Two Teens Use YouTube To Land Starring Roles In A Feature Film



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Press Release Summary: <u>Ryan Higa and Sean Fujiyoshi</u>, two teens from isolated Hilo, HI, captured the hearts of peers worldwide through their hilarious videos. In September '08, they became the #1 most subscribed channel on YouTube and now are starring in a feature film, "Ryan and Sean's NOT SO Excellent Adventure."

Press Release Body: San Ramon, California (express-press-release.net) December 17th, 2008 -- YouTube? Your Tube? No, it's their tube! <u>Ryan Higa</u> and Sean Fujiyoshi, two teenagers have become so popular on You Tube that they are now starring in a professionally filmed, full-length motion picture, <u>"Ryan and Sean's NOT SO Excellent Adventure."</u>

<u>Ryan Higa and Sean Fujiyoshi</u>, using the title of Nigahiga, reached the heights of being named the number one most subscribed YouTube channel for September 2008—that's more than 660,000 subscribers! Their increasing

popularity led to the making of the film, "Ryan and Sean's NOT SO Excellent Adventure."

Popular may be an understatement. They have posted 57 videos during the past two years, which have been viewed more than 175 million times. These teenage comedic videos soon caught the attention of **Derek Zemrak, the Founder of the California Independent Film Festival**, and thus <u>"Ryan and Sean's NOT SO Excellent Adventure"</u> was born.

The film is the real-life story of two young web celebrities who find themselves brought to Hollywood to audition and screen test for starring roles in the next big "buddy" film. Sought out by a producer, (played by <u>Michael Buckley</u> of YouTube fame) about to be kicked off the studio lot, Ryan and Sean are put through the grueling process of makeovers, massages, tanning beds, singing, dancing and action picture auditions.

Higa and Fujiyoshi bring a genuine and natural comedic performance to strange and sometimes surreal situations that are packed with hilarity. This teen comedy has something for everyone. Their current fans of You Tube will be especially surprised at how their Stars shine on the big screen. Non-stop fun and that special brand of humor that is Ryan and Sean can be found in this feature length film.

Recently, <u>"Ryan and Sean's NOT SO Excellent Adventure"</u> premiered to sold-out crowds and throngs of screaming teenagers in Honolulu and San Francisco. The hilarious and entertaining film is currently available exclusively on DVD at<u>www.ryanandseansmovie.com</u>.

Ryan Higa and Sean Fujiyoshi, Background Higa and Fujiyoshi started making videos because they were bored after school and didn't want to go outside in the rain. Higa, who recently started his freshman year at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, said living in Hilo started it all.

"There's not much to do other than go watch a movie. Pretty much boredom kicked it off for us, and our parents didn't mind because it kept us out of trouble."

They created the videos to share with friends -- nothing more. One day, when one of those friends couldn't come over and Higa and Fujiyoshi didn't feel like going out, they posted a lip-sync video on the Internet. Later, they saw that it received 100 hits.

"How did it get so many views?" **Higa** recalls wondering. "Did that person click on it 100 times?"

Demand for their unique style grew. It was the ninja video that first earned

1 million views.

With videos viewed over 160 million times, 18-year-old Ryan Higa's wildly popular YouTube channel features Higa's opinions and romps, as well as interviews with stars like Milo Ventimiglia and online duos with Will Farrell. One recent video was viewed over 653,000 times in only 1 week, another 201,000 times in 1 day.

Independent movie producer Derek Zemrak saw the "Ninja" clip when his 10-year-old son said all his friends in Los Angeles were talking about it.

"I immediately saw the raw talent," says **Zemrak**, a producer/writer/director with a background in horror films.

Higa said spending several weeks making the movie in San Francisco was "very tiring" and "much harder" than he anticipated. But **Zemrak** says the young men were "so natural when they got out here."

Of their growing fame, however, **Higa** remains somewhat ambivalent. "It's kind of surprising," he says simply. But he expresses a bit more enthusiasm for the movie itself."It's kind of unbelievable, especially since we're from Hilo, and not much big things come from Hilo that I'm aware of."

For additional information on <u>"Ryan and Sean's NOT SO Excellent</u> <u>Adventure"</u> contact **Greg Sandler, Shockwave Media** or visit <u>www.ryanandseansmovie.com</u>.

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