

VICTORIA SUMMER

BIOGRAPHY

Actress and singer Victoria Summer is best known for her breakout role as 'Julie Andrews' in Disney's 'Saving Mr. Banks' opposite Tom Hanks and a supporting role in Paramount Pictures' 'Transformers: Age of Extinction' (Michael Bay). She has since appeared in 'Garlic and Gunpowder' (Vivica A. Fox /Martin Kove/Michael Madsen), 'Game of Aces' (Chris Klein), 'Ratpocalypse' (Casper Van Dien), and 'How Sweet Is It' (Erika Christensen/Joe Piscopo).

Victoria has a myriad of projects in the pipeline. She will be filming for 'Vindication Swim' in Spring 2021. Victoria's character 'Edith Gade' is the rival to British swimmer Mercedes Gleitze who first swam the English Channel. Her next major role is as Julie Davis in the film 'Brooklyn All American', alongside Chris Noth and Christopher McDonald. The film follows the life of a young man looking to achieve greatness in division one's college football. On the small screen Victoria has a guest role in the period drama series 'Glow & Darkness' (Jane Seymour/Denise Richards) set during the medieval life of Francis of Assisi. It airs later in 2021. She also has a more contemporary period series 'Across the Pond', in which she serves as actor and producer. The comedy pilot is about a British mother and daughter who land in Los Angeles to find fame and fortune in the movie business, and in the process, ending up in some hilarious situations. Victoria has also created a successful new website and TV series called 'Next Generation Role Model' that shines the spotlight on up-and-coming young talent, visionaries, and leaders of the Next Generation.



Along with her acting prowess, Victoria is a distinguished singer and from the age of three, a performer. From pantomimes and singing in the church choir to local theatre productions, her heart has always been in entertainment. She landed a scholarship at Arts Educational Schools in Chiswick, West London that earned her an honours degree in Dance and Musical Theatre. In her last year of school, Victoria became the understudy to the lead role in 'Brighton Rock', directed by Michael Attenborough performing at the prestigious Almeida Theatre. More recently, she recorded and contributed songs for the soundtracks of 'Garlic and Gunpowder' and 'Ratpocalypse'.

Victoria is a global ambassador for Teen Cancer America a non-profit co-founded by Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend of The Who that provide facilities and support for adolescents and young adults with cancer. Further still, she has put together charity afternoon tea events 'Tea with Victoria Summer,' with the most recent having featured Sheryl Crow, Alfie Boe and Lesley Nicol (Downtown Abbey).

In her free time Victoria practices yoga and helps to rescue animals and find them forever homes. Her compassion for animals extends to being a devoted vegan. Originally from the small town in the Wokingham in Berkshire, UK, Victoria resides in Los Angeles with her Pomeranian Bentley and black cat Elton John. She is engaged to Italian Michelin star chef Fabrizio Vaccaro.

You can find more on Victoria on her website victoriasummer.com. For more on Next Generation Role model, visit nextgenrolemodel.com.



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

FAME AND FORTUNE

Victoria Summer: I have not earned a penny since lockdown

The actress who starred in *Saving Mr Banks* tells Nick McGrath that filming was suspended on her TV show so she came back from LA to remodel her dad's home in Ascot



Victoria Summer and Fabrizio Vaccaro are planning to get married in Italy next year
LUKE AYERS

Victoria Summer grew up in Reading and won a scholarship to the Arts Educational School in Chiswick, west London. She performed in the West End and in horror films before moving to Los Angeles in 2012 and playing Julie Andrews opposite Tom Hanks in *Saving Mr Banks* in 2013 and starring in *Transformers: Age of Extinction* in 2014. She lives in Los Angeles and is engaged to the Michelin-starred chef Fabrizio Vaccaro.

'I had a pixie cut...and then never stopped working!': Hollywood actress Victoria Summer on how she turned her finances around

By DONNA FERGUSON, FINANCIAL MAIL ON SUNDAY

PUBLISHED: 16:52 EST, 5 December 2020 | UPDATED: 04:40 EST, 6 December 2020



The best money decision that actress Victoria Summer ever made was cutting off her hair.

