



BIOGRAPHY
Paolo Montalban
"King Charming"

PAOLO MONTALBAN is best known for his portrayal of Prince Christopher in the much-loved Disney-produced TV movie musical "Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella". The groundbreaking production featured a diverse cast starring Brandy, Whitney Houston, Bernadette Peters, Whoopi Goldberg, and Jason Alexander among others. It broke records when over 60 million viewers tuned in for all or part of ABC's television event of the year. He continued his royal role, now as King Charming, in the Disney+ film *Descendants 4: The Rise of Red*, reuniting with Brandy as Cinderella.

Paolo is also recognizable as Earthrealm's defender and Mortal Kombat champion, Kung Lao a.k.a. the Great Kung Lao in the TNT live action series "Mortal Kombat: Conquest", based on the famed video game franchise. All 22 episodes are available on Max.

Montalban's other TV credits include featured and recurring roles on network favorites "Madam Secretary", "The Blacklist", "Nurse Jackie", and "Law & Order: SVU". His other film credits include *Just Wright*, *American Adobo*, *The Great Raid*, and the independent movie musical, *The Girl Who Left Home*. His most recent film, the rom-com *Asian Persuasion*, starring alongside Dante Basco, was shot entirely on location in New York City. Its world premiere was at the 2023 Soho International Film Festival, where it won the Audience Award for Feature-Length Film, and it had its wide release debut in the Philippines and Guam later that year.

Last year, Paolo played the legendary theater impresario, Florenz Ziegfeld, in *Funny Girl* on Broadway, starring Lea Michele. Early in his career, he made his New York debut in *The King & I*. He also collaborated with Stephen Sondheim in the Broadway revival of *Pacific Overtures* at Studio 54 as Manjiro and worked on Richard Greenberg's adaptation of *Breakfast At Tiffany's* starring Emilia Clarke.



He's played numerous stages off-Broadway, in regional theaters, and in national touring houses. He garnered a Lortel Award nomination for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical in *"Bella: An American Tall Tale"* and is also a Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship recipient. In 1998, Montalban was chosen as One of People Magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People in the World."

He was selected as a 2004 Awit Award finalist for Best Performance By A New Male Recording Artist for the song "She" from his self-titled album on Vicor Records. He can also be heard in the Off-Broadway revival cast recording of *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, the studio cast recording of *Madame Clicquot: A Revolutionary Musical*, and the original cast recording of *White Rose: The Musical*, in which he originated the role of Kurt Huber in the 2024 Off-Broadway world premiere.

When he was 19, Montalban graduated from Rutgers University with a B.A. in Psychology and a focus in pre-med. As an activist, he is a supporter and guest facilitator for AAJC-Advancing Justice and Hollaback! for their Bystander Intervention training. He currently serves on the National Board of Trustees for the Educational Theatre Foundation.

Paolo has always welcomed diversity in mainstream entertainment. It was his dream to take part in an inclusive landscape, where it would be widely accepted for Asian actors to play memorable leading and character roles. He's glad to participate in this ongoing movement and looks forward to the expansion of opportunities for all artists to represent their communities.

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