

FEBRUARY 2022

InLife



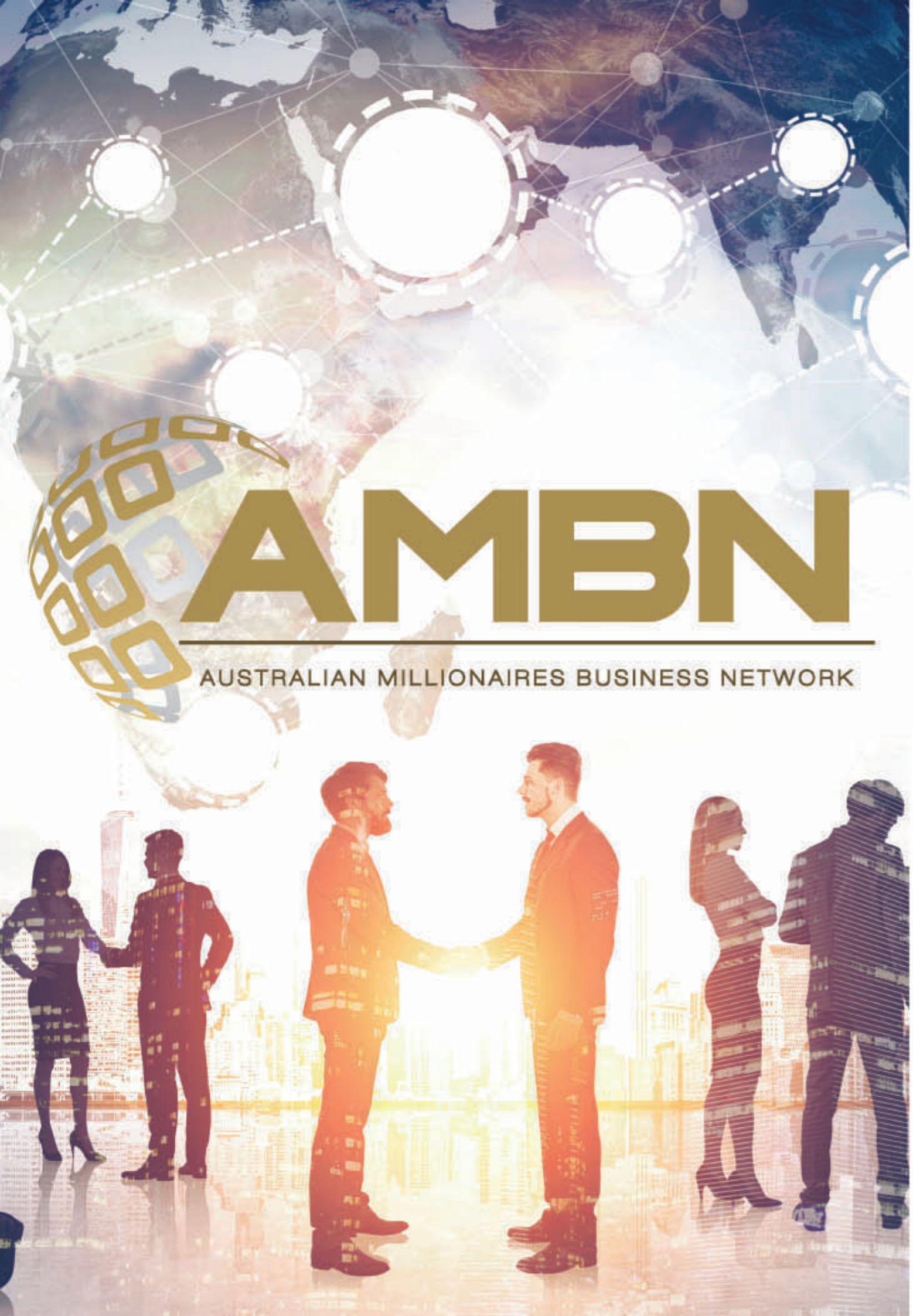
INTRODUCING MR. GINO-O

A COLLECTION INSPIRED BY THE BEAUTY
OF THE PHILIPPINES... ALL FROM THE
MINDS OF TALENTED FILIPINO DESIGNERS

ABRIZON

GET TO KNOW

MEET TIARA, GABBY & BERNIE



AMB

AUSTRALIAN MILLIONAIRES BUSINESS NETWORK

InLife

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InLife

A U S T R A L I A

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EDITOR'S NOTES

InLife Australia's journey began in 2011 with two people. As our company has grown, so has our belief in InLife Magazine's role and vision for impact Australia wide. Today, we're proud of our long history of helping create a platform for Filipinos Australians from all over Australia.

Our strong values have guided us through this past year. As I write this introduction note, we continue to navigate a global pandemic which has been a defining moment for the whole world – and definitely a defining moment for InLife Magazine.

Today, we begin our next journey to 2022. Our goal is and always has been, to establish a publication that informs and promotes Filipino Australian artists, models, creatives, events and entrepreneurs from all over Australia. At InLife Australia, we'll never stop striving to be the best. Our purpose will always guide us in our decisions, and our values will always inspire us to keep pushing forward. God bless everyone, and happy new year.

Mike Ilagan
Managing Editor



NARRA'S TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS AND FATHERS ROSE OVER THE CHALLENGES OF THE PANDEMIC

By Violi Calvert

For most of the year in 2021, we suffered a series of lockdowns. This resulted in community and family events being cancelled or deferred. However, the National Affiliation of Responsible and Respectable Organisations (NARRA) was one of the lucky organisations that was able to hold its much-awaited Tribute to Mothers and Fathers event. This was held on the 11th of December 2021 at the Liverpool Catholic Club.

The successful event doubled up as the Christmas get together of NARRA officers and members, and its affiliates. It provided for a happy closure of the year and at the same time giving recognition to mothers and fathers who have exemplary and inspiring life stories.

The nominated mothers were: Fe Mendoza Ayson, Mercy Jones, Adelfa Kelly, Beth Lofthouse, Doris Ponferada, Mary Rose Salubre, Miriam Solo Scott, and Mellie Valdez; whereas the nominated fathers were: Maximo Acosta Jr, Ed Escultura, Shane Lofthouse, Jean Marcel, Leoncio Milo and Dom Pangilinan. It was not an easy judging task for Michelle Baltazar and John Calvert to pick the winners as all the nominated mothers and fathers have amazing achievements and contributions to the community. The awards were presented by past winners of the Tribute.

But as we all agreed, all nominees are already winners in their own right; however, special recognition had been accorded to the following:

Charity Father and Mother

- Ed Escultura – Runner Up
- Leoncio Milo – Charity Father of the Year
- Mercy Jones – Runner Up
- Doris Ponferada – Charity Mother of the Year

Role Model Father of the Year – Maximo Acosta Jr

Achiever Mother of the Year – Miriam Solo Scott

Role Model Mother of the Year – Fe Mendoza Ayson

The Master of Ceremonies who kept the program flowing smoothly were Charles Chan, one of the Directors of NARRA, and Edinel Magtibay Dearden of SBS Filipino Radio. Daisy Ann Gonzales Cumming did the invocation with NARRA President Albie Prias giving a warm welcome address. Jimmy Lopez provided the background information on the 'traditional event' undertaken by NARRA. Violi Calvert read out brief information on each of the candidates as they were called into the stage.

The artists who provided the entertainment were: Zaebril Orayenza and the Torres Sisters (Jackie Delaney, Chantelle, and Victoria Torres). Mary Rose Salubre also introduced to the group the Mrs. Universe pageant candidates. An additional feature of the event was a fashion show Mr. Magino-o, showcasing modern and traditional Barong Tagalog.

It was lovely to see all the ladies in their glamorous gowns and some in Christmas colours and theme, with the gentlemen also in their sartorial attire. After the fashion show, the Best Dressed Female and Male contestants were presented, and the winners awarded. Rommel Catap mesmerized the judges with his unique recycled pre-loved shirt winning the Best Male Attire Award, while Mrs. Luzviminda Bickerstaff was declared Best in Ladies Wear.

A part of the event's aim was to raise funds for NARRA projects. There was great support for the raffle tickets. The major prizes were: \$500 from Macarthur Memorial Park; \$300 from Carmenchu Montilla G Fashion; and \$200 from Lee Meekan - Kangen Water. Minor consolation prizes were also donated by officers and members of NARRA and affiliates. Kudos also to those who sold tickets even before the event and on the evening, with the Raffles team headed by Jimmy & Myrma Lopez.

After the fundraising raffles were drawn and prizes awarded, a Christmas giveaway was generously given to all the attendees courtesy of Daisy Ann Gonzales Cumming. NARRA Vice President Prescy Buchlak gave a warm closing address.

This was followed by public dancing by everyone present. It was indeed a very successful event enjoyed by all. This was made possible by all the supporters and people behind the scene.

Emma Braceros and her son Dennis did the wonderful decoration of the stage while Bob Reyes did the photography.

Many thanks as well to Herbert Caballero, Pauline Peralta, Oliver Cardona, Joel Ignacio and Melody David who helped in the back stage. Carmenchu Gresham provided the Ethnic Attire of Mrs. Universe Australia Joanna Gunay for the Fashion Show.

The successful event was also made possible with the generous support of the sponsors: IVV TFC, Property Investors Alliance, Millionaires Alliance, Seacret Beauty Products, Mama Lor Restaurant & Bakery, and Kreative Travel.

It indeed was a happy ending for the year, which had endured challenges for all due to the pandemic.



MAKE WAY FOR
Jasmine
 CURTIS-SMITH

On the 17th of April 2018, Curtis-Smith signed an exclusive contract with GMA Network. She has since appeared in various GMA shows such as *Pamilya Roces*, *Sahaya*, *Descendants of the Sun*, and *I Can See You* and she's currently one of the leading protagonists in the drama romance series *The World Between Us* where she plays Emilia "Lia" Libradilla-Carlos.

StarCentral Magazine recently caught up with Jasmine to discuss her role in *World Between Us* and here's what went down:

Can you tell us about your role as Lia in *The World Between Us*?

Lia is the daughter of Rachel and sister of Brian Libradilla. Their family owns a tech company; she's always had a good life but she just doesn't have her father around anymore and this is something she's always held onto because she was close to her dad. When her dad was lost, she clearly lost someone whom she looks up to in life. Lia is very naive; she leans on the people around her whom she loves. She relies on them a lot because with any of her life decisions - it's either she'll rely on someone to tell her what to do or she'll wait until she makes a mistake so that someone can tell her what to do.

She's not that mature and experienced in life yet. So with this naivety, whether it's with her mom, her brother, or with Louie - unfortunately, it brings her to these different bad situations while growing up. She is experienced though when it comes to love and how to grow love because she sees it in a one-dimensional manner - she feels that if you love someone, it's 'us against the world,' or 'we can do this on our own' but at the end of the day, you also need to think about the people around you. That's what Lia is still trying to figure out or trying to grow into - the maturity and at the same time, the confidence in herself. It's about being sure about her own decisions so that she knows that her decisions about love are right.

How is this character like you? Different?

I think it's we're both really sensitive. She's really sensitive when it comes to love for her family. She tries to be as thoughtful as she can be but because she's so sensitive about love - it's also her weakness because she can't assert her sureness about love. If you love yourself then you'll assert yourself in such a manner that you can be sure people will love you or at least attempt to understand you. I'm similar to Lia in this sense that sometimes I'll be like, 'you know what, you don't understand so I'll just keep to myself, I'll carry the whole burden on my own, I don't want to make a big deal out of this.'

