

Follow That Dream- Everything For A Passion

*A Q&A session with an
aspiring young actress &
singer, Jennifer Reischel,
reveals her thoughts
& aspirations about the
people and experiences
in her life.*

Q. What made you aspire to be an actress?

A. When I was 8 years old, my family arrived in Kuala Lumpur. My mother, an amateur actress and singer, got the opportunity to sing in the world premiere of the musical "Stand and Deliver". I was fascinated by the performance. And from that day onwards it was my wish to be an actress and a singer.

Q. How did you start to fulfil your dream of being an actress?

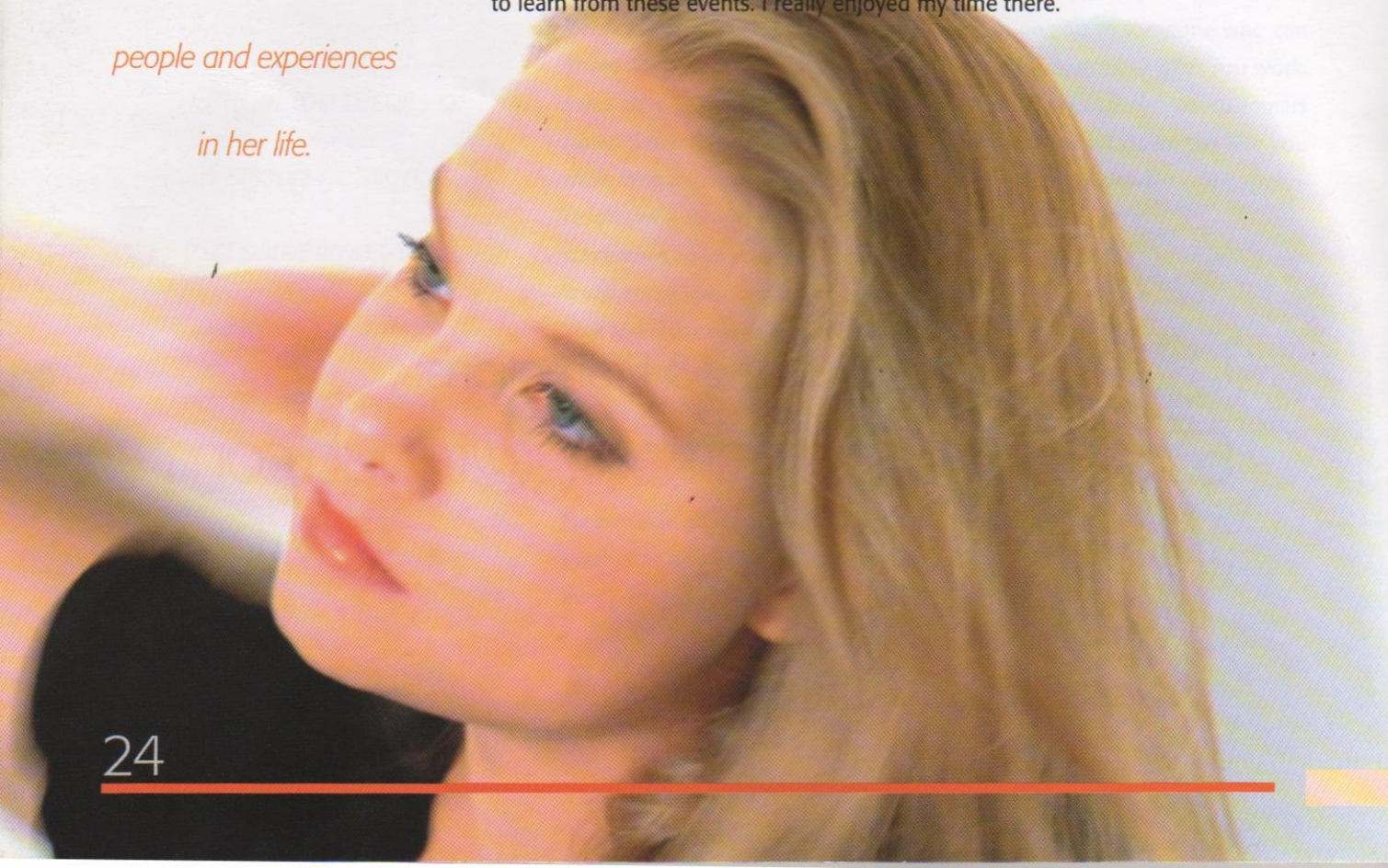
A. When I was 6 years old, I dreamt of being a pianist. After much persuasion, I convinced my parents to let me take piano lessons! At the age of 14, much below the usual age to start. After the musical Stand and Deliver, I enrolled in professional singing lessons after singing at selected occasions on weekends in Malaysia.

