

WC 08: Exclusive Interview - Terminator's Summer Glau

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Like most series, Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles was affected by the now concluded writers' strike, as only nine of the intended 13 episodes were shot for the first season. But the episodes that have been completed have quickly proven to be exciting and involving and at WonderCon last weekend, actress Summer Glau, who plays the Terminator named Cameron on the series, joined co-stars Thomas Dekker and Brian Austin Green, along with executive producers / showrunners John Wirth and Josh Friedman (who developed the show) onstage before an enthusiastic audience. During the panel, it was clear that the appreciative crowd loved the series and hoped to see more of it in the fall.

I spoke to Glau shortly before the panel began, to find out what it's been like seeing the reaction to Sarah Connor so far, what she thinks of her complicated character and to get any info I could on this Monday's two-hour season (not series; right FOX?!) finale.

IGN: Last time we spoke, it was on the picket line. I'm very glad to see you under happier circumstances.

Glau: I know, I'm so relieved.

IGN TV: It's great to see Josh [Friedman] here.

Glau: I know. It was so hard! It felt like not having your dad at home when we were on set without him [during the strike]. We were kind of hoping we were doing things the way he would want. It was really hard.

IGN TV: It was nice to see him at the premiere of the show [which occurred during the strike].

Glau: Yeah. It meant a lot to the actors that he came. I know that he was trying to be really strong and follow his instincts on coming to work, but that was such a big celebration for us to get together and see it. So I'm really glad that he was there.

IGN TV: This is the first time I've talked to you about the show since it launched. What's it been like seeing the reaction to it?

Glau: It's been such a joy. We worked on it for a really long time before anyone had seen it, so there was a lot of built up anticipation on our part. We were hoping that everyone was going to love it as much as we did. And again, I just can't believe how positive everyone's been and how people recognize me. For some reason, I feel like since I'm playing a robot people won't recognize me when they see me in real life. [Laughs].

Everyone's been so nice, even people at the airport today, encouraging me about the show. The other day I was turning right on the corner of Laurel Canyon and Ventura and there were people walking across the crosswalk and this one woman stopped and I smiled at her and waved her by. She stops and [mimes a surprised look and points]. She started clapping and gave me thumbs up! I was like, "Yeah, I'm just a real girl that drives on Ventura Blvd!" It's funny.

IGN TV: Your character is so fascinating, because she has a lot going on and a lot of lines she's going back and forth between. I imagine it must be pretty difficult to play, because there's still a lot we don't know about her.

Glau: It is difficult. I didn't want to take the easy out and play just a robot, and I didn't also want to just play her as human, because she's both. And it's unclear now if she's just a master manipulator or if she really is so advanced that she might actually be able to develop human feelings. At this point, it's a mystery to me and it's just a mystery to the audience, and I want everyone to be constantly guessing. I think there are moments when she's shockingly cold that I want the audience to be really disappointed [about]. I want them to look at her and wish that she almost could feel something. So it's a fine line and I try not to get too comfortable with how I'm playing her, because I always want to be thinking, "How is the smartest way to approach this scene?"

IGN TV: In the episode "Dungeons & Dragons" we got much more direct inferences that maybe she really isn't a good guy. Did that surprise you when you read it or was it something you were given a heads up to beforehand?

Glau: I wasn't really surprised. I think that it's important that she not just be kind of like a pet. She's dangerous. Even though she seems very open and childlike and it seems that she really does love John, I always want that looming danger. So I was really happy about that episode. I think that it's cool.

IGN TV: One of my favorite scenes of yours on the show so far was with the guidance counselor, when he asks about the girl who killed herself.

Glau: Oh yeah!

IGN TV: You did that really cool thing, where he asks what's the last thing she said, and instead of just repeating the words, you actually do an impression of her.

Glau: Yeah, I asked if I could do that. I asked the director, "Can I just mimic her?" Because I was in that scene and I saw her do it, so it was really fun.

IGN TV: You have this menacing aspect and obviously also do a lot of action scenes. Is it nice to also get to explore the very strange fish out of water dynamic with Cameron in high school?

Glau: Yeah. Thomas [Dekker] and I were both home schooled, so it is kind of crazy for us to be going to high school. I still kind of feel like I'm the outsider, because I don't fit in, you know? But I think it's a great addition to the storyline that these kids are trying to sort of fit in and be normal.

IGN TV: Can you give any hints on the season finale and where the show is heading?

Glau: it is a cliff-hanger. It is a cliff-hanger! Believe me, we didn't know at the time that it was going to be our last episode of the season and I'm so impatient, because I know what was coming next! Because we already had four more episodes to shoot.

IGN TV: Oh, and they'd told you what was going to happen next?

Glau: Yeah. So I am itching to get back to work, because the next episode after our cliff-hanger was going to be phenomenal.

Taken from IGN.com's website:
<http://tv.ign.com/articles/856/856022p1.html>