paulson ) are taken to the hospital , Elsa sees her chance to finally drum up some business for her sideshow , hoping the two sisters will save her troupe once and for all . Other members include Jimmy Darling ( Evan Peters ) , a boy born with syndactyly who dreams of leaving the carny life behind and living a normal life . Jimmy 's mother , the bearded lady Ethel Darling ( Kathy Bates ) , is Elsa 's second in command and maintains law and order under the tent . A Strongman from Ethel 's troubled past named Dell Toledo ( Michael Chiklis ) , and his three @-@ breasted wife , Desiree Dupree ( Angela Bassett ) , make waves when they arrive at the sideshow . In a time when the era of television is beginning to reign high above sideshow acts , these individuals must overcome those who persecute them based on their looks . However , as events unfold , it is revealed that multiple dark entities have taken up residence in Jupiter , with all of their eyes being set on the freaks . Flashbacks are set in the 1940s , and a flash forward to the 1960s .

== Hotel ( 2015 ? 16 ) ==

The story takes place in 2015 in Los Angeles , California in the haunted , retro Hotel Cortez which was built to become a torture chamber for the customers by the founder James Patrick March ( Evan Peters ) . The wardens of the hotel includes the 111 year old vampire , Elizabeth Johnson ( Lady Gaga ) , and the front desk clerk and manager , Iris ( Kathy Bates ) . The residents and guests include the drug addicted prostitute ghost , Sally McKenna ( Sarah Paulson ) , Iris ' hateful son and former drug addict turned vampire lover of Elizabeth , Donovan ( Matt Bomer ) , transgender bartender Liz Taylor ( Denis O 'Hare ) , actress and revengeful former lover of Elizabeth , Ramona Royale ( Angela Bassett ) , male model heartthrob and murder addict Tristan Duffy ( Finn Wittrock ) ,

New York fashion designer and current purchaser Will Drake ( Cheyenne Jackson ) , and the suspicious and soon going insane detective John Lowe ( Wes Bentley ) and his depressed wife Alex ( Chloe Sevigny ) . When Lowe checks in to the hotel , what he doesn 't know is that he is targeted by a serial murderer , The Ten Commandments Killer , which will bring the inside and outside danger crashing together . Main themes include addiction , insanity and forgiveness . Alongside being set in modern day , flashbacks are set in the 1920s , 1970s , 1980s , and 1990s , with an epilogue set in 2022 .

= = = Season 6 = = =

Little is known or confirmed about the plot for the sixth cycle , but it will have " children and operatic " themes and take place in the present , with echoes of the past .

= = Production = =

= = = Conception = = =

Creators Murphy and Falchuk began working on American Horror Story before their Fox series Glee began production . Murphy wanted to do the opposite of what he had done previously and thus began his work on the series . He stated : " I went from Nip / Tuck to Glee , so it made sense that I wanted to do something challenging and dark . And I always had loved , as Brad had , the horror genre . So it just was a natural for me . " Falchuk was intrigued by the idea of putting a different angle on the horror genre , stating that their main goal in creating the series was to scare viewers . You want people to be a little bit off balance afterwards , " he said .

In February 2011 , FX officially announced that it had ordered a pilot for a possible series from Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk , with both Murphy and Falchuk writing and Murphy directing . Dante Di Loreto was announced as executive producer . Production on the series began in April 2011 . In July 2011 , FX officially announced the project had been picked up to series .

From the beginning , Murphy and Falchuk planned that each season of the series would tell a different story . After the first season finale aired , Murphy spoke of his plans to change the cast and location for the second season . He did say , however , that some actors who starred in the first season would be returning . " The people that are coming back will be playing completely different characters , creatures , monsters , etc . [ The Harmons ' ] stories are done . People who are coming back will be playing entirely new characters , " he announced . In November 2012 , FX chief executive , John Landgraf , described the unique format of the series stating : " [ T ] he notion of doing an anthological series of miniseries with a repertory cast ? has proven groundbreaking , wildly successful and will prove to be trendsetting . "

At the 2013 PaleyFest , Falchuk compared the series to horror films : " It does demand a little bit of compassion at the end because you fall in love with these characters in a different way than you would in a movie , " he said . " If you want to kill everybody in a movie except one person , you can kind of get away with that , but if you 're looking to do a horror TV show , you have a different responsibility to the characters because the audience has a different affection for them . "

Murphy then explained the process of planning a series ' season takes about a year . " We come up with story first and then we come up with the characters , " he said . " It is a repertory company , so we 'll move people around and sometimes there won 't yet be a role for somebody . Like when we started [ the second season ] , I really had no idea that Dylan [ McDermott ] would be the person to play Sarah 's son , but the deeper we got , I thought , that would work great . "

