

APRIL 2022 GMA ELECTRONIC MAGAZINE

COVER: JULIE ANNE SAN JOSE



EDITOR'S NOTES

On the cover is *Limitless: A Musical Trilogy*, a Silver Medal awardee in this year's New York TV & Film Festival. Produced by GMA Synergy, this three-part online musical showcased the beauty of the Philippines.

The word itself, limitless—without end, limit, or boundary—is a great articulation of the time we live in and everything that is to come. We are in a period of great possibility and opportunity—technology, governance, and recovery from a global pandemic.

In this issue are stories about our never-ending commitment to truth and programs that champion the heart of the Filipino. We bring you the widest, most comprehensive, and most trusted news coverage in *Eleksyon 2022* and bring to the small screen riveting tales of love. Get ready to meet Sparkada—our newest stars with infinite potential.

In this transformative time, remember that all of you have one thing that is boundless with energy and love—your heart.

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Carolina Lapus Gozon

Institute for Lifelong Learning

Wesleyan University Philippines (WUP) recently held the inauguration of the Carolina L. Gozon Institute for Lifelong Learning as a tribute to Mrs. Carolina Lapus Gozon, the late mother of GMA Network Chairman and CEO Atty. Felipe Gozon.

The Institute will serve as an applied knowledge center for continuing education initially in Region III and the centerpiece of WUP's public service and social accountability thrusts. It also aims to provide new avenues and opportunities for continuing education and skills training, especially for disadvantaged Filipinos who are likely to struggle more severely toward a post-COVID-19 recovery period.

Mrs. Gozon, despite being born into an affluent family, continued to explore wider opportunities beyond her academic field of specialization to help provide for her family. She bravely started her own business by borrowing 20,000 pesos as capital from her mother and supplying for Rufina Patis. Even after losing her principal buyer, she remained hopeful and struggled to produce her own brand, Dalisay Patis which ushered her early business success. She eventually went on to own a salt mine, start a quarrying business, and supply coffee seedlings.



(L-R) Atty. Edgar Tarriela, Flor Gozon-Tarriela, WUP President Judge Benjamin Turgano, Butch Jimenez, and Tricia Amper-Jimenez at the inauguration ceremonies of the Carolina L. Gozon Institute for Lifelong Learning

> *"At one point in her life, nakilala niya ang Diyos nang lubusan and that, to my Wesleyan family, is the woman you are honoring. It is not a woman of great achievements; she is a woman of great faith."*
>
> **Butch Jimenez, grandson**

> *"My mom's life was abundant, it was full, but it was also enriched by the many trials that she endured and lived with absolute trust, faith, and love in God. She passed away peacefully at 97 with her mental faculties intact. She valued education and sacrificed to ensure that we will go to the best schools and go abroad. She said education is a way to prepare us to face the future. But she said it's not enough. To meet life's tests and challenges, she said it is to know that Jesus is the answer and Jesus is all we need. Thank you to Wesleyan University for honoring our mother, Carolina Gozon. God bless us all."*
>
> **Flor Gozon Tarriela, daughter**

The biggest, most comprehensive Eleksyon 2022 Special Coverage

51 election coverage partners

OVER 1000

News and Public Affairs personnel across all platforms

11 regional TV stations

23 radio stations nationwide

80M+

Anchored on its brand of news reportage, GMA will deliver only the best this Eleksyon 2022 to more than 80 million Filipinos nationwide

173M+ social media followers and subscribers



GMA Network – the Philippines' number one broadcast company and home to the most trusted and multi-awarded news and public affairs group – takes the lead in the upcoming May 9 Presidential Elections with the biggest and most comprehensive *Eleksyon 2022: The GMA News and Public Affairs Coverage*.

GMA NEWS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Serbisyong Totoo



103 COUNTRIES

GMA reaches over 1 million Filipinos in 103 countries

Leading the coverage are the country's most trusted broadcast journalists: GMA News pillars Arnold Clavio, Mel Tiangco, Jessica Soho, Mike Enriquez, Vicky Morales, and Howie Severino. Joining them are the esteemed roster of news anchors, journalists, stringers here and abroad, and the various news teams from GMA's flagship AM and FM radio stations Super Radyo DZBB 594 kHz and Barangay LS 97.1, and GMA Regional TV.



4AM-12NN
(MAY 9-10)

Eleksyon 2022 marathon coverage





KAPUSO STARS RALLY BEHIND GMA NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS' 'DAPAT TOTOO' ADVOCACY

Bea Alonzo, Rhian Ramos, Jasmine Curtis-Smith, Andrea Torres, Glaiza de Castro, Barbie Forteza, Bianca Umali, Sanya Lopez, Gabbi Garcia, Khalil Ramos, Ken Chan, Rita Daniela, Derrick Monasterio, Thea Tolentino, Aicelle Santos, and Kapuso Primetime King and Queen Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera have all committed their support to this advocacy that promotes the very core value that voters, political aspirants, and news organizations must equally share: truthfulness in mind, in heart, and in actions.

While we are all different from one another — we come from different parts of the country, we speak different languages and dialects, we all come from different walks of life, and yes, we wear different political colors — the *Dapat Totoo* campaign reminds us that we all share the same dream: to live a decent life and give the next generation a better future.

EDUCATED VOTERS

NEED TO KNOW
Created three special series for voters' education: Stand on Issues, the Disinformation Series, and Election Basics.

STAND FOR TRUTH
Produced In Review, a seven-part series that highlights the status of the country's sectors and how the government addresses their struggles.

GMA News Online (GNO) brings the biggest Eleksyon 2022 coverage online

Led by the award-winning team of GMA News and Public Affairs Digital Media, GMA News Online delivers the fastest, most relevant, and most accurate election-related news and content straight to online users everywhere.

ELEKSYON 2022 WEBSITE

CANDIDATES PROFILE
Candidates Profile Contains in-depth information about the candidates for president, vice president, and senators, compiled by GMA News Research.

DEBATES
Features videos and stories from the debates and interviews for *Eleksyon 2022*, including *The Jessica Soho Presidential Interviews*.

MY KODIGO
Customizable, "My Kodigo" lets a voter select his preferred candidates and generate a printable list to serve as a guide inside the polling precinct.



DAPAT TOTOO LECTURES
An exclusive series of webinars for student volunteers for the network's election coverage. The lectures tackle the role of journalism and social media in delivering news and fighting misinformation during this crucial time.

#DAPATTOTOODANCECHALLENGE
Influencers and dancers published their dance challenge entries. To date, this hashtag gained more than 1.9 million views already.



ELEKSYON 2022 QUIZ FILTER
The first augmented reality (AR) quiz filter produced in partnership with GMA NMI. Since it launched last March, the #eLeksyon2022 quiz filter has reached over 69,500 organic Facebook and Instagram users.

