

Tina Huang



Multi-talented actress Tina Huang is best known for her role as 'Susie Chang,' the funny and lovable Senior Criminalist of the Boston Police Department's forensic laboratory in TNT's critically acclaimed crime-drama "Rizzoli & Isles." Continuously ranking as one of basic cable's top five series, "Rizzoli & Isles" is the second most-watched show in TNT's history behind 'The Closer.' Based on the best selling crime novels by Tess Gerritsen, the show follows a Boston Police Detective (played by Angie Harmon) and a Medical Examiner (played by Sasha Alexander) who depend on Susie's creativity and expertise when solving Boston's most complex cases.

In addition to her breakout role on "Rizzoli & Isles," Huang is also well known for her recurring roles as 'Dr. Linda Chu' on America's longest running soap opera "General Hospital" and as 'Lily Park' on Nickelodeon's "Hollywood Heights." Other television credits include "Switched at Birth," "The Office," "The Kroll Show," "House," and "Criminal Minds, among many others. On the big screen, Huang has worked alongside some of the biggest names in Hollywood, which include Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts in LARRY CROWNE and Ryan Gosling in DRIVE. Huang has starred in several independent films, which include MY DEAD BOYFRIEND, PIG HUNT and TENDERLOIN. Her stage credits include an award-winning production of Amy Tan's IMMORTAL HEART that went on a West Coast tour and a French tour. Active in theatre, Huang is one of the founding members of Ammunition Theatre Company in Los Angeles and also stars in the hilarious sketch comedy production "Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over," which garnered rave reviews from various publications including the Los Angeles Times and LA Weekly. With its success, the sketch comedy show is scheduled to hold performances overseas in the UK at the Edinburgh Fringe, the largest arts festival in the world, in August 2015.

Born in Dallas, Huang is a first generation Taiwanese-American and is fluent in Mandarin Chinese. Raised in Chinatown and the Lower East Side of NYC, Huang studied theatre at LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts and NYU's Tisch School of Arts. In her free time, Huang enjoys writing comedy sketches and hopes to add Producer and Director to her resume as she aims to develop her own projects in TV and film. She currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband and is a self-proclaimed foodie and world traveler. Huang is a huge advocate in raising awareness for Parkinson's disease as her mother passed away from the illness last year. Huang is also a member of the Lower Eastside Girls Club, a non-profit organization working to provide innovative, community-based holistic programs and services for girls and young women in NYC.

THEN AND NOW

Stretching a Small Income Paid Off Big

THEN: Our April 2006 cover couple, Tina Huang and Mickey Pentecost, were newlyweds in their mid twenties who were just starting their careers. Mickey was a PhD student in microbiology at Stanford University, and Tina was establishing herself as an actress. They discussed their strategies for stretching a limited income in the San Francisco Bay Area—including sharing a used 2001 Honda Civic.

NOW: Tina, 33, and Mickey, 34, who live in West Hollywood, recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. Mickey just finished a post-doctoral program at UCLA, and Tina is in her fifth season with TNT's *Rizzoli and Isles* TV show. And they're on firmer financial footing.

Tina qualified for membership in the Screen Actors Guild, which gave her access to group health insurance and a retirement plan. When she moved to Los Angeles for more acting opportunities, she and Mickey lived apart for more than a year and saved money by bunking with roommates and family members.

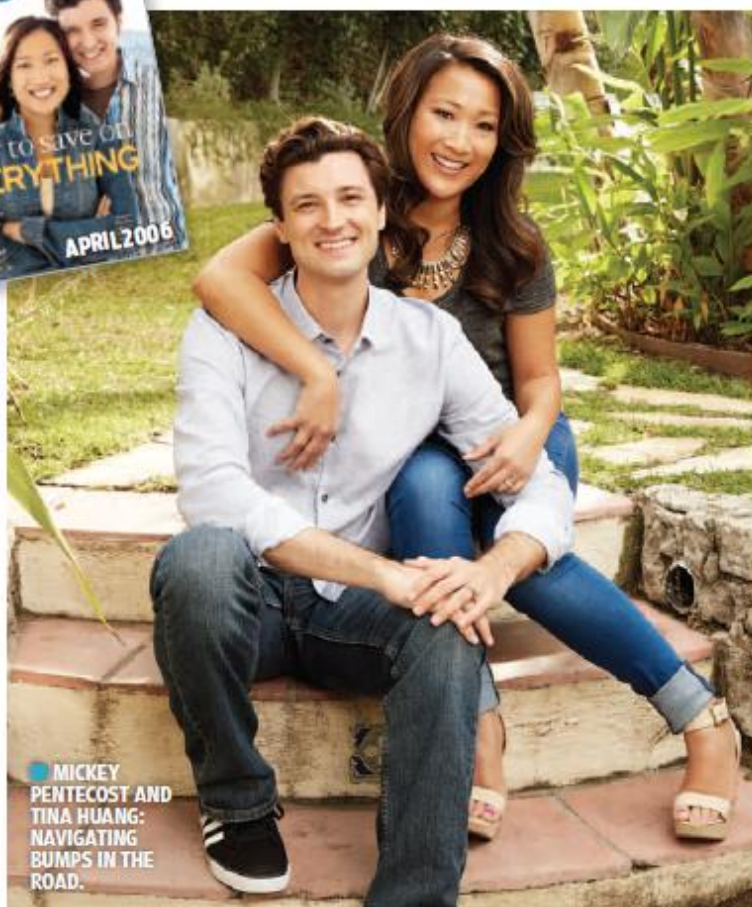
Tina began breaking into TV and movie roles, and in 2008 Mickey joined her in Los Angeles and began writing his PhD thesis. With help from Tina's mother, a successful businesswoman in New York, they started house-hunting in a buyer's market. After about a year, they settled on a condo in West Hollywood. "It had to feel like home but also be a good investment," says Tina.

Their irregular income made it difficult to qualify for a mortgage, so they paid off their only debt (Tina's student loans) to make their finances more attractive to lenders, and they used savings and help from family members to come up with a competitive down payment. They timed their purchase

to take advantage of both federal and state tax credits for first-time home buyers, and so far they've shaved five years off their mortgage by paying ahead on the principal. Since buying the condo in 2010, they figure the value has increased from \$430,000 to about \$560,000.

The couple hit a major bump in the road when Tina's mother was diagnosed with an aggressive form of Parkinson's disease. She moved from New York to Los

Angeles, first to an assisted-living facility that cost \$10,000 a month. "We were slowly liquidating her assets," says Tina. Then her mother purchased a one-bedroom condo in Hollywood, and Tina took charge of hiring caregivers to provide 24-hour care until her mother passed away last December. The fact that her mother had options for her care impressed on Tina and Mickey the value of saving. "We did a lot of maturing over the past three years," says Tina. But that 2001 Honda is still their only car. **KIMBERLY LANKFORD**



MICKEY PENTECOST AND TINA HUANG: NAVIGATING BUMPS IN THE ROAD.

HAIR & MAKEUP: JESSICA ANDERSON CROOKER

zoey

May 4, 2015

DEAR MOM | MOTHER'S DAY

May 4, 2015



Top: Marimekko.

Tina Huang, "Rizzoli & Isles"

My mother is my hero. She was an immigrant who climbed to success and was proud that she had done so "with broken English." She worked hard, became a shrewd business person, often working two jobs, yet still made it a priority to watch her three rambunctious kids fall asleep every night. At 52, she was diagnosed with atypical Parkinson's Disease. She dealt with her rapid decline gracefully. She found moments to laugh and smile even through intense physical pain. She was practical and readied her finances for end of life and still took the time to stroke my hair, tell me that life was short, and that it was important to work diligently but not too hard as you cannot take money to the grave. As she became more disabled and lost her ability to speak, she continued to smile and light up when I was with her. At one point she said, "I am your baby." I replied, "You're my mom. You've earned that title." She passed away December 2014 at 64-years-old. We brought her ashes home on Christmas Eve. She never gave up, never felt sorry for herself, and taught me about love.

<http://www.zoeymagazine.com/journal/2015/5/1/dear-mom>

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Ed Byrne – Outside Looking In Master stand-up on top form. Gilded Balloon, until August 30. 0131 622 6552, www.gildedballoon.co.uk



Milton Jones – Temple of Daft King of the one-liner in his final Edinburgh Fringe week. Assembly Hall 0131 623 3030 www.assemblyfestival.com

Daniel Sloss – Dark Wunderkind of Scottish comedy sheds some light. Venue1506EIC, until August 30. 0844 847 1639, www.tickets.edfringe.com



Tony's Last Tape Play inspired by the diaries of left-wing maverick Tony Benn. Pleasance Courtyard, until August 30. Box office: 0131 556 6550.

7 PICKS

STEVE HENDRY ON BEST OF THE FEST - ALL SHOWS ARE ON EVERY NIGHT THIS WEEK

When the Sh*t Hits the Fan Sister act Lauretta and Sharon Gavin look at what makes them happy. Assembly Hall, until August 31. Ticket details as above.



Aye Spy with Jody Greig Magician Jody Greig shares his comic journey to being a spy. Free at Serenity Cafe until August 30. Free. For details 0131 556 8765

The Church of Malcolm Church without the God bits. Assembly George Square until August 23. 0131 623 3030 or www.assemblyfestival.com



Success a fairy tale for TV Tina

Star is constantly on go but thrives on pressure of work.

Tina Huang is a performer who doesn't do down time.

■ STEVE HENDRY

She is about to return to UK screens in the latest series of US crime series *Rizzoli & Isles*, makes regular appearances on America's longest running soap opera *General Hospital* and has a recurring role in medical drama *The Night Shift*.

She's also one of the founding members of the newly created Ammunition Theatre Company in Los Angeles but right now she is in Edinburgh, starring – and puppeteering, no less – in sketch comedy *Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over*.

How does she do it? "I do have an evil twin who I keep locked away at night and she does all the bad stuff," she said. "No, I am kind of a

workaholic. I get a bit crazy if I am sitting still for too long. Basically, all these creative people that I am fortunate enough to have around me inspire and keep me going. I just make the time."

Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over is a collection of original fairy tales with morals and lessons for adults, told with a mix of live actors in animal costumes and puppets.

She said: "It's an un-PC show. Basically, it is just this zany show full of fairytales which have lessons like how to know you are too old for IKEA furniture."

"There are tales like *The Tale of the Bipolar Bear* and *The Codpendent Eskimo* and things where we as adults have to learn a little bit better."

The show has played to sold-out crowds for the past five years at theatres all over LA, including *The Groundlings*. Edinburgh is a chance to reach a new audience and for the cast and crew – including creator J Michael Feldman, Matt Cook and Jess McKay – to enjoy themselves.

She said: "We have been doing the show for many years in Los Angeles and it's been sold out and got great reviews and everything but, honestly, I think we are all really inspired by J Michael Feldman and his comedic genius."

"The whole cast and crew just love each other so much we thought if we have the opportunity to go to Edinburgh and perform internationally and meet artists from around the world, then why not have an adventure together."

So far, things have turned out well, garnering healthy audiences amidst

the maelstrom of competition on the Fringe.

Tina said: "We've been lucky from day one. There's a lot of competition but we somehow magically got people on our side. The crowds have been so supportive and warm."

"Edinburgh is lovely, it's large enough to be cosmopolitan but small enough to feel like a community. I love it. I have also had a lot of good whisky and beer. I have been having a blast."

Tina will be back on more familiar territory when the new series of *Rizzoli & Isles* starts on August 27 on Alibi and she is once again in the role of Susie Chang of the Boston Police Department's crime laboratory.

The actress, who has also starred alongside Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts in *Larry Crowne* and *Ryan Gosling in Drive*, said: "It's always been really fun. It's such a lovely set to work and everyone has been nice to me from day one and made me a part of the family."

"I'm very happy there and what's great about it too is I can also do the recurring roles on *General Hospital* and now *Night Shift* for NBC. That just got picked up season three so we will see where that goes. I think one of the things about being an actor and workaholic is this fine line of wanting to work all the time but being relaxed enough to just allow it to happen."

Either that, or get an evil twin.

■ **Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over** Assembly George Square, until August 30. Box office: 0131 623 3030, www.assemblyfestival.com



INSPIRED... Tina is on fast-track to stardom and loves her glam lifestyle... and constant work

THE LOWER EAST SIDE GIRLS CLUB OF NEW YORK

THE LOVE GIRL OF NEW YORK

I might not always be rock 'n' roll.. but you're never too old

Festival favourite and Edinburgh's most-loved resident Canadian comic Tom Stade has a new stand-up show - You're Welcome! - at The Assembly Rooms until August 30. He also stars in the play Giant Leap at the Pleasance Courtyard alongside Phil Nichol.

Here, he tells Steve Hendry about his festival so far.



EXPLORATION ... Tom Stade

What, in a nutshell, is this year's show about?

My mind right now is thinking of Eckhart Tolle when he said, 'I had to call the talk something to get you down here.' In all honesty, the joy for me has always been the exploration of random thoughts that made me really laugh. I've never written for a specific purpose or topic. If you can find wisdom or meaning in my material that's absolutely fabulous. It's been found in weirder places.

How is it going so far in comparison to past years? What's the vibe on the streets of Edinburgh?

The person I was when I first came here would be very happy to see how he turned out. He'd love the fact he now knows the names and faces of a lot of the people who come each year to his show. He definitely could appreciate that he started in a room above The Stand, knowing that the dues he paid translated into playing the ballroom at The Assembly Rooms. And if I could message him, I'd let him know our enthusiasm and passion for stand-up hasn't wavered. The vibe on the street is the people who actually live here are really pissed off they can't get a reservation in a restaurant or a parking spot. It's getting pretty crazy out there.

You are in your 40s. How does it feel? Is it what you expected?

It's the worst. I wish someone would put this old dog out of his misery. I feel I'm getting wiser and that's never a good thing. Although I do enjoy the fact that the ones that love me the most in this world seem to think I need a yearly prostate exam so at least that's on the plus side. Of course it's what I expected... like my father always used to holler out of his car window as he was going for more cigarettes and booze: 'I know what I'm doing!'

When do you get too old to be a rock 'n' roll comic, as you've been tagged by a number of people?

People have been saying that about me! It's a nice image and if they want to see me as that I'm honoured. I mean, it sounds so cool. But I can't really subscribe to that myself because I don't like being pigeonholed into any one thing. Yes there's a willingness to what I do but there may be a day I wish to take it in a different direction and most of the hardcore fans know I can turn on a dime. So let's just say I have a wild streak in me right now but if you wish to be a rock 'n' roll comic, I don't think you can ever be too old as long as your material stays fresh.

You've got proper credentials - being pals, I understand, with Kasabian. How did you meet

them? What have you got up to? What are your favourite tracks by the band?

Now who told you that? Let's first understand how I roll. Phil is a strong word in my life, it takes a lot to be a pal, but yes I've loved crossing paths with those very talented guys - or maybe they crossed my path. I met them along with some other fab musicians when I was giving a trophy away at the Q Awards and lo and behold, we ended up at the same party and turns out they like to get just as wild as I do. So we had good common ground and it was a hilarious night. They're super funny dudes. When I see them again, who knows? But my favourite Kasabian song is obviously I Predict a Riot. Just kidding. It's Mr Brightside. All right, it's Empire. No, wait, that's The Fratellis...

I spoke to you last year and one of your big concerns was not having a party back at your new house after your shows. Did you succeed? Are you succeeding this year?

