

Spike Lee's children named Golden Globe ambassadors

Sundance adds Coogler-produced 'Judas and the Black Messiah'

LOS ANGELES, Jan 13, (AP) — The Ryan Coogler-produced Fred Hampton film "Judas and the Black Messiah" will have its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival before heading to HBO Max and theaters, programmers announced Tuesday.

Daniel Kaluuya plays the Black Panther Party chairman and his "Get Out" co-star Lakeith Stanfield plays FBI informant William O'Neil who agrees to infiltrate the group in the late 1960s. Martin Sheen co-stars as J. Edgar Hoover, who headed the FBI during that time.

"Judas and the Black Messiah" will premiere Feb. 1 on the Festival's digital platforms and at various drive-ins in locations like Birmingham, Alabama, Columbia, South Carolina, and Atlanta, Georgia.

The 2021 Sundance Film Festival, which kicks off Jan. 28, is going largely virtual this year due to the pandemic. Tickets are currently on sale.

Coogler, who directed "Black Panther," has a long history with Sundance. His first film "Fruitvale Station" premiered at the festival in 2013, winning the top audience and jury awards.

"Judas..." is among the 2021 Warner Bros. films that are debuting simultaneously in theaters and on HBO Max. It'll be available for HBO Max subscribers in the US starting Feb. 12.

Spike Lee's daughter and son have been chosen as the Golden Globe ambassadors to assist with the awards ceremony.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Tuesday

morning that Satchel and Jackson Lee will assume the ambassador roles for the 78th annual Golden Globes Awards in February.

Satchel, 26, and Jackson, 23, are the first siblings of color to hold the position. Jackson is the first Black male ambassador.

Both credited their maturation to their filmmaking father and mother, Tonya Lewis Lee, who is a film and television producer.

"We're proud to carry our father's legacy of storytelling to bring attention to communities close to our hearts," said Satchel Lee, who was the creative director of DRØME, a queer and intersectional arts and culture magazine.

Satchel chose to partner with Callen-Lorde, an organization that helps with LGBTQIA+ communities with healthcare in New York City. Jackson is partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the volunteer-supported mentoring network.

"As a visionary creative, my dad taught Satchel and me the importance of entertainment as a cultural catalyst of change," he said.

Callen-Lorde and Big Brothers Big Sisters will each receive a grant from the HFPA for \$25,000 made on the Lees' behalf.

Satchel said selecting Callen-Lorde and the organization's healthcare initiatives was important to her to "support the LGBT+ community, because that is my community. Everything I do, I just to give back to the people and communities that have given so much to me."

Jackson said he picked Big Brothers Big Sisters in an effort to mentor those the same way his father guided him.

"Having my dad mentor me changed my life," he said. "Being able to give someone else the opportunity and someone younger than me, it's kind of paying it forward. It feels like a duty I have to do."

An ambassador is traditionally the child of a celebrity who assists with award presentations, handing out trophies to winners and escorting them off stage.

Previous ambassadors include Pierce Brosnan's sons Dylan and Paris Brosnan, Idris Elba's daughter Isan Elba and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's daughter Simone Garcia.

The Golden Globes ceremony will be held Feb. 28 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. The show honors achievements in film and television.

Also:

NEW YORK: Chuck Norris' manager says the "Walker, Texas Ranger" star was not present at last week's deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol. A photo of a man resembling Norris apparently with a member of the mob began trending online. "This is not Chuck Norris," Norris manager Erik Kritzer told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"Chuck remains on his range in Texas where he has been with his family," Kritzer said. He acknowledged that the man photographed looked somewhat like Norris but "Chuck is much more handsome."

"Walker, Texas Ranger," in which Norris played karate-kicking lawman Cordell Walker, ran on CBS from 1993 to 2001. In 2016, he announced his support for President Donald Trump.

Film

Variety



Dr Daniela Lamas, a writer for the medical television drama 'The Resident,' poses outside the Brigham and Women's Hospital, on Jan 11, in Boston. The series kicked off its fourth season Tuesday with a pandemic storyline. (AP)

Television

Fox's medical drama is cathartic, joyful and hopeful

'The Resident' confronts virus' toll

NEW YORK: The attack on the US Capitol last week brought more viewers to CNN than any other single day in the network's 40-year history.