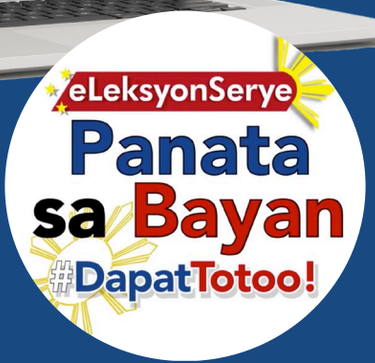


#PANATADUETCHALLENGE
A birit duet challenge and open verse challenge

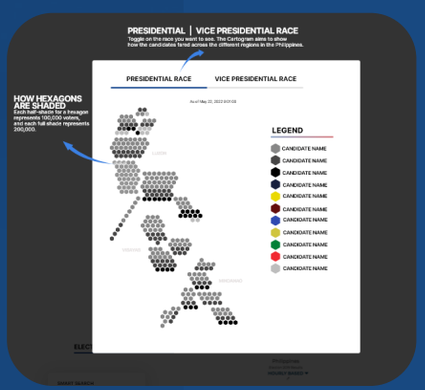
The website provides the public with information and intuitive tools to guide them before, during, and after the polls.

THE VOTER'S PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS DASHBOARD
Shows the demographic breakdown and geographic profile of the registered voters for the 2022 Philippine national and local elections, with data coming from the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).









GUIDES
Houses content related to guides and tools to help Filipino voters choose the right candidates. These include voter education materials, candidates' stand on issues, and similar information that voters will find useful.

Scan the QR code to view the interactive Eleksyon 2022 website powered by the Network's forerunner in technology, GMA New Media, Inc.

SPARKADA



The 17 young and fresh faces of Sparkada were handpicked by acclaimed starmaker Mr. M for their colorful background and potential to be the next big stars in showbiz.

He said, "All the members of the *Sparkada* have a certain "It Factor.' You don't know what it is, but it makes them unique, interesting, and attractive. They come from all over the Philippines and, of course, they are all young, fun, and exciting."

Without further ado, meet the 17 headturners of Sparkada:



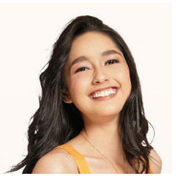
Savior Ramos
A promising Kapuso leading man just like his celebrity dad, seasoned actor Wendell Ramos. Apart from his acting prowess, he also possesses an incredible singing voice and has already come out with three singles.



Roxie Smith
A beauty queen who has won several titles such as Miss Earth Philippines 2020. She is a total package—a ballerina, a stage actress, a titleholder, and an ambassador for a well-known hair care brand.



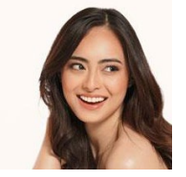
Anjay Anson
The new matinee idol to watch for. The actor-model has appeared in a few Kapuso programs and was a part of the GMA suspenserye *Widows' Web*, where he portrayed the role of Jed Sagrado-Dee.



Vanessa Peña
A total eye-catcher! Her potential as an actress is being honed through her guestings in Kapuso programs. Just like Anjay Anson, Vanessa was part of the GMA primetime series *Widows' Web*, where she portrayed the role of Nikki Suarez.



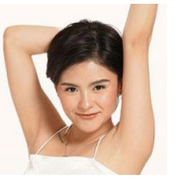
Jeff Moses
possesses a strong social media following, especially on TikTok where he showcases his dance and song covers that garner loads of likes. Aside from his good looks and talents, the moreno cutie's well-maintained physique is adored by his supporters.



Cheska Fausto
This Zamboangueña beauty can act, host, sing, and dance. She also dabbles in theater, competed in beauty pageants, and achieved success as a content creator and influencer.



Michael Sager
Hailing from Vancouver, Canada, Michael moved back to the Philippines to follow his dreams of becoming an artist. chinito cutie also appeared as a backup dancer in the Disney show titled *Descendants*.



Kirsten Gonzales
She has graced different commercials for brands and possesses great dance moves. She recently showed her acting prowess through stints in a couple of GMA programs.



Kim Perez
He is more than ready to take on the spotlight thanks to his experience as a commercial model, and the trainings and workshops he has taken. He has great vocals, too.



Caitlyn Stave

Her stunning looks and personality make her stand out! Born and raised in San Francisco, USA, she moved back to Bukidnon with her family three years ago, where she then became a local pageant favorite.



Vince Maristela

He was once a child star who played the younger versions of some of showbiz industry's prominent actors. Now that he's all grown up, Vince is ready to take on his own roles.



Dilek Montemayor

The Filipina-Turkish beauty has starred in television commercials for various brands. She also possesses the ability to speak four languages and holds a bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Beauty and brains, indeed!



Raheel Bhyria

He began modeling during his teen years. His love for different sports such as basketball, badminton, and boxing helped him achieve his fit figure. With his charming looks, the Filipino-Pakistani definitely has what it takes to be the next heartthrob in showbiz.



Tanya Ramos

Up-and-coming showbiz royalty has proven herself to be a great dancer, as seen on her TikTok videos. With her expressive eyes, it's no surprise that the daughter of actor Wendell Ramos is a future dramatic actress.



Larkin Castor

He is a basketball player, avid golfer, and an in-demand television commercial model. Aside from this, Larkin is also passionate about music as he possesses a beautiful voice and can play the guitar.



Lauren King

This Filipina-Australian began modeling at the young age of three and has also joined Eat Bulaga's hit talent search *Little Miss Philippines*. Apart from her excellence in academics and sports, Lauren's workshop output received warm praise from Ana Feleo, the Sparkle workshop headteacher, no less.



Sean Lucas

An alumnus of the Philippine Science High School and a future industrial engineer. The charming teen is a great fit for leading roles in romantic comedies with his charisma, personality, and unique humor.

This Generation's Pop Princess Zephanie is now a Kapuso!

Sparkle GMA Artist Center - the Kapuso Network's talent management arm - is welcoming This Generation's Pop Princess Zephanie Dimaranan, better known as simply "Zephanie," into its roster of talents.

Having already performed in stages and arenas locally and abroad, released a commercially successful full-length album, endorsed big brands, graced the covers of magazines, and became the Grand Champion of Idol Philippines, one could easily argue that she's already achieved what many can only dream of. What makes this more impressive however is that she hasn't even turned 20 yet. It's safe to say that things are just getting started for the sparkling young star.

Zephanie is co-managed with Cornerstone Entertainment where she first got to hone and expand her talents as a performer. Kapuso viewers and fans can expect greater things to come very soon for the Pop Princess.



NEW YORK FESTIVALS

The New York Festivals TV & Film Awards honors content in all lengths and forms from over 50 countries. GMA made the country proud anew with four World Medals and being the sole Philippine awardee in this year's competition.



Gold Medal

Munting Bisig (Young Arms) Documentary: Social Issues category

The episode looked into the plight of children working amid the global pandemic. Host Atom Araullo followed the lives of children who put their lives at stake to help their families survive even if they are exposed to the COVID-19 virus.



Silver Medal

Limitless: A Musical Trilogy | Entertainment Special: Variety Special category

Produced by GMA Synergy, Limitless was a three-part online musical headlined by Asia's Limitless Star Julie Anne San Jose. The highly successful online concert featured Julie's musical journey.



Bronze Medal

Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho (KMJS) Bestida ni Ranelyn (Ranelyn's Dress) Documentary: Health/ Medical Information category

Featured six-year-old girl Ranelyn who longed to wear her favorite dress after being reduced to literally skin and bones due to poverty and severe malnourishment.



