



STARSTUDIO
EXCLUSIVE

GIFTS

fit for a

PRINCESS

StarStudio shows Liza Soberano some
love and celebrates her 18th birthday
with family, friends and fans

BY MICHELLE ANGELA OROSA CARAG
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NICE PRINT PHOTOGRAPHY
SPECIAL THANKS TO ANA YAMBAO AND OGIE DIAZ

The beautiful debutante arrived at the venue—the Privato Hotel on Shaw Boulevard in Pasig—at around half past three in the afternoon to get ready for the day's event.

From there, the *StarStudio* editorial team strictly followed the sequence guide for the rest of the day in order to cleanly pull off the surprise.

When the shoot was finally wrapping up at the seventh floor Firenze function room, all the guests who were waiting at the sixth floor were signaled to gather inside the Milano ballroom and to keep quiet while waiting for Liza's arrival. Everyone held their breath.

As the door to the room finally opened and revealed the lovely young actress, excitement instantly filled the air, along with the sound of everyone wishing Liza a happy birthday.

Speechless, Liza entered the room with the biggest smile on her face. Her eyes lit up some more as soon as she saw her family in the middle of the room.

The program kicked off with Liza blowing the candle on her cake and the guests breaking into a birthday song, before she settled on the park bench set stationed in front. Taking the pleasure of hosting the party and opening the programme with a prayer were *PBB Teen Edition* twin housemates Joj and Jai Agpangan, who starred alongside Liza and Enrique Gil in the hit *serye Forevermore*.

The vibe of the party, attended by around a hundred guests, was fun, but at the same time intimate.

After the guests had their fill of the delicious food served at the buffet table and returned to their seats, the excitement grew as hosts Joj and Jai started rolling out the 18 Surprises. It was the main highlight of the party, in which Liza's family, friends, fans and sponsors presented her with 18 sweet messages and surprise gifts that ranged from fashion accessories and travel packages to art work.

Before the program concluded, Joj and Jai shared the poem-slash-message that they prepared for Liza, which read, "*Sa cotillion tayo unang nagkakilala / at kahit walang makeup, ikaw ay napakaganda. / We saw how simple and fun you are / and now you've become a very big star. / Magalang pa at masunurin. Be strong and keep holding on. Nandito lang kami na nagmamahal sa 'yo / at walang sawa kang susuportahan.*" To you Liza, we wish you the best of 2016 / and the joy and fun of being 18."

While Liza revealed that she suspected something was afoot, she still couldn't help but feel grateful for the wonderful surprise party that *StarStudio* organized for her.

"I was happy!" she said with a big smile. "I was kind of expecting it, but I was still surprised. But



Liza posing with the travel-themed cake from Goldilocks. The debutante loves to travel: in fact, instead of throwing a grand celebration, she just wanted to travel, in particular, to Paris, France. But she seemed happy enough with the surprise party thrown for her, surrounded by family and friends. Some of the gifts she received were also travel-themed—now all Liza needs is some time off, so she can go to all those places. (Below) Liza was also surprised with a birthday celebration on ASAP. Among those who were there to witness that special ASAP moment were her brother Justin and *lolo* Daddy Jeff (Below right) Liza initially thought she was at the hotel for a photo shoot for *StarStudio*; this shot of her is from that supposed shoot, for which she was totally game, despite being tired from a full day of work. After it all, Liza (bottom) was still all smiles!



the 18 Surprises—that really did surprised me a lot. I really enjoyed it because it was pretty chill. At least I didn't have to dance."

Liza also took to Instagram to express her gratitude with a snapshot from the party and captioning it with her version of the day's events.

"Yesterday after ASAP everybody told me I had a photo shoot for @starstudiomag. So I went there, got my make-up done did the first layout and everything. Then I changed for the next one and they told me for the second layout, that we would have to go downstairs, so as I went down, @iamdoc (ace lensman Doc Marlon Pecjo) told me for this next layout, I just had to be happy, bubbly and so on. Then to my surprise, as he opened the door, I saw what was waiting for me. All my supporters and loved ones surprised me again!!!!!! Thank you so much to everyone who organized the event, and also to everyone who attended and to my 18 surprises, I loved each and every one of them."