No, I did not, even though the flat I have has something called floating floors - as I have learned from the many neighbours who had concerns about the noise levels from the Stado residence. We had too many parties and there's a certain point where you realise a lot of the guys who live here can't keep up with late night hours, especially if it isn't their party. So until I got a detached house, I am going to have to change tactics. We party before the show. I think that will cut down on the noise complaints... maybe.

You're Welcome! follows Decisions, Decisions - what is next for you, professionally and personally?

I love having goals but I don't go to them, they come to me. I'll decide what I'm going to do professionally when those opportunities present themselves. Personally I think I'm going to keep plugging on and make sure that comedy stays the driving passion in my life. Oh, on a secondary note, maybe have some quality time to spend with my beautiful family... now... quit dreaming Tom!

■ The Assembly Rooms, box office 0131 6233030, www.assemblyfestival.com. The Pleasance, box office 0131 5566550, www.pleasance.co.uk or www.edfringe.com



SOUND ... The cast are celebrating the joys of the human voice

A CAPPELLA FINDS A BIG NEW VOICE

Gobsnacked! is a brand new a cappella stage show at Underbelly which celebrates everything that is amazing about the human voice.

Premiering in Edinburgh before a tour of Asia and Australia it is singing for your supper for the 21st century, combining beatboxers, vocalists and technology in a way never seen before.

Creative producer Nic Doodson said: "At the moment a cappella is enjoying its time in the public spotlight with movies such as Pitch Perfect and groups like Pentatonix and The Magnetics highlighting how great the style can be. The producers behind Gobsnacked! wanted to create a 'Stomp for voices' and Gobsnacked! was born."

"The group was put together after a worldwide search for amazing beatboxers and vocalists. The cast comes from the US, Australia and the UK and features three times UK and two times world beatbox champion Ball-Zee."

"The voices of the cast are recorded live and then played back in real time to create massively textured and layered songs. All of the technology is 'built in' to our huge set, which creates the unique, all-vocal, Gobsnacked! world."

The show covers songs from the 50s right up to current chart hits and everyone from Ray Charles and The Jacksons to The Killers, James Bay and

Avicii, with the songs matched to the best cast members to sing them.

Nic said: "Gobsnacked! is a really collaborative show with everyone having their moment to shine. A cappella really lends itself to ensemble work because the group have to listen and blend in order to create a good sound. As in life, often the loudest voice is the most discordant."

Nic believes the format and technology mean Gobsnacked! is breaking new ground for a cappella.

He said: "The technology and live looping techniques developed for this show are really making almost anything possible. This really is the cutting edge of vocal music. 'Gobsnacked!' is also careful not to 'over-tech' the show and has moments of stillness and beauty."

Given it is the premiere, there is a lot riding on the Edinburgh shows but so far, the Fringe has delivered.

Nic said: "This is the first time Gobsnacked! has been performed and so we really didn't know what to expect from the Edinburgh public."

"We've been overwhelmed by the positive response and are having an absolute blast."

■ Gobsnacked! is at Underbelly, George Square until August 31. Box office: 0844 545 8252, www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk.

FEST BUZZ On television

The public will get a chance to meet Hollywood actor Ron Perlman and Michelin-starred chef and MasterChef judge Monica Galetti at this year's Edinburgh International Television Festival.

Tickets for exclusive screenings including MasterChef: The Professionals, Singing in the Rainforest and a world exclusive Q&A with the cast and creator of Amazon's original series Hand of God will be open to the public at the Edinburgh Filmhouse.

Sons of Anarchy star Perlman will be at the Hand of God screening

while Galetti will be taking all MasterChef-related questions. Glasvegas will be performing live.

Actor and comedian Paul Merton will take the lead in a session at the EICC, open to the public with a free ticket, on Knowing the Score: A Masterclass in TV Music.

■ To book tickets to the exclusive screenings and Q&As, visit www.filmhousecinema.com. For Merton visit <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/> ticket-giveaway-to-music-masterclass-session-at-the-guardian-edinburgh-international-television-tickets-18051081270



ANARCHY IN THE UK ... Perlman

GLADYS

MAGAZINE

July 27, 2015



Tina Huang

ACTRESS

Twitter: @TinaHuang, Website: TinaHuang.com

Where do you find BEAUTY?

I find beauty in unexpected places. In nature, in music, in heartbreaking moments. In moments of protest and compassion. In moments when strangers lift each other up.

What is BEAUTIFUL to you?

Compassion and humanity. Seeing people standing up for other human being's rights.

What is the latest project you are working on?

I am currently on the TNT crime drama "Rizzoli & Isles" as "Susie Chang". Prior to this I had a recurring role on "General Hospital" and a series regular on "Hollywood Heights".

One destination you've always dreamed of visiting?

I've been lucky enough to travel to so many places but I still hunger for more. I'd love to go to Japan. I have not been there yet. I also would really like to witness Aurora Borealis some time in my life.

Book you most wish you had "lived through"

As an actor, I have read so many books where tragic things happen to good people so I wouldn't want to live through any of those. I've looked through the hundred books on my shelves and all of them are intense! Closest I'd WANT to live through is Carl Sagan's *Contact*. It's a pretty exciting story about discovery and humanity.

Who plays YOU in the movie of your life?

I mean, is it a comedy? Can I play ME in the movie of my life? I don't know how the movie of my life ends yet. It's still being written.

June 2015

Tina Huang

Take The Shape You Feel Comfortable In



Her work in Larry Crowne with Tom Hanks and Ryan Gosling in Drive demarcated her away from stereotypes that keep Asian-Americans actors in the shadows of the entertainment industry. We interviewed Tina about film, entertainment, health and breaking free from stereotypes.

HealthyLivingG: You've done two hot series with "Rizzoli & Isles" and "General Hospital." Tell us about this work.

Tina Huang: I like working on both of these shows. Actually though, I'm lucky to have experienced working on all different types of shows, not only on "Rizzoli & Isles" and "General Hospital" but Nickelodeon's "Hollywood Heights," "Kroll Show" and now with a guest spot on NBC's "Night Shift." I'm interested in all the different ways to construct a story for television and all these sets have their own rules. For instance, GH can shoot anywhere from 30-40 scenes a day with three to four cameras filming at the same time. On Rizzoli, we have two cameras. It shoots more like a film and we maybe do four to five scenes a day. I like learning to work in both environments.

HealthyLivingG: What did you learn about Tom Hanks, both as a director and actor in Larry Crowne, that you didn't know before making the film?

Tina Huang: I did get to do several scenes with Tom Hanks, which he was also directing. I can say that he is as nice as the rumors purport. He is funny and knew every single person on set by name. It was so great to see someone with such success, whose talent I admire greatly, still be a kind human being. I respect that and am happy to have seen him set that example. None of this I would have known for fact until I saw it first-hand.

HealthyLivingG: How can one manage to not fall for Ryan Gosling while working with him in *Drive*?

Tina Huang: He was a total gentleman and everyone on set was speaking so glowingly about him. The reason why he is so successful and likable is because he is a professional and courteous person. I can see how it would be tough for people not to fall for him but I'm taken and have fallen for another (my husband) so sorry, Ryan, but I'm not free.

HealthyLivingG: Tell us about your new film *My Dead Boyfriend*.

Tina Huang: Heather Graham is the lead. She finds her boyfriend dead at home (spoiler is in the title) and then goes on a journey to discover who he really was. I had a great time working on this. It shot in New York so it was fun to be back home working.

HealthyLivingG: Were unique pressures put upon you that you felt growing up on the Lower East Side of New York City in Chinatown?

Tina Huang: When growing up in Chinatown and the Lower East Side in the late 80s and 90s, there were a lot of pressures. I'm not sure how unique they are but I hope not all kids have to deal with those things. There were gangs, drugs, truancy, young women getting pregnant, pressure not to leave the neighborhood but also pressure to become something great and leave the neighborhood. I'm forever grateful to those teachers and mentors that gave me positive reinforcement so that I could navigate those pressures.

HealthyLivingG: How is Hollywood open and closed to Asian actors?

Tina Huang: Thank you for asking this important question. Things are slowly getting better as there are more opportunities for Asian American actors, which is great. But more often than not, the specific roles available for Asian American actors tend to be uncomfortable stereotypes - the nerd, the dragon lady, the abused sex worker, etc. It's heartening to see a few successful actors like John Cho and Lucy Liu play non-stereotypical leading roles. But less established Asian American actors are faced with a difficult dilemma.

I see Asian Americans in all career fields in America but this isn't reflected on TV. And the roles for Asian American actors are often immigrant characters rather than American characters that happen to be of Asian descent. But I don't want to come off as bitter. I think Hollywood can and will do better. The recent successes of TV shows with diverse casts are evidence that audiences are demanding a better representation of a diverse country. At the very least, I will do my part to play characters that represent the America that I know.

HealthyLivingG: What do you do to stay in shape?

Tina Huang: I train with a friend. He's a certified personal trainer so we do a lot of body weight exercises. I will admit, it is tough with a busy schedule. I try to take a yoga class now and again, or go for a hike. My favorite exercise is when I am playing a sport or doing an activity outdoors that doesn't feel like working out. Dancing it out is always a good choice. Most importantly, I exercise to feel healthy and blow off steam. Women can and should take whatever shape they feel comfortable in.

HealthyLivingG: Our traditional last question- your health tips for HL readers.

Tina Huang: Sleep. Turning off all your electronics at least a half hour before bed and getting a good night's sleep.

[Read Tina Huang's Picks](#)

<http://www.healthylivingmagazine.us/Articles/10550/>

#



Perfect. Chemistry

Interview by Lauren Douglass
Photo by Vince Trupsin

Tina Huang on acting, giving back and the exciting new season of *Rizzoli & Isles*

"It's fun to slip into that very serious moment from absolute goofiness!"

Known for her role as senior criminalist "Susie Chang" in TNT's hit crime-drama, *Rizzoli & Isles*, Tina Huang knows her way around a set. She's held recurring roles on *General Hospital* and *Hollywood Heights*, made appearances on popular shows such as *The Office*, *Switched at Birth* and *House*, and played alongside some of the biggest names on the silver screen. She's even made a name for herself in theatre as a founding member of Los Angeles's radical new Ammunition Theater Company.

Despite the growing demands of her successful career, Huang continues to cherish a heart for philanthropy that she attributes to her personal experiences as a child and teen.

Here, the Hollywood veteran shares more about the passion that drives her altruism and career, and a few glimpses of what we can expect from the exciting sixth season of TNT's second most-watched show of all time, *Rizzoli & Isles*.

Tell me a little about what we can expect from season six.

All sorts of different surprises! It's going to be an exciting season. Jan's a really fun showrunner. There are a lot of longer twists and turns. There's a great little plot line with my character, which I'm looking forward to seeing.

I've read that it's the second most watched show on TNT. What do you think draws viewers in?

Honestly, the chemistry of the characters on the show. It's not a super serious crime show – it also has a comedic element that I think humanizes the characters more. So we're not all about solving the crime, but also enjoying each other's company and learning more about characters' development. I think that makes it different.

Tell me about what being on the set is like.

The set is so fun. Everyone is like a giant family, and there's a lot of pranking involved! It's really cool. The physical sets are really beautiful, too,

really detailed. My character, Susie, is usually in the crime lab and the morgue, but it's always fun when they take Susie out of that world.

What are people most surprised to learn about the show?

Probably that people are pretty big pranksters on the set. Everyone is trying to get each other to laugh. We usually have a dead body in the morgue and we're always making jokes about that, just before they call action. It's fun to slip into that very serious moment from absolute goofiness!

What are some of the things you've learned from playing this character and working on the show?

I've learned that scientific terms are really hard to say! [Laughs.] And just being super prepared and open for anything. I feel like with my character, they'll call me and say, "Hey, are you going to be willing to do this?" And I'm like sure, why not? Susie has been unraveling for me as we go on. Like oh, she went to art school. Oh, she

also went to medical school. Oh, she lived in Paris! Oh, and she likes to go to nudist beaches! It's always fun to roll with it and incorporate new pieces of her biography really quickly.

Tell me about your commitment to supporting Parkinson's research.

I don't think people know that much about the disease. It's one of those neuro diseases that are very hard to diagnose because it's expressed differently in every individual. So I think it's important that people that are affected by Parkinson's have a good support system and family members that are very involved. It can be really isolating, so it's important to seek that out.

People think it only strikes people in their 70s or 80s, but my mother was diagnosed at 52. For her, it moved very quickly, so it was pretty devastating. Research is so important, and awareness needs to be raised so funding will be given to that research.

So many people go through it. I just heard about a producer I used to work with – a friend of her mother's is now struggling with Parkinson's. All I did was say let her know that if she wants to speak with somebody, I'm more than willing to pick up the phone and let her talk about it, cry about it, vent about struggles with the healthcare system. It's hard to remain positive, so support is really key.

For a family that's been newly diagnosed, what message would you send to them?

Get involved, stay hopeful and be positive. And be vocal.

You're involved in a couple other charities. What do you think is the driving force behind your philanthropy?


I grew up as a first generation American. My parents were immigrants and I grew up in a really poor part of New York City – the lower east side of Chinatown. There weren't a lot of resources, and a lot of people just never saw themselves leaving the neighborhood. I was actually a member of the Lower Eastside Girls Club before I began volunteering with them, because I needed a place to go as a young woman in a not great neighborhood. (It's now become more hip, by the way, but still has problems.)

The Girls Club really gave me a lot. There are entrepreneur programs, there's the arts programs, there's business, there's music, photography. They take girls from our neighborhood that have never left the neighborhood to museums; they take them to art films. It just exposes girls that don't have a lot of opportunities to more that's out there in the world. I think I give back because I had that opportunity and know what it means – not so much that I have a good heart or anything. I just feel like some people need help to get a leg up and get that opportunity.

Where do you hope to see yourself in a few years with your career?

I write a lot, and I hope to be producing my own show or on TV or doing some more films. I'd love to do more indie films that have a good story that are character driven. I've started a theatre company that's really for stories that are underrepresented. Very basically, we have a diverse company made up of people of every race, gender and sexuality, and we're pretty excited about that. We're also working with a bunch of really great award winning playwrights that are helping spread the word.

What we're most interested in is diversity that doesn't call itself diversity; just the American fabric that we all share in our experience. I hope to see it blossom more and to continue to do work with other companies as well. So a lot of personal goals!



*"I grew up in
a really poor
part of New
York City"*



Pic by Vince Trupsin

TINA HUANG

Hi Tina, welcome to VENTS! How have you been?
I've been really good!

So congrats on Rizzoli & Isles sixth season confirmation, in a time where it seems that there's so much competition—especially on the crime genre—how do you feel about coming back?

Really? There's competition? Just kidding. I feel great about it. I love working on that set with all of the fun crew members and fantastic cast. It's a special place. I get to work on the Paramount lot. It's my childhood dream come true.

Besides the fact that this is perhaps the only crime drama right now where women take the lead – what else would you say—for those reading this who haven't watched the show—makes R&I stand out from the rest?

It's a bloody crime show that has heart. It strikes the perfect balance between action, suspense and comedy. It's not self serious. I also admire the fact that it depicts female relationships that are true friendships. Susie, Jane, Maura, Angela, and Nina all have relationships with each other based on trust and professional respect and their male colleagues respect them too. It's a vision of the workplace where women are just as strong, intelligent, ambitious and powerful as men and that resonates with male and female viewers alike.

So last season ended in a kind of a bittersweet note as while Maura broke up with Jack, Tasha got accepted to college – so what can we expect on this new season?

