

SPOTLIGHT

## Renaissance girl

Shining on the film and art scenes, **RIDHIMA SUD** is a star in the making, says SONAM SAVLANI



If there's one thing Delhi-bred Ridhima Sud is good at, it's mixing genres. Sud switches between art consultant and actor, and next month she stars in the Guinness World Record-breaking film *The Owner*, an indie flick that traces the journey of a backpack. It knocks *Paris Je T'aime's* 21 directors off the record books with a crew of 25 directors—across five continents—none of whom have met. The backpack passes hands, introducing us to myriad characters (including the one played by Sud, in the Dubai leg of the film) and jumping genres from comedy to drama to horror.

Sud, in her early twenties, bagged

the project after a social networking site advertised a casting call. She describes her look as “ethnically ambiguous” and believes that it swings in her favour to fetch her roles beyond the Indian stereotype. “I get called in for a lot of Hawaiian, Hispanic and mixed-race roles,” she says, especially since she speaks Italian and French. Even Bollywood has come calling, but her lips are sealed about future projects.

Sud divides her time between Los Angeles and Mumbai for her acting career, and shuttles from New York to Delhi, introducing American clients to contemporary South Asian art. That's how she led Oscar de

la Renta's son, Moises, toward works by artists Binoy Varghese and photographer Prarthna Singh. Even friend Kunal Nayyar, of *Big Bang Theory* fame, relies on her taste in art.

With plans for her art blog currently under way, Sud will feature despatches from her Sotheby's Institute of Art batchmates spread across Lebanon, Hungary and Qatar. Her fashion sensibility adapts to her globe-trotting life: in New York, she mixes vintage Valentino and Marni with fleamarket finds, in LA she channels a relaxed, almost boho vibe, and in Delhi it's wedding finery. With this fashion chameleon, you never know what to expect. ■