

Quvenzhané Wallis reportedly joins Cast of Animated Take on Kahlil Gibran's 'The Prophet'



'Beasts of the Southern Wild' star Quvenzhané Wallis accepts the Critics' Choice Award for best young actor on Jan. 10, 2013.(AP)



By [Mike Scott, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

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Quvenzhané Wallis isn't showing any signs of slowing down following her whirlwind 2013 award-season campaign. In fact, it seems she's only getting busier. The 9-year-old Houma native and Oscar-nominated "Beasts of the Southern Wild" star has most recently signed on as a voice actor for Salma Hayek's animated passion project "The Prophet," it is being reported.

Wallis joins Liam Neeson, John Krasinski, Frank Langella, Alfred Molina and Hayek in the cast of the film, based on Kahlil Gibran's worldwide best seller, according to Deadline.

Gibran's book, which has never been out of print since being first published in 1923, is a collection of 26 essays -- presented as topics discussed by the titular prophet, Almustafa -- on such topics as love, sorrow, passion, pain, good and evil, and death. It has sold over 100 million copies -- making it one of the best-selling books of all time -- and has been translated into more than 40 languages.



Beasts of the Southern Wild' star Quvenzhané Wallis

high-fives Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences President Hawk Koch at the 2013 Oscar nominees luncheon in Los Angeles. AMPAS

The big-screen adaptation is being written and directed by longtime animator Roger Allers, who directed 2006's "Open Season," co-directed Disney's "The Lion King" and whose resume boasts work in various capacities on well more than a dozen other animated projects. Other animators from around the world will be brought in to direct various chapters of the book.

"The Prophet" is one of at least three projects Wallis has signed on for in the wake of her "Beasts" success. She and fellow "Beasts" star Dwight Henry both earned small roles in director Steve McQueen's forthcoming adaptation of the book "Twelve Years a Slave." She has also been announced as the lead actor in the Will Smith-produced adaptation of the musical "Annie," which starts production later this year.

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