



— THE INCIDENTAL ACTRESS —

LINH DAN PHAM

FOR LINH DAN PHAM, ACTING WAS NEVER ON THE AGENDA. NEVERTHELESS, AT AGE 19 HER CHANCE DEBUT IN 'INDOCHINE' PROPELLED HER INTO THE LIMELIGHT. SHE HAS SINCE BEEN HAILED AS 'MOST PROMISING ACTRESS' — TWICE — AND IS NOW READY TO PLAY THE PART AS TOMORROW'S LEADING LADY.

Wardrobe: Sine Gerstenberg
Photography: Lars H.
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Linh Dan Pham was really supposed to be a doctor, or maybe a marketing executive. She could have spent her childhood in her native country Vietnam; she could have become a housewife in her second home France or she could have made it as a headstrong career girl in Korea. But something entirely different was in store for London-based Pham who never gave acting a second thought until she found herself at the center of a feature film opposite Catherine Deneuve. "I only got into *Indochine* because my father had seen an ad looking for a young woman to shoot a film in Vietnam. That was what really attracted him about the project and why he got me into it — so that we had an opportunity to go back to Vietnam where we hadn't lived since the war," Linh Dan Pham recalls. "The film was just a holiday for me. It was not like a career and I didn't think of it as something I really wanted to do."

Linh Dan Pham left the spotlight to pursue a career as marketing manager in Korea, but two years ago she returned to the big screen with the prize-winning French film *The Beat That My Heart Skipped* (which won one *Bufo*, two *Silver Bears* and eight *César* awards), and she was once again dubbed 'most promising actress.' "The funny thing is, I'm not a person who likes to take risks in life. I like things to be organized and to know where I'm going. And yet, I chose a profession that's very unreliable and risky," says the 16-year-old actress. "After *Indochine* the roles I was offered were very much typical. It was always the Asian woman over and over again. But now the world has opened up and especially after my *César* I'm being offered parts that are just for a young woman, which for me is a great achievement. I'm finally being recognized as an actress in my own right."

In 2005, Linh Dan Pham will star in her first English-speaking film, *Mr. Nobody*, alongside Jared Leto, Dianne Kruger and Sarah Polley.