

MUSIC & MOVIES

Taiwan's Rainie Yang stars in horror sequel 'Tag Along 2'

Taiwanese singer and actress Rainie Yang stars in "The Tag Along 2," a sequel to the 2015 hit that's loosely based on a ghostly urban legend in Taiwan about a little girl who appears in the footage of a family's hiking trip. The only problem was, she wasn't part of the family and no one seemed to recall seeing a young girl on the mountain that day.

The actual footage of the mysterious "little girl in red" was broadcast on Taiwanese television in the 1990s. Some believed that she was roaming the mountains looking for her next victim. "The little girl in red was photographed really clearly," Yang said in an interview with The Associated Press. "People have been talking about it for the last 20 years. It happened when I was very little but I still remember it well. So it definitely had a far reach."

In the sequel, Yang plays a social worker whose daughter goes missing in the mountains. She joins the search and rescue team and while looking for her lost daughter gets haunted by the little girl in red. "From there she discovered the obsession of

the little girl in red," Yang said. "Everyone has their obsession, whether you're human or a ghost and when you have an obsession, you can't let it go. That's why you keep hanging around, and can't get over it. So because she stumbled across all this, the story began."

It is customary in Asia to hold a blessing ceremony before filming commences for horror movies to keep the cast and crew from harm's way. Yang said that the sequel included a blessing ceremony before shooting every scene. She found out later that quite a few "coincidences" happened while filming the first movie - which prompted director Cheng Wei-hao to take extra precautions while making the second.

"When they were shooting the first film, a lot of the men (crew members) will relieve themselves wherever it's convenient. Sometimes they're not being thoughtful about it, and no joke, the next day, they will get a fever. They will get sick the next day." "So they feel like they had to believe ... You can't go to toilet wherever you want. They realized that they needed to pay

attention to that. So, to avoid people getting sick during the filming of the sequel, and because it's very inconvenient to find a toilet (in wilderness), and also they didn't want the crew to get sick to delay filming, that's why at every set, there is a toilet just for our cast and crew," Yang said.

The star of the first movie, Tiffany Hsu, returns in the sequel. This time, Hsu's character takes a darker turn and is on the brink of a breakdown. Yang, who is friends with Hsu in real life, said that the challenges for both of them were to put aside their friendship and act like complete strangers when the cameras were rolling. "We've known each other for about 18 years," Yang said. "We have such great chemistry but there was no use for it in this movie, because her character lives in her world, and I'm focused on mine, so they didn't have much interaction. For us, our challenges lie in pretending we're strangers," Yang said. "The Tag-Along 2" hits theaters in Taiwan on Aug. 25. — AP



In this photo, Taiwanese actress Rainie Yang poses during an interview with The Associated Press in Taipei, Taiwan. — AP



In this file photo, filmmaker Michael Moore attends the Turner Network 2017 Upfront presentation at The Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York. — AP

Michael Moore leads audience of Broadway play to Trump Tower

Michael Moore has led the audience of his Broadway play to Trump Tower to protest President Donald Trump's comments about the deadly violence in Charlottesville, Virginia. On Facebook, Moore urged people to join him at the tower following Tuesday night's performance of his one-man show "The Terms of My Surrender" to "nonviolently express our rage."

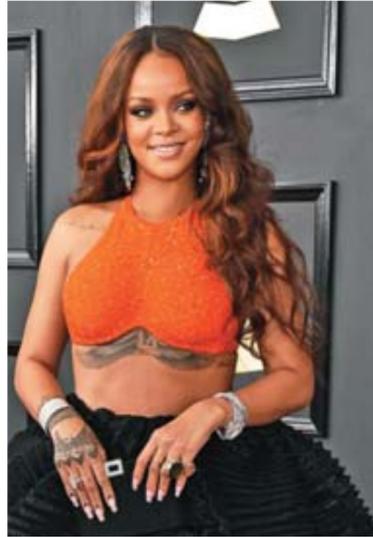
After the play, the 63-year-old Oscar-winning filmmaker, commentator and liberal activist is seen on a Facebook Live video leading a group of people on buses to the tower, where the president is currently staying for the first time since his inauguration. Moore was joined by actor Mark Ruffalo. During the bus ride, Ruffalo, using a bullhorn, led the group in chants including "No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA" and encouraged people on the street to join them at the tower. Hundreds of demonstrators have been gathering there since Trump arrived Monday night.

Earlier Tuesday, during an impromptu news conference in the building's lobby, Trump declared that "there is blame on both sides" for the violence in Virginia, appearing to once again equate the actions of white supremacist groups and those protesting them. Moore described the president's comments as "just awful, disgusting." White nationalists, neo-Nazis and other far-right extremists assembled last Saturday to protest a decision by the city of Charlottesville to remove a statue of Confederate Gen.

