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FIVE MINUTES WITH...

ZHANG ZIYI | ACTRESS, FASHION PLATE AND NOW AMBASSADOR FOR OMEGA WATCHES

TEXT BY: KEITH W. STRANDBERG

Zhang Ziyi first appeared on international film radar with her stunning appearance in the hit film *Crouching Tiger*, *Hidden Dragon*. She followed up that performance with co-starring turns in *Rush Hour 2*, *Hero*, *House of Flying Daggers* and the lead in *Memoirs of a Geisha*. The actress was recently added as an ambassador by Omega watch brand, and I chatted with her between filming projects in mainland China; my first question was about the secret of her success.

DEDICATED

"It's very simple. I work hard," she says. "There is also timing. I feel lucky to be able to take an opportunity and make something of it. Being successful means doing what you love. Having recognition on top of it is, of course, fantastic. I've also been fortunate to work with a few of the world's brilliant directors and to have been surrounded by supportive people from the beginning of my career. They have helped me find my direction."

FASHION PLATE

Known as a fashion plate on the red carpet, Zhang appreciates watches as functional, fashion-



able accessories. "Like all luxury accessories, watches express the personality of the wearer," she says. "They can be changed



easily according to mood. Watches made by Omega communicate the brand's message of tradition and innovation."

"I'm interested in fashion, so I'm conscious of everything I wear, including jewelry and accessories," she continues.
"When I was first approached by Omega, I was happy because the brand is extremely well known and respected in China. Omega has been in China since 1895. My relationship with Omega has certainly increased my interest in and awareness of watches."

AFICIONADA

Zhang is aware of the differences between quartz and mechanical movements. "The Constellation 160 Years watch that I wear has a quartz movement, and it keeps great time, but I'm also intrigued by mechanical watches," she details. "There's something special and solid and traditional about them. I wouldn't say that I prefer one over the other; they're different, and I have both quartz and mechanical watches. It's hard for me to identify one favorite watch, but I love my Constellation. It's quite elegant with diamonds on the dial, and I can wear it with almost anything."

Look for Zhang in the upcoming films Sophie's Revenge, Waiting and Lost for Words.

For more details about Omega, visit omega.ch or telephone 800.766.6342.

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From left: Zhang looking glamorous on the red carpet, and on the big screen; the Omega Constellation with diamonds.