I can't give away any spoilers but there will be more funny and more bittersweet moments to come. There's going to be a lot of interesting developments this season so stay tuned!

Now let's talk about Susie Chang – already playing a doctor in a soap opera, does one role make the other easier or would you say that the only similarity between both characters is their job and that's it?

One is an OB-GYN while, Susie is a scientist. The roles are completely different, however, playing doctors has got me used to tongue twisting technical terms. For research, I sometimes seek outside for help. For example, I met an LA County Medical Examiner and she was kind enough to tour me around

Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center. It was fascinating. I have yet to sit in on a baby delivery but YouTube helped with that.

You have played some roles in both comedies but also crime dramas – what have you learned from those experiences you are putting in action on your current role?

I think that every actor needs to know where she fits into the larger world of the show. Susie is serious about her work. She is serious about science but she doesn't carry the weight of the human loss like Jane or Maura do. This affords her the ability to bring in the lighter moments; the nerdy excitement over the process and gear used to solve the crimes. My experiences have taught me to ride the wave and straddle the line of when to be funny and when to be grave. I've learned that I love that. I love being able to find the moment of laughter in a scene and knowing that I can also allow my character to have certain moments of reflection and depth. It's no fun being dark and serious all the time, it's not realistic to be goofy all the time in a crime show...so both are necessary to create a multidimensional character.

Besides the series, what else is happening next in Tina Huang's world?

I'm taking on a lot of theatre projects. I am co-artistic director for Ammunition Theatre Company, and we are producing an exciting night of one act plays in May. I am also in a show called "Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over" which has been invited to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this August. We'll be performing every night at 10:30pm for three weeks straight! It's going to be insane. I have also just wrapped on a short film called Guiltless and got to work with film and TV legend Ed Asner. He's a trip. I'm always running around working on as many interesting projects as I can, and am always looking for great creative minds to collaborate with. What's happening next in Tina Huang's world? That's a huge question. Right now I feel like anything can happen and I'm pretty excited about it.

Follow me @tinahuang
website: tinahuang.com



TUESDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2015



Tina Huang Interview

Actress Tina Huang sits down with Mark and Cristina to talk about the return of the hit series, "Rizzoli & Isles" on TNT. Tina's family operated a restaurant in Dallas, Texas growing-up and reveals she is not a fan of the fortune cookie. As a joke, Mark gives her a giant edible fortune cookie. One of Tina's first big acting jobs was on "General Hospital" but now she is loving playing the role of Susie Chang on "Rizzoli & Isles," whose character creates "die-oramas!"

Don't miss the season premiere of "Rizzoli & Isles," June 16th on TNT.

Do It Yourself Stamped Necklaces - Home & Family



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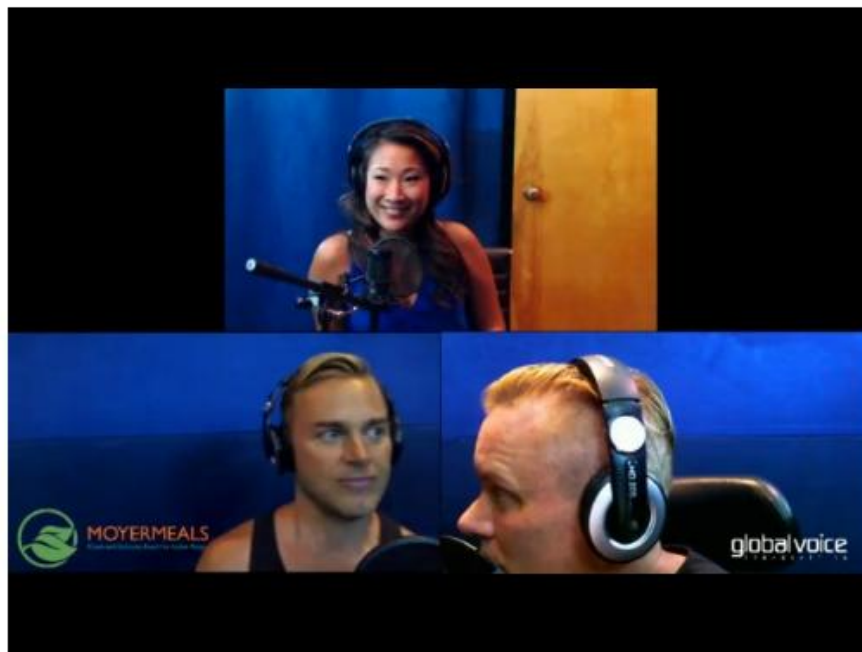
July 2, 2015

THE CRAIG AND ROBBIE HOUR: WITH TINA HUANG



The boys are joined in studio by actress Tina Huang from TNT's *Rizzoli & Isles* for a fun conversation about the show, her life, and much more.

Watch



<http://gvbstudios.com/episode/the-craig-and-robbie-hour-with-tina-huang/>

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May 13, 2015



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###

July 13, 2015

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Ilana Rapp

Writer, NYCastings, "V" fanatic

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Actress Tina Huang of Rizzoli & Isles Had No Idea About the Show's Following - Part I

Posted: 07/13/2015 2:16 pm EDT | Updated: 14 minutes ago



Tina Huang plays Susie Chang, the senior criminalist in TNT's hit crime-drama Rizzoli & Isles.

Most of us learn on the job and being an actor is no different.

Tina Huang, who plays Susie Chang, the senior criminalist in TNT's hit crime-drama Rizzoli & Isles, learned fandom. Plus a whole lot more!

You play Susie Chang, the senior criminalist in TNT's hit crime-drama Rizzoli & Isles. Dish, girl.

I have a confession, I actually never auditioned for the role of Susie. I had gone in to audition for other roles for Rizzoli & Isles but hadn't gotten those parts. At the time, my mother was really sick and in the hospital in Texas, and I was flying back and forth from LA to be with her. It was a tough time. Then one day, while I was there visiting her, I got a call from my manager telling me that I had been offered the role of Susie because the casting director had remembered my previous auditions. It's embarrassing to admit now, but I cried. It was only a one day guest star role but it didn't matter. It was the bit of light that I needed during that dark time. I was so happy to go to work on R&I and

Susie somehow continued to grow and grow and now I'm in season six. It really has marked a special time in my life.

Were you aware of the following Rizzoli & Isles had when you auditioned?

I had no idea about the following for Rizzoli & Isles. I only became aware when I joined Twitter. The fans are very very supportive; they are truly amazing. It fascinates me that some fans on the other side of the world, stay up 'til 4 or 5am to watch the show. I remember one day on set, the executive producer, Bill Haber, came in and announced to the cast and crew that the show was the number one rated cable show on TV. This announcement happened a few times throughout the seasons. I have no idea how ratings work but through the announcements and the loyalty of the fans, I've come to see how hugely popular the show really is. I've read pretty great fan fictions, and I've had fans draw sketches of me and make GIFs from my scenes. I've learned the terms 'Ship' and 'Rizzles.' It really is hard to grasp the idea that I am on a hit show. I'm so deeply flattered and grateful for the fans that support me.

What was it like working on General Hospital as the character Dr. Linda Chu?

I had watched General Hospital growing up, so working on GH was a blast. One of my first roles in Hollywood was actually on GH, except I played the minor role of Sally, the nanny for Ric and Alexis. It wasn't until years later that they recast me as Dr. Linda Chu. In between, I also worked on a Nickelodeon soap called Hollywood Heights. The production of daily soaps is very different from one hour dramas like Rizzoli & Isles. For example, on soaps, scenes are called items and when your item is called over the PA system, you go to the stage to shoot. On General Hospital, there were about 60 items on the daily schedule, whereas Rizzoli & Isles shoots about four or five scenes a day. On soaps there are about four cameras shooting simultaneously and you have about two takes as they edit between the cameras. It all moves pretty fast. It's a very impressive, well-oiled machine. At Rizzoli & Isles, we shoot with two cameras and do as many takes as we need and then do it all over again with different camera angles, waiting 10-15 minutes in between these set-ups. In that way, it's more like making a film. So they are very different, but I enjoy both.

Heard you will be performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. Tell us about Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over.

I've been performing in Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over, written and created by my college friend J. Michael Feldman, for a few years now. It's hilarious and has some raunchy fairy tales with lessons for adults like the Tale of the Bi-Polar Bear and the Co-Dependent Eskimo or the Tale of the Older Penis and the Younger Penis. I play multiple characters using costumes and puppets...PUPPETS! It really is the best time. A producer that has worked with the Edinburgh Fringe saw one of our monthly shows here in LA and she thought it would be great to bring it to Scotland. The Edinburgh Fringe is the largest arts festival in the world and this year there are over 3,000 events. It will be exciting to meet artists from around the world, see shows and art that we might never get exposed to, and have the opportunity to share our show with an international audience. We have a huge library of tales at this point so we put together two different shows that we will rotate while at the Fringe this August. It's directed by another NYU alum, Annie McVey, and my fellow puppeteers are Matt Cook and Jess McKay. Other guest stars we are bringing with us are Greg Worswick and Courtney Pauroso. I'm so excited that I can barely contain myself.

What's your favorite part about working in theater?

The immediacy. I love having that out of body experience while on stage and feeling the crowd being right there with you; through everything you are feeling and experiencing. There is nothing like sharing that special moment in time with a community of people. It can never be recreated. I love the collaboration that theatre requires; with your scene partners, your director, your designers, your writers, and your audience. Also, being on stage is a rush. It becomes an addiction. What is it about comedy that you love so much? What about comedy do you hate? I love so many things about comedy. It can communicate beyond language and cultural barriers. As

satire, it can be used as a strong teaching tool to create awareness, effect social change, or just make people feel better. It can disarm people but it also can empower people. It feels good to laugh and more importantly, it feels really good to make others laugh. I don't hate much about comedy but I do hate hurtful, mean, thoughtless comedy; that to me feels cheap.

How did you end up moving from Dallas to New York?

My parents immigrated to NYC and had my two older brothers there. They then moved to Dallas, Texas, where I was born. I lived there until I was about five years old with my mom, brothers and grandfather. My father was living back in New York because he couldn't find work in Dallas at the time. When I turned five, I think my parents just wanted to live together again, so we moved back to NY. You know, it was a tough situation. Dad couldn't get work, the restaurant folded, and then I was in a strange new world. In Dallas, I had been outdoorsy and a tomboy. I played in the mud and in the creek where my brothers and I caught frogs and ducklings, climbed down storm drains and climbed up trees, and then NY was scary, loud, dirty, dark and cold. There was a big adjustment period. But as I grew up I realized how exciting NY actually was. I felt like I was really intellectually challenged. How lucky was I that I got to go to the Guggenheim or the Metropolitan Museum of Art whenever I wanted? Now I consider myself an urbanite and love living in Los Angeles. I still take weekend trips to go camping and like to get outdoors in nature as often as possible.

Please be sure to check out Part II of my interview with Tina Huang!

Follow Ilana Rapp on Twitter: www.twitter.com/LizardLadyNJ

More:

[Tina Huang Rizzoli & Isles TV Crime Drama Fandom Actors Acting General Hospital Comedy](#)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ilana-rapp/actress-tina-huang-of-riz_b_7787112.html

###

July 13, 2015

HUFF
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ENTERTAINMENT



Ilana Rapp

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Writer, NYCasting, "V" fanatic

Actress Tina Huang of TNT's *Rizzoli & Isles* Loves *Orphan Black!* - Part II

Posted: 07/13/2015 2:26 pm EDT | Updated: 17 minutes ago



Tina Huang plays Susie Chang, the senior criminalist in TNT's hit crime-drama [Rizzoli & Isles](#).

In [Part I](#), we learned a great deal about Tina Huang and her acting career. In this Part II, we shake it up a bit by adding some tidbits about Tina that you never knew ;)

You're Taiwanese-American and speak fluent Mandarin. What's your opinion on being typecast as an actor? What are your thoughts on Asian representation in American television and film today?

Things are getting better for Asian American actors and I have been fortunate to get roles on TV and film. But there is still a long way to go. Many roles are still stereotypical or call for an Asian accent. There are few shows with Asian-American LEADS playing Americans, rather than Asian immigrants. You have to remember that Lucy Liu was already a movie star and it took her this long to get her own TV show. I think it is important for young actors of color to see people like themselves on TV and in movies. Hopefully, things will continue to move in the right direction.

Give us some fun facts about your Tisch School of Arts days.

I was accepted to three prestigious conservatory/theatre programs when I graduated from high school: NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Boston University, and SUNY Purchase. I'm not sure why I felt compelled to go to NYU. It just seemed like the right fit. When I was sitting and waiting in the audition room, I was so comfortable that I fell asleep. I was close to choosing Purchase as they had a wonderful program then but I couldn't ignore my gut instinct that told me I belonged at NYU. It was

a great experience. It was challenging and fun. I was so busy I had to schedule in my bathroom breaks. I was always wearing pajamas in public. Everyone in the theatre school was always in pajamas. I lived in a tiny apartment in Alphabet City which is still my favorite home to this day.

I got good grades in school. I was on the Dean's list a couple of times. My favorite experiences include travelling with one of my classes for a 14-day cultural exchange with students at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, studying abroad in Florence, Italy for a semester, and performing in an off-Broadway musical called "Kaspar Hauser" directed and created with Liz Swados. Michael Feldman and I played conjoined twins that were joined at the head. We shared every line, alternating words. It was very hard but very funny to rehearse. Sometimes I think we still share a brain. College was special. Everything was weird and new. I grew a lot during those years.

Though NYU was expensive and I had a lot of debt, it was worth it because I met some of my best friends in the world there. I collaborate with many of them today. For example, I am co-artistic director of Ammunition Theatre Company (ammunitiontheatre.com) with NYU alumni: Malcolm Barrett, Arjun Gupta, Karla Mosley, Carlton Byrd, Michael Feldman, Brandon Scott, and Julie Bersani. We also have other fantastic company members that are working actors and community activists like Karla Souza, Vinny Chhibber, Ari Boyland, Yara Martinez, and Garrett Mercer. It's been exciting to have really talented people all around to keep me inspired and competitive in a healthy way. Our theatre company's mission is to reflect the diverse and evolving identity of America and to engage with the community around us. I'm very excited to announce our upcoming first season for the fall of 2015.

At what point did you decide to move to California?

I decided to move to San Francisco in 2003 after I graduated school and NY was still feeling the effects of 9/11. My boyfriend at the time got into grad school at Stanford University. At first, I couldn't see myself leaving my beloved city but then I started to wonder what other kinds of life I had yet to experience. I wanted to meet new people that thought differently than me. I wanted to hike. I wanted to get one step closer to Los Angeles. New York was just so intense all the time and I realized I kind of lived in a bubble. It was bittersweet to say goodbye to NY but luckily I was working on a friend's theatre show that brought me out to SF so I had purpose the minute I stepped off the plane. I immediately met so many people in the theatre world and everything grew from there. In 2007, I got cast in an indie creature film called Pig Hunt directed by Jim Isaac. It allowed me to join SAG and also gave me that extra push to move to LA. My boyfriend had also become my husband during this time and I was extra lucky that he was supportive of me pursuing my dream. Two of my best friends from college happened to be moving to LA from NY too. We all decided to get an apartment together. Living with my two friends was fantastic though I missed my husband. We lived apart for two years. Most new friends I met didn't believe he existed. I would explain that he was a scientist finishing his PhD at Stanford, which I admit sounds too good to be true. While it was fun living with my friends, I will say it was a little challenging to get used to living with two guys. But I kept busy with one of them, writing, shooting and editing our own sketches, interning at casting offices, hustling...and eating loads of instant ramen noodles to save money. Finally, in 2009 my husband moved down to LA and we moved back in together. I still occasionally eat instant ramen noodles out of nostalgia.

