A simple girl with a not-so-simple life

SMU undergraduate and TV artiste Rebecca Lim shares with JASON LOW her views on balancing studies with acting, and about her recent venture into investing

SHE is someone who finds shopping a chore, wishes she had time for a boyfriend and one who regularly clocks more than 14 hours at work daily – while still pursuing a full-time undergraduate degree.

Since participating in the Miss Singapore-Universes competition back in 2005, Rebecca Lim has seen her life transformed. Still an undergraduate at Singapore Management University (SMU), she shared with BT her thoughts on her current lifestyle both as an undergraduate and an actress, and her venture into investing.

A fourth-year accounting major at SMU, she caught the eye of talent scouts during the Miss Singapore-Universes pageant and was offered a contract just before her freshman year. Since then, Rebecca has been juggling school and acting.

The 22-year-old recalled her dilemma when she first received the acting contract, as her original intention was to pursue medicine overseas.

"I always wanted to be a doctor and at that point in time, I had made plans to read medicine overseas. Then the contract came along. It was quite a tough call to make, to be honest, since I always wanted to be a doctor and help the needy," the Victoria Junior College alumnus said.

"Eventually, I decided to take up the offer after my parents convinced me that the contract opportunity is not something that comes everyday. They told me that I am still young and should give this a shot.

Rebecca said she is currently busy filming two English dramas – Fighting Spiders and another which is currently untitled. More commonly seen on Channel 8 Chinese dramas in the past, she has recently been seen more often on Channel 5, where she is part of its latest rebranding initiatives.

"The switch came quite naturally to me since I feel more comfortable speaking English than Chinese," she said.

On the prospect of leaving the acting scene, Rebecca said: "If I were to choose a job in the financial industry, I believe the private banker role would suit me best. It's probably due to my preference for moving around meeting and talking to new people rather than spending most of my time in the office.

Conversation with her is punctuated by laughter and giggles. She says she herself is someone who "tells really bad jokes", she grins. "Most of the time when I tell jokes, my friends laugh at me rather than at the joke."

Her friends, mostly from Acoo, an account-

Rebecca has begun to do some financial planning for herself. She has started investing in some funds. Currently, she thinks that cash is king but she is also doing her research to buy into "fundamentally strong companies when the right time comes".

"I believe in understanding the company before putting my money into it. This ensures that I fully consider all the potential risks the company is facing before investing. I am rather risk averse, so at this early stage, I don't invest that much. . . . But I am lucky that I have my brother, who's been investing for some time, to guide me along."

On personal goals, she said she wants four children in the future. "I am quite a family person, so having a close-knit family with four kids is just nice. Also, I want to look back in life and not regret not trying things out.

Finding a life partner, she says, is difficult partly due to her busy schedule.

Her 2009 resolutions: "I hope to graduate with decent grades, have a healthier lifestyle and spend more time with my family, especially my grandparents."

'S Be contented and do your best, no matter what . . . I believe one should be contented with what one has. When things come your way, good. But don't expect things to come your way all the time.'

Rebecca

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