

= Smallville ( season 1 ) =

Season one of Smallville , an American television series developed by Alfred Gough and Miles Millar , began airing on October 16 , 2001 , on The WB television network . The series recounts the early adventures of Kryptonian Clark Kent as he adjusts to his developing superpowers in the fictional town of Smallville , Kansas , during the years before he becomes Superman . The first season comprises 21 episodes and concluded its initial airing on May 21 , 2002 . Regular cast members during season one include Tom Welling , Michael Rosenbaum , Kristin Kreuk , Annette O'Toole , John Schneider , Sam Jones III , Allison Mack , and Eric Johnson .

The season 's stories focus on Martha and Jonathan Kent 's ( O 'Toole and Schneider ) attempts to help their adopted son Clark ( Welling ) cope with his alien origin and control his developing superhuman abilities . Clark must deal with the meteor @-@ infected individuals that begin appearing in Smallville , his love for Lana Lang ( Kreuk ) , and not being able to tell his two best friends , Pete Ross ( Jones III ) and Chloe Sullivan ( Mack ) , about his abilities or his origins . Clark also befriends Lex Luthor ( Rosenbaum ) after saving Lex 's life . The season also follows Lex , as he tries to assert his independence from his father , Lionel Luthor ( John Glover ) .

The episodes were filmed primarily in Vancouver and post @-@ production work took place in Los Angeles . Gough and Millar assisted the writing staff with week @-@ to @-@ week story development . " Villain of the week " storylines were predominant during the first season ; physical effects , make @-@ up effects , and computer generated imagery became important components as well . Limited filming schedules sometimes forced guest actors to perform physical stunts , and the series regulars were more than willing to do stunt work . Episode budgets ultimately became strictly regulated , as the show frequently ran over budget during the first half of the season . The pilot broke The WB 's viewership record for a debut series , and was nominated for various awards . Although the villain of the week storylines became a concern for producers , critical reception was generally favorable , and the series was noted as having a promising start . The first season was released on DVD on September 23 , 2003 , and included various special features that focused on individual episodes and the series as a whole . It has also been released on home media in regions 2 and 4 in the international markets .

= = Episodes = =

= = Production = =

= = = Writing = = =

Ground rules for story development were established at the outset . Part of the marketing pitch , " no flights , no tights " dictated that Clark would not wear the Superman costume , nor would he fly . After initial discussion of possible storylines , a second rule decreed that Clark could never directly kill anyone . This created a dilemma since Clark must be able to defeat the " bad guys " from week to week . A solution developed in later episodes with the introduction of the Belle Reve sanitarium ( Belle Reve is a Federal prison for metahumans and other supervillains in the comics ) .

After setting the ground rules , Gough and Millar conceived ideas that facilitated week @-@ to @-@ week story development . For example , kryptonite 's role was expanded to include enhancement of the sins of the antagonist : instead of creating physical monsters , exposure to kryptonite would amplify their personal demons . This was not treated as literally in the pilot and " Metamorphosis " as it was in later episodes . In " Cool " , it was " the ' cool ' kid literally [ becoming ] cool , needing human body heat to stay alive " . After several episodes , the writers developed a story that would help establish the show as more than a " villain of the week " series . The ninth episode ( " Rogue " ) , which took longer than usual to develop due to its divergence from the standard formula , became their first " true crime story " and demonstrated that Smallville could

include more than kryptonite @-@ powered villains .

" What if " episodes were another Millar @-@ Gough concept used to generate first season storylines . These episodes posed underlying questions about Clark . Episodes would evolve from basic questions , including : " what if someone had a crush on Lana , and acted on that obsession " ; " what if someone found out Clark 's secret " ; " what if someone else had Clark 's powers ? " These three questions developed into the episodes " Metamorphosis " , " Rogue " , and " Leech " , respectively . " Stray " , episode 16 , answered the question , " what if Clark had been adopted by the wrong parents and his powers were exploited ? " " X @-@ Ray " director Mark Verheiden and the rest of the crew realized divergent , unrelated storylines were not the best way to create episodes for Smallville . Verheiden believes " X @-@ Ray " was the first episode that managed to bring all the side @-@ stories together so that they affected characters other than Clark and Lana .

" Hourglass " was one of the stories included in Millar and Gough 's initial pitch to the network ( at the time it was referred to as " Cassandra " ) . " Hourglass " was the first episode to present two , distinct stories : the vengeful serial killer and the second sighted Cassandra . Two significant storylines in the same episode forced the writers to spend more time developing the episode . Cassandra 's " visceral vision " ( as it was referred to in the script ) of Lex 's future was developed into color storyboards to better illustrate to the filmmakers the " blood rain " described in the text .

