

The Shannara Chronicles

Season 1 Opening Credits (a deep dive).

Hey friends, welcome back to Shannara World, my name is Josh Liston (Aussie Shannara fan longtime Podcaster). And today we're looking at The Shannara Chronicles (TSC) Opening Credits.

This is a standalone episode, so in future episodes of the podcast we don't have to cover the Opening Credits for every episode of The Shannara Chronicles 2 (10 episode) seasons.

Click to See the Opening Credits here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvgE2Un5cVo> (credit to SyfyAU)

Most importantly, and unlike a lot of other television show intros, The Shannara Chronicles Opening Credits does some crucial World Building, making it an unusually important Opening Credits scene.

WARNING - BEFORE READING ON - THE FOLLOWING TEXT WILL CONTAIN SPOILERS FOR BOTH THE SHANNARA TELEVISION SHOW AND SEVERAL OF THE TERRY BROOKS NOVELS - WHICH UNDERPIN THE TELEVISION UNIVERSE.

First Impressions.

The first thing that struck me (Josh) most about The Shannara opening credits was the overall sound design - the choice of RUEELLE's "Until We Go Down" was a near perfect choice for

TSC, with its post-epic electronic sounds, dark lyrics, and bittersweet lyric.

“The song itself mirrors much of the mood in Season 1 of the show.” ~ Josh Liston

Next, we move to a series of dark images depicting the destruction of the Old World.

>> a dark Global view of a planet in decline

>>> to a more frail city view - with city scapes and its occupants being blown away like dust.

Readers Note 1.

It is mentioned in the text of Terry Brooks’ ‘Armageddon’s Children’ and also in ‘the Sword of Shannara’ that the Great Wars lead to the destruction of the Old World and poisoned the Earth for an age). [moreover - from both texts we can infer that Nuclear weapons were deployed, and possibly even chemical & biological weapons were used]

End Readers Note 1.

Next we see a graphic genealogy (drawn as a course bloodline) that we come to find out represents the new races of Humans (or the new races of man) in the Shannara Chronicles.

Those races are

- Modern Humans
- Dwarves
- Gnomes
- And Trolls

Our next scene features a series of large Griffin-esque statues, that sit along a prominent mountain range (not unlike the “Warning Beacons of Gondor” in Peter Jackson’s ‘The Return of the King’). We come to find out though that the statues come with a rather different intention in the text of Shannara - more on this over the course of our Season One deep dive.

Next, and of particular note here, there is a humanoid figure standing at the crown of the foremost Griffin statue - which gives us a much truer sense of scale. These statues are very very large! (see picture for reference)



As we move on from there and our darker colour scheme returns to the screen, we see the names of our two showrunners 'Alfred Gough' and 'Miles Millar' (known for creating cult favourites like Smallville and Into the Badlands) and we also see for the first time the name of Shannara creator and author Terry Brooks.

Brooks' name appears as we move to our final Opening Credits scene which show the impressive form of an ancient yet vibrant looking tree (with crimson leaves) known to the Four Lands as [Spoiler] The Ellcrys. A major story piece in Season One of The Shannara Chronicles.

Thanks, and speak to you soon.

~ Joshua C. Liston

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