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E An. Evening With Mindee

We broke the ice with the 27-year-old Fly Entertainment Artiste while she is getting dolled up for our photoshoot. Mindee Ong is known for her amiable personality but despite her affable nature, she guards her privacy closely. Could that be a sign of a true blue Libran? We learn more about her dating beliefs and showbiz career as we chat with her over a sophisticated formal photo shoot at the Suria Raya Karnival!

Credits:

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It's been quite a while since you were last seen on TV. What was it like playing the role Julie in "Coming Home"?

"Coming Home" is a tele-movie and I played Julie. It was quite a challenging experience because one of the scenes required us to be in the prison premise for a day. During filming, the location exuded a very dark and morbid feeling within me. Despite being in the premise for a day only, I couldn't bear the thought of spending more time there. It was a challenging role because honestly, I've never tried drugs before and in order to play the character Julie, I had to research on the effects of drugs and portray it on screen. There was a scene when Julie was tempted to turn to pills and she hesitated because she was recently out from prison and had wanted to turn over a new leaf. That scene was quite a struggle for me as I had to portray that on screen which I think I managed to achieve.

What about in the short film "Buy Me Love"?

"Buy Me Love" was a totally different experience. Since there wasn't any script, there wasn't any dialogue either. I played the character, Sun Yi, who had to keep quiet throughout the entire ten minutes of the show. It won the first prize in the Panasonic MDA Film Festival.



Striped Lurex Halter Dress, \$169 from Future London
Black peep toe heels, \$46 from Charles & Keith
Pearl earrings and necklaces, stylist's own

WLM Fashion

Are there any current or upcoming project(s)?

Not at the moment, though I hope that there will be one soon! However, I was involved in a recent theatre production in conjunction with the *Singapore Arts Festival* this year called "*Strangers At Home*" by Drama Box. It was equally challenging being the first theatre musical as it was on a smaller scale comprising five cast members.

Now, that you've tried acting for TV and theatre, any preference?

Oh, not at all. In general, I'm still acting, which is my passion. I'm glad I tried out theatre and it was a great learning experience. And if given the choice, I'd like to do more stage acting and do at least one good theatre production a year.

Late last year, you performed in *Lao Jiu The Musical* by Theatre Practice. Tell us about your first theatrical experience?

Wow! It was a completely different and new experience as I've never performed in theatre and have had no theatre background at all. I never planned on venturing into theatre however, Fly Entertainment – my management company encouraged me to give it a try. In the end, the director wanted to see me and informed me that I didn't have to worry, as training will be provided. Training went on twice a week for six months but subsequently two months before the musical, rehearsals were intensive. No complains there as I've gained valuable theatre experience. I've learnt the importance of one's body movements in theatre and TV.

Jersey Lurex Beige Dress, \$159 from Pinture London
Beige gold heels, \$86 from Charles & Keith
Pearl dangling earrings and necklace, stylist's own



WLM Fashion

What would you do or want to be if you are not in showbiz?

I would have been a designer or even an air stewardess since my mom always wanted me to fly. It would have been great as I get to explore the world, learn new cultures, languages and meet new people. Also, it would require a lot of independence.

Is there a dream role that you'll be keen to act as?

I want to act as a ghost. I want to try it because no one knows exactly how ghost feels and it's not going to be easy since you don't get to be a ghost everyday.

Where do you get your fashion cues or ideas?

I like to read Taiwan and Hong Kong magazines and watch their TV shows. These countries are way ahead in fashion trends as compared to Singapore. If I'm not wrong, Hong Kong and Taiwan's fashion is at least six months ahead of us.

Brown Diamante Tassel Dress, \$159 from Phuture London
Beige/Gold heels, \$36 from Charles & Keith

Is there anyone you very much want to work with?

I shall not be too ambitious and will speak with regards to the local market. I'd love to work with directors Royston Tan and Bertrand Lee again though I've worked with them before. Firstly, both Royston and Bertrand are two very talented young individuals with lots of ideas. Secondly, we get along well considering that we're of the same age group. Work's smoother and lots more fun.

You started out singing, how did you land up acting?

It started when *Mediacorp TV* was still known as *Television Corporation of Singapore (TCS)*. My acting debut came along only after I joined the singing contest. Mr Man Shu Sum of *Mediacorp* casted me an acting role in *"Different Cuts, Different Strokes"*. That was how my acting career began and I'm very grateful to him, considering I didn't have any acting experience.