CNN averaged 5.2 million viewers last Wednesday, eclipsing its previous high of 5.1 million on Election Day 2016, the Nielsen company said. The network had 4.47 million viewers on Sept. 11, 2001, Nielsen said.

During the storming of the Capitol itself on Wednesday afternoon, CNN averaged nearly 9 million viewers. CNN also led all of the cable news and broadcast networks during prime-time that evening, when Nielsen estimated more than 33 million people tuned in to watch Congress go back into session to certify President-elect Joe Biden's victory.

MSNBC averaged 4 million viewers on Wednesday and Fox News Channel had 3 million.

NBC, led by a strong NFL playoff game Sunday night between the Cleveland Browns and Pittsburgh Steelers, was the top broadcast network last week, averaging 8.6 million viewers in prime time. CBS had 5.7 million, ABC had 3.8 million, Fox had 2.5 million, Univision had 1.4 million, Ion Television had 1.1 million and Telemundo had 920,000.

CNN averaged 4.11 million viewers in prime time, beating all the cable networks. MSNBC had 3.67 million, Fox News Channel had 3.1 million, HGTV had 1.12 million and Hallmark had 1.05 million. (AP)

NEW YORK: A lawyer for PBS resigned Tuesday after being caught describing President Donald Trump as "close to Hitler" in a right-wing sting operation.

Michael Beller, a contracts lawyer in PBS' general counsel office, was recorded offering political opinions in what appeared to be a bar-room conversation with a woman. It was released Tuesday by Project Veritas, a conservative group known for using undercover methods to reveal supposed liberal bias.

Beller is heard saying it was "great" that coronavirus cases were spiking in red states because they might infect Trump voters and suggested Republican voters should have their children put in re-education camps.

The lawyer did not speak on behalf of PBS or make any editorial decisions, PBS spokesman

LONDON, Jan 13, (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic has forced television hospital shows to confront a key question — could the biggest medical crisis in recent decades be ignored in favor of escapism for viewers?

Medical shows have reached different conclusions, but Fox's "The Resident" opted to address the pandemic right away in its fourth season debut Tuesday.

Dr. Daniela Lamas, who works in critical care at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, also writes "The Resident." She said pretending the pandemic never happened was discussed in the summer, but ultimately dismissed.

"The question was, will people have the stomach for this in January? And the answer to that question was, we don't know," she said.

"Whether they do or they don't, we can't in good faith, as a medical show that claims to have some degree of medical veracity, we can't ignore the greatest public health crisis of our time. And we can't expect people to see our characters and believe in them if these fictional health care providers have not experienced what real health care providers have in this fictional world."

The show, which stars Matt Czuchy, Emily VanCamp and Manish Dayal, takes a thriller perspective on diagnosing medical mysteries and healthcare corruption at Chastain Memorial, a fictional hospital in Atlanta.

Other US medical dramas, "The Good Doctor," "Chicago Med" and "Grey's Anatomy," have focused on the pandemic's impact on healthcare workers this season. On "Grey's," main character Meredith Grey is in critical care fighting the virus.

"The goal — and presumably it's one shared by a lot of television shows — which is, what can we show people that they might not know otherwise?" explains Lamas.

"The Resident," like its contemporaries, includes storylines which highlight the virus' disproportionate impact on communities of color, people who can't afford to isolate and the importance of masks.

"There are issues that that come up in terms of money, in terms of resource, in terms of PPE, that that also fit well in the kind of wheelhouse of our show," said Lamas.

"The Resident" was among the productions that donated to real healthcare workers the masks that would have been used as to be used as props and continues to use lower grade masks on the program to avoid using up supplies.

They also let go of the drama provided by the last-minute corridor dash for surgical intervention, which often provides an episode's life or death tension.

