

BY JOHN TAN

THE Thai television series, *Girl From Nowhere* has become a phenomenal hit after its second season globally aired in May this year. The two-season series follows Nanno, an enigmatic girl who transfers to different schools across Thailand. Upon making her way into the social ecosystem, she exposes the darkest secrets of the students and faculty.

Nanno is said to be an immortal entity who punishes wrongdoers for their sins. Since its airing, the show has ranked in the top 10 for the currently most watched Netflix shows across the globe. It has also been praised for its unconventional plot and take on modern high school society.

In an exclusive interview with *theSun*, lead star Kitty Chicha Amatayakul speaks about the character that gained her traction as a star to watch with international audiences.

What made you said yes to the role of Nanno?

When I first read the script, I was quite excited about it. It gave me the space to create a character that would suit me as I could tailor it to fit myself. And it also reminded me of Japanese manga characters I grew up reading. So, I felt like it would be fun to be able to design and construct these characters and make them appear on the screen.

What would you say are your favourite and least favourite episodes?

My favourite episode would be episode eight from the first season. It is called Lost and Found. I like it because it is the first time, we see Nanno in a different light. Even though she is like the devil's daughter, she still has human



A scene from the TV series, *Girl From Nowhere*.

Devil of a star

» Thai celebrity Kitty Chicha Amatayakul talks about the quirky role that has brought her international fame

emotions. And we also see her questioning herself at times as she is not really sure what she is feeling, and what is right and wrong.

As for the least favourite

episode, I do not have one. However, I would say every time there is blood involved, it was very difficult for me. This is because it takes hours to put it on, and it takes even longer to wash it away in the shower. Like when I was shooting for the second season, I was blonde and there were times when the fake blood would be stuck in my hair. And I would have stripes of red hair after that.

Do you share any personality traits with Nanno?

I am very lucky to have good acting coaches. They helped me find the best way to get into character and also to get out of Nanno when I finish shooting. But I would say that both Nanno and I are introverts. We like being in the back and observing things. And we also share a great deal of hope for humanity.

Has the show's popularity changed your life?

At first, I was quite shocked at the amount of love I was receiving from fans around the world. I mean, it is a weird time now given

the current pandemic. And none of us can travel like before. But to see people liking the show despite it being in an uncommonly used language like Thai has been amazing! I am so glad that this show and the character have introduced me to fans from all around the world.

What comes after Nanno?

Right now, I am very open to exploring many kinds of characters. I mean anything that excites me! If the script makes my heart race, I am down for that! As for my plans outside acting, I initially thought of making music last year. I was thinking a lot about it but it is a weird time now. I have finished some songs though but I am not really sure of it myself. I have been insecure about it. So, I actually do not know when I am going to release it.

What would you like to see for Nanno if there is a season 3?

It would be cool to see Nanno going to schools all around the world. I have seen some videos from fans showing things that they would like Nanno to expose or solve. Though the issues are similar, they are also very different as they are specific to a country.

So, it would be interesting to learn more about the differences in the schooling systems around the world. Aside from that, I hope we can also tell more of the backstory of Nanno. Like it would be nice to have a spin-off that would be the prequel to the whole story – the character of Nanno, her origins and what she really is!



Prior to becoming an actress, Kitty was a member of a Thai girl group, Kiss Me Five.

Her character Nanno is said to be a divine being.



RIM sets up emergency fund to help music industry practitioners in need

THE Recording Industry Association of Malaysia (RIM) has taken an initiative to assist music industry practitioners in need with the formation of its Emergency Charity Fund. Under this initiative, selected recipients of much needed financial aid would comprise of those who are involved in or have contributed to the recording industry, and whose income have been severely reduced or totally lost due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have read and heard the plight of many music industry practitioners who are struggling to make ends meet as a result of the

pandemic which have put song recording projects on hold and which have significantly limited other income-generating opportunities for the practitioners in the music industry. Live performances have also grounded to a halt with the present restrictions in place making it difficult for the music industry ecosystem to generate sustainable revenues for music industry players," said Rosmin Hashim, Chairman of RIM.

He added: "Since the election of RIM's New Council Members for the 2021-2023 term, we have been

actively putting together a strategic plan for the development of the local music industry for our members' benefit and the Emergency Charity Fund is one of the key initiatives that required immediate execution due to the hardship caused by the pandemic to many music industry players.

"Our planned donations to the affected parties would adhere to set parameters and conditions that would enable us to make selections and decisions of funding recipients as best we can. We hope that our contributions will provide some measure of relief to the

affected music industry practitioners.

"We are, in fact, planning a larger scale fund raising activity in collaboration with the Malaysian Publishers Association (MPA) involving a songwriting competition and song bidding process that will help raise funds to provide more assistance to music industry players in need. RIM will continue to explore other collaborations with music industry related groups to raise funding for our future charity initiatives."

RIM's Charity Initiative kick started with a RM1,000 donation to

Kid (guitarist of popular band Search) for his wife's cancer treatment fund. A RM1,000 donation will also be made to renowned composer, Ross Ariffin whose plight was recently highlighted in the media. RIM is also collaborating with Musicians for Musicians (MfM) to donate RM10,000 to 20 recording musicians who have been unable to earn a living with the extended closure of entertainment outlets. RIM will continue to identify other music industry players in need and will extend a helping hand to get them back on their feet.