Summer, star of *Saving Mr Banks* and *Transformers: Age Of Extinction*, was convinced by a photographer to get a pixie cut in 2012.

She says it propelled her career to new heights.

The 38-year-old spoke to us from Italy where she is on an extended holiday with fiancé Fabrizio Vaccaro, also 38.

The couple met in March, just before lockdown.

What did your parents teach you about money?

To cut my cloth according to my means. My father worked in the mailroom of a bank and was old-fashioned when it came to money.

He never spent money that he didn't have. That is the principle he taught me. My mum was an estate agent until she and Dad separated when I was eight.



Saving up: *Saving Mr Banks* actress Victoria Summer



Fabrizio pops the question to an overjoyed Victoria at the Santuario di San Francesco da Paola in his native Italy and (below) the newly engaged couple have a spring in their step



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW AND PHOTOS
FROM ITALY WITH LOVE, ACTRESS VICTORIA SUMMER AND CHEF FABRIZIO VACCARO SERVE UP THE STORY OF THEIR WHIRLWIND ENGAGEMENT

After sharing the big screen with Hollywood's elite, including Tom Hanks, Mark Wahlberg and Chris Klein, actress Victoria Summer has now found her very own leading man in a lockdown love story that is worthy of a film script.

Announcing to HELLO! her engagement to Italian chef Fabrizio Vaccaro and sharing photos of the proposal in the beautiful town of Paola, where he grew up, the British actress tells how her life was transformed by an chance encounter in March.

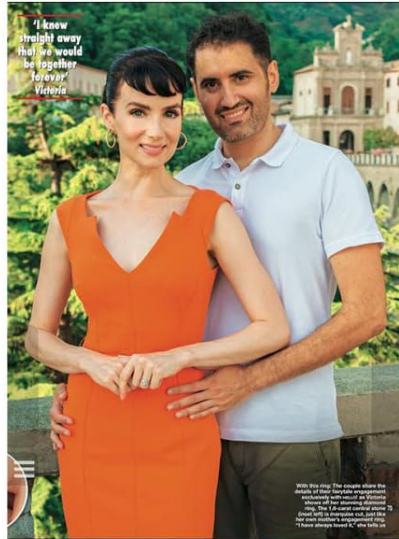
"From the moment we met I knew Fabrizio was pretty special. I think I knew straight away that we would be together forever. He is unlike anyone I've ever met," she tells us. "When I first saw him, I was like, 'Wow, he is so handsome', and we just didn't stop talking."

Fabrizio, who had made an unscheduled stopover in the UK to see friends when his flight to Rome, where he has an apartment,

had been cancelled, tells us: "It was like everyone else was no longer there. Victoria is the first person I felt I wanted to be with. I never had that thought so firm in my mind, that certain."

Victoria, who is based in Los Angeles, explains how she had been back home in Berkshire since Christmas; her father was poorly and she had decided to stay on longer than planned to refurbish his house. "I'd just finished all the work on 1 March and a few days later I went to meet a girlfriend in a coffee shop in the East Ginstead countryside and that's where I bumped into Fabrizio. She knew him and introduced us and from that moment we met it was just 'ching!'"

The couple began dating. "We went to Windsor, to my home town of Ascot and to Henley."



'I knew straight away that we would be together forever' Victoria

With this ring, The couple share the moment of their love story



'I said: "I would love to marry you, would you marry me?" And she said: "Yes!"'

On the third day, Fabrizio showed up at her house in the form of a text message. "I was so happy to hear from him, but I didn't really think he was serious until he said he would go to Rome. I had to see for myself, so I went to see him."

When Victoria saw him, she knew she had found her man. "I was like, 'Wow, he is so handsome', and we just didn't stop talking."

