

Fresh cont'd from pg 6

mary job, to be funny, the ABC shows make the case that there is — cynics and malcontents aside — a suburban-lawn-sized patch of common ground to be found. The shows' ratings are proof that viewers are responding, with both "Fresh Off the Boat" and "black-ish" secure on ABC's schedule and "Dr. Ken" returning for its second year.

As "Fresh Off the Boat" wrapped taping for the season, stars Randall Park and Constance Wu, who star as parents Louis and Jessica Huang, took a set break to reflect on its impact. Executive producer Nahnatchka Khan and Chelsey Crisp, who plays neighbor Honey, weighed in later by phone.

Nahnatchka Khan

The writer-producer marvels at TV's sudden burst of inclusiveness, including Aziz Ansari in "Master of None" and Priyanka Chopra in "Quantico."

"The difference in the past year has been enormous. The fact we were right in the middle of this kind of change is incredible, and we're really grateful for it," Khan said. "The more, the merrier. Let's just keep going."

Randall Park

"I get stopped on street all the time, with people telling me how much the show means to them and that they watch it with their families," he said. And it's not just

Asian-Americans, but "everyone," Park said.

"It's easy for us to buy into the myths out there that people don't want to watch a family that's different from them on TV, that it's going to be too foreign for people," he said.

"Fresh Off the Boat" is disproving that. But Park recalls his own early concerns about how his character would be portrayed.

"Even though in the grand scheme of sitcom history there's a tradition of the goofy dad, to me it was a point of concern because there weren't a lot Asian sitcom dads to balance that out, or even Asian characters in general," he said.

"He is a character, for sure, but the writers have done such a great job of humanizing him... For all the silliness to this character, there's a loving side, a serious side."

Louis has shown "what a father could be, an immigrant could be — or just a man could be," Park said.

Constance Wu

Wu also felt the weight of high expectations for the series.

"Some people wanted it to tackle race issues, and there's some people who think the more progressive thing is to not look at race issues and just have them (the family) tackle normal issues such as puberty or cooking," she said. But the writers have managed to do both.

FILM REVIEW: 'Presenting Princess Shaw' Chronicles the Inspirational Ascension of YouTube Singing Sensation



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA PICTURES

Samantha Montgomery is the subject of 'Presenting Princess Shaw,' an uplifting documentary about the struggles of a YouTube singing sensation.

By **Kam Williams**
For *The Skanner News*

By day, Samantha Montgomery cared for the elderly as an orderly in a New Orleans old folks home. After hours, however, the aspiring singer/songwriter spent most of her free time pursuing her elusive dream of superstardom.

As Princess Shaw, she would perform solo in local clubs on open mic nights, mostly in front of inattentive, unappreciative audiences. She also posted heartfelt renditions of her original tunes on Youtube where she failed to generate much of a following.

But lucky for Princess,

among her handful of fans was Ophir "Kutiman" Kutiel, a pioneering composer/musician/video artist living half a world away on a kibbutz in Israel. Without her knowledge, he began producing her tunes in the studio, augmenting her haunting a cappella vocals with an orchestra that included keyboards, bass, cello, viola, drums, guitars, percussion, violins, saxophones and a brass section.

Miraculously, this promising diamond in the rough was suddenly blessed with a very professional sound evocative of Amy Winehouse. And when Kutiman subsequently released his polished version of Princess' "Give It Up" on Youtube, it soon went vi-

ral, generating millions of hits.

Next thing you know, the new internet sensation not only had a following, but found herself being mentioned in everything from the New York Times to People Magazine, all thanks to a generous stranger she'd never even spoken to. Eventually, the two do finally meet when Princess flies to Tel Aviv to do a show booked by Kutiman.

So unfolds Presenting

Princess Shaw, a moving documentary directed by Ido Haar. The inspirational picture devotes as much time to details of Princess' traumatic personal life as to her magical music.

Along the way, we learn that she was left traumatized by the physical and sexual abuse she experienced at the hands of her mother's boyfriend while growing up in Chicago. Today, she continues to encounter a host of challenges, being Black, gay and struggling financially.

Let's just hope that Princess Shaw is able to turn the corner with the help of this uplifting biopic and Kutiman's mashups of her soulful ballads.

Excellent ★★★★★

Unrated

Running time: 83 min.

Distributor: Magnolia Pictures

View the movie trailer and a video of Princess Shaw singing at TheSkanner.com

WELLS FARGO PRESENTS:

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Informational Village • Parade

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Exciting Games • Face Painting • Puppet Shows
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\$6 discounted bicycle helmet sale
Legacy's Health Pavilion offering FREE health screenings on Saturday from 12-4pm

FESTIVAL HOURS: Good in the Hood Mixer Music by DJ Pryce and Hosted by Seezinin and Good in the Hood staff Friday June 24th Lillis Albina Park 6-10pm, Saturday June 25th. PARADE (NE MLK) Lillis-Albina Park 11am-10pm and Sunday June 26th Festival continuation 12noon to 9:30pm.

To volunteer or find out how you can participate in this year's event contact the GITH Hotline 971-302-6380 or visit: goodinthehood.org.

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