

## A time to dance

The lunar new year is celebrated by Asians around the world. For this local family, it's full of tradition, costumes and the spotlight. Story, Page 12E



**Above:** "Gallops" is a Mongolian dance inspired by horses and horse riding and performed by CAAM Chinese Dance Theater in St. Paul.

**Below:** Peacocks, considered sacred by the Dai ethnic group of southern China, are the featured animal in the "Golden Peacocks" dance.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIJUN HE

### Entertainment > Celebrities

## Minneapolis native, 'Black-ish' star already a role model off-screen, at 15

By Amy Carlson Gustafson  
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Fans of the popular TV show "Black-ish" know Yara Shahidi as the stylish, smart, tech-savvy teen Zoey Johnson, the eldest child of the Johnson family, who often butts heads with her dad played by Anthony Anderson.

What you might not know is Shahidi was born in Minneapolis (her family moved to California when she was a tot) and still has family in the Twin Cities.

For her role on "Black-ish," a sitcom that takes on everything from racial stereotypes to family relationships, Shahidi has won an NAACP Image Award and was nominated for a Teen Choice Award. Recently, the New York Times did a feature on Shahidi, calling her a "role-model off

screen," thanks to her social activism, including her work with the Young Women's Leadership Network.

Her first big role was in 2009, starring opposite Eddie Murphy in the movie "Imagine That."

Before she was even in school, Shahidi got her start doing print ads and commercials in the Twin Cities alongside her mom, who is also an actress and model. Her father is a cinematographer who used to be Prince's personal photographer. She also has a younger brother.

Shahidi, whose grandfather owns a rug shop in Uptown, says the family tries to get back to Minnesota a couple of times a year. While she wasn't able to make it to the Minnesota State Fair this



THEO & JULIET

Yara Shahidi plays Zoey Johnson.

**What:** "Black-ish"  
**When:** 8:30 p.m. Wednesday  
**Channel:** KSTP-TV

ROLE MODEL, 3E >

### Relationships > Daily Juggle

## How many moms does it take to bring a cat home?

An acquaintance from church emailed me Jan. 7 about a couple of cats.

I have a bad habit of only glancing at or speed reading emails and texts, especially when they're not work related. Combined with my increasingly dire need for bifocals — which I don't yet have — my reading comprehension isn't what it used to be.

This is how I came to believe that my acquaintance from church was trying to find a home for two of her cats.

So I replied with some advice on rehoming.

Awhile later, confused, she emailed back.

"Oh, no, we're looking to have



Molly Guthrey

cats," she replied. "We would like two cats that might like to protect us from the colony of mice that have moved in."

Oh! I wasn't sure why she thought to contact me, of all people, until I went back and read her original email on my laptop — versus my tiny phone screen — so I could better comprehend.

"We're checking around with our friends and neighbors before stopping at the Animal Humane Society," the church lady had written. "Wondering if you had any

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