Victoria and Fabrizio began dating in March. "We went to Windsor, to my home town of Ascot and to Henley."



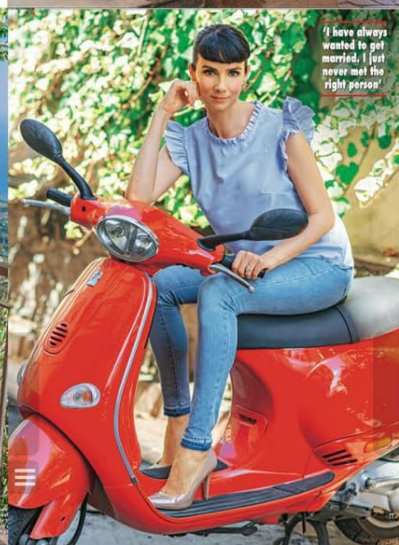
The newly engaged couple enjoy a celebratory meal with Fabrizio's dad, Giuseppe, and other family members in Paola, Italy



'The lockdowns here are amazing, like a film set and so beautiful!'

Victoria Summer and Fabrizio Vaccaro met in March 2020, when Fabrizio was in the UK to see friends when his flight to Rome, where he has an apartment, had been cancelled.

Victoria, who is based in Los Angeles, explains how she had been back home in Berkshire since Christmas; her father was poorly and she had decided to stay on longer than planned to refurbish his house.



'I have always wanted to get married, I just never met the right person'

Victoria Summer has always wanted to get married. "I have always wanted to get married, I just never met the right person."

She met Fabrizio Vaccaro in March 2020, when he was in the UK to see friends when his flight to Rome, where he has an apartment, had been cancelled.

Victoria, who is based in Los Angeles, explains how she had been back home in Berkshire since Christmas; her father was poorly and she had decided to stay on longer than planned to refurbish his house.

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SUMMER**
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in Berkshire

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Vindication Swim FIRST LOOK: Victoria Summer becomes 1920s swimmer Edith Grade as filming continues for biopic depicting her fierce rivalry with Mercedes Gleitze



By Laura Fox For Mailonline and Emma Powell Showbusiness
Correspondent For The Daily Mail
12:41 07 Apr 2021, updated 13:49 07 Apr 2021









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Filming for the biopic Vindication Swim resumed in Brighton on Friday, with Victoria Summer joining the cast as swimmer Edith Grade.

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Battle of the beach belles: New movie tells 1920s saga of two women who competed to swim the Channel

By Emma Powell Showbusiness Correspondent For The Daily Mail

22:31, 06 Apr 2021 , updated 22:48, 06 Apr 2021



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Victoria Summer's LOCKDOWN LOVE STORY

A chance encounter that led to love... Berkshire born Hollywood actress Victoria Summer shares the details of her engagement to Italian Michelin star chef Fabrizio Voccaro

WORDS: Sarah Rodt • PHOTOS: Luke Ayers

"It's a funny sensation when you meet someone and everyone else just fades away into the background," says actress Victoria Summer. But that's what happened when she saw Italian Michelin star chef Fabrizio Voccaro for the first time.

"We met by chance in a coffee shop in East Gristead," reveals Victoria, who played Julie Andrews in *Singing Mr Bones* opposite Tom Hanks. "I was meeting a girlfriend for a coffee when we bumped into Fabrizio. He gave her a big hug, she introduced me and I just knew he was special."

Fabrizio was on the way back to Rome from a holiday in Florida and his flight was cancelled so he'd made an unscheduled UK stopover – a trip that changed both their lives forever.

"I knew I would see him again that weekend, and we went on a few dates. Fabrizio had been working in London, but he hadn't seen a lot of England, so I suggested I show him around Berkshire," says Victoria. "After being in Los Angeles for 10 years, I was back home."

At the end of last year, Victoria's father became sick, so she had returned to Berkshire,



Fabrizio proposed in his hometown of Paoli

where she was born in Reading and grew up in Wokingham. She had then extended her stay to refurbish her father's house.

