



the StarStudio
LOVETEAM
SERIES

Suddenly, #SueNie

Sue Ramirez joined showbiz seven years ago. Ronnie Alonte is a newcomer. Now a loveteam, this young and unexpected tandem is establishing its own identity in a sea of loveteams, and providing the TV audience with a breath of fresh air

BY MICHELLE ANGELA OROSA CARAG
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It's not all the time that wishful thinking is granted, but when the universe happens to listen, whatever it is you wish for can be handed to you, and more.

This happened last January when Ronnie Alonte of the all-male group Hashtags took part in a *Kapamilya Chat* episode with the group's other members, and they were asked who they hoped to work with in the future. Ronnie blurted out the name of Sue Ramirez (real name Sue Anna Dodd), the 19-year-old actress last seen playing the role of Ligaya in the TV remake of *Pangako Sa 'Yo* with Daniel Padilla and Kathryn Bernardo.

Sue's first major showbiz break was a cameo role in *Mula sa Puso* in 2011. She also appeared in *Angelito: Batang Ama* and *Angelito: Bagong Yugto*.

The idea of Sue and Ronnie pairing up caught on with fans, who took matters into their own hands

by combining individual photos of the two (drawn by artist Cliff Beron) in one collage.

Pleased with how good the pair looked together, the fans started calling them SueNie, marking the birth of a new potential loveteam. The combined portraits spread like wildfire via social media.

When fans started tagging the viral collage on Twitter, Ronnie and Sue hadn't yet met in person.

Strong chemistry

Fans might find it hard to believe, but the pair's first meeting was actually a tad awkward.

"*Suplado si Ronnie!*" Sue revealed during the *Kapamilya Chat* guesting. "*Cellphone lang siya nang cellphone noon. Naka-shades pa, artistang-artista.*"

Ronnie would also tease her back, and this constant exchange brought the two of them closer

together. *"Lagi ko siyang inaasar sa chicken legs niya. Lagi akong nagse-send sa kanya ng chicken legs (na) emoji."*

With the way fans have taken to their team-up, Sue can't help but feel overwhelmed. She's amazed that young as their loveteam is, they have still built up a solid and loyal following.

"Nakakatuwa sila (fans) kasi grabe talaga silang kumapit sa mga loveteam," she observes. *"Naiintindihan ko na ngayon 'yung support ng fans sa KathNiel. Nakakatuwa na nakikita ng fans 'yung chemistry namin ni Ronnie kahit wala pa kaming nagagawang projects together."*

Getting it right

Prior to SueNie's rise to the collective consciousness of TV audiences, Sue was paired with other young actors.

However, these team-ups did not take off for one reason or another.

Her first onscreen partner was Paul Salas whom she was paired with during her *Shoutout!* and *Mula sa Puso* days. "I

think the reason why it didn't work was because he was two years younger than me," Sue muses. "Also, the management had different plans for us."

Her second partner was Kiko Estrada, who was very close to her. But just like with Paul, management apparently had different plans. Kiko was teamed up with another young actress, but when that also didn't work out, he made the decision to move back to GMA.

Sue was also partnered with Khalil Ramos and then with Daniel Padilla in *Pangako Sa 'Yo*. But when Ronnie came along, the public reaction surpassed even Sue's own expectations.

When asked why she thinks fans are drawn to their pairing, Sue answers, *"Hindi kasi kami nagkakahiyaan. Nagkukulitan lang kami palagi, and I think 'yun 'yung nakita nilang iba sa amin."*

For Ronnie, it's the honesty about their team-up that struck a chord with the fans. *"Hindi kami pakitang-tao. Lahat ng ginagawa namin kapag*

magkasama kami, hindi scripted. Comfortable talaga kami sa isa't-isa."

He also shared in an interview with entertainment website *push.com.ph* that he is happy to be finally given the chance to work with Sue.

