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Vancouver's Emmanuelle Vaugier starsw in the horror thriller, Saw II, which opens this weekend. She plays Addison, one of eight victims locked in a booby-trapped shelter. They have to get outta there before they inhale too much lethal nerve gas and die.

"We have to endure a series of obstacles that test our will to survive," Vaugier explains from her home in Los Angeles.

Attending the press junket in New York last week also tested her will to live. "We were very busy with the press," she admits, "but we managed to squeeze in an afternoon of shopping and cocktails."

While in the Big Apple, Vaugier and her Vancouver publicist, Lesley Diana, also attended the premier of Prime starring Uma Thurman and Meryl Streep.

Bryan Greenberg, who plays Jake Jaglieski to Vaugier's Nikki on TV's One Tree Hill, plays Thurman's love interest in the movie.

"I think it's one of the best romantic comedies I've seen all year, we loved it," she raves.

(Oops...so much for that friendship Prime and Saw II go up against each other for the box office draw on Friday.)

On Nov. 14, you can see Vaugier in an episode of Two and Half Men with Charlie Sheen. Her Vancouver-shot TV pilot, Painkiller Jane, in which she has the lead role, will air on Sci Fi Channel on Dec.10.

Next year, she'll be seen in a starring role in the horror flick, Unearthed, shot in Salt Lake City with Charles Q. Murphy (brother of comic actor, Eddie).

In that one, she's Sheriff Annie, who's investigating the mysterious deaths of scores of cattle who carcasses have been disfigured beyond recognition, and a truck explosion where she discovers a huge crab-like leg on the burned out vehicle.

Also out next year, House of the Dead 2, another spookfest, where she has a major role. All this work is keeping her from visiting her Yaletown apartment.

"I haven't been getting to Vancouver much at all," says Vaugier, sadly. "I had to bring the dogs (her two mini poodles, Lily and Isabelle) up to my mom's, back in August while I traveled for work. I'm hoping to get up there maybe sometime in November."

Written by Lynne McNamara