

Uncomfortable talking about money

by MARINEL CRUZ
Inquirer.net

“I FEEL VERY uncomfortable talking about money, or how much I’m worth,” said controversial actress Gretchen Barretto at last week’s launch of *Complicated*, her second album under Star Records.

On the Sunday gabfest *The Buzz*, Gretchen refused to answer Boy Abunda when he asked how much she was worth. At the launch, she explained that the subject was “too sensitive.”

She added: “[They asked for] exact figures. I didn’t know what to say. When I was more active in the business, I didn’t think twice when people asked to see my house. *Pinaghirapan ko kasi ‘yun*, bought with my own money. It’s different now. I’d rather not put a price tag on things given to me as gifts.”

Also at the album launch, Gretchen refused to discuss the status of her relationship with business tycoon Antonio “Tony-boy” Cojuangco, with whom she has a daughter, 14-year-old Dominique. Tabloids report that the couple have broken up. “I have to deal with that everyday. You’ll know *kapag hindi na complicated*,” she simply said.

Gretchen, in a collared white mini-dress, and wearing a pair of black-and-white Christian Loubotin wedges and an Hermes necklace, sang two tunes from her 14-track CD. She complained that her voice was hoarse from falling ill after shooting the video for *Ready to Take a Chance Again*, the carrier single.

She raffled off two of her Bulgari rings to members of the entertainment press. (Last December, at the launch of her now-defunct game show *You and Me Against the World*, La Greta gave away a pair of Oscar de la Renta pumps.)

Did you pick the songs yourself?

Yes, I had three meetings with (line producer) Louie Ocampo and people from Star Cinema to discuss which songs suited me. We came up with 14. *This Far*, is an original — Rachel Anne Wolfe wrote the lyrics to Archie Dy’s melody.

Do you feel connected to these songs?

Yes; songs are expressions of how one feels. I’ve felt all the emotions conveyed by these songs. For example, *I’ll Be There For You* is one of my favorites. It describes my love for Dominique. And *Don’t Say Goodbye* reminds me of my first love and heartbreak.

Why didn’t you just do a movie or teleserye?

I’m no longer fit to work long hours. When I did *Maalaala Mo Kaya*, I got sick for three days. *Kasi naman* I worked for almost



Gretchen Barretto

24 hours. I don’t think I can still work that hard three times a week for a *teleserye*. As for a movie, we’re still looking for a good story. Tita Malou (Santos, Star Adprom head) says she’s ready to present a script to me. It may be with Derek Ramsey — but nothing is final.

There’s a note on your album jacket for your “groom-to-be.” Have you found the one? Are you ready to commit to him?

Somebody told me that you won’t really know your groom-to-be until you’re all dressed up and walking down the aisle to meet him at the altar. Marrying the man you love is every woman’s dream. Let’s leave it at that for now.

All I can say is, everything that happened in the past made me who I am today. There’s a reason behind everything that’s happened to me so far. There’s no perfect life. The moment I realized that, I began to feel OK. ■

[Showbitz!]

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and experiences under their belts, the three women were chosen “because they still show the spunk or *Asims* even as they have matured,” the directors said. ■

From segment to movie: Yaya and Angelina go mainstream

SINCE they started appearing on GMA’s Bubble Gang, the funny segment of Yaya and the spoiled brat Angelina played by comedians Michael V and Ogie Alcasid tickled the fancy of every Filipino.

Now, the much-talked about duo of Yaya and Angelina will not settle for just a segment in a TV show because this year their very own movie *Ang Spoiled Brat Movie* will be launched.

Aside from the movie, Yaya and Angelina will soon be busy as the hosts of *Hole in the Wall*.

Hole in the Wall is a franchise of Fremantle Media, the same company behind *American Idol*. *Hole in the Wall* will premiere on April 20, 2009 in replacement of *Family Feud*. ■



Yaya and Angelina

Memorable fragments of the not-so-distant past

The Sharon Cuneta on my mind

as recalled by BOBBY T. YALONG

SHARON Cuneta, second born of the late Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta and beauteous former airline stewardess Elaine Gamboa Cuneta, was merely a bubbly freshman from St. Paul College (I could easily tell with her black and white checkered uniform) when she was referred to me by her singer-actress aunt Helen Gamboa (who was then a regular client of my Espana atelier) for their early evening TV show, *C.U.T.E. (Call Us Two for Entertainment)*.



Sharon Cuneta

Young Sharon’s upbringing in a political atmosphere coupled with adequate public orientation was noticeable with the way she interacted with people despite her youth. She delightfully displayed such peculiar warmth with an air of sincerity even in an initial encounter that left an indelible mark of cordiality and lingering impression. “*Muy simpatica! Muy educada!*” the elders would ve-

hemently comment.

The young star never failed to acknowledge the simple gestures accorded her by supporters - sweet (plastered) smiles, hand waves and shakes, autograph signing, picture taking, and all the sorts. Sharon was already prepared for the big time. But my shop helper would constantly complain about marked window glasses, plants and pocket landscape being crushed and in disarray every after Sharon’s visit.

A few months later, Sharon joined German Moreno’s *GermSpecial*, a Sunday variety show in Channel 7, as co-host (alternating with Jackie Lou Blanco) which left me dressing her up twice a week. I wasn’t at all complaining but I still had other celebrities then to attend to: Lani Mercado (*Ladies & Gentlemen* with Joey de Leon and her movies), Ruffa Gutierrez (who came home from the USA and started appearing on TV and movies), Lala Aunor (for her *Lala Aunor Show*) plus other young aspirants cast in *That’s Entertainment*.

The fleeting time has pushed a lot of events and happenings away so fast that we could barely catch up. After so many years, changes occurred and where is Sharon Cuneta now? Married to Sen. Kiko Pangilinan (after a failed first marriage to Gabby Concepcion), with kids (KC Concepcion, Frankie and Miel Pangilinan), still lordling it over the tin-pan-alley, TV and the wide screen - maybe, a bit heavier (sign of contentment), but her peculiar sincerity and innate friendly ways remain intact and unaffected by any change. Most of all, still regally seated on her throne as the reigning one and only MEGASTAR of the Philippine showbiz firmament.

Watch and meet Sharon Cuneta in person and get the feel of the same experience I have had with her. Watch her perform with her daughter, KC Concepcion on Sunday, at 3pm on May 31, 2009 at the NJPAC Prudential Hall in Newark, New Jersey for the *Megathirty Concert*. This early MPG Global Productions, in cooperation with the Asian Journal and Balikbayan Magazine assure the concert-going public a very entertaining production in its up-coming grandiose mid-spring presentation.

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