What are you grateful for? Who are you grateful to?

I'm grateful for my mother. She was a strong role model for me. She was a shrewd business woman with a very creative mind. She was also the hardest working person I had ever known. She set an example for me. She became a very successful business person working in insurance, financial planning, real estate and was a notary public. She was proud of the fact that she accomplished this despite her "broken English." She also raised three rambunctious children and helped my father with his travel business. She was a super hero. She was tough when she needed to be but soft when it mattered. When she got very sick, toward the end, she taught me about grace and patience. It was a hard time in our lives taking care of her, but in the end I am grateful for the time we had together.

Which #OrphanBlack clone is your favorite and why?

I love #OrphanBlack! Tatiana Maslany is fantastic. I'd love the opportunity to play a role like that. It's so hard to choose a clone! I think I have to go with Helena because she can be vulnerable, fierce, dangerous and funny.

Anything else you'd like to say?

My mother was diagnosed with early onset Atypical Parkinson's Disease when she was 52. She had come out to visit me in San Francisco for the first time. She had changed since I had last seen her in NY right after I graduated college and before I had moved west. I remember noticing that her face was unexpressive which was strange for her as she usually wore a smile. Her feet seemed to shuffle and her hands were slow to count money when paying for a restaurant bill. She returned to NY. Her odd behavior and discomfort really bothered me so I took an online test and answered questions as if I were her with the symptoms that she had described to me and I broke down in tears when the result recommended I see a neurologist as it might be Parkinson's. I urged her to go see a neurologist in NY. She remained strong, stoic, but I was devastated when she was diagnosed. My mother's journey was a hard one. I often felt at a loss and didn't know how to help her. I often couldn't find literature in Chinese so I would do my best to explain things to her. We all needed support and sometimes those resources were scarce. We needed advice, information on clinical trials, new medications, how to deal with insurance companies, doctors, etc. I'm happy that the National Parkinson's Foundation and The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research exists. I want to help raise awareness because it really can be isolating for both the person who has been diagnosed and their family. I want to let people to know that they are not alone and that scientific research is important and necessary.

The [Lower Eastside Girls Club](#) is very special to me. It was founded by Lyn Pentecost, who saw a need in the neighborhood for a place for young women and girls to go. Its new building is in Alphabet City on Avenue D in NYC. And it is hooked up! It now houses a planetarium (designed by Dave Pentecost), a large community room, a garden roof, an airstream converted into a recording studio, an art gallery, a science laboratory, an industrial kitchen, and a cafe. The girls can prep for college, gain entrepreneurial skills in the bake shop, learn to produce music, dance flamenco, take photography--the programs are endless. It is so amazing to see young women flourish there and see them imagine themselves as something while gaining practical skills.

Not sure what else to say, I'm very thankful for every moment so far. Every up and down. I have good people in my life. I love what I do. I love the people I get to create with and create memories with. It's all pretty sweet.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ilana-rapp/actress-tina-huang-of-tnt_b_7787208.html

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June 16, 2015

So Many Questions: Tina Huang says playing a scientist on 'Rizzoli & Isles' makes her more interested in forensics

By The Tribune-Review
Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 9:00 p.m.

When you play a senior criminalist on television, it's hard to resist analyzing the real-life cases that pop up in the daily news.

Just ask actress Tina Huang, who plays Susie Chang on the TNT drama, "Rizzoli & Isles." The series, which premiered its sixth season June 16, follows detective Jane Rizzoli (Angie Harmon) and medical examiner Dr. Maura Isles (Sasha Alexander) as they solve intricate crimes plaguing the Boston area.

Unlike her roles as Dr. Linda Chu on ABC's "General Hospital" and Lily Park in Nickelodeon's "Hollywood Heights," this one required Huang to get a little down and dirty with some serious scientific terminology. After all those takes, "I can say gas chromatography pretty good," she says with a laugh.

Details: tntdrama.com/shows/rizzoli-isles.html

Question: How often do you find yourself trying to determine causes of death in real-life crimes?

Answer: Actually, it's funny. Because of the show, I met a medical examiner, and she took me to the crime lab over in downtown L.A., and I saw the forensics labs there. Since then, all I do is try to figure out why that crime happened, how it happened. The most recent one was I looked up the case of the two 16-year-olds who took their friend out in the woods and stabbed her to death. Why would they do that? They didn't have a motivation. The motivation was that they basically didn't want to be her friend anymore. I do wonder about all that. My husband is also a scientist, so he's always telling me what I'm doing wrong. I'm taking off my gloves wrong, I'm cross-contaminating everything. I'm basically the worst.

Q: Did you become familiar with real-life crime labs to prep for your role?

A: Yeah. I actually thought that all these shows were really flashy and high tech. But this new center in L.A. is really high tech. Going there was really cool and eye-opening to see that everything we do on TV is really substantiated in reality. And because my husband's a scientist, I spent a lot of time in his lab and learning how to pronounce things, which is probably the most challenging thing and embarrassing enough. When they yell action, the science terms are really difficult to get out of your lips.



Submitted
Tina Huang plays Susie Chang on TNT's
'Rizzoli & Isles'

Q: Is there someone on set who gives you a breakdown of the forensics technology you're using and why?

A: On some shows, they have a medical consultant. We actually don't have one. We do have an ex-detective from Boston PD. And usually the props guys do a lot of research coming in, but we don't have one designated medical consultant.

Q: Is that intimidating?

A: It is, but everyone's so cool on set that if I have questions, everyone just pulls together and figures out what is the most realistic thing. We get to fudge some things for TV. You usually don't get results in 40 minutes or an hour.

Q: What would surprise people about the science of forensics?

A: Well, maybe it wouldn't surprise people, but like archaeology, it seems so romanticized and exciting but, actually, it's painstaking work. It's very methodical and detail-oriented. It's not like one machine spits out an answer.

<http://triblive.com/aande/somanyquestions/8170868-74/really-rizzoli-isles#ax>

#

May 22, 2015

A LITTLE CUP OF TINA

Tina Huang's road to success has been paved with hard work and a deep well of talent, all leading her to a juicy role on the TNT hit crime drama, *Rizzoli & Isles* which returns for a sixth season on June 16. The striking Dallas-born and New York-raised star opens up about life in the Hollywood glare.



HYDROGEN MAGAZINE: Tell me about growing up in Chinatown and the Lower East Side of New York?

TINA HUANG: Insane, just insane. I'm lucky to have grown up in an environment which exposed me to so much at a young age, but my goodness, when I think back on it, it was crazy! It was constant information overload and lots of sensory over-stimulation. Chinatown and the Lower East Side are vibrant communities that are full of colorful characters. People live on top of each other and the sights, sounds, and smells can be overwhelming.

I loved every moment of it, even though I always pined for the traditional childhood that included a grassy backyard! I have no idea how my parents didn't go nuts worrying about me as a kid running around in that crazy city. I started taking the subway alone right after I graduated the 6th grade – I think I was only 11 or 12. Bananas!

HM: You are a first generation Taiwanese-American. How has the merging of two cultures molded you?

TH: I think I am passionate about learning about different cultures, histories, language and travel because of who I am. I think being between two cultures has also made me curious about people and their stories. It's probably why I'm an actor.

HM: You went to NYU's Tisch School of Arts...not too shabby! But did your family have any reservations about you jumping into a career in acting, with the unpredictability of it all, or were they on board from the get-go?

TH: These are great questions! Being Taiwanese-American, my parents weren't enthused when I expressed interest in the arts. Since I was a decent student, I think my parents had the typical hopes for me to become a doctor or a lawyer. My mother used to say all the time, "You're so good at arguing! You should be a lawyer." I know these kinds of hopes were coming from a place of love. My mom wanted me to be safe and secure in my future. I applied to all the normal science high schools that everyone tests for in NYC (Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, & Brooklyn Tech). I was accepted to Bronx Science.

Meanwhile, I also secretly had prepared a painting portfolio at the urging of my lovely art teacher in Junior High School. I applied and interviewed at LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts and Music & Art (a.k.a. the "FAME" high school). I got in. I weighed my options and felt drawn to the arts. I accepted the offer to attend as an art student, much to my parent's consternation. Halfway through my freshman year, I grew the guts to audition for the drama department, something I always dreamed about. The audition was a grueling process back then. I was accepted. I was so excited.

Being Asian, I never thought acting would be a viable path for me. I had so few role models. I decided to become a Drama Major and take the risk. My parents still didn't understand my choice and even until I graduated TISCH, they asked when I was going to get into a viable business; along with law and medicine, they had a funny obsession with me becoming a pharmacist. I wouldn't say they ever were "OK" with my choice to become an actor, though they finally began to "get it" when they started seeing me on TV. I said to my mom one day, "Look at me mom! At least I play a doctor on TV," to which she would chuckle. She never could pronounce Rizzoli & Isles so she always asked, "When are you on Gilligan's Island?" Hah!



HM: Who are some of the performers that inspire you?

TH: Meryl Streep. I wish I had a less obvious answer. I've seen almost every film she has been in. Her performances are nuanced and painfully beautiful. She's a virtuoso. I also like Kate Winslet, Li Gong, Cate Blanchett, Dame Judi Dench, Sandra Oh, Lucille Ball, Julia Louis-Dreyfus...As far as male actors, I am inspired by Philip Seymour Hoffman, Forrest Whitaker, Joaquin Phoenix, Michael Fassbender and Idris Elba. George Clooney has a career that I deeply admire on levels that are beyond his acting. A LOT of people inspire me! My fellow Alumni that are out here in LA working hard, inspire me as well. I'm in a theatre company, Ammunition Theatre Company. We are launching later this year. Every single member is extremely talented. I am sometimes caught in awe.

HM: You've had roles on shows like *Switched at Birth*, *The Office*, *Criminal Minds*, *The Kroll Show*, *House*, and a recurring role on *General Hospital*. What have you taken away from some of those experiences?

TH: I'm so thankful that I have been able to watch the wonderful actors on these shows up close. Each one has been a lesson in humility, relaxation and technicality. All of these experiences have also had amazing crews. The actors inspire me, and the crews that make it all happen impress me.

HM: Let's talk about *Rizzoli & Isles*, which returns in June for a sixth season on TNT. You play Susie Chang, a senior criminalist with the Boston Police Department's crime lab. What makes Susie tick? What's her story?

TH: Susie is a gear head. She likes technology. She likes solving puzzles. She uses her sense of aesthetics in conjunction with technology to figure out crimes. Susie is fiercely loyal, so anything she can do to help the team, is what makes her tick. She's fundamentally happy and LOVES her job.

HM: What approach did you take to playing her?

TH: My husband is a scientist, so I took a combination of some of his wide eyed enthusiasm when talking about pure science, sprinkled in some of my clowning background, and focused on Susie's joy when figuring out a puzzle. I love puzzles too, so this wasn't too much of a stretch.

HM: What has your experience been like working with Angie Harmon and Sasha Alexander?

TH: It has been such a pleasure working with these two tremendous women. I admire them both very much. They both have a good sense of humor, intelligence, and have been nothing but kind and welcoming to me. It's also been so great to work with Bruce McGill, Jordan Bridges, Idara Victor, Lorraine Bracco, and Lee Thompson Young. I'm just so incredibly lucky to work with these people! It blows my mind. It's surreal.



HM: We love our fashion here at HYDROGEN! How would you describe Susie's style?

TH: Susie's style is business-casual and modest...when she wears clothes, that is. She is a nudist, so I think if it were up to her, and she could do it at work, she would mostly be wearing her birthday suit. PROBABLY not appropriate for the crime lab!

HM: Who are some designers you gravitate towards, and how would you peg your own personal style?

TH: I always want to look my best, but I FEEL my best when I am comfortable in what I am wearing. I would say my personal style is comfortable-chic. Nothing is more attractive than projecting confidence. My clothes should also be cute and practical. For example: I LOVE dresses with pockets. For fancier evenings, I like simple, clean, classic lines. I like vintage looks too or vintage pieces mixed with contemporary pieces. Designers...Marc Jacobs, Phillip Lim, Zac Posen...but I'm always looking out for new designers as well.

HM: What do you like to do to unwind when you're not on set?

TH: Locally, hiking and camping, taking photos, reading, cooking and eating. If I have the opportunity, I love to travel...and eat some more! I did the naked Korean Spa thing for the first time recently and I must say, it was fantastic. Susie would have loved it!

HM: If you could have dinner with three people, living or dead, who would they be?

TH: This is one of those trick questions that makes everyone seem shallow, or that they are trying too hard to sound cultured and sophisticated. With that being said, here it goes: Lucille Ball, an unparalleled comedic actress and business woman. Nelson Mandela, one of the world's greatest human rights activists and statesmen. And Meryl Streep, of course. I hope they like my vegetarian lasagna.

HM: Tell me one thing we'd be surprised to know about you...

TH: I shot the sheriff, but I did not shoot the deputy.

HM: Giving back is something you care deeply about, and I know you are an advocate for Parkinson's disease. Tell me about that side of yourself...

TH: In the last few years of her life, my husband and I became my mother's primary caregivers. She passed away in December 2014 at 64 years old. She was an incredibly resilient and positive person, but it was a very difficult journey and experience. It can be scary and isolating for both the patient and the caregivers. I want to help raise awareness about the need for medical and emotional support for Parkinson's patients and their families. I also want to raise awareness for the need to fund Parkinson's research. Right now, the way I know how is to donate to Parkinson's foundations such as The Michael J. Fox Foundation (MICHAELJFOX.ORG) and to speak publicly about the experience. I hope to get more involved.

The Lower Eastside Girls Club (GIRLSCLUB.ORG) is a non-profit organization in New York City founded by Lyn Pentecost and it is near and dear to my heart. I was an early member before there was a building. It was a safe place for young women from my neighborhood to go to find resources such as career mentorship, college prep, photography classes, entrepreneurial training, nutrition studies, dancing, drumming, the offerings are endless. I also love that the Girls Club provides some job opportunities for the working mothers of the neighborhood. The Girls Club was incredible for me then to keep me out of trouble, but it is even more tremendous now. It finally has a beautiful building on Avenue D in the Lower East Side. It has science programs, music and a podcast recording studio, cafe and bakery, and a dome planetarium designed by Dave Pentecost. It continues to grow and has become a major part of the community. I try to volunteer when I can, and help raise awareness about the Girls Club, because they will help raise the next generation of women leaders.

I'm also co-artistic director of Ammunition Theatre Company (AMMUNITIONTHEATRE.COM). Our company "was founded by a group of passionate artists and activists to reflect the diverse, evolving identity of America." We are launching our company with an evening of one act plays on May 30th at Artshare LA. We also are creating a partnership to engage with our community with My Friends Place (myfriendsplace.org) whose mission it is to assist and inspire homeless youth to build self-sufficient lives. We hope to help raise awareness about the homeless youth in Los Angeles.

HM: What's the long game?

