

“Emerging Talents: The Silver Screen Gets Ready for Christian Bables”

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It was a long wait, but boy, was he patient. Christian Bables was a pleasant surprise during last year’s Metro Manila Film Festival. While he didn’t really come out of nowhere, his sheer talent was due to be recognized.

The 24-year-old actor describes himself as “batang luma.” He names Joel Torre, Christopher de Leon, and Maricel Soriano as his favorite actors, and he was so fascinated with William Martinez’s performance as Gary in “Mara Clara” that he wanted to be able to do that too. It was then when the young Christian Bables wanted to become an actor.

Unlike many up and coming actors in Philippine showbiz, he’s not part of any prominent clan nor was he discovered in a reality show. He had to find opportunities on his own, and he had to work on his acting career without the support of his parents. He had to pay for his workshops and rides to auditions on his own. Other than that, he knew that he had to work a lot harder as a newbie actor with no backing. According to Christian, “*Napakahirap i-prove ‘yung sarili mo (It’s so hard to prove yourself) until someone believes in what you can do and says ‘yes’ to your dreams.*”

Not known to many, Christian was briefly part of the corporate world. “*‘Yun kasi gusto ng mom ko. Ayaw niya ako maging artista. (That’s what my mom wanted. She didn’t want me to become a celebrity.)*” Before being in the limelight, he was an account executive in a small advertising agency and a direct-to-consumer officer for a telco company. He wasn’t happy, of course.

Even though he hated it, that didn’t stop him from doing his best. “*I must say na nag-eexcel naman ako dati sa work ko, pero wala talaga ‘yung heart ko. Never ako nag-give up sa mga dreams ko. Buong-buo pa rin ‘yun. (I was excelling at*

work, but my heart wasn't in it. I never gave up on my dreams. They were still whole.)"

That's why he was still able to work on his craft even after a hard day of work. He shares, *"Kahit matapos ako ng 8pm sa Makati, nakikipagsapalaran pa ako sa MRT, sa traffic, sa tricycle... para lang makaabot ako sa ABS-CBN makapag-workshop. (Even after getting off work at 8pm from Makati, I still went through the struggle of commuting all the way to ABS-CBN for my workshop.)"*

In the middle of being a regular employee, he asked himself, *"Bakit ko ba 'to ginagawa, hindi naman ako masaya dito? Ginagawa ko lang ba 'to para sa ikakasatisfy nina mommy? Paano naman 'yung happiness ko? (Why am I doing this when I'm not even happy? Am I just doing this for my mom's satisfaction? How about mine?)"* Without hesitations, he resigned from his job without knowing what was going to happen next.

He doesn't regret his corporate experience; he's actually pretty thankful for it. *"Kinailangan ko muna ng 'real world experience' before acting on my real dreams. Nakatulong 'yun para maipako 'yung mga paa ko sa lupa. (I needed to gain real world experience before acting on my real dreams. That helped me keep my feet on the ground.)"*

Taking the plunge had its price, but it paid off pretty quickly. After a week from his resignation, he booked his first TV gig as Dwayne in ABS-CBN's *Nasaan Ka Nang Kailangan Kita*. Barely a year after, Jun Lana's *Die Beautiful* came knocking with the now iconic role of Barbs.

According to Christian, his newfound success wasn't just a stroke of luck. He shares, *"Resulta siya ng pagtiyatiyaga, paghihintay, hard work sa pag-aaral ng acting, resulta ng pagmamahal sa craft, at resulta ng paniniwala sa sarili. (It was a result of waiting patiently, hard work in learning acting, my love of the craft, and a result of believing in myself.)"*

While it was always in his life plan to be an actor, he admits that he did not expect all of this to come so soon. More so, an accolade to be his so early on in his career. However, Christian Bables has been an incredibly patient man. *“Lahat ng tinawa at iniyak ko, worth it. (All the laughs and tears were worth it.)”*

As he went up the MMFF stage to accept his award as Best Supporting Actor, it all suddenly made sense – the rejection, the struggle, and everything else that led him to that point. He knew that he had done everything right and that every step was a necessary one.

If you’ll ask him if he’s ready for what’s ahead of him, he’ll tell you that he has always been ready. *“Hindi ko iniisip ‘yung future. Kung ano ang tamang dapat gawin sa ngayon, doon ako naka-focus. (I don’t think about the future, I focus on the right thing to do at that moment.) The future will be right, if I do things right right now. If I think about what’s ahead of me five or ten years from now, I won’t be able to focus on the beauty of the present.”*

One of things he’s getting ready for is a starring role in a film directed by the award-winning Chito Roño. That’s just one of the four films that he is slated to do this year. He is also set to make a decision between two of the biggest television networks in the country. Needless to say, 2017 will be the year that Christian Bables becomes a full-fledged star.

As his life takes a 360-degree turn, does this mark a new chapter in his life? Like any good success story, *“I think, nasa gitna pa lang ako. Ayoko pang magsimula nang panibago, gusto ko continuous lang. Maybe wala pa ako sa gitna, but I still want to be in the same book. (I think I’m still in the middle. I don’t want to start a new one just yet. Maybe I haven’t reached the middle, but I still want to be in the same book.)”*