

FREEDOM of EXPRESSION

By Antonette B. Ang

Aside from playing with his favorite dog – Adobo, Jerric loves to dance and act as well. An incoming freshman in the UCLA Arts Department, taking up two majors, Dance and Astrophysics, this eighteen-year-old graduate from Ribet Academy, dreams of becoming a hip-hop dancer and choreographer. Like any typical teenager, he enjoys hanging out with friends, going out, frequenting malls.

Unlike other teenagers, though, there is this other side of him that is worth looking into. He's not just into the happy-go-lucky activities that any young people enjoy and always look forward to doing. He also participates in their Church outreach program where he helps distribute clothes and bring food to those in need. He volunteers in the school theater as well, assisting and teaching schoolmates on the art of acting.

Here is a very straightforward interview with this no-nonsense young man:

MU: Describe yourself in one word

JKS: Adaptable

MU: How so?

JKS: I find it so easy to adapt to any situation, and place.

(MU: Well, like I said, straightforward.)

MU: According to friends, you are?

JKS: Crazy

MU: Crazy?

JKS: In a funny way

(MU: Oh, ok)

MU: Challenges faced?

JKS: Choosing friends have always been a challenge for me. "Pick your friends carefully; they are the family that we choose for ourselves."

(MU: I think that that is a very wise thought coming from such a young man.)

MU: Happiest when?

JKS: "I see the goodness in humanity. Seeing men do good deeds for other people. Making a difference in this world."

(MU: Again, coming from a man of such a young age, this is quite inspiring. The depth, the insight is something not usually expected from teenagers.)

MU: Annoyed by?

JKS: Whenever I encounter drivers who are not concerned about road safety, not considerate of others. Considering that I am just learning how to drive, it is discouraging to see seasoned drivers not heeding to others' safety on the road.

MU: Inspiration?

JKS: The 'Royal Family' from New Zealand. My favorite dance crew.

MU: Goals in life?

JKS: To perform, teach, inspire. My love of the performing arts is motivation enough for me to inspire, and someday teach people from all walks of life to follow their passion. I believe that "Dancing is an art that speaks to everybody but interpreted differently. It is a form of expression which we should freely and happily be able to share with everybody." I would love to build a Company, along with some friends, establish an industry where we can help aspiring dancers realize their dreams.

There you have it! What a fascinating interview! A very direct approach to your typical question and answer session with a young person who knows what he wants in life, and how to achieve it. Someone who knows how to use his gift for the benefit of others. Someone who is not afraid to tell people what is in his mind; no ifs, ands, or buts to it. We could benefit from such way of thinking - forthright with a hint of sensitivity, Jerric's take on the world.

We wish you all the best Jerric King Sotiangco!!!

*Photos: Louella Allen Photography
Makeup & Hair: Michelle Garcia*