"I was born in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, just like Kate Middleton and Kane Windset, two of my role models," she says. "Berkshire is a massive part of who I am and it's one of the best places to be in the world. I grew up surrounded by countryside, with Ascot Racecourse on my doorstep and all the style and elegance that came with it."

"Fabrizio got the train to see me and I took him to Windsor, we enjoyed walks around Virginia Water and we went for dinner in Henley."

When the country went into lockdown, the couple didn't want to be parted, so they decided to move in together in the English countryside. And as soon as

lockdown lifted, they flew out to Paoli in Calabria in Italy so that Victoria could meet Fabrizio's family. And it was here, where he had grown up, that he proposed.

"Fabrizio's mother, who died when he was 18, used to take him to a monastery, Santuario di San Francesco, which is very dear to his heart," says Victoria. "He took me there, and it is breathtakingly beautiful," she says. "He got down on one knee and pulled out the ring. He said: 'I want to spend the rest of my life with you, will you be my wife?' And I said: 'Yes'."

Victoria describes the ring that they chose together as a white-gold band that has a halo encased marquise-cut 1.6-carat diamond, surrounded by smaller diamonds. "It's similar to my mother's ring, which I always loved," she says.

"We have set a date for next year and are planning to have



Victoria and Fabrizio go spend lockdown together in Berkshire

CELEBRITY LIFE

friends and family there from LA, Florida, the UK and Italy, we will be a destination wedding in Italy over the space of a weekend!" she says. "Fabrizio wants to do his thing and create the food for the day. He is a wonderful chef. I am plant-based and he cooks a good wild mushroom risotto or vegetable lasagne."

But before they put the finishing touches to their

"Making a difference is something close to my heart"

wedding plans, first Victoria is due to fly to Spain to shoot a new period drama, *Glow & Beckett*, alongside two former bond girls, Denise Richards and Jane Seymour. She says: "I'm really excited to be working with them, and also to be in another period drama after playing a British nurse in *Game of Thrones*, which was so elegant and well shot."

Victoria also says she enjoyed starring opposite Tom Hanks as the iconic Julie Andrews in Walt Disney's *Singing Mr Bones*. "I grew up watching him in *Rig, Gimmy and Forre Gump*, and he was always the actor who would affect me the most. I first met him backstage and he introduced himself to me as Walt Disney, so



above: Victoria in the Berkshire countryside

shown: Fabrizio proposed at the Santuario di San Francesco with a 1.6-carat diamond ring

I said: 'I'm Julia!' He was so funny. For me to be standing next to him, recreating the premiere of *Mary Poppins* and portraying Julie Andrews, who I was enamoured with as a child, was a dream come true."

In *Transformers: Age of Extinction*, Victoria worked alongside Mark Wahlberg, Stanley Tucci and Kelley Grammer. "I was on set for a few weeks in Detroit and Chicago. Stanley was there eating peanut butter and Mark was a real family man, which is lovely considering his position. Michael Bay is amazing; it's incredible to watch him work. It was all such a huge learning curve for me," adds Victoria, who started out in musical theatre but always aspired to go to Hollywood.

She arrived in LA in 2012 with

two miscarriages and knew just one person. But she was dedicated to pursuing her dream of being an actress. "You have to believe in yourself and although it's tough, be persistent," she says. "This fantastic work ethic has led Victoria to create a new website and TV show called *Next Generation Bob Mould* over the past few months. It shines the spotlight on up-and-coming young talent. "I've been interviewing visionaries and influencers; those kids who are going to be the leaders of tomorrow, asking them what they want to achieve," she says. "If I can find children who are impacting their communities and give them a foot up, I will. Making a difference in the world is something that is very close to my heart." •



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FEATURE

Berkshire Born Hollywood actress, Victoria Summer finds her Missing Ingredient



with a close friend, as our devilishly handsome heartthrob Fabrizio enters the scene. A hush seems to fall over the café as their eyes meet, and their love for each other begins. Seems like a fairy-tale doesn't it? Well, this encounter with destiny would be no more than fiction had it not been for Covid-19.