TH: An acting career is filled with insecurities. The actors that I most admire were able to take some degree of control over their careers and creative output by becoming directors and producers. Some of the best TV/Film directors that I have worked with are also actors (Tom Hanks, Eriq La Salle, Anthony Edwards) because they understand an actor's process and are able to communicate with actors in a way that helps elicit truthful performances. So, while I'm primarily focused on delivering a good performance and hitting all my technical marks when I have an acting job, I also try to absorb as much as I can about all aspects of production. I try to get to know everyone on set and learn how each person does their respective job. Long game? I want to keep telling good stories, maybe write, direct, produce and continue doing theatre for as long as this community will have me.

Twitter: @tinahuang

PHOTOGRAPHY: VINCE TRUSPIN

<http://hydrogen-mag.com/archives/28025>

###

May 21, 2015



Answers with Tina Huang

Tina Huang, Actress: Stars in TNT's "Rizzoli & Isles"

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Tina Huang stars as Susie Chang, the senior criminalist of the Boston Police Department's crime laboratory in TNT's hit crime-drama television series "Rizzoli & Isles."

In addition to her role on the critically-acclaimed cop drama, Huang plays the recurring role of Dr. Linda Chu on America's longest running soap opera ABC's "General Hospital" and was a series regular playing Lily Park in Nickelodeon's "Hollywood Heights." Other television credits include "Switched at Birth," "The Office," "The Kroll Show," "Criminal Minds," and "House," among many others.

Website: tinahuang.com



INTERVIEWER
Danielle Dickson

PHOTOGRAPHER
Vince Trupsin



From solving crimes on "Rizzoli & Isles" to delivering babies on "General Hospital," Tina Huang has done it all. This week we caught up with Tina to talk about her fascinating roles in two of TV's most-watched shows. Mark your calendars for the highly-anticipated sixth season of TNT's "Rizzoli & Isles" premiering June 16th.

Rizzoli & Isles

DICKSON: In "Rizzoli & Isles" you play a senior criminalist. How would you describe your character Susie in 3 words?

HUANG: Quirky. Loyal. Earnest.

DICKSON: Are you as fascinated in crime as your character Susie Chang is on the show?

HUANG: I am fascinated but I can only take it in doses. I was obsessed with The Jinx on HBO! That story is so intriguing and the people interviewed make interesting character studies. I made the mistake of watching a show called "I Survived" and it totally freaked me out. There was an episode about a woman who was attacked after a guy in a ninja outfit hid out for a WEEK in her attic until he knew her husband was going to be out of town... I have an attic- I couldn't sleep. That's when I knew I needed to take a break.

DICKSON: How did you prepare for your role as a senior criminalist? Was there any research involved?

HUANG: My husband is a scientist so it was like having my own science consultant at home. I still can't remove my latex gloves correctly! I also had the opportunity to meet an LA county Medical Examiner and she took me on an incredible tour of the Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center. It really is a very impressive facility. It also houses an immense firearm library; shelves and shelves that can be pulled out for study and comparison- from tommy guns and revolvers to very special guns like one that was disguised as a walking cane.

“

The set of Rizzoli & Isles is so much fun.
It truly is like a family.

”

DICKSON: Susie is known for making dioramas to help her figure out a case. Why does she use dioramas to explain her reasoning? How did this start?

HUANG: In the story of the show, Susie has a background in art. But in my imagination, Susie uses the diorama technique because it is 3D and it helps her figure out the crime. She uses it as a big visual aid when explaining her theories to Jane. Plus, tiny furniture, who doesn't like tiny furniture? I imagine Susie is an insomniac; staying up all night to get the details completely accurate. I believe there is a real life woman, Frances Glessner Lee (1878-1962) who began making death dioramas and they truly helped the police develop crime scene investigation. I totally googled it.

DICKSON: What's it like on the set of "Rizzoli & Isles"?

HUANG: The set of Rizzoli & Isles is so much fun. It truly is like a family. Everyone is so kind and I feel like everyone has my back. The cast and crew is made up of a lot of super talented people with really funny personalities. There is a lot of laughing involved.



DICKSON: Do you ever get grossed out by some of the crime scenes on set? How realistic are they?

HUANG: It is a lot of beauty and talent to take in! It's great! They are both such generous actors. I admire them both very much. We have fun with our scenes together. If the scene isn't too serious we crack jokes or dance in between takes.

DICKSON: We can't wait to see what "Rizzoli & Isles" has in store for us next with the premiere of season 6 on June 16th! How will "Rizzoli & Isles" raise the bar this season?

HUANG: I can't say too much about it but it will be action packed. I'm excited to see it too!

DICKSON: How do you hope to see your character Susie evolve in season 6?

HUANG: I'd love to see Susie grow a tail...just kidding. Imagine if Susie evolved into some strange human-animal hybrid, it would be a very different show. It would be a Marvel show.

General Hospital

DICKSON: In addition to your role on the critically acclaimed cop drama, you also play the recurring role of Dr. Linda Chu on America's longest running soap opera ABC's "General Hospital." How does it feel to be part of a show that's been around for over 50 years?

HUANG: It's an incredible experience. It's a really well oiled machine. It's surreal to be in a story with characters that have been around since I was a kid.

DICKSON: What can you tell us about your character Dr. Linda Chu and her role in "General Hospital"?

HUANG: She shows up when a baby is being born or when there is a complication. She has no motive besides delivering a healthy baby. I learned a lot of things about childbirth and c-sections while researching for this role. Again, google and A LOT of YouTube.

DICKSON: A year ago you tweeted, "At the gym and caught myself on #GeneralHospital on the TVs! Surreal." Is it still surreal today when you see yourself on TV?

HUANG: I don't think it ever stops being surreal. I hope I never get that jaded. Ha! It's just so great and I am so deeply appreciative that I get to do what I love. I mean, I don't always love watching myself on TV but it will always be surreal.

Tweets

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From Small Screen to Center Stage

DICKSON: You've been a busy lady this year! Recently you returned back to the ACME stage in Los Angeles and starred in the hilarious production of "Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over." How do you manage to make time for theatre on top of your growing acting career?

HUANG: I don't know how I manage to make time. I just do. I love it. The show was actually invited to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this August. We will be performing there for a month. I cannot contain my excitement. I am also Co-Artistic Director of [Ammunition Theatre Company](#). Our mission is to "reflect the diverse, evolving identity of America." We will be launching our theatre company with our one act festival on May 30th at ArtShare LA. I hope you check us out.

DICKSON: How did you originally get involved in theatre?

HUANG: I got the guts to audition for the Drama department at LaGuardia High School in NYC. I got in and I loved everything about it. It was a place to focus all my energy and channel all my teenage angst. It really kept me out of trouble. While there, I was also exposed to my first Broadway and Off-Broadway shows which blew me away. These magical worlds and deep stories moved me and made me curious about other human beings. I then auditioned for Tisch School of the Arts at NYU for college. I was so happy to be accepted and that's where my love for theatre grew even more by learning to direct and design. Then from college, I started auditioning for plays in San Francisco (moved there after college) and also worked as a crew member to get involved with the theatre community. When I moved down to LA, I continued to see a lot of theatre and got involved. I haven't stopped since. Now, as I said earlier, I am Co-Artistic Director of the newly founded Ammunition Theatre Company. It is comprised of 14 uber talented actors that inspire me every day.

I love film and TV but there is something really special about live theatre. It's a community of people in one room together, sharing an experience, and that experience can never be repeated exactly the same again. It's a special moment for the people on stage and the people in the audience.



DICKSON: As someone who's had their hands in all areas of entertainment (film, theatre, TV), what motivates you to try new avenues and step outside of your comfort zone?

HUANG: Well, last year I started thinking about my bucket list... I realized I don't want to wait until I'm about to die to accomplish those things on that list. I want to be able to enjoy it, enjoy life. Why wait if I know I eventually want to do it? So one of the things I wanted to do was Skydive. The driving force for that was that I realized the idea of skydiving was starting to terrify me. So after a glass of wine, maybe two, I brought it up to one of my best friends and he enthusiastically agreed that he wanted to do it as well. Soon, we recruited two more of our friends. I dreaded the day but since all these people became involved, I couldn't be the one to renege. I'll tell you, I was WAY out of my comfort zone ascending into the sky with the plane's door wide open. I was also going to be the first to jump! Fear and curiosity make me want to step outside my comfort zone. The first few seconds of freefall were intense but it was such an incredible experience I don't regret it at all. I guess that's how I want to look at life.

DICKSON: What can we expect from Tina Huang next?

HUANG: Good question...I seem to keep surprising myself so I'm not sure I can answer that!

<http://www.answers.com/article/1295277/answers-with-tina-huang>

May 2015



Tina Huang, the Actress Behind 'Rizzoli & Isles' Kookie Susie Chang

Summer favorite "Rizzoli & Isles" is returning for its sixth season June 16 on TNT, and with it, gonzo Senior Criminalist Susie Chang. Fans of the show have come to expect the unexpected from Susie, played by Tina Huang. This season the spotlight will definitely shine on her from time to time.

Perhaps things will be heating up between Susie and the beau she met at a nudist retreat? Perhaps the eclectic education that bespeaks Susie's brilliant and unusual mind will come into play? We know she's done art school and med school and is an expert builder of dioramas in addition to being a crime lab wiz. For all we know, maybe Susie's done clown school, too.

Huang isn't issuing spoilers, of course, but does affirm that some Susie-centric episodes are on the way. "I love that Susie is the kind of character they can throw anything at," she notes during an afternoon's chat between camera calls. "She takes her job seriously, but can also be weird and eccentric."

Beyond Susie, Huang has plenty of eclecticism in her real-life world. The beautiful, energetic performer has been juggling "R&I" and her other TV jobs — as Dr. Linda Chu on daytime's "General Hospital," and, formerly, as Lily Park on Nickelodeon's "Hollywood Heights." She is fresh from Albuquerque as we speak, having been there to shoot episodes of "Night Shift" for the NBC medical drama's third season.

Then there are her Ammunition Theater Company in Los Angeles — she's a founding member of the recently-launched company — and her "Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over" sketch comedy show, which was such a critical and commercial success in Los Angeles, it's now set to be presented at this year's Edinburgh Fringe festival in August.

"It's fairy tales for adults," she elaborates. "People come and leave the theater with huge smiles on their faces." Sketches include characters like a closeted gay spider, a co-dependent Eskimo and a bipolar bear.

Doing many and varied things comes naturally to the married, self-proclaimed foodie. Her mother, she says, was always a big multitasker. She lost her mom to Parkinson's disease last year, and now aims to raise awareness and help in the fight against that devastating illness.

Huang's background, also, is eclectic. Born in Dallas, she was raised in Chinatown and the Lower East Side of New York City. She is first generation Taiwanese-American and fluent in Mandarin. She studied theater at LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts and NYU's Tisch School of Arts. Though she lives in L.A. nowadays, her ties to NYC remain. She's a member of the Lower Eastside Girl's Club, an organization that provides programs and services for young girls and young women in her old neighborhood.

It's easy to imagine, Susie would be so pleased.

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<http://www.creators.com/lifestylefeatures/fashion-and-entertainment/hollywood-exclusive/tina-huang-the-actress-behind-rizzoli-isles-kookie-susie-chang.html>

#

June 19, 2015



Tina Huang On 'Rizzoli & Isles,' Angie Harmon, Playing A Nudist [EXCLUSIVE VIDEO]



Chelsea Regan

June 19, 2015

News, U Q&A



Like

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Tina Huang plays Boston Police Department criminalist Susie Chang on *Rizzoli & Isles*, the woman-centered TNT series that continues to enjoy continued popularity and a devoted fanbase.

TINA HUANG ON RIZZOLI & ISLES

Of *Rizzoli & Isles* success, Huang told uInterview, “I think the audiences out there, audiences in general, are ready to see stories that involve real people. I mean, human beings, strong female leads. Just look at *Mad Max*.” Huang added, “*Rizzoli and Isles* shows two women that are

friends, but also working professionals. It doesn't show two women competing or being catty or fighting over a man or anything like that."

Rizzoli & Isles also gives the female stars of the show layered and nuanced personalities. As for Huang's senior criminalist character Susie, it would have been easy to write her off as the uptight office nerd, but it's soon revealed that she's got a lot more going on, including being a nudist.

"At first everyone thinks she's like nerdy and buttoned-up, and actually she's got all these really quirky interests you know," said Huang, who admits she's not nearly as comfortable with public nudity as her character. "She just doesn't care how people see her at all. So it makes sense that she wouldn't mind being naked around people. There's like a sense of freedom for her. I mean I wish I had that for myself."

Nudity aside, Susie is first and foremost an employee of the Boston Police Department, who works with the respected Jane Rizzoli (**Angie Harmon**) and Dr. Maura Isles (**Sasha Alexander**). While acting opposite Harmon, Huang admits that it's sometimes hard to keep a straight face, particularly when they're shooting a tense scene.

"Sometimes Angie and I can't look at each other because we'll crack each other up," Huang explained. "The relationship between Jane and Susie is very strong, you know what I mean. Like Susie looks up to her, but she's also fearful of her. But she also judges Rizzoli's tactics. Because it's so awkward between the two characters, Angie and I just can't."

The sixth season of *Rizzoli & Isles*, which premiered earlier this week, will be "pretty exciting" for her character, according to Huang.

"There's going to be some major plot development with [Susie] so I hope everyone stays tuned," Huang told uInterview. "There's going to be like a killer from the past and Susie's just like really good at her job, so it might get her into a little bit of trouble."

Rizzoli & Isles airs Tuesdays on TNT at 9/8c.

<http://uinterview.com/news/tina-huang-rizzoli-isles-playing-nudist-exclusive-video/>

###

June 22, 2015

UPROXX 20: Tina Huang Of 'Rizzoli & Isles' Is Not Down With Clowns

BY THE CAJUN BOY • 06.22.15

#UPROXX 20



Tina Huang is an actress probably best known for portraying Susie Chang on TNT's *Rizzoli & Isles*. You may have also seen her on shows like *Hollywood Heights* and *General Hospital*. You may have also seen her in films like *Drive* and *Larry Crowne*. Season 6 of *Rizzoli & Isles* premiered on June 16, and airs on Tuesday nights at 9/8c on TNT.

Tina was nice enough to take a few minutes out of her busy schedule recently to answer a few questions from us.

1. You walk into a bar. What do you order from the bartender?

Bourbon, neat. Still waiting to spout chest hair.

2. Who's your favorite person to follow on Twitter?

Does @EmrgencyKittens count as a person?

3. What's currently waiting for you on your DVR/TiVO?

I don't have a DVR/TiVo! But I'm a binge-watching cord-cutter who subscribes to Netflix, Hulu Plus, AmazonPrime, HBO and PBS. I'm all about shows with strong female leads and ensemble casts like *Orange Is the New Black*, *Orphan Black*, *Veep*, *House of Cards*, *Game of Thrones*, and *Downton Abbey*.

4. It's your last meal — what are you going out with?

I don't eat much meat, but if it's my last meal, it's between a beautiful cut of steak or crispy fried chicken. Mashed potatoes is a must.

5. What websites do you visit on a regular basis?

Uproxx of course! *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* to keep on top of the news. EV Grieve and LAist to keep on top of my neighborhood news.

6. What's the most frequently played song on your mobile device?

I have a Bill Withers station on Pandora, but every time I Bluetooth connect my phone to my car, it automatically plays that U2 album...

7. The first face that comes to mind when you think "punchable?"

A clown face. I am afraid of clowns, and that would be the knee jerk...er, fist jerk reaction.

8. What's the last thing you googled?

"Where to find delicious food in Edinburgh."

9. Dogs or cats?

You've cat to be kitten meow (see above).

10. Best concert of your life was...?

Ani DiFranco in a small venue in Florence, Italy... it was magical and super intimate.

