

On the set of Terminator the Sarah Connor Chronicles

German Pay TV Chanel Sky

Translation for Summer-Glau.net (not 100% accurate)

Director interview:

Interviewer: What is special in this scene ?

Director: We have to create the illusion that Summer is a robot. In this case we show her supernatural strength by lifting a Flat screen and the viewer shall believe that it is something heavy. People watch her and realize that something is wrong with her. Its very subtly, without gun fights etc. Its a daily situation and the terminator has to be careful to protect his identity.

Summer Glau interview

Interviewer: Summer Glau thanks for having us here, its a great pleasure to meet you and wonderful to see you acting. You are a great Terminator.

Summer Glau: Thank you.

Interviewer: I think it must be hard because an actor normally plays emotions but how is it to play somebody who fakes emotions?

Summer Glau :In this case all my decisions are very intentionally. In other roles I act instinctively. But when you play a robot you have to make intentionally decision all the time, even the movement. Therefore this role is a special challenge.

Interviewer: In this show are a lot of action and stunt scenes where you have to fight and to shot. Whats the physical difference in this show compared with others that you have played?

Summer Glau: I have done some stunt work before but it was martial arts and when you play a terminator you don't need that. They are so strong that they crack or push things away. They don't need to know special movements. Grace and agility are wrong here. Everybody who is in the way will be push out of the way I have to do a lot of gun work. Thats new to me and I like it.

Interviewer: You couldn't play Arnold, you had to create a complete new character. How did you do that?

Summer Glau: Its been a lot of fun for me and its a wonderful aspect of the series that i don't have to play somebody else and can create my own character. It was fantastic to work with the authors and producers on this. And the character evolves. She is a robot who absorbs everything like a sponge. She absorbs the characteristics of a lot of different people and evolves.

Interviewer: How would you describe Cameron? Sometimes you think that she can feel but then you realize that it is impossible because she is a machine.

Summer Glau: She is the most advanced model and that gives her the possibility to imitate human behavior. But she is also the most sensitive terminator. She is able to detect and understand feelings. She is very childlike in the way she absorb feelings. Thats how I would describe her. She is very honest, but also very complicated and smart.

Interviewer: How would you describe the relationship between her and John?

Summer Glau: Very complicated. I think that we have a bond that we haven't completely discovered yet. In the future they will have a relationship that is different in the way it is right now. On the one hand he likes her but on the other one he hates her and wishes he had a different life. She is a complicated figure in his world.

Thomas Dekker interview

Interviewer: How it is to be protected by two wonderful women?

Thomas Dekker: Its terrible for me.No, its a really cool thing, because everything is about John Connor but he is to young to do anything. Everything is in the future and unreachable for him. He wants to do more but he is not allowed to do. He only knows the negative aspects of being a hero. Thats a tough situation and he is not a very happy person.

Interviewer: How was it for you to build this character? Thomas Dekker: It was difficult. Normally you create a complete new character with background story etc. but in this case the character exists already in T2. I combined the way Edward Furlong plays John with my own one. He is a bit older and more mature and a bit smarter.

Interviewer: Summer told me that she hasn't seen the movies before she went to the casting for this role. Did you saw the movies?

Thomas Dekker: I grown up with this movies and have seen both films at the age of 12 and i always loved them. Therefore I was pretty nervous when I got this role.

Interviewer: Whats with the female Terminator? What was your first thought when your hear that you will be protected by a female Terminator?

Thomas Dekker: Much better. I think its more interesting. It raises the question if John has feelings for Cameron and if she reciprocate them. I think thats one of the interesting ideas the show presents. It gives us a lot of possibilities. Cameron the ultimate intruder gets human behaviors. Therefore we get a lot of plot lines which the show follows.

Interviewer: As a viewer you ask yourself what kind of relationship is this. Is she really just the protector? What do you think?

Thomas Dekker: Thats what we want. The viewer shall not know what it is exactly and even I don't know the correct answer. During the show the chemistry between John and Cameron changes. Also the one between John and Sarah. Its tricky.

Interviewer: If you see the show you get the feeling that John and Cameron flirt with each other.

Thomas Dekker: I think that John doesn't want to admit that he has feelings for her. Therefore his behavior towards Cameron becomes harsh and unfriendly. It helps him to hide his feelings. In the first episode when he thinks Cameron is human, John likes here. Therefore the frustration is much bigger when he realize that she has something to do with this nightmare.

Interviewer: How would you describe the relationship between John and his mother and how does she develop during the show?

Thomas Dekker: He is very smart and not very childlike but also very young. He needs his mother but he doesn't want her. Both need each other and they life for each other without accepting it really. Nobody wants to admit it. What I really like in this show is that the problems John and Sarah have are the same as the problems in other families, just multiplied. John is in a teenager crisis. He doesn't know who he is and who he will be or what kind of future responsibilities will come. Sarah has to deal with the fact that she has to be a mother who protects his son. You know that from families around the world but in this case you have to add the danger.

Lena Headey interview

Lena Headey: She is driven by the will to protect her son. Thats what defines all her actions. She has no special power or supernatural strength, but her love to John makes her pugnaciously. She is always on the guard and has to think 3 days ahead. In the same time she has to struggle with her son and the fact that she lives together with the enemy, Cameron.

Lena Headey: An interesting aspect of the show is that we have 2 female main characters. The mens part is a boy who has to become a man first and the women have to make sure that he will be successful. And then there is Sarahs struggle with her role as a mother. She isn't very motherly and the series shows that she tries to be a good mother. In the same time she tries also to build a normal world for her son, in which he can grown up as a normal boy, despite the fact that he is the savior of mankind.

