

Arts & Entertainment

Justin Hires: The "Rush Hour" Interview

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

Justin Hires is a very talented actor, comedian, storyteller, dancer, video jockey and writer who will next be seen playing Detective Carter in the CBS-TV action-comedy series "Rush Hour," based on the buddy films co-starring Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan. The versatile entertainer has been an ensemble cast member on the sketch comedy series "Key & Peele," and he's also appeared in the box-office hit 21 Jump Street alongside Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum.



Justin Hires

Kam Williams: Hi Justin, thanks for the interview.

Justin Hires: Thanks for having me, Kam.

KW: I told my readers I'd be interviewing you, so I'll be mixing their questions in with mine.

JH: Sounds exciting...

KW: Congratulations on landing the lead in "Rush Hour." Were you a fan of the film franchise?

JH: Absolutely! I grew up watching and studying those films. I've always been a huge fan of martial arts and comedy, so "Rush Hour" was the perfect combination for me.

KW: The trailer looks a lot like the first movie. How will the show be similar and how will it be different?

JH: The pilot episode is a reboot of the original "Rush Hour." So, there are some similarities there. However, all the episodes after that, 13 episodes in total, tell completely new and exciting stories that are not connected with the "Rush Hour" films, at all.

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Justin was born in St. Petersburg, Florida where he was raised by a couple of very supportive parents. Even as a young child, he exhibited a knack for making others laugh.

While attending Clark Atlanta University, Justin was cast in two feature films: Stomp the Yard and The Gospel. He was subsequently hired by MTV as a VJ on their college network, mtvU.

Justin moved to Hollywood after receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Media- Radio, TV, and Film. In L.A., he started doing stand-up in comedy clubs, and began landing a variety of television and film roles, while accumulating over 13 million views of his personal sketches online.

Here, the rising young star talks about "Rush Hour" which is set to premiere on CBS at 10p.m. ET/PT Thursday.

FILM REVIEW: 'The Wake of Vanport' Revisits 1948 Flood That Wiped Out a City

Heartfelt documentary lets survivors of the Northwest disaster tell their stories

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

Vanport, Ore., was established in 1942 on lowlands located between Portland and the Columbia River. At its height, the hastily-constructed public housing project had about 40,000 inhabitants, most of whom were hired by the military to work in shipyards in nearby Portland and Vancouver.

disaster, as well as the wistful remembrances of a number of survivors. Belva Jean Griffin, who was 21 at the time, recounts how her parents had received unreliable assurances that the dams would hold. Consequently, she lost everything she owned except an album of family photos.

Regina Flowers, reminisces about how there was no racial strife among the kids in Vanport when she was growing up, although there was some

“Regina Flowers reminisces about how there was no racial strife among the kids in Vanport”

among the adults. Paula Hartman recalls that only whites received advance notice

After the war ended, it proved to be an attractive destination for African-Americans families who appreciated that the town was integrated and that it offered a higher quality of life than what they'd experienced in places like Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. A big negative, however, was the series of sluices slicing through the city serving as an ever-present reminder of the precarious nature of its existence

about the impending deluge in a handbill that read:

"Remember: Dikes are safe at present. You will be warned, if necessary. You will have time to leave. Don't get excited."

Lily Raxter recollects watching a Black lady with a couple of huge suitcases being swept away by the all-consuming current. And Marge White talks about immediately falling in love with Vanport upon arriving from Tallulah, Louisiana in the fall of '44. Together, this touching collection of truly heartfelt remembrances paint a poignant portrait of a short-lived, idyllic oasis.

Excellent ★★★★★

Unrated

Running time: 53 minutes

Distributor: The Skanner Foundation

To watch "The Wake of Vanport," go to TheSkanner.com.

For, there was always the possibility that a dike might give out, a fear that turned into a frightening reality at 4:05 pm on Sunday, May 30, 1948. Heavy snows followed by an unusually warm spring combined to flood the town by nightfall, claiming 15 lives while leaving the rest of its citizens homeless.

"The Wake of Vanport" is a very moving documentary featuring archival photographs of the Memorial Day

"THE WAKE OF VANPORT"

The Vanport multi-media project

Digital narratives and storytelling from flood survivors and residents of Vanport



SOLD OUT Another screening coming Fall 2016

Sunday April 3, 2016

1:30pm - 4pm

Oregon Historical Society
1200 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR 97205

Free to the public. Limited seating. Reservations required.

Register online at Eventbrite:

<http://thewakeofvanport-2016.eventbrite.com>



"The Wake of Vanport" is so named to honor the death of a city and the viewing of its history through the collection of Vanport stories told by the voices of those who lived there. It is also a celebration of life after loss. Vanport is a lost city of Oregon with a rich history for all Oregonians.

Join us for this screening of

multimedia works produced during the Vanport Multimedia Project dedicated to collecting and preserving Vanport survivors' stories. Community members, local historians, artists, media makers and educators collaborated to turn oral history interviews into short and powerful pieces of digital audio and visual narrative.

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