11. What book are you most likely to give as a gift?

The Art Spirit by Robert Henri.

12. What's the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?

When my mother passed away, my friends kept me company and kept bringing me food.

13. *South Park* or *Family Guy*?

South Park.

14. You have an entire day to do whatever you want. What would you do?

I would do something I have never done before, like bungee jump, or sail on the ocean, or surf in a foreign and beautiful place, and eat delicious local food. I'm down for any adventure!

15. What movie can you not resist watching if it's on?

Shawshank Redemption.

16. The sports team or teams you're most passionate about?

The '93-'94 Knicks!

17. Where did you eat the best meal of your life?

Many years ago in Assisi, Italy, I followed my nose to a small restaurant and ate the BEST steak ever, seasoned and cooked to perfection, plus the added ingredient of care and love. My mouth is watering just thinking about it. That last meal question has got me thinking about steak!

18. The last movie you saw in a theater?

Jurassic World 3D like everyone else who was nostalgic for the first movie.

19. Who was your first celebrity crush?

Keanu Reeves.

20. What would you cook if Nic Cage was coming to your house for dinner?

A fresh peach.

<http://uproxx.com/tv/2015/06/tina-huang-rizzoli-isles-interview/>

###

July 9, 2015

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT / CELEBRITY

See also: [celebrity](#), [rizzoli & isles](#), [parkinson disease](#)

Chat with Rizzoli & Isles co star, Tina Huang.

 Like  29



If you've watched Rizzoli & Isles then you'll certainly be familiar with Susie Chang, Boston Police Department's Senior Criminologist, played by Tina Huang. I had the pleasure of having a great chat with Tina and got to ask her a few questions.

► Tina, how do you think your character, (Susie Chang) has developed up to this point?

“ Well it's really interesting because I started out as being a one-day guest star and the role just kept expanding. I guess they liked to keep me around...which is really nice. And so my character started developing relationships with Rizzoli and Isles, and they kept adding funny details about my (Susie's) life. I come in and find out she met her boyfriend at the Nudist Colony she's a part of, or that she went to Med School as well as Art School and studied in Paris for a number of years. **(laughs)** This Criminologist had somehow put a lot of time into doing all these things, and she's still my age!

› Is it fun working with Sasha and Angie on the show?

“ *Oh my gosh, it's so fun. It's such a pleasure to be on a set where it's so female heavy. I mean the men on the show are incredible, wonderful actors, they are giving and really kind. Sasha and Angie just keep it loose and everybody's like a family. It's really fantastic!*

› Which of the cast members do you aspire to be like?

“ *She's not a cast member but I admire Jan Nash, the showrunner quite a lot because it's difficult to be a show runner. I'm reading this wonderful book called Difficult Men, it's all about the third golden age of television, like The Sopranos, The Wire, all of these incredible shows and all of them were run by men. But Jan is of the few female showrunners there are, and she's the nicest, most patient person you'll ever meet. How she does that I'll never understand, I really admire that about her.*

As we talk on her raising awareness on Parkinson's Disease I find out that her mother who unfortunately suffered with the condition tragically passed away in December at only 64 years. It took an immense toll on her health causing her to decline and lose her voice, she was diagnosed at 52 years.

› As well as having a career, you're also raising awareness on Parkinson's Disease.

“ *Yes. I've not been officially involved with any organization, but I feel like there aren't enough people that talk about Parkinson's Disease, or know really about Parkinson's Disease. It's such an A-typical disease because it affects each individual very differently, and it's very difficult to deal with, not only for the person that's living with it but for the family members too. I think it's important people talk about it so people going through it don't feel so alone.*

› Has losing your mother made it difficult for your career?

“ *I try to think of things in a positive way. She really gave me a gift- to put in perspective the things that I stress about and worry about. She really has given me that perspective to understand that life can be short. Everything can change in a moment, in an instant. So pursue what you love because there's no other way to be, otherwise you spend your life chasing after something that's not you.*

You can catch Rizzoli & Isles on TNT, Tuesdays at 9/8c.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/chat-with-rizzoli-isles-co-star-tina-huang>

###

July 15, 2015

Tina Huang on 'Rizzoli & Isles', Auditioning and Being the "New Kid" On Sets

By Lance Carter on July 15, 2015

🐦 @DailyActor



"Sometimes it's not about getting the job. You go in there and you make a really good impression" - Tina Huang on Auditioning

TNT's *Rizzoli & Isles* just started its sixth season and **Tina Huang**, who plays Senior Criminalist Susie Chang, is loving her role as the "quirky sidekick" to series stars **Sasha Alexander** (Maura) and **Angie Harmon** (Jane).

But, if you saw last night's show, you already know what happens. No spoilers from me!

Beside her over 30 appearances on *Rizzoli & Isles*, Huang has a long and deep resume; day player and guest-starring work and recurring on *General Hospital* and was a series regular in *Hollywood Heights* – at the same time she was filming episodes of *Rizzoli & Isles*! So, she's one busy actress. Take a look at the interview below where we chat about her audition for the show, Tisch School of the Arts and her upcoming show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Check out Tina's [website](#) and follow her on [Twitter](#)!

Rizzoli and Isles airs on Tuesdays at 9 on TNT

Can you tell me about your character? She seems very fun to play.

Tina Huang: Yeah, Susie is great. Susie is the Senior Criminalist at the M.E's office and she does all the cool lab tests and is the quirky sidekick to Maura and Jane. So, it's pretty fun playing her because she's got a lot of comedy and opinion about things. But she's extremely loyal. She's eccentric too. She's got all these weird interests.

With those interests and lab procedures you have to do, how cool is that to discover you have to learn something new all the time?

Tina Huang: It's always exciting.. You come and get a script – sometimes I get it a week ahead, it just depends – and it'll have a new skill that Susie does and I go, "Okay, I better like read up on how to do that, a little bit, so I have some kind of sense."

It's exciting though, I love that. I love to have character being slowly revealed to me, you know what I mean? It's exciting.

When you originally auditioned for the show was it just for one episode?

Tina Huang: It's funny, when I think back on it I don't think I ever actually auditioned for Susie. I know that sounds crazy but I had gone into that office, **Gary Zuckerbroad's** casting office several times for other roles and I think they just took a shine to me, which I'm very grateful for.

And then I got offer for the role, they said it was possibly going to recur and that it was one episode for now. And it just kept growing which was super cool.

That's gotta be at testament to what you brought to the role you know?

Tina Huang: I guess so. Is that a humble brag? I don't know. Yeah, I'm kind of proud of myself for that. [laughs] You can't be too proud. Right time, right place, right opportunity. I show up, I work hard, you know what I mean? I think that people appreciate that.

And I just have fun on set. I think people like having someone that is just always having fun and takes the work seriously. I love that environment. I love that set so much, everybody's just so warm and it's really like a family. From day one everyone welcomed me on, so it's been great.

I've been on a bunch of sets and you can definitely they're a family. And if you're doing a day player role, everyone is really nice but it's kind of hard to...

Tina Huang: Be the new kid.

Yeah, exactly.

Tina Huang: Be the new kid. You don't know where to sit for lunch. You don't know who to talk to. You don't know if you should go to your trailer and sit by yourself. It's kind of like, "Oh, I don't want to be that person." But at the same time it is hard being the new kid. I think being a day player is so difficult. First of all you're nervous... and it's funny, getting to be around for a while and getting to be on for so many seasons, you really get comfortable and your work gets better and they write more. So that's the first hurdle getting over the nerves and being present enough to really show what you can do and that's difficult. It's a big challenge.

How far in advance do know that you're working on a particular episode? What if you want to schedule a vacation or something like that?

Tina Huang: It's difficult but it's worked out so far, we just stay in a lot of communication. Sometimes they know the dates a month ahead so I have a month lead time. But I won't know the exact dates until probably two weeks before, three weeks before. It just all depends.

Have you had any issues booking other work because of that schedule?

Tina Huang: Yeah, when I was doing *Hollywood Heights* that definitely is something that they had to work out because I was a series regular and we shot like 85 episodes of that show. So that was definitely a challenge to work out but everyone was really generous with me.

You said something interesting about when you went into Gary Zuckerbroad's office. They were a fan of your work I would guess.

Tina Huang: I've gone in for them a couple times before and they've seen me do stuff, and I've been a guest star in a couple of other things so they were familiar with me.

I tell a lot of young actors, sometimes it's not about getting the job. You go in there and you make a really good impression. Sometimes you don't get the job, not because you weren't good or they don't like you or whatever. They just didn't choose you because of all sorts of things that are out of your control. So, always go in there like you already have the job. Leave the best impression because you never know what jobs are going to come up next that they'll call you for.

So for me, that was basically what happened. I could've got bummed out that I hadn't booked those one-off jobs before but then I ended up booking this one and it's lasted several years. You just never know.

Let's say you get a phone call after this interview for an audition, how prepared are you to be when you walk into that room? Are you to the sides back and forth?

Tina Huang: Yeah, I try to know them pretty well. I put all the work in it and then just throw it away and trust that I have what it takes. So I know it pretty well but I don't kill myself over the words. I notice that when I tried to kill myself over the words then the work isn't as good.

But I always know it well enough that I get it mostly understanding the beats so that the words come easier. Especially if it's well-written. I'm pretty solidly prepared when I go in, especially within 24 hours.

And then I keep the sides with me so that gives them the feeling that, "Oh, this is just an audition. She can do more." Even though you've memorized it, you still want them to feel like you can give an even deeper performance on the day.

You went to Tisch School of the Arts? We have that listed on our [top New York City Schools for actors](#).

Tina Huang: I loved it. I mean it was expensive but I loved it. It was an incredible experience. A lot of the people that I work with today are Alumni and we got a great network of people here in Los Angeles. Very talented, creative people that always keep you on your toes.

In fact, a bunch of us started a theatre company called Ammunition Theater where basically it's 14 actors from diverse backgrounds that are activists as well, trying to reflect the America that we see before us. And we partner with a charity every year and this year it's My Friend's Place in Los Angeles and they provide services for homeless youth. Each of the company members volunteers there, we run workshops and we're going to actually do a show in June of next year. The material will all be provided by the youth. It'll be really, really cool.

So it's been really exciting having a pool of talented actors that I knew from college. And some of them aren't from my college. We have a really good team of working actors that are involved and who want to enrich themselves artistically.

I guess I never really thought about that but if you to a college like Tisch, once you leave, you have this big pool of people to maybe collaborate with.

Tina Huang: Yeah, people who have the same language, people who have the same shorthand. That is so important when it comes to collaborating.

But then again I've also met some amazing people like my writing partner Blake Cooper Griffin, we wrote the television pilot together. He didn't go to NYU but we were drawn into the same circle of friends. But it's all exponential, it all depends on who you're running with and what your interests are.

You're going to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival?

Tina Huang: I am, I am. I'm so unbelievably excited.

Our show *Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 and Over*. We actually have been doing this show for years and it used to be new every single month, new tales and puppets in live-action stuff. It's really crazy and wild. I remember for like a year it was in development with FX for a pilot. It ended up not going through, **Billy Crystal** was helping us with it and I don't know how it happened but somebody from our show, I think it was Patrick Bristow, brought somebody from the Fringe and she loved it and invited us to go. We're doing a fundraiser at the ground racing on July 28 and then we head out to Scotland.

That'll be so much fun.

Tina Huang: I know. I'm a little bit worried about 10 people in a three-bedroom apartment but we're just going to have to tough it out, right? I know I'll never get to experience this again.

So, I have to ask you were directed by Tom Hanks and *Larry Crowne*. I can imagine a cooler experience.

Tina Huang: That was really unreal. I was on set for about a week. I don't think my scene ended up in the film but that's fine I didn't care.

He's just so funny and I really thought like the rumors can't be true, he can't possibly be that nice. And you know what? He is. He really is that nice. He knew everybody's name on set. I mean everybody. Just so kind and giving and will improv with you.

What was the role that got your SAG card?

Tina Huang: I was in a movie called, *Pig Hunt*, an independent film. I had only worked a bit in San Francisco but *Pig Hunt* hired me.

What was your worst audition?

Tina Huang: Oh dude, there's so many. I can't remember the worst one right now but feel like my worst auditions are when I'm not prepared. When I feel like I didn't do my best, like I didn't hit the marks and the beats and the work that I had put in, then I'm usually disappointed in myself all day and I can't do anything else but maybe go to the pharmacy and buy some crummy makeup. You know, retail therapy. Or I'll go eat something delicious and rich. The worst is when you feel like you've disappointed yourself.

That is the worst when you feel like you've disappointed yourself.

Tina Huang: Yeah, you put all that work in and you just didn't do things you wanted to do. That's also hard to judge to because sometimes I've felt like that and I've got the job. It's so tough, it's arbitrary in a lot of ways.

<http://www.dailyactor.com/interview/tina-huang-rizzoli-and-isles-auditions/>

#

5 THINGS TO DO TODAY

July 31, 2015



5 THINGS TO DO TO PREPARE FOR THE EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL 2015 BY TINA HUANG

POSTED BY 5THINGSTODOTODAY ON 07/31/2015 IN 5 THINGS TO DO TODAY | [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

★★★★★ 1 Vote

In this post Rizzoli & Isles actress Tina Huang shares her 5 things to do to prepare for The Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Tina will be at the assembly stage August 9 – August 30 performing in Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over.

- 1) Throw a fundraiser, you're going to need the money.
- 2) Book your travel and lodging (see step 1).
- 3) Load your luggage with puppets (hope the TSA doesn't get suspicious).
- 4) Figure out the difference between Whiskey and Whisky (...if any, I suggest lots of research).
- 5) Get your tickets to Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over @ The Assembly Stage 5 at 10:30pm!
<https://www.assemblyfestival.com/event/50/>

We promise a good time.

Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 and Over is a collection of original fairy tales with morals and lessons for adults (ie. The Tale of the Bipolar Bear and the Codependent Eskimo), told with a mix of live actors in animal costumes and puppets. The show has played to sold-out crowds for the past five years at theatres all over Los Angeles.



<http://5thingstodotoday.com/2015/07/31/5-things-to-do-to-prepare-for-the-edinburgh-fringe-festival-2015-by-tina-huang/>

###

TV GRAPEVINE

June 15, 2015

RIZZOLI AND ISLES TINA HUANG INTERVIEWED



Tell me bit about yourself and your career.

I'm first generation Taiwanese- American. I was born in Dallas, Texas but was raised in Chinatown/Lower East Side of New York City. I have a brilliant husband and a really cute grey and white cat named T-Rex. My first love is theatre having studied acting at LaGuardia High School and then at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. I am lucky to have worked on some TV shows and films which brought me to Los Angeles where I currently live. It's been a pretty great ride so far including the ups and the downs.

What was your standout career moment so far?

I've had so many amazing experiences thus far... That's a hard one to answer. Being directed by Tom Hanks in Larry Crowne was definitely a huge high point. The irony is that I couldn't really believe it while I was doing it. He was funny, kind and knew every single person on set by name. I was startled when he knew my name! I grew up watching his movies and think he is so fantastic at both comedy and drama. Seeing someone that is so accomplished and successful still be so kind and generous was very encouraging to see. He sets such a great example.

Tell me about your role on Rizzoli and Isles.

I play Senior Criminalist Susie Chang. She's a quirky and loyal crime solver. She is happy to assist Maura (Sasha Alexander) and Jane (Angie Harmon). She occasionally gets to help out Frankie (Jordan Bridges), Korsak (Bruce McGill) and Nina (Idara Victor). It's really exciting when Susie makes it out of the crime lab.

