



Rich Ting



Press Kit

# Biography

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Actor Rich Ting was born in Los Angeles, California and is a 4th generation Asian American. Growing up as an athlete, Ting played collegiate football at Yale University while earning a B.A, and then went on to achieve a dual J.D./M.B.A. degree. Soon after achieving his scholastic goals, he realized that he needed to switch careers and pursue his passion for the entertainment industry and, specifically, as an actor.

Ting got his first big break when he was cast in the TV series, *Beyond the Break*. He began appearing in guest star roles on major hit shows such as *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Supergirl*, and *Chicago P.D.* He split his time between the U.S. and Asia for several years after being cast in the lead role of "Xon Sa Ma" in the historic film, **Huyen Su Thien Do**, and on the Korean drama television series *Iris*. His determination and work ethic landed him a role in the blockbuster film **Lone Survivor** opposite Mark Wahlberg as well as on **Salt** alongside Angelina Jolie. He is also seen performing stunts as a 1st degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do in **G.I. Joe: Rise of the Cobra**, **The Green Hornet**, **Gamer**, and **Crank 2: High Voltage**.

In 2018, Ting was cast as the iconic character 'Bolo' in the Cinemax drama series *Warrior*, a television series inspired by the writings and work of Bruce Lee. He can also be seen in Paramount Network's *Waco* alongside Michael Shannon and Taylor Kitsch.

In 2019, Ting was unforgettable on Amazon's Season 4 of the critically-acclaimed *The Man in the High Castle* as 'Captain Iijima', a driven, ambitious young detective in the Japanese Kempeitai.

In 2020, Ting played 'Li Chang', a Chinese-American, boyish, athletic, smart, and successful devoted dad to a baby girl from China on the CBS series *Tommy*.

In 2021, Ting was given the lead role of 'Detective Daniel Kwan' in **Unborn**, an original feature film for the streaming service TUBI. Ting also played 'Bill Chang', one of the leads in the feature film, *Pan American*.

Additionally, Ting had his animation debut as the lead character of 'Habu Joji' in Netflix's recently acquired Japanese animation feature, **The Summit of the Gods**. Some of his other voice over credits include other Netflix projects, including **All of Us are Dead** where he plays the lead; the Chinese fantasy thriller, **Dynasty Warriors** where he has the starring role as Liu Bei; and the character of 'Mu-Jin Choi' in the Korean thriller drama series, *My Name*.

In 2022, Ting has been cast for recurring roles on CBS's *Magnum PI* as 'Taro 'Tower' Tamaguchi', Netflix's *Partner Track* as 'Carter Min', and Apple's *Hello Tomorrow* as 'Hikaru Makoto'. He will also be seen on FX's *The Old Man* opposite Jeff Bridges on the streaming service Hulu. Ting also shows his versatility in the spaghetti Western feature film, **No Name and Dynamite Davenport**, where he plays the lead character of 'Dynamite Davenport'.

Ting currently lives in Los Angeles, CA. In addition to working in film and television, he's still active in the martial arts world, loves to travel to exotic places, and is a true foodie at heart.



**OUTLET:** Hidden Remote

**DATE:** February 4, 2022

**IMPRESSIONS:** 123,779

## Rich Ting on why everyone should see *The Summit of the Gods*

Voting begins today, Feb. 4, for the 49th Annie Awards and, next to other anime such as Mamoru Hosoda's *Belle* and STUDIO 4°C's *Fortune Favors Lady Nikuko*, Netflix's *The Summit of the Gods* has been nominated for Best Indie Feature.

The film, based on a manga series of the same name by Jiro Taniguchi and on the 1998 novel by Baku Yumemakura, follows Japanese photojournalist Fukamachi Makoto as he tracks down the famed and elusive mountain climber, Habu Joji, in an effort to retrieve the camera of George Mallory—real-life Everest explorer who lost his life while attempting to summit in 1924—in order to discover who truly was the first to reach the mountain's peak.

During his investigation that could define his career, Fukamachi learns more about Habu's story, why he disappeared years ago, and why he's now attempting to summit Everest without oxygen. Soon, the two men find themselves tackling the world's most dangerous peaks together.

We got the chance to talk with Hollywood actor Rich Ting—who voices for Habu in director Patrick Imbert's film—about the personal connection that drew him to the role, his long-time fascination with mountain climbing stories, Asian representation in entertainment and why he says that everyone needs to see *The Summit of the Gods*.

### Interview with *The Summit of the Gods*' Rich Ting



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**Hidden Remote: How did you get involved with the project? What drew you to *The Summit of the Gods*?**

**Rich Ting:** Because of COVID, I've gotten heavily involved with voiceover. I've done a lot throughout my career but then most recently, through the COVID, I really started getting a ton of requests. And out of those requests came the submission for *The Summit of the Gods*. I wasn't familiar with the story, but they requested me to read for Habu [Joji] and I completely just fell in love with the role.

But it wasn't until I actually got into the studio and started watching the film that it really just blew my mind. It was so impactful for me, not only as an actor, but as a person.

**Hidden Remote: What was it about these characters and the story of *The Summit of the Gods* that was so moving to you?**

**Ting:** Well, first off, there's a lot of ignorance out there where people think, because it's animation, that it's going to be like a cartoon. But the story is so well written and the fact that it's been done in different languages [French, Japanese and English], and it still has that impact, just shows you how high quality the writing is.

But also, as an actor, when I'm playing someone, I always try to find that connection. Even in voice-over, I need it to be real and be able to bring that emotion to my voice. And I connected with Habu because I felt like I was living part of his story.

Not only seeing the evolution of Habu from a young kid with ambition, with goals and dreams, but specifically when that kid [Buntaro] comes up to Habu and he's like, 'I want to go with you,' that really hit home for me. I've had those characters in my own life. The Bruce Lee characters. But he wasn't someone that I could go up to and actually talk with about my goals as an Asian American actor.

