Corey Andrew Powell: ([00:02](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=2.68))

I am Corey Andrew Powell, and I'm joined today by May Lee, a broadcast journalist and host for over 30 years, both a U.S. Based and international anchor-correspondent and producer. Most recently, May partnered with Next Shark — the leading Asian-online news source, where she launched the May Lee show, a podcast video-talk show focused on Asian-American issues and stories. May, welcome to Motivational Mondays!

May Lee: ([00:26](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=26.81))

Oh, thank you so much Corey. It's a pleasure being here. I look forward to the conversation.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([00:31](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=31.69))

Oh yes. Well, I'm happy you're here too. And to begin though, a couple things I wanna just clarify for our listeners, your particular ethnic background, you are Korean, correct?

May Lee: ([00:40](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=40.05))

Correct. Okay. I Korean-American, my parents immigrated to this country. I was born here, but then we actually moved back to Korea for a couple of years when I was very, very young.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([00:49](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=49.2))

Oh, wow. Okay. And then I know just also with today's landscape of so many ethnicities, we have all these different acronyms. Like I literally just learned what, like, you know, BPOC was or something and I'm a black man, so AA . So API is specifically Asian American Pacific Islander.

May Lee: ([01:08](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=68.67))

That's correct. But here's the thing, Corey, that keeps changing too. So to keep up, even I can barely keep up honestly. And so, and I have to keep up, but yeah, you now hear things like APISA, APFA, you know, because they're trying to include other Asians as well, because when you say Asian, most people say it's Asian. Right? Right. So Japan, China, Korea, and you're foregoing and you're kind of, the south Asians are being overshadowed like Indians. Right? Exactly. Yes. So APISA includes south Asians as well.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([01:43](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=103.73))

Oh my goodness. I can't keep up, but know, and it is doubly difficult for me because I'm also a member of the, what used to be the L G B T community. Yep. And now that is L LGBTQ + I A. And if they just keep going with that, I'm not sure how I'll remember. how I'm gonna remember it all, but I'm gonna try and keep it all together. So, well, thank you for that clarity. I appreciate it. But before we get into the, the, the discussion about race and ethnicity, that we're both so passionate about. I do wanna talk about, you have a book though, and your book is mainly live and in person, thank you. It all begins with passion. That's the full title of your book. So share with me and our listeners, why you wrote the book and what's it all about?

May Lee: ([02:25](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=145.4))

Well, honestly, Corey, I didn't choose to write the book. A publisher had come to me when I was still living in Singapore. And that's when I was about to launch my first iteration of the May Lee show. And that was a talk show about the empowering women of Asia, because when I was living in Asia at the time, and this was like 2007, 2008, I saw this change. That was very dynamic change. That was happening with women in Asia, where they were becoming more independent, more vocal, more career oriented, you know? And so I was like, wow, there needs to be a show about this kind of like Oprah-esque. Right. But, you know, yeah. And Oprah is my hero, of course, who, you know, who doesn't look at Oprah as her hero. Right.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([03:09](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=189.52))

yeah. Yeah. Good. I have, we have a similar hero.

May Lee: ([03:11](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=191.56))

Totally. Yeah, exactly. So so because I was doing this and I was embarking on something really, really new as a journalist and something that Asia had never seen before a publisher came to me and asked me, would you be willing to write a book about your career up to now as a journalist, as an Asian woman, you know, kind of fighting through a difficult career industry where they knew there was a lot of sexism and racism and things like that. So that's how I wrote the book. I was not planning on writing a sort of an autobiography at that point in my life, but they wanted to kind of tell the story of how I built, you know, my career, but then embarked on this new adventure. So mm-hmm . Yeah. And I also, you know what, honestly, Corey, let me just jump in. I also wanted to share, you know, kind of very honestly that things aren't easy, you know, especially for people of color and women of color, especially. So I wanted to try to empower people through my story, you know, mm-hmm, be honest. Yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([04:15](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=255.91))

