

# Cream of the Crop



**Premsini Ratanasopha**, known by most as *Cream*, assumes several roles in her young life, as an only child-daughter, a student, an actress, a model, and an attractive star in the public eye. She is also a university student in performing arts, and has performed in several theatre plays.



She is known most for her character, Fon, in the 2001 movie, 'Bangkok Dangerous' which is about a confused deaf-mute Thai hit man who loses his life while avenging for the murder of his mentor.

While the film may be perceived as a narrow glimpse into Big Bad Bangkok and life in its subterranean, Cream (as Fon) stands out as a sweet, angelic pharmacy assistant who provides the few moments of kindness, love and sympathy for another human being, in a largely violent and sinister story.

Still completing her 4<sup>th</sup> year performing arts at the Srinakarin University, Bangkok, Cream's current activities also include performing in a TV series entitled 'Boon' (doing good, doing right), doing magazine shoots and fashion shows. She had just finished the film 'Siwui' (about a murder committed by a Chinese in Thailand) in which she played the character of a journalist searching for the killer of her sister.

How does she juggle school and a heavy professional schedule of acting and modeling? Having the support of her parents, and people around her is vital.

“For TV shooting, I may be required to work for 3-4 days a week. I get permission to be absent from classes; my teachers are supportive of what I do, and that helps to add a sense of relief from the stress. I ask my classmates to assist me by filling me in on what I have missed.”

Presently, Cream, with the delicate lips and fair-complexioned skin fit for a soap commercial, is not engaged in any



commitment. She has been looking forward to this.

“I want to relax, and do something that I’ve always wanted to do, such as learning to ride horses, play tennis. When I was young, I saw a local actress on TV, and I thought ‘oh, she’s young and beautiful!’ – she was riding a horse. I wanted to be like her.”

Aware that she may be required for roles that call for very different abilities and versatility, she is serious about her studying, which includes acting and directing at the university. She also understands that a variety of experiences are important in developing a rounded personality.

“I think an actress or a performing artist should have knowledge and skills in many areas,” she says.

Embarked on a career in acting, Cream has been interested in performing ever since she won a modeling contract when she was in high school. “I had never thought about acting until a friend persuaded me to do modeling, and accompanied me to the auditions. I got lucky and was chosen.” After that experience, she decided to enroll in the university for performing arts studies. “Before, I had wanted to do Business Studies. I used to be in ABAC (a business school). Importantly, I think I’m not suitable for business; the first thing is I don’t like mathematics – I hate it very much!” Cream sweeps back her long straight charcoal-black hair, and continues “As a child, I had never thought that I would one day be an actress.

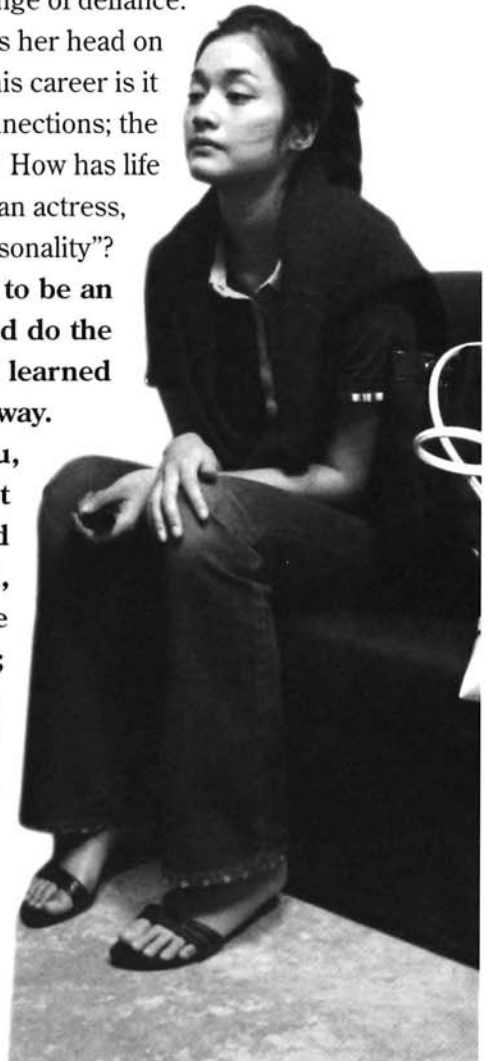
My parents didn't like the profession too, but now they accept what I do – they never force me. I wanted to be an air hostess but not a star or actress. Never.” She says it is important that her parents - her father is a social worker, and mother works in a bank – understands her, and not be swayed by the negative publicity that quite often happens in the entertainment industry. It becomes obvious that Cream is a performing artist who is devoted to excelling in her ability to perform; she also feels a responsibility to those who like her acting, and she vows to continue performing, as long as they wish to see her do so. In the glitzy world of entertainment, it is easy to be blinded by the lights and lose perspective. Cream has come to realize this. “The entertainment media can be bad news. I was badly misunderstood because of reports that I had been going to parties, and behaved badly in public. I was so sad because the reports were not true at all; I could not do any thing because I was only an actress, and reports are made by reporters, not actresses,” she said with a tinge of defiance.

