

# NYBG

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## The New York Botanical Garden Names Orchid After Celebrity Awkwafina

*Vanda Awkwafina*, the First Orchid NYBG Has Ever Named After a Public Figure, on Display in NYBG's *The Orchid Show: Singapore* Exhibition



*Vanda Awkwafina*



Awkwafina, photo by Brian Higbee

**Bronx, NY**—At a Media Preview for its new exhibition *The Orchid Show: Singapore*, The New York Botanical Garden announced that it had named an orchid in its collection after Awkwafina, who has starred in *Crazy Rich Asians* and *Ocean's 8*. This is the first time NYBG has named an orchid after a public figure.

The orchid is a *Vanda* hybrid (Susan Best × Crownfox Black Forest), one of a group of orchids important to Singapore orchid culture and orchid breeding. Singapore has even selected a related *Vanda* hybrid (*Vanda* Miss Joaquim) as its national flower. They are one of the few types of orchids with flowers in all colors of the rainbow. Cultivated forms come in every imaginable shade of purple, blue, orange, apricot, yellow, and red—many with spots and patterns. The large colorful blooms are among the most prized of all tropical orchids and many are featured throughout this year's orchid exhibition.

The orchid *Vanda Awkwafina* will be kept in NYBG's world-renowned orchid collection, where NYBG staff will care for it and proudly display it for the public during *The Orchid Show: Singapore*, which runs from February 23 through April 28, 2019.

“The flower of this plant has a bold, vibrant, intense color, with deep raspberry-red blooms of excellent quality, which seemed to be a perfect orchid to carry the name Awkwafina,” said Marc Hachadourian, NYBG’s Director of Glasshouse Horticulture and Senior Curator of Orchids. Mr. Hachadourian obtained the Singapore-native hybrid from RF Orchids in Homestead, Florida, and registered the orchid in her name with the International Orchid Register. “We think Awkwafina is the perfect choice because of her accomplishments in music and film as well as her prominence as a native New Yorker. The New York Botanical Garden has a commitment to saving the plants of the world and Earth’s biodiversity, and naming an orchid after Awkwafina helps us build awareness of our long-standing commitment to orchid cultivation, research, and conservation at a time when climate change and other environmental challenges are increasingly threatening plant life on Earth.”

NYBG’s popular annual orchid exhibition returns for its 17th year with *The Orchid Show: Singapore*. Two architectural elements—the iconic Supertrees of Gardens by the Bay and the famed Arches of Singapore Botanic Gardens’ National Orchid Garden—are featured as part of a horticultural tribute to the “City in a Garden,” one of the world’s greatest orchid cultures.

*The Orchid Show: Singapore* is part of NYBG’s year-long theme: #plantlove, featuring exhibitions, programs, and projects exploring the essential connections between plants, people, and the environment.

For more information about *The Orchid Show: Singapore* and to purchase tickets, please visit the Garden’s Web site, [nybg.org](http://nybg.org).

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**The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad, bus, or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to**

enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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Images available.