Q. Which school did you attend in Kuala Lumpur?

A. I attended the Alice Smith School for two years. And from 1990 to 1994 I attended the International School of Kuala Lumpur.

Q. How did these schools influence you?

A. I received a lot of encouragement as an individual from my teachers. The teachers took each student seriously and provided a lot of support and encouragement. As a member of the Drama Club, I participated in performances and took every opportunity to learn from these events. I really enjoyed my time there.



Follow that dream - Risking everything for a passion

Q. In 1994 you and your family moved back to Germany. How did you feel about that?

A. We lived for 3 years in Hamburg. It was a big change in my life. I was 14 years old at that time and I loved Kuala Lumpur very much. I missed my classmates and the surroundings. In Hamburg, schools are very different from those in Malaysia. There is very little support for students who wish to excel and you have to create your own opportunities.

Q. You passed your 'A' Level in 1999 at the German School in London. At that time you already knew that you would love to study at the Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts (London). This is a world class musical theatre school and you know that only 5 % of the student intake are foreigners. How did you prepare yourself for this challenging entrance examination? I heard that Sir Anthony Hopkins is in the Board of Directors, is this true?

A. Yes, it's true that Anthony Hopkins is sitting in the Board of Directors in this school. I prepared for this examination for 2 years. I prepared myself by taking singing, dancing and acting lessons. The hard work was worth it. I made it and from 2000 applications, only 3 foreigners were accepted. I guess my training in classical singing was an added advantage for me.

Q. Peter Charlesworth, your agent, got your attention. How do you feel about that?

A. I am truly very proud. He was on the road most of the time with Marilyn Monroe and is also the former manager of Shirley Bassey and has only 30 clients around the world. At the Graduation Showcase we had only 5 minutes to present ourselves. Peter's agency was impressed and asked to represent me. I did not accept immediately as I was lucky enough to be able to choose between 4 agents who had expressed interest.

Q. How was your experience in this school?

A. It was very hard work. The day started at 8.00 am and ends unofficially at 11.00 pm. And out of the 32 students who were accepted, only 27 made it.

Q. What advice can you give Singapore students when they want to study abroad?

A. From my experience I can say that it's a total change to study abroad. Singapore is so safe and protected that each individual citizen is well taken care of. This is not the case in Germany or England. It is not as safe as it is here in Singapore. A student who wants to study in England should get information about how to be safe there. This does not mean, do not study there. No, by all means do go and get the experience if you can. Through this experience, one will be of strong mind and knowledge. No school in the world can give you that.

Q. What are you currently doing in Singapore?

A. After six years I am visiting Asia again and it was like coming home for me. I am visiting my parents in Singapore.



They have been living in Singapore for 2 years now. I am currently making a demo CD for auditions and will sing on the Singapore Award Night at the Esplanade Concert Hall as a guest singer on 29th November 2002. From 6th October 2002 until 20th November 2002, I will be attending auditions for Phantom of the Opera and The Sound of Music in WestEnd, London.

Q. Does your family support you in your pursuits?

A. Yes, definitely, but at the same time, they are cautious about the so-called 'bad reputation' of this industry. They are worried that I may get hurt. There are a lot of actresses out there and my family always tells me to see things realistically. My mother was an actress in Germany as a teenager and she is guiding me in making the right decisions.

Q. Besides your appearance at the Singapore Awards night on 29th November 2002, where else will you be performing?

A. I perform twice a week at the Singapore Swing Club. My main goal at this point is to make my demo CD for the auditions and also prepare for the auditions for Phantom of the Opera and the Sound of Music in WestEnd, London.

Q. What will you be doing at the present moment?

A. I am concentrating on my performing career at the moment. And hope for a contract with a record company. I am also keeping my fingers crossed that I'll get a role in Phantom of the Opera in WestEnd.

Q. What do you do in your free time?

A. Since my passion is acting & singing, I love to write songs. When I was six, my biggest wish was to be a pianist. I still play but want to concentrate more on my technique in the future, so I can improve my songs.

