

Ian Klein: Resurrecting Sunnydale: Chronicles of the Hellmouth

Buffy wasn't the only new kid in Sunnydale when she arrived in 1997; millions of viewers got their first glimpse that spring, but the town they saw—often shrouded in impenetrable darkness—was not fully formed. Like any town, Sunnydale did not merely spring into being. Over the course of seven seasons, Sunnydale grew not only in scale, but also in its identity. Albeit a fictional town, Sunnydale, CA, became more real the more of its facets were revealed through new sets, locations, character remarks, and yes, even better lighting.

Beyond the Scooby Gang, Sunnydale is possibly the next most important character. After all, Sunnydale is what makes *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* possible. Without a town atop it, the Hellmouth would be little more than a hole in the California desert. Details about Sunnydale rival—and in many cases surpass—even some minor characters about which many a page has been written: Amy, Dracula, Sweet, Whistler, to name a few. After nearly twenty years spent with the cast of Sunnydale, we know most of them quite well, and while academics always find more to write about them, thanks in part to the ongoing comic book line from Dark Horse, Sunnydale itself remains uniquely apt for further study.

Featuring interviews with the show's writers, producers, production team and other contributors to the Buffyverse, this in-depth study of Sunnydale will bring new perspectives and understanding to its identity in the world of *Buffy* and as Hollywood creation.