THE NEXT BIG THING IN HOLLYWOOD WAS CREATED

by a middle school teacher from Texas. To his fans, he's Uncle Rick. In the crowd of a Los Angeles theater, where Uncle Rick has stopped on his most recent book tour, two teange sisters gush that they drove for nearly two hours to make it here tonight —longer, when you account for parking — but it was worth it. Like Percy Jackson, the character that made Uncle Rick famous, the older sister has ADHD, while the younger sister never liked reading, And Percy also landed in Los Angeles on his very first quest. So by the logic set out in Uncle Rick's books, these girls were born to be heroes.

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"He's what think is, onna happen," the 15-year-old whispers
"He's gonna pull me out of the audience and say," I want you in
my show." Her sister scans the room and takes stock of all the
adult fians present, they grew up on Uncle Rick's work, too, and
their excitement to see him rivals that of the pubescents they're
sandwiched between. "He's Still alliev", the 17-year-old reasons,
though Rick is only 59, "and people will still pay \$60 a ticket to
come see him."

Rick Riordan published "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" in 2005. The book introduces 12-year-old Percy, who discovers that the monsters and demon-eyed re-old Percy, who discovers that the monsters and demon-eyed re-old reachers who have plagued him his whole life aren't figments of his imagination: He's a demigod, it turns out — the child of a human woman and the water god Poseidon—and the Greek myths he grewup



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