John Wirth interview

Interviewer: Whats so special about Lena and why did you have her the role?

John Wirth: Because the show based on the movies, the audience has a clear pictures of Linda Hamilton as Sarah Connor. It is a huge challenge for an actor to succeed Linda Hamilton and I can't imagine any other person than Lena Headey who could do this job. She has the determination, the intelligence, the intensity and the emotional awareness for this role and it doesn't hurt that she belongs to the most beautiful women i have ever seen. All in all that says she is Sarah Connor.

James Middleton interview

Interviewer: How did you came up with the idea of a tv show which based on the terminator movies?

James Middleton: I was a part of the people who made T3. When we stated to work on the movie - which was a huge international success by the way - it was obvious that Sarah Connor wouldn't be in the movie. But she was one of my favorite characters and basically she was the soul of the movies. Therefore I started to think about how could I bring her back. I wanted to know more about Sarah Connor and then I had the idea for the series. In a TV show i can follow her development from week to week and can see the impact the fight and the education of her son has on Sarah. How does she do the things a mother has to do? How can she do all this while she is threatened by the future and hunted by the police. In the same time she has to make a living. All these question can best be explored in a TV show.

John Wirth interview

John Wirth: We have to give credit to the movies but we also create our own mythology which goes further than the one in the movies. The good thing on a movie is that you can write a story which fits into 90 min and after that everything is over. So you don't have to ask yourself what happens next. In a TV show you have 22 episodes per season and everything you do in 1 episode has an impact on the next one. Therefore you have to reflect about the whole series.

James Middleton interview

Interviewer: Who had the idea of a female terminator?

James Middleton: I had thought about the concept of a female terminator for a while. In T3 we have a female terminator played by Kristanna Loken. But it was important for us to show terminators as inconspicuous intruder instead of obvious killer. And who thinks about a terminator when he sees a graceful elegant 16 years old girl. Summer Glau is perfect for this role.

John Wirth interview

John Wirth:Try to do Arnold wouldn't work. That guy shall be Arnold Schwarzenegger? Therefore it was strategically brilliant from the author Josh Friedman to create the exact opposite from the Arnold figure, a female protector.

James Middleton interview

Interviewer: Whats with the new time line? In Germany starts the first season, so where are we?

James Middleton: Its present day, She is traveled through time. She hears for the first time about 9.11. That doesn't happen when the first episode starts. She discovers a completely new world.

John Wirth interview

Interviewer: What can you tell us about the special effects? In a movie you have a huge budget for this, but in a tv show you have to create the same effects whit less money. How did you do that?

John Wirth: We spent a lot of money for the series but we are sensible with it. With Rob Hall we found a great specialist for special effects. In the third episode of season 1 there is a terminator who repairs himself after blown up. In this episode are a lot of special effects and everything is a little bit scary. A real monster show. This man Rob Hall is really phenomenal. How he deals with make up. For example the metal under the skin when somebody

gets shot or blown up. And we have the visual effects, the post processing on the computer. The possibilities today are phenomenal.

Interview Steve Gallich

Interviewer: What were the most difficult special effects on this show?

Steve Gallich: We have to make the terminators look strong. When they throw people through walls or pick things up it always has to look very easy. So can my little Summer who plays Cameron punch her fist through a concrete wall without getting hurt.

Interviewer: And it looks very very easy.

Steve Gallich: It can be something easy or difficult. We build something for her all the time and it is always fun. The most difficult thing was in the first episode at the school. Over 400 shots were fired and 4 or 5 destroyed cars and the police men who gets killed. At this day it was ice cold and we had to prepare everything at 4 a.m in the morning before the rest of the crew arrived. Everything went fine and nobody got hurt. Thats what we work for.

Interviewer: Whats do you like the most on the Sarah Connor Chronicles?

Steve Gallich: Its a great experience. I've got great authors who write wonderful things, the producers are perfect and the stunt team is the best. Its nice to work with these actors. Actually I don't work, I enjoy it. I come here and I love my work, because the people make the work so easy for me. Its real fun and when its fun it isn't work.

(SCENES ABOUT COMIC CON AND THE FANS THERE)

Thomas Dekker interview

Interviewer: We have a category called useless series knowledge.

Thomas Dekker: Okay, here is my story. At the first day of shooting we had a huge shooting scene any my arms were bound behind my back. Lena should pull me out of the car. I fall on my face and were pull over the ground for a while. My whole face was scratched and bloody. They had to remove it on the computer.

(SOMETHING ABOUT SUMMER AND THAT SHE WAS A BALLERINA BEFORE AND THAT THOMAS DISCOVERED THE SCI-FI GENRE BEFORE WHEN HE PLAYS THE SON OF CAPTAIN PICARD IN STAR TREK GENERATIONS AT THE AGE OF 7. THAT HE IS TODAY A MUSICIAN AND FINISHES HIS FIRST MOVIE IN WHICH HE DIRECTS, PRODUCES ETC. THAT LENA HEADEY ALSO DIRECTS BEFORE IN A SHORT MOVIE AND THAT SHE HAS TO GAIN MUSCLES FOR THE SHOW. ABOUT THE WRITERS STRIKE AND THE JUST 9 EPISODES. ABOUT SHIRLEY MANSON WHO COMES TO THE SHOW.)

John Wirth interview

Interviewer: Is there a point were the story ends, or will we see a fifth or sixth season?

John Wirth: One challenge on a TV show is to keep it fresh and if you have the luck to make another season, you need a concept for each season. Whats the concept of a season? Last season we let the family jumping through time to find skynet. But how do you hunt something that doesn't exist yet? This year we have a new concept and if we are back next year, we will come up with something else.