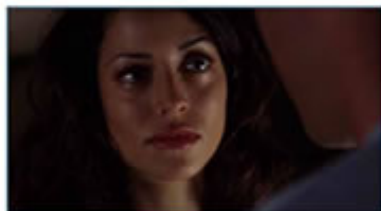


EMMANUELLE VAUGIER TO PLAY PAINKILLER JANE



Emmanuelle Vaugier, who was a regular guest star in the second and third seasons of The WB's *Smallville*, has been cast to star in Sci Fi's *Painkiller Jane* television movie.

Painkiller Jane is based on the Event Comics character created by Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti.

Vaugier, 28, and a native of Vancouver British, Columbia, played Dr. Helen Bryce in nine episodes of *Smallville*. Her character eventually married -- and then deceived -- Lex Luthor.

"I am really excited that Emmanuelle Vaugier was picked to play *Painkiller Jane*," Palmiotti told *The Continuum*. "She has the right amount of dangerous beauty that the character needs and is a wonderful actress as well. We scored big time with her and I cannot wait to see what she can do with the property. This is the perfect role for an actress on the rise like Emmanuelle."



Vaugier's other television credits include *North Shore*, *One Tree Hill* and *Charmed*.

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Comicscontinuum.com

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NBC Universal TV Studios will produce the *Painkiller Jane* pilot -- which marks Sci Fi's first comic-book adaptation -- in association with MGM TV.

The film is expected to begin production in Vancouver on Jan. 19.

Palmiotti said the movie should appeal to fans of the comic.

"The script is loyal to the character of Jane and the feel of her, but the situation in which she gets her powers is a tiny bit different," he said. "When I finished reading the script, I was very pleased with the job the writers on the project had done, and relieved that the heart and soul of the original character Joe Quesada and I created was still all there. It's a fun take on the character with some really original ideas that take the character into some new places even we didn't think of going. Overall, I am really happy with the final product."

And what will Vaugier look like as the TV Jane?

"Jane's suit presented in the series came out of necessity of the situation, but if you look at the books, there are a lot of times she was wearing other clothes, again, to fit into her surroundings," Palmiotti said. "That said, I think we will see the bandaged Jane everyone knows and loves from the comics as well as some military gear and sexy street clothes. The character is not like Batman where she runs around with a particular suit...Jane's demeanor has always been to lay low."

Palmiotti said he will be visiting the set during the first week of production.

"It's a really exciting project for everyone and it's especially exciting for me because even though I have many projects in development at this moment with four different studios, this is the first one that is actually going to the next level," he said. "It's going to be a busy year."

Click on the thumbnails below for images of Vaugier from *Smallville*. Look for more on *Painkiller Jane* soon here in *The Continuum*.