When the filmmakers were dissatisfied with the initial drafts of episodes , specifically with the evolution of characters , they would rewrite events , or add scenes to re @-@ establish the original vision . The character of Earl Jenkins ( Tony Todd ) , intended to be a sympathetic villain , came across as " completely unlikable " in the original draft of " Jitters " . The character suffers from over @-@ exposure to kryptonite , causing massive seizures ; if Jenkins happened to grab someone , they could be shaken to death . Originally , the character is first seen banging on the door of LuthorCorp and killing a security guard during one of his seizures . To present a more favorable aspect to the audience , a scene in which Earl visits his infant child was added to show that he was not a " raving maniac " . Similar rewrites occurred with the characters Ryan James ( Ryan Kelley ) in " Stray " and Tyler Randall ( Reynaldo Rosales ) in " Reaper " . In the original draft of " Stray " , Ryan developed his telepathic abilities from exposure to kryptonite . ; to emphasize the show was not always about kryptonite @-@ infected villains , the story was revised so that Ryan had his ability from birth . The network also expressed dissatisfaction with Ryan as a murderer , so the character was rewritten to be the " nice kid " . The character of Tyler Randall shared Earl Jenkins 's issue : he was not sympathetic enough in the filmmakers ' eyes ; intended to be an escaped prisoner , he was rewritten to be " the world 's deadliest nice guy " .

= = = Filming = = =

Production was set up in Vancouver , British Columbia , Canada , because the creators were looking for a " Middle America landscape " , and Vancouver was a good substitute for Kansas . David Nutter , the director of the pilot , was given 16 days for main unit filming , twice that of the normal timeframe . Despite the extended schedule , it was still a short amount of time , and he shot the pilot primarily from storyboards created by Adrien Van Viersen .

Millar developed most of the look for Smallville with the idea that Smallville should be the epitome of " Smalltown , USA " . Millar 's design required existing buildings to be painted , built , and remodeled . The Kent farm is the home of the Andalini family , and their barn was used for the pilot before a new barn was built . The new barn was one of the major additions to the sets of the episode " Metamorphosis " . Production designer Doug Higgins and his crew built a fully functioning , three @-@ story barn for the Kent farm on a converted soundstage in Burnaby . For the pilot , the crew built only a loft , with a set of stairs leading up to it , inside the existing barn on the Andalinis ' property . To resemble the Andalinis ' barn as closely as possible , Higgins had his crew locate 100 @-@ year @-@ old wood to match the look of the Andalinis ' barn . The episode " Hourglass " called for several scenes to take place at the White House . Instead of building their own set , the Smallville producers called John Wells , producer of the political drama television series The West Wing , and obtained permission to use the West Wing set to film the vision of Lex 's future .

When the Smallville crew was not filming on one of the constructed sets , or on a sound stage , they were shooting on location at the surrounding Vancouver sites . During the filming of " Metamorphosis " , Vancouver was holding a farmers ' market , which proved beneficial to the Smallville crew , as " Metamorphosis " called for a similar event to take place in the episode . The market was on the verge of ending , so the filmmakers shot what wide @-@ angle scenes they could at the time , and filmed a close up conversation between Whitney and Clark at the Andalini 's farm , weeks after the initial market shooting . Other filming locations include Vancouver 's Pacific National Exhibition and Burnaby 's Swangard Stadium . The Pacific National Exhibit provided a storage silo for a scene in " Hourglass " , which involved Harry Bollston ( Eric Christian Olsen ) attacking Martha Kent ( O 'Toole ) in the Kents ' corn silo . " Hothead " director Greg Beeman , who had previously worked with Gough and Millar on The Strip and Martial Law , used Swangard Stadium , as a substitution for Smallville High Stadium , for the opening football scene that took place at night .

When filming fell behind schedule , another director came in to assist the main unit director in finishing the episode . Greg Beeman assisted director Chris Long for the two " visceral visions of the future " that appeared in the episode " Hourglass " . " Jitters " was an episode with so many changes that its initial scheduling as the second episode of the season was pushed back to the eighth spot . By the time filming for " Jitters " was completed , three directors had worked on the project : Greg Beeman , Phil Sgriccia , and Michael Watkins ; however , Watkins was given sole directing credit for the episode .

