



*We packed Adam's bags and sent him off to Equestria this month. He didn't find a magical unicorn princess, but he did meet the wonderful Nicole Oliver along the way.*

*Nicole talks exclusively to TMW about her roles in TV and film, voice acting, and those magical little ponies!*

*Dear*  
*Princess*  
*Celestia*



◀ Nicole's princess is anything but prissy! Don't mess.

**You've had an interesting and varied career. Can you tell us what you are working on at the moment? Is there a particular role you are excited about?**

I am on an episode of *Arrow* that airs March 23rd. That's all I am allowed to say! I play an "officious" character... It was fun playing in the land of superheroes for a change. I also just finished filming a movie for Hallmark entitled *3 Bedrooms and One Corpse - An Aurora Teagarden Mystery*. I play Eileen, a realtor employed by Marilu Henner (Elaine-Taxi) who may or may not be the killer! The movie has an awesome cast and was tons of fun to film. The movie also stars Candace Cameron Bure ("D. J. Tanner" from *Fuller House*).

**You've starred in both *He-Man and the Masters of the Universe* as the enigmatic Sorceress and *My Little Pony* as Princess Celestia. These characters have quite a lot in common; they're powerful and mysterious, but also gentle and motherly. Is this just a coincidence, or are you attracted to this type of character?**

This is just a coincidence! I auditioned for those roles along with a bunch of other talented performers; I feel very fortunate that I was chosen to voice such iconic women! Of course, I like this type of character and can relate to it quite easily; however, it is fun playing all sorts of different types of personalities. That is what is so great about voice over - you don't have to look like your part in real life and so the casting possibilities are only limited by your vocal repertoire!

***"I feel very fortunate that I was chosen to voice such iconic women!"***

**What are the recording sessions like? Do you record alone, or with other members of the cast? We've heard that on some shows, the sessions are long and the cast resort to joking around. Do you get the giggles sometimes?**

I usually record with the other cast members unless I miss a record session because I am on set filming a movie or TV project... In that case it is just me in the booth. Yes, I get the giggles. It is as much fun as you can imagine recording these shows. I think recording *Hearts and Hooves Day* with Peter New [Big Mac] made me laugh so hard I was crying! Took a wee bit of time to record that show due to the giggles and full-on fits of laughter.

**What was it that made you want to get into acting, or specifically voice acting? Was it your dream job?**

I was going to be a lawyer, but then I did the high school play - *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* - and I was hooked! I told my parents I wanted to be an actress and they supported my dream as long as I went to University. I graduated with Honors from

York University in Toronto, signed with an agent, and really haven't looked back since! It is a dream job. It is a tough business, and I am grateful to still be able to be surprised, challenged and employed in it today.

**What do you do to get into character? Do you try and get a feel for the world that your character exists in? We imagine that with something like *He-Man*, it can be a bit baffling.**

Every character is different. The "way in" to a character might be a vocal sound, a reference to a pop culture character the role may sound like, or even how I choose to stand while performing in front of the microphone. I try and do the same preparation that I do for my on-camera roles (character history, intention, obstacles, etc etc), but yes, with some cartoon characters, you need to take a leap of faith into the cartoon realms because they are so creative and mystifying and so unlike ANYTHING we have experienced here on Earth.





***"I honestly am super proud of MLP. The fans are just amazing and they inspire me."***



◀ Nicole also provides the voice for grape-flavoured pooch Zoe Trent in Littlest Pet Shop.

**No-one could have anticipated the success of My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic. In particular, the older fans took the characters and messages straight to heart. The astonishing creativity and dedication of the older fan base reflects this. When you started recording for MLP, did you think this could be something big? Or was it just another cartoon?**

I could not have anticipated the reaction and impact MLP has had... how could you? I knew the cast was great, the writing was sharp and emotionally captivating, and that the animation was going to be something different than what was generally out there for this genre at the time of its initial release. But... the impact the show has had on people, the people I have been given an opportunity to connect with because of this show... The smiles and stories of joy and personal triumph and inspiration that I hear when I meet fans of the show... It is all mind-blowing and humbling.

**As Princess Celestia, you've come to represent a rather iconic**

**character, one that fortunately has many positive connotations. Do you enjoy that, or are you just itching to play a baddie?**

Baddies are fun because there are no rules for their behavior! You never play a "baddie" as bad; they are simply misunderstood and if everyone just did what the baddie declared was correct and true, well, the world would be a better place (insert evil laugh here)! I am an actor, I love to play all shades of humanity. I get to play good, bad... All of it!

**Our editor can do a spot-on Pinkie Pie voice, despite being a grown man. Is there hope for him in the world of cartoons, or is there much more to it? We suppose that you have to be able to act, for one thing!**

I always say that "voice" is merely the adjective to the noun "actor". You have to be able to act, access emotion, share experience and translate those with and for the audience. Being able to do a funny voice is just the beginning - what is happening underneath? That's what makes these voices unique and captivating to the listener. Now that said... that is awesome that your editor can do Pinkie Pie! Express yourself! We all spend so much time with our voices muted

as we stare into our smart phone or computer... Free your spirit and creativity!!

**Of all the shows that you've worked on, do you have a favourite? Is there anything that you're particularly proud to have been a part of, or that you thought you brought something special to?**

I honestly am super proud of MLP. The fans are just amazing and they inspire me.

**What do you enjoy doing, other than acting? Do you have any hobbies or plans for the future?**

Right now I am quite obsessed with Moksha Yoga, it is essential for my peace of mind to breathe, bend, and just have some "me" time. I also love to potter in the garden and dance. And as for the future, I am ready to be surprised!



*TMW would like to thank Nicole for taking the time to talk to us. Adam is still starstruck, but normal service will resume shortly.*