Fabrizio would have been landing in his current home of Rome if it weren't for the cancellation of his flight, which instead set the master-chef's course toward the UK for an impromptu visit to see friends, and an even more "impromptu" (actually totally accidental) meeting with his soul mate, Victoria!

Los Angeles resident Victoria had been spending time away from the city of angels since last Christmas to care for her father, extending her stay only to refurbish his home. Perhaps Victoria had been preparing for a role as an interior decorator at some point in her impressive career, as she completed the work with little to no help, making plans to celebrate her grand refurbishment finale at a coffee shop with a close friend... sound familiar? ☺



"This lockdown love story plays out just like the movies"

From having colleagues such as Tom Hanks and Mark Wahlberg to finding her true love in lockdown, Berkshire's own Victoria Summer, star of 'Striving Mr Banks', 'Game of Thrones' and 'Transformers', announces her engagement to Italian born, Michelin star chef and hubby-to-be, Fabrizio Vaccaro!

This lockdown love story plays out just like the movies. Picture this: a quiet coffee shop nestled in the East Gristead countryside, the air ripe with the scent of freshly ground coffee beans. Our leading lady, Victoria, sits locked in conversation

12 SEPTEMBER 2020



SEPTEMBER 2020 13

FEATURE

After the coffee shop sparks flew, the two love birds went on a peppering of dates together, including a visit to Victoria's home of Ascot. Then with lockdown in full swing, Victoria and Fabrizio decided to make the best of a bad situation, renting a flat in East Gristead and spending their lockdown falling deeper and deeper in love with one another. If you could choose to get locked down with anyone, a Michelin star chef would probably be near the top of the list! Fabrizio wanted no time in serving Victoria her first of many meals most of us could only dream of indulging in, a thought made somewhat harder to swallow knowing that Bentley, Victoria's rescue Pomranian, also gets to show down on restaurant quality dinners served straight to his bowl after Fabrizio swore that tinned dog food would be a thing of the past for the pampered pooch!

Once lockdown eased, Fabrizio whisked Victoria away to his hometown of Paulton to meet his family and to officially ask her to marry him. The two had already spoken about their desire to spend their lives together during their stay in East

Gristead, however, Fabrizio wanted Victoria to meet his family (who instantly adored and welcomed her) before he officially placed a ring on her finger, which he did on the 2nd of July when Victoria answered 'yes!' to his proposal outside of the Santuario di San Francesco, a location very dear to Fabrizio's heart, as he frequented this monastery with his late mother who passed away when he was just 18.

Now our perfectly paired couple are cooking up plans for their big day, with a castle in Italy as the set for their 2021 blockbuster wedding! Although preparations are in full swing, the show must go on! Victoria is heading to Madrid to dig into filming period drama *Glow & Darkness* with her new Bond girl co-stars Denise Richards and Jane Seymour, leaving her new fiancé in Rome in the safe paws of Bentley. Since starting her career in West End theatre, Victoria's undeniable talent and fearless work ethic has led her down an incredible, star studded path, and now, that path has brought her to her true love. ■



"Now our perfectly paired couple are cooking up plans for their big day, with a castle in Italy as the set for their 2021 blockbuster wedding!"



PRESS

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Victoria Summer Dives Into Indie Biopic 'Vindication Swim' From Director Elliott Hasler

By Dino-Ray Ramos 
November 2, 2020 2:00pm



Mega

EXCLUSIVE: [Victoria Summer](#), who played Julie Andrews in *Saving Mr. Banks*, has joined the cast of the indie biopic [Vindication Swim](#) directed by UK filmmaker [Elliott Hasler](#) (*WWII: The Long Road Home*).

