

Vast archives at JFK Library help bring 'Hemingway' to life

BOSTON, April 6, (AP) — A new documentary on Ernest Hemingway — powered by vast but little-known archives kept at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston — is shedding new light on the acclaimed novelist.

"Hemingway," by longtime collaborators Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, premiering on PBS on three consecutive nights starting April 5, takes a more nuanced look at the author and his longstanding reputation as an alcoholic, adventurer, outdoorsman and bullfight-loving misogynist who struggled with internal turmoil that eventually led to his death by suicide at age 61.

The truth about the man many consider America's greatest 20th-century novelist — whose concise writing style made him an outsized celebrity who became a symbol of unrepentant American masculinity — is much more complex, Novick said.

"We hope this film opens up opportunities to look at Hemingway in different ways," said Novick, who has co-created several other documentaries with Burns including "The Vietnam War" and "Prohibition." "There is a complexity beneath the surface."

That complexity would have been nearly impossible to detail without the largest-in-the-world Hemingway collection that ended up at the JFK Library, thanks to Hemingway's and Kennedy's widows.

Although the two men never met, they admired each other and corresponded briefly. Hemingway was even invited to Kennedy's inaugu-

ration but couldn't make it because of illness, said Hilary Justice, the Hemingway scholar in residence at the library.

When Hemingway's fourth wife, Mary Hemingway, was figuring out what to do with her late husband's effects, she asked Jackie Kennedy if they could be housed at the JFK Library.

The archives contain Hemingway's manuscripts — including "The Sun Also Rises" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls" — personal correspondence and about 11,000 photographs.

Much of the material used in the documentary has not been widely seen in public, if at all, Novick said.

Burns had been to the JFK Library on multiple occasions for several functions, but had no idea about the extent of the Hemingway archives until they started researching the film, which has been in the works for years.

Collection

"The Hemingway collection was central to the process," Burns said. "It helped us understand just what a disciplined writer he was."

Much of the documentary deals with Hemingway's complicated relationship with the women in his life, from his mother and sisters to the nurse he fell love with while recovering from wounds suffered in World War I to his four wives.

"So much of what he did in life was about love: running to it, run-

ning from it and ruining it," Burns said.

While considered the archetype of American manhood, the truth about Hemingway's masculinity was more complex, the filmmakers found.

As a child, Hemingway's mother treated him and one of his sisters as twins, often dressing them in identical outfits, sometimes as boys, sometimes as girls. He explored gender fluidity both in his books and in life, letting his hair grow as his wives cropped theirs short.

"We wanted to push back against this idea that Hemingway didn't like women," Novick said.

Novick's favorite part of the collection were Hemingway's manuscripts, many handwritten on store-bought notebooks. They show in great detail his thinking process as he wrote, rewrote, amended and edited his works through cross-outs, scribbles and notes in the margins.

Hemingway, for example, wrote dozens of endings to "A Farewell to Arms" — as many as 47, according to one count.

"You can trace how each work developed, from first draft to final manuscript," she said.

For Burns, the most striking thing about the collection are the pieces of shrapnel dug from Hemingway's body after he was almost killed as a teenager driving a Red Cross ambulance in World War I. Burns can't help but think that such a profound near-death experience had a major impact on the rest of Hemingway's life, and contributed to his death.

Film

Variety



This image released by The CW shows Olivia Liang as Nicky Shen in a scene from 'Kung Fu,' premiering on April 7. (AP)

Television

Show shines spotlight on Asian Americans

A new 'Kung Fu' debuts at crucial time

NEW YORK, April 6, (AP) — Up-and-coming actors will sometimes claim to know a variety of skills to be considered for roles, but Olivia Liang set a boundary early in her career.

"When I started off in the industry, people would ask me why martial arts wasn't on my resume because it was such a typecast for Asians to do martial arts roles," said Liang. "So I made a promise to myself. I was like, 'I'll never learn martial arts until someone pays me to learn martial arts.'"

Liang kept that promise. She learned martial arts as the lead of The CW's new series, "Kung Fu" — and she's getting paid for it.

"Kung Fu" is inspired by the 1972 series starring David Carradine. It stars Liang as Nicky Shen, who while visiting China, joins a monastery where she is taught Shaolin values and martial arts. When her mentor is killed, she returns home to find her community disrupted by a local gang. She must use the martial arts skills she learned to protect her neighborhood and family, and soon discovers she's being targeted by the same assassin who killed her Shaolin mentor.

Liang says what makes "Kung Fu" different than the superhero shows The CW is known for is that Nicky is not a vigilante.

"Nicky is heroic, but she doesn't see herself as a hero. She doesn't have a hero complex where she is going out to find bad guys. She sees bad things happening and feels like she needs to do something about it."

The series has a mostly Asian American cast with an Asian American showrunner and executive producer, Christina M. Kim. "I'm so excited that I get to give some people this opportunity to shine," said Kim.

"When I was on set for the first time, we did a camera test and I literally was staring at the monitor and it just hit me. I was like, 'I've never seen the screen filled with Asian American faces like this is.'"

Kim says her writers room is also diverse. She has five writers of Asian descent on staff. Half of the writers are also women, which Kim says is a novelty. "Usually it's just me and one other woman in a room."

"Kung Fu" premieres Wednesday on The CW and the pilot will be re-broadcast on TNT on Sunday.

Authenticity

Tzi Ma, who plays Nicky's father, Jin, says it's remarkable to have so many people with Asian backgrounds working on the show, because he doesn't have to explain the Asian experience to people who are making creative assumptions to what that's like.

