

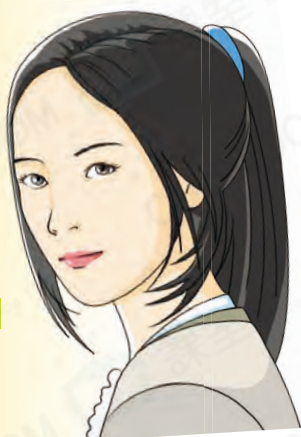


Let's Think

1. What makes Zhang Ziyi a Hollywood star?
2. Imagine you were Zhang Ziyi, what would your life be like?

You are Anne. You are reading a biography of a Chinese actress.

CROUCHING TALENT HIDDEN STAR



Born in 1979 with the talents for acting and dancing, Zhang Ziyi is now an internationally-known Chinese Hollywood film star.

Zhang told the press that she had picked up dancing at the age of 11 when she entered Beijing Dancing College, where she spent 4 years receiving training in dancing. Having received several awards in dancing, she then started receiving training in acting at the age of 15 at the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing.

She said that her life had changed after meeting her guardian angel, film director Zhang Yimou, when she went for the audition for a shampoo commercial. Zhang, impressed by her acting, invited her to star in his film *The Road Home* in 1999, her debut film which made her unknown face recognisable to many Chinese people.

With *The Road Home*, Zhang stole the limelight, making her entrance to the film industry. But it was the Oscar award-winning Hollywood film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, directed by the famous film director Ang Lee in 2000, which brought her fame as a Hollywood star.

Following the huge success of Ang Lee's film, Zhang was widely acclaimed in the American film industry. She was then invited to play the lead in the American film *Rush Hour 2* in 2001. Ever since, Zhang has starred in many other Hollywood films, making her a truly international star that we see today.

(230 words)



Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the biography. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- The writer believes that Zhang Ziyi was already a/an _____ girl when she was young.
 - A. rich
 - B. internationally-known
 - C. adorable
 - D. talented
- Which of the following best replaces 'picked up' in line 3?
 - A. started learning
 - B. taught
 - C. became interested in
 - D. gave up
- How many schools had Zhang Ziyi attended before she became a professional actress?
 - A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4
- Why was film director Zhang Yimou 'a guardian angel' to Zhang Ziyi?
 - A. He chose Zhang Ziyi to appear in the shampoo commercial he directed.
 - B. He gave Zhang Ziyi a ride back home after the audition.
 - C. He invited Zhang Ziyi to act in his film.
 - D. He introduced Zhang Ziyi to another film director, Ang Lee.
- Which of the following was Zhang Ziyi's debut Hollywood film?
 - A. *The Road Home*
 - B. *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*
 - C. *Rush Hour 2*
 - D. none of the above

Grammar Corner

We use **reported speech** to report someone's words, thoughts or ideas indirectly.

e.g. She said that her life had changed after meeting her guardian angel, film director Zhang Yimou, when she went for the audition for a shampoo commercial. (Lines 8-9)

Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the biography. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. What was the proof of Zhang Ziyi's talent in dancing?

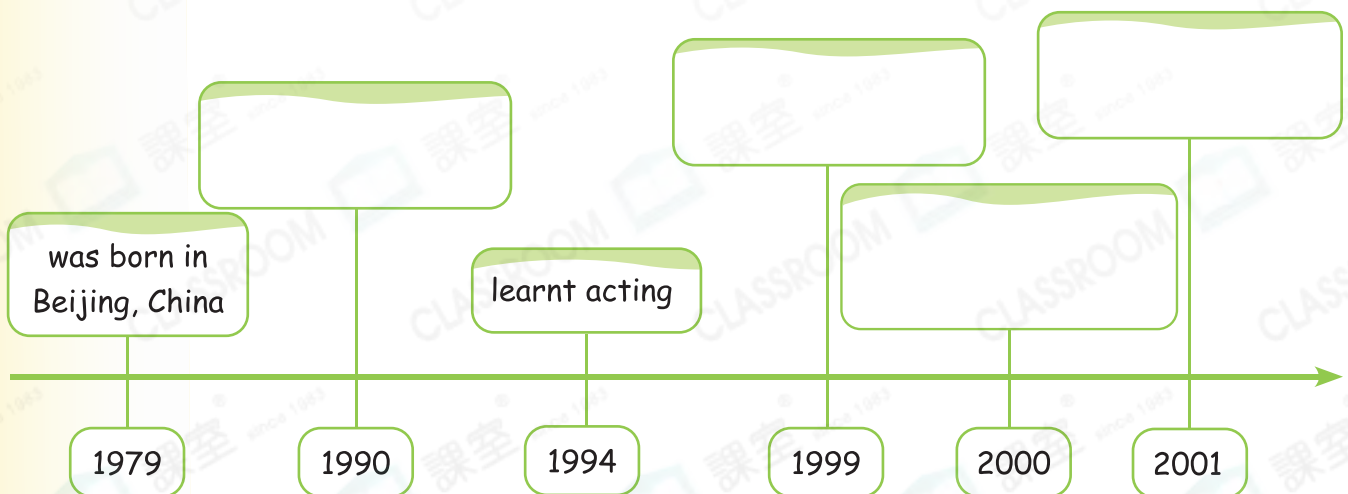
2. What made director Zhang Yimou invite Zhang Ziyi to appear in his film?

3. Find a word in paragraph 3 which means 'a first appearance'.

4. Find one expression in paragraph 4 which proves that *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* is a huge success.

It is an _____ film.

5. Fill in the following blanks with what happened in Zhang Ziyi's life in the corresponding years.



6. Do you think that Zhang Ziyi is still a famous film star? Find one sentence in the biography to prove your answer.

Vocabulary Bank

The following are the people in film production. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

actor / actress stuntman screenwriter costume designer
art director director editor cameraman make-up artist



1.



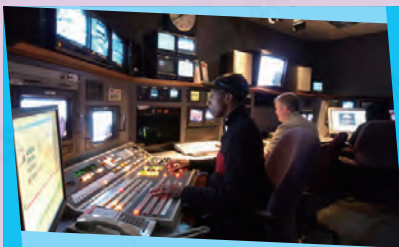
2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Let's Discuss

1. Which role do you think is the most important in film production? Why?
2. What qualities do you think an Asian actor or actress should possess to gain status in Hollywood? Why?