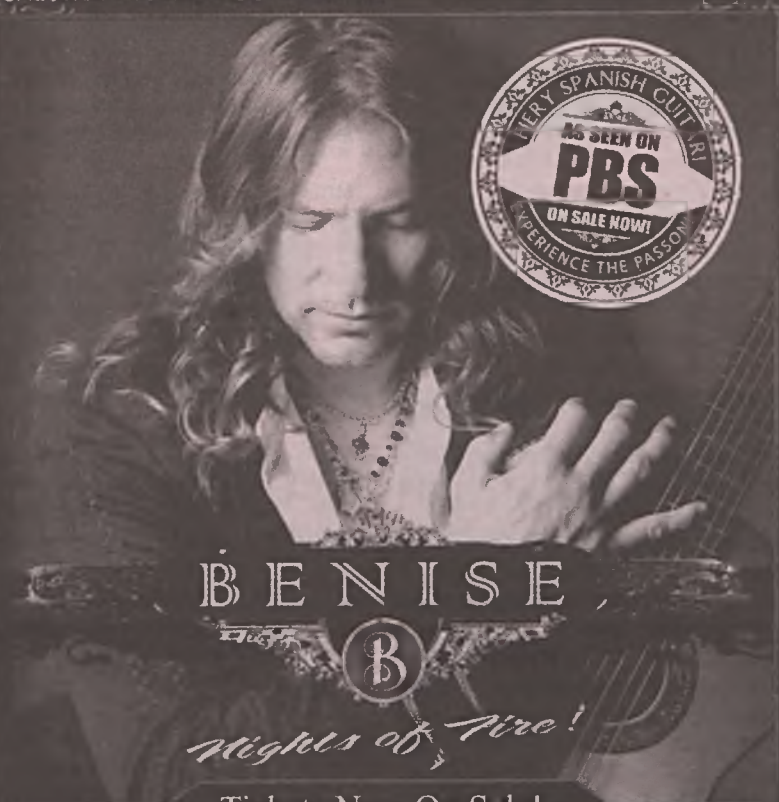




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'Star Trek' actor and HRC team up for "Equality Trek"

by Jay S. Brown

WASHINGTON, D.C. — George Takei, who played Mr. Sulu in the film and television series "Star Trek," will embark on a nationwide speaking tour through six cities, speaking about his life as a gay Japanese American and encouraging others to share their stories.

Takei will also serve as a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) "Coming Out Project," throughout the tour and beyond.

Takei made international headlines last fall when he announced to the press that he and his partner Brad Altman have been together for nearly 20 years.

As a child, Takei and his family were held in American internment camps during World War Two because of their Japanese ancestry — even though he and his mother were born on American soil and his father came to the U.S. as a child.

Takei will speak on the tour about the ways that his life has been touched by both discrimination and by the healing

that takes place when prejudice is replaced with understanding and open communication.

"In my own life, I have felt the discrimination that used to separate Japanese Americans from the rest of the country melt away," said Takei.

"I believe that by sharing our stories LGBT Americans can break down the walls that separate us and help build a more understanding and truly diverse nation for us all."

Takei has been increasingly in the public eye since coming out and on NBC's "Will & Grace."

"For 40 years, George Takei has beamed into living rooms through the television sets of generations of Americans. His unique role in pop culture history will help him reach new audiences with messages of understanding," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "We are tremendously excited to officially and publicly welcome George and his partner Brad into the Human Rights Campaign family."



Openly gay actor George Takei will embark on a tour to promote dialogue on LGBT Americans.

come George and his partner Brad into the Human Rights Campaign family."

info:
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