

# Williamson Is "Stealing" A Little Of The Spotlight

Until earlier this season, Olivia Brown Williamson usually could be spotted on NBC's "Miami Vice" either handing the phone to series star Don Johnson or squeezing into a skin-tight dress to pose as a hooker.

That's not exactly demanding work, but Williamson finally got her chance to steal a little of the spotlight from Johnson and fellow "Vice" star Philip Michael Thomas in "The Dutch Oven," a segment broadcast in late October.

"I got a lot of calls from that show," she said of the episode, which featured her as Detective Trudy

Joplin, in love with a shady musician. "A lot of people loved the fact that it dealt with emotions and a lot of them said it was their favorite show.

"Maybe that was because they were my family," she joked.

As a result, Williamson said this season's episodes allows more interplay among the regular characters.

"I'm getting stopped on the street all the time now by people who know I can act," she said. "They're not chasing me like I'm some kind of loose sex symbol.

"I don't feel bad about playing a prostitute on the

show because that's what your average female vice cop does," she continued. "The real ones showed us when they took us out in Miami."

Williamson's police experience, though limited to the set and those occasional forays in the streets with authentic cops, has not spurred her desire to join the force.

"I don't have nerves of steel," she explained. "If someone says, 'boo' to me, I scream. I couldn't stand to see someone shot or cut

up. I'm someone who wants to save the world. I couldn't dismiss it that easily when I got home."

Living in Miami apart from her actor-husband Mykel T. Williamson, who lives in Los Angeles, could have eroded their relationship. She insisted however, that the distance has only galvanized it.

"We used to see each other every day before the series began and we took each other for granted," she said. "This way, we see each other every two or

three weeks and we take time to talk and spend quality time together. I call him every day, too. He comes to visit except when he's working."

Meanwhile, between featured roles and visits from her husband, Williamson teaches acting classes at night and has converted an old phone company building into an art gallery for artists. She also serves as the honorary spokeswoman for Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD).



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