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get away with it

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RETURNS IN
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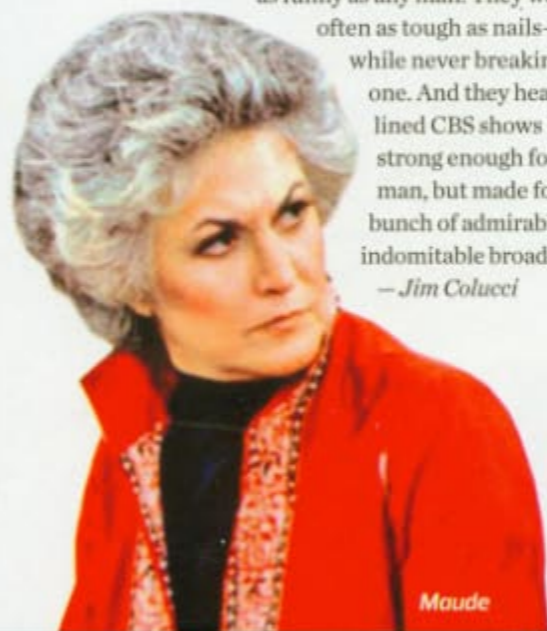


Fierce Females

THEY MANAGE WHIPLASH WITH THEIR WORDS WHILE STILL KEEPING THEIR HAIR PERFECTLY COIFFED. DON'T GET ON THESE GAL'S BAD SIDES

★ From the moment television's first signals went out over the airwaves, fun, fascinating females have filled its frames. In the 1950s, they were ditzy housewives; in the '60s, strangely subservient witches and genies. But as the women's liberation movement expanded women's career possibilities, so grew the roles for their counterparts on TV. The small screen has since brought us the girl soldier, the lady cop, the female journalist and the businesswoman. Role models for millions, these gals brought home the bacon, fried it up in a pan and never let us forget they could be as exacting, as driven, as dramatic or as funny as any man. They were often as tough as nails—all while never breaking one. And they headlined CBS shows strong enough for a man, but made for a bunch of admirable, indomitable broads.

— Jim Colucci



Maude

Character/ Show	Years	Dominion	Temperament
 <p>MAJ. MARGARET HOULIHAN M*A*S*H</p>	1972-83	The 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, somewhere in Korea	Officious
 <p>MAUDE FINDLAY Maude</p>	1972-78	The social circles of Tuckahoe, N.Y.	Crusading
 <p>MARGARET PYNCHON Lou Grant</p>	1977-82	The offices of <i>The Los Angeles Tribune</i>	Patrician
<p>CAPT. DOREEN LEWIS Private Benjamin</p>	1981-83	Fort Bradley, outside Biloxi, Miss.	Explosive
 <p>ANGELA CHANNING Falcon Crest</p>	1981-90	Titular winery in California's (fictional) Tuscany Valley	Domineering
 <p>CHRISTINE CAGNEY & MARY BETH LACEY Cagney & Lacey</p>	1982-88	New York City's 14th police precinct	Unattached; maternal
<p>JULIA SUGARBAKER Designing Women</p>	1986-93	Sugarbaker's Design Firm in Atlanta	Fiery
<p>MURPHY BROWN Murphy Brown</p>	1988-98	The airwaves of Washington-based TV newsmagazine FYI	Ambitious
 <p>EVELYN HARPER Two and a Half Men</p>	2003-present	The Malibu, Calif., real estate scene	Toxic



Cagney & Lacey



Murphy Brown



Two and a Half Men

Trademark Style	Secret Weapon(s)	True Love	Bête Noire	And the Theme Song Says ...
Army fatigues with medical mask	Hot lips	Maj. Frank Burns	The surgical room shtick of Hawkeye Pierce, Trapper John McIntyre and B.J. Hunnicut	Maybe "Suicide Is Painless," but a unit hath no fury like a head nurse scorned.
Maxi vests 	Feminist beliefs—espoused in a deep, masculine voice	Fourth husband, Walter Findlay	Anyone talking smack about her hero, FDR	Maude is in good company with Lady Godiva, Joan of Arc and Betsy Ross. She's "uncompromisin', enterprisin' and anything but tranquilizin'." Right on, Maude!
Half-glass spectacles, complete with chain	Imposing, leather-bound office guarded by Barney the Yorkshire terrier	"The Trib."	"The Trib." Because from a shady fiancé to some corporate wheeler-dealers, everyone just wants this widow for her newspaper.	The jazzy saxophone piece is wordless, so there's no embarrassing lyric paying tribute to Mrs. Pyncheon. And this autocratic super-WASP would have it no other way.
Olive drab uniform with bright red lipstick	A not-so-secret riding crop	Discipline, and a long, warm bath	 Spoiled socialite-turned-Army brat Judy Benjamin	Capt. Lewis is stuck in a losing battle. After all, "Soldiers do what Sergeant say / But soon they'll do things Judy's way."
Curly brunet Little Orphan Annie wig and high-necked blouses	Chao-Li, her devoted manservant, chauffeur and martial arts master	Money and power	The name "Apollonia." Angela never could get her grandson Lance's girlfriend's name right. Maybe that's why the relationship didn't work out.	The pomp of trumpets announces that this matriarch means serious business. After all, she's survived gunshots, fires, earthquakes—and even a marriage to Ronald Reagan.
Cownecks, guns and badges	The ladies' room, where two girl cops can strategize in peace	Fighting crime	Single Cagney's addictions to alcohol and shopping; married Lacey's thick-as-buttah Queens accent 	Two harmonizing saxes begin and end the instrumental theme, underscoring the importance of this new female buddy duo.
Big 1980s belts to go with her big '80s eyeglasses	Well-scripted, politically correct tirades, complete with musical underscoring	Reese Watson	Those lacking in class, compassion, wisdom and/or common sense (i.e., everyone) 	"Like an old sweet song," Georgia, and one of its most eloquent and distinguished daughters, will always be on our minds.
Big 1980s perm and shoulder pads in her man-tailored blazers	Creativity, resourcefulness and a taste for revenge	Son Avery	 The gatehouse guards at the White House—regardless of its current occupants	Murphy is just a Motown-adoring "Natural Woman," complete with "Love Child," who just wants a little "R-E-S-P-E-C-T."
Power suits with short skirts	Guilt and manipulation	Her husband du jour	Grown men who blame Mommy for their emotional problems. (Boo hoo.)	Let's see ... "Men men men men manly men"—nope, Evelyn's not even mentioned. No wonder she's bitter!