



HOW I SPEND*MY WEEKEND

AS TOLD TO ANGELINE TSE



PHOTO: LIONEL LAI

sex play

She's no Annabel Chong, but 251 director LORETTA CHEN says she's really easy, too. Of course, Edmund Chen's little sister is only referring to her taste in music.

"We started thinking about the play 251 over a year ago, when I chanced upon an article in the papers which defined a national hero as one who breaks boundaries and dares to do what no man or woman has dared to do. And, playing the devil's advocate, I said, 'Hey, why shouldn't Annabel Chong be our national hero?' When I travel abroad and say I'm from Singapore, people go, 'Oh! Annabel Chong!' She is as iconic as Tiger Balm and bak kwa. 'Annabel' is fully aware of the play, and she is okay with us doing what we're doing. Now that she's [back to being] Grace Quek, it's kinda hard for her to endorse the play. She said, 'Do whatever you want with Annabel Chong.' She knows that Annabel Chong is an open text for interpretation — it is just her persona.

By the way, it's wasn't 251 men she slept with. It was 70 men done over 10 hours and a few of them went two or three times, so it became 251 times. And I don't think she orgasmed 251 times — that's a *bit* difficult, right? (*Chuckles*) I don't condone her acts, but I respect that she was accountable for her deeds. Never once did she say she was drunk or [that] she did it for the money. People think just because porn stars make their private parts public, they have nothing interior [having no substance] about them. At the end of the day, we want people to come away from the show understanding Annabel Chong a little bit more.

I don't believe in sleeping in on the weekends. I just have so much to do! I try to see my family if my older brother Edmund [Chen, the actor] is not filming and I'm not rehearsing madly for plays. We try to organise outings to each other's homes and just eat lor! We also love eating at Peach Garden at OCBC Centre. Having a famous brother definitely has its perks — we always get freebies and the best service when we go to restaurants. I've always felt very privileged because I had the best childhood. My two older brothers were so incredibly protective of me. There was one time, Edmund was sending me to school and running with my haversack because I was late. On the way up a bridge, his big toenail got caught on the stairs and it got ripped out entirely. But he still continued to send me to school! A lot of people also don't know that Edmund is a fine artist who draws really well. Truth be told — now that I'm 31 and have no fear of my primary school teachers — he used to do my art homework for me. (*Chortles*) And I'd score distinctions!

I just got myself a husky. He's a retired showdog who's appeared in magazines and all that. I'm so proud of him! His name is Argo, but his show name was Argo the Fox Fire Arctic Spirit. He enjoys going for car rides, and so do I. I enjoy cruising in my car with good music. Sometimes, it's Madonna or Gwen Stefani — anything pop. Sometimes, I like good old jazz, like Billie Holiday. Or music from Bebel Gilberto. Sometimes, even the radio will do. When it comes to music, I'm really quite a whore. Anything also can!" ■