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'The Expanse' Revived for Season 4 at Amazon



Rafy/Syfy

'The Expanse'



The news comes 10 days after Syfy canceled the space drama after three seasons.

Amazon Studios is in talks to revive one of CEO Jeff Bezos' favorite properties.

The retailer and streaming outlet is near a deal to revive the space drama *The Expanse* for a fourth season just 10 days after Syfy canceled the series. Amazon Studios declined comment as sources note the deal is not closed.

Syfy had only first-run linear rights in the U.S. to *The Expanse*, which was based on James S. A. Corey's best-selling book series of the same name and starred Steven Strait. Amazon Studios had streaming rights to the first three seasons of the show. Sources say Bezos is a big fan of the book and was livid that the TV series went to NBCUniversal-owned Syfy. The move is said to have ignited Bezos' demand that Amazon Studios brass find the company's version of *Game of Thrones*.

The Expanse was a pricey swing for Syfy and the nature of the deal put additional pressure for the show to perform on its linear network as the cabler did not have either SVOD or international rights to profit from. (Netflix had international rights to the series.) The drama was Syfy's first major push back into the traditional science fiction genre.

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['The Expanse' Canceled at Syfy](#)

Following the cancellation, producers Alcon Television Group — which fully financed and produced the series — planned to shop the space drama to other networks.

Opening to promising reviews and a strong collection of loyal viewers in 2015, *The Expanse's* first season averaged 581,000 viewers in the advertiser-coveted adults 18-49 demographic and 1.4 million total viewers with three days of DVR. Season two, which returned more than a year later with a significant marketing push and a solid lead-in, was down 24 percent among total viewers and averaged 457,000 total viewers. That compares more readily to similar returns for Syfy's inexpensive co-productions like *Dark Matter* and *Killjoys* than to the cabler's original scripted series like *The Magicians* and *Happy*.

The Expanse's third season, which bowed in April, tumbled another 5 percent among total viewers and 12 percent in the demo from season two.

"*The Expanse* transported us across the solar system for three brilliant seasons of television. Everyone at Syfy is a massive fan of the series, and this was an incredibly difficult decision," said Chris McCumber, president of entertainment networks at NBCU Cable Entertainment. "We want to sincerely thank *The Expanse's* amazing cast, crew and all the dedicated creatives who helped bring James S. A. Corey's story to life. And to the series' loyal fans, we thank you most of all."

The decision to bring *The Expanse* to its end comes as Syfy has a packed scripted roster that also includes the upcoming George R.R. Martin drama *Nightflyers*, *The Purge*, [Deadly Class](#), *Krypton*, *The Magicians*, anthology *Channel Zero*, *Van Helsing*, *Wynonna Earp* and *Killjoys*, with the latter set to wrap in 2019. *The Expanse* will be Syfy's second series to conclude this year, joining *12 Monkeys*.

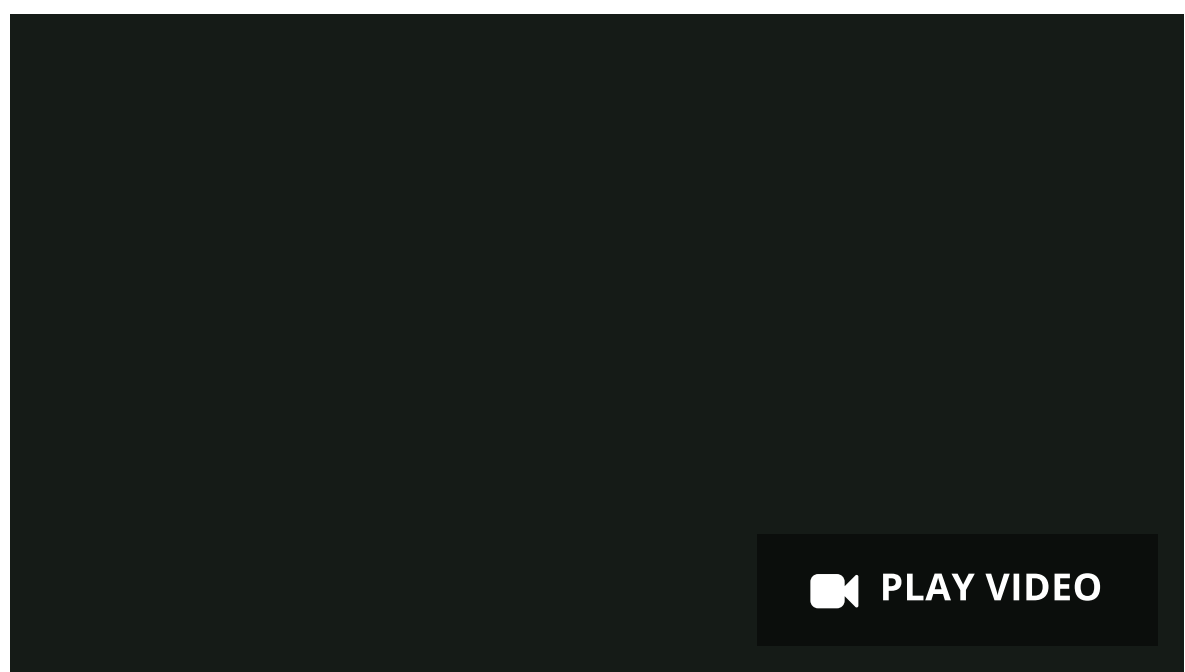
Starring Strait, Shohreh Aghdashloo and Dominique Tipper, *The Expanse* is set in a future where humanity has colonized the solar system. Mark Fergus and Hawk Ostby (*Children of Men*) served as showrunners and executive produced the Alcon TV Group project alongside Naren Shankar.

At Amazon, *The Expanse* will join a growing roster of genre programming including its upcoming *Lord of the Rings* TV franchise; Jordan Peele's [Nazi hunting drama series](#); Gillian Flynn's [Utopia](#) remake; futuristic drama [The Peripheral](#) from *Westworld* creators Lisa Joy and Jonah Nolan; [Consider Phlebas](#); and a reboot of [Hanna](#), among others.

The *Expanse* move follows a busy week of news on the broadcast side that saw *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* move to NBC after the comedy's cancellation by Fox, while the latter network revived *Last Man Standing*. In both cases, the networks' studio counterparts owned the shows, making the jump to their respective home networks considerably easier. In *The Expanse's* case, Amazon had SVOD rights, making a move to a different outlet more challenging.

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'The Expanse' Season 3 Trailer



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