



let your style roar

How fresh is Kikuchi's equestrian-style blazer with zebra-print shorts? Always mix your formal with a little fun. For slick hair like hers, try Vidal Sassoon Pro Series Mega Firm Hold Gel (\$4, at drugstores). Blazer, blouse, shorts, Emilio Pucci; boots, Bottega Veneta. See Glamour Shopper for more information.

Writer: Rajni Luckienne-Jacques
Hair: Dennis Devoey for Art Department; makeup: Maki Ryoko for MAC Cosmetics; manicure: Donna D. for artistsbytimothyprano.com; producer: Viewfinders, LLC

we ♥ rinko

For a big-time action star, Rinko Kikuchi, 32, is surprisingly bashful. The fresh-faced Japanese actress, looking gamine-chic at our interview in high-waisted jeans, a baggy white T-shirt, and red suspenders, dissolves into an OMGLOL giggle fit when discussing how she's fine-tuning her English. "I'm watching *The Voice!*" she says, admitting she's got a crush on Usher. But make no mistake: This girl is tough. To prep for her monster-fighting role in this summer's mega-budget sci-fi movie *Pacific Rim*, Kikuchi sweated through months of boot camp and martial arts training. It came in handy for her next project too, playing a villain in the samurai movie *47 Ronin*, out later this year. "I was lucky to get that role," Kikuchi says. "The character is—how can I say this?—a real bitch!"

It's not *luck*, though: Kikuchi has worked years for this moment. At age 15 she was discovered on the street by a talent agent and went on to make a splash in Japanese cinema—she's a household name there—and in the global film world, earning a best supporting actress Oscar nomination for the 2006 film *Babel* with Brad Pitt. "Going to the Oscars was a really precious experience," says Kikuchi, who's also modeled for Chanel. The best part of the night? Introducing her star-struck mother to Leonardo DiCaprio. "At the time I couldn't speak English at all," she recalls. "But Leo was *really* nice." —Erin Carlson

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