In an August 2015 article for Entertainment Weekly , Murphy revealed that the show is mulling producing two seasons a year . The first being broadcast in the spring and the second in the fall . He explained , " We 're doing something that we 've never done before on the show where we 're doing two different groups of writers rooms . Some of our writers will be bouncing around but a whole different group coming in late August . The next thing we ? re crafting up is very , very different than

[ Hotel ] . Not smaller . But just not opulent . More rogue and more dark . "

= = = Casting = = =

Connie Britton was first to be cast in the series , portraying female lead Vivien Harmon on Murder House . Denis O 'Hare joined second as Larry Harvey . Jessica Lange soon followed as Constance , her first regular role on television . Dylan McDermott joined the cast soon after Lange as the male lead Ben Harmon . Taissa Farmiga and Evan Peters were the last actors to be added to the main cast , portraying Violet Harmon and Tate Langdon , respectively .

In March 2012 , Murphy revealed that the second season had been conceptualized around Jessica Lange who portrays Sister Jude , a sadistic nun who runs the asylum . Evan Peters , Sarah Paulson , Lily Rabe and Zachary Quinto also return as main cast members in the second season . Peters portrays Kit Walker , an inmate accused of murdering his wife . Paulson portrays Lana , a lesbian reporter who gets committed to the asylum because of her sexuality and intent to snoop around the sanatorium . Rabe 's character is Sister Mary Eunice , clumsy second @-@ in @-@ charge to Sister Jude . Quinto portrays Dr. Thredson , a psychiatrist at the asylum . Lizzie Brocheré stars as Grace Bertrand , a character described originally as " a fierce , ferocious , extremely sexual , and dangerous wild @-@ child sexpot " , but the role was later heavily revamped . James Cromwell co @-@ stars as Dr. Arthur Arden , who proclaims to be in charge of the asylum and performs dark experiments on its patients . Joseph Fiennes starred as Monsignor Timothy Howard , a possible love interest for Sister Jude .

For the third season , series executive producers and co @-@ creators Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk stated that , as with the second season , " many actors " would return in different roles , beginning with Jessica Lange . Evan Peters and Sarah Paulson were confirmed to return , portraying Kyle Spencer and Cordelia Foxx , respectively . Murphy added that Lange would portray a " real glamour @-@ cat lady " , later revealed to be named Fiona Goode . Taissa Farmiga , Violet in the first season , starred as Zoe Benson , a character that is involved in a prominent romance during the season . Lily Rabe co @-@ starred as Misty Day . Series recurring actress Frances Conroy joined as a main cast member , playing the character of Myrtle Snow . Oscar @-@ winning actress Kathy Bates was confirmed to co @-@ star . It was first reported that she would portray " a woman who , at the start , is Lange 's character 's best friend , but will become her worst enemy " , but this was altered . Murphy stated that Bates ' character will be " five times worse than [ her ] Misery character " and is also inspired by a " true event " . She portrayed Madame Delphine LaLaurie , an immortal racist . It was announced in May 2013 that Emma Roberts had been added to the cast . Roberts played Madison Montgomery , a " self @-@ involved party girl " .

In November 2013 , Ryan Murphy confirmed that Jessica Lange would be returning for a fourth season , although in a reduced capacity . It was later revealed she would be playing Freak Show owner Elsa Mars . Kathy Bates returned in a main role , portraying bearded lady Ethel Darling . On March 29 , 2014 , Murphy announced that Sarah Paulson , Evan Peters , Frances Conroy , Emma Roberts , Denis O 'Hare , and Angela Bassett would all return for the fourth season . Paulson portrayed conjoined sisters Bette and Dot Tattler ; Peters portrayed " Lobster Boy " Jimmy Darling ; Conroy played the well @-@ off Gloria Mott ; Bassett portrayed three @-@ breasted hermaphrodite Desiree Dupree ; and O 'Hare played Stanley , a conman working with Roberts ' Maggie Esmerelda . At PaleyFest 2014 , it was revealed that Michael Chiklis would be joining the cast as Dell Toledo , the father of Jimmy , ex @-@ husband of Ethel , and current husband of Desiree . Finn Wittrock later joined the main cast as Conroy 's spoiled son , Dandy Mott .

