

Interview with Nicole Oliver of 'My Little Pony': 'Bronies are amazing people'



By: [Allen Foster](#) | AXS Contributor | Apr 2, 2016 | 6 hours ago

Courtesy of Nicole Oliver, used with permission. Photo: Ross

Photo 1/6



Nicole Oliver



The instant you hear the intoxicatingly warm and compassionate voice of Princess Celestia on "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic" ([Discovery Family Channel](#)), you understand the Brony phenomenon. There is true magic there, something that goes far beyond the (initial) target demographic of 10-year-old girls, creating fans of all ages.

"If you would have tried to tell me that a show about six little ponies would become what it has become culturally, I would have told you that you are nuts!" [Nicole Oliver](#) laughed. "And I mean that with love and affection! It's so wild where pop culture goes, you can never predict it!"

"I was at BronyCon last August and there were over 10,000 people in attendance," she continued. "All of them were there for 'My Little Pony.' There were families, there were kids, there were adults, I met people ranging from 2 to 87 who all identified themselves as a Brony."

"Bronies are amazing people. They are loyal and incredibly fierce. They believe in friendship and they subscribe to the idea that there is room for everybody – everybody can make a difference because everybody has their part to play. They've given over \$1 million to various charities in the US, Canada, and abroad that deal with everything from anti-bullying movements to suicide prevention hotlines. They've helped build hospitals and schools for folks in Africa. They really are quite altruistic and it's all because of a cartoon. It's really cool because I would rather have more love and rainbows and unicorns in the world than bullets and fighting."

Nicole Oliver is a classically trained actress who started out in musical theater. She is one of the rare few who is both talented and versatile enough to have been able to earn her living through performing for the past 20 plus years. On camera, she is known for her work in films such as "The Falling" – where her "dazzling smile" won her a husband [For the full romance story, click [here](#).] and her numerous television roles. Last week, for instance, she played a stern but fair judge who took a bold swing at the hornet's nest in her fearless pursuit of justice in The CW's "Arrow." And, of course, there is her voice-over work. Besides Princess Celestia and countless other characters, Nicole's remarkable vocal skills have kept her busy with narrating and commercial gigs.

One of her most memorable spots was for a car ad. Oliver's delivery was so ferociously sultry that it left her audience gasping for breath. "That was a fun one," she laughed. "They told me I needed to drink scotch the night before I came in for the session. I was like, 'Okay, I'll suffer through and I'll drink my 18 Year Old Macallan... but only because you told me to.' Any job with a requirement of 'must be willing to drink scotch' sounds good to me!"

Speaking of sounding good, back in season 3 of "My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic," Nicole had a chance to sing a couple of songs (by [Daniel Ingram](#)) in character. Although she acknowledges that there are definite similarities between Princess Celestia and her real life role of a caring, mentoring mother, the emotions driving her performance came from a much deeper place.

"'Celestia's Ballad' is a song about nurturing and support – 'You're going to grow up, you can do this, I believe in you, the orchestra swells! That was a message that resonated with the fandom. But for me, it was different. My father-in-law was in the hospital that day. We were very close. I couldn't really share that with anyone because it was too personal, so all I said was 'Just so you know, I'm not exactly one hundred percent today.' My kids were waiting for me to finish so I could take them in to say goodbye. He passed away that day."

"I'm an actor, that's how I describe myself. Whatever is happening in my life, I just have to allow myself to be in it. Maybe that's what people hear in that song? But that's what music should do, it should touch you and take you someplace, right?"

"Finding personal meaning in what you do, that's what propels you forward," she continued. "It's what allows you to keep putting one foot in front of the other. If you can't find that, it can get to feeling icky and shallow really fast. Before you know it, you're in your corner, listening to sad music, crying, eating chocolate, and wondering, 'What is going on with my life?!'"

"In the end, we are storytellers, we are story makers," she concluded. "I've worked hard and I've made some choices that have led to what I call my 'sliding door moments.' That has helped define who I am, where I am... and why I am. Are there still things I want to do? Absolutely. Are there new barriers I still need to break down? Absolutely. But I'm really content with my life – and that doesn't mean complacent. You don't have to be happy all the time, but be real. And don't forget, joy is good. Choose joy."

Nicole Oliver: [website](#) • [Twitter](#)

[BronyCon 2016](#) takes place July 8-10 in Baltimore, Maryland

"My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic": Saturday's 11:30 a.m. ET on [Discovery Family Channel](#)

"Celestia's Ballad":



SPONSOR



Share This: <http://m.axs.com/news/interview-with-nicole-o>