Well, that's really important, especially now, when there's so many efforts in America, it seems and foolishly, so to sort of like suppress the actual truth of this country's history and how we interact with other races and things that we quite frankly did to other ethnicities specifically. I always think about you don't have to be of a certain ethnicity to understand the atrocities that that group has gone through. And so one of the most disturbing things for me in this country is the Japanese internment camp time during world war II. And I find that fascinating, cause that's something that's always just stuck with me. But then I did watch some of your, your talks on YouTube, your videos.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([04:57](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=297.64))

And I saw you came across this wonderful quote and I'm gonna make sure I have the name, correct. Hopefully the name is correct, Mitsuye Yamada? Yep. And she has this great quote, which is to finally recognize our own visibility is to finally be on the path toward visibility. Invisibility is not a natural state for anyone. And I know that struck a chord with you cause I watched you discuss it. And she happens to be someone who was impacted by the Japanese internment camp matter during World War II. So talk a little bit about what that quote meant for you when you read it.

May Lee: ([05:30](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=330.06))

It really struck a chord and I'm really glad you're bringing that up because I think we all struggle. So many of us struggle with invisibility in different ways, right? And you, and I of course know this as people of color and this country has a long history of invisibilization certain groups of people. And so we oppress those feelings. Well, no, we are oppressed. And we repress those feelings because we've kind of feel like that's the standard that we have to follow. And so when I saw this quote, it's like, yeah, invisibility is not a natural state for anyone. We're all human beings. We all have something to say and do we have a purpose, but when that's blocked by controlling power, right? And, obviously we know that white supremacy has been sort of a plague in this country for centuries. We need to finally speak up and push back on that and be heard and be recognized for who we are as different as we are.

May Lee: ([06:33](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=393.89))

And isn't that the beauty of humanity, right? I mean, who wants the same of anything, right? Is that just like having the same meal every day? Right. So, you know, so we have to really break down that idea of invisibilization of, you know, communities and people, and really start learning from each other. And like you said, I love the fact that Corey, that, you know about the Japanese internment. Now we call it Japanese incarceration because that's a much stronger way of talking about what really happened. Cuz these people, you know, 120,000 Japanese, Japanese Americans were incarcerated for years when they were totally innocent, completely had nothing to do with what happened, you know, in Pearl Harbor and during the war. Yeah. So when we start educating each other and when we start learning about this history and not, like covering it up and pretending like it didn't happen, then we develop more awareness. Then we develop empathy, you know, for another community that you might not be part of. But like you said, at least having that awareness and understanding helps you build that awareness and helps bridge those gaps and builds that sense of community and solidarity. That's what we need to do.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([07:53](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=473.71))

I so agree with that, which is part of why the whole idea of fighting against this theory of critical race theory for the African American studies, this sort of like kind of boogeyman assessment of that whole thing is so strange because all we are saying is we just want the modern day America to understand the previous, the previous days' America. So we can understand how we got here and then move forward harmoniously. You would think that today's people would want their kids to, to know that so we can maybe move beyond it. And it's so strange that it's the exact opposite,

May Lee: ([08:29](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=509.62))

Isn't it? Corey? I mean, here's the thing it's like, we're talking about history, we're talking about things that actually happened.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([08:35](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=515.76))

Like there are receipts for this, right?

May Lee: ([08:37](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=517.65))

Yeah, exactly. This is not some fantasy or fiction that was created. This actually happened. Therefore that's why people who learn about this in school, they learn about slavery. They learn about what happened to African Americans. And so therefore there is a level of understanding and awareness right today about that. So I use that as a parallel, actually as a very good example of slavery. The Holocaust, what happened to the Jews that's taught in schools that is talked about in the media, in movies it's depicted, right? Because it actually happened. So therefore, because of that, there's a better understanding and level of awareness. Same thing with Asian American history, because that's not taught in schools. There's not that level of understanding. Now, if they're trying to wipe out critical race theory in schools, you know, things like that, you know, we all recognize then we're in big trouble. We're in big trouble. Yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([09:38](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=578.14))