Bronze Medal

I-Witness | Koronang Tinik (Crown of Thorns) Documentary: Climate Change & Sustainability category

In his report, Atom investigated the sudden increase in dap-ag or crown of thorns in the waters of Jose Panganiban in Camarines Norte.

FINALIST CERTIFICATE



I-Witness | Virus Hunters Documentary: Science & Technology category

Sandra's documentary featured a group of experts' ongoing study of bats and the diseases that humans can get from them.



GMA-Network EVP and CFO Felipe S. Yalong formally receives the Platinum Award for GMA Network.

Reader's Digest Trusted Brands Awards 2022

Leading broadcast company GMA Network as well as its news pillars Jessica Soho and Mike Enriquez consistently hold the Filipinos' trust in the Reader's Digest Trusted Brands Awards 2022.

In this year's awarding ceremonies held on April 8, the Kapuso Network once again took the Platinum Award for the TV Network category – the highest honor among the most trusted brands. Formally receiving the award for the Network was GMA Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Felipe S. Yalong.

2022 Gandingan Awards

UP ComBroadSoc's Gandingan Awards promotes the value of development communication and the contribution of both national and local or community-based media organizations to the betterment of the lives of Filipinos. This year's award highlights the role of the media in protecting and upholding our rights at present.

I-Witness
Sandra Aguinaldo's
Di Pa Paiiwan
Most Development-oriented Educational Program

I-Witness
Kara David's
Nueve, Trese, Katorse
Most Development-oriented Youth Program

Kara David
Best TV Program Host

Brigada
Millenium Vote
Most Development-oriented Magazine

Raffy Tima
Best News Anchor

Balitanghali
Bantay Kalikasan: Used Face Masks in Batangas Coral Reefs
Most Development-oriented Feature Story

Reporter's Notebook
Lilibeth, Sonya, Frank at Fabel
Most Development-oriented Investigative Story

The Atom Araullo Specials
Habol Hininga
Most Development-oriented Documentary Program

Drew Arellano
Special Citation
Gandingan ng Edukasyon

Susan Enriquez
Pera Paraan
Special Citation
Gandingan ng Kabuhayan

GMA Regional TV (RTV)
Nakikita Kita
Most Development-oriented TV plug

First Yaya
Most Development-oriented Drama Program

All-Out Sundays
Tuloy pa rin: The COVID Special
Most Development-oriented Musical Segment/Program

Arnold Clavio & Connie Sison
One on One Walang Personalan
Best AM Radio Program Hosts

Mark Makalalad
Best Field Reporter

Kurtesiya na, Disiplina pa
Most Development-oriented Radio Plug

Papa Dudut
Best FM Radio Program Host

Barangay Love Stories
Bagong Bayani
Most Development-oriented Radio Drama



GNO's Jaemark Tordecilla among 2021 TOYM Awardees

"It's really humbling and it feels very good not just for me, but also for our entire team at GMA. We work extended hours; we try to verify all the information to make sure that everything is correct. We take that extra step which is why this job is not an easy one, and that's why it's even more fulfilling to be given this recognition."

Jaemark Tordecilla
Senior Assistant Vice President for News and Public Affairs Digital Media | Concurrent Editor-in-Chief for GMA News Online

GMA Network executive Jaemark Tordecilla was recently named among The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) for 2021 for Digital Journalism. The awarding ceremonies, organized by the Junior Chamber International (JCI) honored 10 exceptional young Filipinos who not only achieved professional excellence in their chosen fields but also tirelessly worked toward inspiring meaningful positive change in society.

Aside from Tordecilla, the other TOYM Awardees for 2021 were Ariestelo Asilo for Social Entrepreneurship; Iloisa Romaraog-Diga for Agricultural Entrepreneurship; Eleazar Abraham "Abe" Orobia for Education and Culture; Anna Oposa for Environmental Marine Conservation; Jayeel Cornelio for Education: Sociology; Maria Yzabell Angel Palma for Science and Technology; Jaime Alfonso Aherrera for Medicine: Cardiology; Lou Sabrina Ongkiko for Education and the Academe; and Melvin Sanicas for Medicine.

FAST FACTS

#5 IN THE WORLD

For a couple of months in 2020 and 2021, GMA News Online peaked at No. 5 in the world, beating many other international news organizations.

173 M

GMA News and Public Affairs' social media platforms have a combined 173 million followers and subscribers.

COVER STORIES

Under his leadership, GNO launched an award-winning multimedia storytelling platform that has been honored at the prestigious Society of Publishers in Asia Awards for Editorial Excellence.

6 ORIGINAL DIGITAL PROGRAMS

- *GMA News Feed*, mobile-friendly breaking news videos
- *Need to Know*, an explanatory journalism series distilling complex issues into easy-to-understand animations
- *Stand for Truth*, a pioneering mobile journalism newscast for millennial and Gen Z viewers
- *The Mangahas Interviews*, featuring hard-hitting conversations led by veteran journalist Malou Mangahas
- *The Howie Severino Podcast*, featuring GMA News and Public Affairs pillar Howie Severino and guests on riveting interviews
- *Surprise Guest* with Pia Arcangel, the network's newest digital program featuring fun conversations with a twist.



As long as we love together, nothing can stop us from enjoying the summer fun and most especially now that the end of the pandemic is already within sight.



Limitless

Julie Anne San Jose showed us that we can 'Rise' and embrace our 'new self' in the third and final leg of the New York Festivals TV and Film Awards' Silver Medal Awardee, *Limitless*, A Musical Trilogy. After the first two legs in Mindanao and Visayas, the last installment of this extraordinary musical experience was set against the backdrop of beautiful Luzon.



Raya Sirena

Director: Crisanto Aquino
Sundays | 3:05 P.M.

GMA Network and Regal Entertainment continue to bring positive vibes and inspiration this 2022 with the launch of weekly afternoon mini-series. Sparkle love team Sofia Pablo and Allen Ansay brightens your afternoons with the story of Raya (Sofia), who continues her journey of self-discovery both as a human and mermaid, and the importance of love for friends and family.


Raising
Mamay

Raising Mamay

Directors: Don Michael Perez and
Associate Director Linnet Zurbano
Weekdays | After Apoy sa Langit

The heartwarming drama on the reversal of roles between a mother and her child. A teenage daughter, portrayed by Shayne Sava, takes care of her scornful mother, played by Ms. Aiai Delas Alas, who was stricken with brain regression after being shot in the head.



False Positive

Director: Irene Villamor
Weeknights | After First Lady

This romance-comedy bannered by Xian Lim and Glaiza de Castro showcases a neglected wife who malevolently wishes in front of a magical fountain, resulting in the husband developing a fetus in his tummy.





SITIVE

Apoy sa Langit

Director: Laurice Guillen
Mondays to Saturdays |
After Eat Bulaga

A compelling series that showcases an unusual story of betrayal and family affairs. The drama is headlined by Maricel Laxa, who continues to return to the small screen coming from her stellar performance in Mano Po Legacy. She is also joined by Zoren Legaspi, Mikee Quintos, with showbiz newcomer Leanne Valentin who is set to play a challenging role.