Liza was overwhelmed by the parade of 18 surprises from the special people in her life. The surprises were given to her by the following people and groups close to her heart:



 lizasoberano

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 Add a comment...

18 SURPRISES

OGIE DIAZ

MANAGER

Ogie also presented a travel package gift from Mövenpick Hotel in Mactan Island, Cebu for three nights and four days, to be used at the first opportunity, when she could get some time off. As he gave it to her, Ogie said:

“Ang wish ko para sa’yo, sana hindi ka magbago at sana magtuloy-tuloy lang ang career mo. Alagaan mo lang ang iyong sarili. **Mahal na mahal kita, Liza.**”

One of the most scenic destinations in the Philippines is Movenpick Hotel located on Mactan Island Cebu. Nestled in the heart of Mactan, Cebu, this upscale and seafront hotel is only one kilometer from the historic Lapu-Lapu Shrine and five kilometers from the Mactan Island Aquarium. It is a five-star Mediterranean-inspired hotel with almost 245 rooms and suites that offer contemporary space that open to private balconies with a mesmerizing view of the island. With all the water sports activities and indoor challenges available here, your next adventure awaits.

For more information, visit Punta Engaño Road Mactan Island, Cebu, Philippines. Phone number is +63 32 492 777. You may also visit their website at www.movenpick.com.



Mövenpick Hotel in Mactan Island, Cebu

MICKEY SEE

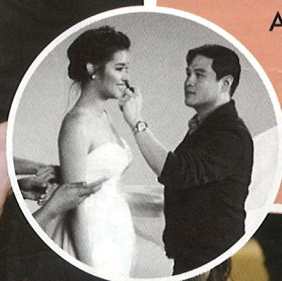
MAKEUP ARTIST

Mickey is very close to Liza's heart especially because he offered to do her makeup for free when she was just starting out in showbiz. He sees Liza as his living Barbie Doll. His gift was a book on the iconic Hollywood celebrity and UNICEF ambassador Audrey Hepburn.

Mickey's reason for giving her the book was simple:

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“Favorite niya kasi (si Hepburn). At parang siya ito kasi very **simple woman and very loving.**”





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PERRY TABORA

FASHION STYLIST

Perry works with Liza, and a few other celebrity clients. As expected, Perry's gift to Liza had something to do with fashion: a pair of Isabel Marant sneakers. Marant became famous a few years back for her elevated sneaker designs that were all the rage in Hollywood and local showbiz. "I think the sneakers fit her personality perfectly," said Perry. "They're simple, chic and classy, and have an understated elegance. They are also unpretentious just like Liza, who is one of the most humble people I know."

“...unpretentious just like Liza, who is one of the **most humble people I know.**”

BRENT SALES

HAIRSTYLIST

Another member of Liza's glam team, Brent makes sure that her hair is always big, volumized, picture-perfect. But for her birthday, his offering was a classic scent: a bottle of Chanel perfume.

The shy Brent didn't come prepared with a message, though. But he did promise her with a laugh, “*ite-text ko na lang ang message ko sa iyo.*”

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ABS CBN PUBLISHING, INC.

(REPRESENTED BY MR. MARK YAMBOT, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ABS-CBN PUBLISHING, INC.; IAN REYNO, EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF *STARSTUDIO*; ELAINE CARAG, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *CHALK*; AND JANE TAN, PUBLISHER AT ABS CBN PUBLISHING, INC.)

ABS CBN Publishing, Inc. has featured Liza on the covers of three of its glossies, including *Metro*, *Chalk*—her first magazine cover—and of course, *StarStudio*. Liza's September 2015 *Metro* cover was one of its fastest-selling issues.

Saying Liza was such a joy to work with, the Publishing team presented her with a folding bike. Mark Yambot spoke on behalf of the team.

“On your 18th birthday, we wanted to give you **something that would remind you of your very memorable role in Forevermore** (where her character Agnes was gifted with a bike by Enrique Gil's character Xander).”



