



Hi!
Society

By MONET LU

Hello NY!

dark and handsome. To boot, this good-looking model-actor is also one of the nicest guys around!

I remember meeting him for the first time during his first American holiday with then-leading lady Snooky Serna.

Instantly, Goma (as he's fondly called) and I hit it off. I recall showing him around Los Angeles during that visit. I think I took him to Beverly Center, which was the hotspot for shopping back in the day. He also stayed at my house while he was here.

Since then, he's been a good friend. He had a special guest appearance on my show *Reflections 4* with the help of Mary Ann Pagsibigan.

I remember Goma spending two of his Christmases with us in Southern California. Once he joined us at the salon and visited with my Mom which was so nice of him.

Another Christmas years later, he attended a party held at my house with his new bride Lucy Torres.

One endearing trait of Goma is that he has no qualms about where we eat. We would set up outside my house before and share meals with friends *kamayan*-style.

I think I relate to him as a person because of his humble beginnings. He worked at McDonald's before breaking into modeling and showbiz.

As a celebrity, well, there is much to celebrate about Goma. He is an accomplished actor, product endorser, athlete and leader.

He's won awards for his acting performances for critically acclaimed movies such as *Dahas* and *Hihintayin Kita sa Langit*. He has also starred in a string of hits for Regal films, making him a truly bankable leading man with the help of long-time mentor Douglas Quijano.

Goma is one of those lead actors who will stay with us for a long time. I think the secret to his staying power is the wisdom he applies in choosing roles.

He's like the Pinoy Johnny Depp. Versatile and unpredictable in his role choices.

His latest TV projects, specifically as host of *Family Feud*, have also enjoyed success.

As a product endorser, Goma is much sought after. He's the original and main model for Bench, which still remains a top apparel brand to this day.



Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres

The athlete Goma employs the same discipline in sports as he does in his acting career. With pride, he's represented the Philippines in many sporting competitions.

He founded the Goma Cup and MAD (*Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga*) which campaigns against drug abuse.

The private and personal Goma is also very devoted. He's a doting father to daughter Juliana and very loving husband to the lovely

and incomparable Lucy. His 11-year marriage is a standard by which other showbiz marriages aspire for.

During the last general elections in the Philippines, Goma and supporters braved the complicated world of politics in a desire to make a difference in the lives of Filipinos.

Goma's senatorial bid was unsuccessful but his heart was in the right place. Who knows, we might still see his name in the ballot in

the next elections.

I hope to be seeing Goma and Lucy in the Pacquiao-Hatton match in Vegas this coming May 2nd. The couple is celebrating their anniversary by taking this trip to the US

I wish Goma, Lucy and Juliana the best. Their wonderful family deserves all the graces. And may there be more little Gomas and Lucys to come...

L.A.-based celebrity stylist Monet Lu was born in Marikina, Philippines. In the 80s, Monet left a thriving salon chain business in his hometown to migrate to the U.S. He had the vision to recreate his success in the US by building a beauty business that served the needs of Filipino Americans. Currently, Monet is the proud owner of four salons with branches in Van Nuys CA, Panorama City CA, Los Angeles CA and Las Vegas NV. He has since branched out to event productions through his events and marketing company Events Specialists International, producer of the longest-running (20 years!) and most prestigious Filipino-American awards/fashion show in SoCal. In 2006, Monet kicked off another passion to develop his own line of all-natural, beauty care products, Skin By Monet.

Monet is also a humanitarian and has supported many charitable organizations such as the Marikina Revitalization Project, AIDS Center in Pasadena, Alab Ng Puso, Every Nation Ministries, Gawad Kalinga, Bantay Bata 163, and many more. To contact Monet, please visit his site: www.monetsalon.com

A certified trendsetter, globetrotter and box-office princess...

KC Concepcion, a true chip off the Mega block

by BOBBY T. YALONG

KRISTINA Cassandra Concepcion, more popularly known as KC, can be as down-to-earth as any girl her age despite the high profile lifestyle she has grown accustomed with; "Actually, we call our group "so-jo"... as in, *social na jologs!*" she readily confesses with a boisterous laughter in a manner so very natural of her. "We may be used to having steaks of the choicest cut with knife and fork but we also love eating fishballs from a stick generously dipped from a common sauce... and enjoy it just the same!"

Like her mom, the Megastar Sharon Cuneta, KC practically grew up surrounded with a diversity of social classes: having a full-blooded politician grandfather, a popular singer-actress mother, a matinee idol dad (screen idol Gabby Concepcion), a political figure step-dad (Kiko Pangilinan), and a number of sanguine relatives in showbusiness, plus a lot of prominent personalities she met during her formative years... it won't be surprising for the beautiful KC to metamorphose into an almost molded-to-perfection fine lady with such well-rounded personality--- "a *rara avis*", one social critique would easily say.

