

Summer Glau: From Terminatrix to Crime Blogger in "The Cape"

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If you like take-charge, kick butt girls in larger than life worlds, then petite but "deadly" action star Summer Glau, once a ballerina from Texas, is your gal! We first connected with the dark-haired beauty as the tortured River in the popular series "Firefly" and its bigscreen sequel Serenity. After a load of TV guest star appearances Summer turned up as femme Terminator Cameron on "The Sarah Connor Chronicles", in a role written for her.

Now you can catch the tiny dynamo as the brains behind her own crime fighting website in the fun NBC superhero series "The Cape" (Mondays at 9, 8 Central). Summer plays Orwell, a mysterious girl with state of the art tech capabilities who, through her website "Orwell is Watching," is able to keep tabs on her city's crime doings and go viral with the news to the entire town. When she teams up with framed, assumed dead, ex-cop Vince Faraday, played by hottie David Lyons, who has turned superhero to prove his innocence and reunite with his wife and child, the two become a crime-fighting duo to be reckoned with.

We got on the cell with Summer, who was taking a break on set, to get her take on her mysterious character and chat about her wardrobe, cool cars, her hot co-star and her amazing stunts.. including swinging high above the ground on silk ropes. Check it out...

TeenTelevision: So Orwell is called an "Investigative Blogger". Can you elaborate on that?

Summer: She has her own site, "Orwell is Watching" and that's how she informs the whole city. She's been on her own since she was twelve and, over time, she's just developed this way to communicate to the city but keep her identity secret. It's really cool. I love it.

TeenTelevision: How long before we learn who Orwell really is? Are we going to find out very gradually?

Summer: Yes. There are little clues in other episodes, but right now we're shooting episodes seven and eight and there is a big secret revealed in those episodes. It starts to snowball. There's this big clue in the reveal and it's still unfolding. I asked [creator] Tom [Wheeler] to tell me the big secret about her past.

TeenTelevision: Who does guest star Mena Suvari play and what is her relationship to your character Orwell?

Summer: She's playing Dice and have a few bad run-ins. Let's say Orwell is not thrilled that Dice is trying to get in on her action. Actually, they have a few really fun action scenes together. She's wonderful and fun. Usually I'm always with boys or fighting boys so to have a girl-fight was great. We definitely sat and talked a lot during the shoot but I hope I see her again because she is a really fun actress.

TeenTelevision: We can tell that you won't just be sitting behind a computer the whole time but get to kick some butt and get out in the field. Was that one of the things you made sure of when taking the part?

Summer: I'm not good at typing and I'm used to doing a lot of action so when I came onto the pilot I figured, 'I'm going to dive in and do something different because I really believe in the show'. I knew that Tom was going to find ways to get Orwell out and he has exceeded any expectations or hopes that I had. I'm doing things that I never imagined myself doing?

TeenTelevision: Like what for instance?

Summer: The cloths, the aerial silks. Have you seen Cirque du Soliel, how they twist around on these silk cloths way up in the air? I went to circus school to learn how to do that. In the next episode, I end up going to the carnival and Orwell being the strong-headed crazy girl that she is, she decides to see if she can do these aerial cloths that one of the other characters does. I just jumped up there and had the time of my life.

TeenTelevision: Sounds dangerous and fun! Will we learn more about the bad guy Tarot organization?

Summer: Yes. The group of criminals and bad guys that we bring into every episode just keeps getting crazier and crazier. Right now I'm working with a guy who is my favorite bad guy so far but I can't say who he is. It's always a surprise.

TeenTelevision: One of the Tarot characters mentioned is "Siren". Does that have anything to do with you?

Summer: Siren? I don't know anything about that. Hummmm.

TeenTelevision: I assume that is actually you driving some of those cool cars. If so, how much fun is that?

Summer: Yeah, it's me. It's amazing. That never gets old but the boys are a little bit overprotective but they do let me drive for some of the shots.

TeenTelevision: Do you have any input into the great clothes she wears?

Summer: Yes. When we started out, she's undercover a lot but loves beautiful things. It's pretty high fashion but what I didn't want was for her to just be in black all the time. I really wanted, and you'll see in the next episode, that we step out of that classic spywear and go for a little bit more of a softer palate. It's really pretty. I want to buy everything.

TeenTelevision: Have you kept anything so far?

Summer: I'm not allowed to but I'm planning to sneak something. You didn't hear that from me.

TeenTelevision: We know nothing! After playing quite a few badass chicks, are you kind of itching to play a sweet young thing at least when you are on a break from the show?

Summer: When I first moved to L.A. I wanted to be a period film actress and do Jane Austen and something happened and I ended up playing a Terminator, holding a gun and beating up guys. Now that I've ended up in this world, I can't imagine not doing it. I really, really enjoy the action aspect of my work. But maybe someday somebody will take a chance on an action actress like me and put me into their film.

TeenTelevision: When you first read the pilot script, what grabbed you the most?

Summer: I felt like it was a great mix of a drama with action and a lot of humor. There's was nothing quite like it on TV. I really liked the tone of it and thought it was something that a family could watch together and everybody could relate to.

TeenTelevision: Star David Lyons who plays The Cape is pretty hot. Is he a fun guy to work with? What do you like most about him?

Summer: Yeah. I can't believe how humble and how focused he is. He's a really great guy to lead our group because he really sets the tone for how we feel when we're on set. He works so hard and has to really bring the energy every day and I'm really inspired by that. I love working with him. I enjoy going to work every day.

TeenTelevision: If Orwell grows to love David's character Faraday, isn't she sunk because he's so attached to his wife and son?

Summer: It's a part of my character that I so really enjoy. I feel like this is one of those relationships that really reflects real life, you know what I mean? It's never so easy. It's not, you meet a guy and he's available and you fall in love and you work together and it's magical. It's really more complicated than that. Orwell's been on her own and never lets anybody in and here's this man that represents everything she's been fighting to protect and it's hard for her and that's how I'm playing it and that's fun as an actress because it's a great challenge.

TeenTelevision: Any goof ups or funny stuff happening on set so far?

Summer: I think I'm the one who laughs the most in tense moments. I have such a hard time because I'm thinking 'What we are all doing right now is so crazy and so intense'. Keith David [who plays Max Malini, first owner of The Cape] is always singing between takes. He's a stage legend and he sings a lot of old classics. He was singing some Billie Holiday and twirling the girls and dancing.

TeenTelevision: How do you get back into character after that?

Summer: [laughs] I'm getting better at it.

TeenTelevision: What superheroes or superheroines do you like the most? Were you at all interested in those kinds of comic book characters as a teen?

Summer: Yeah. My favorite when I was a child was She-Ra but I dressed up as Wonder Woman a lot. But, I'm enjoying this. I've done Sci-Fi genre but this new comic book type genre is new territory for me.

TeenTelevision: What do you hope they'll let Orwell do eventually?

Summer: If I could, for one episode, I would love to just see her relax! She's really uptight.

TeenTelevision: Why should teens have fun watching "The Cape"?

Summer: I think the villains are cool. We have a new one every week and everybody's got new gadgets and there's a lot of tech stuff to our show but also an old school costumed drama to it. I think it's a lot of fun. I just now watched the show for the first time when it aired this last week and I was completely swept up in it. It's one thing when you're doing it but another when you just get on the ride and enjoy it like everybody else.

Taken from Teentelevision's website:

<http://www.teentelevision.com/2011/01/15/summer-glau-from-terminatrix-to-crime-blogger-in-t>