

## LAWRENCE CHAU | BIO

Lawrence Chau is a multi-faceted, multi-award-winning entertainer with an illustrious portfolio spanning acting, hosting, writing, producing and music. He has worked in Canada, Asia and now America. Currently based in Los Angeles, Lawrence travels to various cities around the world for work, particularly New York and Toronto.

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After graduating with a degree in journalism, Lawrence first rocked the airwaves not in his hometown of Toronto, but rather half way around the world in Asia.

First television gig: as co-host and writer of ***Citylife Hong Kong***, the territory's top rated prime time English entertainment and lifestyle program in the mid-90s. During this time, Lawrence also acted in theater and appeared in numerous commercials and print ads.

The floodgates to show business, however, really burst open when Lawrence was talent scouted by the television execs in Singapore. Originally slated to become an afternoon veejay, Lawrence was drafted practically by accident as a temporary roving reporter on ***Showbuzz***, the nation's No. 1 English prime time entertainment news program.

The new 1997 season of Showbuzz featured an aggressive media campaign plugging the new anchor with no mention of Lawrence; however, like its own E! True Hollywood Story, the public and press took — not to the new anchor — but to Lawrence (subsequently dubbed ***The Accidental Host***) with a never-before-seen-like frenzy.

Phones rang off the hook at the television station whilst media headlines screamed: **We Want Lawrence Chau; Who Is That New Guy?; The Host with The Most;** and **He Does More Than Just Sit There**, the latter referencing Lawrence's dual skills as a host and producer.

Bowing to public demand, the station replaced the new anchor with Lawrence — all within a span of a month. Lawrence was also promoted to senior producer thanks to his international style of reporting and sound journalism skills.

Disarming, and armed with an encyclopedic knowledge of entertainment, Lawrence's trademark probing but non-threatening interview style prompted him to become THE most sought after showbiz news host by the major movie studios and record labels.

**Tom Hanks, George Clooney, John Travolta, Halle Berry, Hugh Jackman, Johnny Depp, Kevin Costner, Denzel Washington, Julianne Moore, Celine Dion, Jackie Chan, Michelle Yeoh, Vin Diesel, Lucy Liu, Ralph Fiennes, Uma Thurman, Matt Damon, Téa Leoni, Boy George** and the late **Whitney Houston** were but a few of the many A-listers Lawrence held court with.

Exclusive one-on-ones, satellite interviews, airports, five star hotels, limousines, movie premieres, concerts and backstage passes became a part of life for Lawrence as he jetted around the globe tracking down the world's biggest and brightest stars.

Ratings soared as did ad revenue for Showbuzz as the program picked up its first ever nominations at the 1998 **Asian Television Awards** (one for Best Entertainment Program and one for Lawrence as Best Entertainment Presenter).

Eclipsing **MTV Asia** as Singapore's go-to-source for entertainment news, Showbuzz was also awarded a weekend spin-off entitled, **Showbuzz Weekend**, co-executive produced, scripted and anchored by Lawrence.

Other accolades and endorsement deals came Lawrence's way, as did a prestigious appointment to emcee the regional press conference, red carpet ceremony and gala premiere of **Vanilla Sky** attended by none other than **Tom Cruise, Penelope Cruz** and **Cameron Crowe**.

The hosting of top rated game shows (**Hollywood Squares Singapore** aka **Celebrity Squares**), live specials (like **Miss Singapore Universe**), current affairs programs (**Capital E: The Business of Show Business**) and travel programs (**China: World of Travel** and **China: World of Entertainment**) quickly filled up Lawrence's résumé as did a number of prominent acting roles in Singapore's top rated programs like **Money, Phua Chu Kang Pte, Ltd** and **Don't Worry, Be Happy!**

Leaving no stone un-turned, Lawrence bid farewell to his decade-long stint in Asia with the release of a self-produced and co-penned CD, entitled **Soulo** from which the lead track **The Real Thang!** was adopted as the theme song for the Singapore TV series, **Making Love**.

Returning home to Toronto to embark on a new millennium, Lawrence landed roles in a number of shows, most notably as the host of the Gemini award-winning paranormal series, **Ghostly Encounters**. Syndicated internationally, Ghostly has, over the years, been broadcast on a number of networks in the US (Destination America, BIO.); in Canada (OWN, W Network, VIVA); and most recently in Asia (Crime & Investigation Channel).

With its delivery of real life stories combined with chilling paranormal re-enactments, Ghostly has garnered a cult-like following and has served as the catalyst for other programs like **Celebrity Ghost Encounters** and **My Haunted House**.

Flexing his acting chops, Lawrence landed plumb acting roles in **The Border** and a starring lead role as **The Elusive Mr. Wee** for Discovery Channel's glossy crime re-enactment series, **On The Run** (which like Ghostly Encounters was also broadcast internationally).

Throughout his near two-decade showbiz career, Lawrence has also helmed entertainment columns and penned articles for various newspapers and magazines in North America and Asia.

From Toronto, Lawrence did what most entertainers do: headed for the bright lights of Hollywood where he continues to work in front of and behind the scenes.

"People tell me I'm taking a big risk by moving to Los Angeles," admits Lawrence. "But I've taken risks all my life. After graduating from journalism school in Toronto, I trekked off to Hong Kong with two suitcases and \$2000 and managed to make a name for myself in a foreign land. Then I trotted off to Singapore and made an even bigger splash. Starting fresh in America doesn't faze me at all; if anything it feels like I'm finally where I always aspired to be."

Lawrence has been a popular face on the private circuit serving as an emcee for a variety of prestigious corporate and government events frequently attended by heads of state, including the Prime Ministers of Singapore.

Throughout his career, Lawrence has supported numerous charitable causes helping to raise funds to combat AIDS, Alzheimer's, cancer, under privileged children, physically challenged adults, endangered wildlife, and abandoned and abused pets.

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## **ACCOLADES**

- 1st Asian-Canadian male to front a national entertainment program in Canada
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian to appear in a string of top rated prime time programs in Singapore
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian to be called upon to host Singapore's National Day Event celebrating the country's 32nd birthday, a major live television special seen by millions in 1997
  - 1<sup>st</sup> to co-host the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Miss Singapore Universe televised special in 2001
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up: Best Entertainment Presenter, Asian Television Awards 1998
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Ever Nomination for Showbuzz as Best Entertainment Program, Asian Television Awards 1998
  - Best-Dressed Male Celebrity, Singapore Fashion Television Awards 1998
  - Best Television Newcomer, The New Paper Awards 1997
  - 1997's Top 5 Faces of Entertainment, 8 Days Magazine, Singapore
  - Selected in 1997 as part of a quartet of Singapore's 1<sup>st</sup>-ever Omega International Celebrity Watch Club Ambassadors
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## **AFFILIATIONS & ACCREDITATIONS**

- SAG-AFTRA
- ACTRA
- Hong Kong Film Directors Guild
- Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong