

**INSIDE
SHOWBIZ
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**EXCLUSIVE
TELL-ALL INTERVIEW!**

“She makes me want to
have a good future”
- Elmo Magalona

THE ELNELLA FAIRYTALE

The magic in the Elnella tandem is anchored not just on their onscreen chemistry but more importantly, on their heartfelt partnership off-cam

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INSIDE SHOWBIZ WEEKLY

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HAPPY TOGETHER

The sweetness and good vibes coming from the *ElNella* tandem are not just evident while the cameras are rolling. Their *kilig* certainly goes beyond the screen



Not so long ago, after their love teams in different media networks came to an end, the stars aligned for showbiz royalties Elmo Magalona and Janella Salvador. The announcement of their ElNella love team in 2015 came as a surprise to many. Several projects and endorsements later, they are now closer than ever.

During our photo shoot, they were giggling as they struck poses clad in red and white outfits. They also rapped along and danced to the beat of the background music. It was not just the color of their outfits that exuded emotions during our photo shoot. Their aura as a pair gave off vibrancy, determination, radiance, and joy. They are clearly inspired by each other and are enjoying each other's company.

"She has definitely made a big change in my life. Drastically," Elmo says to *Inside Showbiz Weekly*. "She makes me want to be better. She makes me want to have a good future." For her part, Janella says, "My life has changed because I learned a lot from him. He taught me a lot of good things about life."





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MODERN-DAY FAIRY TALE

Their latest project, the romantic-comedy *My Fairy Tale Love Story* (*MFTLS*), has pushed them to the limit. Aside from having to prepare for their acting, they also had to train for underwater scenes. Elmo trained for five days for underwater swimming while Janella trained for ten days for diving and mermaid swimming. It was not easy for Janella because she was afraid of going too deep into the water.

They proudly say that they were able to get past such struggles because of each other's encouragement. "When we are working with each other, he always reminds me *kunwari sasabihin ko* 'I can't do it *na' kasi* I used to get really nervous about crying scenes and big emotional scenes. But he would always remind me *na* I can do it, *na* I shouldn't give up on it because this is what I've been waiting for *talaga*. He always reminds me why I did it in the first place," shares Janella.

MFTLS is about spoiled brat Chantel, played by Janella, who turns into a mermaid. Her best friend Noah, portrayed by Elmo, will try to help solve her out-of-this world dilemma. Just like any classic fairy tale, the curse on Chantel can be broken by true love's kiss. Regal Films and The IdeaFirst Company, the co-producers of the film, assure that *MFTLS* is not a typical fairy tale movie. "The film is something else," comments Janella.

