

## 9 Superheroes Who Have Taken Over The Small Screen

Superheroes explode onto silver screens several times a year. The list of superheroes on screen is ever expanding. It wasn't all that long ago when Superman was Christopher Reeves and Batman was a revolving door of men from Michael Keaton to George Clooney. Since 2000, Marvel has taken the silver screen by storm with their X-men franchise and the Avengers universe. In contrast, the small screen seemed not to fair as well with live-action hero shows until the airing of Smallville in 2001. Even then, it wasn't until Smallville ended in 2011 that more superheroes started fighting crime every week on our television and computer screens. Let's take a look at the superheroes of the small screen.

### Arrow (2012-present)



After Smallville ended, a gap in superhero shows appeared and Arrow took its place. Although Green Arrow had originally been part of the Smallville universe, the producers started with a clean slate and hired Stephen Amell to play Oliver Queen/Green Arrow. The show, now in its fourth season, has created two spin-offs to expand the universe and its growing list of DC superheroes.

### Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (2013-present)

After the success of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) and the first Avengers film, Marvel decided to create a series with Coulson leading a group of S.H.I.E.L.D. agents. The events of the movies and the show overlap; everything is one huge Marvel experience. In the first season, Thor and Captain America: the Winter Solider affected aspects of the series. This continues to be the case.



### The Flash (2014-present)



With the success of the Arrow, DC expanded its universe to include The Flash. The Flash carried on the idea of backdoor pilots that television uses, with Barry appearing in Arrow. Grant Gustin's positive reception on the Arrow, allowed for the series to be fleshed out in more detail. The Flash and Arrow have crossover episodes every season, creating one major universe.

### Gotham (2014-present)

At first glance, you may think of the Dark Knight, Christian Bale. Instead, you get a gritty police drama series. A young James Gordon (Ben McKenzie) as a police detective instead of the Commissioner and Bruce Wayne is a young boy whose parents have just been murdered. The origin stories of Batman's famous villains are explored as Gordon works to clean up Gotham and solve Bruce's parents' murder.



### Agent Carter (2015-present)



Agent Carter, part of the MCU, is set after Captain America: The First Avenger movie. Agent Carter is a secret agent who is more than capable of being on active duty but society is trying desperately to make her nothing more than a secretary. Peggy Carter became a fan favourite very quickly - in just eight episodes -, which is why a second season is airing this January 2016.

### Constantine (2014-2015)

Constantine got a shot at the small screen but the series lasted only thirteen episodes before being cancelled. Constantine is an anti-hero based in magic and the occult with angels and demons. Matt Ryan, who played Constantine, made a guest appearance in the fourth season of Arrow. Despite the lack of evidence to suggest a return, fans hope a second season may be picked up in the future.



### Daredevil (2015-present)



Marvel and Netflix teamed up to create four series which would lead up to a fifth series, The Defenders. The first one was Daredevil. The entire first season was released in one shot allowing fans to binge watch it without having to wait a week for the next episode. What it created was a thirst for more episodes which lead to producers to decide on the second season.

### Supergirl (2015-present)

With only nine episodes under her belt, Supergirl is seemingly getting positive reviews, much like her famous cousin, Superman. The series has been ordered by CBS for twenty episodes for its first season as of November 30, 2015. If the series continues with its strong characters, especially female characters, and interesting plot lines, it's safe to say that this superhero will be around for a lot longer.



### Jessica Jones (2015-present)



The second series to air on Netflix, set in the ever-expanding MCU, Jessica Jones premiered on November 20th, 2015. The series has been praised for its noir tone and raw approach to darker topics including rape, assault, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Many fans are waiting for the announcement of a second season but it probably won't appear until after The Defenders mini-series appears on Netflix.

From 2012 to 2015, superheroes have been ruling our small screens as much as they did silver screen. 2016 already promises the arrival of DC's Legends of Tomorrow, Marvel's Luke Cage and Iron Fist, and the return of Agent Carter. Only the years ahead will reveal which other new heroes will explode onto the screen to save the day.