

The Ballad of Newlyweds Judai and Ryan

by BAYANI SAN DIEGO
Inquirer.net

Newlyweds Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo succeeded in keeping details of their wedding top secret.

They were that serious in balancing the demands of celebrity with their need for a normal life, their friends noted. Judai—as the actress is known in show biz circles—explained in a series of past interviews with the Inquirer that her only wish was to keep their wedding day as solemn and serene as possible.

Hush-hush ceremonies

If all went as planned, Judai would have gotten her wish when she tied the knot with Ryan in hush-hush ceremonies Tuesday.

Throughout their year-long engagement, the two managed to keep the press guessing and all published reports have faltered regarding the details.

Filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes, who worked with the Agoncillos in the Metro Manila Film Fest movies *Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo* and *Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo*, as well as in the forthcoming ABS-CBN comedy series *George and Cecil*, told the Inquirer: "There's TV coverage, but the couple retained full creative control."

The Agoncillos, Reyes observed, know exactly what they want—both in the smaller picture of the wedding and the bigger one of "life after the ceremony."

'Polar opposites'

If there's one thing that made the couple click, Reyes commented, it's that they are precisely "polar opposites."

At first they seemed to be the most unlikely couple. He's the English-speaking La Salle Boy; she's *masang-masa*, a soap opera queen.

Another filmmaker, Dante Nico Garcia, who is directing the wedding's TV coverage on ABS-CBN, said: "For strangers, they may seem different. But they actually have the same likes and dislikes. They keep each other grounded and real."

Reyes added: "Ryan showed Judai a world she was afraid to look at; Judai introduced Ryan to a world he never gave importance to."

Agreed Noel Ferrer, Ryan's manager: "Judai and Ryan were good for each other. They became kinder and gentler, more competent in their endeavors and, physically, they glow ... They take care of themselves more."



Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo

The "difference" spelled the difference.

"They complement each other. My wish is that when they're in their 70s, they'd still continue learning from each other," Garcia said.

Core values

Ferrer concurred with Garcia and offered another take on why the couple clicked: "They are seemingly different, but they converged at a certain point. Maybe because they share the same core values."

One of those principles, Ferrer asserted, is a "commitment to build a strong family life together."

The Agoncillos' journey as a couple will be expressed in a wedding song whose lyrics Reyes wrote, with music by composer Ryan Cayabyab, whom the groom had worked with in *Philippine Idol*.

"It's entitled *Kuwento Nating Dalawa*," Reyes said.

"It really captured their story as a couple," Ferrer said.

The song is set to debut on May 2, at the couple's party with show biz friends, to be held in Makati. Singer Martin Nievera also gifted the couple with a song entitled *Unchanging Love*. ■



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Kristine Hermosa: Oyo is not courting me

Patience and compromise are things Kristine Hermosa has taken to heart after her failed relationship with Diether Ocampo.

by MARINEL CRUZ
Inquirer.net

"One must not rush, especially when making important decisions in life," the actress told Inquirer Entertainment during a gathering for her latest teleserye for ABS-CBN, *Nasaan Ka Maruja?*

"A couple should accept that they have different personalities and are bound to clash in some way," Kristine added. "To settle this, they should meet halfway."

In February this year, the Court of Appeals granted Kristine's petition to annul her civil marriage to Diether held in Jaen, Nueva Ecija in 2004. According to the CA, the union was not valid because the couple failed to secure a marriage license or contract at the time of the wedding ceremony, which was officiated by Jaen Mayor Antonio Prospero Esquivel.

Acceptance

Kristine said she also felt sad when the annulment was granted. "I loved Diet so much. That love was pure. I wasn't relieved when I heard the news. It was more of acceptance. I just told myself that things just didn't work out between us."

She was pleased to hear that Diether has a new inspiration—print ad model Rima Lorza Ostwani. But Kristine also expressed some concern: "I've not spoken to him for a long time. But if what I heard is true—that

he's ready to marry her—I hope he would listen to a friend's advice. He should think hard before taking the plunge. He has to be serious. It's not a game. It's important that nobody gets hurt anymore."

Does she consider the annulment a form of closure?

"I guess so," Kristine replied. "He's obviously happy. I'm also OK where I am in my life right now."

What about Oyo?

Currently, Kristine is being linked to actor Oyo Sotto, who she claims is her best friend. "He's not courting me," Kristine insisted. "I just know that he cares for me. He was there during the times when I was down. But I won't deny that there's a possibility for the friendship to develop into something more special. He's the closest guy to me right now."

Kristine said she tried going out with other guys shortly after her split with Diether. "But I had trouble trusting anyone," she revealed. "It appears to me that guys always put their best foot forward. I find that so unnatural."

Jaded

Kristine admitted that, sadly, where love is concerned, she's now somewhat jaded. "*Napagod ang puso ko*. It has to rest. It will take a while for me to fall in love again. When that time comes, it will be with someone who is really special," she declared. ■

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