ABS-CBN Publishing gave Liza a Link C8 bike from Tern, which has a stiff 3D-forged handlepost, versatile gearing, and comfortable tires. It has wide 8-speed gearing for climbing hills and racing through the city. The bike folds fast (in only 10 seconds!) and folds small, perfect for storage and transport.



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DUDU UNAY DISCOVERER/TALENT SCOUT

Dudu first spotted Liza in a modeling contest, and referred her to her manager Ogie Diaz. His gift was a Rosary from Davao.

“Rosary from Davao ang binigay ko kasi nu'ng nag-uumpisa pa lang si Liza, **palagi ko siyang pinagpe-pray.**”

7 SPONSORS

Liza also received gifts from sponsors who extended their support for Liza by giving gifts and spending time with her in the party. Liza excitedly opened them one by one, revealing hairstyling tools and accessories from Goody, humidifiers from crane.ph, and a carrara marble cheeseboard from Privato Hotel.

The latter gift had a design similar to the signature marble used in the hotel lobby. They gave it to her as a gift, said the Privato team, because it was something Liza—who is very close to friends and family—could find useful when hosting gatherings at home.



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ASAP TEAM

(REPRESENTED BY ASAP ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS CORSS EBORA AND CHE BRILLANTES)

Liza has been performing on ASAP since being launched on the variety show by Star Magic back in 2013. Before proceeding to Privato, ASAP also threw its own birthday special for Liza, where she danced with the male stars who made up her 18 roses.

For her, they had a gold necklace, but it was what came with the gift that proved to be the more touching offering.



“

Matagal na dapat namin regalo sa 'yo ito. We want to say that we're very happy that **you are a part of our family.**”



QUEN LOVERS TFC



TATAK LIZQUEN



LIZANIANZ

FANS: SET 1

Liza's fans made sure to be part of her special day. There were several Liza and LizQuen fan groups present. Because there were nine fan groups at the party, they were divided into three groups of three fan clubs each.

The first to come up was the Lizquen Lovers TFC, which gave her a pair of Gucci shades and an Aldo bag. They revealed the reasons for their gift, saying: "Gucci shades, *dahil mahilig siya sa mga shades at magagamit niya iyon sa mga lakad niya*, especially *tuwing taping and shooting*. Second, a heart-shaped Aldo bag *dahil sumisimbulo siya ng pagmamahal at suporta namin sa kanya*."

From the Tatak Lizquen group came a white gold bracelet, a rosary, a caricature of Liza and a trip to Hong Kong.

They explained the meaning of each of the gifts. "First, a white gold bracelet because we know you love bangles. Another is a rosary blessed in the

Vatican to guide and protect you. Next is a caricature in a frame. It is a photo of you in a princess gown and the background is Paris because for us, you are a dear princess who loves to go to Paris. Last, we are giving you this trip to Hong Kong Disneyland with airfare and hotel accommodation, because you originally wanted to go to Paris but it is far, so we came up with this idea."

But they also made sure to provide a ticket for Quen, for Liza's brother Justin and for her Tita Joni.

Meanwhile, the Lizanianz came bearing a portrait of Liza, and said: "We are so happy for you because you reached your dreams and goals in your life. We are always here to support you."

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CHOSEN CHILDREN VILLAGE FOUNDATION

(REPRESENTED BY CHE NAVAL, AGNES ABINION AND KIMBERLY PAREDES)

Last December, Liza shared her blessings with several charitable institutions, one of which was the Chosen Children Village Foundation. This time, it was their turn to honor her with a gift: an artwork made by the children and another, a caricature by renowned visual artist Manuel Baldemor.

The smiles on their faces as they handed her the gift said enough.



Liza celebrated her 18th birthday by giving back.





