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Inspirational*

SALVITA DECORTE
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REBECCA TAN

SPIRITED SOUL

A FIERY PERSONA WITH GUNG-HO STANCE TOWARDS LIFE, **REBECCA TAN** REVEALS HER CAPTIVATING PATH AS A MODEL AND A FEW WORDS ON HER PASSIONS AND DREAMS.

BY **NATALIE FALK-GANDARUM**
PHOTOGRAPHED BY **JACKY SUHARTO**

BLACK CHIFFON ONE
SHOULDER DRESS
OKA DIPUTRA



“The beautiful things of the earth become more dear as they elude pursuit,” a quote by Thomas Hardy which couldn't be further than the truth for one Rebecca Tan. Her radiant face portrays a natural beauty like no other, while the twinkle in her eyes flaunts a life filled of positive affairs and a desire to satisfy her needs for adventures.

Born to an Australian mother and a Singaporean father, Rebecca started modelling at only 16 years old in her hometown, Melbourne. Since then, she has ventured to places all over Asia, New York, Miami, South Africa and Milan for modelling assignments and finally made Singapore her home.

Wanting to go and do things at great length, Rebecca always pushes herself further. She is passionate about travelling, music, and interior design. With the hope that one day, she could set up her own interior design studio and help to beautify homes; Rebecca learns how to work 3D Max and sketches in a book whenever she feels inspired. However, being very handy at using power drill and tools, the model has kick-start her interior designer dream by making her own shelves, tables, and outdoor decking among others to decorate her home.

Having been in Bali recently for one month, Rebecca takes pleasures in the beautiful island to the fullest. Always grateful for what life brings her is mostly what makes Rebecca so endearing.



“FASHION, THOUGH
CONSTANTLY CHANGING,
RELIES ON THE SOLID
FOUNDATIONS OF TECHNICAL
EXPERTISE AND CRAFT”

CUBE GOLD
NECKLACE
PASCAL
MORABITO
SKULL
SCULPTURES
OKA
DIPUTRA




BEING A MODEL WITH IMMENSE PORTFOLIO, HOW DOES FASHION RELATE TO YOU PERSONALLY?

Fashion to me is a revolving door of creativity. It's constantly changing and in flux, it is never constant. The fashion from yesteryear constantly come back, evolved with its unique twists that define the age while paying homage to the past. Fashion, though constantly changing, relies on the solid foundations of technical expertise and craft. Personally I relate to that, although I am constantly learning and evolving, my foundations are strong and they have kept me grounded.

HOW DID YOU INITIALLY START OUT IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY?

I had offers to model since I was very young, but my mum never allowed me to model until I was 16 years old. I was an A/B student right up to that year when I started



BLACK
CHIFFON ONE
SHOULDER
DRESS OKA
DIPUTRA

getting death threats in school because I was half Asian. As I was becoming depressed and fearful, I decided to quit school and started to model. My mum did not object. My first job was in Australia but soon after I got on a plane to Taiwan and that's when I started getting really busy.

Adding to my earlier history, I went to Taiwan for 2 months and it was a crash course in modelling. I was putting on 200 outfits a day and working every day, non-stop for hours on end. Although it was exhausting, it was such a great learning experience. It was a sink or swim situation, and I learned how to swim.


SO WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, DID YOU ALWAYS DREAM OF BECOMING A MODEL?

I always loved going into the city, where everyone seemed to be very much up-to-date with the fashion trends. It was a stark contrast to what I'd see in the small town I grew up in. So those visits to the city really inspired and piqued my interest in fashion. I changed my mind quite a few times, but I always wanted to be a model growing up. There was a time when I dreamt of being a vet, then an architect so I could build houses. When I was a teenager I toyed with the idea of being a graphic designer. One of my passions now is interior design.

SINCE YOU ARE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN INTERIOR DESIGN, WHAT IS YOUR DREAM HOUSE?

My dream is to have a loft of a warehouse I can do up. The location? Well, picking a place or country to live in is a tricky one, because I cannot decide. I love so many places!

As for the interior, I would have raw brick feature walls, lots of wood, stone, water features, plants, nice art pieces, iridescence lighting and of course nice comfortable furniture. As for the garden, I would love to have a Japanese Zen garden. I love bringing the outdoors in, anything that is raw and natural, linear and a mixture of modern and rustic.



ROPE JACKET OKA DIPUTRA
RINGS PASCAL MORABITO

“DIFFERENT PEOPLE INFLUENCE AND INSPIRE ME IN VARIOUS FACETS OF MY LIFE”

AS A MODEL THAT IS ALWAYS IN THE PUBLIC'S EYES, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR PERSONAL STYLE? OFF THE RUNWAY OF COURSE...

On a day-to-day basis, my personal style is androgynous. I am not impartial to any one brand. If something appeals to me, I'll wear it. I do like a good well-made pair of jeans, and I wear Dzojchen quite often. On the other hand, I really like Kate Lanphear since her style really resonate with me.

WHO INFLUENCE YOU THE MOST, IN YOUR MODELLING-LIFE AND REAL-LIFE?

Different people influence and inspire me in various facets of my life. Spiritually, Buddha's teachings inspire me and ground me.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR BODY?

