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SATURDAY, APRIL 27 | 2013 | EDITOR MAGGIE LANGRICK 604.605.2101 | MLANGRICK@VANCOUVERSUN.COM

WEEKEND EXTRA

## FAR EAST TO WEST COAST

## STARS



Godfrey Gao

Celina Jade

Osric Chau

Byron Mann

JOANNE LEE-YOUNG

SPECIAL TO THE SUN

**G**odfrey Gao is getting ready for his big, English-speaking acting debut in *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*. The film is Sony Pictures' adaptation of Cassandra Clare's bestselling young adult, sci-fi fantasy novel, which will open in August. Gao plays Magnus Bane, an 800-year-old Brooklyn-based warlock.

It's a plum role and a shift for Gao, 29, who grew up in North Vancouver, went to Queensbury elementary, Argyle secondary and studied at Capilano University before heading to Taipei where he started his career by appearing in Taiwanese television dramas such as *Volleyball Lover* and *I Want to Become a Hard Fervidomom* (yes, those are accurate translations).

But there are other less-well-

known artists who are crossing the Pacific to seek stardom and a bigger fan base in Asia.

Wanting Qu was likely the most popular singer you'd never heard of until *Tourism Vancouver* said in February that it will shoot six videos with her to promote the city in greater China and Southeast Asia, where she has a massive following.

Qu moved to Vancouver from China when she was 16. Her

parents sent her here to study commerce, but her passion was music. She introduced herself to Nettwerk Music's Terry McBride, recorded an album, and became a phenom in China's hot music industry.

## First Asian male model

For Gao, things started to pick up in 2011 when French luxury brand Louis Vuitton chose him to be its first Asian male model. His face was on billboards and in glossy magazines in Asia, but also Europe and North America, and soon, more doors opened.

Since playing Magnus Bane, he's been back working on Asian productions again. In February, Gao was in Switzerland with a 15-member mainland Chinese TV crew filming *Remembering Lichuan*, a television series about an architect in Zurich

See a gallery of the biggest East-West crossover stars at [vancouver.sun.com/entertainment](http://vancouver.sun.com/entertainment)

who falls in love with a girl in Kuaming that will air next year. He was in the recently released movie *101 Proposals* starring Taiwanese model/actress Lin Chiling and actor Huang Bo, and also in *The Queen of SOP*, a popular Taiwanese television drama series.

"I wanted to make a name first here (in Asia) before trying to go for Hollywood," Gao says. "Now I hope to get more work in North America, but I'd like to keep playing (the two markets) off each other."

Gao's father is from Shanghai and he was born in Taipei, while his mother — who still lives in North Vancouver — is originally from Malaysia.

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## INSIDE | C3

**Cult of death inspires**  
London's historic Highgate Cemetery provides the impetus for Vancouver choreographer's new work.

## MONDAY

## Drunk Mom

Jowita Bydlowska's book is more honest than other mommy memoirs. If this means that it's also darker, so be it.





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