

SINGAPORE

# ELLE

DON'T MISS!  
YOUR  
BEST-EVER  
PARTY  
SURVIVAL  
GUIDE

"I LIKE A GUY  
WHO CAN  
MAKE ME  
LAUGH"

Paris Hilton tells  
all to novelist  
Jackie Collins

REWIND 2007  
27 OF THE YEAR'S  
HITS, MISSES  
AND MORE

THE BIG O  
WHY IT'S EVEN  
BETTER WHEN  
YOU'RE IN LOVE

THE SCIENCE  
OF DESIRE  
But will you ever be  
happy enough?

CRUISE 2008  
SNEAK PREVIEW  
RESORT CHIC,  
RETRO COOL

PARTY  
CHIC

buy one  
get one  
absolutely  
FREE

FOOL  
STYLE SOLUTION  
& ALL

## MODERN

of beauty helped shape me into the woman I now am.

Being Eurasian gave me an unusual insight into beauty — as a child, I got a lot of stares from both Western and Asian people. If anything (and this might surprise you) it made me more self-conscious about how I appeared to friends and family members. I felt normal, but other kids didn't treat me normally. It made me realise eventually that I was born into two worlds, and it was crucial as a teenager to understand both cultures and to define my look.

That we perceive beauty as black-and-white is only because we have been sold the idea that it only comes in a certain form and packaged in a particular way. Beauty has become something created by the media, for example, to be sold in stores, and to be consumed by the masses. Conformity has become the new individuality. Sure, I am honoured by the fact that I have starred in international beauty campaigns, but as a teenaged model going for auditions, my confidence was often dampened because they pick at every flaw you have, be it freckles or a simple mole. And I have many!

I definitely have never fitted into anybody's set ideals of beauty. I didn't get boys chasing me in school, which really made me feel unattractive as a young girl. Sometimes I felt a bit like a freak, as though I was different and did not fit into common ideals. When a photographer approached me when I was 13 for a shoot that eventually got me on the cover of a magazine, I felt I had something to prove — that I was different and I was completely indifferent to their sentiments. I met so many great people on my journey who thought I was "unusually attractive" and attractive enough to model all over the world, which in turn allowed me to grow as a person.

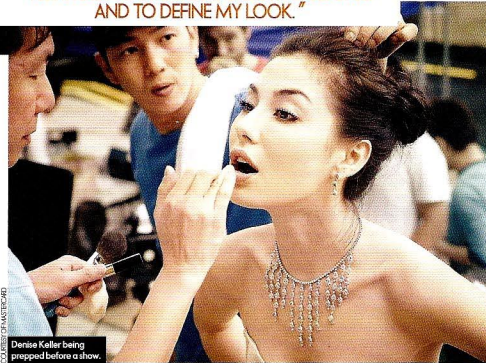
Beauty is a philosophical debate, which preoccupies with concepts

such as taste and expression. I find beauty in everyday things, in all shapes and sizes: Beauty in plants like a tiger lily flower or a simple white orchid; a walk in Central Park in the fall; buildings and architecture such as Tadao Ando's Church of the Light in Japan, the top of the golden dome within London's St Paul's Cathedral or the interior of Grand

mother does. Mine told me to remove makeup before bedtime, drink herbal tonics (such as teas) once a week, and to never squeeze a pimple even if it's tempting. But how can somebody really be seen by others as being beautiful? Well, it's easier than you think.

Cleanse-tone-scrub-moisturise (once-a-week mask optional).

"I FELT NORMAL, BUT OTHER KIDS DIDN'T TREAT ME NORMALLY... I WAS BORN INTO TWO WORLDS, AND IT WAS CRUCIAL AS A TEENAGER TO UNDERSTAND BOTH CULTURES AND TO DEFINE MY LOOK."



Denise Keller being prepped before a show.

Central Station in New York (which makes me feel like I'm in an old '20s noir film set). And music — a simple Chopin piano sonata, an opera (*Lucia di Lammermoor* is beautiful), lyrical melodies (Nick Drake, Interpol and Depeche Mode, to name a few). The list goes on. Physical beauty, I have learnt, features way down the list, far beneath emotions, intelligence and inner peace.

My mother gave me some indelible advice, as every woman's

exercise, sleep and drink loads of water. I like going for pampering sessions at the Sloane Clinic — they have amazing botanical facials that restore hydration. I do this once a month because all that flying can really dry me up like a prune. And when these bare essentials are done, get to work on the hard stuff. Love yourself, keep working on the inner life. Be kind and generous to yourself. If all fails, have a hot chocolate and get some rest. Tomorrow you can try it all over again.



beautyfeature

## BEYOND SKIN DEEP

Model, MTV VI, Ford Supermodel of the World Singapore 2000, reality television star and six-time

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