

Young, Jade Interview with Chef Esther Choi

May 15th - Jade Young - I interviewed my mom's friend Esther who is a chef.

Jade Young: What's your name?

Esther: Esther Choi

Jade: How are you spending most of your time during quarantine? And how are you keeping yourself entertained?

Esther: For the month of the lockdown I shut down my restaurant and was in quarantine. Most days I would write and cook now - that I have reopened my restaurant, I am working all the time.

Jade: Do you have any plans over the summer (like to go places) if corona "lets up?"

Esther: For right now, I am focusing on rebuilding my businesses so no time for vacation.

Jade: Do you still go outside as often as you can?

Esther: I go out everyday as an essential worker.

Jade: Have you been learning new things or hobbies?

Esther: I have. I learned how to shoot and edit videos or my cooking, also have taken up painting

Jade: Have you been binge watching anything good?

Esther: I try not to watch tv, only sometimes on my nights off.

Jade: How is your restaurant going? Are you still selling your food?

Esther: We reopened two weeks ago and it has been challenging.

Jade: Where do you usually spend your time? (kitchen, room, etc)

Esther: 100% kitchen

Jade: Is there more pressure managing a restaurant in your case? Why or why not?

Esther: It is very difficult because the business model has completely changed. Also many people do not want to work. Also a matter of getting business in as normal.. it feels like building from the bottom up again.

Jade: Are you still in contact with people virtually? Have you done anything to celebrate virtually?

Esther: Yes, I talk and connect with people everyday. Especially through social media. I have not had any celebrations yet but next week my best friend's son turns one and we are having a virtual party. Should be interesting.

Jade: Do you think this whole experience in quarantine has changed you for the better or worse so far and why or why not? (as a cook, as a person)

Esther: I definitely think it has changed me. I can't really say for the better or worse as I don't know how I would have been if there was no quarantine and if life was 'normal'. But I definitely feel that I appreciate life and the little things a lot more now.

Jade: Do you plan to travel at all this summer? (like a road trip for example)

Esther: Not at the moment - all I can think about is rebuilding my business.

From,
Jade (7th grade)