

# THE SCENE

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## Danes: 'Stardust' role 'fun paradox'

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Claire Danes has been Juliet in an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, played the shop girl in a love triangle and now has taken on the role of a fallen star (the celestial kind) who falls for her captor in the film *Stardust*.

We recently caught up with her to discuss the film.

**Question:** How did you land the role?

**Answer:** I auditioned, but they were pretty deep into the casting process by the time they arrived at me ... and I didn't completely botch it up ... Charlie (Cox) and I just happened to have a connection interacting, and it worked and I was cast.

**Q:** How would you describe your role in the film?

**A:** Well, I play a fallen star, literally — a celestial being who crashes to Earth, who is then kidnapped by a naive young man, and she is resentful for obvious reasons, and then, of course, discovers that she is desperately in love with her cap-

tor. In terms of her personality, she is very smart, strong-willed, self-possessed and kind of wise. ... In the beginning of the movie, she can't help but be wise because she is so ancient, but inexperienced, so that was a fun paradox to play.

**Q:** You've done romantic films in the past. How does this story differ?

**A:** Actually, this was kind of a classic model of romantic comedy in that the two romantic leads are initially very antagonistic toward and resentful of each other. Then they discover that they actually love each other deeply, madly and truly, so that's a common trajectory, I think.

**Q:** What was it like to work on the scene when your character was walking toward the wall because she believed Tristan (Cox) had left her and returned home to his love, Victoria (Sienna Miller)?

**A:** There was a lot of walking scenes ... days of walking to create that montage. I got pretty darn tired of the walking (chuckles). A lot of that had to do with the editing, too, just the ten-

sion created cutting back and forth between the two of us.

**Q:** You've worked with hot leading men before, including Leonardo DiCaprio (*Romeo + Juliet*) and Joaquin Phoenix (*It's All About Love*). What was it like to work with Cox, a relative newcomer?

**A:** It was great. He's incredibly talented and alive in his work, but also just such a gracious, charming and kind person, so I only have extremely positive things to say about Charlie.

**Q:** You had some hilarious scenes with Robert De Niro and hair-raising moments with Michelle Pfeiffer. What was it like to work with the veteran actors?

**A:** It was amazing. They're legends for a reason; obviously, they're very skillful and charismatic, and they have that kind of magic ... as striking as they are in person, they're even more so on film.

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Claire Danes at the July 29 premiere of *Stardust* in LA.