Yeah. I mean, I just read like yesterday a certain governor of a certain state threw out math books, apparently because the math books taught critical race theory. I'm like, how does a math book teach race? I don't know how they, sort of what algebra got them to that equation, but yeah, it is kinda scary. And, but when you speak specifically too, about the understanding, other people that we don't maybe look like or share ethnicity with. You do specifically talk often about the stereotypes of Asian women in our society. And of course they're there for men too, but specifically for you, you're impacted by the stereotypes for women, among them would be that the Asian, well, particularly, I guess in your particular ethnic group of Asia the women are weak or demure

May Lee: ([10:25](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=625.49))

Submissive,

Corey Andrew Powell: ([10:26](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=626.57))

Submissive. Right. And you're like, you're like, no, ma'am, we , there's so much more happening. So I would love for you to talk a little bit about like that stereotype and where do you think that originates from? Or is it just perpetuated by media as most things are?

May Lee: ([10:41](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=641.66))

Well that for sure. And actually I started I developed this new course at USC. Annenburg where I'm an adjunct professor, just this past fall. That is the evolution of Asian Americans in the media because I wanted to teach why these narratives and these stereotypes exist. Because of historical events and the media and journalism and movies and things like that, that perpetuated all of these stereotypes. So it comes from that for sure. Yeah. But where did it come from? This stereotype of the submissive, weak hypersexualized Asian women comes from hundreds of years ago when, you know, Asian women were first coming here. And so they were used as prostitutes, sex slaves, and things like that. So that stereotype started then, but then the media movies, things like that picked up on that idea of either the Asian woman is the butterfly who needs to be saved. But then she always dies at the end because she commits suicide because her white savior didn't come back.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([11:41](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=701.09))

Never showed up. Right.

May Lee: ([11:42](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=702.429))

Yeah, exactly. That's, that's Madam Butterfly, right? The famous opera, that story mm-hmm and then Miss Saigon later on Broadway or Dragon Lady. So that's the really vicious kind of mysterious woman who tries to steal your man, you know, and will do whatever it takes. So those are all very negative stereotypes that to this day exist. Right? In sort of war Vietnam, war movies, right. Full Metal Jacket popularized that horrible line, "Me love you long time." Yeah. You can ask every Asian woman, have they ever heard that from somebody? And we will all say, oh God, gimme a dollar for every time. I've heard that. Mm. So things like that, you know, if we don't try to dismantle all of these stereotypes slowly, but surely then, you know, we're not gonna get very far. The Atlanta shooting a year ago at the Asian spas that was textbook example of how those hypersexualized stereotypes of Asian women still exist. Right. Mm-hmm those women were all dismissed as sex workers when they were not.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([12:48](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=768.77))

Yeah. And there was so much sadly going on with the actual shooter in that case, this whole psychological thing where his assessment of what someone else was is what prevailed his actions and thoughts and made him take on such horrible actions. And I love that you bring up that weird line from, well, it was just, I think it meant to be an innocuous line in that film, but of course it goes on because it got immortalized in a rap song and it, and I had not even really thought about until you just said that, how, if I were an Asian woman, how offensive that would be to have to hear it now, part of like this American vernacular and pop music, mind you, that radio will play a hit song 20 to a hundred times in, in one hour. Righ? And sometimes so, wow. I didn't even think about that's, you know, how you put yourself in someone else's shoes to try to understand...

