

TONIA SOTIROPOULOU

The fourth most beautiful and exotic woman on the planet

A recent poll contacted by IMDb leaves no room for doubts. Tonia Sotiropoulou is officially the fourth most beautiful and exotic woman on the planet. Thanks to her part in the recent installment of the James Bond saga, Sotiropoulou has attracted the attention of the international media.

The 24-year-old actress has been living in London for the past four years and has been forging a career for herself with a lot of hard work and her impressive looks, reminiscent of an ancient Greek statue. Her part in "Skyfall" helped her gain mileage in mainstream cinema but she still insists on participating in art projects she finds challenging, like Martha Fiennes' pioneering moving-image artwork "Nativity", staged last year in Covent Garden, several shorts and "Berberian Sound Studio", which opened at the recent Toronto International Film Festival to rave reviews.

According to James Bond fan site MI6, Sotiropoulou originally auditioned for the part of «Severine» but she lost the role to French actress Berenice Marlohe. Apparently she made enough of an impression to come back in another role. Naomie Harris will play another Bond girl, Eve, while Oscar winner Javier Bardem will play the baddie bent on (what else?) world domination.

"Skyfall" was Sotiropoulou's first big-time flick. And she is justifiably excited. Again, according to MI6, she spoke about her happiness with the Greek press. «This is the happiest day of my life so far! I feel very lucky and blessed, but basically, I am very grateful that this happened, for my family and my friends who believe in me and support trying to do. I will do the best. I am very proud because somehow it might be something that will advertise in Greece and I am happy about it.

Sotiropoulou appears content with the turn her career has taken and isn't afraid to show it. Focused, determined and dedicated, she follows her heart with equal amounts of conviction and grace.

Tonia's aim is to better herself as a person and be able to use the power of fame in ways that will make her have an influential part in everything that goes on. «I do not consider myself an artist just yet because I am very young but I have a perspective about it and I want to do the best that I can», she says.

On location in idyllic coastal Fethiye, Turkey, the actress prepared for her scenes alongside Craig, who was working

on his third 007 outing.

"Daniel is nice, funny, a very normal guy, it was the most relaxed shooting experience I've had so far," commented Sotiropoulou. "We were laughing about the sex scene, I was kidding around saying: 'How nice. You'll hold me for a couple of hours.'"

Meanwhile, Mendes became a friend. "I trust him. He is a very sweet, very normal person who does what he does out of love," she said.

Born in 1987, Sotiropoulou went to drama school in Athens before heading to London four years ago to pursue a career in the British film industry.

"I love British culture and their sense of humor. They tend to be very honest and this can be tough to handle sometimes, but you do learn in the process," she admitted.

In London, the actress takes care of her pets, takes the grim weather in her stride and enjoys strolling round a city where people, whether famous or lesser-known, tend to mind their own business. She is also taking careful acting steps and has repeatedly rejected casting offers and movie projects she felt were not appropriate for her.

"Many confuse celebrity with success and somehow take on roles they don't really want. This is something producers and directors sense; you have to be very selective when it comes to what you want to do," noted the actress. "You either realize that you're an actor and that's your job or you're all about marketing."

Reaffirming her ties to Greece, the actress recently turned up at a "Skyfall" avant-premiere in Athens organized by the film's local distributor, FeelGood Entertainment. At the event she spoke about her involvement in what is certain to be a worldwide blockbuster, a film whose globetrotting journey is picking up more and more rave reviews.

Tonia Sotiropoulou is definitely a doer and an original person. What else do you need in order to become a success story?