Based on a true story, *Vindication Swim* follows Mercedes Gleitze (Kirsten Callaghan), who in 1927 became the first British woman to swim the English Channel. The film portrays Mercedes' struggle in overcoming both the cold waters of the English Channel and the patriarchal society of 1920s England. However, after a rival comes forward claiming to have accomplished the same feat, Mercedes is forced into battle to retain her record and her legacy.


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'Saving Mr. Banks' Actress Victoria Summer Joins 'Transformers 4'

DEAL CENTRAL | By Jeff Sneider on August 16, 2013 @ 11:49 am

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Chris Klein, Victoria Summer to Star in WWI Thriller 'The Uberkanone' (Exclusive)

MOVIES | By Jeff Sneider on January 7, 2014 @ 1:56 pm Follow @thesneider

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Documentary filmmaker Damien Lay is making his feature directorial debut with the indie movie, which co-stars Werner Daehn



"American Pie" star Chris Klein, Victoria Summer (*Transformers: Age of Extinction*) and well-known German actor Werner Daehn (*Valkyrie*) are set to star in "The Uberkanone," a psychological thriller that marks the feature directorial debut of Damien Lay, *TheWrap* has learned.

The indie movie stars Klein as an American pilot flying for the French under the Associated Powers during WWI. He's sent to the Arabian Desert to recover a downed German pilot (Daehn) and the top-secret information he's carrying.

Accompanying him is an inexperienced English nurse and German translator (Summer). All three are thrust into a web of lies and deceit that sets in motion a deadly game of survival.

Also Read: 'Saving Mr. Banks' Actress Victoria Summer Joins 'Transformers 4'

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NOVEMBER 23, 2020 11:24am PT by Chris Gardner

Sheryl Crow to Appear at British Tea Fundraiser for Teen Cancer America



Courtesy of Ralph Lauren

The virtual event, from actress Victoria Summer, will also feature scones and chocolate cake tutorials, lessons on tea etiquette and conversations with teen cancer survivors.

Actress Victoria Summer is readying her third annual British tea event that will serve as a fundraiser for Teen Cancer America, the nonprofit co-founded by Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend of The Who. Scheduled for Dec. 12, the event is going virtual for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Victoria Summer's Virtual Tea Party" will feature Grammy winner Sheryl Crow, Tony Award-winner Alfie Boe

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AUGUST 24, 2016 4:24pm PT by Chris Gardner

Russell Simmons, Chris Klein, Stylist Elizabeth Stewart Turn Out for Teen Cancer Benefit at British Consulate's Hancock Park Residence



Getty Images
Chris Klein and Victoria Summer - Getty - H 2016

An auction netted north of \$27,000 to benefit Teen Cancer America.

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Damien Lay's new film *Game of Aces* — an action drama starring Chris Klein and

Victoria Summer that centers on the rescue attempt of a German traitor during World War II set against the


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British Academy Britannia Awards: Jennifer Lawrence, Jodie Foster, Felicity Jones Hit the Red Carpet

The 2016 AMD British Academy Britannia Awards was held on Oct. 28, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

by THR staff - 10/28/2016 11:03pm PDT



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VICTORIA SUMMER

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Roundtables The Race Forecast Awards Chatter Behind the Screen

Britannia Awards Red Carpet: Harrison Ford, Amy Schumer, Steve Carell, More Make the Scene

The stars flocked to the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Friday night.

by THR staff - 11/1/2015 7:31pm PST



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VICTORIA SUMMER

Victoria Summer walks the red carpet at the 2015 Britannia Awards.

Getty Images

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VARIETY

'SAVING MR. BANKS' SCREENING

WALT DISNEY STUDIOS, BURBANK, DEC. 9

"It's very unusual for us to do a premiere here on the lot, but we couldn't resist in this case, inviting you all to a movie studio to watch a movie about making a movie," said Walt Disney chairman Alan Horn. Producer Alison Owen put it best: "I feel like I'm inside a Russian doll. There's dolls inside dolls inside dolls." What could be more meta?



