

INTERVIEW SUMMER GLAU (SERENITY):

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Movie 2 Movie's Lodi Meijer spoke with Summer Glau who plays the role of River Tam in "Serenity":

Q: What is the difference between the making of the movie "Serenity" and the TV series "Firefly"?

A: Working on a TV series brought a lot of stress with it. All the studios and TV stations only look at ratings. You must prove yourself in a short time. Besides, the TV-series was broadcast on Friday evening at 20.00 o'clock. Around that time there is a lot of competition from realtime-soaps, which require little effort to watch. You get little to no time to invest in plot or character development.

Q: Was the cast fixed?

A: Yes. Joss knows precisely how he had to do it. If this had not been possible then it wouldn't have gone on.

Q: What do you like about the character "River Tam"?

A: I like the fact that she is very oppositional. On one side, she's very aggressive, and on the other very fragile. And that can change in one minute.

Q: How did you prepare for the role? Did you study for it?

A: Not really. I scooped from my own experience from my youth. In school I was a loner, and I lived in my own world. I spent my time most of all with dancing, both classic and musical. Of course the pictures and movies I saw played a role for the character.

Q: Will there be a sequel to "Serenity"?

A: If there is a need for it, sure. It depends on the reaction of the audience.

Q: Is the rumour true that you signed for three movies?

A: Yes, that's right. Just hope that this becomes a success.

Q: Should the movie "Serenity" comes out and the audience reacts enthusiastically on it, is there a chance that the TV-series "Firefly" will return?

A: I hope so. Making a movie is a job for three months. Making a TV-series is routine work and gives you a regular income. Besides with cast and crew it's just like family. For the storyline the TV-series is also better. The characters can develop themselves better, too.

Q: Both movie and TV-series have an open end?

A: That's right, and Joss doesn't talk about his plans. Anything could happen. If you die, it happens in a fantastic manner. I'm also curious about the sequel, since Joss brings even the dead back to life again. So the next story would again be with the characters of "Hoban 'Wash' Washburn" and "Shepherd Derrial Brook".

Q: What other role would you also want to play?

A: I gladly want to play in an epic, like "Gone With the Wind", "Ben Hur", "Gladiator", "Wind and Wuthering", "Pride and Prejudice". In short, a costume movie. Or actually something different, but a Western seems nice to me too because I come from Texas. At the moment I do auditions, but they prefer celebrities.

Q: You come from San Antonio, next to Mexico. You don't appear to be a Latino, though.

A: I'm really not. I grew up in a Mexican environment, but my parents are Irish and Scottish.

Q: Who is your favourite actor in this movie?

A: This is without a doubt Sean Maher. I admire him very much. He is intelligent, handsome and very nice. He looked after me during the movie. He released a lot of energy and emotion in me. That made it easier for me to play the scenes. Besides he didn't give me the feeling to be "the new kid on the block".

Q: What did you learn from the making of "Serenity"?

A: The most important thing I learned is to never give up. Joss has always believed in his movie and has always stuck up for it. During the training for the fighting scenes I often wanted to give up. Some movements are possible to do for me as ballerina, whereby it sometimes was physically very painful. Also I often stood and looked out of my window and asked myself if I really had made a good choice in moving from Texas to Los Angeles. But as you see now, I have now achieved something which before I had not expected to.

Q: You do a number of fighting scenes. Was this fighting style developed specially for you? And did being a ballerina help you?

A: It's correct that I do a number of fighting scenes. The style is a combination of several styles. We looked what style would fit best to me. My ballet background had advantages, but also disadvantages. Of course I'm very agile, but for the fighting scenes I also had to be low on the ground and that is difficult for a ballerina, who is used to jump and run. I had not trained anymore as ballerina for some time, but during the training for the fighting scenes the memories came back.

Text:

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Translated from Dutch by Malte for **Summer-Glau.net**