LIZQUENFINITY

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LIZQUEN TFC GLOBAL



LIZA ARMY GLOBAL

FANS: SET 2

It was time to get back to the fans, starting with the LizQuenfinity group, which gave her a wall art decorative piece. According to the fans, the artwork, called 'Piper Waiting' by Heather Lahaisse, depicts loyalty and companionship. "We know how loyal you are to your family, friends and the people close to your heart. Companionship, because we, your fans, can easily get along with you. You are very accommodating and very kind."

They were followed by the LizQuen TFC Global, which had a Victoria's Secret robe and some chocolates for her. "We thought of this because she would love something that she can use for work, and it will also remind her of how much we love and support her."

The Liza Army Global came with a framed caricature of Liza as 'Agnes Calay' in *Forevermore*. "We chose to give you this gift because we all know that your role in *Forevermore* is one of the most remarkable and memorable roles that you've ever played. We value and love you so much because you are an inspiration to many people."

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STARSTUDIO TEAM

(REPRESENTED BY MR. ERNIE LOPEZ, PRESIDENT OF ABS-CBN PUBLISHING, INC.; AND IAN REYNO, STARSTUDIO EXECUTIVE EDITOR)

StarStudio first featured Liza, along with Enrique Gil, on the cover of its October 2015 issue. It was the pair's first-ever cover feature together. The ABS-CBN president spoke first, wishing Liza a Happy Birthday, then following it up with a prayer: "God grant all the desires of your heart." Speaking in behalf of the *StarStudio* team, Ian said: "This year, *talagang mapapagod ka sa kaka-travel*, Hope. It's all because everyone here loves you—and your *StarStudio* team also loves you so much. *Huwag ka sanang mapagod* this 2016—because this is a certificate for you to go to Misibis Bay." Liza excitedly received the certificate, of course!

Just an hour's drive from Legazpi City Airport is Misibis Bay, a luxury five-hectare island resort. It is a private tropical hideaway situated on Cagraray Island in Albay which can be reached by land or via a fast craft. With the feel of a luxury island playground, Misibis Bay has 37 Asian-inspired villas, 53 garden view rooms, a spa, three pools, two restaurants and a wide array of activities. Come by and experience a blend of peaceful island living and various exciting adventures.

For more information, the resort's contact details are as follows: Cagraray Island, Bacacay, Albay 4509/phone: (02) 661-8888 or website www.misibisbay.com.



Mr. Ernie Lopez taking a selfie with Liza



Ian Reyno with Liza



Misibis Bay

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ANA YAMBAO

STAR MAGIC HANDLER

Ana works closely with Liza, being the young actress's hardworking Star Magic handler. Her gift was an aromatherapy pillow, as she is the one most familiar with Liza's hectic schedule.

“ Hopie, ito 'yung gift ko—magagamit mo ito para you can rest while working.”



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JJ JIAO

JEWELER

Born into a family of jewelers, JJ Jiao took further studies at the Gemological Institute of America in San Diego, California, USA, and then at Thailand to become a certified gemologist and accredited jewelry professional. Her gift was a charming halo bracelet with diamonds in 18 karat white gold.

“The first time I saw you was in your movie and there, I realized why you're the most beautiful in the industry today,” said the jeweler, who added, “I'm very honored to be part of your birthday so here's a gift for you, an 18 karat gold bracelet.”

“ ...I realized why you're the **most beautiful** in the industry today.”

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FANS: SET 3

Then it was back to the fans. First was the LizQuen Boosters, which gave her a Pandora charm bracelet and artwork.

Each charm on the bracelet had a special meaning. "The blue charm is for peace of mind, and the other one is for trust. We trust *na hindi siya magbabago* (because) she serves as a role model *para sa aming mga fans*."

The artwork, they said, symbolizes their support, love and admiration for her.

The Bisayang LizQuen group had a charcoal painting for their idol. According to them, Liza is the best example of what a true artist is—dedicated, passionate and hardworking. "A true artist has a beautiful soul and that's what we see in her."

Team H&E (Hope & Enrique) went high-tech with the PS4 Star Wars edition. "The team decided to give you this because we know that in your spare time, you like to play the PS4, and we don't want you to lose your inner child."