Victoria Sumner and Mickey Mouse



Tom Hanks and Colin Farrell



Claudia Eller and Alan Horn



Alan Horn, Bob Iger, Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson

VARIETY'S DEALMAKERS BREAKFAST

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, BEVHILLS, DEC. 13

Walt Disney Studios Chairman Alan Horn and Microsoft's Nancy Tellem may work in different parts of the entertainment sector, but they both agree that the industry needs to embrace technology or risk losing the Millennial audience.



Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke



Jason Segel, Walt Disney Studios' Sean Bailey and writer Kelly Marcel



Emma Thompson and Paul Giamatti



Nancy Tellem and Andrew Wallenstein

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70 VICTORIA SUMMER

JUST OUR CUP OF TEA

MovieMaker

When you're hired for your first professional job by Michael Attenborough—Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Almeida Theatre in London—it's pretty hard to keep moving upwards from there. But actress-singer-dancer Victoria Summer has maintained a steady trajectory with the grace and charm someone might display sitting down to afternoon tea.

Yes, she's British, which makes us love her even more. But behind her impeccable fashion sense, poise, and striking Audrey Hepburn-esque beauty, there is a very busy, very dedicated career woman.

"I wasn't paid for *Zombie Diaries*," says Summer, whose first jaunt into film work was with the small horror indie shot in London in 2006. "But I was very happy I got that role. I had been wanting to move away from musical theater and get into film."

Summer started dancing at age three. From dancing came singing, from that came pantomimes, and then performing in dance competitions and festivals. Once she started doing plays and musicals, she got a scholarship to the Arts Educational Schools in Chiswick [pronounced 'Chiz-ick' for all you non-Brits] and trained there for three years, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Dance and Musical Theater.

"I carried on with my singing and theater," says Summer, "but I wanted to move to the States."

She was cast in a few independent films after coming to Los Angeles in 2009—*Dracula: Reborn* and *How Sweet It Is*, which she sang in as well. *Higher Mission*.

her next film (with Casper Van Dien), is in post-production now and slated for a VOD release in late 2013.

"I've learned so much from those films. Already I'm so blessed that I've had such a diverse range of characters to portray," she says. "As an actress I've always wanted to be able to vary the characters that I play, since that's the excitement of acting."

After paying those all-important indie dues, Summer got to portray Julie Andrews in this year's distinctly non-indie *Saving Mr. Banks*, starring Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson, along with a host of other veteran and talented actors.

"It's a huge step up," she says. "It's climbing the ladder. I'm not playing the leads now, like in the indies, but I'm doing supporting roles in bigger movies. Fingers crossed that the next role is a bigger one—and in a bigger movie."

The London-to-Los Angeles transplant laughs about the roads being much bigger here, as well as the cars and the food portions. "When I get

back to London I feel like I'm in *Toy Town*."

Everything's been much bigger in L.A. for Summer, especially working with Mr. Hanks.

"Oh, my goodness. Tom Hanks. I grew up watching Tom play all of these marvelous characters and I couldn't think of a better actor to be in a scene with. It was very overwhelming, actually."

Overwhelming or not, for Summer it's about the role, not the budget. "As soon as the right role comes along, it doesn't matter if that's a low-budget indie or the next big Paramount picture. Having the experience of working with a director like Michael Bay [oh yes, we forgot to mention: she has a supporting role in the next *Transformers* as well] or John Lee Hancock and getting to see these huge sets and huge budgets... I feel so lucky to know both worlds."





Chuck Mirarchi, Contributor
Disney Writer and historian, Disunplugged.com

Victoria Summer: Practically Perfect in Saving Mr. Banks

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One of the most anticipated films of this holiday season is Walt Disney Pictures' *Saving Mr. Banks*. It's a beautifully written, directed and acted movie about how Mary Poppins came to be — both from [Walt Disney's](#) and [P.L. Travers'](#) perspectives. Portraying Julie Andrews, who won the [1965 Academy Award](#) for Best Actress, to virtually spit-spot accuracy, is actress Victoria Summer.



