



Name in English: Bradley Darryl Wong
Name in Chinese: 黃榮亮
Name in Pinyin: Huáng Róngliàng
Gender: Male
Birth Year: 1962
Birth Place: San Francisco, California
Current location: New York City, New York

Profession(s): Actor

Education: No degree, Theatre Arts, San Francisco State University

Awards: "100 Most Inspiring Asian Americans of All Time" Goldsea Asian American Daily; 2003, Davidson/Valentini Award, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; 1988, Tony Award Best Featured Actor in a Play "M. Butterfly," American Theatre Wing and The Broadway League; 1988, Drama Desk Award Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play "M. Butterfly"; 1988, Theatre World Award "M. Butterfly"; 1988, Clarence Derwent Awards, Actors' Equity Association; 1988, Outer Critics Circle Award

Contribution (s): Bradley Darryl Wong, popularly known as B.D. Wong, was born in San Francisco and raised in the Sunset District. His parent initially tried to interest him in sports but he turned with their support to music. A high school drama teacher at Lincoln High School later got him interested in drama. During his childhood and early adult years he struggled with the stereotypical portrayals of Asian Americans in the media. An exception who became his role model was George Takei, one of the very few lead actors at the time who portrayed a dignified Asian American on TV's "Star Trek."

After participating in community and high school theaters, Wong went to San Francisco State University to study theatre arts but dropped out after two years because he wasn't offered any roles in college productions. Ironically he is now recognized as a distinguished alumnus of the university. Wong drifted between New York and the West Coast in subsequent years, taking small roles in theater productions, musical reviews, and TV shows. In 1985, he auditioned for the role of Song Liling in David Henry Hwang's stage production of "M. Butterfly." Because the real life male Chinese spy had disguised himself for over 20 years as a woman married to a French diplomat, Wong decided to shorten his name to "B.D. Wong" to make his own sex ambiguous to audiences. The play was a smash hit with Wong winning five of the most prestigious awards in the theater business in 1988, including the Tony Award for Best Actor; the most awards ever for a single role. Wong became a well known face who alternated between TV and stage roles. He played a small role in the 1993 movie, "Jurassic Park," and the role of Linus in 1999's stage play, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." Wong also contributed his voice to Disney's "Mulan" in 1998 and "Mulan II" in 2004. He has also become familiar through his TV work in "All American Girl" and "Oz." His longest role to date has been his appearance in over 160 episodes of "Law & Order: SVU."

While he remained in the closet for many years, he came out as openly homosexual in 2003 and was awarded the 2003 Davidson/Valentini Award from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation for promoting equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people "I entered a field that was particularly non-welcoming to me as an Asian-American. The opportunities already were somewhat limited to me, so it felt almost like a kind of career suicide to be completely out as a gay man."

He is currently on the board of advisors for Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment (CAPE).

Publications:

Following Foo: The Electronic Adventures of the Chestnut Man (Harper Collins, 2003)

External Links:

<http://goldsea.com/Personalities/Inspiring/wongbd.html>

http://www.princetoninfo.com/index.php?option=com_us1more&Itemid=6&key=09-10-2008%20McCarter

<http://thesearetheirstories.blogspot.com/2008/04/law-order-svus-bd-wong-shares-acting.html>

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000703/>

<http://www.ibdb.com/person.php?id=69104>