

“Legends” star shatters stereotypes with Muslim superhero

By Nicole Evatt
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Tala Ashe is thrilled to debut her new character, a Muslim-American superhero, joining season three of “DC’s Legends of Tomorrow.” It’s a particularly poignant moment for the Iran-born, Ohio-reared actress who described the hardship of portraying stereotypical characters in the past.

“I have been part of projects where it is not dealt with sensitively or accurately and it’s incredibly painful. It’s incredibly painful,” said Ashe in an interview while promoting The CW series during the Television Critics Association summer meeting.

One of Ashe’s first breaks was on a soap opera. She took the role to pay the bills, but said she would never agree to the part now.

“It’s still actually painful for me to talk about, because I, it was such a stereotype,” she recalled. “I try not to berate myself for taking it because I understand the reasons I did. But I would never, I would never say ‘yes’ to something like that now. ... Going through that experience taught me the power of saying ‘no’ and saying like,



‘Actually I’m not OK with that.’ And if that’s all there is out there for me, then it’s OK. I’ll go work in a law firm pouring coffee. I’d rather do that than to be part of promoting that stereotype.”

Actress Ashe was thrilled to debut her new character, a

SMASHING STEREOTYPES. Tala Ashe, a cast member in the CW series “DC’s Legends of Tomorrow,” poses for a portrait during the 2017 Television Critics Association summer press tour at the Beverly Hilton, in Beverly Hills, California. (Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP)

Muslim-American superhero, on “DC’s Legends of Tomorrow.” The third season of the series premiered October 10 on The CW.

Her experience playing Zari, a computer-hacking superhero in “Legends” could not be more different.

“What is great is (her ethnicity) is an aspect of who she is, as much as she’s an activist and she’s a strong woman and someone who speaks truth to power,” Ashe said. “It’s really important we have representation in the media and specifically we have Muslim-American representation that isn’t just positive in a sort of rosy, un-nuanced way, but is a real person. And there’s so much of the other right now and there’s so much making Muslims ‘the other’ that I’m excited to play this character in what I hope will be a very nuanced and sensitive, accurate way.”

Ashe was particularly impressed when showrunners brought in a Muslim-American writer to help craft her role and hopes that kind of inclusivity will spread throughout Hollywood.

Continued on page 9

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TALKING STORY IN ASIAN AMERICA

■ Polo

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			5				
	3	6	1		4		7
7	9			4			
4				6	1		5
	1						9
8			4	3			2
			8				6
6		1			3	5	7
					7		

Difficulty level: Medium #53614

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to last issue’s puzzle

Puzzle #19422 (Easy)

All solutions available at <www.sudoku.com>.

1	3	8	9	7	4	6	5	2
4	2	5	6	1	8	3	7	9
7	6	9	5	2	3	8	1	4
2	7	4	8	5	9	1	3	6
3	8	1	2	6	7	4	9	5
5	9	6	4	3	1	2	8	7
6	5	3	7	8	2	9	4	1
8	4	2	1	9	5	7	6	3
9	1	7	3	4	6	5	2	8

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