= = = Effects = = =

A big part of the Smallville series relies on the effects it delivers , whether digital , physical , or special make @-@ up effects . The effects shots , part of the post @-@ production work , are developed and added in Los Angeles . David Nutter hired Thomas Special Effects to create digital cornfields for the pilot episode . After attempting to grow ten thousand stalks of corn in a greenhouse , which only grew two feet tall , Nutter was forced to rely primarily on digital corn . Faux corn was also flown in from Arizona . CGI supervisor Bill Millar created digital butterflies for a scene in Lana 's bedroom , and all the insects Greg Arkin ( Chad Donella ) collected in the episode " Metamorphosis " . Greg 's insects had to be created digitally , because a green hue was needed to illustrate the kryptonite radiation in the insects . After the opening credits , the first person view of someone , later revealed to be Clark , flying through Lana 's open window and into her bedroom was created digitally . The effect was accomplished with stock footage , a sound stage and computer generated imagery . Stock footage shot from a helicopter , as it flew over several farms during the day , was used for the first person point of view . It was altered from day to night , and a CGI house was created in an empty field . Lana 's bedroom as built on a soundstage , and CGI was used to create the illusion of someone traveling through her open window and stopping above her bed .

It was decided the effects of kryptonite poisoning on Clark , " Clark time " , and the appearance of kryptonite when in the proximity of Clark would need to be illustrated in a way the audience could understand if they were not familiar with the character . Gough and Millar , after doing some research , learned the female audience was not aware of what was happening when Clark was exposed to kryptonite . Beginning with " Metamorphosis " , whenever Clark was exposed to kryptonite , his veins would rise up and develop a green hue to illustrate the effect it was having . Close @-@ up shots of Clark 's hand were used for these scenes , and it was all created with digital animation . Gough and Millar developed the idea that kryptonite would only glow when it was around Clark , as it was meant to demonstrate the draining of his powers . " Clark time " , the same idea behind bullet time , was created because previous incarnations had not explained the idea of what the world appears like to Clark when he is using his powers . The first instance of " Clark time " was used in the " Metamorphosis " scene where Greg Arkin attacks Clark and Jonathan in their barn . Jonathan is pushed over a banister and falls in the direction of some dangerous farm equipment . The effect involved slowing time down for everything except Clark , who would be moving at normal pace . When tackling Clark 's emerging power of X @-@ ray vision , Gough and Millar wanted to be

able to see skeletons and bones , as opposed to previous incarnations that treated the ability like " see @-@ through " vision . The recent advances in computer imagery helped them complete that task .

The digital effects costs for each episode could stretch the budget thin . In " Shimmer " , Bill Millar , special effects supervisor , planned to create an artificial sunset for the closing scene involving Clark and Lana . The effects shot was supposed to last only a couple of seconds . James Marshall , the second unit director for the episode , decided to shoot the entire scene over the shoulders of Clark and Lana , looking at the sunset . The scene called for two greenscreen shots , but when Marshall was finished he had created seventeen greenscreen shots . The seventeen shots , which produced the artificial sunset , cost \$ 50 @,@ 000 to produce . By comparison , the entire effects budget costs between \$ 65 @,@ 000 and \$ 100 @,@ 000 .

Over @-@ spending of that nature became a regular occurrence on the Smallville set . The regularity of over @-@ spending came to an end with " Kinetic " , as the studio decided to be stricter . With the budget on a stiffer guideline , the filmmakers were forced to cut scenes from " Kinetic " , an episode that was caught in the push for more budget @-@ friendly scripts . One of the scenes that was cut involved one of the thieves phasing through a safe wall , and acting as a portal for the merchandise to be passed through . When digital effects were not an option , Mike Walls , the physical effects supervisor who began his Smallville career with " Leech " , still tried to provide big effects . For instance , Walls used 75 cars for the final action scene of " Kinetic " , which were cabled off to protect the actors . Stunt coordinator Lauro Chartrand attempts to make sure the actors are used as much as possible when performing fight scenes , unless the scenes are particularly dangerous . The fast shooting schedule forces Chartrand to rely on guest stars who can perform their own stunts , because of the limited time to find a " good double " for the actor .

Physical effects were not an issue for the series regulars . Allison Mack performed her own stunts for the scene in " Hothead " where her character 's office is set on fire , and again in " Kinetic " , when she was cabled off and dangled 50 ft ( 15 m ) above the ground . For " Nicodemus " , the stunt coordinator received twice the help . Kristin Kreuk was expected to go to the tenth rung of a water tower , in a scene which involved her character climbing to the top and falling off . As filming progressed , Kreuk climbed to the top , so the crew cabled her off and dropped her 40 ft ( 12 m ) to the bottom . John Schneider 's experience from The Dukes of Hazzard led to him performing the stunt driving for his character . The scene required Schneider to slide his truck around a corner , while yelling at some pedestrians on the sidewalk . The previous scene had established the driver side window as closed , so Schneider improvised and opened the driver 's door as he slid 90 ° around a corner .