The eyes are the windows to your soul. The eyes are also a great way to express emotions and thoughts when I model. Without a doubt, my eyes are my favourite.

AS A MODEL THAT NEEDS TO LOOK AT YOUR BEST MOST OF THE TIME, EVEN WHEN YOU ARE NOT WORKING, DO YOU HAVE ANY GUILTY PLEASURES?

I do love my carbohydrates! Haha...

YOUR JOB REQUIRES YOU TO BE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA, BUT WHAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU TOOK A PICTURE OF?

On set of the L'Official photo shoot. You can check out my pictures on Instagram @RJT99.

YOU HAVE TRAVELLED FAR AND NEAR FOR YOUR MODELLING JOB, WHAT ARE THE PLACES THAT YOU HAVE TRAVELLED TO THAT LEFT BIG IMPRINTS IN YOUR LIFE?

I've been to so many countries and they all leave a bit of an imprint on me. I've met so many wonderful people who have become friends and daresay, even family. Singapore has made me who I am; it became my home away from home. It's also where my father is from, so that makes our relationship even more special. Italy too left a huge imprint on me; the beauty of the scenery, the people, the food and its rich history blew my mind the first time I visited.

YOU HAVE TRAVELLED AROUND THE WORLD, AND BEING A MODEL YOU MUST GET INVITED TO A LOT OF PARTIES. SO, TELL ME MORE...

I have been invited to quite a few amazing parties. I do love to go to a good party every now and then, but at the same time I also like my quiet time too. It's hard to pinpoint just one good party, because there have been a few that have been quite amazing. I think so long as you are around good company, you can make the most of any party and have a great time.

HAVE YOU EVER BUMPED INTO ANY CELEBRITIES? DID YOU GET STAR STRUCK?

Yes. I have been very fortunate to meet and work with quite a few of them. I think whenever someone meets someone that is so well known around the world, one tends to get a little star struck, whoever they may be. But some that really stuck out for me is hanging out with SnoopDogg and Richard Branson.

Haha... If I could, I think I would like to party with quite a few people! Oh Gosh, where to begin! Mostly people that can make me laugh, but also people that I find very interesting. Some of those people would be Wanda Sykes, Ellen DeGeneres, Melissa McCarthy, Morgan Freeman, Pierce Brosnan, George Clooney and the list goes on!

DO YOU ALSO TRAVEL FOR LEISURE? WHAT'S IN YOUR TOP THREE 'MUST VISIT' PLACES?

I love travelling and I have a really long list of places I'd love to someday experience. If I had to narrow it to just three, they'd be the South of Italy, Kenya, Rio de Janeiro, and Santorini. Okay that's four, but there are just so much of the worlds I have yet to see!

TRAVELLING SO OFTEN, I'M SURE YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED THE WORST. WHAT WAS IT?

I was on a flight from Melbourne to Jakarta for a job, and ten minutes into the flight there were three explosions in one of the engines. I was seven rows behind the wing and saw the explosions from my window seat. After ten minutes the captain announced that we had to dump fuel and head back to Melbourne airport. While the plane was circling the sky with the engine still on fire, I could see fire trucks and ambulances lining the runway. They managed to put me on another Jakarta bound flight at 8 am the next day, but when I arrived in Jakarta, they had lost my luggage. I had to wear the rejected clothes from the shoot for the next three days. Eventually, I got my luggage back. Thank God! For the inconvenience, the airline gave me an airline stapler. Thanks. *(laughs)*

HOW DO YOU KEEP YOURSELF SANE IN BETWEEN ALL YOUR TRAVELS AND WORK?

By staying grounded and being grateful. Every time my life gets really busy, I remind myself to be appreciative of the opportunity to work. This really gets me through anything and keeps me positive.

To unwind, I simply like to catch up on TV series or movies, or spending time with close friends and do a bit of jamming on my guitar.

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF FUN?

My idea of fun is travelling to beautiful places with amazing friends. But if travelling is out of the question, then I absolutely love karaoke. I secretly want to be a Rockstar! Haha. If I could choose a random skill to pick up, it would be to learn to sing better, and write music!

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR QUIRKS?

I'm born in the year of the monkey and I get into all sorts of mischief to make my friends laugh. It tickles me endlessly when I elicit great reactions from them. My monkey-ness can get up to a 7 or 8 out of 10 if I'm in a good mood.

SO WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF REBECCA TAN, DO YOU WANT THEM TO ONLY SEE FASHION AS THE ONLY THINGS THAT COME TO THEIR MIND?

I can understand why some people would, but behind every face lies experiences of love, loss, hopes, fears, yearning and talents. It's the same for me, being a model does not mean that's all I am.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND MODELLING FOR OTHER PEOPLE?

I would only recommend modelling to people after they have finished school, because they will need something to fall back on when their career in the industry finishes. Models are forced to grow up fast in this industry. They should be enjoying their school life because you can never get that back.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, SUM YOURSELF UP IN THREE WORDS!

Street, smart, and chic.



BLACK CHIFFON
ONE SHOULDER
DRESS OKA
DIPUTRA

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VILLA BALI
HAIR & MAKEUP
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