She, however, keeps her head on her shoulders. “The good thing about this career is it allows me to gain experiences and connections; the bad thing is I lose my own personality.” How has life changed for her since becoming an actress, resulting in the “loss of personality”?

Cream elaborates on it: **“I wanted to be an actress but also the girl as I am and do the things I want to do, but I learned that it cannot be this way.**

**The public eye is very much on you, and in many instances you have to fit into certain ideas and its expectations, i.e. how a girl, actress and student should behave and hold herself. I like acting; it makes me happy, so I'm willing to compromise.”**

The slim and tall Bangkok-born 22-year-old lass, looking more like a





catwalking covergirl than a university student, describes how she sees her own personality. She notes that she is a self-confident person, and this confidence can seem difficult to accept in a society that expects girls to be demure, graceful and submissive. Once you have established a certain image in the entertainment industry, it takes a lot to change that perception.

Giving an example, she says, "Ever since making the movie 'Bangkok Dangerous', [in which I was] a sweet, girl-next-door character who got mixed up with a deaf-and mute hired assassin, I have been offered the same kind of gentle, proper woman roles ... again and again. I don't like that; I want to change and act in different roles."

In the public perception, Cream is expected to be angelic and feminine. "It is frustrating to suppress yourself to suit public perceptions, to have to feel as if you're not free to be yourself."

After a long silent pause of pensive contemplation, Cream blurted her description of the other aspects of herself: "I think self-centred ..." This is followed by a spontaneous laughter which suggests that she knows she's admitting it as an aspect of herself which is probably not the best, but that she's honest and is aware that this is how she is. She laughs as if she has succumbed to a sensual pleasure that contains an element of guilt. Does she mean selfish? "No, no ... self-centred, not selfish." Cream is still laughing as if she had performed a prank, and adds "I always think about myself and my interests but I am generous with others." Then, hastening to confide in a little secret, she excitedly says "When I was eight years old, I used to tell my parents that I did not want a brother or sister, because ... I was afraid my parents would love me less. She starts laughing again.

Was she lonely as a single child? "No, I was not lonely; I liked it as an only child. Mm ... yes!"

“Also, positive thinking!” she shrieks, “I’m a person who thinks positively about the world, about life.” And she certainly appears so, as she attends to the questions put to her with a feisty zest, rarely sounding negative no matter what the matter is. And when it comes to the subject of traveling, she was even more enthusiastic. “I lovvvvee traveling!!!” she declared, “I like to experience different cultures”. Cream had just recently been to Nepal where she did a shoot for a magazine. Where does her optimism comes from, and who are the biggest influences in her life? “Both my parents,” the irresistibly spirited actress/model answers without hesitation. What are Cream’s most attractive and unattractive features in her own view? “Simplicity. I like to be simple. That is perhaps my attractive feature. For the unattractive feature, **“er ... I am too blunt. When I don’t like something, I speak out. Unfairness, for example, rarely escapes my comments when it occurs.”** And what would she like to change about herself?

“I work a lot, and think about work too much, too seriously. I want everybody to like my work, to like me. It is not about wanting to be popular. I entered this line of work because I like it. Popularity is only a fringe benefit.”

What does Cream do for leisure? “I stay home, sleep and relax. I like reading. Kahlil Gibran’s ‘The prophet’ is my favourite. It has been helpful whenever I feel I need advice with some difficulties. I read and play tennis.

Fitness gyms are boring to me. I have three dogs, my pets at home - I’m afraid of cats ... when I was young, cats at a temple jumped and scratch me – and I love travelling, so much! I would like to experience different cultures.”

Cream reveals that she actually doesn’t think that she has talent. For example, she likes singing, but feels that she will be a disaster in a musical theatre. Karaoke would be fine, she jokes. For the young celebrity and student, however, abundant promises lie ahead of her, and there should be no shortage of offers for her to become one of her generation’s top performing artistes.



THERE  
BEFORE  
YOU

# ANGKOR OBSERVED



DAWN ROONEY



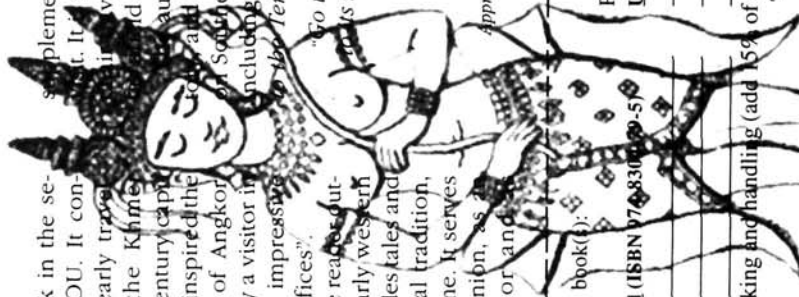
## ORCHID GUIDES

# ANGKOR OBSERVED

by DAWN ROONEY

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