We're also similar when it comes to young love - your first love. I'm exactly like Lia, playing it out as 'us against the world,' or 'we can do this on our own.' It doesn't matter if our parents are mad or if your older sibling doesn't like it - it's okay! I've actually had such a relationship but at the end of the day, my similarity with Lia that I like the most is the fact that she's always trying to have a great relationship with her mom because I feel like I'm the same with my mom. I'm on good terms with my family but I really want my mom's approval out of everyone and it's not bad because at the end of our conversation she always says that 'as long as you tried your best, as long as you did it with good intention, then you won't feel bad about it.' It's something I appreciate.

Jasmine Curtis-Smith is a prominent Filipino-Australian actress, host, dancer, endorser, writer, and model. She first came into prominence around mid-2010, when she appeared in ABS-CBN's noontime variety show *Showtime*. She eventually signed an exclusive three-year contract with TV5 and her first miniseries for TV5 was a television remake with JC de Vera of the 1991 Philippine action-romance film *Ang Utol Kong Hoodlum*, which was originally top billed by Robin Padilla and Vina Morales. In 2012, she played the role of Epifania "Anyá" Dionisio in *Nandito Ako*, where she co-starred with Eula Caballero as Holly Posadas and American Idol season 7 runner-up David Archuleta as Josh Bradley.

When it comes to Curtis' film career, she started with two independent film productions: *Puti*, a 2012 psychological thriller in which she played Nika; and *Transit*, where she played Yael, an Israeli-Filipino child of an Overseas Filipino who faces deportation. *Transit* received wide critical acclaim, competing at the 18th Busan International Film Festival, receiving 10 awards at the 9th CinemaLaya Independent Film Festival, and eventually became the Philippines' entry to the 86th Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. Curtis' performance as Yael, which required her to quickly learn Hebrew just before production, earned her critical praise from both local and international critics and earned Curtis the Best Supporting Actress award.

It's the same with Rachel and Lia; Lia gets the chance for her mom Rachel to soften up on her. Though there are times that mommy Rachel is extremely strict - that's something I can't relate to because I'm used to my 'chill' mom. My mom is so chill it's like we're sisters. I also can't relate to her fight with Brian; like what Tom said - the similarity he found in Brian was with Tom when he was 13. When it comes to Lia's naivety in love, I hope I don't have to go through that now at the age of 27 because I was 18, 19, or 20 when I experienced that. I'm hoping that by now I've learned my lesson, I know what I'm doing, and that I'm more mature about it.

What's the biggest challenge to taking on this role?

For me personally, I feel like the biggest challenge is to not get carried away in my crying scenes because I've been learning to control my acting a bit more for TV especially since there are a number of technical things that we have to be aware of in a TV set. Sometimes we don't use the same number of equipment - sometimes there are three cameras, sometimes it's just one or two. So you have to be aware of these things and you just need to reserve your energy and emotions when the time is right. I think that's the biggest challenge for me because I'm used to being spoiled in a TV set where no matter how many cameras there are today, as long as you get the scene in one take, you're good. It's very rare for there to be a close-up. Even in film sets, they've always allowed me to distort my face more, or be more realistic.

On TV, we like things to be more glossy and polished. Especially in our show where it's so clean and minty to the eyes and you don't want to be the one to bring ugliness to the set! I think that's what's challenging me the most - to portray and be part of a project where one of the goals is to produce something that's very clean and very precise. It feels quite meticulous compared to it being organic or shooting a low-budget film.

Besides yourself, which actor/s in this series is going to blow people away?

I'm glad and thankful that I get to work with Sid Lucero in this series because I've never worked with him before and I've always wanted to experience that. Within us in the cast, whenever we see a co-actor perform so well in their own careers, we've always wanted to see how we'll measure up to them in a scene or a project. So the scenes that will be asked from Sid in this series well... let's just say it's going to be powerhouse! And we all know he's going to shake the house down! But if I may also just say, if not Sid I was going to say Tom because he literally just transformed into "Kuya Brian." He is snarky, he's so mean - I see where my dad is coming from right now and I'm with him 100%. I'm just totally blown away by these 2 guys. I'm thankful I get to experience Tom in this character because I've seen him as Father Xavi before who was a priest with an attitude.

I'd also like to mention Alden Richards because his character transformation is something to watch out for. I saw one of his fans tweet how excited they are for his character transformation because they've seen him act in all these 'good boy' roles, but in his transformation in this series, it's going to be no holds-barred when it comes to his revenge. It's not going to be just an act of minor revenge - it's going to be full-on! He's going to go there and he's going to be a different Louie - it's an acting piece that I don't think Alden has really fully immersed in yet.

What has been the most memorable experience of your career so far?

I would have to say this series. But as a highlight in general, I think being part of GMA. I'm so glad to be part of this network, to be doing projects under GMA - I think that's been a big highlight for me. I'm glad to have work in this pandemic and that they've chosen me to be cast in a show. Having the viewers enjoy our work satisfies and fulfills us as actors. The feedback from viewers is always a highlight for me.



Check out the photos from the 2022 Mrs. Universe Australia Official Grand Coronation Night held at Dockside Darling Harbour.



FIVE WAYS TO BOOST YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM DURING A PANDEMIC

Amid a global pandemic, many people want to know which ways are best to boost your immune system. However, it must be noted that there is no diet, supplement, or lifestyle modification that will protect against COVID-19 except for proper hygiene and social distancing. The tips listed below may support and boost your immune health, making it easier to fight off disease and infections, but they do not specifically fight against COVID-19.

Here are five tips that will boost your immune health and, with time, will help you feel healthier and help your body fight off illnesses.

Getting Enough Sleep Each Night

You may notice when you get a cold or start feeling sick; you start sleeping longer and deeper. This is your body allowing your immune system to better fight off the illness. Your immune system takes a lot of energy to fight off illnesses. Likewise, it takes a lot of energy to protect against them. It's essential to get enough sleep for many reasons; among them is to have enough energy to give your immune system a chance to fight off illnesses.

Work Whole Plant and Fermented Foods into Your Diet

Whole plants, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, and legumes, are incredibly rich in nutrients and antioxidants. These may give your immune system an upper hand in its fight against some harmful pathogens. It can cut down on chronic inflammation, provide fiber to promote gut health, and most provide the vitamin C needed to reduce the duration of a common cold.

