



Tell me

## WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT YOURSELF

Are these three people? They're in the business of you look good. And, depending on how you see 'em either angels sent to eradicate your physical sinners predators exploiting your insecurities for Chung Kamei talks to these professionals and its out exactly which category they fall into.

and commercials, her eyes light up when she talks about knowing that she is personally responsible for making someone look better. "Which girl isn't vain? I personally think it's a girl's responsibility to make herself look pleasant. There is no reason for you to appear barefaced in front

of people you're trying to impress. It's about self-respect. And whenever I see people who either don't put on makeup or put it on badly, it's just a reminder to me that there are girls out there who need my help. As a makeup artist, I can provide you the expertise and tell you what will look good

on you. For instance, I'd tell you to neaten your eyebrows and to start using a lipbalm cos your lips are parched. But at the end of the day, there's no point in forcing my ideas on you. You want to look good cos you want to feel good and if you have to be told what to do, it defeats the purpose."

## The aesthetic physician

**Name: Dr Low Chai Ling, 35**  
Medical Director of The Sloane Clinic

"There's no such thing as an ugly face. There is only such a thing as an ageing face and that isn't ugly, it's aesthetically challenging."

**D**r Low, like Cheryllyn, speaks of deriving pleasure from making someone look better, whether it's something as dramatic as sculpting their faces or as simple as removing lines around their lips. She talks about how you require an artistic eye and an appreciation of beauty to be a good aesthetic physician. To test her, I ask her what's wrong with my face. She takes one glance and says, "Your skin is nice, there are no signs of ageing yet. Your jaw could be slimmed down because your face is bottom heavy. You have a muscle roll under your eye and your cheeks are flat." Suddenly, I have this hideous image of how my face looks to the world. But before I can wallow in self-pity, she mentions other procedures she has performed, like tightening the skin on people's knees, armpit whitening and even microdermabrasion on the feet. Wow, either people have the most obscure insecurities or they're being sold services they don't need. In response to the latter accusation, Dr Low responds, "If the patient thinks it's necessary, there is demand for it. And if she's willing to pay for it, I think it's justified."

My alarm bells are going off. I knew it! People like Dr Low make us feel bad about the most random things! I never thought my cheeks were flat until now. As if she senses my indignation, she explains, "When we say a procedure is unnecessary, it's for two reasons. It's either not going to make you look better or the intentions behind the

decision are wrong. We once had a woman who was on her way to the lawyers' office cos her husband was going to divorce her. She came in with a whole wad of cash and told us to make her beautiful. That was her entire life savings! We had to turn her away and counsel her. At The Sloane Clinic, if somebody is doing a treatment say, to please their boyfriend, we usually counsel them and dissuade them from making any rash decisions they might come to regret."

Dr Low's services range from \$300 to \$1,000 on average, and she sees about 20 to 30 patients a day, if she doesn't need to perform any major procedures. There's no denying the money in her line of work is good and I'm slowly getting an idea of how tempting it can be for doctors to push their customers to take up more services. So it's slightly comforting then, that there are doctors who are not solely out to earn an extra buck for the sake of it.