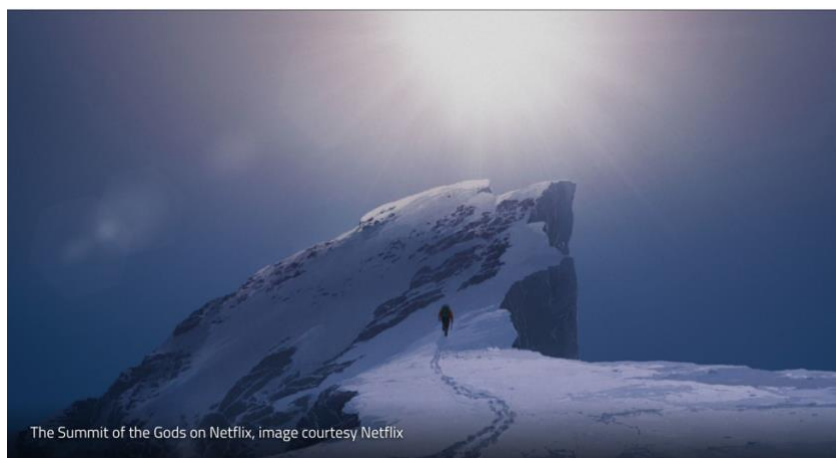




But, as I've gotten into my career and into the business, kids will come up to me today or dads will come up to me and say, 'Oh my god, my son loves you.' And I'm kind of in denial about it myself because it's so humbling. When I was a kid, there was no one that I looked up to who I could physically meet and greet with. And it's mind-blowing being someone these kids can talk to and ask questions with, like what Habu is for Buntaro.

**Hidden Remote:** And what about the second half of Habu's life? He's gone from being a hungry, full-speed-ahead climber to sort of falling off the grid and being so tunnel-visioned about his goal to summit Everest. How did you make a personal connection there for the role?

**Ting:** In my career these days, it's not so much of a rush for me anymore as it is about being more strategic and focused and wise in the projects I choose to do. And I use that calmness to ground me for the second part of Habu's life, keeping your head down and just keep making those steps to get to that summit.



And, tying in that moment at the end of the [*The Summit of the Gods*] with the beautiful speech, if I were to die tomorrow, I would have done more than I would ever have dreamed of doing in this crazy Hollywood business. And this is something, truthfully, I want to be doing until I die. When I'm a 90-year-old Asian guy, I hope I get to play roles as 90-year-old Asian guys.

*Rich Ting on The Summit of the Gods mountain climbing research and more*

**Hidden Remote:** For live-action roles, it's pretty common for actors to do extensive research on the professions of the characters they're playing, be it the realm of business tycoons or professional athletes. But as a voice actor in an animated film, how much research into mountain climbing did you have to do?



**Ting:** Honestly, I treat every project as if I'm going on camera. So, of course, I did a ton of research. But, fortunately for me, I've actually been a fan for a while of mountain climbing excursion documentaries and movies, dating back to *Cliffhanger*.

And, as a kid, one of my school trips was to Yosemite and I was able to hike up Half Dome. I don't know how they allowed us to do that, because we were in sixth or seventh grade and not roped in. I remember the initial rush and being so scared going up that mountain, and that's a carved path. So I can't even imagine what it's like for these guys who hike these summits with no paths. I just have a ton of respect.



I think I've been drawn to these kinds of movies and documentaries because of the determination and the perseverance and focus it takes. On top of that, movies like this show these guys' personal stories outside of just what they've achieved in the news. It's not about the overnight success. It's about the longevity and doing it because you love it. It's what wakes you up every morning.

**Hidden Remote:** The scenes in *The Summit of the Gods* could be characters on their own as well. The animation of these mountain peaks throughout Asia is so beautiful and captivating. How much did the visuals inform your acting and appreciation for the story, especially as an Asian American actor?

**Ting:** When I'm on a set, I love to let the environment of that affect me. And in the studio I was working in for this, I was blessed with a huge screen. So, I'm seeing this huge projection in front of me of these landscapes and these illustrations and it created an environment for me as if I was really there. If you just look at a still shot of the film, you might think, 'Oh, this looks okay.' But when you watch it move, it's truly mind-blowing.





I loved the accuracy and the detail of these mountains, as well as the accuracy of the illustrations of the characters. I'm Chinese and Japanese and my wife is Korean, so I'm very culturally sensitive and I was really excited to see the attention and accuracy put into making these characters truly look Japanese and not fall into stereotyped animation. Each culture—whether you're Chinese, Japanese, Korean—there's culture in the way they walk, in the way they sit and have coffee, and every culture is different.



Even the izakaya bars they were in looked and felt exactly like what I've experienced going to Japan myself.

*The Summit of the Gods could get nominated for Best Indie Feature for the Annie's*

**Hidden Remote: Were there scenes that were more tangible for you than others?**

**Ting:** That scene where Buntaro is hanging off the cliff after he slips and falls. I remember watching that whole sequence, from the minute they start their climb, all the way through. And when the kid cuts the rope, that was so emotional for me. It's crazy when an animation gives you the same stimulus as if you were seeing a real film or a real documentary.

These 2D illustrations impacted me on such a high level because of their realness. When I scream when that kid cuts the rope, that's real. I couldn't believe how much the visuals were affecting me. It was a very unique and special experience.

**Hidden Remote:** As Netflix's slate of animated content, and [anime content](#), grows with wild epic series, it's interesting to see an independent, adult animation film like *The Summit of the Gods* not only make its way through the crowd but also get nominated for Best Indie Feature for the Annies. Why do you think this is a story people need to see?



**Ting:** I think it continues to break down these stereotypes and these profilings. When you hear “Japanese Anime,” you think crazy hair, glitter, high action. And when you come across [*The Summit of the Gods*], it expands that spectrum and kills that ignorance and gets you out of that tunnel vision mindset and opens your eyes.



The Summit of the Gods on Netflix, image courtesy Netflix

The challenge is getting people to stop scrolling past these animated films on Netflix and actually give them a watch. A lot of my friends even, who knew I did this anime, they were like, “Oh, I guess I’ll let my kids watch it,” and I’ve had to explain that the kids might enjoy it, but adults will enjoy it more. It goes deep.

It’s not just a story about mountain climbing. It’s a story about taking each step at a time, not being overwhelmed with the greater goal, and all the obstacles and all the distractions and negative energy going on in the current, sticking to your roots, to your passion. It touches on mental health, commitment, perseverance and not listening to the excess noise. This story hits on all those crazy levels as an animation written so many years ago, but so current to 2022. It’s such a life learning experience. And it’s so motivating and timeless.

**Have you seen *The Summit of the Gods* on Netflix? Will you be voting for the film this week for Annie Awards nominations? Let us know in the comments below!**

Digital Link: <https://bit.ly/34JFzm9>



## Entertainment: Actor Rich Ting stops by HNN ahead of first appearance on 'Magnum, PI'



Actor Rich Ting stopped by our studio recently! The LA native, who is set to make his first appearance on "Magnum, P.I." on Friday, spoke with Billy V about his love for Hawaii and his ties to the islands.

