Meeting Tita Vi: A Big Scare

by Marinel Cruz
Inquirer.net

Angel Locsin and Luis Manzano

Vilma Santos

MANILA – Nerve-Wracking.

That was Angel Locsin's recollection of being introduced for the first time to Vilma Santos, A-list dramatic actress and governor of Batangas – who also happens to be her boyfriend Luis Manzano's mother.

"Imagine a girl being introduced to her boyfriend's parents – I felt that three times over. I kept thinking, 'This can't be real. She's a respected actress and provincial governor,'" Angel told Inquirer Entertainment at her launch Thursday as endorser of Facial Care Center's Laser Light treatment.

'Steady' with Luis

Angel continued: "I felt ill-at-ease in her company in the beginning. But I've learned to relax, especially now that I've seen how close Luis and Tita Vi are. He would wrestle with her. *Si Tita Vi naman, lumalaban din* [Tita Vi would fight back]."

"Steady" is how the young star described her relationship with Luis. "I love that Luis is very sweet and thoughtful. I guess that's why he's mistaken for a 'chick-boy.' He's every girl's friend. They open up to him, tell him their secrets." They have been a couple for six months.

Closer to dad

As for her own family, Angel said she's closer to her father. Angel's parents separated when she was 14. She has since lived with her dad, Angelo Colmenares. "Up till now, I sit on his lap," she admitted.

"But I communicate with my mom [Emma] regularly," Angel added. "She knows that she can count on me when she needs me. *Siyempre – nanay ko 'yun* [Of course, she's my mom]."

Angel flew to Korea on Friday with *Only You* co-stars Diether Ocampo and Sam Milby. "We're all excited," she said during Thursday's event. "We'll be away for a month."

The original Koreanovela was set in Venice. The local version will be directed by Rory B. Quintos.

Not so easy

"We thought doing a light-romance series is easy; *hindi pala* [not so]. We got so used to playing dramatic roles that we had a hard time delivering our lines [in this one]," Angel related. "Direk Rory would say, *Masyadong mabigat* [It's too heavy]! Then we'd do it again and again until she's satisfied." The show airs this summer on ABS-CBN.

Angel first appeared on *Click* (1999), GMA 7's youth program. *Mulawin*, the fantasy series that made Angel a big star, was broadcast in 2004. A year later, she played the lead role in *Darna*, the *Kapuso* network's highest rating show that year.

In 2007, she signed a two-year talent contract with ABS-CBN. Her first assignment was *Pilat* on the long-running drama anthology *Maalaala Mo Kaya*. Under the *Kapamilya* banner, Angel has starred in the TV program *Lobo* and romantic film *Love Me Again*.

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