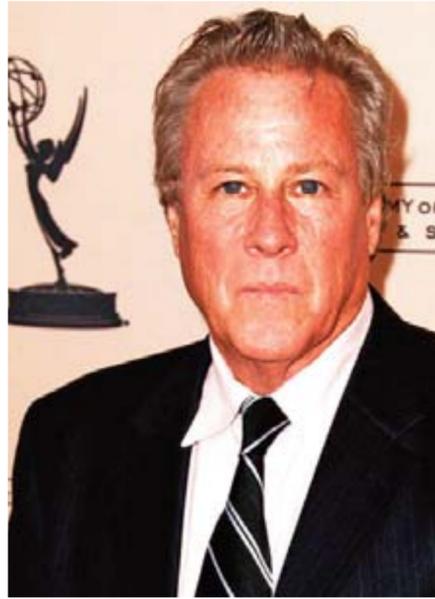
Robert E. Lee. Heather Heyer, 32, was killed when a man plowed his car into a crowd of counter-protesters. Outside Trump Tower Tuesday night, Moore and Ruffalo held a candlelight vigil and urged the crowd to never forget Heyer and make sure she didn't "die in vain." — AP

CALVIN HARRIS TO PERFORM AT RIHANNA'S DIAMOND BALL CHARITY

The writer and producer of Rihanna's hit "We Found Love" is set to perform at her charity event in New York next month. Rihanna said yesterday that Scottish DJ-producer Calvin Harris will join fellow performer Kendrick Lamar and host Dave Chappelle on Sept 14 for her third Diamond Ball. Her organization, The Clara Lionel Foundation, is holding the event at Cipriani Wall Street. Rihanna and Harris' "We Found Love" won them a Grammy Award in 2013. The performers also collaborated on last year's hit "This Is What You Came For." Harris' other dance-flavored hits include "Summer" and "Sweet Nothing." Rihanna founded The Clara Lionel Foundation in 2012 in honor of her grandparents Clara and Lionel Braithwaite. The foundation promotes education and arts globally. — AP



In this file photo, Rihanna arrives at the 59th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. — AP



'Home Alone' actor John Heard died of cardiac arrest

Officials say actor John Heard, whose body was found last month in a Northern California hotel, died of cardiac arrest. The Santa Clara County Coroner's Office said Tuesday an autopsy revealed the 71-year-old actor died "a sudden cardiac death due to atherosclerotic and hypertensive heart disease." Heard was found dead July 21 in a hotel in Palo Alto, California. He was recovering from back surgery at Stanford University Medical Center.

The coroner's office says his back surgery did not play a role in his death. Heard's many roles included the father in the "Home Alone" and "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York" movies and a corrupt detective in the television series "The Sopranos." Heard was married and divorced three times, including briefly to actress Margot Kidder. He had three children. — AP

Pink to get Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award at MTV VMAs

Pink's 17-year-old music career will be honored at the MTV Video Music Awards with the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. The Grammy-winning singer will receive the honor Aug 27 at the Forum in Inglewood, California, MTV said Tuesday. She will also perform at the awards show. The Vanguard award honors musicians who have had an impact on pop culture with their songs, fashion and music videos.

Past winners include Madonna, Peter Dinklage, Beyoncé

and Justin Timberlake. Pink released her debut album in 2000. She recently dropped a new single, "What About Us," and will release her seventh album, "Beautiful Trauma," on Oct 13. Other performers include Kendrick Lamar, Ed Sheeran, Miley Cyrus, the Weeknd, Lorde, Shawn Mendes and host Katy Perry. Lamar is the top VMA contender with eight nominations. — AP



In this file photo, Pink performs during the Festival d'été de Québec in Quebec City, Canada. — AP

Game of Thrones actor warns about husky craze

Game of Thrones actor Peter Dinklage on Tuesday urged fans of the series to stop buying huskies because of their similarity to fearsome "direwolves," as many were being quickly abandoned. "To all Game of Thrones' many wonderful fans, we understand that due to the direwolves' huge popularity, many folks are going out and buying huskies," the US actor, who plays Tyrion Lannister, said in a statement issued by the animal rights group PETA.

"Shelters are... reporting that many of the huskies are being abandoned-as often happens when dogs are bought on impulse, without understanding their needs," he said, urging people to adopt other dogs instead. PETA said that since the hugely successful HBO series started in

2011, animal rescue centres in Britain had seen a 700-per cent increase in abandoned huskies from around 10 a year to 81 last year.

Two rescue groups in Northern California in the United States had also seen their numbers of huskies double over the last two years, it added. PETA said the huskies were being dumped when the "novelty wears off" and their new owners realised the work and commitment required to care for them. The campaign group said the films "101 Dalmatians," "Beverly Hills Chihuahua," "Legally Blonde" and "Men in Black" had caused similar spikes in sales and subsequent abandonment of the featured dog breeds. — AFP



Indian company regrets leak of 'GOT' episode

An India-based media technology company said yesterday that it regrets the recent leak of an episode of the popular HBO series "Game of Thrones" by four of its current and former employees. Indian police have detained the four suspects, but said their motive for leaking the episode titled "The Spoils of War" was unclear. The fourth episode in the television series' seventh season leaked three days before its planned Aug 6 air date and quickly circulated online.

Though not related to the hack of HBO computer systems just days earlier, the episode leak compounded problems for the network in trying to keep information

from the fantasy show under wraps. Prime Focus Technologies, a subsidiary of the global entertainment services company Prime Focus, said in a statement yesterday that the leak "was not a system hack, but an illegal breach of obligations by the concerned persons despite PFT's continual internal emphasis on protocols of content security and ethical practices." Police are investigating possible charges against the four suspects, including criminal breach of trust and violation of India's information technology act. — AP