It was announced on February 25 , 2015 , that singer @-@ songwriter Lady Gaga would co @-@ star on the fifth cycle of the series , subtitled Hotel . It was announced at the 2015 PaleyFest that Matt Bomer and Cheyenne Jackson will co @-@ star , and that Lange would not be returning . Since PaleyFest , Murphy has announced the series returns of Wes Bentley , Chloë Sevigny , Kathy Bates , Sarah Paulson , Evan Peters , Angela Bassett , and Finn Wittrock . On June 18 , 2015 , Murphy revealed to Deadline.com that Denis O 'Hare would also return .

=== Filming ===

The pilot episode was shot on location in a house in Country Club Park , Los Angeles , California , which serves as the haunted house and crime scene in the series . Designed and built in 1908 by Alfred Rosenheim , the president of the American Institute of Architects ' Los Angeles chapter , the Tudor or Collegiate Gothic @-@ style single family home was previously used as a convent . The first season was filmed on sets which are an exact replica of the house . Details such as Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass windows and hammered bronze light fixtures were re @-@ created to preserve the look of the house .

Production and shooting for the second season began in late July 2012 for a scheduled premiere in mid October . The exteriors for the second season were filmed in Hidden Valley , Ventura County , California , a rural area outside Los Angeles .

Principal photography for the third season began on July 23 , 2013 , in New Orleans , Louisiana . It was first reported that the season would film in multiple locations , but filming primarily took place in New Orleans .

Principal photography for season 4 began on July 15 , 2014 , in New Orleans , though the story takes place in Jupiter , Florida .

Principal photography for season 5 began on July 14 , 2015 , in Los Angeles , California , where the story also takes place . Murphy revealed a six @-@ story hotel set was being built on the Fox lot . A dummy set of the hotel was built at the 2015 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International , showing an Art Deco style building from the 1920s , inspired by the old Hollywood era .

=== Title sequences ===

American Horror Story 's title screens offer vague hints to important plot elements and events that compose each season . For Murder House , Murphy described the sequence as a mini @-@ mystery and stated that : " By the time you see the ninth episode of this season , every image in that title sequence will be explained , " establishing the purpose of the title sequence for future seasons .

The opening title sequence was created by Kyle Cooper and his company Prologue . He also created the title sequence for the AMC series The Walking Dead and the 1995 film Seven . The theme music was composed by sound designer Cesar Davila @-@ Irizarry and musician Charlie Clouser . The cinematography was done by Juan Ruiz Anchía and the editing by Gabriel J. Diaz .

For the first season , the sequence is set in the Harmons ' basement and includes images of postmortem young children , fetuses in jars , skulls , a christening dress , a nurse 's uniform , and a figure holding a pair of bloody hedge clippers . A photo of alleged axe murderer Lizzie Borden is shown .

The second season 's opening sequence is done by the same creative team . " We are shooting a new title sequence with the same team that did last year 's , " series creator Ryan Murphy said . " The song may stay ... not sure . " The music was kept , and the new title sequence was set around the Asylum , utilising shots of inmates raving and surgeons operating on patients with bandages obscuring their faces . Elements include a young girl walking backwards on her hands and feet up a staircase and a shot of the Virgin Mary 's smile changing from one of benevolence to one of spite .

The third season 's opening sequence keeps the same music , and this sequence is the first one to be filmed primarily outside and not in an enclosed location . Shots include figures wearing black robes and capirotes , a bony @-@ skeleton creature with wings and shots of dead goats , the Minotaur from the season also appears . For the first time , there are actual backgrounds that appear with the actor names instead of an all @-@ black background , some of these images include witches hanging and Santa Muerte . Other elements include a black man with piercing eyes and a disturbing smile as well as voodoo dolls . The final shot continues after the figures in black capirotes seize one of their own who is later seen burning at a stake where young , dress @-@ clad witches dance around .

The fourth season 's opening sequence changed things up , the series theme music remains intact

albeit with an added carnival @-@ like soundscape . The sequence is composed of both CGI and stop @-@ motion animation and features strange characters such as a skeleton chimera of a human being and an elephant riding a bicycle , a skeleton of what appears to be a single head but two bodies , a devil @-@ like creature , a boy in a wheel chair with deformed legs , a character with severe syndactyly of the hands and feet , a clown who can twist his head around , a woman with a third leg where her genitalia should be , and a demonic cymbal @-@ banging monkey toy . There are also shots of side show attractions like the Human Blockhead , knife throwing and sword swallowing . The main recurring element features a balloon twister popping balloons with a knife .

The fifth season 's opening sequence also was very different from previous seasons ' , taking a more biblical approach . The music is kept but strong vocals are added . The font , while remaining the same as the first four seasons , glow in red against a hotel wallpaper . The Ten Commandments are also shown throughout the video . The intro returns to live @-@ action like the first three seasons . Visuals include many people scrubbing blood all over the walls and the floor , strange things shown through peepholes , people being victims to the hotel , little kids running around the hotel , as well as many different creatures .