"Different Cuts, Different Strokes" was quite a famous Chinese sitcom, which starred Kym Ng and Mark Lee along side many other artistes, how did you feel having the chance to work with them for your first time?

I'd have to say I was definitely nervous since I was new to acting and on top of that, I had to act along with the big names in the industry. Back then, as a 17 year old, I'd dare say that even though I was nervous, there was a part of me that was quite "gung-ho" (enthusiastic to try new stuff). Well I was at that age when I was curious and excited to explore and try new stuff. And acting definitely was a great chance presented to me. But now, I've mellowed down with age and I guess I'm not as daring as I used to be.

Silver Spray Embroidered Corset, \$176 from Warehouse
Silver Satin Prom Skirt, \$159 from Warehouse
Silver three circles pendant necklace, \$68 from Perlini Silver
Silver 3 Big Rings bracelet, \$75 from Perlini Silver
Black peep-toe heels, \$43 from Charles & Keith

WLM Fashion

What's the most adventurous/funny moment you and your date have done, if any?

I don't think other people do this. My boyfriend and I will drive to different petrol kiosks in our area late at night. It's called "petrol kiosks hopping" – not to pump petrol but to buy snacks. If you're not aware, different kiosks carry different things. Adventurous enough?

Ever thought of issues on marriage?

No, because I'm still establishing my career. You will not hear any wedding chimes anytime soon since he's also quite career-minded.

Full Name:
Mindee Ong
Fly Entertainment Artiste

Zodiac Sign:
Libra

Favourite Colour:
Purple

Favourite Flower:
Lily

Favourite Hangout spots:
Likes to hangout at
Coffeebean, Scotts Shopping
Centre

How she spends her time:
Playing electronic games and
doing graphic design projects

Favourite Food:
Too many to name!

When do you think is the ideal age/moment to settle down?

My cliques of friends, including myself, we're late bloomers. My friends got married in their 30s. Actually, to me the marriage certificate is just a piece of paper. I don't need to have a piece of paper to prove my love for him. I believe as long as the love is there and you're comfortable together, that's all that matters.

If you were to have kids, would you give up your showbiz career to stay at home and look after them?

I don't think I'll give up my career to stay home and be a housewife to look after the kids. But then again, I don't plan to have kids because I'm already in my late 20's and I'm establishing my career at this point in time.

Anywhere your fans can get more of you? Blog sites? Fan sites etc?

I do have a *Friendster* account but due to one incident that happened, I became very wary about accepting friend invitations. There was this guy who messaged me on *Friendster* and asked me indecent questions. **WLM**

Red Graduated Sequin Dress, \$479 from Warehouse
Black peep-toe heels, \$43 from Charles & Keith
Black dangling earrings, stylist own

WEDDING & Lifestyle

Speaking of dates are you currently in a relationship?

Yes I am. We've been together for many years.

What do you look for in a soul mate?

He has to have a very kind heart. Intelligence and maturity, which allows him to foresee things that I cannot. He should always think five to ten steps ahead of me, so that I'll feel protected. Apart from that, he should get along well with my friends. It speak volumes; as it goes to show that if he knows how to treat your friends well, he'll treat your parents and family well too.

Do you make the first move or do you prefer to wait?

No matter how much I like the guy, I would never make the first move. If it is a mutual feeling that we have for each other, and if he wants it, he comes after me. And one more thing, I don't like if he poses dubious questions because I won't be able to decide and answer. He has to be honest about his feelings.

Share with us your idea/impression of romance.

I'd like to watch fireworks in Australia since Australia is the first country to have fireworks!

What's your idea of a romantic date?

It would have to be a lunch box. No, not the \$3.50 take away chicken rice lunch set. I would love to receive a lunch box that has been dolled up with brown rice at the background to symbolize land; cauliflowers to represent clouds on the top; carrots cut in human shape to represent the two of us and lastly decorated with other food that'll paint a picture.

Any memorable dating incident?

It was my first date and I didn't dare eat because it'd have been very messy and I cared too much about having a bloated tummy. But most importantly, I really liked my date and was really shy to eat. I read this information from the Internet and it said that it has been proven to be true. So here's a hint guys, do watch out if your lady date orders a salad or soup, it shows that she likes you!

Black Modern Dandy Lace Dress, \$250 from Topshop
Black peep-toe heels, \$43 from Charles & Keith
Gold loop earrings, Gold Long Chain necklace, Gold bracelet, stylist own