While fermented foods may not be what many think is best for their diets (And in fact, when done improperly can be dangerous so be sure to research fermentation before starting) they are often packed with probiotics and beneficial bacteria that promote gut health. In turn, this allows your stomach and immune system to work together to fight off illness.

Limit the Amount of Added Sugars in Your Diet

With many concluding that added sugars and refined carbs contribute heavily to obesity, it is essential to begin cutting these out of your diet. Obesity, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease are all capable of suppressing your immune system. To maintain a healthy immune system, it is vital to cut these risks by reducing how much added sugar is in your diet to 5% of your daily calories.

Practice Moderate and Daily Exercise

Simple, daily exercises such as brisk walking, steady biking, jogging, swimming, and light hiking are all great ways to stay in shape, as well as boost your immune system. An active body has a better chance of fighting off infections and illnesses.

Drink Enough Water Everyday

While drinking water does not directly protect you from germs or viruses, it does prevent dehydration and boosts your overall health. Preventing dehydration is important for everyone, as you are far more susceptible to illness while dehydrated.



THOUGHTS ON THIS SO-CALLED 'NEW NORMAL'

By Chi de Jesus

After several weeks of being at home monitoring what has been happening to Australia, the Philippines, and the rest of the world through online news, I decided to go out with my partner to help him with the groceries. In the past, he would be the only one to buy food from the shops in Forestville and Chatswood. As soon as he gets home, he leaves all the bags by the door and goes straight to the bathroom for a quick shower. I then would gather the groceries and start stocking them in their respective areas (cupboards, the ref, etc.). So this week, we needed to get more items, so I felt like I had to help.

We left early in the morning, and like every day – the streets were empty. People seldom pop out of their houses unless they mow the lawn or walk their dogs. But upon getting to Victoria Avenue in Chatswood, I noticed that there were fewer people on the street, most in face masks, and more slots to choose from in the parking lot. When we got off the car, I suddenly felt like the air was thinning, and I felt like scratching my face crazy. So like any sane person would, I kept it inside and entered the mall.

On the inclined "walkalator" I noticed that people were several meters apart and trying to be cool (or was it just me?). On the ground floor where Kmart was, were cordoned off areas lining up to enter the shop. I noticed in the first year that I migrated to Australia that people's attitude towards malls is very functional – shop and go. Seeing people line up to go into the shop was a bit disconcerting. Communal areas were closed, X's on the floor, and people were obviously more careful than usual to be around other people. At one point, I felt like holding my breath and worked so hard not to touch my nose or scratch my face.

I guess knowing everything about the virus and the disease is not enough to ease into this "new normal" given the uncertainty of who at what you will be in contact with. This may also be the reason why people are getting angrier, touchier and sometimes more racist – oh no, it's just their ignorance doing that.

But seriously speaking, keeping a positive perspective can be a challenge with all the news that's out there. Right now, there are 185 countries with cases of COVID-19, more than 3 million people infected and more than 200 thousand deaths. But there's another big number that we should be aware about and that's 893,196 – the number of people who have recovered from the disease. Here in Australia, of the more than 6,000 confirmed cases, there are already more than 5,000 people who have recovered and the number of deaths have slowed down to 88.

Slowly, there's a semblance of hope that we are flattening the pandemic curve, especially with the fast development of a vaccine that would usually take years to finish. So are we seeing that proverbial light at the end of the tunnel? Well, not yet.

Though the last two weeks have shown promising results, there still is a possibility of experiencing a second wave like what China and Singapore are now experiencing. So as much as the current social distancing and lockdown laws may sometimes bring out the hypochondriacs in all of us, patience may still be the best virtue, along with the trust that the government is making the right decisions to help us all get through this.

So let's get all our knickers out of their knots and keep on giving our best contribution to far this recovery effort – stay home and keep ourselves healthy.

Source: The Australian Filipina

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT

H3RIZON

Characterized by their Pop/Soul/R&B-inspired style, enhanced by incredible vocal arrangements, their unique interpretation of melodies and mesmerising harmonies are leaving audiences in awe at the group's amazing sound.

Bernie, Tiara, and Gabby are determined to make their mark on the music industry, with a fresh new look to complement their already distinctive sound.

In late 2018 the group became "H3rizon", depicting a new beginning where they could finally find their own ground on which they could shine the light of their music for all to see.

Their diversity is their forte: Gabby, an acclaimed soprano who studied at the exclusive Sydney Conservatorium of Music; Tay with her incredible RnB voice; and Bernie's soulful tones and beat making abilities - make them a force to be reckoned with and adds an element of risk, excitement, and fearlessness in everything they produce.

Despite being new to the industry, they have already proven they can captivate a crowd and push the boundaries with their own unique style. Whether on stage or in the studio, H3rizon certainly possesses the elusive X Factor, and they are a joy and an inspiration to watch and hear.

H3rizon is currently under the guidance of Philippe-Marc Anquetil (Little Mix, One Direction, Ruel, Shinee, TVXQ, Kumi Koda), Jason Lewis (Timomatic, Natalie Bassingthwaighte, Didier Cohen, Rogue Traders & Brad Cox), and Kelvin Avon (P.Diddy, Erykah Badu, Nelly, N-Dubz, Eason Chan, Mayday, Sandy Lam, Joey Yung).

InLife Australia recently caught up with H3rizon to discuss their journey in the industry and here's what went down:

How did H3RIZON get started in the music industry? How were you actually 'discovered'?

Tiara: We all met when we were quite young through mutual gigs in Sydney's Filipino community. We coincidentally would always perform at the same events and eventually grew a friendship over music with so much mutual respect for each other's different styles and talent. Over time and with the privilege of having such an amazing team of mentors believing in us, we've organically grown an incredible platform through social media to share our music globally, helping us grow from small-town girls to full-time artists.

