



Vancouver's Vaugier lives a Hollywood fairytale She's due home after working with Duvall and Caine

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Emmanuelle Vaugier's road from Vancouver to stardom hit a major detour last year when her WB series, *My Guide to Becoming a Rock Star*, was cancelled moments out of the gate. Only a few of the show's 13 episodes, in which Vaugier played the love interest of star **Oliver Hudson's** musician character, were ever broadcast on the network.

But life goes on, and maybe, if that series had continued, she might not have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Duvall and Mr. Caine. That's **Robert Duvall** and **Michael Caine**.

Vaugier is hangin' with the veteran Oscar winners in Austin, Tex., and Florida this fall, shooting a coming-of-age comedy called *Secondhand Lions*.

It seems like only yesterday that these two guys were studly leading men, but time flies, and in this film, they're relegated to playing a couple of avuncular eccentrics.

They're Hub and Garth, the suddenly wealthy great uncles of timid teen boy, Walter (Haley Joel Osment) who take him in for the summer when his neglectful mom (Kyra Sedgwick), dumps him on their farm.

And they're not thrilled. We learn more about their mysterious pasts with flashback sequences, and looking back in time gives everyone a new lease on life, especially when Vaugier's character, Princess Jasmine (daughter of an Arab sultan), appears. (Hub was in love with her as a young man.)

"You see me through a series of scenes throughout the film where they (Duvall and Caine) gradually reveal who I am and how they came to know me," Vaugier says on the phone from her hotel in Austin. "Then the movie becomes a lot like the Princess Bride, where you see the story as it unfolds through a child's eyes. It's charming and brilliantly written - I'm so proud to be a part of it."

For the shoot, she's had to polish her horseback riding, and must be causing nearby office workers to do double takes as she practices sword fighting and martial arts with the sword master for the film, on the rooftop of their downtown hotel.

Vaugier has appeared in the films *40 Days and 40 Nights*, *Suddenly Naked*, *Mindstorm* and *Ripper*, and on the TV series *Higher Ground* and *Charmed*. She recently signed up for a five-episode arc on WB's **Smallville** as the evil Lex Luthor's girlfriend, Dr. Helen Bryce.

When the film wraps next week, Vaugier heads back to LA to pose for a layout in *Maxim* magazine (tasteful, she assures), then goes to Australia to visit friends for the holidays, and returns to Vancouver in January for another episode of *Smallville*.

Written by Lynne McNamara