Being an Arian (born April 7, 1985), KC is by nature aggressive, a born leader and oftentimes impatient.

She has the ability to think fast and size up most situations in an instant but gradually learns from her mistakes. Her inherent trait influenced by her Arian planet could calculate risks with lightning speed and make decisions accordingly... that could easily fit to the old Geometric rule: "A straight line is the shortest distance between two points."

Having been brought up between anywhere from being pampered and spoiled to smart and liberated, KC is emotionally courageous to the point of recklessness and will change her entire life on a whim in order to follow some dream or romantic inclination.

In one of her blogs, KC shows signs of her real self with utmost transparency. In her situation as a celebrity daughter, she writes: "One of the things that really irritate me is that people can't understand I'm normal. They already have different perceptions of me and that affects me..."

Like any young adult, she loves adventure: "I'm an adolescent and learning different things..." She digs R & B music, Brian Mcknight, Janet Jackson, and Aretha Franklin... also, Mariah Carey and Christina Aguilera for their singing prowess. Acoustic music also excites her.

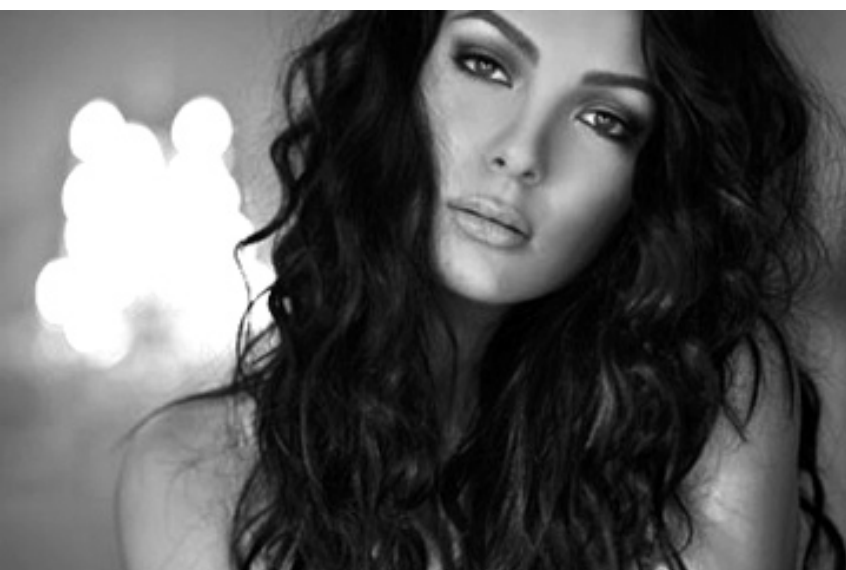
Fiery and hyper that she is concretely reflects on her color preferences. KC goes for red, orange, purple and fuchsia. "I don't like pastel colors... they make me yawn!"

At her age and status, the young Mega-daughter does not shy away from inquiries with regard to her ideal boyfriend. "He should be intelligent, responsible, smart, pleasant-looking and those guys who like the beach... someone who knows how to have fun and has a passion for life."

In private, KC is by nature caring and compliant, homey and a busy body. She owns a pair of pet fish she named Chaos and Jorda, a Shihtzu dog she fondly calls Solomon and a black-cap parrot named, *Kulay*. KC loves scented candles and cow prints... ('just don't know if this has something to do why she doesn't eat beef).

Open and candid, KC readily reveals her beauty regimen: "It's not something I prioritize... as long as I feel clean, I don't smell... I will step out of the door and I'm fine..."

How about her kikay kit, what does it contain? "Not a lot, only my most immediate needs: strawberry-flavored lip gloss or lip balm, aromatherapy balm powder, blush-on and mascara. One thing I couldn't leave home without is my lip balm 'coz my lips are really dry and I feel so dirty when they aren't moisturized!"



After just a couple of years in the industry, Sharon Cuneta's eldest is already catching up fast. Compared with her Mom's early showbiz career, KC is almost close (if not at par) with her current popularity status. Given another year or so, with the way product endorsement projects and movie offers keep pouring in, KC is surely on the right track and could definitely be ahead of her league.

Watch and meet KC Concepcion in person when she graces Megathirty Tour and get the feel of how it is to be with the Mega daughter in a two-hour of fun and entertainment. Watch her perform with her Mom, Sharon Cuneta on Sunday, at 3:00 PM 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.

Save the date and reserve a seat now! Be part of another great event. Tickets are on sale now and priced at: VIP, \$150, \$138, \$98, and \$78 and available at www.mpgglobalproductions.com, or you can call NJPAC Ticket Services at 1-800-466-5722 or login at ticketservices@njpac.org, www.ticketonline.com and www.Pinoyticket.com

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