"Si Sue 'yung tipo ng babae na super simple lang. Walang arte sa katawan. 'Di kagaya ng iba. Kasi gusto ko 'yung ganoon, eh, kung ano ang ugali ko, ganoon din ugali niya. Siya 'yung tipo ng babae na chill lang, go lang. Kung ano siya, 'yun siya."

But in the same interview, he was also quick to clarify that he and Sue are nothing more than just really good friends, at least for now. *"Wala. As in natural na magkaibigan lang. Siguro kaya rin nae-exag (exaggerate), kasi nabi-big deal din ng mga fans namin, kaya ganoon,"* he said.

Now that the SueNie loveteam is more or less official, fans are definitely keeping tabs on future projects for Sue and Ronnie. ☆



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The (Big) Boy Next Door

RONNIE ALONTE

From being a star athlete in school, Ronnie Alonte is now changing gears and turning into a different kind of star—this time under the showbiz spotlight

BY MICHELLE ANGELA OROSA CARAG

Before getting into the whirlwind that is show business, Ronnie Alonte's teenage life consisted of getting up in the morning, and spending most of the day playing basketball.

Back then, the 18-year-old Biñan, Laguna native probably never imagined that he would become a celebrity, appear in commercials and TV shows, and have a large and active fan base.

Born on October 26, 1996, Ronnie hails from a well-to-do family. However, when he was a young boy, their extravagant lifestyle suddenly came to a halt when his father lost an eye from a motorcycle accident, rendering him unfit to work. Because of this unfortunate event, their family began to experience financial challenges.

This phase of Ronnie's life was portrayed in detail in an episode of *Maalaala Mo Kaya (MMK)*. It showed how he had to move to a public school to save on tuition fees. There, he fell in step with a rebellious crowd, directing his teenage angst at his parents, at one time blaming them for the misfortunes they suffered. Ronnie kept them in the dark as to what was really going on at school until he reached the point where he flunked out and could hide things no longer.

That was a wake-up call for him. Fortunately, it was Ronnie himself who realized what was happening, just in time. He dug deep into himself, re-discovered his love for basketball, and used that to reform his rebellious ways.

One day, after watching one of his *barangay* basketball games, the head coach of Perpetual Help University's high school basketball team recruited him and offered him a varsity scholarship. Ronnie accepted the offer, which gave him the motivation to do better in school.

And just before he graduated, he joined and won a school pageant, which in turn paved the way for his showbiz career. For two years, he settled for bit parts, including one in *Pangako Sa'Yo*.

Finally in 2015, ABS-CBN held auditions for an all-male dance group called Hashtags and Ronnie decided to try his luck, performing a choreographed routine to the tune of Justin Bieber's "Where Are You Now?" Fortunately, he was accepted and became a member of the Hashtags, performing regularly on *It's Showtime*.

Since then, he has earned a fair share of supporters, as evidenced by the growing number of his followers on his social media accounts.

To Ronnie, this overwhelming support is unexpected. "*Hindi ako addict sa social media. Bihira ako mag-update kaya hindi*

ko alam kung bakit and'yan pa rin sila," he says of his fans. "*Nagugulat na lang din ako. Pero mahal ko sila.*"

Brighter future

Now that the spotlight is shining brightly on him, Ronnie is very excited about what the future has in store. "*Gusto kong gumawa ng light drama show,*" he says.

Now that he's on his way to finding his place in showbiz, Ronnie notes the positive changes it has brought to his life, especially because it has taught him to be more responsible.

"*Naging ma-disiplina ako,*" he concludes. "*Natuto na rin akong maging independent, lalo na sa paghawak ng kinikita ko.*"

He realizes, of course, that the journey is just beginning. But now that Ronnie has finally taken that important first step, we expect the rest of his very bright future to unfold, as it surely will. ☆



Blessed with an angelic face and a pleasing singing voice, she also has a vivacious personality that fans can't get enough of. The perfect package, she definitely is the next 'It Girl' to watch for

BY MICHELLE ANGELA OROSA CARAG

For someone who shuns attention, it seems so ironic that Sue Ramirez is in showbiz, a world where every eye is literally set on you. But at the end of the day, her passion for the performing arts will always burn ever so brightly that it extinguishes any inhibitions she might have.