Apoy sa Langit





Jose and Maria's Bonggang Villa

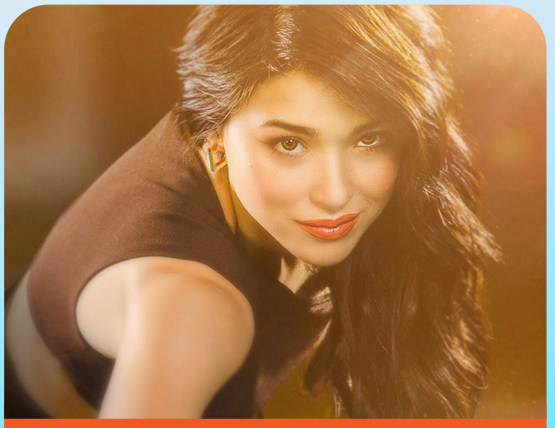
Launch date: May 14

Catch the highly-anticipated TV comeback of Kapuso royal couple Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera-Dantes in this weekly sitcom about a hospitable couple who will start a garden bed and breakfast business.



Love You Stranger

Top-billed by real-life Kapuso couple Gabbi Garcia and Khalil Ramos, the mystery romance series revolves around a film designer searching for the truth behind a shadow monster from folklore feared by her reclusive mother and the charming young director whose next movie is about the same shadow creature.



Bolera

Concluding the program offerings for this summer is Kapuso actress Kylie Padilla making her TV comeback with the original series. She breathes life to a billiards prodigy who aims to prove herself worthy of the male-dominated sport and her struggles along the way. Joining her are Rayver Cruz and Jak Roberto.

Barangay LS 97.1





GMA Network's flagship FM radio station Barangay LS 97.1 Forever! continues to dominate the airwaves and, at the same time, the podcast charts through its top-rating program Barangay Love Stories.

36.5% AUDIENCE SHARE
Barangay LS 97.1 strengthened its lead in Mega Manila month after month in 2022. It recorded a 27.1 percent average audience share in January, 33.2 percent in February, and 36.5 percent in March.

82%
of its audience remaining loyal to the station, Barangay LS posted a total reach of 6.25 million listeners in March, which was higher than DZMB by 2.2 million.

12:00 to 2:00 pm timeslot
The highest rating segment across all FM stations.



Barangay Love Stories continues to be the number one radio program for FM listeners with its dramatized stories narrated by award-winning DJ, Papa Dudut. The show's podcast is also consistently at the top of the charts on both Spotify and iTunes (as of April 18).

Sumasapuso

DZBB | 12:30 PM

Super Radyo DZBB 594 launches a new noontime drama program hosted by Toni Aquino.

SumasaPuso takes to heart how every music has a story that is etched in one's memory. This two-hour weekday program is everyone's newest lunchtime habit as Aquino reads stories from different letter senders accompanied by drama and punctuated by the greatest hits of all time.

"Pakinggan at ating pagsaluhan ang iba't ibang istorya ng lungkot at ligaya, pighati at pag-asa. Mga kwentong sumasainyo, mga damdaming sumasapuso," said Aquino.



Unang Hirit

Weekdays | 5:30 AM

GMA's longest-running morning show *'Unang Hirit'* (UH) relaunches this summer with a bigger and stronger line-up as it continues to deliver early morning news and information as well as entertainment for viewers of all ages. UH is anchored by Arnold Clavio, Susan Enriquez, Connie Sison, Ivan Mayrina, Mariz Umali, Suzi Entrata-Abrera, Lyn Ching, Love Anover, and Nathaniel Cruz.



Cashword

Viewers only have to guess one magic word to win P10,000 with a consolation prize of P2,000 in case a wrong answer is given.

Ang Lu-PET!

This segment will feature a variety of remarkable and talented pets.

Sorpresa Riders

Kapuso fans should also make sure to stay tuned as there will be going around to give surprises to lucky UH viewers.

BAGONG BUHAY, BAGONG BAHAY

Engie Federis, a 23-year-old student who works as a house helper in Pasig, won the house in *Unang Hirit's* (UH) contest promo. Now, Engie's family can move out of the pigpen they've been living in for 16 months, after their home in Antolon, Caramoan was destroyed by Typhoon Rolly in late 2020.



More than two million Filipinos were affected when the typhoon hit, including the Federis family whose home was severely ravaged. Desperate and nowhere to go, they had found shelter in their pig pen, the only nearby structure that withstood the wrath of Typhoon Rolly. The pigs' toilet became their kitchen and the pigs' bathing area was converted to their dining area. They sleep where the pigs used to sleep.

Their livelihood of coconut farming and planting vegetables did not generate enough income for them to move to another house. Engie's mother, Lilibeth Federis, has been hoping that someday they would have a house of their own, especially because mosquitoes and the overall unsanitary state of the pig corral were making her worry about her family's health.

THE LIFE-CHANGING SURPRISE

The Federis family was told that they were only among the contest finalists and that they will be interviewed for a profile segment that morning.

Unknown to them, they would be in for a life-changing surprise.

Unang Hirit secretly brought their daughter Engie from Manila to Bicol to surprise the family. They have not seen each other since 2019 so when Engie appeared, a tearful reunion ensued.

Then came the bigger surprise – Suzi and Mariz announced that they were not just finalist, but the actual winners of the brand-new house and lot from Camella Homes!

"Salamat po. Makakahiga na po kami sa mabuting higaan... Araw-gabi po kami nanalangin na sana, manalo po kami dito" says Nanay Lilibeth in between tears.

Engie meanwhile could not believe that her dream came true:"Ang pangarap ko kasi para sa parents ko ay mabigyan sila ng bahay at lupa na hindi na po sila mahihirapan kaya nagpapasalamat po ako kasi natupad na po... Nagpapasalamat po ako sa *Unang Hirit* dahil sila yung gumawa ng paraan para magkabahay yung parents ko."

GMA airs Star Cinema movies in a historic deal with ABS-CBN



(Top row from left) GMA Network's Gilberto R. Duavit, Jr., Felipe S. Yalong, Atty. Annette Gozon-Valdes, and Jose Mari R. Abacan; (Bottom row from left) ABS-CBN's Mark Lopez, Carlo L. Katigbak, Cory V. Vidanes, Ricardo B. Tan, Jr., and Olivia Lamasan.

GMA Network once again charts new grounds for Philippine entertainment, solidifying its place as a one-stop-shop for major film studios including Regal Entertainment, Inc., Viva Films, OctoArts Films, and now, Star Cinema.

The Network hosted a historic contract signing with ABS-CBN to license some of Star Cinema's most popular and well-loved movies.

Present during the virtual event were GMA Network President and Chief Operating Officer Gilberto R. Duavit, Jr.; Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Felipe S. Yalong; GMA Network Films, Inc. President and Programming Consultant to the Chairman and CEO Atty. Annette Gozon-Valdes; First Vice President for Program Management Department Jose Mari R. Abacan; Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Communications Angel Javier-Cruz; Assistant Vice President For Program Management Department Mitzi Garcia; and Assistant Vice President for Corporate Communications Jojo Aquio.

In attendance from ABS-CBN were Chairman Mark Lopez; President and Chief Executive Officer Carlo L. Katigbak; Chief Operating Officer for Broadcast Cory V. Vidanes; Group Chief Financial Officer Ricardo B. Tan, Jr.; Managing Director of ABS-CBN Films Productions Olivia Lamasan; Head of International Sales and Distribution Pia B. Laurel; Vice President of Corporate Communications Kane Errol C. Choa; PR Director Christelle Belmonte; and PR Manager Tonichi Tataro.