Digital Link: <https://bit.ly/3LriZj8>



**OUTLET:** VARIETY  
**DATE:** November 23, 2021  
**IMPRESSIONS:** 6,040,592

## Netflix Sets English-Language Voice Cast for Animated Film ‘The Summit of the Gods’



Priscilla Grant/Everett Collection | Sthanlee B. Mirador/Sipa USA

Rich Ting (“Warrior”), Darren Barnet (“Never Have I Ever”) and Keiko Agena (“Better Call Saul”) have been tapped to lead the voice cast for the English-language dub of Netflix’s “The Summit of the Gods,” from César award-winning filmmaker Patrick Imbert.

Based on the acclaimed manga by Jirô Taniguchi and the novel by Baku Yumemakura, “The Summit of the Gods” poses the question, “Were George Mallory and his companion Andrew Irvine the first men to scale Everest on June 8th, 1924? Only the little Vestpocket Kodak camera they took with them might reveal the truth.”

“The Summit of the Gods” picks up in Kathmandu, 70 years after Mallory and Irvine’s journey, when a young Japanese reporter named Fukamachi Makoto (Barnet) recognizes the camera in the hands of the mysterious Habu Joji (Ting), an outcast climber believed missing for years. As the plot progresses, Fukamachi enters a world of obsessive mountaineers on his journey to the summit of the gods.

Acting alongside Ting, Barnet and Agena are Ray Yamamoto as Buntaro, Gedde Watanabe (“Sixteen Candles”) as a magazine editor, Clyde Kusatsu (“Paradise Road”) as Sherpa, Chris Naoki Lee (“The Terror”) as Inoue and Paul Nakauchi as Ito.



"The Summit of the Gods" was directed by Imbert (who earned the César award for "The Big Bad Fox and Other Tales") and debuted as an official selection at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival in the filmmaker's native French. The animated film's writers are credited as Jean-Charles Ostorero (collaboration), Imbert (adaptation, dialogue, screenplay) and Magali Pouzol (adaptation, dialogue, screenplay), with Ostorero also on board as a producer, alongside Didier Brunner ("The Triplets of Belleville"), Damien Brunner ("Wolfwalkers"), Stephan Roelants ("The Breadwinner"). Amine Bouhafa composed the music.

"The Summit of the Gods" will be released in theaters on Nov. 24 and begins streaming globally on the platform on Nov. 30, with the exception of France, Belgium, Indonesia, Japan, Korea and China.

The animated film is the latest among Netflix's growing slate of original animated features, which boasts the Academy Award-nominated "Klaus," Kris Pearn's "The Willoughbys," Academy Award-nominated "Over the Moon" from Glen Keane and "The Mitchells vs. the Machines."

The streamer's upcoming projects include next month's comedy "Back to the Outback, Richard Linklater's "Apollo 10 ½: A Space Age Childhood," Guillermo del Toro's "Pinocchio"; Lupita Nyong'o's "Sulwe" and an "Aardman" sequel to "Chicken Run."

Digital Link: <https://bit.ly/3ozlx4z>

## Meet Rich Ting | Actor



We had the good fortune of connecting with Rich Ting and we've shared our conversation below.

### **Hi Rich, what do you attribute your success to?**

Throughout my early life, I was always searching for something that would “wake me up in the morning and get me out of bed.” In college, I heard all of my classmates discuss their future plans and career goals but I still had not pinpointed exactly what I wanted to do. I always knew regardless of what I chose as a future career that I would need to absolutely love it, be it, and live it everyday of my life. From being a history major at Yale while completing all of my pre-med requirements to earning a joint J.D./M.B.A. dual degree in graduate school, I still did not know what I wanted to do with my life. My parents taught me to always keep working at something and never stop. If I didn't know what to do, then I should just keep doing what I was currently working on. And that's exactly what happened. An offer at a law firm in downtown Los Angeles brought me back to L.A. where I coincidentally received my first job offer to work on a Warner Brothers' feature film in the summer of 2007. My dream of being an actor in Hollywood had began and since, I continue to be motivated by the unknown factor of what will happen tomorrow, next week, next month, next year. When I was 4-years old, I began to study martial arts because of my motivation and inspiration from Bruce Lee. So many decades later, I am now continuing my childhood idol's idea, dream, and vision he created prior to his unfortunate death. Never would I have thought that I would be starring in a project (“Warrior”) created by the

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greatest martial arts legend of all time while continuing the pursuit of my dream of being a Hollywood actor. Bruce Lee was quoted saying, "Running water never grows stale, so you got to just keep on flowing." Similar to what my parents preached and taught me when I was a child, I continue to stay motivated, committed to my craft, and always remember "to just keep on flowing."





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**Let's talk shop? Tell us more about your career, what can you share with our community?**

I am an actor in Hollywood most known for my roles as 'Bolo' in the Bruce Lee inspired hit action drama series, "Warrior," on HBO Max as well as 'Captain Iijima' in the Amazon series, "The Man in the High Castle." I have starred opposite Mark Wahlberg in "Lone Survivor" where I played Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class, 'James Suh', and alongside Angelina Jolie in "Salt." I have also worked on television shows, such as "Waco", "Supergirl", "Chicago P.D.", and "NCIS: Los Angeles."

In 2021, I will be in FX's new TV series (streaming on Hulu), "The Old Man" starring Jeff Bridges, who plays the character of 'David Chase', a former intelligence officer living off the radar who finds himself targeted for assassination and is forced back into the world he left behind. It is a thriller television series based on the novel of the same name by Thomas Perry and was developed by Jonathan E. Steinberg and Robert Levine. I play the character of "Lam," a CIA hired mercenary who pursues Chase with strict orders to detain and bring him in alive.



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Also, I recently wrapped a Western feature film, "No Name and Dynamite Davenport," where I play the lead character of 'Dynamite Davenport' and will be debuting in the video game world in 2K's newest adventure/fantasy game later this year.

I am a 4th generation Chinese-Japanese American who was born in Torrance, CA, and grew up in both Southern and Northern California. At the age of 4-years old, I began my training and studying of Tae Kwon Do, earning my 1st degree black belt at the age of 13-years-old. Raised in an athletic family, I earned Varsity letters in all four sports in high school: football, basketball, baseball, and track. While my parents stressed the importance of balancing both academics and athletics, my childhood dream was to earn an athletic scholarship and play Division 1 college football. That dream became a reality when I was recruited by various Pac 10 (currently the NCAA Pac 12 Conference) and Ivy League colleges, ultimately committing to play football at Yale University. As the son of a sports orthopaedic surgeon, I fulfilled all of my pre-medical requirements but my true academic interest lay in the humanities. I graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in History/American Studies continuing my academic studies in graduate school, where I earned both J.D. & M.B.A. degrees.

