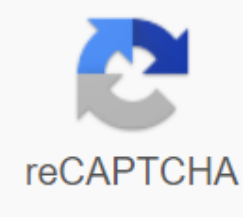




I'm not robot



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Umbrella academy comics ben hargreaves

It doesn't take long to realize that the same warmth and softness that is endearing the late Ben Hargreeves to Umbrella Academy fans comes directly from star Justin H. Min. A creative soul who worked as a photojournalist before turning to acting, he once loved a Tumblr of intimate, philosophical musings and speaks with careful attention to every word. It's this sensitivity that he brings to Ben. I think I'm a decent beautiful, warm person, so they kind of brought that up in the character, Min explains with a sheepish laugh. We didn't have any source material to really base Ben on, so I think [showrunner] Steve Blackman and the writers, in a way, wrote for me. A native of Cerritos, California, Min played bit parts in several short films and TV shows before landing his breakout role as the ghostly Ben, turning what was just a deceased background character in the comics Umbrella Academy into a beloved and healthy foil to the rest of the dysfunctional Hargreeves siblings. In Season 1, Ben functioned as a kind of moral compass for mind-communing Klaus (Robert Sheehan), encouraging his sobriety, pushing him to connect more with their siblings, and attempting (but often not) to curb Klaus' wildest and most destructive ideas. Fed up with being an invisible sidekick, Ben began exploring his own agency and romantic feelings in Season 2. A potential Season 3 will push Min even further to the fore, albeit in a very different light. Although Ben eventually moved on to the afterlife in the Season 2 finale, his siblings returned to 2019 to find a new version of him: this one a snarky, jaded member of the new Sparrow Academy that is still very much alive. What that means for the Hargreeves remains to be seen, but for now Min has his sights set on a different kind of CPR. He is set to star in the upcoming A24 sci-fi film Na Yang as a faulty robot bought by a man to teach his adopted Asian daughter about her culture. Like his work with the undead Ben, After Yang allows Min to explore the nuances of what it means to live, but not. Below, Min discusses how the character pushes back against Asian stereotypes in sci-fi, Ben's Umbrella Academy twist, and theories about Umbrella Academy Season 3. CHRISTOS KALOHORIDIS/NETFLIX First off, I have some burning Umbrella Academy questions for you. Based on Sir Hargreeves' pretty scathing comments to the children at the funeral in Season 2, many people assume it was Ben's siblings who accidentally caused his death. Is that idea holding water for you? Yes, absolutely. I think that's one of the main reasons the family broke up after Ben's death, because not only were they dealing with their crazy father, but they were also all dealing with the guilt of having some kind of responsibility for their brother's death. If you have more of that guilt and responsibility, you can still, but I think to some extent, all family members feel that. The fact that you see Ben's picture on the mantelpiece has led people to assume that Ben is now number one. Do you see him turn into Emo Ben based on number one? I'd be curious to see if the number system still applies to this new Sparrow Academy. He seems like a leader of the group. He's the one talking to Hargreeves directly. He's at the front of the middle. A big question that people still have is why Ben kept aging like a ghost. Do you have a theory? For me, it's always been a projection of Klaus' consciousness. He sees Ben the same way he would think he would grow up next to him. It is through the perspective of Klaus' eyes that we see Ben age. It's still not that common to see Asian Americans in superhero comics. What did it mean for you to find out that Ben got this extended role for future seasons? As an actor, first of all, just to have a job is a dream. [But] on a deeper level than that, as an Asian American [and] especially someone who has been in this industry for seven years now, it's hard to find these roles. It's hard to find characters who don't feel stereotyped, who don't feel one-dimensional. I've gotten thousands of messages [from] people I see on the street, people at Comic Con, from Asian Americans, just coming up to me and telling me they never saw a superhero who looked like them on screen. And that's so powerful and moving. I know firsthand what it was like to grow up and not necessarily see myself in the mainstream media, so for someone to say I represent that for them is an honor. In After Yang you play a robot that is a source of cultural Chinese knowledge. How does your own ethnicity as a Korean American reform how the story will be told? That's something that we discussed quite a lot [with Na Yang director Kogonada] going into production. On the one hand, does any Japanese American actor have to play a Japanese American [character] every time? Does every Korean American actor have to play a Korean American character every time? Is there any wiggle room? I think so. But specifically for this character, it actually made sense that I happened to have a majority Korean heritage[.]