

Kristine Hermosa: Oyo is not courting me

by MARINEL CRUZ
Inquirer.net

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



Kristine Hermosa

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."

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." ■

"One must not rush, especially when making important decisions in life," the actress said 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.

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



From left are ABS-CBN Global CFO Kai Rodriguez, North America Managing Director Chinky De Jesus, UGAT Foundation Executive Director Fr. Nilo Tanalega, SJ, ABS-CBN Global COO Raffy Lopez, Abe King of PBA Legends USA Foundation, Dr. Jocelyn Bruce of NANAY, Inc., ABS-CBN Broadcasting Network President & COO Charo Santos-Concio, Ken Mendoza of FABA of Metropolitan D.C., Alice Andam of PNAMDC, Inc., ABS-CBN Broadcasting Network CFO Ron P. Valdeuzo, Dr. Manuel Hipol of CUFOT, Inc., ABS-CBN News Bureau Chief Ging Reyes and Senior Manager for Community Relations Mitos Santisteban.

Photo by Mona T. Brooks

Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. Bayaning Pilipino 2009 honors five Fil-Am organizations

REDWOOD CITY— ABS-CBN International (ABS-CBNi), the US-based subsidiary of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Network, the Philippines' largest entertainment and broadcasting company, honored recently the recipients of the Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. Bayaning Pilipino 2009 in ceremonies held at the Studio TFC at the ABS-CBNi corporate office in Redwood City. The awards were jointly hosted with the Ugnayan at Tulong para sa Maralitang Pamilya (UGAT) Foundation headed by Fr. Nilo Tanalega, SJ, which also oversees the nomination and selection of winners.

This year's honorees are: Council of United Filipino Organizations of Tidewater (CUFOT) from Virginia Beach, VA, represented by Dr. Manuel Hipol; Filipino American Basketball Association (FABA) of Metropolitan D.C., Inc. from Oakton, VA, represented by Ken G. Mendoza; National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Youth (NANAY, Inc.) from North Miami, FL, represented by Dr. Jocelyn Bruce; PBA Legends USA Foundation from Gig Harbor, WA, represented by Abe King; and the Philippine Nurses Association of Metropolitan D.C., Inc. (PNAMDC) from Alexandria, VA, represented by Alice N. Andam.

The awards show, which coincided with the kick-off of The Filipino Channel's (TFC) 15th year anniversary celebration, was attended by ABS-CBN Broadcasting Network President and COO Charo Santos-Concio. "We are in media and, therefore, we have been given this great responsibility to serve our *kapamilyas* all over the world," she said. "We can't just pay lip service to this mission. We have to take it to heart and live it. We are in the business of mirroring life and human experience."

ABS-CBN Global COO Raffy Lopez in his opening remarks recalled the reason for Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. Bayaning Pilipino: "A Filipina domestic helper in Hong Kong was run over by a car in the pursuit of saving a child. That single heroic act in 1994 inspired my father, the late Don Eugenio "Geny" Lopez Jr., to partner with Fr. Nilo Tanalega of UGAT Foundation to conceptualize a program geared towards recognizing ordinary folks who had done extraordinary deeds in the service of the Filipino people."

"Kicking off TFC's 15th year celebration with a special tribute to the Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. Bayaning Pilipino awardees here in the US is our way of affirming what we truly value as a company: that is service with a humanitarian spirit at the core of our business," adds North America Managing Director Chinky De Jesus.

The ceremonies had ace musical performers in the popular Southern California-based Philippine Chamber Singers-LA, the powerful vocal trio III of A Kind, rising Disney star Anna Maria Perez de Tagle, and international musical theatre singer-actress Joanna Ampil. ■

FUNFARE

By RICKY LO
Philstar.com

Richard unfazed by the intrigues

ALTHOUGH he finds himself (and other members of the Gutierrez family) in the eye of a showbiz storm, Richard Gutierrez has remained unfazed by the intrigues.

Maybe we can guess where his sentiments are in the legal war between his mom, Annabelle Rama, and GMA executive Wilma Galvante, but since he is, so to speak, caught between two forces (naguumpugang bato), Richard tries to stay "neutral," torn as he is

between love for his mom and respect for his boss.

Two such "blessings" came when Richard was launched by Bench as endorser of Gutz & Glory, his signature cologne, at the Mall of Asia; and when he was cited as one of the Fr. Neri Satur Award recipients for Environmental Heroism (for hosting the environment-awareness GMA special *Signos* and the one-season *Full Force Nature*). He's also an active supporter of the Greenpeace Movement.

"We have more environment-friendly projects," as-



Richard Gutierrez

sured Richard whose Slim Tee commercial also premiered over the weekend. Saying that nobody can put a good guy down, Mama Annabelle happily reported that Richard's GMA action-adventure starrer *Zorro* hasn't been affected by the *intriga*. ■

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