

What the cards say about Eula

by MARIDOL RAÑO-A-BISMARCK / Philstar.com

"I'm not the type who talks about my private life," Eula Valdez dismisses the questions about her love life at the presscon of *Manghuhula* at Gusi Restaurant.

"I'm a positive person. When you don't get something you want, it's because something bigger is coming your way," she explains.

It could mean bagging a role she has never played before. To top it all, the role is the complete opposite of who she is and who she ever will be.

The role is that of Messina the *manghuhula* (fortune teller) who in the indie film of the same title. As one of three generations of fortune tellers who got the gift from her mother (played by Chanda Romero), Eula's is a dark, lonely character who can't fit in.

"Her gift is actually a curse," says Eula. "She can tell if a person will die soon through tarot cards and by just touching him or her."

There's no escaping this angel of death destiny, even for her daughter (Glaiza de Castro), whom Eula's character must protect at all costs.

It's a different role, a slice of the big pie Eula wants to liken her career to. Except that this one slice is riddled with all things hot and spicy, you won't mind wolfing it down, pronto.

You won't mind seeing the otherwise cheerful Eula changing into a dark, lonely person, frame after frame. And you're left wondering, whatever happened to the real-life Eula, who is all roses and sunny yellow papaya?

Yes, she may consult a seer now and then out of curiosity, but no dark prediction can put her down.

"It's still us who make our own destiny. Our fate doesn't lie in the tarot cards. It lies in the way we handle our lives," Eula states.

This get-up-and-go stance shows in the way she made a 180-degree turn after she found out how much stress is taking a toll on her health. When she found herself smoking again, no thanks to a schedule that made her shuttle from the *ZsaZsa Zaturnnah Ze Muzikal* set to her now-defunct GMA soap *All About Eve*, Eula vowed no way will this happen again.

Now, she's taking things one assignment at a time. Other projects have to wait.

She's devoting the entire month of October to playing Blanch Dubois in the Tagalog version of



Tanghalang Pilipino's *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"It's my first straight play, and I don't want to gamble (on my time). I'm leaving the entire October free for that," says Eula.

Never mind if it means she has to pass up more lucrative TV projects along the way.

"The stage is food for the soul. I get a different kind of fulfillment in it... the instant reaction from the audience, etc., etc.," Eula explains.

She also gets a different high out of heading Bagets Foundation—a position she inherited from Quezon City vice mayor Herbert Bautista. Eula and her co-stars in *Bagets* (e.g. Herbert Bautista, Raymond Lauchengco, Aga Muhlach) put up the foundation which sends deserving young people to school.

One of the fund-raising projects she is eyeing is a concert topbilling Lauchengco before the year ends. The show, which will also feature guest performers, will boost their drive to raise the number of scholars, one of whom already finished college last March.

Eula has reached that stage where she can afford to feed her soul first before she feeds her body. She's paid her dues as an actress. Now, she's reaping its just rewards. Most of all, she's sharing these rewards—in time and talent—with those who need them.

The young person who wants to study but can't afford it and her *Bagets* co-stars who are looking for a way to help the needy stand to gain from it all. That's the kind of food for the soul Eula Valdez welcomes with open arms. That's the kind of nourishment that will keep her feeling good, no matter what. ■

Who will Anne marry?

ANNE Curtis (Candice) will soon reveal whom she will choose between Zanjoe Marudo (Marlon) and Derek Ramsay (Warren) in the remaining episodes of *The Wedding*, weeknights on ABS-CBN Primetime Bida. The show consistently gained high ratings from the day it was launched despite the fact it was aired at a late timeslot.

"We are happy that we have offered something very refreshing to the viewers," Anne said. "We are a family in *The Wedding*. We will miss each other."

Anne added that the support of the viewers—from critics, fans, bloggers and many more—filled her with joy.

"The good words we receive are very inspiring," Zanjoe said. "It feels good that we can offer a good show."

According to one critic, the importance given by the production is evident in preparing a new *teleserye*—right mixture of drama, happiness and good values.

The lead stars were also showered with praises for naturally and effectively giving life to their characters.

"If there's one thing we're proud of in *The Wedding*, it is the fact that we have reinforced Anne's stature as one of the finest actresses of her generation and reintroduced Zanjoe and Derek as two of tomorrow's most important leading men," executive producer Justine said. "Much should be credited to the talents of directors Jeffrey Jeturian and Mae Cruz."

Will Candice's dream wedding come true? Who will share vows



Anne Curtis with Zanjoe Marudo

with Candice in front of the altar?

Together with Eula Valdez, Michael de Mesa, Alwyn Uytingco, Mich Dulce, Irma Adlawan, don't miss the grand finale of *The Wedding*. ■

Has Rufa Mae found Mr. Right?

JUST like Super B, the comedic super heroine she played on the big screen a couple of years ago, Rufa Mae Quinto is on Cloud Nine nowadays because she has finally found the guy she would like to tie the knot and grow old with.

