

= Freida Pinto =

Freida Selena Pinto (born 18 October 1984) is an Indian actress who has appeared mainly in American and British films . She was born and raised in Mumbai , India , and decided when young that she would become an actress . As a student at St. Xavier 's College , Mumbai , she took part in amateur plays . After graduation , she briefly worked as a model and then as a television presenter .

Pinto rose to prominence through the 2008 British drama *Slumdog Millionaire* , her first appearance in a film . She won the Breakthrough Performance Award at the Palm Springs International Film Festival and was nominated for various awards at the British Academy Film Awards , the MTV Movie Awards and the Teen Choice Awards . She has appeared in several American and British productions , often playing supporting roles . Her biggest commercial success came with the 2011 science fiction film *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* . Pinto received major attention for portraying the title character in Michael Winterbottom 's *Trishna* (2011) . Her performance in the biographical drama *Desert Dancer* (2014) received critical acclaim .

Although the Indian media has credited Pinto with breaking the stereotypical image of an Indian woman in foreign films , she has been a lesser @-@ known figure in Indian cinema . Along with her film career , she promotes humanitarian causes and is vocal about women 's empowerment .

= = Early life and background = =

Pinto was born on 18 October 1984 in Bombay (now Mumbai) , into a family of Mangalorean Catholics , a community originating in the former Portuguese colony of Goa . Her mother Sylvia Pinto was the principal of St. John 's Universal School in Goregaon , Mumbai , and her father Frederick Pinto was a senior branch manager for the Bank of Baroda . Her elder sister , Sharon , works for NDTV .

Pinto had a middle class upbringing in the suburb of Malad . She first wanted to be an actress when she was five years old , often dressing up and imitating television actors during her childhood . She later recalled being inspired by Sushmita Sen 's victory in the 1994 Miss Universe competition , explaining that " the country was really proud of her , and I was like , one day , I want to do the same " . Pinto attended the Carmel of St. Joseph School in Malad , and then studied at St. Xavier 's College , Mumbai . Her major was in English literature , with minors in psychology and economics . At college , she participated in amateur theatre , but declined acting and modeling assignments until her graduation in 2005 .

Despite her interest in acting from an early age , Pinto was undecided on which career path to take until watching *Monster* (2003) while at college . She stated : " I guess it was when I watched *Monster* ... I pretty much knew . I had to find a way . I had to do something like that , something completely transformational . " In 2005 , Pinto began a modeling career and joined Elite Model Management India , with whom she worked for two and a half years . She was featured in several television and print advertisements for products such as Wrigley 's Chewing Gum , ?koda , Vodafone India , Airtel , Visa , eBay , and De Beers .

Around the same time , Pinto began going to auditions for films and television shows . She was chosen to host *Full Circle* , an international travel show that aired on Zee International Asia Pacific between 2006 and 2008 . The show took her to countries all over the world , including Afghanistan , Fiji , Malaysia , Singapore , and Thailand . Her auditions for both Bollywood and Hollywood productions , including for the role of Bond girl Camille Montes in Marc Forster 's *Quantum of Solace* (2008) , were largely unsuccessful . Pinto later claimed that it was a good learning experience , stating that she was " glad things happened the way they happened . I needed to be rejected , and I needed to learn that it 's part of the game ... I can have 100 rejections , but I 'm sure there 's going to be one particular thing that is almost destined for me to have . "

= = Acting career = =

= = = Beginnings and breakthrough (2008 ? 10) = = =

In 2007 , Pinto 's modeling agency selected her and six other models to audition for the female lead in Danny Boyle 's film *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) after a request by its casting director . After undergoing six months of extensive auditions , Pinto won the role of Latika , the love interest of the main character Jamal , played by Dev Patel . During the post @-@ production phase , she attended an acting course at the Barry John Acting Studio in Mumbai . Although the course taught her about the " technical aspects " of acting , she stated that " in terms of the actual experience , there 's nothing like going out there and actually playing the part ... So for me , my favorite acting school was the six months of auditioning with Danny Boyle " . Acclaimed particularly for its plot and soundtrack , *Slumdog Millionaire* emerged as a sleeper hit ; made on a budget of \$ 15 million , the film grossed US \$ 377 @.@ 9 million worldwide . It was the most successful film at the 81st Academy Awards : it was nominated for ten awards , of which it won eight , including the award for Best Picture . Pinto won the Breakthrough Performance Award at the Palm Springs International Film Festival , and the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture , along with other cast members from the film . She was also nominated for Best Actress in a Supporting Role at the BAFTA Awards . Pinto 's performance in the film drew little attention from critics as her screen presence in the film was limited . The Telegraph (Calcutta) opined " it 's difficult to form an opinion " on her character ; its columnist Bharathi S. Pradhan noted " *Slumdog Millionaire* wasn 't really a test of Freida 's acting abilities . "