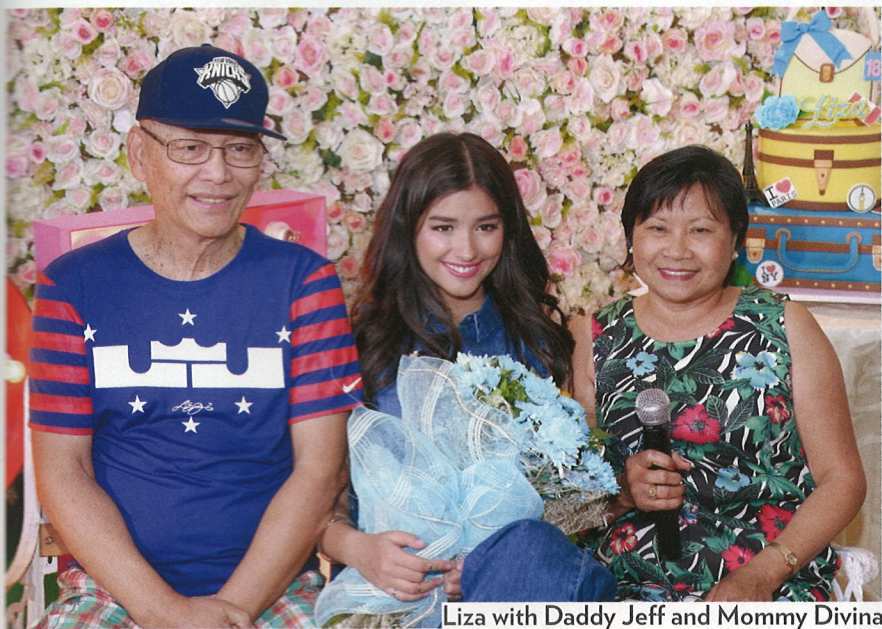
LIZQUEN BOOSTERS



BISAYANG LIZQUEN



TEAM H&E



Liza with Daddy Jeff and Mommy Divina

“We love you and we support you in everything. God bless you always. **We love you.**”

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DADDY JEFF AND MOMMY DIVINA

LIZA'S LOLO AND LOLA

Liza credits her paternal grandparents for raising her well enough to become independent and wise beyond her years.

They had a heartfelt letter for their granddaughter that read, in part: "We are super proud of you. We are very happy that we are part of your life. You are sweet, very loving, caring and humble. We wish you the best in life. We love you and we support you in everything. God bless you always. We love you."

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Enrique's gift for Liza was a pair of Versace Medusa black leather high tops, a favorite of Kendall Jenner, who the debutant is a big fan of.



ENRIQUE GIL

CO-STAR

Enrique has grown to become fonder of Liza, and isn't shy in expressing his feelings for her. In fact, during ASAP's birthday special for Liza, Enrique declared his love for the beautiful actress for the first time on national TV.

His gift was swimming gear. He also had a pair of shoes ready for her. "Ang gift ko kay Hopie, yung pinaka-favorite niyang pair of shoes (the shoes, called the Versace Medusa black leather high tops, are said to be a fave of Kendall Jenner, who Liza is a big fan of) but it's not here yet," joked the young actor.

DADDY JOHN

While Daddy John had basically been a stranger to Liza for nine years when she was growing up, it didn't take too much for their relationship to develop as father and daughter when Liza started living with him in the Philippines.

In a previous interview with *StarStudio*, he expressed that even though Liza has transitioned into adulthood, she will always remain his baby girl.

Daddy John also preferred to let his gift—a Louis Vuitton headband—speak for him, and for it to convey the deep emotions he was feeling, emotions that he clearly shared with everyone in the room.

Liza's dad begged off from giving a message, saying he had a sore throat, so it was his current partner, whom Liza calls Tita Rinnai, who said: "We are giving you a (Louis Vuitton) headband because you are always in our minds when you are away for work."

“...you are always in our minds when you are away for work.”



(Above) Liza with her Tita Rinnai, her dad's current partner. Rinnai presented Liza with a Louis Vuitton headband (below).

