



Batgirl, Wonder Woman, Supergirl and Bumblebee are ready for action

DC Super Hero Girls

BY EMILY MAAS

Nobody puts the *DC Super Hero Girls* in a corner. After years spent on the sidelines in the male-dominated world of superheroes, Wonder Woman, Supergirl, Batgirl and their pals are getting their time in the spotlight, thanks to a new initiative aimed at girls ages 6 to 12. DC Entertainment and Warner Bros. teamed up with Mattel to create the line, which includes digital video content and consumer products that bring a literal meaning to the term *girl power*. “We wanted to show girls that they could be the heroes of their own stories, and not just the supporting role as the love interest in a male superhero story,” says Shea Fontana, head writer for the project.

DC Super Hero Girls features a diverse roster of characters, including Harley Quinn, Bumblebee, Poison Ivy and Katana, who attend Super Hero High School to learn how to master their powers. The franchise launched last year with animated digital shorts and has

since exploded with a one-hour special that aired on Boomerang in March, action figures, a clothing line, graphic novels, young-reader novels, an app and more. (And while the line showcases female heroes and villains, some male characters are also in the mix, including Green Lantern and Beast Boy.)

The animated properties feature a recognizable voice cast, with *The Odd Couple*'s Yvette Nicole Brown as Principal Amanda Waller (“Her voice is like warm butter,” Fontana says), former live-action Superman and Supergirl Dean Cain and Helen Slater as Jonathan and Martha Kent and Mae Whitman (*Parenthood*) as Batgirl. Next up is the feature-length DVD movie *DC Super Hero Girls: Hero of the Year* (available August 23), and the digital animated shorts will continue to roll out. “We have something like 25 characters that episodes have been written about but not yet released,” Fontana promises. “All of your favorite characters will be in there sometime—you just have to be patient!”

Their first graphic novel, *Finals Crisis*, was released this summer, and a second volume will arrive in November



GUTTER CREDIT: TK