

# A Friendship That Bridges The TV Divide

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Inquirer.net

**M**ANILA - He's with GMA 7, she's with ABS-CBN. In spite of the raging network war, Ogie Alcasid and Judy Ann Santos have become fast friends and are sharing the screen in the forthcoming Regal movie, *OMG: Oh My Girl*, directed by her best buddy Dante Nico Garcia.

Ogie recalls that the friendship blossomed when he contributed a song he composed, "Ikaw ang Pag-ibig," free of charge to her movie "Ploning."

Judai describes her friendship with Ogie as "precious."

"She's real and sincere," he says of her. "He's one of the rare show biz people I can trust," she says of him.

Last Valentine's Day, Judai surprised Ogie and his girlfriend Regine Velasquez with a four-course meal.

As bonus, Judai's fiancé Ryan Agoncillo acted as official photographer and Dante worked as production designer and food stylist for the dinner held at Regine's Quezon City home.

"That was sweet of her," Ogie says. "You couldn't talk to Judai while she was in the kitchen. She was that involved."

The actress—graduate of a culinary course—whipped up Triolette of Soup served in Shot Glass; Honey Balsamic Salad with Grapes and Shaved Parmesan; Wagyu Beef and Sea Bass. For dessert, they had Lava Cake.

Judai admires Regine's kitchen skills, too—noting what appears to be the singer's high tolerance for pain: "She'd often touch hot food with her bare fingers."

Another talent that Judai finds admirable is Regine's ability to come up with story concepts for movies—like *OMG: Oh My Girl*, where Judai plays a singing superstar and Ogie, her cross-dressing assistant. (The actress had been asking the singer for a movie concept for the longest time.)

Regine's original story idea for Ogie and Judai evolved into *Love is Blind*—which eventually became a still-to-be-shot project for Ogie and Regine. In its stead, Regine offered *OMG* to Ogie and Judai.

Whenever Regine comes up with concepts, Ogie acts as her typist. "She has lots of stories in her head," Ogie says. "She is very imaginative."

Whenever they watch movies, she can guess where the story's headed, he adds. "She focuses on it and chides me because I have short attention span. I tell her: 'Can't we just relax and enjoy the movie?'" ■



Judy Ann Santos and Ogie Alcasid

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## Richard Gutierrez files P25M libel vs PEP

**M**ANILA - Actor Richard Gutierrez filed on Monday a P25-million libel complaint at the Makati City Prosecutor's Office against the editor-in-chief of a showbiz website.

The lead actor of GMA-7's *Zorro*, who arrived past 2pm with his family, claimed that Jo-Ann Maglipon, editor-in-chief of Philippine Entertainment Portal, and two others, maliciously published an article on March 29 that accused him of being in a gun-toting incident with actor Michael Flores.

Gutierrez said that as an endorser of several brands, the article discredited him by portraying him as a "troublemaker" when "no such incident took place."

Also named as respondents in the five-page complaint were Karen Pagsoligan, PEP managing editor and Ferdinand Godinez, staff writer.

PEP earlier posted an apology on its website, acknowledging its mistake of posting the story on the alleged gun-toting incident without getting the statements of Gutierrez and Flores.

Flores had also denied such a confrontation with Gutierrez took place.

Maglipon, however, said in TV interviews they were apologizing for their lapse in failing to get the sides of all involved and were not necessarily saying that the event never took place.

She added that Gutierrez's mother and manager, Annabelle Rama, had agreed not to press charges against PEP if they would issue an apologize on the website.

Rama, however, said that what she asked for was a complete retraction of the story and not just an apology for lapses. (Inquirer.net)

