

DUAL ROLE

Grace Park plays a robot who's all too human on returning sci-fi hit *Battlestar Galactica*.

IT'S CHALLENGING enough for an actor to create a living, breathing character out of some words on a page. When the character is a robot that thinks it's human, well, you know Grace Park has her work cut out for

her. The actress, 25, plays hotshot space pilot Sharon "Boomer" Valerii on the Sci Fi Channel's hit series *Battlestar Galactica* (Fridays at 10 p.m. ET), which kicks off its second season this week. We spoke with her:



Park's character, Boomer, is "in denial."

What's it like playing someone who's clueless about her own identity?

It's hard. You're not sure how much she knows. In real life, when you see people in denial, it's like "Wow!" — and your heart just goes out to them.

Is Boomer's human-ness what makes her so appealing?

There is no human Boomer. I think people want there to be. There is so much sympathy for her. Everyone is empathizing with [her].

How did a niche cable show get such great reviews?

The show is about war, and there are elements of war throughout our lives. And the show is honest, the darker side of honest. We also touch on subjects people don't like: prisoners of war, torture, sexual abuse, church and state, how much spirituality will affect the daily course of power.

Those real-life parallels were drawn in an earlier sci-fi hit, *Star Trek*. Who intrigues you more: Kirk or Spock?

Kirk. He was a man of values. He tried to step into things with courage and grace and nobility. **EW** — Lewis Beale