

BY JAY BOBBIN

Olivia Liang

OF 'KUNG FU' ON THE CW



So much of "Kung Fu" expectedly involves physicality for you, did you know martial arts coming into the project?

I did not have any prior martial-arts training – thank goodness that was not a requirement from (executive producer) Christina (Kim) – but I have a background in dance, so once I came up here (to Vancouver) to train, I was able to at least pick up the choreography. Martial arts, and especially martial arts for film and TV, is very much a dance.

The training was brutal, and it's the hardest thing I've ever put my body through. I've so much respect for martial artists. It is an incredible sport. It is an art form. It's beautiful. Our stunt team has whipped me into shape, but I also have an amazing double who makes me look so cool.

Have you been at all familiar with the original 1970s "Kung Fu" show that starred David Carradine?

The series was a little bit before my time, but when I was auditioning for the role and eventually booked the role of Nicky, I did look at clips and looked at the original. I think what's carried on from the original and his character into this is that sense of wanting to fight for the underdog, a sense of duty ... not necessarily being a hero and seeking that out.

What are your thoughts on the new "Kung Fu" arriving when news stories involving Asian Americans have been so prominent?

I think the timing of our show is really impeccable. So much about representation and inclusion is not so much that we, as Asians, need to see ourselves represented on the screens. But we need to be invited into homes of people who don't see us in their everyday life, just to humanize us, normalize seeing us, and remind them that we are people just like they are and that we have a place in this world. Hopefully, having our show in their homes will expand that world view for them.



Eve Arden (left) and Kaye Ballard

triviaquiz BY JOHN CROOK

Mothers

Questions:

- 1) On the 1967-69 Eve Arden-Kaye Ballard sitcom "The Mothers-in-Law," which of the stars played the mother of the groom and which the mother of the bride?
- 2) Which animated Stone Age character had a mother named Pearl Slaghoople?
- 3) Name the 1993-95 NBC sitcom starring stand-up comics Marilyn Kentz and Caryl Kristensen and adapted from their club act?
- 4) What long-running sitcom was set in the small Southern suburb called Raytown?

- Answers:**
- 1) Ballard played mother of groom Kaye Buell, Jerry Buell (Jerry Fogell); Arden played Eve Hubbard, mother of bride Susie Hubbard Buell (Deborah Valley);
 - 2) Wilma Flintstone
 - 3) "The Momnies" Family"
 - 4) "Mama's

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