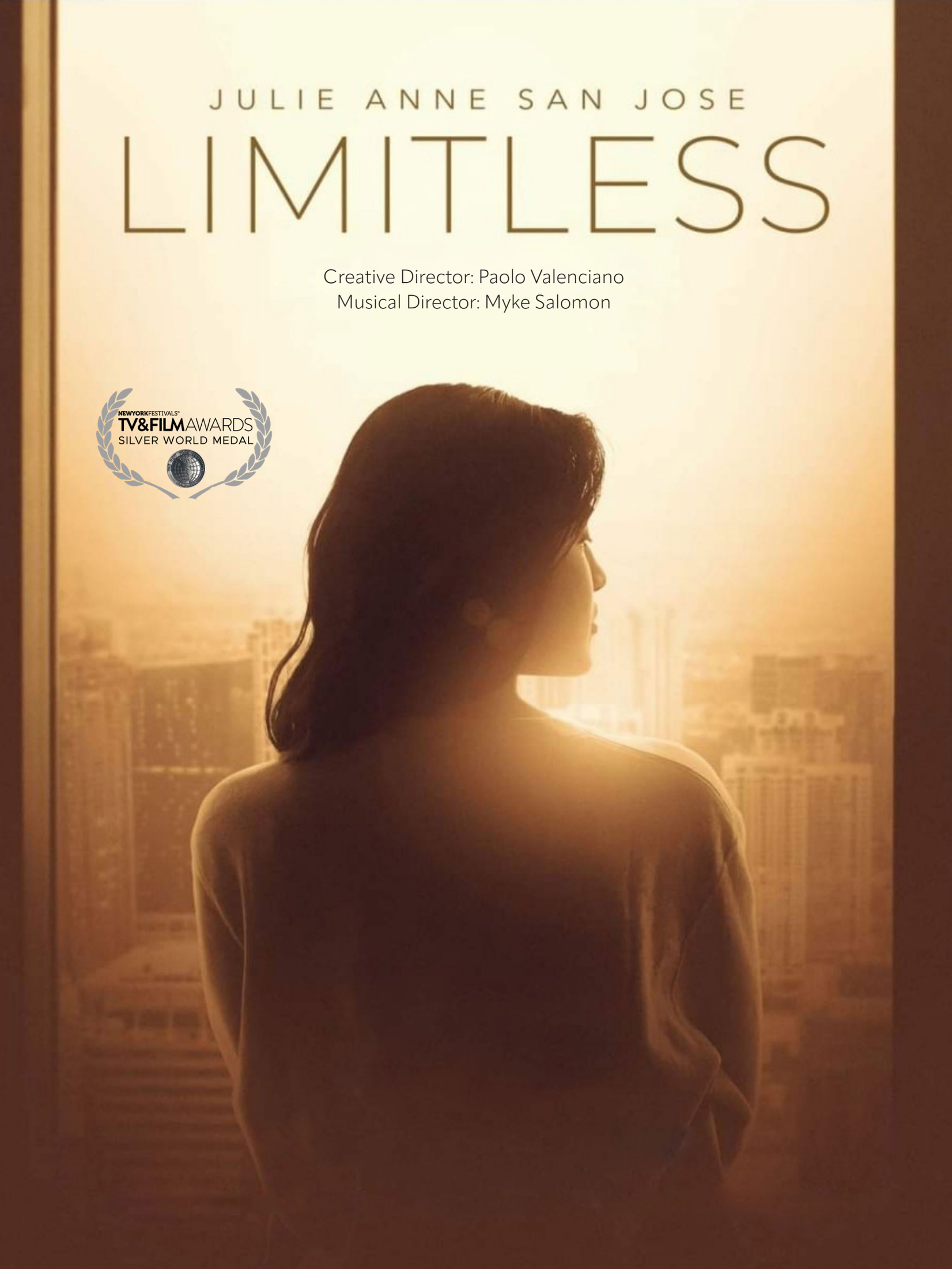
> *"To us, we are very pleased because the significance of our partnership today ushers in the possibility of a far broader set of conversations, potential partnerships and cooperation that will have the benefit not only mutually to GMA and ABS-CBN but as importantly, if not perhaps more importantly, to the benefit of the public we both serve – the Filipino viewer. Looking forward, since we have as they say, broken the ice, there is great optimism that these conversations will start and continue, and we look forward to the possibility of this type of an opportunity again moving forward."*
>
> **Gilberto R. Duavit, Jr.**
> President and COO
> GMA Network, Inc.

JULIE ANNE SAN JOSE

LIMITLESS

Creative Director: Paolo Valenciano
Musical Director: Myke Salomon

NEW YORK FESTIVALS®
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SILVER WORLD MEDAL





She inspired us to take the first step and 'Breathe' in what has become a rather suffocating routine amid the pandemic. She then encouraged us to face our fears and confront our conflicts so we may move on and 'Heal.'

Last April 9, Asia's Limitless Star Julie Anne San Jose showed us that we can all 'Rise' and embrace our 'new self' in the third and final leg of *Limitless, A Musical Trilogy*.

"The feeling is good when you get to share your music and your experiences through your craft. I feel fulfilled, especially when I know that my hard work has paid off. As an artist, I've been given an opportunity to use this platform to share my music and experiences like how I got started, how I write songs, and how I relate myself to viewers."

Julie Anne San Jose
Asia's Limitless Star



“The GMA Synergy team and I are happy to produce ‘Limitless: A Musical Trilogy’ for GMA Network. It makes me more proud to be a Filipino and happy to live, at these challenging times, in the Philippines. Definitely the Philippines, our culture and traditions, and being Filipinos are worth celebrating for. I am very happy and proud of the synergy between GMA Regional TV and the Entertainment Group. I would like to congratulate Julie as well. Thank you for trusting us with this initiative to showcase Mindanao, Visayas, Luzon—and most especially your immense talent.”