What attracted you to the role?

I love that Susie gets to be funny. She is always enthusiastic and that is really attractive. She's motivated by her enthusiasm to solve problems. She carries no darkness and that to me is a fun kind of character to play at least once in one's life.

What is your character like?

Susie is a hard worker with a really pure heart. She's always surprising and what I mean by that is that a new talent or skill is revealed about her history like the fact that she is an expert crime scene diorama builder, a nudist, and attended both Medical School and Art school. She's a rare species.

What is it like working with the cast?

The cast is fantastic. They are all such generous actors. They all have amazing work ethic but maintain great senses of humor.

What is it like being on a show that represents strong women?

It's an honor and a pleasure. I not only admire the characters on the show; that it has has so many strong female leads, but also the strong women who are a part of the crew. Among the crew, we have an amazing female Assistant Director, a fantastic female showrunner, and a several incredible female staff writers. Without any of them, the show wouldn't happen and what we see represented wouldn't happen. It's a special thing.

What else are you working on?

I am Co-Artistic Director of Ammunition Theatre Company (ammunitiontheatre.com). Our mission is to reflect the underrepresented stories of the diverse, evolving identity of America. We are launching our evening of original one act plays on May 30th at ArtShare LA. It's going to be an exciting evening with great plays followed by three bands, a raffle, silent auction and bar. Get your tickets today! We also accept donations as we are a non-profit company through the Pasadena Arts council. We are excited to start our community outreach partnership with My Friends Place (Myfriendsplace.org). Their mission is to assist and inspire homeless youth to build self-sufficient lives. We are starting to build that relationship over the next few months. My fellow company members are truly inspiring. We cannot wait to announce our full theatrical season soon.

I am also in a comedy show called Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over which was just invited to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this August. We are really excited about this opportunity. We'll be performing in the middle of town, every night for 25 days.

I'm currently performing in a play called Human History as a part of the Sci-Fi Festival here in LA. It's has been incredible fun to be a part of.

Lastly, I should be appearing on NBC's Night Shift soon!

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I'm afraid of clowns. Coulrophobia. Took a clowning class to try to get over it. I cannot go to the circus.

What are you watching on TV these days?

There's so much good TV! I'm watching Game of Thrones, Veep, Silicon Valley, Orphan Black, The Knick, Black Mirror, House of Cards...I can go on and on! I WAS obsessed with Breaking Bad and I was worried I was going to be lost without it; I'm happy to say that there are really impressive shows on Cable now that I am totally addicted to.

Any last words for America?

Is something happening to me? I hope these aren't my last words!

<http://www.tvgrapevine.com/interviews/14645-rizzoli-and-isles-tina-huang-interviewed.html>

###

CHICAGO3MEDIA
ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WORLD

May 6, 2015

ON THE PHONE WITH ACTRESS TINA HUANG RIZZOLI
& ISLES



Tina Huang, as 'Susie Chang,' the senior criminalist of the Boston Police Department's crime laboratory in TNT's hit crime-drama television series "Rizzoli & Isles."

Based on the series of crime novels by Tess Gerritsen, Angie Harmon and Sasha Alexander star as best friends, a Boston police detective and medical examiner, combining their expertise to solve Boston's most complex cases. 'Susie' is described to have a very physical memory and when circumstances require her to take point in an investigation, she makes various dioramas to explain her reasoning. Her character has consistently played a vital role on the show and is sure to be the breakout star of the new season. The show is a top 5 cable series and is ranked as the second-most-watched show on TNT history behind 'The Closer.' Season 6 of "Rizzoli & Isles" premieres Tuesday, June 16th, 2015 at 9/8c on TNT.

In addition to her role on the critically-acclaimed cop drama, Huang plays the recurring role of 'Dr. Linda Chu' on America's longest running soap opera ABC's "General Hospital" and was a series regular playing 'Lily Park' in Nickelodeon's "Hollywood Heights." Other television credits include "Switched at Birth," "The Office," "The Kroll Show," "Criminal Minds," and "House," among many others. On the big screen, Huang has acted alongside the biggest names in Hollywood some of which include Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts in LARRY CROWNE and Ryan Gosling in DRIVE. Her stage credits include an award-winning production of Amy Tan's IMMORTAL HEART that went on a west coast tour and a French Tour. Active in theater, Huang is one of the founding members of Ammunition Theater Company in Los Angeles and can be seen this month returning back to the ACME stage in Los Angeles starring in the hilarious production of "Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over"

which has garnered rave reviews from various publications including the LOS ANGELES TIMES and LA WEEKLY.

Born in Dallas and raised in New York, Huang is a first generation Taiwanese-American and is a fluent Mandarin speaker. Raised in Chinatown and the Lower East Side of NYC, Huang studied theatre at LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts and NYU's Tisch School of Arts. In her free time, Huang enjoys writing comedy sketches and hopes to one day become a producer and director, developing her own TV shows. She currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband of 10 years and is a self-proclaimed foodie. Huang is a huge advocate for Parkinson's disease as she spent the last couple of years caring for her ailing mother until she passed away last year. Huang is also a member of the Lower East Side Girl's Club, an organization working to provide innovative, community-based holistic programs and services for girls and young women.

www.TinaHuang.com

www.Twitter.com/TinaHuang

<http://www.chicago3media.com/phone-actress-tina-huang-rizzoli-isles>

###

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: Rizzoli & Isles Star Tina Huang

May 11, 2015

Posted By [Kristin Downer](#) on May 11, 2015 | [0 comments](#)

Tina Huang is a well recognized face in TV these days. If you don't know her as Dr. Linda Chu on ABC's General Hospital, then you probably recognize her as Susie Chang on TNT's hit drama Rizzoli & Isles. You would think being part of two hit shows would make her too busy to do anything else, but she also has theater work and a non-profit she works with. We got all the gritty details about the new season of Rizzoli & Isles and all her other work here.



KRISTIN: You have been acting on Rizzoli & Isles for quite some time now, but have definitely made a name for yourself in the business long before this. What made you want to act?

TH: I'm not sure what made me want to act. I think I've always been curious about what motivates people and the idea of escaping my own life was always appealing. There is a kind of freedom in that. I love becoming someone else and seeing what it is like to be them in the world. Acting has always activated my imagination more than any other creative outlet.

KRISTIN: Rizzoli & Isles is the second most watched show on TNT and in the top 5 in cable series... now entering season 6 in June. What makes this show stand out?

TH: I think what makes the show stand out is the wonderful chemistry between the actors, the comedy that the show makes room for, and that there are so many strong female characters in it.

KRISTIN: You play Susie Chang, senior criminalist of the Boston PD crime laboratory. To sum it up... she's kind of awesome. How do you connect with this character and get yourself in "Susie" mode for filming?

TH: THANK YOU! Oh, Susie is so fun to be. She's uncomplicated but also an enigma. I'm always finding out a new piece of information about her past. I mean, a nudist AND an expert diorama builder? Med school and Art school? Lived in Paris, whaaaaat? It goes on and on. She's fascinating! She is also loyal and enthusiastic about her job. She loves her life and the people she has in it. How do I get into Susie mode?...I try to find what puzzle Susie is trying to figure out and find her excitement about solving it...what else? I make faces in the mirror? Just kidding. I just relax just before the director calls action or I'm cracking jokes with Angie or Sasha. Truthfully, once that lab coat and which ever funky pair of glasses wardrobe has me in that day, I sort of feel like I become Susie. Plus Susie allows me to expose my true nerdy side.

KRISTIN: The new season is starting on June 16th at 9 pm EST. What are fans going to get out of season 6?

TH: I can't say specifically but it's going to be a wild ride. I hope the fans tune in and tweet up a storm!

KRISTIN: Specifically where Susie is concerned, should we expect some big storylines and lots of drama?

TH: You know what TNT says, "TNT knows drama!" Expect more awesome stories and a major Susie development, but I can't say much more than that. Tune in to find out!

KRISTIN: Alongside Rizzoli & Isles you also play Dr. Linda Chu on ABC's General Hospital. A lot of people get their start in soaps and we see them move on to primetime and leave their daytime roots in the past. But you prove that both are equally as awesome and balance them well. What makes you want to do that?

TH: Soaps and primetime TV are made so differently. They are really different formats. I believe it's always interesting to learn new environments and new ways of storytelling. Soaps take a certain skill

set that is really impressive, which I see in those veteran soap actors. I'm not sure I have those skills but I try to sharpen them. They learn dialogue incredibly fast, sometimes just before the scene shoots, and some of that dialogue is really tough. A lot of it is making sure the audience is up to speed with complex plot lines so delivering this information in an interesting and believable way isn't always easy. The actors also have to hit their marks and have very few takes to get the scene. The process and pace of production really is mind blowing to witness. Soaps shoot anywhere from 30-60 scenes in a work day, whereas on *Rizzoli & Isles*, we shoot maybe 4 or 5 scenes. I have also had a great time working on web series such as *Nerd Court*. You can see me with one of my childhood idols, *Star Trek TNG's* Jonathan Frakes here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ4EuGKBjmM> I think my curiosity, my desire to learn and my love of being on set is what keeps me wanting to do all sorts of television, film, new media and theatre. I love acting and if I have the time, I will try to do it all.

KRISTIN: Aside from acting, you also dip into other things such as advocating for Parkinson's disease and also are a member of the Lower Eastside Girls Club (That's how the organization spells it.) Tell us about those additions to your interests.

TH: My wonderful mother was diagnosed with early-onset Atypical Parkinson's Disease when she was 52. It was an aggressive disease and she deteriorated fast. The doctors don't know how or why she got the disease. She didn't carry a known genetic marker linked to the disease so the doctors suggested it may have been linked to toxins in her environment. Could it have been the pesticides she was exposed to in Taiwan working in the sugarcane fields? Was it brought on by dangerous particles in the air in NYC after 9/11? There were so many questions and unfortunately, like a lot of neurological disorders, there weren't many answers. My husband and I became her primary caregivers in her later stages. She was once a successful small business owner and had to quickly sell her business because over the course of 12 years she became increasingly disabled. I think this was a very hard thing for her to handle emotionally and as the disease progressed, it became extremely physically painful also. My mother maintained the most positive spirit and was the strongest person I have ever known. Sadly, she passed away in December 2014. Her particular case of Parkinson's was very aggressive but she fought hard until the end. It can be very lonely and isolating to go through, both for the patient and family members. I didn't know anyone else at the time going through it especially with such a young parent. I hope to get involved to help raise awareness about this disease. It does affect many and it can be devastating if you don't have

support, something I found hard to find, both for my mother and for us as her caregivers. I think it is important to talk about it. I want to let people know that they are not alone in their experience and also try to raise awareness for the need for increased research funding.

The Lower Eastside Girls Club in New York City is a non-profit organization founded by Lyn Pentecost. I was originally a member when I was a teenager. Originally a small organization, it provided a safe space for young women in my neighborhood to connect, since our neighborhood Boy's Club chapter opted out of merging with the Boy & Girls Clubs of America. The Lower Eastside Girls Club began providing resources such as career mentoring, college prep, photography classes, entrepreneurial training, nutrition studies, dancing, drumming, cultural exchanges to Mexico and the list goes on and on as the organization grew and grew. The Girls Club also provided some job opportunities for the working mothers of the neighborhood. The Girls Club was incredible for me then to keep me out of trouble but it is even more tremendous now. It finally has a beautiful building on Avenue D in the Lower East Side. It has science programs, a music and podcast recording studio, a cafe and bakery, and a dome planetarium designed by Dave Pentecost. It's all truly impressive. I try to volunteer when I can and help raise awareness about the Girls Club (girlsclub.org) because they will help raise the next generation of women leaders.

KRISTIN: Not that it seems you have time for anything else, but do you have any other projects we are missing and should be eagerly awaiting?

TH: It's true, I don't have time for anything else and yet I'm also in a theatre production called, Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over. It's a comedy show made of fairy tales with morals for adults dealing with subjects like aging, sexuality, mental health, racism, etc. It's created and written by my good friend J. Michael Feldman, a really talented playwright and TV/film screenwriter. It's a fun show that uses puppets and crazy costumes and props. It can be a little raunchy but mostly it's a super fun time for all the grown ups in the audience to giggle like children. We were invited to bring the show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2015 in Scotland and will be performing in the center of town for all of August. I am also Co-artistic Director of Ammunition Theatre Company along with actors Malcolm Barrett and Arjun Gupta. It was co-founded by Arjun Gupta and Vinny Chhibber. Our mission is to reflect the diverse, evolving identity of America. We have an extremely talented company of 12 working actors and our one act play festival is coming up on May 30th. Our website is AmmunitionTheatre.com. Please check us out and support our cause. Lastly, I have an appearance coming up on an NBC show but I can't talk about it quite yet!



Rizzoli & Isles is one of the top dramas on TV and about to kick off another season. Make sure you tune in to watch Tina Huang in coming episodes. Also check out General Hospital and other projects Huang has coming up. You can also check out her work with theater at the links above!

<http://www.nerdprobs.com/tv/exclusive-interview-rizzoli-isles-star-tina-huang/>

Red Carpet **CRASH**

May 15, 2015

Interview: 'Tina Huang' Talks New Season Of 'Rizzoli & Isles' And 'General Hospital'

 RedCarpetCrash  May 15, 2015



Tina Huang is one of the stars of *Rizzoli & Isles* whose new season starts on Tuesday, June 16 on TNT. She also appears on *General Hospital* on occasion as Dr. Linda Chu. I talked to her about both shows.



<http://redcarpetcrash.com/interview-tina-huang-talks-new-season-of-rizzoli-isles-and-general-hospital/>



June 2, 2015

Interview with [Tina Huang](#) of "Rizzoli & Isles" on TNT 6/2/15



This was so much fun! We got off on a couple of gabby tangents. Ms. Huang is a very nice lady with so much passion for her craft and for her fans. She plays a goofy scientist on "[Rizzoli & Isles](#)", and a serious doctor on "[General Hospital](#)." She's getting over a cold, so I hope you can hear it well. Don't miss the show, which is always good. It returns June 16th for season 6!

Here is the [audio](#) of our interview. I hope you enjoy it!

If the audio is not streaming well, please right-click on this link and save it to your computer. It should work better that way!



Here's the transcript from [Gisele](#).

1. The 6th season is starting soon. Are you excited?

Yes, very excited! What I love about it is that it's a [cop show](#) with a certain amount of tongue and cheek, but it also has so many [strong female characters](#) which I deeply, deeply, deeply appreciate. It's a rare thing, you know?

2. Do we see a lot more of Susie in this upcoming season?

I can't really talk that much about what happens to Susie in the upcoming season, but I think it's going to be really exciting. There will be a major plot development.

3. Do we learn more about her, like her family etc.?

You do learn more about her for sure.

4. Any chance we get a more Susie-centric [episode](#)?

Yes, there's a big chance of that. I'm sorry to be so cryptic. You've got to leave some mystery out there, right?

5. Anything you can tell us about the upcoming season?

There is a Susie-centric episode, and there is a major development. I think the fans are going to -- Twitter might explode, I'm not sure. [Chuckles] I can't say that there'll be more dioramas in this season. They were really detailed and to scale and really gorgeous. It's based on this real woman who basically started the crime-scene investigation that way. In around 1908, she started making crime-scene dioramas, and the police actually started using them to study crime scenes, so it's based on a real thing.

