



THE ONE ABOUT ASIAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATION

Date: June 14th 2019

LaaF: LXII (most likely :P)

Film: Always Be My Maybe

ASIAN PORTRAYS IN HOLLWOOD

■ Yellowface (noun):

Non-Asian (typically white) actor/actress [playing the role](#) of an Asian character. More specifically, it refers to the use of makeup and prosthetics to give the actor a "more Asian" appearance; also, actors often affect a heavy accent and/or speak in poor English.

Hollywood picture with yellowface dating back to 1915

("Madam Butterfly" w Mary Pickford)

But that's ancient history...

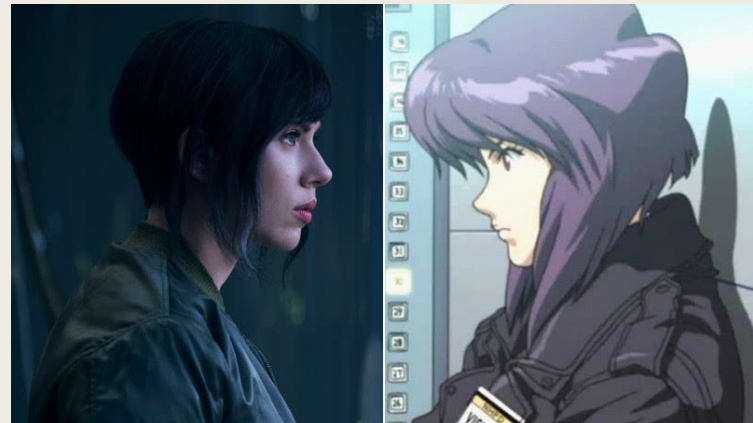


Nah.

It STILL continues in the 21st century!!!

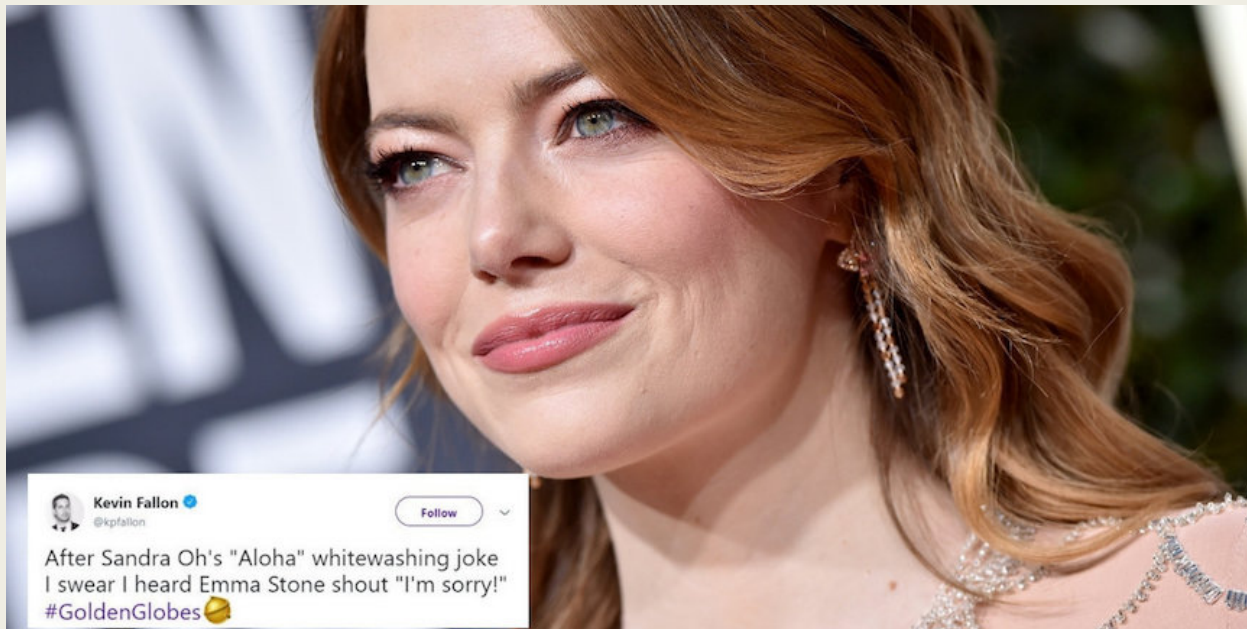


Jim Sturgess as Hae-Joo Chang
“Cloud Atlas” (2012)



Scarlett Johansen as “Major” Motoko Kusanagi
“Ghost in the Shell” (2017)

Or straight-up **white-washing**, replacing Asian roles with White ones. “Aloha” (2015) with Emma Stone playing Allison Ng, a half-Asian character.



Asian-Americans in Hollywood: Perpetual Foreigners

- **Sessue Hayakawa**
(1918). Sex
symbol...until talkies



- **Anna May Wong** in “Toll of the Sea” (1922), first color feature in Hollywood. Frustrated by stereotypes, lost role of “Good Earth” to white woman.

- **Miyoshi Umeki**
 (“Sayonara” 1957 Best
Supporting Actress)



Portrayals of Asian Women

- SUBMISSIVE



- DRAGON LADY (sexually exotic creatures)



Portrayals of Asian Men

- **INARTICULATE** (still unable to speak to English, or if they do they are unable to speak powerfully)
- **ASEXUAL** (or not sexually attractive to the opposite sex)
- **JUST FRICKEN WEIRD!**



Progress: Asian-American as Americans

- Ansari (“Master of None”) ■ Followed by Sandra Oh. ■ Crazy Rich Asians. “[Crazy Rich Asians](#)” the highest-grossing romantic comedy in the U.S. in 10 years by surpassing 2009’s “The Proposal”
- made history in 2018 by becoming the first AA actor to win a Golden Globe for acting in television (musical or comedy)
- with Golden Globe for lead actress “Killing Eve” (2019 drama)



We Woke...unless we're talking about sexual preferences

- A very offensive rom-com (Invisibila podcast, April 5, 2019)
 - It's just a preference right?
 - *AA Men's Rights angst*



- Research on sexual preference

- Study "demonstrates the pivotal role of first sexual experiences in the establishment of future sexual partner preference in the male rat, and suggest an innate preference for estrous odors over neutral odors that can become conditioned subsequently as predictors of sexual reward." (Quintana et al 2018)

“Always Be My Maybe” (2019)

- A major studio film with an Asian American woman AND Asian American man as romantic leads! In America...as Americans! Written by the AA leads and directed by an AA woman!