Raised in Parañaque City, Sue was born to a Jewish-American father and a Filipina mother on July 20, 1996. The youngest of five siblings, Sue grew up loving sports. "Lahat ng sports—sabihin mo, kaya ko 'yan, from basketball, to swimming, to badminton," she says, proudly.

Meant to be

When Sue was six, her father had a stroke that paralyzed the right side of his body, limiting his mobility.

"I grew up na may sakit 'yung dad ko," Sue remembers. "A few years after his first stroke, na-stroke ulit siya. Then he would have seizures hanggang sa naging bedridden na siya."

Despite the medical bills piling up, their family still managed to get by with the help of her father's pension and her mother's stable job. But Sue still wanted to contribute financially, so when she saw a call for auditions at ABS-CBN, she didn't hesitate.

"I was 12 or 13 years old then," she shares. "Pang-697 ako sa pila noon. Buong araw akong nakapila. Nu'ng turn ko na, they asked me to showcase my talent so I sang. Then VTR na after that."

From a thousand hopefuls, the list was narrowed down to just 15. The rest of the time, she was kept in suspense.

It was a Wednesday, and like most of the Catholic faithful, she went to hear

mass at the Baclaran Church.

She remembers praying fervently for positive news to come from her audition. Finally—by some miracle—when she and her mother stepped out of the church, she received a text from Star Magic, telling her to attend a go-see for a teen-oriented reality show.

"That was my first show na tumagal ng around three months," gushes Sue about her first foray into showbiz, *Shoutout!* "After that, I auditioned for soaps and other shows. I was able to get into (the horror-drama show) *Oka2kat* and in the remake of *Mula sa Puso*," Sue adds, thrilled about her baby steps into the world of entertainment.

For the Love

A couple of years after her showbiz debut in 2011, her father passed away. It was a sad event for the whole family, but more so for Sue who is still eaten up by guilt for being distant from her father while he was still alive.

But apart from the guilt, Sue also started questioning her drive and motivation for remaining in showbiz.

"I couldn't see what I was working for anymore, kasi I only did it to help with our finances in the first place," she confesses.

"So when he passed away, hindi ko na alam kung bakit ko pa siya ginagawa. But inevitably, it came to me that I really love acting talaga, and the passion keeps me going."