The title sequence for all seasons of the show use a typeface that very closely resembles a style for which Scottish designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh was known .

= = Promotion = =

As part of the promotion for the series , FX launched a " House Call " campaign , in which viewers at home could sign up and come face @-@ to @-@ face with a character from the series . Prior to the series premiere , FX released several clues to shine light on the series . They were offered on the show 's official YouTube channel . Ten clues were released . In September 2011 , FX launched a website which allows visitors to tour the Murder House throughout the decades and look for clues .

In August 2012 , the first promo for the second season was released on the American Horror Story Facebook page entitled " Special Delivery " , in which a nun carries a couple of buckets filled with body parts through a field . As a church bell rings , the nun empties one bucket 's bloody contents , leaving the empty bucket behind , and resumes her trek . Over 20 subsequent teasers were released . Four photos were also released on EW.com. Two televised teasers , titled " Meet the Residents " , were released on August 31 , 2012 . They feature the patients and some staff ( such as Dr. Thredson , played by Zachary Quinto , and Sister Mary Eunice , played by Lily Rabe ) lying in twin beds and dealing with their individual issues as the heads of the asylum ( Jessica Lange , Joseph Fiennes and James Cromwell ) look on . The song " Que Sera , Sera " , mixed with the show 's theme music , plays .

= = Broadcast = =

The series premiered on October 5 , 2011 , and is broadcast on the cable television channel FX in the United States . In November 2011 , it premiered internationally on the respective countries ' Fox International Channels . The first season premiered on October 5 , 2011 , and concluded on December 21 , 2011 . The second season premiered on October 17 , 2012 , and concluded on January 23 , 2013 . The third season premiered on October 9 , 2013 , and concluded on January 29 , 2014 . The fourth season premiered on October 8 , 2014 , and concluded on January 21 , 2015 . The fifth season premiered on October 7 , 2015 , and concluded on January 13 , 2016 . The latter three seasons premiered on the same day and same time with the American broadcasts on FX in Canada , though the first season followed a slightly different schedule as that network launched on October 31 , 2011 . The series is aired in India on STAR World Premiere HD shortly after its U.S. airing . Along with it , it airs on FX India on standard definition .

= = Reception = =

== Critical response ==

The first season of American Horror Story received mixed to positive reviews from critics . Review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes reported that 64 % of 42 critics gave the first season a positive review . The site 's consensus stated : " Convoluted yet effective , American Horror Story is strange , gory , and twisted enough to keep viewers hooked . " The first season scored 62 out of 100 on Metacritic based on 30 reviews . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly awarded the pilot episode a B + , stating : " AHS is pretty much all scare , all the time : a whole lotta screams , sex , jolts , mashed faces , psychotic behavior , and dead babies . " Hank Stuever from The Washington Post said in his review that : " Overdoing things is one of Murphy 's trademark flaws , but this show has a captivating style and giddy gross @-@ outs . " Not all reviews were favorable : Alan Sepinwall of HitFix gave the series a D ? , saying : " It is so far over the top that the top is a microscopic speck in its rearview mirror , and so full of strange sounds , sights and characters that you likely won 't forget it ? even though many of you will wish you could . " Sepinwall would later go on to call it one of the worst TV shows of 2011 . The Los Angeles Times ' Mary McNamara gave it a mixed review , stating that it " collapses into camp ... upon more than one occasion " but also noting that it is " hard to look away . "

The second season , American Horror Story : Asylum , received mostly positive reviews from critics . Review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes reported that 77 % of 43 critics gave the season a positive review . The site 's consensus is : " American Horror Story : Asylum crosses boundaries to shock and scare with sexy subplots and some innovative takes on current social issues . " It scored 65 out of 100 on Metacritic based on 23 reviews . James Poniewozik from Time stated : " AHS : Asylum feels like a more focused , if equally frenetic , screamfest . It 's also gorgeously realized , with a vision of its ' 60s institution setting so detailed you can smell the stale air and incense . " Maureen Ryan of The Huffington Post said : " It 's to the credit of Asylum 's writers , directors and cast that the emotional pain of the characters often feels as real as their uncertainty and terror . " Verne Gay from Newsday gave the season a C grade , stating it " has some good special effects , just not much of a story to hang them on . " Linda Stasi of the New York Post thought the season was " over the top , " adding : " I need to enter [ an asylum ] myself after two hours of this craziness . "