May Lee: ([13:38](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=818.52))

And look, Corey, I mean, I don't expect you or other people to get that until it's told in a different way. Like I just presented it. Right? Mm-hmm so that's why talking about these things openly. Like we are today and trying to educate each other and hearing each other. Right. Mm-hmm listening to each other and then that just snaps and then you're like, oh wow. I never even thought of it that way, but now you're gonna think differently about that line.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([14:06](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=846.1))

Of course. And luckily I thought the song was gross anyway. So I didn't really like it to begin with, but I heard enough, right. I was like, are they serious with this? So I totally get it. And I think I'm very lucky in a way too that I live in Jersey city, New Jersey, and we're like a, you know, almost like a, a little mini New York and we're right across the Hudson river. I'm 10 minutes from Manhattan. But in the particular building where my partner and I bought our place in 2007, when we began to meet our other neighbors and condo owners here it was like a rainbow of ethnicities. And so my closest friends here in the building became a really interesting famil; they were Koreans and the daughter who was Korean, and she had a black boyfriend who is now her

Corey Andrew Powell: ([14:51](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=891.21))

She's got two children with him and they moved to Tennessee. And I thought, well, that's an interesting choice for a Korean and black couple with black mixed kids. But what I thought was fascinating was now through Michelle, who's the daughter's eyes who has these two children with a black man in Tennessee, she even sees this whole other level. Right. Because now her children are almost like kind of double marginalized in a society that's racist. So when she, and I talk about that, she was like, oh my gosh, I cannot believe. And, and it scares her, right? Because she has visibly different children in one of the most difficult states to have visibly different looking children . And so, but she does talk about how she use her. Her eyes are opened a lot more than they were even just what she, what she experienced as a Korean now with brown children, it's even more intensified.

May Lee: ([15:40](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=940.92))

Oh yeah. Absolutely. Absolutely. And I mean, I grew up in Ohio in the 1970s. So that was a interesting experience for someone who looked different. Right? And who was always considered the other and marginalized. So, you know, that kind of experience of having biracial children and then two races that are considered minorities and, you know, the other, that's gotta be even a greater challenge and then living in, an environment that, you know, doesn't accept anything, but you know, the standard.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([16:12](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=972.67))

Yeah. Keep telling her, come on back to the north honey, but she's

May Lee: ([16:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=976.54))

You know, but here's the thing, Corey, what the sad thing about what's been happening over the last two and a half years, and this is why I've become so active and vocal about what's, you know, about Asian American history and activism and things like that, is because of course all the anti-Asian hate. And we have been experiencing this, you know, full force and it hasn't stopped. You know, I know the media has moved on, but it is a scary thing because it's not just happening in these random, you know, places where you think racism definitely exists. It's happening in a big — it's happening in New York and San Francisco and LA and Chicago it's happening across the country. Mm-Hmm . And so there is a level, a new level of fear that people are suffering from now that we didn't have as much of before. There's always this underlying racism, of course, you know, that you had to be aware of, but COVID and xenophobia and the anti-Asian hate has definitely opened up a terrible can of worms. It's been a tough time.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([17:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1036.75))

And you've also notably mentioned that the recipients, like on the receiving end of a lot of this anti-Asian violence, it's women, which I was, I mean, I had no idea of that either. So that's 67%.

May Lee: ([17:31](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1051.15))

Yeah. Are, are women who are either, you know, attacked physically, verbally, harassed. So yes, because going back again, Corey, why? Because of the stereotype. Because Asian women are seen as the weakest, the most vulnerable, right? Mm-Hmm and so therefore, easiest targets.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([17:50](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1070.67))

Yeah.

May Lee: ([17:51](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1071.23))

Yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([17:52](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1072.15))

It's funny. We talk about stereotypes and specifically, I guess, we were saying it about women, but I have this thought too of something else that was so disturbing to me as a non-Asian person, but when I saw it and it's you know, I'm really big into films and, and media and classic Hollywood movies. And you know, I had years ago not seen Breakfast at Tiffany's, which meant like they were gonna take my, take my gay card away if I had not watched it. So I had to finally sit down and watch this movie. Cause I do love Audrey. I could not believe the Mickey Rooney character when he came on screen. It was so egregious that I, I actually remember reaching out to my friend, Billy Lou who's Chinese American. I was like, I'm sorry, but how, how did you guys react to this? Because I am livid and it's like 50 years ago. when this movie was made? And yeah, that was a problematic character. But what I do love about it is Mickey Rooney himself later years later said that out of his career, that is the most regrettable thing he's ever done in his life. Not just in films, just, you know, understanding why that was so problematic. And I love that he at least had that awakening, but that was a horrible stereotype.