Although she won't reveal the name of her current beau just yet (except to say that he is non-showbiz), Rufa Mae can go on for hours talking about him—and she did.

Over lunch a few days ago, Rufa Mae told us that the guy is a longtime friend whom she never saw as someone special until recently. He lavishes her not only with material things but with love and attention that extends to her family.

As an example, Rufa Mae confirmed that her boyfriend "partnered" with her in buying a P30-M single detached townhouse in San Francisco, USA. Although Rufa Mae wouldn't reveal the extent of his "participation," she said that giving such gifts is second nature

to him whom she describes candidly as "rich."

But slowly, lovingly, the guy won Rufa Mae's heart with true love. According to the actress, he has been a shoulder to cry

on even during the times Rufa Mae had someone else. Never demanding, always waiting, the guy made Rufa Mae realize that sometimes, one ends up saving the best for last. (Philstar.com)

Who made Comerford interview difficult?

directline

BOY ABUNDA
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performance was fascinating. Overall the staging was simple and clean—the best way to do affairs like this one.

After the short speeches of the awardees, the *kodakan*, the VTRs—the awarding ceremony

was over.

We had two borrowed empty lonely chairs from the Shang waiting in one corner outside the ballroom. I quietly catwalked out of the ballroom to our little corner where a lone camera was set up for my interview.

Inside, lunch was already being served. I was actually invited. I politely declined—"aliping sagigilid eat their first meals at around 2pm."—I whispered to myself. Remember our bodies and mind wake up at 1pm every day.

Seated in the most important table were the awardees and the bosses of BPI. It was sacred ground. I was told that if the interview were to happen it had to be done after lunch. "Sorry, but I might lose my job if I interrupt their lunch," sweetly murmured a BPI officer. In other words, if I wanted to do my interview, I would have to wait until lunch was over and then, they would talk to Ms. Comerford—if she acceded—voila, we would have the chat. If she doesn't—sorry, Tyra Riverbanks, you can disappear into the horrid traffic at Edsa where you can melt in self pity without anyone giving a sh_____!

"Ok," I smiled sweetly. But I could not wait until lunch was over as our crew had to go to two other press events—the Martin/Gary presscon and the Manny Pacquiao press lunch. I maintained my caramelized smile so hard that it must have looked like a grin, when you want to kill or you are about

to be assassinated. In other words, we had no choice. Sorry, they're eating *na*. You can't disturb them. It seemed like the simple message that struck painfully straight into my being. BPI breeds some of the most polite disciples in this galaxy, I whispered to the spirits of the Shang, except to us impertinent intruders.

The Waray, masai-warrior in me was simply not going to surrender without a little scuffle. Armed with the most horrible smile that must have displayed my incongruent set of teeth, I argued my case. "I don't come to events like this. I was requested to be here or so I thought. I was promised an interview right after the awards. It was going to be a casual interview which meant a lot to me. This woman makes me proud. She's Filipina. She's world class. Our public deserves to know her."

What if someone goes to her or to Mr. Fernando Zobel and just ask if we could do this interview. (I got stares—blank ones—saying not me!) If they say yes—let's do it. If they say no—I would understand. At least we tried.

Tsaris Salgado, a brave, petite girl from BrandSpeak Asia, Inc., made her way to Cris Comerford seated inside the sacred table. From a distance, I could see Tsaris whisper to Cris who instantaneously stood up and walked to our small corner outside the Shang ballroom. (Tsaris is a true blue PR girl and a beautiful human being!).

Cris Comerford is a magnificent lady. A woman of character. "In my life I have always been open to all the opportunities and the possibilities that come my way," she declared. I was in awe. I was starstruck.

Thank you, Cris Comerford. No thanks to those who made this interview difficult! ■

TV soap boosts applicants for PMA

CEBU CITY—The popular TV soap "Tayong Dalawa" has caused a dramatic spike in the number of applicants to the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

Applicants who took the PMA nationwide entrance exams on Sunday increased from 8,400 last year to 15,000 this year, said Ensign Judyline Caneneo, spokesperson of the Naval Forces Central (Naforcen) based in Cebu and a member of PMA Class 2007.

"Tayong Dalawa," an ABS-CBN teleserye, tells the story of twin brothers, played by Gerald Anderson and Jake Cuenca, who are both PMA graduates, and in love with the same woman, played by Kim Chiu. The TV soap, launched in January, is set to conclude in a few weeks.

Caneneo said PMA officials learned about the significance of the TV show when they recently conducted a nationwide survey among PMAers on how new graduates were performing in their areas of responsibility and how the TV series "Tayong Dalawa" was affecting the public's awareness of life in the academy.

"The show was a major factor in how the general public perceived the PMA," Caneneo said.

"The 15,000 applicants is a significant increase—almost double. We attribute this to 'Tayong Dalawa' and to our alumni in the areas," said the PMA commandant of cadets, Col. Nonato Alfredo Peralta. (Inquirer.net)

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