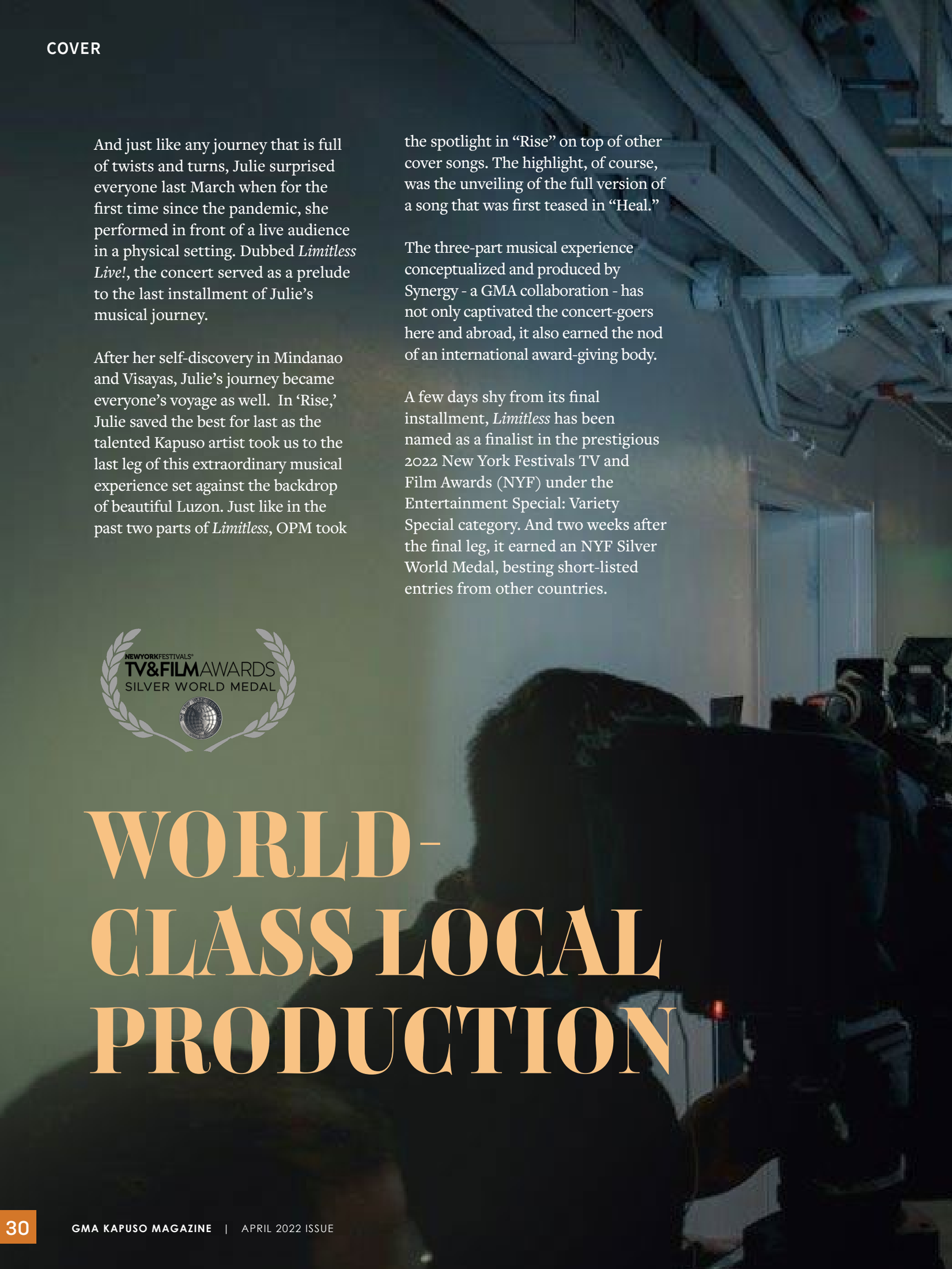
Oliver Victor Amoroso
First Vice President and Head
GMA Regional TV and Synergy



Limitless has not only unveiled the different facets of Julie as a singer, songwriter, dancer, actress, and multi-instrumentalist. The journey also gave her more reasons to continue searching for new inspirations as she went to what she considered unchartered territories–as far as Sultan Kudarat in Mindanao and as mysterious as Siquijor in the Visayas.

The first two legs of *Limitless* earned rave reviews and became trending topics worldwide. Julie's undeniable talent was complemented by the online concert's fresh concept and guests which include equally-talented Christian Bautista, Jong Madaliday, Myke Salomon, Jessica Villarubin, and Rayver Cruz.

SOARING HIGH



And just like any journey that is full of twists and turns, Julie surprised everyone last March when for the first time since the pandemic, she performed in front of a live audience in a physical setting. Dubbed *Limitless Live!*, the concert served as a prelude to the last installment of Julie's musical journey.

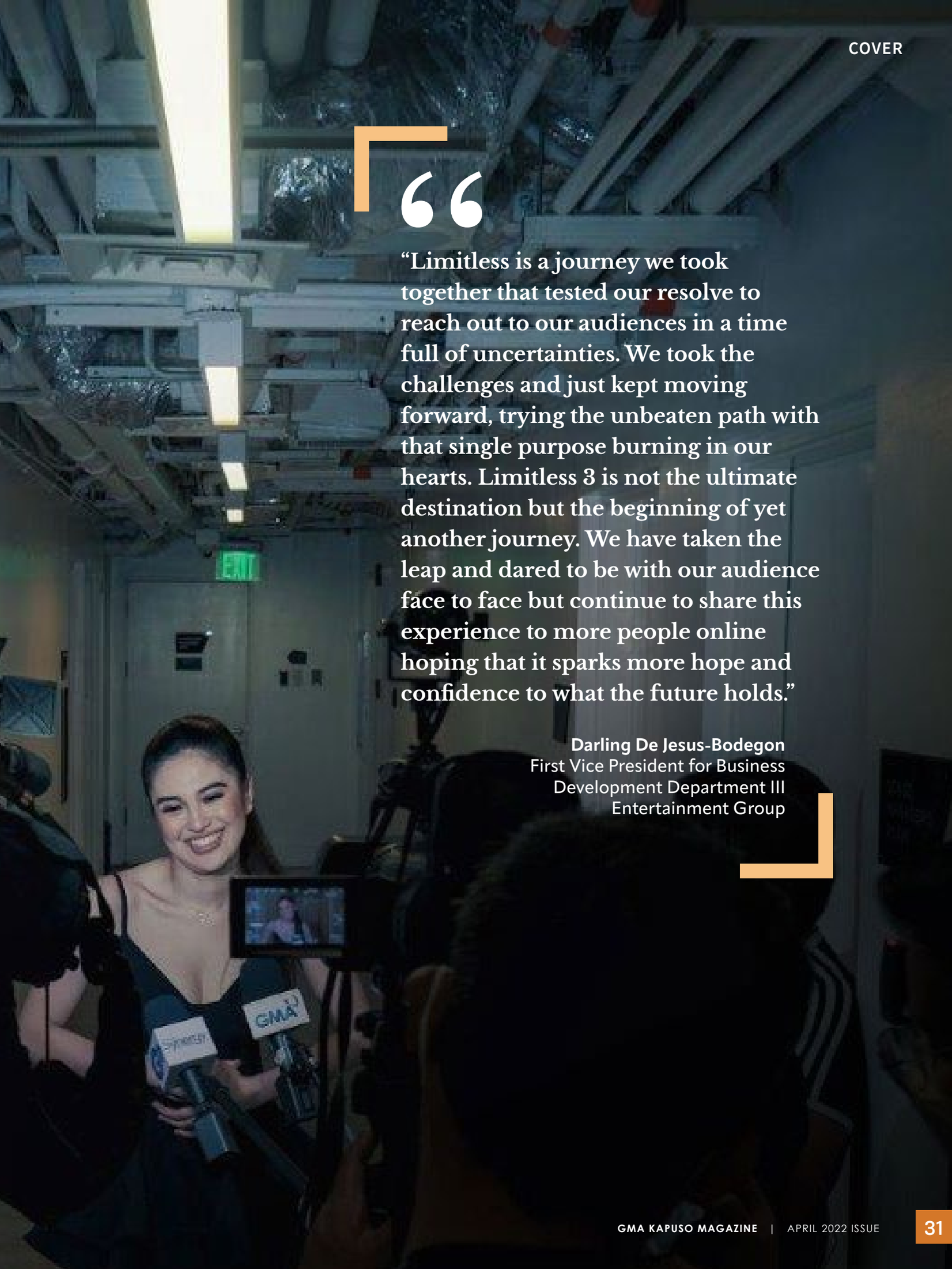
After her self-discovery in Mindanao and Visayas, Julie's journey became everyone's voyage as well. In 'Rise,' Julie saved the best for last as the talented Kapuso artist took us to the last leg of this extraordinary musical experience set against the backdrop of beautiful Luzon. Just like in the past two parts of *Limitless*, OPM took the spotlight in "Rise" on top of other cover songs. The highlight, of course, was the unveiling of the full version of a song that was first teased in "Heal."