6. Is it a fun place to work?

Oh, my gosh, it's so fun! It's really like a well-oiled machine, like a family. The crew is just so incredible. The writers are fantastic. Jan Nash, the showrunner is lovely and easy to work with, and the cast -- we're always joking around, having fun, and having a laugh, so it's such a great place to be. I like Jordan. Jordan is awesome to work with. He's such a cool guy. So fun and so giving. They all are. The whole cast is so incredible.

7. Do you enjoy playing a scientist?

I love it. I love it. My husband's a scientist in real life. He works in microbiology and immunology, infectious disease, at UCLA. He always tells me what I'm doing wrong as a scientist, but it is fun, because being Asian and being an actor kind of gave my parents a little bit of fulfillment that I at least pretend to be a scientist or a doctor on TV. Scientists are a very interesting group of people, I gotta tell you. I was at a Halloween costume party at the zoo in LA, and I met this woman who recognized me from the show, and it turns out she's a medical examiner, so she invited me down to the LA County Forensics Lab. She gave me this whole tour, and I really thought all these TV shows made the labs look fancier than they are, 'cause I've seen so many labs before, and there's not a lot of money there. They need funding, they're rundown, and not nearly as ?? as you'd think they'd be. When I went to the Forensics lab, it was actually really slick and cool and a lot like you'd see it on TV. And it was huge. Like one floor would be Ballistics and she showed me this room where there's a water tank they'd fire guns into so they could match the markings on the shell casing and bring them over to the double microscopes and be able to compare the two bullets and see if they have the same markings. They had a massive gun library where they can roll

through these actual guns from history and match up the manufacturers, the serial numbers, and all that kind of stuff. It's just very, very cool. They have a whole DNA lab and screens everywhere. It was just very cool.

8. I guess you and other TV scientists are inspiring young girls to become scientists as well.

I've actually heard that before, and that's a lovely thing. It's a lovely byproduct. I think it's important for people to see images like themselves out there that they can aspire to be some day. I mean, just like, not to be political, but seeing Barack Obama become president has ?? people's perceptions of who can become president, so I'm not saying -- I don't compare myself to being the president of the United States, but I get what you're saying. Yeah, for sure! I'm passionate in helping some community organizations, as well, so if that happens to be a side effect of it, I hope I can do more real things in the community and encourage people to pursue things they couldn't usually pursue. I mean, I didn't think I could become an actress growing up in an Asian household, 'cause I didn't have a lot of role models, but that drive was still within me, and I had amazing mentors and teachers who encouraged me to follow those dreams and go to school and get trained and all that, and I'm lucky enough today to be working as an actor, working hard for it.

9. You used to live in Chinatown in New York City when you were a kid, right?

I sure did. I grew up there, in the Lower East Side. There is progress being made. There are people who are trying to put art out there that's inclusive and not exclusive, which is pretty exciting. I'm one of the founding members of [Ammunition Theatre Company](#) here in Los Angeles and we just launched this past Saturday. It's made up of really dynamic artists and activists in our community, and we are a very diverse group, but we don't want to impress upon people that it's because we're diverse that we're doing it. It's because we want to be a part of a community and create art that's inclusive of the America that we know and have experienced. It's a very cool endeavor. It's exciting. Part of the theater company is working with a nonprofit called [My Friend's Place](#) that helps provide services to homeless youth in Los Angeles. It's really, really amazing. Our theater company are members, and we donate our time to volunteer and run workshops with the kids, and that's really rewarding. We're gonna do a play reading with them, for them, and help raise some funds for them. It's really, really exciting, so art, theater, television all plays together. A bunch of members from our company are also on TV and care about building a healthy community.

10. I see that you were in some one-act plays May 30. How was it? Will there be more?

That was our launching event, but we might produce a night again with the same plays. We'll definitely be doing a full season later in the fall. We have to get

submissions of plays from new playwrights, which is always exciting. And a diverse group of directors as well, male, female.

11. You worked with Karla Mosley, who's on "Bold & The Beautiful" playing a transgender character. How was it to work with her?

Yes, it's pretty cool. She's so wildly talented. She was just wonderful in the one-act plays this weekend, and she's also spearheading the relationship with My Friend's Place, so she's a dynamic person and actress and activist.

12. Are you still playing Dr. Chu on GH? When is the last time you appeared?

As far as I know. I haven't been on for a couple of months, I think. I can't remember exactly when. It all blends together, all the shootings, the scheduling. I think the last time was when I saved Lulu's baby or fixed Lulu's reproductive organs.

13. Did you get to participate or watch during the Nurse's Ball?

No, I wasn't. As soon as someone has a complication with their baby, hopefully, well, not hopefully. That's when Dr. Chu will probably come back.

14. Is there a big difference between working on the two shows?

Oh, yeah, they're wildly different mediums. I would say that I did not understand how much work goes into -- Well, both of them are very, very -- a lot of work goes into them. It takes a lot of people to accomplish what they do. I think Rizzoli shoots maybe four scenes a day. The nights can be long. We have two cameras going, and then there all these reverse angles. I mean, it's shot more like a film. Whereas a [soap opera](#) like "General Hospital" can be maybe 50 items, they call them items, scenes a day. And there are maybe 3 or 4 cameras going at once. They like switch cameras and edit it live there. They maybe get one or two takes, 'cause they have to move on. So, it's a very different muscle, and I've seen veteran soap actors, and it's so impressive. I mean, sometimes they get big chunks of dialogue last minute, and they have to make it work. They have to know it, and they have to be able to hit their marks, which is extremely technical, and that is a skill set that not everyone has. It's a lot of work, but it's also really rewarding. I noticed when I was working on "Hollywood Heights" and "General Hospital" is that everyone has a normal life. Everyone has a family. They go to work, and they leave at a certain time, because it's so well-oiled, they can have their outside lives and that sense of stability. It's great. I'm just so interested in any kind of storytelling -- movies, or one-hour drama, or half-hour comedy or live stage stuff, sketch -- I love it all.

15. You knew you wanted to be an actress when you were really young? You had no desire to be a scientist or doctor?

I did. I grew up in a pretty traditional household, and I know it all came from how much they loved me and worried about me, but they discouraged the art. I'm first generation, so they immigrated here, and they wanted me to have a better life than they had, so they wanted me to do something in science or in law or medicine or they weirdly wanted me to become a pharmacist, but I just always felt like I wanted to be an actor. I got in to all the science schools, but I secretly auditioned for LaGuardia School for the Performing Arts with a painting portfolio, photography and drawing, 'cause I had an art teacher who really believed in my artistic sensibility, and I always thank her for that. I got into LaGuardia for fine arts, but I always, always wanted to be an actor. I just was super shy. Growing up in New York, I felt like every kid who wanted to be an actor started when they were like 4-years-old, so I thought I was over-the-hill at like 13. But I kind of got the nerve, and prepared a monologue and auditioned and got in and decided to transfer to the drama department. My parents weren't too excited about it, but I then got into NYU, and I did all these interviews by myself, and I think they started to get it when they started seeing me on TV. My mom still can't pronounce "Rizzoli & Isles." She calls it "Gilligan's Island" forever. Yeah, she's cute.

16. Any other projects that you're working on or have coming out?

I just did an episode of [NBC's "The Night Shift,"](#) which just aired. It was the [season finale](#). I'm playing Topher's wife, Janet, which is a really fun thing. I got to work with Eric LaSalle who directed it. It was super fun, a super great time shooting in Albuquerque. Hopefully, fingers crossed, I'll get to go back next season. Oh, I'm going to Edinburgh to do a show called "[Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 and Over](#)." This really fun show. It's fairy tales for adults with morals like the codependent Eskimo and the bipolar bear, and when are you too old to buy IKEA furniture, and that kind of stuff. We actually got invited to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, so we're going there all of August to perform for 25 days, which is pretty exciting. It's the world's biggest art festival, so exciting.

17. Anything else you'd like to tell your fans?

Well, they know I love them. I think it's important that people learn more about Parkinson's research. There's a desperate need for that, and also support live theater and I don't know, I love my loyal fans. They're awesome. And watch "Rizzoli & Isles." Thank you.

<http://tvmegasite.net/prime/articles/huang.shtml>

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Exclusive Interview with Tina Huang

by Michelle Rose Micor Jul 21, 2015, 11:20 am



Photo credit: Vince Trupin

In the most recent season of TNT's *Rizzoli & Isles*, audiences said goodbye to one of their favorite characters, Senior Criminalist, Susie Chang, portrayed by Tina Huang. I recently had the pleasure of getting to speak with Tina regarding Susie, saying goodbye to her Rizzoli family and what's up next for the actress.

Check out what she had to say below!

I have to ask the question that's on all of our minds. Were you and the cast aware of Susie's death going into the sixth season or did it come as a surprise later on?

"I actually did. Jan and everybody at TNT handled it so professionally. I knew pretty early on but of course I didn't want to spoil it for the fans and that was a really difficult secret to keep under wraps. The Susie character is such a fun lovable character that Jan Nash (the show runner) is very, very sensitive about. She called me and we were all really upset to see this character go. At the same time I think the story opens the world up to interesting story lines for the other characters to go through that grieving process. I knew pretty early on. The writers and directors of the episode called me and we all spoke privately."

As a fan of the show I love how each character really brings some dynamic to the team. What was it like working with Sasha Alexander and Angie Harmon?

“Oh my gosh, so great! Sasha and Angie are both very giving professional actors and from day one made me feel like a part of the family, brought me in, we were joking from the beginning with each other. Sasha and I would always go into dance breaks because she’s such a great dancer when the cameras weren’t rolling and sometimes when the camera was rolling. Angie’s always such great company and is always trying to crack me up. She’s always got these funny buttons at the end of the scene. It will be a very dramatic scene and she’ll have some ridiculous improv button and it will always crack me up. Sometimes when we have scenes together it’s real hard to look each other in the eye. [laughs] It’s great. I love working with Jordan and Bruce and Lorraine, it’s all been so incredible.

That sounds amazing. I heard you’re pretty into improv yourself?

“Yeah I wouldn’t say that you should come see me do improv [laughs], but I love the improv comedy world, the sketch world, I have a lot of friends in it. In fact I’m in show called Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over. It’s born out of the sketch world, J. Michael Feldman is one of my close friends from college, he created it, wrote it, and stars in it. I’m one of the puppeteer actors in it. We got invited by the Edinburgh Fringe Festival to come take a slot there so we’re going to be leaving to go to Scotland all of August and perform 25 nights in a row. It’s really exciting.

We’ve been performing that show for a while. The LA Times gave it such loving reviews and we’ve had a good response to it. It’s nice to take it to an international audience and also for us to go see other international artists that we normally wouldn’t get to see.”

How do you prep for that? I know television and film are very different compared to theater.

“Yeah it’s a lot of hours of rehearsal [laughs]. It’s totally different. What’s lovely about doing television and film is that you have something captured forever. I love that, I love the process of also bonding with your actors, seeing that episode to episode develop, the characters develop because you don’t necessarily have all the information in the first script that comes out about your character. Especially with Susie, I was always finding out something new and different and weird about her, whether she’s a nudist or art major or a medical student. She went through a lot.

For theater the whole experience is super fleeting. You dig into the story a month ahead of time, a couple of weeks ahead of time rehearsing, 8-hour rehearsals, 4-hour rehearsals with your cast. You really bond that way and discover what the story is. It’s a different process and a lot of work but gratifying in a totally different way. I love being able to share that live experience in the theater with that audience that can never be recaptured, it really gives it community.”

We took to Twitter to see what some of your fans had to ask I have a few really great ones I’m excited to hear your input on. With Rizzoli and Isles being such a female-forward show, how do you feel the reputation of women in television has changed throughout the years? I know you’ve been on General Hospital, and a few other shows.

“That’s a great question and I don’t want to get overly political, but I do think that we’re moving in the right direction, for sure with women’s images and better characters for women and women that are more mature out there, so that’s great. With How to Get Away With Murder and things like having older women be, both smart, professional, tough and sexual, understanding their sexuality, that’s important

too. You know what I mean? That you can be all those things, that women are more than just one dimension.

There's this new movement in Hollywood to get more female directors attached to projects. I think things are moving in the right way. There's more awareness of these things. Even the pay-gap between women and men, that's getting more acknowledgement and more big movie stars or people that have a platform to speak about it are speaking about it. Patricia Arquette, Charlize Theron and a few others, Sandra Bullock, all these people are coming out and speaking about it. I think, slowly but surely, we're making progress. I'm happy to see there are more positive images that I can look to and say, I have a role model there in Kate Winslet or Charlize Theron. It's not just the girlfriend or the wife.

And it's exciting and that's what's cool about working on Rizzoli. That it's female heavy and the men are really awesome on the show. I don't want to discount them and the work that they do, but it's really great to see this lovely friendship between two women that are not competing over love or anything like that. And that's the same with comedies, like Broad City, comedies, like Bridesmaids, you're seeing women as more complex, interesting characters.

Amy Schumer is another one that's really putting it out there for everyone, for women, and that's really exciting."

Another fan asked what the hardest part about leaving the show was?

"I think the hardest part of leaving the show is not being with that family all the time. Really having that camaraderie with the crew and it's nice having a job, but beyond that it's having a job with people you really, really love collaborating with. That's going to be the hardest thing for me, personally. For me as an actor, Susie was such a compelling character, kind of like a wild ride. Finding out different things, and they kept expanding her character and her skills. I'll miss that. I'll miss being surprised by it. This really lovable character that I enjoyed getting to portray. I'll miss that for sure.

And the fans. I don't think the fans will go away, but they've been so supportive of me and Susie."

Absolutely. I know one of my favorite episodes was when, I believe it was when Maura was absent and your character had to step in and take over everything. What were some of your favorite scenes or episodes to film from the show?

"That one was definitely a really exciting one for me because it was more emotionally charged for Susie. It is hard for me to pick a favorite. I love the recent ones we've done in Season 6, which you've seen, like the one with the art dealer, that was fun to do. The diorama one was really fun. The one where Susie made all those dioramas? That was fun. Oh and the most recent one was having to deal with a live animal!

The AD called me and she's like, "Hey, I have a really random question for you." I'm like, "Oh, yeah? What's up? I'm ready for it." She's like, "How do you feel about holding a live lobster on camera?" [laughs] She's like, "I know it sounds weird" I'm like, "What could this possibly," cause I hadn't gotten the script yet, but, "What could this possibly have to do with anything?" I said, "Yeah, I'm totally down. I'm always excited to do whatever you guys tell me to do." I was kind of nervous before I met the lobster, because they're like 25 pounds! I was afraid I was going to hurt the lobster, but they were really cool and actually they are kind of cute. Never thought I'd feel attached to a crustacean, but there you go."

Final question, besides the comedy tour you have coming up, do you have any upcoming projects that you can share with your fans?

“Well besides going to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, which I’m going to be gone for the month of August performing there, I also have my theater company, AmmunitionTheater.com, we are announcing our first season of our full-length plays. We’re going to be playwrights. There will be a world premiere here on the west coast in October.

Also, I’m recurring on NBC’s Night Shift, so we’ll see what happens this season with that.”

You can catch new episodes of Rizzoli & Isles every Tuesday on TNT at 9/8pm central and if you’re in the UK, you can purchase tickets to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival here to see Fairy Tale Theatre: 18 & Over. Be sure to follow Tina on Twitter @TinaHuang for updates!

<http://talknerdywithus.com/2015/07/21/exclusive-interview-with-tina-huang/>

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