

Synopsis – Long Version

'Wolf Canyon' is a series about the TV show of the same name, a third-rate syndicated action adventure series taking place in the fictitious county of Canyon, somewhere in the American Northwest. The show is actually shot in a remote area of Western Canada on land belonging to the First Nation (Cree) community of Horse Head Lake. Isolated from any urban contact and necessities, spirit numbing boredom and some madness can strike the cast and crew, in their makeshift trailer town, at any time. There is a humorous contrast between the discomfort and travails the urban Showbiz Folk go through in the wilderness and the harmonious ease that their First Nation neighbours experience in the same environment.

The production that our characters work on is eerily familiar to many action adventure series based in Canada during the 80's and 90's. More Walker, Texas Ranger than Danger Bay, it stars a motley collection of Canadian actors playing Americans. Some of the actors pine to leave whereas some are just happy to be doing anything but infomercials.

We join them at the beginning of the second season for the show. The former lead, the young and talented Johnny Wilkes, has abruptly left the program shortly before the shooting of the next season. A successful star turn in an independent film has led to better offers. Johnny is inexplicably replaced by well past his due date Rick Denham, vaguely recognizable and cheap, the added wrinkle is he is the estranged father of the series director Quincy Paul.

The executive producer of the series, Diane Wesson-Smythe, hands down a new series direction brought down by the show's financiers, who may or may not be the Chinese mafia. This year, in a clumsy rating grab, Rick's character Sheriff Wolf will actually become a wolf, a Werewolf in fact. The series attempts (pathetically) to cash in on the supernatural craze all over television but also indulges in gratuitous T&A, leaving beautiful but frazzled co-star Samantha Hollis running around most of the show in a bra or bikini top. None of the male cast or crew complains.

A severely dysfunctional set always on the verge of complete collapse, the show manages to shoot on time and (basically) on budget.