My passion for acting was a direct result from watching Bruce Lee as a child. I remember watching all of Bruce Lee's films at the early age of 3-years old. I had already taught myself how to use my parents' beta tape machine and could perform all the basic tasks of playing, rewinding, fast-forwarding, stopping and pausing different scenes. As a result, I was not only inspired to began studying martial arts, but I was also able to teach myself how to use all of the weapons Bruce Lee used in his films, including the nunchucks. As result of films like, "Enter the Dragon," "Game of Death," "Fist of Fury," "Chinese Connection," and "Return of the Dragon," I began training in martial arts at the age of 4-years-old. I believe that my love and passion for both martial arts and acting is very similar to the "chicken and the egg" scenario. My interest in martial arts began the first time I saw Bruce Lee on television but I also wanted to become an actor because of seeing him perform as well.

Having been born and raised in Los Angeles, I definitely believe that the surrounding "Hollywood" environment also influenced me to want to pursue a career in acting. I remember seeing huge billboards for films, TV shows, concerts, brand names as well as attending school with children of famous celebrities. As a child, I often asked myself (1) why there was not a famous "Asian American" leading man and (2) why were all Asian actors (like Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan) martial artists or characters that could fight and fly through the air. Legends like Bruce Lee definitely inspired and motivated me to pursue my study of martial arts but I was always curious why there was never an Asian American "dad," "boyfriend," "policeman," "firefighter," "lawyer," or "hero." All of my childhood friends had favorite actors that they could relate to ethnically and racially, however, I could never find that one Asian American leading man that represented my "hero." As a result, the dream and pursuit of becoming not only an Asian American actor but a leading man in Hollywood began. It has been an absolute dream come true for me to be working in Hollywood as an actor, and I continue to live the dream everyday I go to set and perform my craft in front of the cameras.

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It was extremely difficult for me to break into the acting scene, especially since I had begun my official acting career in my late-20s. Having graduated from Yale University as well as law school and M.B.A. school, I was only able to make the transition to the entertainment industry as an actor later in my life. I was fortunate to have been introduced to the industry via stunts due to my family and close friends who are stunt coordinators in the business. My career as an actor began in Los Angeles, cast for "Lenny" in the TV series, "Beyond the Break" (2007-2009) and "Heatblast" in the Warner Brothers' (Cartoon Network) feature film, "Ben 10: Race Against Time" (2007). That same year, I was also cast in the feature film, "Deadly Impact" and in 2009, I debuted on the big screen alongside Angelina Jolie in the film entitled, "Salt."

However, I decided to accept a role in a feature film in Vietnam commemorating 1,000 years of the capital city of Hanoi in 2009 that led me to live and work in Vietnam for almost 2 years. As a result of my work and popularity in South East Asia, I was able to get the attention of producers and directors back in Hollywood that allowed me the opportunity to be cast in the feature film, "Make Your Move," alongside "Dancing With the Stars" regular, Derrick Hough and Korean pop-star singer, "BoA" directed by Duane Adler (who also directed "Save the Last Dance" and "Step Up.") In 2014, I had the opportunity to travel to Asia again and star in 3 feature films and 1 TV series ("Iris") in South Korea. Again, these opportunities opened doors for me back in Hollywood, and since I have fortunately remained busy working on productions back in the U.S. I have dedicated my life to pursuing my acting career and have always been open to sacrificing my lifestyle and comfort in order to have success in Hollywood.

Throughout my career as an actor, "acting" or the process of becoming someone else has definitely contributed to my personal growth. Stemming from my training in my actors studio in Los Angeles, CA, I always try to bring as much truth, honesty, and overall, realness to all the characters that I play. However, in order to be completely successful in portraying and embodying each and every distinct character, there is a tremendous amount of self discovery and personal dissection that must occur within myself first. If I am not completely honest and transparent to myself, then it is impossible to bring any form of truthfulness to the character(s) I am portraying. As a result, I have done (and will continue to do) a tremendous amount of self-study, reflection, and analysis of myself and all of my experiences and personal adversities that I have encountered thus far in my life. The process of becoming someone else has allowed me the opportunity to connect to a deeper and more vulnerable layer within myself that has ultimately freed me of any "walls" or other protective shields that I may have developed throughout my childhood and early adult years. I am truly thankful and grateful for the numerous opportunities that acting has given me to learn more about myself as well as mature and grow not only as an actor but as a human being.

I have always disagreed with the saying, "Practice makes perfect." Instead, my personal version of this cliché is that "Perfect practice makes perfect." That being said, I have always been extremely disciplined in my study and training of my acting craft. I have remained cognizant of this principle in order to maximize every learning opportunity, whether it be in the actors studio or on a live set filming a project; as a result, I continue to grow, expand, and mature as an actor. Ironically, I also believe that perfection is inevitable as an actor due to the simple fact that an actor is constantly learning and discovering more and more about his or her craft as an artist.

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Perfection to me is nearly a motivating notion that I continue to persevere and strive for as an artist. I am grateful for all of my life opportunities as well as adversities and hardships that I have encountered throughout my life so far as they have all contributed to my ever expanding arch as an actor in the entertainment industry. With the conclusion of every project, I like to think that I am graduating to another platform with more expectations and newer challenges. I am humbled for all the variety of characters and genres that I have been cast for thus far in my career and am especially excited for 2021, as I will be playing a variety of characters that I have yet to portray on the big screen.

As I reflect on my acting career thus far in the industry, I can only attribute it to the principle my parents preached to me as a child: always keep working no matter what you do. Throughout my life as a student, athlete, and now actor, I have continued to live by this principle always working and persevering through both the positives and negatives in any given situation. It has been an incredible journey since I began acting, and I am grateful for all the opportunities as well as friendships and relationships this industry has afforded me. I continue to stay committed everyday to working and pursuing my craft no matter what lies ahead because “running water never grows stale, so you just got to keep on flowing.” – Bruce Lee.

**Let's say your best friend was visiting the area and you wanted to show them the best time ever. Where would you take them? Give us a little itinerary – say it was a week long trip, where would you eat, drink, visit, hang out, etc.**

Prince Street Pizza – Best pizza in Los Angeles! Bao – Best dim sum in Beverly Hills!

Urth Cafe – For their matcha blended drinks.

Salt & Straw Ice Cream – Love getting ice cream from the Larchmont location.

In-N-Out Burger – Staple!

Chosun Kalbi – Best Korean BBQ in Koreatown!

