

**JOAN CHEN**

Joan Chen is famous both in China, where she grew up, and in the United States, where she now lives. How did Joan become a famous actress in two countries? It's an interesting story.

Joan Chen was born in Shanghai in 1961. When she was 14, some people from a film studio came to her school and chose her to study at the studio. She was happy about this chance, but mainly she liked the idea of getting out of school. Soon, however, she discovered that she really liked acting. At age 18, she won the Golden Rooster, China's top film award.

In the late 1970s, Joan's parents, who were doctors, moved to the United States. Joan joined them when she was 20 and went to college there. Her parents hoped she would study medicine. Instead, she looked for work as an actress. To work in the United States, Joan had to start all over again. She told Hollywood agents that she was an actress in China, but she only got some small parts in TV shows.

One day Joan went to speak to a director who was making a movie. The interview didn't go well. As she walked away, a man in a car noticed her. The man was Dino DeLaurent, the film producer. He immediately offered her a leading part. A year later, she starred in Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor* and was on her way to worldwide fame.

**I . COMPREHENSION**

**Base your answers on the text.**

**A . Are these sentences true or false? Justify**

**3 PNTS**

1 . Joan Chen liked school very much.

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2 . Chen went to the United States before her parents.

.....

3 . She wanted to study medicine.

.....

**B . Answer these questions**

**3 PNTS**

1 . How did Joan feel about studying at the studio?

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2 . Did Hollywood agents offer her important roles at first? Explain.

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3 . Which movie helped her become famous?

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**C . What do the underlined words in the text refer to?**

**2 PNTS**

1 . this chance (paragraph 2): .....

2 . There (paragraph 3) .....