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Victoria Summer Photographed by Ricky Middlesworth

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SUMMER AND MR. BANKS

GIRL POWER | VICTORIA SUMMER

Before *Mary Poppins* was a musical and a hit Disney film, it was a series of children books by P.L. Travers. The story of how Walt Disney turned the beloved book series into the classic movie is finally coming to the public spotlight. The film *Saving Mr. Banks*, starring Tom Hanks as Walt Disney and Emma Thompson as P.L. Travers, shows how Travers and Disney worked together to make the film as well as the elements that helped Travers create the books. We were fortunate to sit down with Victoria Summer, playing Julie Andrews, to tell us a little about her feelings about the film. **PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICKY MIDDLESWORTH**

Clutch: Before we get started on *Mr. Banks*, you get to play Julie Andrews in what was her first feature film. Were you a big fan of hers growing up, and what does it feel like playing such an iconic actress in one of her most beloved roles?

Victoria Summer: I'm a huge Julie Andrews fan. I watched *Mary Poppins*, and I watched *The Sound of Music* at least one hundred times as a child. I had the video. So, I used to play it whenever I could and sing along to it. My background is musical theatre, so *Mary Poppins* and theatre were some things that I studied. Julie Andrews is such an amazing person; she has an incredible voice. She has a wonderful demeanor about her. It was an honor to play her. She's an incredible woman.

So, the film centers around what happened to turn *Mary Poppins* from a book into a live-action film. Do you feel that Disney fans will be surprised by elements of the film?

Yes, I do. I don't think they realize the story behind it and what went on that caused *Mary Poppins* to happen or how the author P.L. Travers actually was. She was a very, very fascinating person played wonderfully by Emma

Thompson. I think that it's going to be an interesting movie with a good perspective on what happened.

Do you think that the film is going to show a different kind of Walt Disney than the public is used to?

Yes, I think it probably will. I haven't seen the movie yet, which means I can't say for sure, but I do believe that people will find it interesting. I know Tom Hanks did an amazing job.

What was it like playing opposite Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson?

Emma Thompson was the first person I met when I came on set. I walked into the makeup trailer, which was her makeup trailer. She already knew my name. She stood up out of her makeup chair, and I

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went to shake her hand. She went and gave me a huge hug. She was really gracious and warm.

I had a funny moment when I first met Tom. I was walking out of the makeup trailer, in my full outfit for a scene and makeup to look just like Julie Andrews, and I walked past his trailer. I didn't realize that it was him sitting outside before he starts shouting after me, "Hey, Julie!" He was dressed as Walt Disney and introduced himself as Walt. I grew up watching him, so having Tom Hanks talk to me as Walt was such a surreal moment. It was amazing.

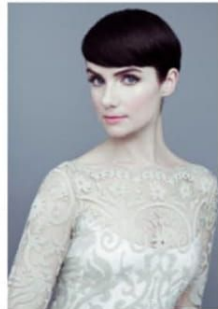
What was one of your favorite scenes in the movie?

The big scene in the film is the premier

of *Mary Poppins* and that was incredible. We recreated the 1960's premier right down to the China Theatre. We had so many people there. It's probably the biggest scene in the movie. We had cartoon characters. We had people all dressed up. It was just marvelous. When I look back at it, I feel like it was a dream. It was amazing.

Besides being in *Saving Mr. Banks*, Summers will also appear in the new *Transformers* movie. She couldn't give away much about the film, but she did express her feeling about becoming a part of such a beloved series. "To suddenly become a part of it is an honor," she said. "It's such a huge production. There's so much that goes into it and they're filming in so many different locations. It's a great opportunity."

Transformers fans will have to wait and see what the next movie holds, but in the meantime, you can catch Summers in *Saving Mr. Banks*. The film is due out in December and is sure to be a remarkable movie that will add new levels to the beloved *Mary Poppins*. **BY BRITTANY HUSKEY**



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