

# The parallel lives of Hero Angeles and Mark Herras

Big winners in the talent searches of rival networks, Hero and Mark now play kontrabidas in GMA's latest telefantaserye.

By ALWIN M. IGNACIO

**F**IVE years ago, the very thought of seeing them together seemed impossible. It could have been a casting coup or nightmare, depending on how you look at the scenario. Now, Mark Herras, GMA's Starstruck's Original Male Survivor and Hero Angeles, rival ABS-CBN's Star Circle's Grand Questor, stand side by side on stage, donned in warrior-elves costumes with pointy ears. The roles that the two are portraying veer away from their matinee idol packaging. Instead, they play antagonists out to wreak havoc and confusion in their new roles in GMA 7's latest television fantasy series, *Luna Mystika*.

Luna Mystika tells of how denizens of Philippine folklore such as tikbalangs, duwendes and lambanans strike a peaceful co-existence with mortals. However, the fragile relationship reaches a discordant chord with the arrival of twin sisters Luna and Celestina, with Heart Evangelista, essaying the lead role.

Thus, Mark and Hero's inclusion in this latest telefantaserye is indeed a manifestation of their parallel lives.

## Mark Herras plays Kamilo

The bad boy of Philippine dance floor, Mark Herras, plays "bad" in *Luna Mystika* as Kamilo, one of the powerful elves, who falls in love Celestina, the beautiful twin with a dark heart.

"This is new for me, the role; the character I am portraying, everything about Kamilo is refreshing to do this. I mean, I've worn a costume before; I played a superhero Fantastic Man. But this time, I'm a bad boy na engkanto pero cute," says Herras with a hearty laugh as he talks about his latest TV character.

"I did not have second thoughts in accepting the role of an antagonist," continues Mark. "I said it repeatedly before, I am not choosy with the work that my network gives me, I trust that they give me good work and they know what I am capable of doing. They are giving me a chance to do a different kind of role so I'm very happy about this."

"Another reason why I am excited about this is the fact that I am working with a lot of

people by age," he adds. "At least, people my age are well-represented in *Luna Mystika* so I look forward going to the set. I mean, the story is okay; the composition of the cast is also okay so I guess, the work and load will be easier and lighter."

Are you comfortable with your costume? "It's okay, it doesn't insulate heat. The fabric they used is soft and sheer. The only thing I requested with regard to the costume is for them to alter the chest area. In the original design, my nipple is exposed and it made me uncomfortable. I am not that confident yet showing off my top. When I gain more weight and muscles now that I am back to working out, in preparation for more mature roles. I hope you understand where my discomfort is coming from. Imagine, nagda-dialogue ako tapos baka ang mapansin sa akin ang nipple ko!" He guffaws.

As for shating screen time with Hero, his former rival, he says, "It is cool working with him. In this soap, we are like a tag team here because we are both evil elementals. I have no problems working with Hero. I never considered him a competitor and that there is no reason for me to think ill of him, na kalaban ko ito, na hindi ko dapat batiin ito. I am happy that we have this opportunity and that he used to be part of Star Circle. Honestly, I hope that I get to work with everyone because I know that will be beneficial to me as an actor."

Does he have special powers here? "Yes, I do," replies Herras quickly. "I will curse the unattractive Heart because I am in love with the attractive one."

As for his love life, Mark is unattached at the moment. "I know you might think that I am pulling your leg but I am not. I am just so focused with my career right now. I am studying in a finishing school. I am attending all sorts of workshops. Aside from this, I am starting a new afternoon soap very soon and

I am going to the gym religiously, so, tell me, where can I squeeze in a girlfriend? Trabaho muna tayo."

## Hero Angeles portrays Alguwas

He chose to be conspicuously quiet in the past two years. Hero Angeles stayed away from the limelight, trying to live his life as normally as possible.

"I hated the world of show business then," discloses Angeles. "I told myself that I will forget the entertainment industry so I busied myself with other things that have nothing to do with showbiz like I taught arts appreciation in a pre-school. I concentrated on my studies, my family life, invested my earnings in a house."

"I really don't mind that people tagged me as a has-been. All that was written about me, all the nasty talks that circulated when I was away, I see it as a natural course of action that happens to anyone. Nagkataon lang, artista ako."

Hero famously embroiled himself in controversies with the press, suing writer Cristy Fermin, and then was left partnerless when his hugely successful ka-loveteam Korean cutie Sandara Park, flew back to Seoul at the peak of their popularity. He also bolted ABS-CBN.

Now, his career is back on track and admits he is very happy with this "career resurrection" of sorts.

"Yes, I feel great that I am working again. I have been away for two years and I'm very thankful that GMA 7 trusts me to be part of their high profile projects. What I am establishing now, is my good relationship with all the people, from my co-actors, the camera men and production, the bosses, directors. I know I cannot please everyone but I am trying my best not to be nuisance," shares Angeles.

"I am done with pa-cute or teeny bopper roles that is why if you have noticed, now that I am in the Kapuso network, I have been doing other things, I am a full-fledged kontrabida in *Luna Mystika*, as Alguwas, a dreadful elemental, and as an actor, it is indeed very challenging to do a part that is so not like who you are."

With Mark Herras, they form the Team of Mean, bringing chaos and havoc to the lives of the mortals, most especially to Celestina and Luna.

"This is a funny story, I think. When I was still with the other network, we were formally introduced to each other because we endorsed a shoe brand. And that was just it. I only get to see him during awards nights, when had a dance showdown of sorts and we were paired with our respective love teams then. Who would ever think that we would get the chance to work together, pareho pa kaming salbaheng engkanto," relates Hero.

"Eventually, I hope we can be good friends," he enthuses.

So, what kind of Hero can we expect from him now? "Well, I have learned many lessons during my years of absence. It gave me time to introspect and focus on my strengths. I believe that my biggest strength is my honesty and my love for acting. And that is what kept me sane." ☺



Winners but villains. Mark Herras and Hero Angeles

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