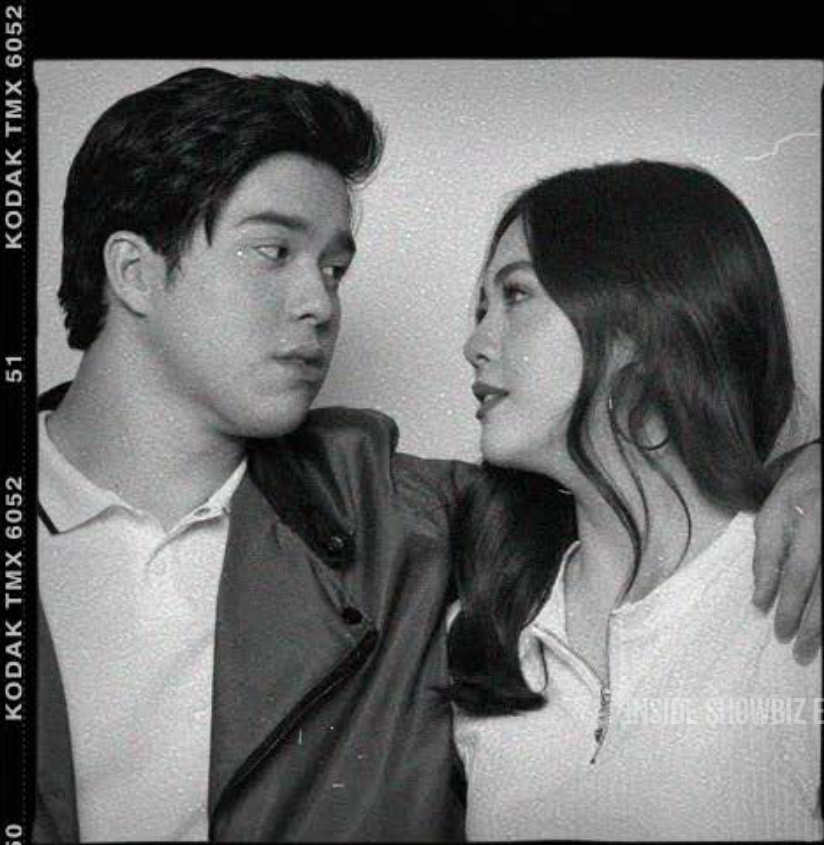
PAST THE SETBACKS

Their filming began in March 2017. However, the shooting was cut short to give way to another commitment of ElNella—their inclusion in the ensemble teen cast of *Bloody Crayons*. This marked the big screen debut of ElNella, although their love angle was not given much exposure because it was a suspense thriller flick.

“I am thankful for *Bloody Crayons*. It’s a really nice movie. But this is the first time *na* mostly it’s about the love story *talaga tapos kaming dalawa ni Elmo*. We feel very happy to have another opportunity to work together. And it’s a really beautiful movie,” says Janella.

Shooting resumed after *Bloody Crayons* wrapped up in July. Due to the delays in shooting, then-director Jun Robles Lana had to turn over the film to his partner, Perci Intalan. The shooting delay could have paved the way for *MFTLS* to be part of the 2017 *Metro Manila Film Festival* (MMFF). Unfortunately, it did not make the cut.

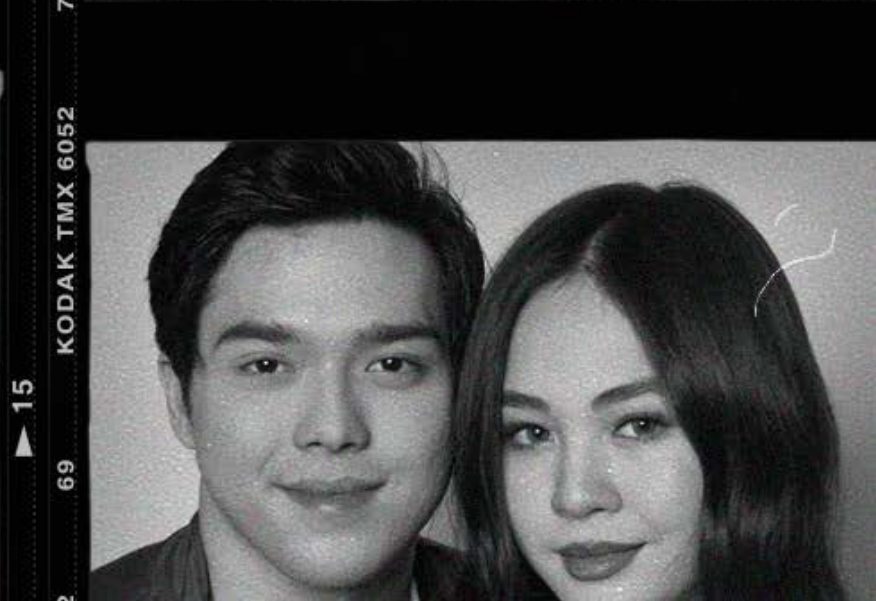
“I’m really sad that we didn’t get in the *MMFF*, but like what they say ‘When a door closes, a window opens.’” I feel like that was the opportunity that was given to us. We were given this playdate which was very, very, very beautiful. February 14, Valetine’s Day,” states Elmo.



