

Entertainment



Is Mariel a lasengga?

[DIRECTLINE By Boy Abunda](#) (The Philippine Star) Updated April 28, 2010 12:00 AM



Mariel Rodriguez: She only drinks to bond with friends — **VER PAULINO**

Mariel Rodriguez is one of the busiest stars these days but she still knows how to let her hair down.

Although she admits that she only gets to take a break during long holidays such as Holy Week, Christmas and All Soul's Day weekend, Mariel makes the most of these by going on trips with her boyfriend Zanjoe Marudo. The two went on a three-day cruise onboard the Virgo luxury ship recently along with another real-life couple, Derek Ramsay and Angelica Panganiban.

The *Wowowee*, *Pinoy Big Brother Teen Clash of 2010* and *Showbiz News Ngayon* (at least temporarily) co-host also revealed that like many people, she indulges in social drinking once in a while. Mariel even calls herself a "vodka girl" preferring the alcoholic beverage over beer hands down.

With all the talk lately about this star or that director having gone alcoholic, isn't she wary of making the list?

"No. In the first place, there's a big difference between a drinker and an alcoholic. I drink alcohol and in moderation. I have never gone to work drunk. *Ang* alcoholic, it's like alcohol *na ang* breakfast *mo!*"

She asserts that aside from being of age to drink, her aim when she does so is to bond with friends and not to end up wasted on the streets and with a huge hangover the next day. Very responsible with her image from the start of her showbiz career, she knows that celebrities are role models for the youth that's why no one will ever catch her guzzling alcohol more than she can handle.

This is the reason Cossack Blue got Mariel as one of their endorsers along with Coco Martin. Her wholesome image will certainly help to drive home the message that not everyone who drinks turns into an alcoholic.

Mariel is even thinking of asking her new *Wowowee* co-hosts Carmen Soo, Isabelle Abiera, Kelly Misa and Jed Montero for an "*inuman*" session one of these days. She hopes that by doing so, they would all develop stronger friendships that will redound to their rapport onscreen.

Of the four, Mariel says she is closest with Carmen. Mariel is amused no end with the Malaysian actress' queries especially when it comes to Filipino words.

"I take the initiative to interpret to her some of the spiels on *Wowowee*. When I see her looking confused, I try to explain to her what's going on so she doesn't feel left out," Mariel said.

She laughs off speculations that she and the other “oldtimers” on *Wowowee* are insecure of the new girls. Mariel said that she knows everyone has a place in the industry and that any competition among actors should be healthy. Let’s drink to that!

Cris Villonco returns to Manila theater

Some years back, a nine-year-old, memorized two musicals by heart — *Miss Saigon* and *Les Miserables*. One day, her sister told her that auditions were being held for *Les Miserables* and she pleaded and begged until her parents allowed her to go. The pleading was well worth it because she bagged the role of Little Cosette/Little Eponine in Repertory Philippines’ production of *Les Miserables*. There began a lifelong love affair with theater for Cris Villonco.

No longer a nine-year-old, Cris returns to the Manila theater scene after a year-long hiatus where she was performing in Hong Kong Disneyland. “I am so excited to be back. And a little nervous too. I can’t help but feel rusty because for a year in Disneyland, we learned specific things that we had to keep on doing over and over. It disciplines you in a certain way. But in Manila, the production turnover is pretty quick so you don’t have time to be complacent.”

Cris is back with a bang. She will soon be playing Vivienne Kensington in *Legally Blonde*. Vivienne is the “serious” girl Warner chooses to date after he dumps Elle Woods to go to law school. And while Elle finds herself and her strength, Vivienne also finds that whether in all pink or in all black, a girl can be serious.

“Cris sent in an audition video from Hong Kong and flew in for the callbacks. Hers was one of the best auditions we had for the show. I knew I found our Vivienne,” says Chari Arespacochaga, who is directing the show.

Cris is looking forward to doing *Legally Blonde*. When not onstage, Cris works as the Events Manager for Whitespace. She also sings for *Aawitan Kita Sa Makati... Live*, a live concert held every month for the senior citizens of Makati headed by the formidable Armida Siguion-Reyna who is also Cris’ grandmother. After *Legally Blonde*, Cris will be playing Anne in Atlantis Productions’ staging of Stephen Sondheim’s *A Little Night Music* where Dawn Zulueta plays the lead role of Desiree, which opens in October.

Legally Blonde is the Broadway musical based on the hit Reese Witherspoon movie. It is currently on a sold-out US National Tour and playing in London’s West End. With music and lyrics by Laurence O’ Keefe and Nell Benjamin and a book by Heather Hach, *Legally Blonde* comes to Manila from June 25 to July 18 at the Meralco Theater.

For details, call Atlantis Productions at 892-7078.

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