. We had an interesting discussion about how, if these kinds of robots actually existed in a futuristic society, what would they look like? And because of the popularity of Korean pop, of Korean dramas, of what we now call the Korean wave, we thought it would be really interesting if Yang was a Chinese robot that actually has a lot of Korean characteristics. Because hypothetically in that society, white people, Westerners, would create this robot. From the point of view of a white person who makes this robot, they wouldn't know what makes Chinese functions Chinese functions, makes, Korean features Korean features. The sci-fi genre has a rather fraught relationship with Asian people. It's interesting to hear how After Yang pushes against that and makes room for you to play an Asian robot that is rated as Asian. From the very beginning [Kogonada] knew what it meant to tell a nuanced story that featured Asian American people, as he did so beautifully with Columbus, his first film. What resonates with me with this film is that it touches on all those things: what does it mean to be Asian? What is the Asian American identity? Is this robot actually Chinese, and what does that mean? Is this robot Chinese because it is programmed to know a lot of Chinese facts and history? And these are things I struggle with every day as a Korean American walking in this West American society. What does it mean for me to be Korean American? Is it because I love my mother's kimchi stew, or because I know my mother tongue? These are all themes and questions that are explored in the film. And yet that's not what the movie is ultimately about. It explores those things, but it does it in such a subtle, nuanced way that at the end of the day, the heart of this movie is about this family struggling with this robot that slowly breaks down, which has become an integral part of this family. Since you are very aware of how Asian people are represented on screen and you know there are few roles for them, what kind of projects are you looking forward to doing now? How often do you look for roles where race is an essential aspect of the character, versus just being incidental to the character? I don't have a clear answer for you, and it's something I think about every day. I'm sure my reaction will change, and I think that's the beauty of being an actor and an artist. There are a number of projects and stories that resonate with you at some point in your life, and then others that resonate with you at another stage. Right now I tend to be attracted to stories [where] it's not necessarily about Asianness, but of course my Asianness and my Korean America will be permeated in [the part]. I am also attracted to working with fellow Asian American directors and writers. There's something really powerful about taking ownership of our own stories, and if I had even the smallest platform to raise an Asian American director by agreeing to work with him or her, I'd love that. This interview has been lightly edited and condensed. Sign up for the BuzzFeed Quizzes Newsletter - Binge on the latest quizzes delivered right into your inbox with the Quizzes newsletter! Sign up The BuzzFeed Quizzes Newsletter - Binge on the latest quizzes delivered right into your inbox with the Quizzes newsletter! The Umbrella Academy Season 2 is now available on Netflix. If you like many diehard fans of the series, series, already looked at the second season at least once - if not several times. Like any fandom, fans of The Umbrella Academy love to hear about the behind-the-scenes moments the cast and crew shared during filming. Thanks to the show's creator Steve Blackman, we now know some of his favorite behind-the-scenes moments. [Spoiler Alert: If you haven't finished Season 2 of The Umbrella Academy, spoilers ahead!] Steve Blackman | CHRISTOS KALOHORIDIS/NETFLIX Steve Blackman is a big fan of seeing actors fly for the first time On August 6, Blackman hosted an Ask-Me-Anything forum on Reddit. When a fan of The Umbrella Academy asked what Blackman's favorite moments were, he delivered. One of Blackman's favorite behind-the-scenes moments was filming scenes where the cast was allowed to fly for the first time. I love when the actors have to fly on the rigs for [the] green screen for the first time, he said. It's nice to see their reactions. He also explained how showrunners achieve the illusion of flight for the show. We put them in a harness, and our stunt team yanks them 20 feet above the floor. According to Blackman, Ellen Page is a pro. She's done it a lot. As for Ritu Arya - It was [her] first experience this year, and she was nervous, Blackman said. But the moment she left the ground, she was hooked. Now they all want me to write scenes where they fly or are thrown backwards into the air. Tom Hopper's love of food cracked the cast behind the scenes Blackman especially enjoyed every scene that captured Luther Hargreeves' love of food. Tom Hopper is in bad, Blackman joked. No, really - have you seen his abs? He's a machine. As Blackman noted, Hopper is very particular about his food. To maintain his physique, Hopper consumes a protein-based diet. According to Blackman, that's no different when they're filming scenes of Luther eating food. The food must be a high source of protein. RELATED: 'The Umbrella Academy' Star Tom Hopper Always Has These Foods in His Kitchen This season, [Tom] had a scene with Jack Ruby (John Kapelos) in which he had to eat steak. Blackman recalled. For continuity, we [needed] to provide him with a fresh steak for each take. Tom sipped 23 steaks that day and took the rest home for a bite the next day. Steve Blackman enjoyed competing with the weather for 'The Umbrella Academy' Season 2 Season 2 was filmed primarily in Toronto, Canada. It's nice to deal with the ever-changing weather [there], Blackman said on Reddit. We generally go through 3 seasons during our shoot. Within the storyline of Season 2, the Hargreeves siblings experience everything from warm, summer weather to an all-out snowstorm, as created by unsuspecting unsuspecting Sometimes the weather made filming more difficult for showrunners. We are either adding or removing snow, Blackman added. Mother Nature never gives us a break. Still, they managed to capture the scenes for Season 2 as planned. In explaining his battles with the Toronto weather, Blackman teased an upcoming release of more behind-the-scenes footage. For more information on [Mother Nature never give us a break], stay tuned for a BTS piece coming out soon titled 'Snowmageddon.' Fans of The Umbrella Academy can't wait to see what Snowmageddon has in store. Store.

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