Following the success of *Slumdog Millionaire* , Pinto signed up for two art house productions . In Woody Allen 's comedy @-@ drama *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger* (2010) , she acted alongside Antonio Banderas , Josh Brolin , Anthony Hopkins , Anupam Kher and Naomi Watts . She played a " mystery woman " who draws the attention of the character played by Brolin . Premiering at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival , the film received mixed reviews upon its release . Pinto then starred in Julian Schnabel 's *Miral* (2010) , based on a semi @-@ biographical novel by Rula Jebreal , playing an orphaned Palestinian woman who grew up in a refugee camp in Israel . Before the film 's production began in the Palestinian territories , Pinto prepared for the role by visiting several refugee camps in the area . She stated that she could relate to her character 's experiences because of her knowledge about her relatives ' experiences during the partition of India in the 1940s . The film received largely negative reviews , and Pinto 's performance divided critics : Geoffrey Macnab of *The Independent* wrote that " *Miral* ... is played very engagingly by Freida Pinto " , while Peter Bradshaw of *The Guardian* stated that " [Pinto] looks uneasy and miscast " .

= = = 2011 ? present = = =

Pinto had four releases in 2011 . The first was the science fiction film *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* , a reboot of the *Planet of the Apes* series . She played the role of Caroline Aranha , a primatologist who falls in love with the main character , played by James Franco . To prepare for her role , she researched the career of English anthropologist Jane Goodall . The film went on to gross US \$ 481 @.@ 8 million worldwide ; it remains her highest @-@ grossing film as of April 2016 . Pinto 's character received criticism for being too one @-@ dimensional : Anthony Quinn of *The Independent* called it a " failure " , and Todd McCarthy of *The Hollywood Reporter* described the character as the most " boringly decorous tag @-@ along girlfriend seen onscreen in years . " Pinto 's second screen appearance of the year was playing the title character in Michael Winterbottom 's *Trishna* . The film , based on Thomas Hardy 's novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* , gave Pinto the role of a teenage Rajasthani peasant , who leaves her family to work for a British @-@ born Indian hotelier , played by Riz Ahmed . It premiered at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival and gained a mixed response from critics . Nishat Bari of *India Today* called Pinto 's role her " most substantial " one to that point . Philip French of *The Guardian* stated that Pinto " captivates " in the lead role , while Roger Ebert of the *Chicago Sun @-@ Times* called her performance " touchingly beautiful " . In contrast , Manohla Dargis of *The New York Times* wrote that Pinto is " one of [the

film's] loveliest attractions , but she and her director haven 't been able to give Trishna a pulse " .

Pinto 's third film role in 2011 was playing Princess Lailah in the poorly received independent film *Day of the Falcon* , a period drama set in the 1930s Middle East , where she was cast alongside Antonio Banderas , Mark Strong and Liya Kebede . Despite overall negative reviews , Andy Webster of *The New York Times* described Pinto and Kebede as " refreshing " and praised their " independent presences amid the stiflingly male @-@ dominated milieu " . Pinto 's final screen appearance of the year was in the fantasy @-@ action film *Immortals* , in which she played the oracle priestess Phaedra . Despite receiving mixed @-@ to @-@ positive reviews from critics , the film grossed US \$ 226 @.@ 9 million worldwide . Writing for *The Hollywood Reporter* , Todd McCarthy remarked that Phaedra was " capably embodied " by Pinto .

After 2011 , Pinto had no new film releases for two years . In 2013 , she appeared in the music video for Bruno Mars ' single " Gorilla " . She was criticised by the Indian media for appearing in the video ; *The Times of India* and *Hindustan Times* dismissed it as little more than " dirty dancing " . The same year , Pinto was also one of the narrators in the documentary film *Girl Rising* , produced for the campaign of the same name which promotes access to education for girls all over the world .

Pinto 's first cinematic appearance in two years was in the biographical drama *Desert Dancer* (2014) , which was about the life of Iranian choreographer Afshin Ghaffarian . She played the heroin @-@ addicted Elaheh , the love interest of the lead character played by Reece Ritchie . The role required her to do dance training consisting of eight hours of rehearsals a day for 14 weeks . She also attended a few sessions at rehabilitation centres in the United States to prepare for her role . It received largely negative reviews , although Andy Webster of *The New York Times* noted that " Pinto , even with an unfocused and underwritten role , is captivating " .

Pinto 's first film of 2015 was Terrence Malick 's *Knight of Cups* , an experimental film that featured an ensemble cast including Christian Bale , Cate Blanchett , Natalie Portman , and Antonio Banderas . She played Helen , a model with whom Bale embarks on a " dalliance " . She talked about acting without a script : " It is definitely a bit nerve @-@ racking on the first day because you don 't know where you are going to go . But once you figure that out , then it doesn 't really matter . It is actually very relaxing . It is fun and liberating . It is an experience that I completely embrace " . Premiering at the competition section of the 65th Berlin International Film Festival , the film received average to mixed reviews from critics . The film was released in the United States in March 2016 . She was among the 100 narrators of *Unity* (2015) , a documentary that explores the relationships between Earth 's species . Her third release of that year was the Colombian action film *Blunt Force Trauma* , in which she starred opposite Ryan Kwanten and Mickey Rourke as a woman looking for her brother 's murderer . John DeFore of *The Hollywood Reporter* criticised the film , stating that it " takes itself much more seriously than viewers will . " As of October 2015 , Pinto is working on Andy Serkis ' *Jungle Book* , a motion capture adventure fantasy film based on Rudyard Kipling 's *The Jungle Book* . She will portray Mowgli 's adoptive mother in the film .

