Jada dances with her shadow in Gotham City

By TIFFANY BAKER

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He has the seemingly unfortunate name Fish Mooney. She's a "ruthless gutter chick" who plays male gangsters at their own game. So what did Jada Pinkett Smith say when her agent asked if she'd be interested in playing this character in Batman prequel series Gotham? "Where do I sign?" "I'm loving it," Pinkett Smith says with a laugh. "It's nice to be able to dance with your shadow in a creative way like this. I'm having a ball." In Gotham, Pinkett Smith is the charismatic, hated Fish Mooney (a new character in the Batman universe), a gang boss who's not afraid to mix it with the blues. She's a ruthless gutter chick ... a dirty fighting chick, so she'll pretty much throw anything at you. I wanted her to be a mashup of (Colombian drug lord) Griselda Blanco and Norma Desmond (Oscar winner Glenn Close)." Asked how her decision to play Fish went down at home, she says there was no need to seek the approval of her husband, hip-hop mogul Will Smith. "He's my best friend and we're artists so we create things at home, but he doesn't influence my career per se," she explains. But she will take suggestions from her preciously talented kids, 16-year-old son, Jaden, and 13-year-old daughter, Willow. "Jaden is the biggest Batman fan, and he was just ecstatic about this, telling me I had to do it," says Pinkett Smith, who has relocated the family from Los Angeles to New York during shooting. "I think I'm finally cool in the eyes of my kids." The highly anticipated series, created by Bruno Heller (The Mentalist), sees a young pre-Commissioner Gordon (a brooding Ben McKenzie of The O.C. fame) take on not only Gotham's mobsters, but a burgeoning new breed of villain, including a clutch of characters who may be slightly familiar. Indeed, much of the fun of Gotham is watching a young Penguin, the future Riddler, and an adolescent pick-pocking Catwoman evolve.

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Pinkett Smith says the challenge came in creating a character strong enough to sit alongside some of the most iconic bad guys ever seen on screen. "The Batman villains are memorable because they are very specific," she says. "It was really trying to figure out how you could create a memorable villain, but still have her connected and grounded in this mob gangster world. I wanted her to have flair, but still throw in a dose of reality. It was an interesting balance to have to find." Pinkett Smith says the took inspiration from Hollywood. "When you think about Hollywood, it's male-dominated, and when you've been around it for a while, it gives you the opportunity to see what it takes to be a strong woman and to be able thrive in an environment like that. It takes some guts," she says. "So that's how I felt about Fish Mooney - she's figuring out how to beat men at their own game."

Robin Lord Taylor, who plays Oswald Cobblepot (the future Penguin), says the 43-year-old Pinkett Smith says the challenge came in creating a character in Batman prequel series Gotham, with The O.C.'s Ben McKenzie (below, left) among her co-stars.

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iggy in running to score six of best at awards

AUSTRALIAN rapper Iggy Azalea has dominated the American Music Award nominations, scoring a stunning six nods across a number of major categories, including New Artist of the Year, Single of the Year for her breakout hit, Fancy and Favourite Female Artist.

The blonde lyricist will also go head-to-head with superstar Beyonce for the top Artist of the Year gong – the AMA’s highest honour.

Other nominees include Katy Perry, Lorde, One Direction and Pharrell Williams.

Azalea is also up for the Favourite Rap/Hip Hop Album award as well as Favourite Rap/Hip Hop Artist.

She took to Twitter to share her reaction to the news, describing it as “not a bad way to start the week off”.

The awards will be held in Los Angeles next month.

Hammie injury makes it a last dance for Kyly

KYLY Clarke has been forced to pull out of Dancing With The Stars after tearing her hamstring.

“I’m devastated,” Clarke said. “I’m disappointed and kind of in shock as well, I really didn’t think I would be leaving the show under these circumstances.”

Kyly’s cricketer husband, Michael, has been troubled by back and hamstring injuries throughout his career.

“Michael has a hamstring injury too but it is a different one to mine,” she said.

“He has torn that part that makes him have to stop running, straightaway. Mine is a dancer’s injury, ballerinas usually get what I’ve got.”

Kyly, 33, informed producers she could not continue on the advice of her doctor, John Orchard.

Kyly will have months of rehab to get back to form.

Holmes ready to reprise role of regal Jackie

KATIE Holmes will once again play Jackie Kennedy Onassis in a TV miniseries. The actress has signed on to star in The Kennedys: After Camelot, a follow-up to The Kennedys miniseries.

The four-hour miniseries will begin production next year and is slated to air in 2016. Holmes, 35, will be executive producer and also direct one episode.

John Cassar, who directed The Kennedys, will direct the other three episodes. The Kennedys notched up record ratings for the Reelz Channel network when it aired in 2011.

It starred Greg Kinnear as John F. Kennedy and Holmes as glamorous First Lady. Kinnear was nominated for an Emmy and SAG Award for his portrayal.

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