

Peel Blog  
Liu, Simu  
2.

# Actor goes from Spiderman to screen awards

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Life can be strange sometimes.

Take Mississauga-raised actor Simu Liu. He's riding high these days after landing a nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Supporting Role in a Dramatic Program or Series category at the Canadian Screen Awards for his part as Paul Xie in the television show *Blood and Water*.

Liu also stars as Jung in the CBC show *Kim's Convenience*, which is up for a slew of awards as well.

However, just a few years ago, he never would have believed such success was possible.

"It's all just so completely overwhelming (and) my mind keeps flashing back to where I was even just a couple years ago when I had to supplement my income dressing up as Spiderman for kids' birthday parties," said Liu in an email to *The News*.

"I didn't have any path laid out ahead of me to follow, no assurance that any of the struggle would pay off. I just knew that I had to keep on fighting. Since then, I've had the immense privilege of working on two separate Canadian shows centring on Asian-Canadian families, which is pretty amazing if you think about it."

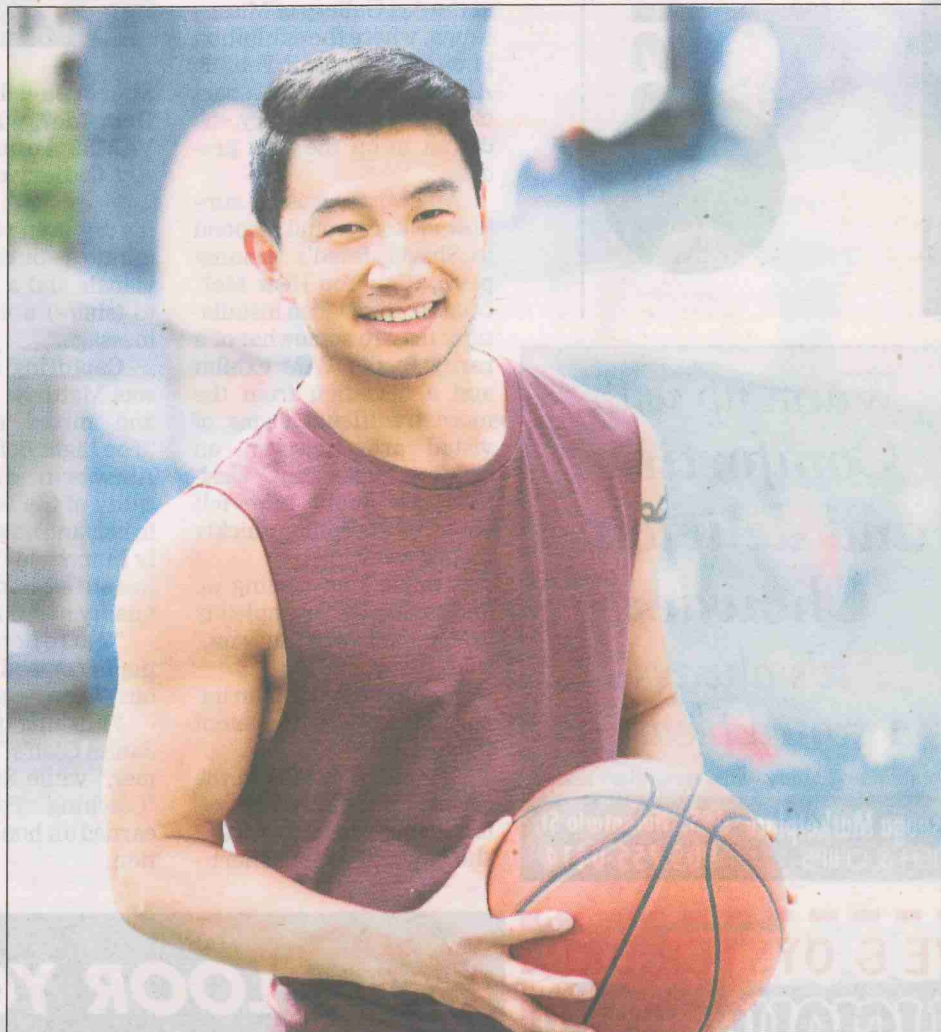
While Liu is happy with his nominations, he's especially thrilled with the success of both *Kim's Convenience* and *Blood and Water*. *Kim's Convenience* has been a hit for the CBC and it landed a number of nominations including Best Comedy Series and Best Writing in a Comedy Program or Series while the show's actors Paul Sun-Hyung Lee, Andrew Phung, Andrea Bang and Jean Yoon all were nominated for various awards for their performances.

Meanwhile, *Blood and Water* is also up for Best Dramatic Series and Best Photography in a Dramatic Program or Series.

Liu says the nominations for the two programs starring mostly Asian performers "really sends the message that we are not invisible, we have not been forgotten and that our stories deserve to be told."

Meanwhile, a number of shows with actors from Mississauga and Brampton also received award nominations.

*This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, featuring



Caitlin Cronenberg photo

**Mississauga-raised Simu Liu has been nominated for a Canadian Screen Award in the Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Supporting Role in a Dramatic Program or Series category for his role as Paul Xie in the television show *Blood & Water*. He's also up for a Fan's Choice Award.**

former Clarkson resident Shaun Majumder, is up for several including Best Variety or Sketch Comedy Program or Series and Best Performance in a Variety or Sketch Comedy Program or Series (Individual or Ensemble).

Backstage, starring Erin Mills actors McKenzie Small and Colin Petierre, is nominated for Best Children's or Youth Fiction Program or Series while Sunnyside, featuring Mississauga native Pat Thornton, is up for Best Writing in a Variety or Sketch Comedy Program or Series.

Degrassi: Next Class, in which

Streetsville's Ana Golja stars, is up for Best Children's or Youth Fiction Program or Series and Best Writing in a Children's or Youth Program or Series, among others.

Brampton performers are also in the mix with Brittany Raymond nominated for Best Performance in a Children's or Youth Program or Series for her role as Riley on *The Next Step*.

Also, Alessia Cara, whose musical career is soaring right now, is up in the Best Performance in a Variety or Sketch Comedy Program or Series for the 2016 Juno Awards.