The three-part musical experience conceptualized and produced by Synergy - a GMA collaboration - has not only captivated the concert-goers here and abroad, it also earned the nod of an international award-giving body.

A few days shy from its final installment, *Limitless* has been named as a finalist in the prestigious 2022 New York Festivals TV and Film Awards (NYF) under the Entertainment Special: Variety Special category. And two weeks after the final leg, it earned an NYF Silver World Medal, besting short-listed entries from other countries.

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WORLD-CLASS LOCAL PRODUCTION



"Limitless is a journey we took together that tested our resolve to reach out to our audiences in a time full of uncertainties. We took the challenges and just kept moving forward, trying the unbeaten path with that single purpose burning in our hearts. Limitless 3 is not the ultimate destination but the beginning of yet another journey. We have taken the leap and dared to be with our audience face to face but continue to share this experience to more people online hoping that it sparks more hope and confidence to what the future holds."

Darling De Jesus-Bodegon
First Vice President for Business Development Department III
Entertainment Group

"Ever since it [the concept] was born, we never really expected that it would be this good," Julie said. "We only aimed for world-class, high-quality content. I guess it's like one of the things I'm really proud of, aside from the fact that I'm able to sing my songs and showcase my talents, mas nakikita at na a appreciate din natin yung ganda ng Pilipinas. I'm also very thankful that GMA Synergy is there and it has given me such an opportunity to also find myself and rediscover things I have to rediscover myself."

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Synergy
A GMA COLLABORATION





BELIEVER OF Destiny



For the first time, Sofia Pablo candidly talks about everything from her unfortunate and sudden exit in Prima Donnas Season 1 to her highly-anticipated return as Donna Lyn in the show's second season and everything else in between

WORDS BY AARON BRENNT EUSEBIO
PHOTOS BY PRIMA DONNAS AND SOFIA PABLO INSTAGRAM

In September 2020, at the height of the pandemic, the fans of GMA Network's top-rated series *Prima Donnas* received terrible news: one of the show's main stars, Sofia Pablo, would not be joining the show's lock-in tapings.

Back then, the production was already preparing for the new normal in television production, seven months after being forced to pack up when the government imposed unprecedented lockdowns to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Sofia, who portrays the youngest of the Claveria sisters, Donna Lyn, just turned 14 that time, a year shy of the acceptable age for anyone going into lock-in tapings. Based on the guidelines released by the Department of Labor and Employment, child stars below 15 years of age were not allowed to engage in any type of work outside their homes.

"Super sad talaga ako kasi siyempre, acting is 'yung happiness ko, 'yun 'yung hilig kong gawin," Sofia recalls in her interview with GMANetwork.com.

"Nung una, natakot ako kasi baka makalimutan ako ng tao, as in, no TV exposure tapos hindi rin naman ako super ganoon kalaking artista so medyo napraning ako that time na, 'Ano ba 'yan, wala pa nga tapos mawawala pa ako. Paano?'"

Looking back, Sofia now believes that everything happens for a reason, even if, back then, she had no idea what was destined for her.

LIFE BEFORE SHOWBIZ

Sofia entered the entertainment industry at the young age of 8. Although she did not have any leading role until Prima Donnas in 2019, Sofia has no regrets. She enjoyed playing with her childhood friends.

"Childhood ko was fun, kumbaga, hindi naman ako nagsimulang mag-artista nang bata so masasabi ko na na-enjoy ko 'yung kabataan ko," Sofia shares with a giggle. "Showbiz na ako nung eight to ten, artista na ako nun pero hindi pa super duper bida so hindi pa puno 'yung sked. Every now and then may dumadating [na trabaho] pero hindi 'yung tulad ngayon na parang wala na akong time para mag-bakasyon. Kaya masasabi ko na nakapag-play rin ako with my friends before."

"Natakot ako kasi baka makalimutan ako ng tao, as in, no TV exposure tapos hindi rin naman ako super ganoon kalaking artista so medyo napraning ako that time na, 'Ano ba 'yan, wala pa nga tapos mawawala pa ako. Paano?'





Growing up shy, Sofia did not want to be a commercial model, let alone an actress who stars in one of the highest-rated afternoon television shows.

Sofia then joined the Cinemalaya movie *Mariquina* (2014), where she portrayed the youngest version of the main character Imelda, which Barbie Forteza and Mylene Dizon also portrayed.

Sofia's biggest break came in 2019 when she was announced as a cast member of *Prima Donnas* alongside fellow Kapuso teen stars Jillian Ward and Althea Ablan. Also part of Prima Donnas's first season were showbiz veterans Aiko Melendez, Katrina Halili, Wendell Ramos, and Chanda Romero.

Sofia said back then, "Halo-halo po ['yung nararamdaman ko] kasi siyempre masaya po dahil binigyan ka nila ng chance, pinagkatiwalaan ka po nila, pero siyempre, nakaka-pressure din kasi ayoko pong sayangin 'yung chance na ibinigay nila. Gusto ko pong ipakita na worth it 'yung chance."

True to her words, Sofia gave her all as Donna Lyn, which became one of the reasons why Prima Donnas managed to win the ratings game against its direct competition. *Prima Donnas* continued to soar not just on television but also on the internet.

That was until the COVID-19 pandemic happened.

BLESSING IN DISGUISE

On March 14, 2020, GMA Network announced that it would be suspending the production of Network-produced entertainment programs, including *Prima Donnas*, in accordance with the government's declaration of a community quarantine in Metro Manila.

GMA Entertainment Group launched a once-a-week online show called *Prima Donnas*: Watch From Home during the lockdown. Sofia also became very busy with her studies.

When the community quarantine eased, production teams began to prepare for the new normal to deliver fresh episodes for the viewers. However, Sofia could not join the lock-in taping because of age restrictions.

At her lowest, Sofia learned to believe in destiny and that everything happens for a reason. So while her *Prima Donnas* co-stars went on to the lock-in taping to finish the story, Sofia planned for her major comeback.

To keep herself busy and visible, Sofia then launched a joint YouTube channel with Allen Ansay called *AlFia Official*. The channel has amassed over 200,000 subscribers and 8,000,000 views in just a year. In addition, Sofia and Allen, whom fans fondly called Team Jolly, was also launched as one of the five up-and-coming loveteams by Sparkle GMA Artist Center called *Sparkle Sweethearts*.

Looking back, Sofia now knows the reason why a door closed two years ago.