The third season , American Horror Story : Coven , received positive reviews . Review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes reported that 81 % of 36 critics have given the show a positive review . The site 's consensus reads : " A noteworthy ensemble cast combined with creepy storytelling and campy , outrageous thrills make American Horror Story : Coven a potentially structured fright @-@ fest . " It scored 71 out of 100 on Metacritic based on 24 reviews , the highest score for the show to date . Not all reviews were positive , however , with criticism focused mainly in regards to the progression of both the story and certain character arcs in the second half of the season . The A.V. Club gave this season the low rating of a D + , with critic Todd Van DerWerff remarking : " It lurched drunkenly from idea to idea , never settling on one long enough to build anything of worth . "

The fourth season , American Horror Story : Freak Show , received mostly positive reviews . Review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes reports that 79 % of 32 critics have given the season a positive review . The site 's consensus is : " Though it may turn off new viewers unaccustomed to its unabashed weirdness , Freak Show still brings the thrills , thanks to its reliably stylish presentation and game cast . " It scored 69 out of 100 on Metacritic based on 19 " generally favorable " reviews .

The fifth season , American Horror Story : Hotel , received mixed to positive reviews from critics . Rotten Tomatoes reports that 64 % of 41 critics have given the season a positive review . The site 's consensus is : " Favoring garish style over effective storytelling , the fifth American Horror Story strands a talented cast at Ryan Murphy 's Hotel . " Fan reception on the same website was also mixed , at 58 % of viewers giving the show a favorable review . Hotel scored a 60 out of 100 on Metacritic based on 24 " mixed or average " reviews .

== Ratings ==

The pilot episode of American Horror Story was watched by 3 @. @ 2 million viewers and averaged a 1 @. @ 6 rating in the 18 ? 49 years adult demographic , the most sought after by advertisers . These were the best numbers FX had ever received for a series premiere . The episode was seen by 3 @. @ 2 million total viewers in 59 countries . Ratings increased as the season progressed , with the season finale being watched by 3 @. @ 22 million viewers and receiving a 1 @. @ 7 ratings share in the 18 ? 49 years adult demographic . The series premiere aired in November 2011 across Europe and Latin America on Fox International Channels , and ranked as first or second most watched telecast in its timeslot among all paid television in most metered markets . " Numbers so strong , it ? s scary . American Horror Story has brought droves of new viewers to a killer global lineup , " said Hernan Lopez , the president of Fox International Channels .

The second season 's premiere gained a 2 @. @ 2 18 ? 49 ratings share and gathered 3 @. @ 85 million viewers , marking the highest numbers for the series . By the season 's sixth episode , the numbers dropped to a series @- @ low 0 @. @ 9 18 ? 49 ratings share and 1 @. @ 89 million viewers , however , they rebounded to above two million viewers for the subsequent episodes , and reached 2 @. @ 29 million viewers for the season 's finale . The premiere of the fifth season of the series became the second most @- @ watched telecast in the network 's history , only behind the premiere episode of the previous season , which was watched by 6 @. @ 13 million viewers . The show was subsequently renewed for another season ; John Landgraf , the CEO of the network , commented on the show 's success by saying that American Horror Story , the network 's highest rated series , " has unquestionably joined the ranks of television 's landmark series . "

= = = Accolades = = =

American Horror Story has won 55 of its 227 award nominations . The franchise has garnered 28 Primetime Emmy Award nominations , with Jessica Lange winning for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Miniseries or a Movie and for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Miniseries or a Movie , James Cromwell winning for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or a Movie , and Kathy Bates winning for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Miniseries or a Movie . It received an additional 50 Creative Arts Emmy Award nominations , winning nine times , including Outstanding Hairstyling for a Miniseries or a Movie , Outstanding Costumes for a Miniseries , Movie , or Special , Outstanding Sound Editing for a Miniseries , Movie , or Special , and Outstanding Prosthetic Makeup for a Series , Limited Series , Movie or a Special . It has received nine Golden Globe Award nominations , with Lange winning for Best Supporting Actress in a Series , Miniseries or Television Film , and Lady Gaga winning for Best Actress in a Miniseries or Television Film . The series has also received three Screen Actors Guild Award nominations , with Lange winning for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama Series . Additional accolades include eighteen Critics ' Choice Television Awards nominations , with four wins , the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding TV Miniseries , four Costume Designers Guild Awards nominations , winning three times , eight wins out of ten nominations at the Make @- @ Up Artists and Hair Stylists Guild Awards , five People 's Choice Awards nominations , winning once , and eleven Satellite Awards nomination , with three wins .