

Diverse talents pay off

Crash Test Mommy host can do more than act

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Finding a job in the film and television industry, coupled with making sure the jobs keep coming your way is a challenge, especially for a woman, says Canadian actress Nicole Oliver.

Oliver, who now hosts the Life Network's *Crash Test Mommy*, started her career fresh out of school when she was approached to audition for the role of Det. Kelly Blake on the television series *Kung Fu: The Legend Continues*.

"I guess what I found as a woman in the industry is it's hard to keep working as you get older," says Oliver. "I had a couple of actresses that I really admired that were into diversifying their talents, doing different things within the industry, and I kind of just learned from them and 15 years later it's paid off."

Following in the footsteps of actors like Geena Davis whose career stretches into film, television, and producing, Oliver took up voice animation to broaden her own career — a move which has served her well.



Nicole Oliver's career in film and television started right out of school with her role as Det. Kelly Blake on the television series, *Kung Fu: The Legend Continues*.

She has been the voice of He-Man in the popular 1980s cartoon *He-Man And The*

Masters Of The Universe, and has also done the voice of characters such as Dalphine

in *Barbie Mermadia* and *Tori* in *My Little Pony*.

Oliver also just wrapped

up her second season of a cartoon for Warner Brothers called *Krypto*, a show about comic hero Superman's dog.

"About 15 years ago, if you did film you didn't do TV, and if you did TV you certainly didn't do soap operas. There seemed to be this hierarchy that seems to have gone away," she says. "(Now) you have to be willing to do a variety of things and instead of apply for a handful of jobs, apply for 50 and see what you get. This business is about diversity."

Oliver's original plan was to become a lawyer, but her thespian work in high school quickly made her change her mind.

Instead of law school, she applied to York University's theatre school program, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with honours.

She also continued with her studies in at the British American Dramatic Academy in the U.K.

While working on her latest film, *The Foursome*, Oliver says the entire camera crew are all women, which shows the industry is definitely becoming more accepting of women working in the field.

"All around I've never seen more women in my life in all facets of the industry, not just in front of the camera," adds Oliver.