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Hi! Society

By MONET LU

A tour de force performance

And now it's confirmed, At Last...Stephanie Reese LIVE! In Concert at the Normandie Casino last Sept. 27 totally exceeded everyone's expectations.

Like any producer before any show, I had jitters but at the same time I also had strong confidence in the artist. I was so happy to be able to launch my vision for her. I wanted to feature her as a formidable solo artist here in LA because although she has guested on many shows here and there, she hasn't really had a concert like this to call her own.

So with the help of Alex Pineda (who did not sleep a wink the night before the concert obsessing about every little detail about this show), the vision was to present Stephanie before 250 privileged guests in an intimate venue that will really showcase her big voice and expressive face.

After the raves, applause and four standing ovations, Stephanie did not disappoint.

Sa una pa lang magaan na ang dating ng project na ito—from the early stages of planning, to the rehearsals, and the artistic side.

Myself, Alex and the musical director Alex Lagman carefully chose songs from Stephanie's repertoire. We chose wisely so that the show will be tight, well-executed and fast-paced. She took



Stephanie Reese wearing an opera gown by Lou Razon.



The captivating duet between the standing ovation queen and LA's premier balladeer.



Monet and Alex beaming with pride at the success of the show.

the audience to different places by her multi-lingual songs. She sang in German, French, Italian, English, and Filipino.

The first part of the show was accentuated by the unforgettable opening. My guests were unaware that the white life-size statues were not merely inanimate objects. When Stephanie sang her first note, the audience was amused to see the

statues start to move with the music. *Naloka ang mga tao!* They were in awe to find out those were actual living statues.

Stephanie's first set of songs composed of Broadway tunes that tugged at the audience's emotions, the flirty *Sway* and the sultry *Chaka Laka Boom Boom* which was her original composition.

With the song choices, Stephanie was able to connect with the audience and make them feel that she was singing only for them.

The show continued with the guest appearance of LA's premier balladeer Sonny Madera who provided a rather refreshing breather



Alex Pineda, right, with TV and Film producer Kitchie Benedicto and her talents.

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