South Grill Beverly Hills – Favorite spot for drinks and delicious foods!

Wally's Beverly Hills – Great food! Great drinks! Great service!



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## **Who else deserves some credit and recognition?**

First, I have to give a tremendous amount of credit to my parents. They have always supported me throughout all of my academics, athletics, and now, artistic careers. My mother especially has believed in my artistic talents from when I was a child and has always encouraged me to

pursue the arts and my acting dreams. From enrolling me into martial arts at the age of 4 years-old to driving me to every football, basketball, baseball, and track practice as well as attending all of my games and graduations, my parents have always been there on the sidelines rooting for me and pushing me to strive for excellence in all aspects of life.

Second, I cannot thank my wife, Angela, enough for all of her support and love throughout the past few years. Having met her in South Korea while filming a feature film, it was an absolute dream come true to meet the love of my life in one of my favorite cities in the world, Seoul, South Korea. Being an actor in Hollywood is one of the most inconsistent and challenging working and living situations anyone could possibly imagine. As actors, we are constantly being critiqued, criticized, and rejected. The highs are extremely high and the lows are devastatingly low. The ultimate challenge is to find and create that balance in your life which enables you to stay focused and committed to your craft, never succumbing to the criticism and overall negativity of the industry. Angela has provided that balance and overall mental and emotional stability on and off of set for me to remain focused and true to myself as well as my goal of achieving all of my aspirations and dreams as an actor in Hollywood.

Next, I would like to thank my acting coach and mentor, Jocelyn Jones. It was an absolute privilege and honor to be welcomed into her actor's studio in Los Angeles, CA early in my acting career. Her knowledge, experience, and overall love for the craft has taught me that you are never too big to continue learning and becoming the best version of your character. I have been truly grateful and humbled for all of the knowledge she has given me throughout the years allowing me to continuously absorb her wisdom and for challenging me to always become a better person and artist.

Last, I have to give a big shoutout to my agent, Daniel Ortega. My guy has been with me for the past several years and has always been a loyal supporter of me. From our initial meeting to our current projects, he has always believed in my artistic craft and abilities and never stops working towards our next job. I am grateful to say that we have not only grown as an agent-artist duo but I consider him one of my true friends in this ever evolving and crazy entertainment industry.

**Website:** [www.richtingworld.com](http://www.richtingworld.com)

**Instagram:** Rich Ting World

**Twitter:** Rich Ting World

**Facebook:** Rich Ting World

**Other:** [www.imdb.me/richting](http://www.imdb.me/richting) [www.demoreel.com/richting](http://www.demoreel.com/richting)

### **Image Credits**

HBO Amazon Kovacevic Bosch Charlie Nunn Issac Alvarez Sergio Garcia Tauriq Dolley Landi Groenewald

Digital Link: <https://bit.ly/34xJ4ft>

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## Alumni Voice: Ting '02 a Performer on the Gridiron and in Hollywood



### Ting details his journey from New Haven to leading man

**NEW HAVEN, Conn.** – **Rich Ting '02** has been lucky enough to achieve two childhood dreams. First, when he stepped into the Yale Bowl as a member of the Bulldogs' football team and now as a leading man in Hollywood. Ting shares his journey from aspirations to realization and how Yale University set him up to achieve his goals.

#### ***Dreams to Reality***

*Throughout my early life, I was always searching for something that would "wake me up in the morning and get me out of bed." I had two childhood dreams: one, play collegiate football and two, become an actor in Hollywood. To be honest, I never thought the second one would ever come true.*

*I remember being four years old and watching Bruce Lee on beta tapes in our family's living room. I would watch, study, and rewind the tapes over and over again to memorize Bruce's movements and weaponry skills. Growing up, I always questioned why there was an absence of Asian American leading men in film and on television. I often asked myself why there was not a famous "Asian American" leading man and why were all Asian actors (like Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan) martial artists or characters that could fight and fly through the air. Legends like*





*Bruce Lee definitely inspired and motivated me to pursue the study of martial arts but I was always curious why there was never an Asian American "dad," "boyfriend," "policeman," "firefighter," "lawyer," or "hero." All of my childhood friends had favorite actors that they could relate to ethnically and racially, however, I could never find that one Asian American leading man that represented my "hero."*

*Bruce Lee was obviously Asian but he spoke with an accent, and I could not truly identify with him beyond the martial arts aspect of his character. Having such a tremendous impact on individuals like myself as well as millions around the world, I always dreamed of having an opportunity to pursue acting and hopefully impact other Asian American kids that (like myself) were looking for relatable characters on the big screen and small screen in which they could identify and relate to.*

*In college, I heard all of my classmates discussing their future plans and career goals but I still had not pinpointed exactly what I wanted to do. I always knew regardless of what I chose as a future career that I would need to absolutely love it, be it, and live it everyday of my life. From being a history major at Yale while completing all of my pre-med requirements to earning a joint J.D./M.B.A. dual degree in graduate school, I still did not know what I wanted to do with my life.*

*However, having played football at Yale, I continued to maintain my physical weight training and conditioning workout regimens as well as my martial arts well after graduating from college. Throughout my undergraduate and graduate school careers, I trained (as a hobby) at different acting studios as a way of pursuing my childhood dream of being a Hollywood actor.*

*After graduating from both law school and business school, I was coincidentally approached and asked by stunt coordinators in Hollywood if I would be willing to do stunts in some upcoming feature films. With absolutely zero knowledge or experience in the film industry, I decided to take this challenge as an opportunity to learn and educate myself on set etiquette, film and television culture, as well as just "jumping right into the fire." I promised myself (and also notified my close friends and family that were in the stunt business) that I would work in stunts until I was able to completely cross over to the acting side of the industry. As a result, I was fortunate enough to work on various Hollywood feature films, such as "Stand Up Guys" (2013), "The Green Hornet" (2011), "Salt" (2010), "Gamer" (2009), "G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra" (2009), "Deadly Impact" (2009), "Crank 2: High Voltage" (2009), and "Mask of the Ninja" (2008), gaining and obtaining an immense amount of knowledge and insight about the film making industry.*

*My career as an actor began in Los Angeles, cast for 'Lenny' in the TV series, "Beyond the Break" (2007-2009) and 'Heatblast' in the Warner Brothers' (Cartoon Network) feature film, "Ben 10: Race Against Time" (2007). That same year, I was also cast in the feature film, "Deadly Impact" and in 2009, I debuted on the big screen alongside Angelina Jolie in the film entitled, "Salt." To the present, I am most known for my roles as 'Bolo' in the Bruce Lee inspired hit action drama series, "Warrior," on HBO Max as well as 'Captain Iijima' in the Amazon series, "The Man in the High Castle." I have starred opposite Mark Wahlberg in the Hollywood*