Decision

"People were wondering, can we take somebody for a big surgery? And I mean, sure we could. But does that reflect the real story? COVID is so much about waiting. It's so much about decisions around intubation. It's so much about isolation. And so I think really being willing to tell that story, instead of the big surgery, alarms blaring, recovery story was something that that we had to get into as well."

Unlike "Grey's Anatomy," "The Resident" won't keep the coronavirus front and center after the opening episode, to provide some relief from the present.

"I think 'Grey's' does that through their beach. I think that's their escapism and I like that," said Lamas of the dreamlike sequences experienced by Ellen Pompeo's Meredith during her illness.

"There are COVID stories that we could have for a season beyond. But I think that the need, the desire to give people both the grounding in medical reality and then the escapism, the entertainment and, ultimately, the hope that this isn't forever."

"COVID is always going to be a presence with us throughout the course of season four but we hope it's not something that's going to overwhelm the audience and we can find something that is a balance between the two and something that's cathartic and joyful and hopeful," said Matt Czuchy, who plays Dr. Conrad Hawkins on the show.

"Just as simple as not seeing us with masks on the whole time is hopefully something that says, 'Hey,

we can get there. You know, we can get past this; we can get through this.' But in order to be able to say that, we have to address the reality of the situation, which is incredibly difficult and traumatic for so many, so many people."

ABC's "The Good Doctor," starring Freddie Highmore, had two episodes called "Frontline" where the characters took on COVID-19, before moving into a post-pandemic world.

"The Resident" takes a similar approach.

The season opener flashes back to the personal and political impact of the virus on Chastain Memorial — before placing Hawkins, Nurse Practitioner Nic Nevens and Dr. Devon Pravesh into a safer future.

The pandemic's fallout will still affect the characters, but the crisis is over.

It could give real medical staff a glimpse of what their future holds if, like Lamas, they avidly follow hospital shows.

"I'm probably the minority in that I do not miss an episode of medical dramas," she said. "A lot of the nurses in the medical ICU watch 'The Resident.' We chat about 'Grey's.'"

"For many people, it is the way they see hospitals, people who have the good fortune not to see hospitals through themselves or their family. And for those of us who work in the hospital, there is something powerful about seeing this sort of escapism type of version of our reality on television."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Award-winning journalist Mariana van Zeller's series on black markets turns to the smuggling of tigers — and tiger parts — in the episode airing 9 p.m. EST Wednesday on National Geographic channel. Van Zell's risky investigations into "underground economies" including drug, gun and animal smuggling brought her into contact with criminals, those tracking them and locals caught in the middle. The goal of "Trafficked with Mariana van Zeller" is to provide a comprehensive view of trafficking networks and the people who are pulled into the criminal enterprises, the channel said.

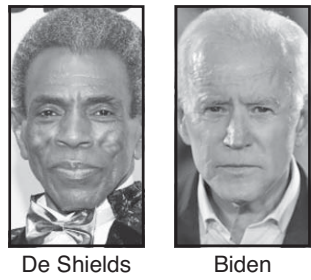
Features

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Jeremy Gaines said.

"There is no place for hateful rhetoric at PBS, and this individual's views in no way reflect our values or opinions," he said. (AP)

NEW YORK: The boarded up windows and For Rent signs are all over the place in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood,



De Shields Biden

where restaurants are closed and businesses shuttered. Nearby, the Broadway theaters are all dark.

But the economic darkness brought on by the coronavirus pandemic has had a few bright spots: A couple of well-loved venues have received financial boosts to help them make it through, thanks to online fundraising campaigns and even a telethon.

Married couple Tom and Michael D'Angora, who live in Hell's Kitchen, first started a GoFundMe campaign on behalf of the West Bank Cafe/Laurie Beechman Theater.

It raised more than \$340,000 after a streaming telethon that included performances by many of the Broadway actors and singers who frequent the West Bank Cafe.

"I've spent some of my most delicious, my most insouciant, my most important times right here," celebrated veteran actor Andre De Shields, who was performing in "Hadestown" before the virus hit, said during the telethon, before handing venue owner Steve Olsén a check. "We don't want this lovely piece of heaven on earth to ever go away." (AP)