What do you guys like most about singing?

Tiara: Anyone who knows us personally knows that singing is beyond our passion. Music has formed the basis of our identity.

Singing has been our way of evolving as not only artists but as people. It's where we find comfort, vulnerability & confidence.

Who is your greatest influence?

Tiara: Being a Pop/R&B Girl-Group with such a different music upbringing, we tend to have different inspirations from various artists, Ariana Grande with her pop influence, Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston with their R&B/Diva influences, and of course girl groups like Chloe x Halle, Destiny's Child, Red Velvet, Black Pink and more. DIVA seems to be a theme amongst all our favourites (laughs).

Photographed By: NADIA RAZLAN
Hair: KAATYA MAY & SAMAR LOVE c/- NATALIE ANNE
Creative Director/Styling: CORINNE ANQUETIL-MORGAN





Photographed By: NADIA RAZLAN
Hair: KAATYA MAY & SAMARLOVE c/- NATALIE ANNE
Creative Director/Styling: CORINNE ANQUETHL-MORGAN



Do you feel that you chose your "passion," or did it choose you?

Tiara: We each have our own musical journeys, but if there's one thing we have in common, it's that we were born to do this!

We feel very lucky and grateful to have known exactly what we want to pursue at such a young age and our passion drives us to stop at nothing to achieve what we were born to achieve.

Can you tell us about your latest project?

Bernie: Well... We can tell you there is an album coming!

Since our last single, 'One More Christmas,' we've been working really hard to create our first-ever album, and we couldn't be more excited about it. This album will be an epic collaboration with some super talented songwriters and incredible producers to create our debut masterpiece.

What inspires your group to be creative?

Bernie: We look to each other, the other creatives we write with, and our own musical influences to inspire us. We feel that it's so handy being in a girl group with musical diversity. And the energy is always up when you're in a room with other talented songwriters you vibe with. You're bound to be inspired.

Is there anything special that you do to get into a creative mindset?

Bernie: We don't think this is anything special, and we wonder if other artists do this, but we can't function without a good meal before we write. For some reason, it's our best tool to get us into a creative mindset. I can recall the countless times we've blurted out melodic and lyric ideas for songs during a meal break. So, we confirm that it works!

What message, if any, do you try to put into your work and social media?

Bernie: As a girl group, our main message to other women and young girls is to always empower and uplift each other. We'd also love to see more music from female artists. We hope that aspiring artists look to our music for inspiration in finding their true sound. And we hope that the more we put ourselves out there, we're closer to putting Women of Colour at the forefront of the music industry.

How do you see H3RIZON evolving musically?

Bernie: I feel that we're only going to keep getting better individually and as a group. As we keep working together, our sound will become more refined, and it'll open more doors in our music. We know that there's so much more to discover within the Pop/Rnb genre, and we're excited to see how or if we'd ever

venture out into other different genres. That's the beauty of being creatives with an amazing team who let us grow; there are no limits or boundaries.

What is the best part of being in a girl group?

Gabby: Since we've known each other from a young age, we've gotten along so well that you could basically call us long-lost sisters, so it's always so fun working together! We're all so dedicated to our craft that working towards our goals never seems impossible because we constantly uplift each other on the way.

What has been the most memorable experience of your career so far?

Gabby: So far, it would definitely have to be the release of our latest single, "One More Christmas."

Being able to share such a sentimental story with such a cinematic video and recording was humbling as we feel we could bring the true meaning of Christmas to life.

Oh... and did we mention it premiered on ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE, we performed it on prime time TV, and we were featured on billboards in Times Square, New York City??

Seriously... dreams do come true!

What makes H3RIZON unique?

Gabby: We all share diverse experiences between us since we each have different upbringings in music - Tiara's pop/ballad background, my classical music influences, and Bernie's a capella and production expertise. We love bringing all of these to the table, which makes our sound unique to us.

Also, as a Filipino-Australian girl group, we want to represent our culture and bring more of that into the Western media. It's a part of us that we want to show more to the world, and we hope to encourage and support other Asian and Filipino creatives in the music scene.

What are the group's future plans for 2022 & beyond?

Gabby: We're going full speed ahead this year! We'll be doing heaps of songwriting for our album, content creating - always-and performing, so you can expect new singles, new videos, and of course, a killer album in 2022!

We're really hoping this pandemic is getting behind us so we can finally travel and tour internationally. Our fans want to see us perform live and we want to meet these amazing humans to THANK THEM for all their support - we are so grateful.

We just can't wait to see where this year takes us!



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Lorie's Parlor
YOUR BEAUTY IS OUR DUTY



MG

Mr. Gino-o

HOUSE OF FILIPINO DESIGNERS

On December 11, 2021, Alberto Prias and Floraine Lombardo introduced the Bachelor Collection of the brand featuring designs of 4 Couturiers from different cities in the Philippines in a Fashion Show held in Sydney, Australia. They released the Avante Garde, Traditional and the Wearable collection following the theme of the Wonders of the Ocean as a statement for the preservation of the Coral Reefs around the world.

With the release of this collection, the Classic Barong Tagalog Men's Attire was made to look more exciting and trendier. They have created Mr. Gino-o House of Filipino Designers to promote Filipino designed men's garments using Philippine sourced materials, designed and crafted by Filipino Designers and tailors.

Philippines is rich in natural apparel materials including Abaca, Jusi – Philippine silk, Pinya or Pineapple cloth, Jute, Banana Fiber, Cotton, Handwoven and Hand Printed textiles from different provinces including Inaul, Inabel, and Tinalak. There is also an abundant source of beads, shells, seeds, dried flowers, and fruits that can be transformed into clothing accents.

Their purpose is to discover uses of these materials in clothing, explore Filipinos' artistic abilities, and in turn, provide jobs and sources of income for the unemployed and unprivileged families.



BOB REYES IMAGES

Mr. Gino-o released the Avante Garde, Traditional and the Wearable Collection following the theme of the Wonders of the Ocean as a statement for the preservation of the endangered Coral Reefs around the world.