= = Personal life = =

Before beginning her film career , Pinto was engaged to Rohan Antao , who had been her publicist at one point . She ended the relationship in January 2009 and began dating her *Slumdog Millionaire* co @-@ star Dev Patel , who is six years her junior . In 2012 , Pinto stated that she does not want to act with Patel again as she feels that they would not be able to replicate the " chemistry " they had in their debut film . After a six @-@ year relationship , the couple separated amicably in December 2014 . After the success of *Slumdog Millionaire* , Pinto had " no fixed address " , but instead split her time between Mumbai , London , and Los Angeles . In a 2015 interview with *USA Today* , she stated that she lives in Los Angeles .

Feminism to me is equality . There is no man over woman and vice versa . Feminism is a very misconstrued and misunderstood topic . As soon as we say feminism , it does not mean all men should become subordinate and women should be the ones who rule the world . The only way we can have a progressive and successful country or world is when men and women treat each other as equals

Alongside her acting career , Pinto has been actively involved with several humanitarian causes and is vocal about the uplifting of women and underprivileged children . She has cited Angelina Jolie and Malala Yousafzai as " massive " inspirations in this regard . In 2010 , Pinto joined Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf in support of their philanthropic organisation , the Agassi Foundation . She raised \$ 75 @, @ 000 for their annual fund raiser ? " The 15th Grand Slam for Children " ? which was aimed at providing education for underprivileged children . Two years later , she was appointed as the global ambassador of Plan International 's Because I am a Girl , a campaign that promotes gender equality with the aim of lifting millions of girls out of poverty .

In 2013 , Pinto appeared in a video clip for Gucci 's " Chime for Change " campaign to raise funds and awareness of women 's issues in terms of education , health , and justice . The following year , she participated at the " Girls ' rights summit " in London , where she called for more progress toward the end of female genital mutilation and child marriage . In March 2015 , she spoke out against the Indian government 's ban on India 's Daughter , Leslee Udwin 's documentary on the 2012 Delhi gang rape . During its premier at the United States , she said the film needs to reach the public as it is not a " shame @-@ India documentary " . In a 2015 interview , she stated : " This film in no way is propagating violence in order to solve the problem . In fact , what we 're saying is let 's do this in the most civilized possible way ever " .

In February 2016 , Pinto announced that she would be a part of a nonprofit organisation called " We Do It Together " , which provides finance for feature films , documentaries , and television shows that focus on women 's empowerment .

= = Media image = =

Although she played a small role in Slumdog Millionaire , the film catapulted Pinto to widespread recognition . The media has often speculated about her roles and earnings . In March 2009 , The Daily Telegraph reported Pinto as the highest @-@ paid Indian actress , although she had not appeared in a Bollywood film to that point . CNN @-@ IBN called her " India 's best export to [the] West " , while The Telegraph (Calcutta) described her as " arguably the biggest global star from India " .

Pinto has been frequently included in beauty and fashion polls conducted by various magazines . She was featured in People magazine 's annual lists ? " World 's Most Beautiful People " and " World 's Best Dressed Women " in 2009 . That year , she was also included in Vogue 's list of the " top ten most stylish women " . In 2011 , Pinto was included as the only Indian celebrity among the " 50 Most Beautiful Women in Film " , a list compiled by Los Angeles Times Magazine . The following year , People named her one of the " Most Beautiful at Every Age " . She was featured in the " Top 99 Most Desirable Women " poll conducted by AskMen , consecutively from 2010 to 2012 .

In 2009 , Pinto was made a spokeswoman for L 'Oréal Paris . Two years later , a controversy arose when she appeared in an advert promoting a L 'Oréal product ; it showed Pinto in what was perceived to be a lighter skin tone due to make @-@ up or editing . The company denied claims of retouching Pinto 's picture .

A popular actress in Hollywood , Pinto remains a relatively little @-@ known figure in India ; critics and analysts have attributed the fact to the failure of Slumdog Millionaire in the country . Indian sociologist Ashis Nandy remarked : " My periscope does not pick her up " , while journalist Khalid Mohamed stated : " She is not a factor in Mumbai . " The Indian media has criticised her " fluctuating " accents ? in Hindi and English ? and attributed her inability to find roles in Bollywood to her dark complexion . Despite these criticisms , Pinto has been credited by the media for having avoided being stereotyped as an Indian in Hollywood , as she often plays characters of other nationalities . In a 2012 interview with Hindustan Times , she said she consciously avoids roles that depict stereotypes .

Pinto balances out her career by working in " big budget Hollywood blockbusters " alongside " smart independent films " . When asked about her preference for Hollywood , she replied : " I just wanted to become an actor . As an actor , you don 't have to limit yourself to a particular culture or ethnicity . I want to spread my tentacles everywhere and am ready for a film offer from any part of

the world . "

= = Filmography = =

= = = Music video appearances = = =

= = = Television = = =

= = Awards and nominations = =