To the future

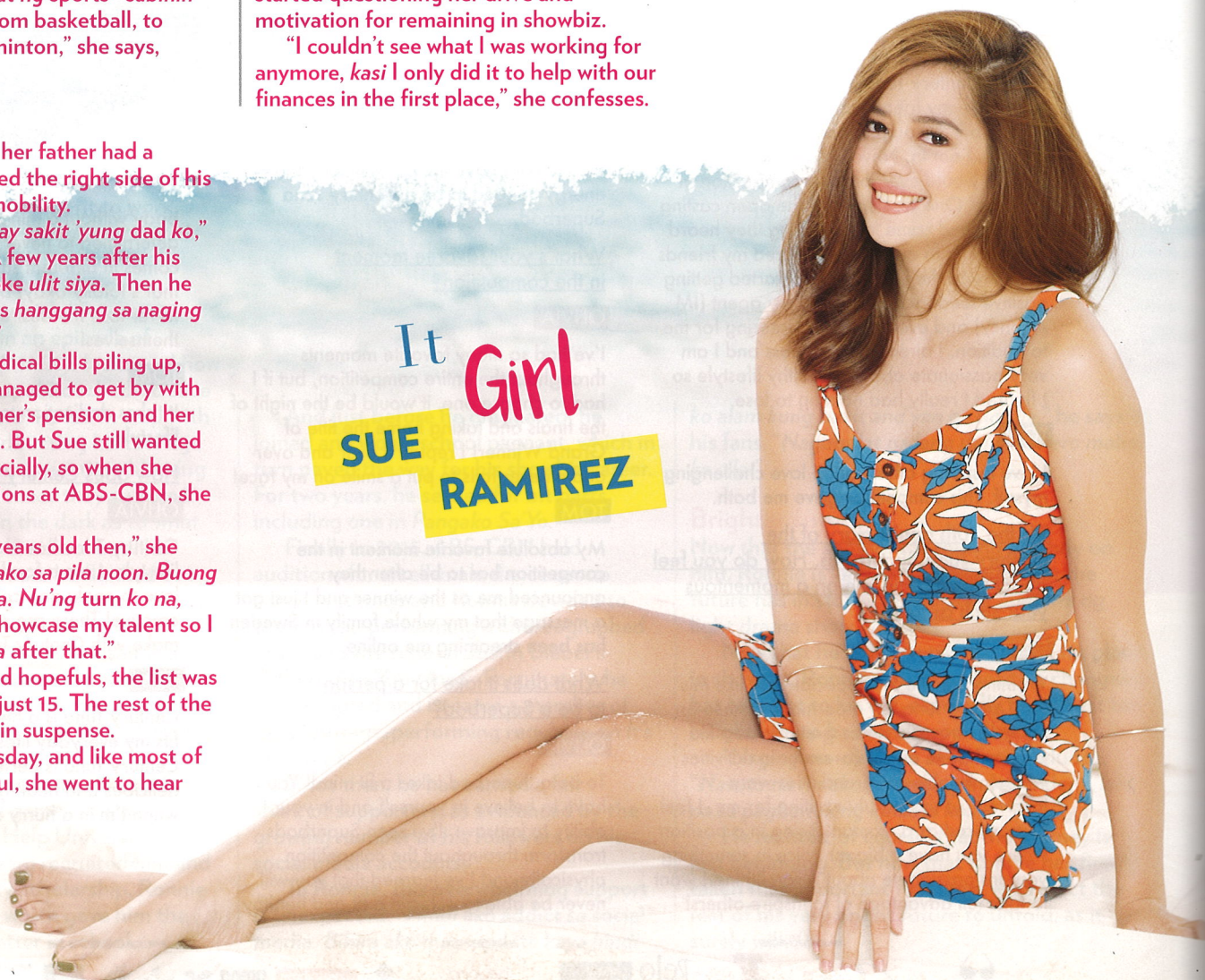
When asked if she has plans to go back to school, Sue reveals that she hopes to do so soon. Had she not been in showbiz, she would have been in her third year of college, taking up either Dentistry or Psychology.

Right now, Sue has been enjoying a steady stream of projects, including hosting the *ASAP Chillout* segment, and portraying the role of Angela Urtola, elder sister of Serena Marchesa (played by Liza Soberano) in *Dolce Amore*.

The young actress believes things can only get better.

"Every opportunity that I've had since I started is a highlight," she says. "I'm happy it happened slowly so I got to enjoy the freedom and privacy. And now, I'm happy sa kinalalagyan ng career ko." ☆

It Girl
SUE
RAMIREZ



Trivia #1

Sue likes teasing Ronnie. She even compares Ronnie's skinny legs to chicken legs.

Trivia #2

Sue Ramirez's ultimate crush is Zanjoe Marudo—who she would like to work with someday.

Trivia #3

At last count, Ronnie now has 13,000 followers on Instagram. "Post lang ako nang post [ng photos] sa Instagram. 'Di ko alam kung bakit [madaming nagfo-follow]."

For more updates on SueNie, like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StarStudioMagazine, and follow @starstudiomag on Twitter and Instagram.



Trivia
#4

Ronnie finds Sue beautiful and a girlfriend material.