



Belles of the Ball

These six young and beautiful ladies headline our annual *Philippine Tatler* Ball issue. They are exciting in their differences and intriguing in their similarities. Clearly, they share one thing in common: substance. **ASTRA C ALEGRE** finds out more

Photography: **BJ PASCUAL** Styling: **ANGELA ALARCON**
Make-Up: **MAC COSMETICS CREATIVE TEAM**



MAKE-UP: PONG NIU OF MAC COSMETICS; HAIR: DAVE GRONA

Stephanie Kienle-Gonzalez

“I am always game for a good time. I enjoy being part of the party,” Stephanie says. She once came dressed as a disco diva wearing an afro wig to a theme party. As vice president for sales and marketing of Philux, a furniture company her parents started in 1980, she spends most of her days visiting the factory.

She says, “I’m a firm believer that in order to be able to sell and understand the market you need to know how it is made from the ground up. Time in the factory is very important, you are exposed to both the behind the scenes and the retail.” She also spends a lot of time talking to the people in the different departments of their company. She says, “It’s quite fulfilling because you get to know your people well, you get to appreciate what each person does and their role in the company.” In 2011 she got married to Christian Gonzalez. They are parents to one-year-old Andrea. “She’s a beautiful angel and she really made me appreciate life so much,” Stephanie shares. “Having this little one, it just changes your perspective.”

**ELEGANTLY
SUBTLE**

ON KAT

Crystal-
encrusted
dove grey
gown by Rajo
Laurel, ring by
Cura V

Katrina Razon

“I go through the same preparation as most women when it comes to attending a ball. For me, comfort is the most important factor when it comes to choosing a dress,” Katrina says. During the day, you’ll find her working at Solaire Resort and Casino. For the next six months, she will be working on opening the next phase of Solaire, which will consist of more restaurants, a mall, a new hotel tower, and a Broadway-style theatre. In addition, she will be developing an exciting project centred on news and electronic music across different genres. Some nights, you’ll find her playing music using the moniker DJ Katsu. She says, “Music across all spectrums has always been a part of my life. I fell into becoming a DJ by pure accident. Manila was lacking a diversity of music in which the commercial mainstream held dominance over the nightlife. The music I play is dictated by numerous factors. Most importantly, I have experimented with different sounds and approaches to really understand the music that I am drawn to. I tend to play techno and house music that is mysterious, dark, and groovy.”





MAKE-UP: OWEN SARMENTO OF MAC COSMETICS; HAIR: RENZ PANGILINAN

**A ROYAL
QUEEN**

ON MAGGIE
Nude tulle
gown with
rosettes by
Ito Curata,
earrings by
Cura V

Maggie Wilson-Consunji

“A good ball is always fun. It’s fun to get ready with your girlfriends, to meet with a designer and have a dress made. I like doing my own make-up. I just hire a hair stylist to do my hair,” Maggie says. She wears several hats. She has a fashion-lifestyle-travel blog— haute-affair.com— and an e-commerce shop— theluxeresort.com. She also enrolled in a four-year interior design course at SOFA to complement her husband’s job in construction. She met Victor in 2008. She says, “We started dating 2009 and 10 months in, he proposed. I was the first girlfriend he flew with to the States to meet his mum—that was really sweet. We went to the States November 2009 and we were engaged by February 2010.” They got married in Misibis in December 2010 and now they have a two-year-old son named Connor. Among some of the traits she wants to teach her son is kindness. She says, “ I am pretty sure he’ll pick up on it because his father, my husband, is such a gentleman, he was raised very well. He opens doors for me, pulls out the chair. I hope my son gets those habits and traits as well.”

**ANGELIC
DARLING**

ON JANINE

Pink and plum
ball gown
with bow
neckpiece by
Jun Escario

Janine Gutierrez

“I love dressing up for events! I love getting ready and trying out all the options until I find the perfect gown. I don’t know how to do my own make-up, but I enjoy getting all dolled up for special occasions,” Janine says. In her last year of college, she decided she wanted to try show business, as she comes from a well-known family in the industry. “At first it was just an opportunity that I wanted to grab, but when I started to act, I realised that I really wanted to learn the craft and pursue it,” she says. “I love what I do now and can’t imagine doing anything else.” Her first lead role was in the television series *Villa Quintana*. She says, “I was ecstatic when I got the part! I really waited and prayed for it. It was a dream come true and everything about the show was a good surprise. I got to work with amazing actors and I learnt so much by watching them.” Her dream at this point in her career is to come out in an indie film. “I’ve always been fascinated by the stories and I’m hoping for the chance to be in one.”





**EFFORTLESS
CHARM**

ON MIKA

Embellished
nude gown by
Jun Escario,
cuff by Cura V

Mikaela Lagdameo - Martinez

She can get dressed in an hour. “For a formal event, that’s kinda quick,” Mikaela says. “I usually do my own make-up. Accessorise. Hmmm that’s about it. Really simple.” At age 15, she got into modelling by accident. She says, “It taught me how to be wise with money, therefore leading to investments and businesses even as a teen.” Her latest investment is the restaurant/bar, Buggy’s Bar & Bistro in Alabang. She is also currently the VIP service manager for Stores Specialists, Inc, handling luxury brands like Bottega Veneta, Gucci, Saint Laurent, Givenchy, Alexander McQueen, Giuseppe Zanotti, etc. Mikaela is a loving wife to husband Chucho and a doting mum to their two kids. She says, “Noelle, our 10-year-old, is a really good guitar player. Tyler, our six-year-old, plays the drums. They’re quite serious about it and their love for music is inspiring!” As a family they also like travelling together. Mikaela says, “We love little family vacations, even just to the beach. Every summer the kids get to pick a country to visit. Their birthdays fall in May and June, so it’s a double celebration.”

**THE
SOPHISTICATE**

ON JESSICA

Blush and
dove grey ball
gown by Jun
Escario, ring by
Cura V

Jessica Kienle

If she were invited to a ball, she would definitely follow the theme. “Or else, what’s the point? If people show effort to come up with a theme, you want to show respect. And it’s fun. I’m going to take my time, get my make-up done, do my hair well. It’s a ball, like fairy-tale style. You want to look good,” Jessica remarks. “For every day, I dress up really fast—jeans, sneakers—because I go to the factory.” She designs furniture for the family business, Philux, which has been around for 34 years. She gets immense satisfaction in seeing her ideas turn into actual furniture pieces, “and seeing customers come in and say, ‘Hey, I like this piece, I’d like to buy it.’ It’s nice to see your designs being appreciated.” When asked what kind of furniture she would be if she were one, she says, “I guess I would be an accent chair, like a beautiful, elegant wingback chair. I find it special to have an accent piece in the room. It stands out. It doesn’t have to be big, just an accent piece in the corner of the room, something with print, something that stands out, something that looks different but brings everything together.”