*blockbuster, "Lone Survivor," where I played Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class, 'James Suh', and alongside Jolie in "Salt." I have also worked on television shows, such as "Waco," "Supergirl," "Chicago P.D.," and "NCIS: Los Angeles."*

*As I continue to work and grow as an artist in this industry, I have focused on becoming not only an Asian American actor but a leading man in Hollywood. My goal is to represent and embody that specific Asian American leading man/hero, in which I was always searching for as a child, to other Asian American kids as well as other minorities throughout the globe. If I can affect, influence, motivate, or inspire one Asian American or minority kid in the world by my performance on the big screen then that represents the ultimate win for me as an actor in Hollywood.*

*As the entertainment industry continues to be more inclusive and diverse in its content, more and more viewers of all ages will have a larger pool of ethnic and cultural representation to not only identify with but to also learn from in the form of entertainment education. I never found or had that Hollywood actor that I could relate to or identify with as a child, and as a result, it has been my dream and personal goal to continue to influence, educate, and hopefully be that "hero" to someone else someday. It has been an absolute dream come true for me to be working in Hollywood as an actor, and I continue to live the dream every day I go to set and perform my craft in front of the cameras.*

### ***From New Haven to a New Hollywood***

*As I reflect on my acting career thus far in the industry, Yale has definitely provided me with the necessary tools and skills to succeed not only in the entertainment world but also in life. Since I was a child, my parents have always preached to me to be accountable and to keep working no matter what I do.*

*Having been born and raised on the West Coast and never playing football in weather below 65 degrees, Yale immediately provided me with an array of both climatic and cultural adversities. During the initial weeks of my freshman year, I felt lost, misplaced, and at a times, extremely homesick. Everyone else seemed to know exactly what classes and what majors they wanted to focus on while I had issues simply finding how to get to the seminar rooms in the lower levels of Sterling Memorial Library. To say the least, I was very uncomfortable. But as the saying goes, "our ability to grow is directly proportional to an ability to entertain the uncomfortable." I relied on what my parents had always stressed to me about being accountable for myself and to never stop working. I decided to stay focused on my main goals of excelling on the football field as well as in the classroom and to never take for granted the fact that I was a freshman at the No. 1 university in the world.*

*Throughout my time at Yale as a student-athlete, and now actor, I have continued to live by these principles of always working and persevering through both the positives and negatives in any given situation. Whether it was going to class, prepping for midterms and finals, attending team workouts and meetings, watching film, or just eating healthy, all of these factors*



*contributed and affected my performance on and off the field as well as in the classroom. The overall focus, determination, and work ethic of the Yale student body as well as the faculty and staff were extremely contagious and always motivated me to strive for excellence in all areas. During my four years at Yale, I can honestly say that it was the most influential period of my life where I not only matured mentally and emotionally as a young adult but also experienced an immense amount of spiritual growth and self-discovery. I am grateful for the time I spent in New Haven and for all the relationships I made and continue to have with my fellow Yalies. I learned as much through my peers outside the classroom as I did from my amazing professors during my entire undergraduate career.*



### ***Forged in Football***

*People often ask me how all of my academic and athletic careers prepared me for the entertainment industry. My answer is always the same. No matter what you do in life, you have to have the self-discipline to wake up and be on time for work. You have to prepare and be committed to your responsibilities whether that means fulfilling mandatory workouts in the weight room, watching film on this week's opponent, turning in your academic assignments on time, or having your lines memorized for a scene. You have to be accountable to yourself and to the people around you, i.e. your teammates.*

*Being a student athlete at Yale required an immense amount of time management skills. Those skills of multitasking and balancing a very demanding academic as well as athletic schedule not only disciplined me while at Yale but also unbeknownst to me, prepared me to handle a variety of life/career situations and decisions that would be presented to me in the future.*

*As a Yale football player, we were held to a high standard of physical training and development. Whether it was working out in the varsity weight room for mandatory workouts or just getting in a late night training session on the student side of Payne Whitney Gym, I am truly grateful to the coaches and staff for helping me establish such a strong foundation and training etiquette that I would continue to use to the present day.*



*Typically, throughout my acting career thus far, I have always trained and worked out in the gym to maintain a certain physical size and physique. As with any project that involves fighting or physical training requirements, I believe that my background in sports and athletics as well as martial arts represents an additional tool and skill set that I am able to bring to the character. Focusing primarily on the character and depth of the character, I believe that my athletic background serves as a bonus.*

*For "Warrior," I remember our executive producer, Justin Lin (known for directing/producing several of the "Fast & Furious" films as well as "Star Trek"), asked me if I could put on 10 pounds of extra muscle without losing flexibility or fluidity of motion. It was the first time in my acting career that a producer asked me to gain weight and gave me the freedom to work out and train in the gym. It was music to my ears.*

*Since playing Pop Warner football at eight years old to winning an Ivy League Championship at Yale in 2001, I have always enjoyed working out and being in the weight room. It is my "iron paradise." Applying all the workout and physical training knowledge that I had absorbed in college; I began to shift and adjust my weight training as well as physical conditioning in the gym immediately. I began to feel the effects of working out with heavier weights almost instantaneously as it definitely affected my mental state as well. I felt stronger, healthier, and just overall more balanced in my life. I felt like I was training back in the day during my Yale football days. The shift in my physicality definitely impacted and added to my character analysis and portrayal of 'Bolo'.*

*It has been an incredible journey since I began acting, and I am grateful for all the opportunities as well as friendships and relationships this industry has afforded me. I attribute much of my success thus far to all the teachings and lessons I experienced while being a student athlete at Yale. I continue to stay committed every day to working and pursuing my craft no matter what lies ahead.*

### **Words of Wisdom for Future Bulldogs**

*As I mentioned earlier, I was always searching for something that would "wake me up in the morning and get me out of bed." After graduating from Yale with a B.A. in humanities as well as fulfilling all of my pre-med requirements, I still did not know exactly what I wanted to pursue or dedicate my life to. I had always been intrigued by the legal system in our country as well as potentially working in the corporate sector and as a result, decided to pursue the joint J.D./M.B.A. program where I would hopefully discover my future career. My mentality was simple. I would be spending the next four years in a dual degree program that would lead me to a job in the corporate legal world or if all else failed, I would be graduating with an immense of amount of knowledge that would be beneficial to me in whatever venture(s) I may decide to do. Ironically, it was an offer at a law firm in downtown Los Angeles that brought me back to L.A. where I coincidentally received my first job offer to work on a Warner Brothers' feature film in the summer of 2007. My dream of being an actor in Hollywood had begun.*



