

21ST
Century
Heroes

There are things going on in this world that fill you with horror. You're appalled by what's happening in Sudan, you're frustrated by the stalemate in the Middle East... You'd like to do something. You really would.

But what can one person do?

You put it to the back of your mind.

You get on with your life.

Thankfully, some people don't think like this. They believe one

person really can make

a difference. And that's exactly what

they do. *Harpers* is proud

to present its very own

21st-century heroes, people who are changing the world for the better, and who will make you want to, too

The Innovator

CHARLOTTE DI VITA

Charlotte di Vita's charity, Trade Plus Aid, is geared towards alleviating poverty: in one of its projects, villagers in rural China make teapots that are sold at Harrod's. Portrait by Nigel Spalding.

THE CAUSE 'To create fair, sustainable work for poor communities. The idea is one of self-help.'

THE CATALYST 'I started working for charity when I was 12, after seeing a TV show about poverty. I realised some of us have too much, others starve.'

AT 12, it was incomprehensible; at 37, it remains so.

THE TRIUMPHS 'In my field, it isn't about being proud of our achievements. Giving something back is not an achievement, it's a privilege.'

THE HERO 'When Bob Geldof founded Live Aid, he became a leader in my eyes.'

THE FUTURE 'In refugee camps, where people are literally starving, you see the true human spirit. They are in pain but they are quiet; if you ask them for help, they will agree. The human spirit of resilience is profound and beautiful in height.'

THE MOTIVATION 'Connecting communities can change the world. It's about how we help to get products, like tea, into the hands of the people who need it.'

THE MESSAGE 'We're not just about tea. We're about creating a sustainable future for people who need it.'

THE INSPIRATION 'I'm inspired by the resilience of the human spirit and the power of community.'



CHARLOTTE DI VITA
BY NIGEL SPALDING