

# TNUC 2025 - Sunday - Ruibo Qian Solo Panel

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Q: What do you think Zheng's signature scent is and what would you assign to Stede and Ed?

A: Zheng's signature scent is "Ching Shih". I'm a part of a fragrance fandom and there's a website called FrAGRantica and there was a giveaway.



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RQ: I said "I'm not trying to be a pirate, I'm about to turn 40 and these are all of my favorite notes." I looked up the pirate and was like "I'd really like to play this character one day."



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RQ: Two weeks later I'm driving into Big Sur to go camping and I get a call from my agent asking me to tape this by tomorrow morning. I taped it in the tent. And two weeks after that, I was in NZ filming.



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RQ: It was four weeks from saying I want to play this role to being on set. It is the only fragrance that has ever made me cry.

Stede would probably wear some citrusy barbershop scent - like a 4711 cologne. Ed has got oud, agarwood, smokey, sandalwood, patchouli, dirty body odor thing going on.



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Q: What movie musical would you want to be in and what role would you want to play?

RQ: I'd want to be in Rent.



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Q: What is the difference between theater and TV?

RQ: It's completely different. On camera, it's hard to know who I'm playing for. We were shooting the big fight scene in the dunes and I had the recognition that was playing for the last person that's ever going to watch this performance.



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"[TV is] a profound lesson in surrender." - Ruibo Qian



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Q: How much did you know about Zheng before being cast?

A: All I knew is what I had researched from the perfume. Minimal but the main arc of the storyline. When I was cast, I made it a point not to study too much. She's such a caricature in this series so we wanted her to just be a presence.



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Q: You would have liked to explore the relationship with Olu and the polycule - can you expand on that?

A: The fandom takes this into directions I've never even considered. Full surrender to what the fans want to see!



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Q: Is there any other figure from history that you'd like to play?

A: I'd like to play my grandmother. She was a professor of Russian in China during the Cultural Revolution...eventually I'd like to tell her story.



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Q: Do you have a favorite on set memory?

A: The first day is stuck in my forever. It was so terrifying to be dropped into this environment. Meeting Anapela - both coming from a theater background we were like "what the fuck are we doing?"



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Ruibo on working with Anapela: The first day we shot is the soup stand - we were two peas in a pod immediately. She is family to me. What you're watching on screen is real, she's like a mother to me. #ofmd



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Q: What fight / stunt training did you do before OFMD and what was your stage combat experience?

A: Stage combat was always my favorite class in acting school. Getting to do that at this scale was a dream come true. We only had two weeks to train for this and I have some stunt training from prior.



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My favorite affirmation is "show me how good it can get." - Ruibo Qian

It opens up the field, it opens up the possibilities that you maybe wouldn't have thought of.



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RQ: I have been trying to get an album made for a very long time and my music is very unorthodox. I'm trying to find someone that I vibe with. Musical influences are super varied - jazz standards, trip hop, grunge - I'm all over the place.



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Q: Do you have thoughts on Zheng's love life?

A: Anapela and I joked that Auntie killed my husband.



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Q: Please tell us more about your cat and your love of cats.

A: This cat is new, I got her 6 months ago. She's 9 and her name is Luna. I'm going through big changes in my life. I just recently got divorced and she came into my life to help me through this whole process and has been amazing.