

Next-Generation Korean-American Star Actor Hugh Cha

From musicals to film ... "Acting is my language."

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"I am striving to be an actor who is not ashamed of himself," says the determined actor Hugh Cha (Korean name Cha Hyung-Jin). "Instead of being an 'Asian actor,' I want to be remembered as an actor with incredible acting skill."

Hugh Cha is an actor with an unusual background. He came to America during his middle school year, and lived an ordinary student life in Colorado and Utah before discovering his career path as an actor. He majored in Music Dance Theater with a minor in Business at Brigham Young University (BYU), and his hobby was dancing as a Bboy. It wasn't until he moved to NYC's Broadway that his life changed.

"When I first started, I was on my own because no one thought I was going to make a career out of performing," Cha says. "Eventually I thought to myself, 'I can't think of anything else but this.' Because I am most comfortable being on stage. Acting feels like my own 'language.'"

It all started on the stage. With his exceptional Bboying dance skills from years of performing professionally while at BYU, and his refined singing abilities developed in Boston Conservatory's master's program, Cha went on to perform in *The King and I* and *Anything Goes*.

Following his stage appearances, Cha started working as a voice over artist and appearing in commercials. From there, he's gotten opportunities to be in several films and major American television series. While his roles have been minor, Cha has appeared frequently on popular cable channels such as HBO and FX Networks.

"I'm continuously training to become a better actor," he says. "I've been seeing a voice, speech, and accent reduction coach for the last 4 years. I also train in martial arts like Taekwondo and Kendo daily. I still take singing lessons and started learning Chinese as well."

The increasing demand for diversity in Hollywood has given Cha more opportunities in the industry.

"From my own audition experiences, I've noticed there are more opportunities for Asian roles. Even more so for Korean roles," he explains. "I believe if I don't give myself a limit and keep preparing, I will one day get to play an awesome role – one that I've always dreamed of."

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