

COSMOPOLITAN FUN Fearless FEMALES 2013

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From media personalities to social champions, the *Cosmopolitan* Fun Fearless Females 2013 contestants are young Singaporean women who have dared to be different in tackling both their careers and life's challenges. In the July issue, we introduced the first six inspiring women. Here, we meet the other six in the Social Awareness & Volunteerism and Entertainment & Media categories. **BY MAVIS NGUI**

SOCIAL AWARENESS & VOLUNTEERISM

ZHANG TING JUN, 30, Social Activist and Co-founder of The Chain Reaction Project

"I was a producer at Channel News Asia when I took part in 'Tour de Timor' — a notoriously difficult 450km mountain bike race to promote peaceful social conditions in Timor-Leste (previously Indonesia's 27th province). Timor-Leste still bears scars from the Indonesian invasion in 1975, which had a death toll of almost 200,000 soldiers and civilians. The more we learnt about the significance of the race and the country, the more compelled we felt to use the biking adventure as a

platform for change. This race and the fund raising effort that followed led to the birth of The Chain Reaction Project. Along with my partners, we raise funds for causes in the world's least developed nations through adventures, from summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro for Tanzanian orphans to running marathons for underprivileged Cambodian students. We inspire others to join us in being catalysts for change as well. Thanks to our donors, we have since raised \$450,000 and counting!"

FUN FEARLESS FEMALE MANTRA: "Let the beauty we love be what we do."

PHOTOGRAPH: KIMBERLY LEE; STYLING: JIMMY CHOO; MAKEUP: VDL

12 Steps to FEARLESS LIVING

Oh, it's a great time to be a Singaporean female. More than ever, local women are embracing their independence, taking control of their lives and rewriting the rule books. Over the past few months, *Cosmo* has been showcasing our country's most dynamic pioneers. Unafraid, inspired and determined, whether it's improving the lives of others or revolutionising the media landscape, they're all leading the way in their respective fields. And today, we're proud to present the finalists. Along with honouring their significant achievements, we've got each of them to share the biggest lesson they've learnt on their way to the top — so that one day, you too can follow in their fearless footsteps. **BY MAVIS NGUI**

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHER HIM. HAIR: ZHOU AINI/MAKEUP ENTOURAGE. MAKEUP: DOLLY SEAH/MAKEUP ENTOURAGE USING VDL. ASSISTED BY: LYDIA THONG

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Dress: Miss Selfridge
\$179. Bracelet: Patek
\$29,000. Earrings: L'Or
\$26. Watch: DKNY \$199

◀ Do What You Love, Love What You Do

NOT ONLY HAS ZHANG TING JUN, 30, MADE SAVING THE WORLD HER JOB; SHE'S HAVING THE TIME OF HER LIFE DOING SO. THE SOCIAL ACTIVIST AND FOUNDER OF THE CHAIN REACTION PROJECT HAS RAISED MORE THAN \$450,000 FOR VARIOUS CAUSES AROUND THE WORLD.

"I thrive on challenges and adventures. Some years back, I was a national netball player but when I retired from the court for a full-time job, I felt a void within me. Working as a producer at Channel News Asia was exciting and fun but I needed something more. I needed purpose. Now, I count myself lucky that I'm able to do everything I love as a livelihood. I participate in adventures, raise money for worthy causes and inspire people all at the same time. To me, a project's success is not based on how many funds we've raised, but when everyone on the team has made it past the finish line. During fundraising races, I'm at the back with the newer members of our team who are struggling. It's not about winning or setting records — it's making sure we all have fun throughout the journey there."

◀ Love Without Bias

HER BIGGEST REVELATION MAY HAVE COME FROM HER BELOVED PET BUT LEONA LEONG, 29, FOUNDER OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ALL, IS FIGHTING TO GIVE EVERYONE A SECOND SHOT IN LIFE.

"Even though I come from a privileged background, my father made sure I knew I had to work hard for what I wanted. I only received rewards if I'd earned them, and these values made me down to earth. In the condominium where I grew up, the kids were very smart. I didn't do very well in school and it's natural for parents to compare. Even back then, I felt that I was missing out on

opportunities simply because I wasn't as clever or lacked paper qualifications. At that time, I told myself that if I could provide jobs for others, it would prevent people from having to feel as helpless and inept as I did. Passing judgement on a person's capabilities based on their qualifications, frankly, makes the world an ugly place. The first time we had a hearing impaired guest in our home, my dog treated him the same way he treated us and, in that moment, I realised that love truly knows no bounds. People shouldn't be judged by their disabilities, mistakes or unfortunate circumstances, because everyone deserves a second chance."

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