



YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON TV 25

KINGS OF THE HILL

Han, solo



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MediaCorp TV Channel 8 leading man Chen Hanwei says that he might only find true love in the 'next life'

WHEN we were presented with the opportunity to interview veteran television actor Chen Hanwei (right), whose new serial *Daddy At Home* premieres on MediaCorp TV Channel 8 tonight, my editor thought it the most ingenious idea in the world to assign this reporter the story.

You see, he's under the wildly spurious impression that pre-teen me had a massive schoolgirl-crush on the three-time Star Award Best Actor.

Just because I once commented in passing just how adorable Hanwei looked with the trendy '90s "curtain" hairstyle and beige shirt-over-tee combo as the charismatic teacher in *The Morning Express*.

You know, the one where he flirted with Fann Wong and carried Ann Kwok on his back to fly a kite? Anyway, that doesn't mean I had his picture tacked on my corkboard above my desk, okay?

(It's appalling how much editors can get away with these days – unsubstantiated, uncorroborated and unproven information notwithstanding.)

But nevertheless, this reporter soldiered on in the name of intrepid journalism and prepared an array of hard-hitting questions designed to delve deep into the psyche of a crush ... I mean ... interviewee with a career that spans 21 years of extreme makeovers and versatile roles.

After three clashes of schedules, four missed calls, two hang-ups and one wrong phone number, I finally got to talk to the 40-year-old MediaCorp artiste. And only just minutes before he was expected to be present on the set of his new drama *The Best Thing In Life*.

Now, does that sound like fate to you, Mr Editor?



You're known for your willingness to transform yourself physically for a role.

What did you do for *Daddy At Home*?

It's a very interesting role. Right from the beginning, I was thinking: 'Not a housewife but a house-husband. Not Chen Hanwei, but an uncle with permed hair and a potbelly ... Hmm.'

I was the one who conceptualised and came up with the image. I wanted to create a look that was a lot funnier, therefore the really "uncle" perm and the tummy. I went to Passion and told David Gan to give me an "uncle" hairstyle. And David Gan told me: 'I don't know how to do ugly hair, lah!' (Laughs)

As for the tummy, I actually thought about putting on weight. But because it was less than a month to the start of filming, it was impossible. But still during filming, I loaded up with a lot with carbo and I think my face definitely got a bit more "bak bak" (Hokkien for "chubby").

Sounds like a lot of dedication. Is there anything that you won't do?

I pretty much will do almost anything ... I even don't mind if the role requires me to "drag". Anything ... except go naked!

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It ain't easy pulling off an authentic 'uncle' look, as Hanwei found out

Even if one of your favourite directors Lee Ang asked you to do go nude for a big-budget Hollywood film?

Hmm. No ... I don't think I could! Maybe upper body, or even the backside ... But I don't think I could do full frontal. I can't imagine that at all. All my family and friends can see everything! So paiseh! (Laughs)

Fair enough. So as a swinging single man, where do you get your inspiration to play a house-husband?

Well, some of it came from my own father. He does quite a lot around the house.

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SUDOKU plus

DIFFICULTY RATING: +++++

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	7	1			2	5	8	
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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

8	9	2	6	3	1	7	5	4
4	1	6	9	5	7	2	8	3
3	7	5	4	2	8	1	6	9
5	3	9	1	6	2	8	4	7
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6	2	8	7	1	4	9	3	5
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