May Lee: ([19:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1145.88))

Oh my gosh. I mean, I use that example in my classes all the time.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([19:10](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1150))

Oh yeah?

([19:10](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1150))

Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. When I talk about different media stereotypes that were, you know, how this, you know, media perpetuated these stereotypes. His character is one of the worst of all time. It's horrible. It's because first of all, it's, you know, it's whitewashing, right? It's the, it's white face, right? Taking, taking an ethnic character and then using a white person.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([19:31](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1171.66))

Right. They could have found an actual guy if they wanted that. They might have found a guy like that.

May Lee: ([19:35](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1175.65))

but you know, it was a white person's, you know, world back then. Yeah. So all characters were, had to be played by white actors, oftentimes. Mm-hmm right. And so his character is just, you know, it's beyond a caricature right? Beyond offensive, but here's the sad thing, Corey, when we all were growing up and watching this movie, even as Asians, right back then, we kind of didn't even question it. Why? Because we were all programmed to think it was okay. That it was okay for this guy to make fun of Asians and look ridiculous and act all goofy because we were programmed by the controlling majority to think that no, you know, we can, we can make fun of this. And so we kind of just, you know, sucked it up and said, okay, fine. Of course. Then you realize, oh my God, this is horrific. Now. Even someone like you right now, you see you're like, whoa, right.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([20:28](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1228.55))

Yeah. I could can't even

May Lee: ([20:29](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1229.85))

Right. That to me is success to a certain extent that we have at least made progress where people are like, oh God, okay. We can't do that. However, we're still seeing it in the media. We're still seeing it in films where people who are supposed to be Asian or Black even, or Latinx, they're still being played by people who really aren't. Right. Mm-hmm so there's still that sort of whitewashing that's taking place in Hollywood. Scarlet Johansen played an anime character in Ghost in the Shell. Right? Mm-hmm

Corey Andrew Powell: ([21:03](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1263.57))

I think Tom cruised did the whole like, "Last Samurai" or something?

May Lee: ([21:06](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1266.92))

Last Samurai. Right, right. And where the white guy is supposed to be the last samurai. Okay. That's interesting. Right? Tilda Swinton, she played the one in one of the Marvel movies. Originally that's supposed to be an old like Buddhist man, a monk. So why did they choose one of the whitest women in Hollywood to play that character?

Corey Andrew Powell: ([21:26](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1286.82))

Yeah. Like that is a strange. I didn't realize that the actual character, cause I don't follow the whole comic book world, but I know the exact character. They kind of did her up like a

May Lee: ([21:35](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1295.27))

Yeah, yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([21:35](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1295.43))

A fu man cho and

May Lee: ([21:37](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1297.15))

And she didn't have a fu man c but she was bold and you know, she was supposed to

Corey Andrew Powell: ([21:39](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1299.75))

Right. Like Tibetan or something to

May Lee: ([21:41](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1301.31))

Exactly, exactly. Right. You know, Emma Stone, she was supposed to be half Asian in Aloha the movie. Sure. She was supposed to be Hawaiian. Emma Stone

Corey Andrew Powell: ([21:54](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1314.45))

Yeah. Come on Hollywood. I need you to do

May Lee: ([21:56](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1316.97))

It's still happening, but we're at least becoming a little bit more aware, a little bit more sensitive to the fact that okay, you know what, maybe we need to get this right.

Corey Andrew Powell: ([22:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/ia_ZX1PMpq1Gr67dPC79jh9UDm3sVmJ1XEtsn7oV-oiq6uKGchdRFySaQl1d12h05TyQbFv9x1z4cAEP1S8a71YKlrQ?loadFrom=PastedDeeplink&ts=1325.859))

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