BOB REYES IMAGES



BOB REYES IMAGES



BOB REYES IMAGES



Mr. Gino-o:

Barong Tagalog made Trendy
Lorem ipsum

Our In House Designers:

Ruel Rivera, Olan Roque,
Kimi Go, Manny Deiparine



Philippines is rich in natural apparel materials including Abaca, Jusi Philippine silk, Pinya or Pineapple cloth, Jute, Banana Fibre, Cotton, Handwoven and Hand Printed textiles from different provinces including Inaul, Inabel and Tinalak. There is also an abundant source of beads, shells, seeds, dried flowers and fruits that can be transformed into clothing accents.

Watch out for the release of the next collection on **May 3, 2022.**

For orders, please check our official website:

www.mrgino-o.com



FIVE BUSINESS CHALLENGES IN THE WORK ENVIRONMENT OF COVID-19

The world continually challenges us to be our best possible selves, but how can entrepreneurs best ensure that they are prepared for these challenges?

From company conduct to company communication and the impact imposed by COVID-19, let's discuss the best responses for entrepreneurs to take in these difficult times.

Company Communication

The COVID-19 pandemic has revolutionised the way that we work. We have begun to take to our desks at home to get the job done, which has severely impacted a company's ability to communicate with each other. As workers are no longer in a concentrated area in their offices, entrepreneurs are becoming increasingly worried about how best to meet company targets.

A great way to boost communication methods is through video streaming services such as Zoom. This allows your team's concentration into one area once again and, assuming no technical difficulties, enables clear communication re-establishment.

Company Conduct

Consumers are becoming increasingly interested in a company's position on social issues, which is a crucial challenge to entrepreneurship. If you cannot understand what your consumers want, it might be difficult for your company to appear reliable.

As an entrepreneur, by gauging an understanding of consumer wants in your approaches to things, you may be able to implement more environmentally friendly initiatives. For example, showing consumers that you are a company that cares about the broader issues and not just about business.

Company Competitiveness

As an entrepreneur, you will always be competing against the next best person, but COVID-19 has severely changed how we do business. It is not worth targeting your marketing strategies to things that people will only see if they enter your stores, as online purchasing has skyrocketed.

For this reason, you must develop your social media presence and begin creating a presence on there that your consumers can interact with, allowing you to remain more competitive in a much more complicated world.

Company Health

While doing business is the primary goal of any entrepreneur, considering that your workers, and yourself, need to take care at such a critical time is also crucial to productivity and overall happiness. This can actually damage internal relations if people are dissatisfied, making this a top priority matter.

Taking frequent breaks is a great way to look after yourself. Understanding that some workers may be more affected than others shows your willingness to be considerate and caring of your workforce as an entrepreneur.

Company Finances

Finally, money may be tight at the moment due to the impositions of the pandemic, and it is essential to realise that asking for help is necessary at this time.

If you have loans, speak to your bank about potential extensions, and tap into your network to see if they are willing to support you in any way possible.





Branding

We always say to our customers that we provide unique customer handling beyond a never-ending possibility. We treat them with respect, ensuring that all jobs are at a fair price. We focus on the integrity of our work, and that is to provide every customer peace of mind whenever they leave our workshop.

Direct client contact

On a daily basis and due to Covid restrictions, we encouraged our customers to make online/telephone bookings to help our team provide a better timeline of the job allocation of the day; thus, making sure that every customer is given priority. We do a first come, first serve policy for our walk-in customers as the business wants to serve all walks of life and an equal approach to all our clients.

We also advise them to leave their car to reduce the risk of overcrowding in the workshop. We follow up with the customer a few days after the repairs are made to ensure that everything is in order. A brief phone call or message to ensure that the customer is happy with the repairs can go a long way in strengthening customer relationships, which will not only lead to happier and more loyal customers

Describe the level of customer service and the quality of products your business provides. How does your business manage, monitor, and measure customer expectations and satisfaction?

From the 1990s, the company director/owner has gained extensive experience while employed in companies like Audi, Volkswagen, Chrysler, and Mitsubishi, whose high-quality standards were adopted and inspired Andre Automotive to develop its own unique and award-winning customer service. The owners are directly involved in running the business, ensuring that each customer receives excellent attention and servicing issues.

All three directors work hand in hand in providing unique customer service to everyone.

All parts and products used at Andre Automotive Pty Ltd are Australian and Industry compliant. Our reputable suppliers include REPCO, Burson, Fastron, and Pertamina. The company ensures that our workmanship is covered by warranty as per the NSW Consumer Act.

The customers' feedback has been the best measure of the level of quality of service Andre Automotive provides – e.g., there are currently 1,189 Google reviews giving an average of 4.9 stars rating (out of 5). Website – 148 reviews with the highest rating of 5-stars. Facebook – customer video testimonials and likes, 74 reviews, 4.9 stars rating.

As part of understanding customer needs, a straightforward approach to the diagnostic and repair process is undertaken through appropriate questions asked of the customer, leading to the exact identification of issues the vehicle presents. This approach eliminates unnecessary costs to the customer.



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www.andreautomotive.com.au

Describe the history of the business.

Andre Automotive Pty Ltd. started from its humble beginnings in the automotive industry as a mobile car mechanic in 2014. Through a combination of passion, perseverance, and love to serve our clients with an honest, trustworthy, and reliable attitude, the business built its reputation in delivering high-quality automotive services, resulting in massive growth in customers' trust and numbers. Great and honest feedback and encouragement from our ever-growing customer base and the desire to expand the business ultimately became a reality in February 2016. The mobile mechanic business expanded and began operating from a commercial warehouse space to provide a 5-star service to the Mt Druitt local community.

As the business grew rapidly, it was clear that more space would be required to accommodate further expansion. In June of 2017, Andre Automotive relaunched and became a Proprietary company and presently services a database of 5500 satisfied customers and still growing. Amidst the Covid Pandemic, last June 2019, we are humbled by the opportunity given to the business as we expanded our workshop and added a new unit to accommodate our fast-growing customers.

