

Scott's Spotlight

Anthony Ruivivar and Yvonne Jung Interview

by Scott Juba

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In life, it seems as if some things are simply meant to be. Case in point: Anthony Ruivivar and Yvonne Jung. Despite the fact that the Hawaii natives both attended Boston University together, they rarely interacted during their college years. Now they are happily married with a two-year-old son and play love interests on the popular NBC drama, "Third Watch".

"Even though we went to a small conservatory program that had about 16 people in it, I think we probably said two words to each other the entire time we were there," Yvonne says with a carefree laugh. "That was a good thing though, because otherwise we would not be married. We were at two different places in our lives during college."

Jung, however, couldn't be happier that she and her husband now act together on a daily basis. "We get to go to work together and be adults," she says. "A lot of times when people have kids, they go to work and get to be adults, but it's not with their spouse. You don't get a lot of time to be an adult with your spouse when you have a child at home. That's when people start forming closer relationships with the people that they work with. Anthony and I get to be professionals together. We get to be creative and feed each other's creativity."

Both Anthony and Yvonne are pleased with the direction the writers of "Third Watch" are taking with their characters. Anthony is especially supportive of the writers' ability to craft an "ethnically three-dimensional" role for him. "We live in a world where ethnicities are mixing and creating really amazing things," he comments. "The thing that I appreciate about Carlos is that he's allowed to be multi-cultured."

Besides appearing on television, Anthony and Yvonne are also well versed in theatre acting. They are both members of the Imua! Theater Company and the Circle East Theater Company. In addition, Anthony co-wrote the stage play, "Safe", in which he, Yvonne, and fellow "Third Watch" actors, Jason Wiles and Coby Bell, played the leading roles. "It's cool that my first play got purchased and published," Anthony remarks. "If you write for television you have to answer to a whole series of people, and that's not necessarily the best thing for an artistic endeavor. Right out of the gate, I didn't want to have to compromise any of my ideas. I thought a play was basically the best way to express my ideas."

Whether acting in television or in theatre, Anthony and Yvonne always deliver complex, textured performances that highlight their strong acting abilities. Off screen they have warm, friendly personalities that exude confident charisma. Just as they were meant to become man and wife, it seems equally as certain that they were destined to become acting standouts.