"Not only is there representation on screen but we back it up from our writers room to all our guest directors. It is an amazing sight to behold. I've been doing this for a minute now and I have never seen this kind of make up," said Ma.

Ma hopes the authenticity of the series will help to change the public consciousness at a time when hate crimes against Asian Americans are on the rise.

"The camera is a very interesting instrument. I want the audience to have the opportunity finally to see what real representation is like. And when they get educated... they will begin to develop their taste of what's good, what's real and what's true."

The Asian American community is also paying attention, not only to see their stories on TV but to see how they're told. Valerie Soe, a professor in the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University, hopes the producers and writers will be careful with what imagery is presented to viewers.

"The tricky part will be for the folks who are in charge to make sure that the show doesn't veer too much into older stereotypes and tropes." She cites the gang storyline as potentially problematic because it promotes the theory "that all Asian men are gangsters and villains."

Overall, Soe says the series is a win because it's

one more example of an Asian American story being told.

"There's a phrase called 'narrative plentitude' that Viet Thanh Nguyen the author uses — about having a lot of different stories out there to pick from so we don't have to just like obsessively focus on one. Like, 'Is 'Crazy Rich Asians' going to represent us accurately? Is 'Joy Luck Club' going to represent us accurately?' It's like, 'Well, if that one doesn't, then we've got this other one,'" she said.

"The more the merrier. I think not everything's going to be fabulous and not everything's going to be exactly what we want. But, if you have a lot of different choices, then you don't expect everything from one."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: "The Runaway Bunny" gets star treatment in an animated special based on Margaret Wise Brown's classic book about a bunny eager to leave home. Besides Tracee Ellis Ross' performance of an original lullaby by Brown, the HBO Max show out Thursday incorporates songs by Mariah Carey (a remake of "Always Be My Baby"), Roseanne Cash ("You Are My Sunshine") and Ziggy Marley ("What a Wonderful World"), among others artists. From producer-director Amy Schatz (the "Classical Baby" series), the special uses hand-drawn animation to evoke Clement Hurd's illustrations for the 1942 book.

Meanwhile, Emilio Estevez returns as youth hockey coach Gordon Bombay in "The Mighty Ducks: Game Changers," a Disney+ series follow-up to the 1990s movie franchise. Gordon has a new challenge: help 12-year-old Evan (Brady Morrow) and his mom, played by Lauren Graham ("Gilmore Girls," "Parenthood"), create a new team after Evan gets dropped by the Ducks, who have morphed into a team of winners who lack boundaries. Estevez, who had largely traded acting for directing, promises the series debuting Friday captures the films' "magic" but offers more than nostalgia.

Features

ARABIC TIMES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.:

Grammy-winning musician Pharrell Williams and the Rev. William J. Barber, a nationally known pastor, were among those who spoke Monday at the funeral for a Black man and former college football player who was recently shot and killed by police in Virginia Beach.

Donovan Lynch, 25, was killed in the early morning hours of March 27 along the city's popular oceanfront strip of hotels and restaurants shortly after two other shootings unleashed chaos. Police said Lynch had a handgun and that it was recovered from the scene. But the officer's body camera had not been activated. The officer who killed Lynch was also Black.

Barber, a North Carolina pastor who gave the homily at President Joe Biden's inaugural prayer service, said Lynch's death raises too many questions. The Virginian-Pilot reported.

"When a man doing as good as Donovan Lynch is shot and killed there is a mandate for truth no matter what color the officers are," he said. "The people can handle the truth but we will settle for nothing less."

Williams, who is Lynch's cousin and a Virginia Beach native, called for a forum to discuss what the city stands for and what it wants to be.

"Virginia Beach, you need to talk — talk about your issues, talk about your struggles so we can get past them," Williams said. "We need to put each other on notice, not to tear each other down but to lift each other up so we can be effective; so that we can win."

The city's police department recently turned over the investigation into Lynch's death to the Virginia State Police.

Lynch lived in Virginia Beach. He was an offensive lineman for the University of Virginia's College at Wise during the 2017 and 2018 seasons and a 2019 graduate of the school.

Lynch's shooting was one of three separate shooting incidents that occurred in the same night in an area along the city's oceanfront. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Chrissy Teigen will grace the front of People magazine's "The Beautiful Issue"

in a cover story that delves into her evolved definition of beauty, facing racism growing up and her heartbreaking miscarriage last year.

The magazine revealed the cover last Wednesday of the annual issue, which hit newsstands last Friday.

On this year's cover, Teigen appears smiling along with her chil-



Williams



Teigen

dren Luna, 4, and Miles, 2, with the quote "I've learned how strong I am." The 35-year-old model and cookbook author is married to R&B crooner John Legend, who was named Sexiest Man Alive by the magazine in 2019.

Teigen, who is of Thai-Norwegian descent, said she wants to follow her Thai tradition in remembering her son, Jack, who died at

20 weeks of her pregnancy. She was hospitalized with excessive bleeding before the miscarriage. She said it's important for Luna and Miles to stay connected with their late brother and always "embrace the ones that we've lost" based on her tradition.

"We have this new home that we're building, and this tree being planted inside," she told the

magazine. "The whole reason why I wanted it was so Jack's ashes could be in that soil, and he could be with us all the time and grow through the beautiful leaves."

Over the years, Teigen said her definition of beauty has evolved after giving birth to her children. She has taken a proud stance of embracing her healed scars as a mother. (AP)