At present, the business services a wide array of vehicles from world-renowned brands and models. Moreover, we are an accredited automotive service shop by top quality assurance organisations of the country (MTAA, RMS, and ARC). Andre Automotive Pty Ltd operates as one of the fastest-growing automotive businesses in Western Sydney.

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At Andre Automotive, we offer you the most flexible and convenient solution for your mechanical car repairs, whether at home or at your workplace. You'll always be assisted by a real licensed mechanic whenever you call. Our ultimate goal is to get you back on the road as soon as possible.



SNEAK PEEK: CELEBRITY HOMES UNLOCKED

CAMILA CABELLO

Her heart might be in Havana, but the exotic pop singer Camila Cabello has been living a big, bold, beautiful life with her best friend and now ex-partner, Canadian singer Shawn Mendes, in Hollywood Hills in a home that has everything, including a recording studio. She has recently put her home on the market priced at \$3.95 million.

Though together for two years, the couple has separated but are still each other's best friends, according to USA Today. Was the split the decision-maker to put her house up for sale? Only clairvoyants know the answer. In anticipation of all the new changes in her personal life, selling her charming Hollywood Hills home is a major next step.

Perched above Sunset Strip, the 3,579-square-foot home brings a taste of the Mediterranean with its walled garden and wrought-iron gate, arches and brightly tiled fireplace surrounds. The four-bedroom, four-bath home was built in 1977 with all 21st-century updates while still retaining its original charm. With complete privacy in mind, the wall that encloses the rear yard and saltwater pool welcomes indoor/outdoor living. Kitchen and baths are sleekly modern with loads of character in the public rooms. Glass doors stack out of the way to create a vanishing threshold between the family room and outdoor terrace and greenery. Ideal for performers or wannabes, the house has a complete recording studio with professional equipment and a vocal booth. The split-level house has distressed wood floors and tile throughout. The master suite has its own dreamy fireplace. In addition to the pool there is an outdoor fireplace, grilling and dining area. There is also an attached two-car garage and laundry room.

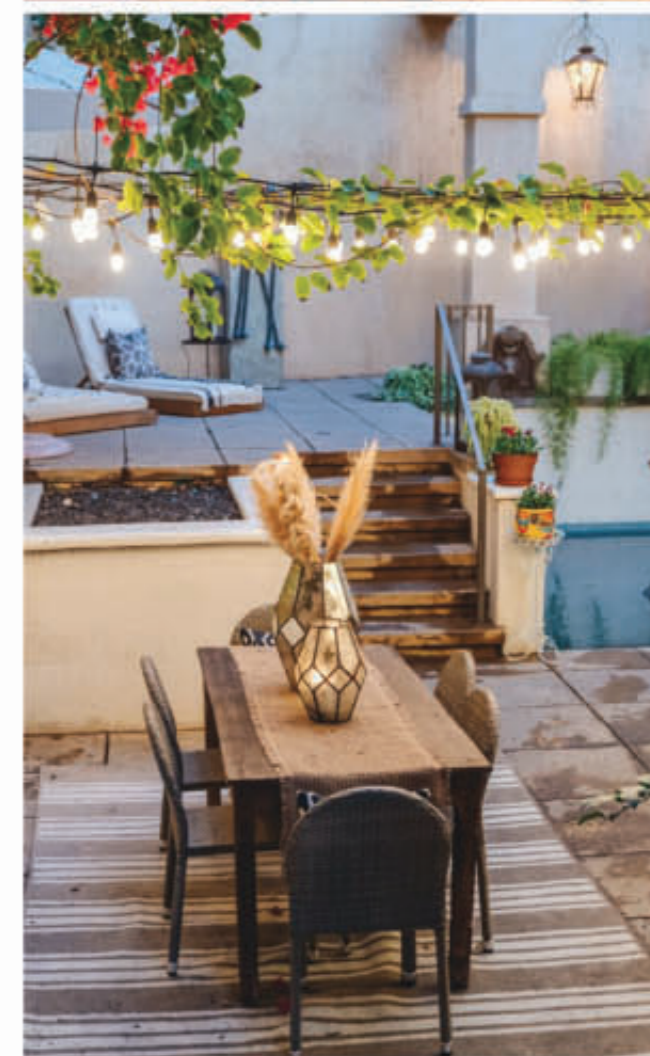
Born in Cuba but raised in Miami, Cabello's career was kick-started when she appeared on The X Factor in 2016 and became part of the group Fifth Harmony, created by Simon Cowell, where she stood out from the group. From there she branched out on her own with her mega-hits "Havana" and "Senorita," winning almost 100 industry awards, including two Latin Grammy and four American Music Awards. At only 24, Cabello is likely just warming up for a wildly, successful future.

Hollywood Hills is the ideal location for easy access to the studios, a magnet for star-seeking tour buses and as the backdrop location for many films. Celebrities who have lived and do live there include Katy Perry, Ben Affleck, Kevin Costner, Britney Spears, Bryan Austin Green and Justin Timberlake.

Denise Rosner of Compass, Beverly Hills, holds the listing.

Source: www.compass.com

Photo Credit: Neue Focus | Source: TopTenRealEstateDeals.com





MOVIE REVIEW: THE VERDICT ON DISNEY'S ENCANTO

With the success of "Moana" and growing need/interest in diversity in their princess line/history, Disney has been trying to pass the cultural test with all possible flying colors by adapting every kind of hero and heroine for their animated feature films. With "Moana," and "Raya and the last dragon," it's clear Disney is trying to put their own iconic magical spin on every possible fairy tale they can weave with new rising stars and storytellers to pave the way for future profits and programming. "Encanto" is a Columbian fantasy tale, scored through the genius musical mind of Lynn-Manual Miranda, who had already delivered substantial musical success for Disney with his work in "Moana" and "Mary Poppins Returns." One always hopes lightning strikes more than once so let's see if Disney has conjured up the right kind of magic once again.

