

Twilight Lexicon Q&A with Edi Gathegi, cast as Laurent in the 2008 film adaptation of Twilight by Stephenie Meyer, March 10, 2008. Interview conducted by Cocoa, Twilight Lexicon staff writer. Part 2.

Lexicon - In the books, Laurent is French. Do you plan on using an accent for the role?

Edi - *Ok. Here is the deal. In the books he is slightly French. French is already an impossibly difficult accent for me to do. The sounds are so foreign and placement so different. And I consider myself an accent man, it's one of the joys of transformation. SLIGHTLY French is perhaps the most difficult thing for me to wrap my brain around, so I basically underwent a full French intensive. Language tapes, French interviews, French cinema, etc. The idea was to go all the way so I understand the rules of the language and articulation, then pull back as needed.*

Lexicon - What do you feel are Laurent's underlying characteristics?

Edi - *Laurent is a vampire through and through. He is a natural predator. A killing machine. It's what he must do to satiate his hunger and sustain himself. But he is also good compassionate being in spite of his vampire lot in life. He has seen the world and most of what's in it. He has been around for hundreds of years. On some level he definitely welcomes the idea of self evolution (what the Cullen's have achieved). He doesn't sleep or die, so he's got nothing but time to contemplate the meaning of his existence. Under different circumstances, I think Laurent could be part of the Cullen clan. He is sensitive feeling vampire who happens to be dealt the hand by fate that requires him to feed on humans and be blinded by hunger. So while there are humanistic charming aspects to him... He is still creepy and extremely dangerous.*

Lexicon - Have you had the opportunity to meet with Cam Gigandet (James) or Rachelle Lefevre (Victoria)?

Edi - *We see each other practically everyday. Rachelle and I had brunch yesterday morning then gorged ourselves on doughnuts. Is that wrong? Dessert after BREAKFAST?! Yeah, I am a victim of the sweet tooth. A recovering sugarholic. :-)* Rachelle is a darling. We are basically peas in a pod, running around quoting Eddie Murphy and Chris Tucker. Too much laughter between the two of us. Cam is super cool and I'll quote Rachelle here, "Cam is a lone ranger, an army of one." He is kind, gentle, funny, dedicated actor. And it's been great collaborating with him on the scenes.

Lexicon - What scene are you most looking forward to shooting?

Edi - *There are a couple of scenes that are not in the book that I can't talk about but I am really excited to bring the new scenes to the world for the first time.*

Lexicon - Have you had (or will you have) the opportunity to meet Stephenie Meyer?

Edi - *I actually flew back to LA the morning that Stephanie came to town for the cast dinner. I was bummed. But I'm sure I will have the pleasure of meeting her in the near future. I'm inextricably bound to her for life now. Film never dies. And her dream is being realized in a film! How cool is that?!*

Lexicon - Did it surprise you that Twilight has such a passionate following? And have you had any "Twilight fan encounters" yet?

Edi - *It's all happening so fast. I haven't had any real life Twilight fan encounters yet, aside from the myspace add requests. My announcement to the film, I'm not sure has been made official yet. So I don't know. I guess this interview pretty much confirms the speculation once and for all :-). And I think it is totally awesome how popular this series is, and how many loyal supporters there are. It's so exciting. I'm just glad to be a part of it and help realize the story. It's wild to think that all these fans and this amazing story turning into a hugely anticipated movie, began with a DREAM just a few years ago. Quite inspirational.*

Lexicon - What sources did you use to research the role of Laurent?

Edi - *I read the first two books. I felt that Laurent was rather dignified, more or less refined, somewhat regal, so I studied Le Chevalier de St. Georges otherwise known as Black Mozart. I thought it would be interesting if I made Laurent the contemporary or even schoolmate of one of the most significant French composers of the 17th century who happened to be a renowned fencer, general, and lover. A true renaissance man. Laurent would totally have been best friends with him before he "turned". Admittedly the timeline doesn't quite matchup, but it's a way into creating backstory for my character.*

Lexicon -What about Laurent's physical type?

My understanding of the "pale skin" is vampires are essential "undead". They don't have blood flowing through the veins, and as a result, their skin is cold and "pale". Color, creed, religion, content of character, favorite brand of ice cream isn't really a factor ;-) So essentially any human being could be bitten and turned. And why shouldn't they be, we are all HUMAN with human DNA, the

genetic makeup, and chromosomes that dictate that. And my skin tone is naturally darker so with bloodless veins I would only get so pale, which is to say, not very "pale" at all :-). And to the uber loyal fans of this book, I humbly offer this perspective... the brilliant description of Laurent by Stephenie Meyer, "olive-toned", allowed me to be considered for this part. How fortunate for me that there are different color olives. Black olives anyone?

Lexicon - What have been the biggest surprises to you surrounding your casting in this film?

Edi - *Some very sweet girl named Lola made youtube video of me! Totally flattering and surprising. That, and getting asked to do this and other interviews. Totally flattering and exciting. It basically opened my eyes up to how huge this whole thing is. There are a lot of fans anticipating this loved book becoming a movie. And on a basic level, I'm always surprised when I work. So getting the job was a thrilling surprise!*

Lexicon - Do you have other projects in the works?

Edi - *I believe that it is generally bad luck to talk about any project until the ink has dried, so I'll say that I've got several things in the works and I am excited about all of them. Hopefully these fans won't be disappointed with my turn as Laurent and they will continue to supporting my work! And I'll always try my best to bring them something they can enjoy.*

Lexicon - Is there anything you would like the fan base to know about you?

Edi - *uhh...I like long walks in the park? and I'm a Pisces... Matter of fact, today is my birthday!*

Lexicon - And the Twilight fan's always want to know...Are you single?

Edi - *I am single. But my "horoscope" told me that I am not going to be single for long ;-)*

Thank you Edi for taking the time to answer a few questions from the Twilight fandom! And for allowing us the opportunity to get to know you and your vision of Laurent better. You are without a doubt, the perfect Laurent.

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