= = Reception = =

The series ' pilot broke The WB 's record for highest @-@ rated debut with 8 @.@ 4 million viewers . After airing the first two episodes , which averaged 7 @.@ 8 million viewers , the WB placed an order for a full season of 21 episodes . The first season averaged 5 @.@ 9 million viewers weekly , placing # 115 in the Nielsen ratings alongside Futurama , The Ellen Show , and Star Trek : Enterprise . The pilot and " Tempest " were selected in The Futon Critic 's 50 best episodes of 2001 and 2002 , respectively . The pilot placed 31st , while " Tempest " placed 15th .

The season received mostly favorable reviews . IGN 's Jeremy Conrad , who was initially against the idea of " reimagining " the Superman mythology , gave the first season a 7 / 10 rating . After reviewing the entire season , Conrad stated the first season of Smallville was " a solid start to what will be a great Superman TV series " . Entertainment Weekly 's Bruce Fretts believes the series might appear " corny " on the surface , but actually shows " subversively witty spin on the comic @-@ book myths " . Clint Morris , founder of Moviehole.net , stated the series was " still finding its feet in season one " ; although , he commended the acting , citing specifically Michael Rosenbaum 's " uncontrollably likeable Lex Luthor " . The Free @-@ Lance Star 's Rob Hedelt commended the casting as well , comparing Welling 's portrayal of a teenage Clark Kent to that of Christopher Reeve 's portrayal in the films . Hedelt considered John Schneider and Annette O 'Toole to be ideal picks

for Jonathan and Martha Kent , but felt Allison Mack and Sam Jones III , important characters , were the weakest part of the ensemble . Judge Byun , of DVD Verdict , felt having Clark Kent and Lex Luthor start their relationship as best friends was a " brilliant concept " that moved the show past a " Dawson 's Creek with super powers " tone the premise of the show suggested . Byun believes the first season had " solid writing and excellent performances " , but is weakened by the freak of the week storylines that plagued the early episodes of the season ; the season works best when the episodes focus on character development and not super powers .

Other critics were less enthusiastic about the season . Peter Bowes of BBC News felt the season was simply a " soap opera " with " pretty young people " . Bowes believes the season suffered from the " sentimental boy @-@ girl storyline " , but that die @-@ hard Superman fans would still be taken in by this incarnation of the character 's early years . A common criticism for the first season was the use of " villain of the week " storylines . By the time the first seven episodes aired , at least one journalist had had enough of the villain of the week format . Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette 's Rob Owen stated the series works best with its " character interaction and a nice performance by John Schneider as Pa Kent " , but that the show needs more than the " ' monster of the week ' stories seen so far " . Jordan Levin , president of The WB 's Entertainment division , recognized the concerns that the show had become a villain of the week series . Levin announced that season two would see more " smaller mini @-@ arcs over three to four episodes , to get away from some of the formulaic storytelling structure " the series has fallen into .

= = Awards = =

By 2003 , the first season had been nominated for and won various awards . It won an Emmy Award for " Outstanding Sound Editing for a Series " , and the pilot episode was nominated for " Outstanding Visual Effects for a Series " . The pilot was recognized by other award organizations , receiving a Leo Award for " Best Visual Effects " in 2002 . Peter Wunstorf was recognized for his work on the pilot with a nomination by the American Society of Cinematographers . Casting directors Deedee Bradley , Coreen Mayrs , and Barbara Miller were nominated for an Artios Award for their work on the pilot . Chris McGeary was nominated for Golden Reel 's " Best Sound Editing in Television " award for his music editing on the pilot . The season one finale , " Tempest " , was nominated for Golden Reel 's " Best Sound Editing in Television Episodic " in 2003 . In 2002 , The American Society of Composers , Authors , and Publishers honored the band Remy Zero ( which provided the opening theme song for Smallville ) and composer Mark Snow for their contributions to the show ; the award recognized the composers of the theme or underscore of the highest rated television series during January 1 ? December 31 , 2001 .

Several members of the regular cast were nominated for awards . In 2001 , Rosenbaum , Kreuk , and Welling were nominated for Saturn Awards for Best Supporting Actor in a Television Series , Best Actress , and Best Actor , respectively . Rosenbaum and Kreuk received additional nominations for male and female Cinescape Genre Face of the Future awards , and the entire season was nominated for Best Network Television Series . Rosenbaum was the only one to win an award ( Best Supporting Actor ) . Tom Welling won the Teen Choice Award for Choice Breakout TV Star ? Male in 2002 . Smallville 's first season placed sixth on the Parents Television Council 's list of the " best shows for families " .

= = Home media release = =

The complete first season of Smallville was released on September 23 , 2003 in North America . Additional released in region 2 and region 4 took place on October 13 , 2003 and December 3 , 2003 , respectively . The DVD box set included various special features , including episode commentary , an interactive tour of Smallville , and storyboards from select episodes .