*I mention all of this to stress the simple notion that it is okay to not know or to be uncertain about what you want to pursue in your life or career. Uncertainty about one's future career should not be frowned upon or discouraged but rather embraced. Throughout all of my years of discovery and personal growth, I always stayed faithful to the principles of being accountable and to keep working no matter what I do. I always believed that as long as I kept on persevering towards a common goal other opportunities and "doors" would present themselves to me. Not knowing exactly what I wanted to pursue as a career, I had the confidence and faith to believe that as long as I stayed motivated, proactive, and determined, that career "door" would eventually present itself for me to walk through. And that's exactly what happened when an offer at a Los Angeles law firm led me to my first job on a Warner Brothers' film, drastically altering my career path. My childhood dream of being an actor in Hollywood had begun solely based on my achievements and accomplishments of graduating from law school and business school and accepting a job at a Los Angeles law firm.*

*I believe that everything in my past, including my academic studies, athletics, extracurricular activities as well as acting in the entertainment industry have all impacted and influenced my personal growth and maturity. Whether it was growing up as a fourth-generation Asian American kid in California or discussing politics in small seminar groups at Yale or rehearsing for mock trials in law school have all allowed me the opportunity to experience and study all personalities from all perspectives.*

*Acting has provided me with yet another channel to which I can learn, absorb, and apply to better my personal growth, maturity, and overall craft. I believe that everything I have done up until the present time has equipped and given me the various tools to not only succeed in life but to also apply to each distinct character I play. I have always considered myself a "student" no matter what industry or profession I pursue. I have continued to live my life with an open mind absorbing as much information and perspectives that I can throughout all the diverse experiences that I have encountered and experienced in the entertainment industry.*

*I encourage everyone pursuing the same path as me or sharing similar desires and career goals to always keep grinding and working no matter how difficult the process is or becomes. The worst decision anyone can choose to make is to literally stop and negate all of the positive momentum that he or she has generated so far in his or her individual career, life, and overall universe. Had I quit studying martial arts as young child or playing Pop Warner football in elementary school, I am confident to say that I would have never achieved my first childhood dream of playing Division I college football at Yale University nor been presented with the opportunities (decades later) that would allow me to fulfill my second childhood dream of working as actor in Hollywood.*

*I believe that everyone who is successful in life at whatever they do has had some sort of luck on their side. However, I believe that one can only be lucky if they work and continue to work as hard as they possibly can at whatever they are pursuing in life. Luck does not come without action or perseverance. As a result, one can potentially place themselves in a situation with a higher percentage or chance of being, doing, and having what they want and desire by*





*continuing to focus and work as hard as they possibly can. Bruce Lee was quoted saying, "Running water never grows stale, so you got to just keep on flowing." Similar to what my parents preached and taught me when I was a child, I continue to stay motivated, committed to my craft, and "flowing."*

*Whether I was studying at Yale or pursuing my graduate degrees in law and business or trying to get representation in the industry, I always kept working and never let my creative "engine" stop. Every conclusion or rejection that I have faced has always led to another door being opened. If I would have stopped persevering or quit in any of my ventures, I would have never ended up playing collegiate football at Yale, graduating from law and business school, signing with an agency, joining my actors studio, or even booking my next job. This is all obviously easier said than done, but I stress to everyone that during those dark, lonely times when things appear to not be working out or progressing as you would have expected, you must always continue to stay active and proactive about fine tuning your craft, whatever that specialty or interest may be.*

*The training never stops, so one should always be cognizant that they are not only training or grinding now, for example, as a young actor until they "make it," but that the training and commitment is a lifestyle. You must love it, be it, and live it every day of your life. To me, this is what being an actor in Hollywood is all about.*

### **Continuing to Flow**

*In 2021, I will be featured in FX's new TV series (streaming on Hulu), "The Old Man," starring Jeff Bridges, who plays the character of 'David Chase,' a former intelligence officer living off the radar who finds himself targeted for assassination and is forced back into the world he left behind. It is a thriller television series based on the novel of the same name by Thomas Perry and was developed by Jonathan E. Steinberg and Robert Levine. I play the character of 'Lam,' a CIA hired mercenary who pursues Chase with strict orders to detain and bring him in alive. I also recently wrapped a Western feature film entitled, "No Name and Dynamite Davenport," where I play the lead character of 'Dynamite Davenport' and will be debuting in the video game world in 2K's newest adventure and fantasy game later this year.*

*I am available on all social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, & Tik Tok) at "Rich Ting World." Thank you very much for all of your love and support. Boola! Boola!*

Digital Link: <https://bit.ly/3sz2ys6>



## Actor Rich Ting's Past Makes Him A Perfect Cast For Show 'Warrior'

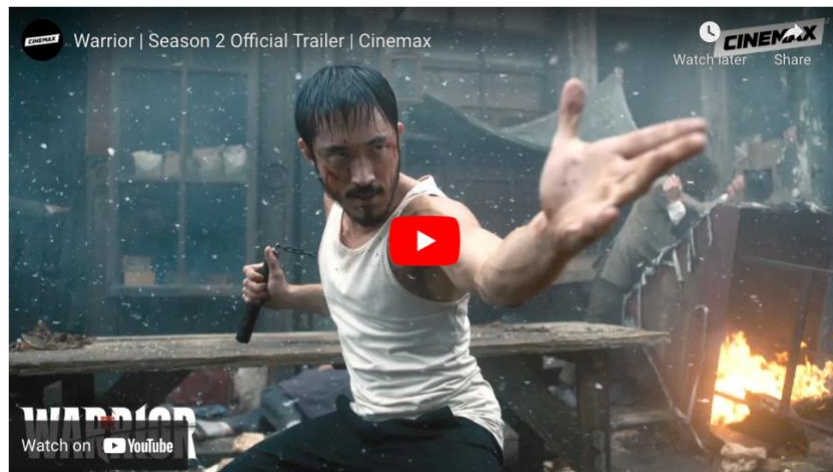
Actor Rich Ting, who is a fourth-generation American that shares a Japanese-Chinese ancestry, plays the role of his childhood hero Bolo Yeung in the 2019 Cinemax adaptation of Bruce Lee's *Warrior*. He shares what inspired him to take up his persona and how everything he did after his toddler years prepared him for this role.



Actor Rich Ting plays the role of his childhood hero Bolo Yeung in the 2019 Cinemax television adaptation of Bruce Lee's *Warrior*.