"Laging may way si God kung bakit, and laging may reason kung bakit nangyari 'yung mga ganung bagay," Sofia says. "And naisip ko, baka nga kaya naging ganun, bukod sa para mas mapaganda 'yung character ni Donna Lyn, is para makilala kami as Team Jolly kasi kung hindi naman kami nag-start mag-vlog, hindi naman namin sure kung makikilala kami as Team Jolly."

Now that she has reprised her role as Donna Lyn in the second season of Prima Donnas, Sofia can't contain her happiness as she tells herself that she has made it. As a bonus, Allen joins the cast as Fonsie, Donna Lyn's love interest.

"Ngayon na bumalik ako, masaya ako kasi na-achieve ko 'yung goal ko na talagang napakita ko na ito na ako ulit, nandito na ako. Masaya ako kasi sa YouTube, 'yung episode highlights ni LenLen is talagang matataas 'yung views. So happy ako kasi nabawi ko talaga 'yung mga panahong nawala ako, and maybe nga, it was a blessing in disguise kasi maybe nawala ako para mas mabigyan ako ng magandang opportunity to showcase my acting."

Although Sofia has already fulfilled her promise to come back stronger, she still thrives for more and remains as humble as ever.

"Ako, I never want to think that I'm there kasi 'pag inisip mo 'yun, hindi ka na magsa-strive to go higher. Ayokong isipin na I am someone already kasi 'pag iniisip mo 'yun parang, 'O, okay na. Sikat naman na ako, e.' Unlike 'pag inisip mo na hindi pa ako ganun, talagang mas magtatrabaho ka."

Wonder what Sofia's motivation to continue working hard is? A wallpaper she saw on a fellow Kapuso's cell phone.

"Nakita ko nga before, wallpaper ni Kuya Kelvin [Miranda] na hanggang ngayon, tumatak sa akin. 2019, Sunday PinaSaya days, 'di ba, naalala ko pa? Wallpaper niya noon is, 'Work and work until you no longer have to introduce yourself.' Ang ganda.

"Ayoko talagang isipin na I am someone kahit sa nangyari sa Prima na everywhere pinag-uusapan si Donna Lyn. Ako 'yung nagpo-portray kay Donna Lyn pero ayokong isipin na, 'Ay, sikat na sikat ako.' Ayoko, gusto ko talaga, humble lang."



"Laging may way si God kung bakit, and laging may reason kung bakit nangyari 'yung mga ganung bagay.

Taken from Kapuso Profiles of www.gmanetwork.com. You may read the full article by scanning this code: https://www.gmanetwork.com/entertainment/kapusoprofiles/news/69/sofia-pablo-believer-of-destiny/kapusoprofiles

A night of firsts and lasts:

GMA Pinoy TV's 'Stronger Together' concert caps off Expo 2020 Dubai for the Kapuso abroad with a blast!



GMA Network's flagship international channel, GMA Pinoy TV, truly saved the best for last for the Kapuso fans in the UAE as it successfully brought together thousands of Filipinos in its much-awaited concert last March 30, a day before the biggest global expo concluded.

The Dubai Millennium Amphitheatre at the Dubai Expo Grounds was jam-packed with Filipinos and people from different nationalities to witness GMA Pinoy TV's return to the live event scene via *Stronger Together: GMA Pinoy TV @ Expo 2020 Dubai* headlined by Julie Anne San Jose, Jessica Villarubin, and Xian Lim. The Kapuso stars treated the audience with performances that spotlighted Pinoy talent at its best and ended the Expo for the Filipino community on a high note – both literally and figuratively.

Asia's Limitless Star Julie Anne San Jose could not contain her excitement as the concert was also her first time going abroad since the pandemic started. "More than anything, sobrang excited lang talaga ako to see our fellow Kapuso and I know na marami rin ang naghihintay sa pagkakataong ito. I'm thankful to GMA Pinoy TV for bringing us here and choosing me as one of the artists na magpe-perform for Dubai Expo."

The Clash Season 3 Grand Champion Jessica Villarubin, who marked her first international concert through this event, wowed the audience and even her co-performers with her vocal prowess. "Grabe yung hiyawan ng mga Kapuso natin, kaya I made sure to do my best sa performances ko para sa kanila. Nag-enjoy talaga ako lalo na first time ko rin na makapag-perform dito sa Dubai. Daghang salamat, mga Kapuso abroad," said the proud Cebuana talent.

In his first-ever live event as a Kapuso, multi-talented actor Xian Lim was beaming with pride to see a lot of their kababayans who came to see them perform at the Expo. "It's a proud moment para sa ating mga Pinoy na ma-showcase natin ang Pilipinas. And ang mabigyan ang mga Pilipino ng isang spot dito sa Dubai Expo is such an honor. It's an emotional moment for everyone, and it feels great to be Pinoy right now. Isang karangalan na napili ako ng GMA Pinoy TV to be one of the artists to perform," shared the *False Positive* leading man.

Also giving more glitz and glamour to Julie Anne, Jessica, and Xian's on-stage looks were the couture gowns and suit sponsored by Filipino fashion designer Ryan Pacioles of Atelier Zuhra. The artists' hair and makeup were done by Darwin Perez.



Dubai-based Pinoy performers World Championships of Performing Arts, United Cebuanos Folkloric Dance Ensemble, MDM Dance Company, and Dubai Filipino Overseas Chorale led by Matilyn Bagunu also showcased their world-class talent. Fittingly as the concert's closing salvo, they all performed GMA Pinoy TV's theme song *Stronger Together* to bring home the message of hope that Filipinos abroad can draw strength from each other and still unite in facing the adversities in life despite being separated by distance.

"The Middle East and the UAE have a very special place in the hearts of Filipinos. We are very much thankful for our Kapuso in Dubai for their overwhelming support as we held our first international concert in the new normal setting and in no less than the biggest Expo in the world. While our Stronger Together concert marked so many firsts for us here at GMA Pinoy TV and even for our Kapuso artists, we also wanted to give the best for last for our kababayans as we join the Expo 2020 Dubai in time for their culminating ceremonies." said GMA International First Vice President and Head Joseph T. Francia.

The Stronger Together: GMA Pinoy TV @ Expo 2020 Dubai concert was also made possible through GMA Pinoy TV's partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry and official media partners, The Filipino Times and TAG 91.1.

GMA INTERNATIONAL

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Some of the Pinoys who witnessed the concert also expressed how much they enjoyed the show and congratulated GMA Pinoy TV for staging the highly-successful event.

Loryn Silva from Dubai was amazed with Jessica's world-class performance. She said, "She really nailed that night. Kudos GMA Pinoy TV. We hope more [concerts] in the future."

@Abduldarwisa said, "Napakahusay. Congrats mga Kapuso. So proud of you guys. Proud to be fans of Kapuso."

Other fans also requested that the show be staged in other parts of the world including in the US, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

For the latest updates on GMA Pinoy TV's events, visit www.gmapinoytv.com and follow GMA Pinoy TV on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Twitter, and Viber community.



Updated with Nelson Canlas is about anything and everything showbiz. GMA showbiz reporter Nelson Canlas interviews the most prominent names and influencers in the Kapuso network—from rising stars to the industry's household names.

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