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Lord, you just!

Psalm 97:12

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How Luis was convinced to come 'out'

By: Aster Amoyo

If I Know

LUIS Manzano feels very much honored to star with his mom, Batangas Governor Vilma Santos and John Lloyd Cruz in Star Cinema's latest potboiler, "In My Life."

"Honestly, I never imagined I would be able to do a movie with my mom. When I first entered showbiz, it was in hosting where I made a name. The films I've done before were just light and didn't require serious acting. That's why when I was offered to play the gay son in this movie, I said no at first.

"But upon Direk Olive's (Lamasan) prodding, I reviewed the script and found out that the movie will not capitalize on the gay relationship but rather, on the mother, how she would come to terms with her son's terminal illness, be friends his gay boyfriend and in the process, learn and discover life's beauty at a time when she feels she's losing her loved ones one by one," he narrates.

How does it feel working with her multi-award winning mother?

"It turned out to be one fruitful experience. Everybody knows her caliber as an actress but she didn't meddle in my characterization. She let Direk Olive motivate me and make me understand the plight of Mark. In our scenes, my mom was able to draw out the best in me and I'm thankful because I didn't let her down."

How about John Lloyd?

"Actually, Lloydie and I are good pals since we're co-hosting ASAP. I know that he's one of the best actors in contemporary times. Then, we're playing lovers in the movie so can you imagine the pressure I felt? He and my mom, two fine thespians and here I am, in my first real dramatic bid. But seeing the finished product, I feel proud because I made a must-see project with the two of them."

Many are waiting for their much-publicized "kissing scene."

"We don't want to label it as a kissing scene. It's an intimate moment in the movie. It was beautifully shot. We even waited for the sunset to achieve the desired effect. It's so touching that we hope the viewers will see the love between the two gay characters."

Luis is confident that "In My Life" will be a commercial success.

"It's not everyday that we have a wonderful story like this. Direk Olive definitely did an excellent job. It's well-acted, too. I'm sure many hearts would melt after seeing

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the film,” assures the witty lad.

SITTI TRIES THEATER

SITTI will be seen in Atlantis Productions’ staging of the award-winning musical “Spring Awakening.” She’ll be playing Martha, one of the major supporting characters. Many were surprised that the bossa nova chanteuse agreed to do stage acting.

“Unknown to some, I love watching stage plays even during my school days. I’ve always wanted to try it. I’m fascinated with the raw emotions of stage acting. Last year, I had a taste of it when I appeared as Mary Walter in Katy (The Musical). When I moved to Backroom early this year, I personally asked Tito Boy (Abunda) to give me theater exposures if possible. It’s good that I passed the audition for this production,” she reveals.

Expectedly, there is a big adjustment on her part.

“The discipline is different. Apart from the rigid rehearsals, I also had to practice and feel confident with my American diction. The setting is the 1800’s. It’s really a new field for me but I’m enjoying it. For one, I’m working with some of the respectable names in the theater arena like Cheska Inigo and Jett Pangan. It feels great.”

Does this mean she’ll not be doing bossa nova for a while?

“Yes, in the play’s whole run. I’ll be sacrificing a bit since the rehearsals eat up six hours of my time daily. But I know that this will help me grow as an artist,” Sitti says.

KARYLLE DENIES ROMANCE WITH COCO

KARYLLE brushes off the rumor linking her with indie actor Coco Martin.

“Actually, it all started when I had my picture taken with him after watching the special screening of his movie, “Kinatay” at the UP Theater in Diliman. But honestly, that’s just it. I watched the screening because Dante Mendoza won the best director trophy at the recent Cannes Film Festival and I was impressed,” she explains.

At this point in time, the witty singer-actress has no plans of entering another serious relationship after her failed romance with heartthrob Dingdong Dantes almost a year ago.

“I wouldn’t deny that I receive dinner invites but suitors? I’m not prepared yet to commit to another guy. I want to enjoy being single at the moment. My main focus this time is my career especially that ABS-CBN is giving me good projects, the latest of which is the grand soap opera “Dahil May Isang Ikaw” topbilled by Kristine Hermosa, Jericho Rosales, Gabby Concepcion and Lorna Tolentino.”

According to Karylle, her life is on a more positive note these days after her much-talked about break-up with her former steady.

“I can say I’m happier now. I became a better and tougher person because of that experience. My level of confidence is higher and I’m discovering new things about myself. It’s amazing that I get to appreciate myself better these days,” she ends.

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