



Name in English: Russell Girard Wong

Name in Chinese: 王盛德

Name in Pinyin: Wáng Shèngdé

Gender: Male

Birth Year: 1963

Birth Place: Troy, New York

Current location: Los Angeles

Actor, Star of “Vanishing Son”

Profession(s): Actor, Photographer, Dancer

Education: Santa Monica Community College

Awards: 1994, Image Award, Organization of Chinese Americans; 1994, Asian Americans Media Achievement award, Media Action Network; 1995, Selected as one of the “50 Most Beautiful People in the World,” People Magazine; 1996, Asian Media Award, Asian American International Film Festival; 1997, Golden Ring Award, Asian American Arts Foundation; Selected as one of the "100 Most Inspiring Asian Americans of All Time," Goldsea Asian American Daily

Contributions: Russell Wong is the fifth of seven kids and is of mixed descent; his Chinese father was a New York restaurant owner and his mother an artist of Dutch, French, Canadian, and Native American descent. After his parents were divorced when he was seven, Wong and his siblings moved from New York to Yosemite in California. While in community college he took dancing and martial arts classes and supported himself as a photographer and dancer in music videos by Donna Summer, David Bowie, and Kim Carnes among other performers.

He received his first break into movies in 1983 with roles in three Hong Kong movies. His big American screen debut came in the 1986 film "Tai-Pan" based upon the James Clavell novel. He made a guest appearance on the TV series "21 Jump Street" and won a leading role in Wayne Wang's romantic comedy "Eat a Bowl of Tea" in 1989. Despite his obvious talent and critical praise for his acting abilities, Wong, like many other Asian American actors, had trouble making ends meet in the long gaps between jobs. To supplement his income he worked as a ballet dancer and photographer.

In 1993, Wong gained critical acclaim for his outstanding performance in "The Joy Luck Club" as the infamously abusive and womanizing husband, Lin Xiao. In 1994, he was cast in the leading role in the made-for-TV movie "Vanishing Son," in which he played a Chinese political activist with martial arts skills exiled in America. The movie was popular enough to generate three movie sequels and a syndicated TV series. His performance in "Romeo Must Die" in 2000 firmly established his abilities as a leading man. Since then he has appeared on various TV series including “CSI: Crime Scene

Investigation” and "Numb3rs" as well as Hollywood movies such as the 2008 film, “The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor”

External Links:

<http://www.goldsea.com/Personalities/Wongrussell/wongrussell.html>

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005568/>

<http://www.russellwongfan.com/>

http://www.accessmylibrary.com/coms2/summary_0286-6324330_ITM