Ting has since gone on-record multiple times to talk about what inspired him to take up his persona and how everything he did after his toddler years prepared him for this role.

# HollywoodMask



Rich Ting is a Chinese Mobster, Bolo, on 'Warrior'

In the Cinemax show, initially written by the legendary Bruce Lee, Rich Ting adopts the persona of a Chinese mobster from 19<sup>th</sup> century Chinatown.

If you didn't know already, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Chinese immigrants were finding their way to the US in waves, the Chinatown in San Francisco was home to a lot of gang violence.



# HollywoodMask

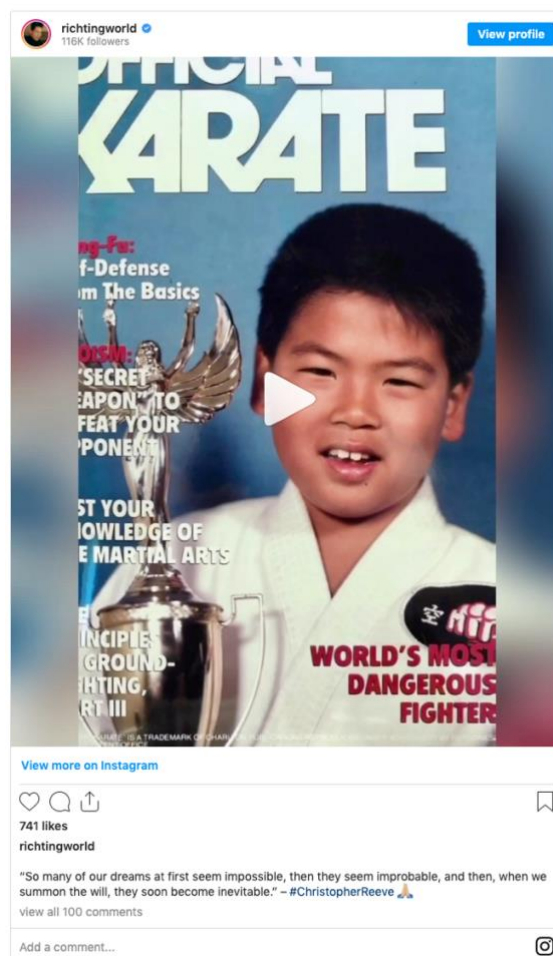
And now the show's screenplay is set in a similar time frame, where, unlike today, bloody turf wars and sound of gunfire in Chinatown were as common as seeing the moon in the sky. Amidst that constant turmoil, Ting's character, Bolo Yeung, is a central figure in the plot.

## Ting Rich has Always Been a 'Bolo'

Interestingly, Ting considers himself lucky to be a part of Bruce Lee's vision. Even more so because the character he plays onscreen, Bolo, reflects his early days in some way.

The actor drew a lot of inspiration from the martial arts legend Bruce Lee since he was a toddler. This impression of his idol was so strong that it moved Ting to take up martial arts training in taekwondo at the age of four. It was around the same time that he was first introduced to the Bolo Yeung – a martial artist and film actor – through Bruce Lee's film *Return of the Dragon*.

Coincidentally, Ting was often affectionately and sometimes teasingly called Bolo since he was bigger than many kids his age, one of the key features of the Bolo.

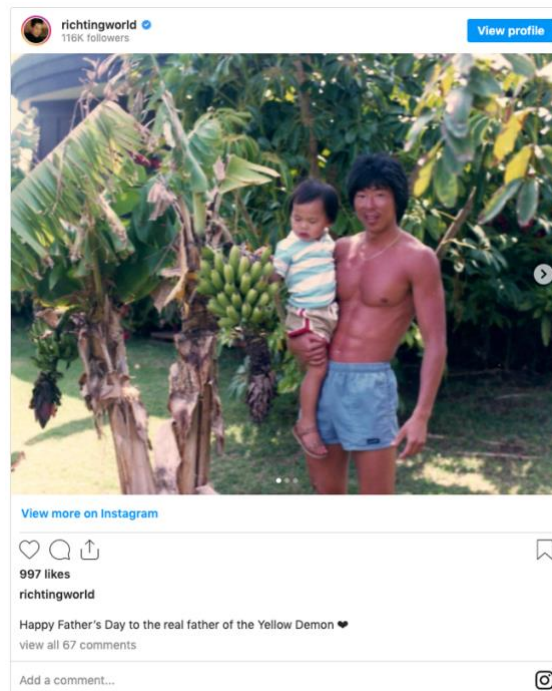


# HollywoodMask

The name-calling extended even when he studied at Yale University. Being a multi-sport athlete, he had taken up football. And, his time on the field reminded his fellow athletes of the real Bolo's persona from the 1988 hit *Bloodsport*. After all, he was the only Asian athlete competing in his division and usually the biggest Asian most footballers had seen.

He reminisced the memory in an exclusive with MEAWW in 2019.

*"Being the only Asian football player, I think, in the country at the division one level when I was playing between 1998 – 2002 and also the biggest...naturally, people started calling me Chong Li [Bolo Yeung from Bloodsport] because I was not only the only Asian football player a lot of my teammates had ever played with but I was the biggest Asian person they had seen, muscle-wise and athletic-wise."*



Not only the co-incident that he was called "Bolo" from a very young age, but Ting's up-bringing in San Francisco also prepared him for the role of the *Warrior*. He lives just streets away from the Chinatown, and it gave him a peek into what the gang scene could have been like two centuries ago.

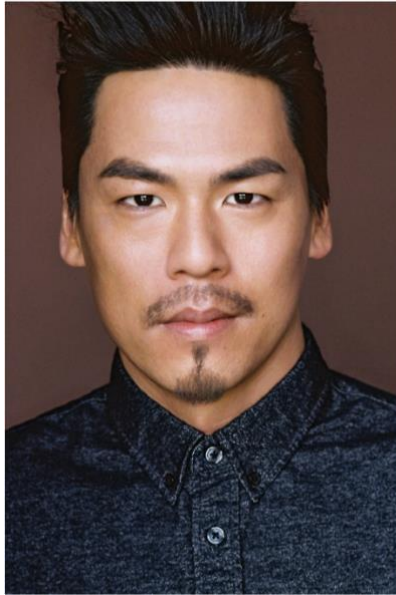
So, in a nutshell, Ting's entire life seems to have been preparing him to play a pivotal role in fulfilling his hero, Bruce Lee's vision.

Digital Link: <https://bit.ly/3BdXZYd>

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