In a humble village in Columbia, the centerpiece of the town (and the story) is the Madrigals family: a family blessed with a magical house that is not only alive and vibrantly energetic but also grants each new family member as they come of age with their own, unique mystical power. From super strength, weather manipulation, and shape-shifting, there's something extra special about every member of the Madrigals family...except for Mirabel (Stephanie Beatriz). She's the only one who never received a mystical gift and it has left her feeling disconnected and ignored by her magical-powered relatives. However, when a mysterious danger threatens to eliminate the magic from the Madrigals forever, Mirabel must find out what is causing the magic to disappear and save her family's gifts before they are lost for all eternity.

The subject of family is no stranger to Disney's usual go-to story focuses. Certain cultures and families have a greater emphasis on the importance of family and that is no different here. However, the strange thing about "Encanto" is that for as fantastical and family-focused as it is, the film seems to mix its signals on presenting family; often coming off sadder and head scratching than anything whimsical. Almost every plot twist, line of dialog, and the musical number has to revolve around why family is so important and how dedicated this particular family is to one another. And yet, Mirabel not only receives no magical gift she gets shunned and ignored by her family members simply because she is different from them; even from the figurehead of the family.

The prejudice towards Mirabel not only feels hurtful but also unnecessarily aggressive, even if that is the point/source of conflict for the character. The whole plot circles the looming threat of everyone losing their powers and that level of jeopardy feels a bit lacking when everyone is being an obnoxious pill towards Mirabel just because she's different; even to the point you WANT them to end up powerless so they can see what Mirabel has been going through. The movie kinda spins its wheels around this central plot and doesn't really leave room for much else outside of enjoying Miradna's signature soundtrack works of art. The songs range from catchy to forgettable. They are well presented and beautifully packaged, but again, they all dance around the same issue with little variation, and even the tune pitches don't change enough for me to say I can remember more than one song off top of my head after seeing it.

The catchiest song actually deals with the character of Bruno (voiced by John Leguizamo) who is treated even worse than Mirabel, and the more you find out the worse you feel for this character. I felt bad for him more so than anyone else in the rest of the family. Among all the beautiful colors, stunning visuals, and bouncing tunes; the film seems to mishandle its own message and sends conflicting morals about family connections that were handled far more elegantly and meaningfully in Pixar's "Coco" than they were here. Even with a Disney film having an expected happily ever after, the cast never becomes likable or memorable enough to feel like the lessons have been learned or expressed in the right way; to us or the cast.

Overall, "Encanto" has a lot to like but not as much to love if you ask me. There's plenty of flash and colorful music but no staying power, not during the film and certainly not after it. The message about the power of families feels disjointed and poorly arranged in a way that it contradicts itself and ends up painting the Madrigals as glorified jerks rather than a whimsical family to emulate and idolize. Once you get behind it all, there's not much going on and at the end, the answers all seem so obvious you're wondering why it took so long to learn the clear-cut message. But hey, at least it's got great music.

We give "Encanto" 2 stars out of 4 stars.



There's a little magic
in all of us
...almost all of us.

Disney
ENCANTO

IN THEATRES NOVEMBER 24



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MISSION: Our mission is to present the most unique and compelling original Australian content by tapping into the hottest local talents and events.



THE FOUR MOST ESSENTIAL MARKETING ELEMENTS FOR 2022

Let's face it, online marketing is always evolving. There will always be changes in the manner that people make transactions through the Internet, which means that online marketing can also change along with it.

In order to go along well with the possible changes in the virtual marketing procedures, you must know the essential elements that are guaranteed to lead you to a successful business endeavor online. The following are the most vital elements to know about online marketing for an efficient business venture online.

Market knowledge

Prior to endeavor online, you should first know your target audience. The moment you have effectively learned who your target market is, it will be easier to start for you at that point. Once you already identified the market that you will deal with, it will improve your chance of learning about the marketing strategy that you will use in your business. Market knowledge is the foundation of any marketing technique whether doing an online or physical transaction.

Responsive website

A responsive website is composed of images, videos, and other important elements of an operational website. Your site should have a series of capturing leads that can help you gain potential customers that you might not be expecting at first. A website can be compared to a virtual brochure wherein you will have a catalog of your products and services. Having your own website will surely help in establishing a good business identity for your business.

Content

Your content means a lot in online marketing. In most cases, a business can easily be identified through its content which is why it is necessary for you to come up with high-quality content. Internet marketing is a broad area in the virtual world wherein you are most likely to encounter a series of competitors in the same niche as yours. A business has a higher possibility of getting known in the market because the content is easier to contribute online.

Quality design

Aside from the fact that you need to have quality content for your site, it is as well essential for it to have a creative design to attract potential customers. A good design for your website is a great investment that will give you higher chances of increasing the number of your audience. You should make it to a point that you invested in quality design to make it more comfortable for your customers to deal effectively with you. Paying attention to great design is a way for you to arrive at the best results for your business.

Learning about these elements of online marketing is the first step towards a successful marketing plan over the Internet. Making money online goes on a careful procedure in order to increase your sales at the end of the day. When you work on each of these elements, you will be able to produce more sales and revenue by the end of the year. In this case, you can call your business truly a success.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white wide-brimmed hat, a white short-sleeved dress with ruffles, and brown leather boots, is sitting on a sand dune. She is holding a brown leather crossbody bag and sunglasses. The background shows a beach with wooden posts, waves, and a blue sky with light clouds.

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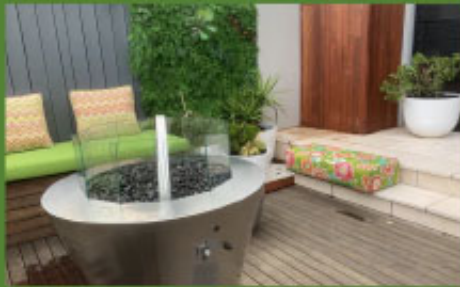


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