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WORTH THE WAIT

It has been almost a year since *MFTLS* went into production. It must have been difficult to patiently go with the flow while waiting for a playdate. But now, it seems as if everything has just fallen into place. "At first, I did not want it to be for February 14 because maybe people would expect it to be the typical story about a boy and girl falling in love. But it's more than that. It's not just that kind of love," Elmo reveals.

"Feeling ko that's just what love means na when a boy and a girl fall in love. But in reality, yes, the movie really does fit Valentine's because there are lots of different types of love tackled in this movie. I hope that a lot of people will be moved by it," he continues. The ElNella pair is more than eager to share what they have been working on.

"I'm excited for the people to see the film *lalo na 'yung mga bata, 'yung mga talagang gusto maging mermaid. 'Yung mga mahilig sa Disney movies, I think they're gonna enjoy the film,*" Janella says. "Honestly, *'di naman ako super nervous. Even if we weren't able to get into the MMFF, I feel like there was really a reason for it. I'm just glad that our airing became Valentine's Day. That's perfect because it's a love story. It's really worth the wait.*"

FITS TO A T

Elmo, 23, is humble enough to give the spotlight to his 19-year-old partner. “I’m very happy and super honored that Regal chose me to be in this movie *kasi* honestly, this is really Janella’s movie. I’m glad that they gave me the role of Noah. They’re really close since they were kids and he doesn’t really know if he likes Chantel more than a friend. I really love my role in this movie.”

Elmo also sees himself in Noah. “He would be supportive to his friends, but when he sees that his friends are starting to make irrational decisions, he tries to stop them. Sometimes, I’m also like that in real life.” He goes on, “The way Noah loves unconditionally, I want to have that *kasi* he has the choice to not do the things that he did in the movie but he chose to do them out of love.”





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Janella's character likewise suits her to a T. "Chantel makes many discoveries about herself. In the end, she knows herself better. And that's where I can relate with her. I am at a stage right now where I'm learning what I can do. I'm learning a big part of me," she discloses. The longtime *Little Mermaid* fan makes known that playing Chantel is indeed a dream come true. She has even tweeted "I wanna be a mermaid!!" way back in 2012.

"Most girls dream about becoming a mermaid. And I'm really glad I became one. It's not like *Dyesebel*. *Iba siya*. I'm a *maarte* mermaid. *Hindi ako mermaid na inaapi-api*," she remarks, flips her hair, and lets out a chuckle. She shares that she has fallen in love with the sights of Anilao, Batangas where they shot all their underwater scenes. "I can say *na totoo 'yung song sa Little Mermaid na Under the Sea*," states the star who has recorded songs for Hong Kong Disneyland and Walt Disney Studios Southeast Asia. She then restates her *sirena* dream with a childlike grin. "I wish I were really a mermaid." But she wants to be able to revert to being human "because I'm gonna miss the food up here."



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MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Another important aspect in *MFTLS* is music. Elmo and Janella are quick to point out, though, that their movie cannot be considered a musical. “But music is a big factor,” says Elmo. “I sang the official soundtrack (OST) of the movie and we are going to sing in the movie,” adds Janella. Both of them have recorded versions of *Be My Fairytale*, an adaptation of Moira dela Torre’s song.

Singing is a piece of cake for them because of their musical backgrounds and performing skills. They sang *Be My Fairytale* for the first time together during the movie’s grand press conference at 38 Valencia Events Place. As expected, their duet sounded like a lovely dream.

Another sound that was music to our ears was how they talked about each other. Elmo and Janella became more animated when they were asked about the other. Their faces light up and their voices are filled with *kilig* despite turning timid when they start to talk about how special they are to each other.



SOURCE OF HAPPINESS

Once they have gotten over their shyness, they become more vocal about their love team. Elmo asserts, “Janella deserves to be special because I feel like this year, and the end of last year, I got to know her even more. You can tell *naman* when a person really deserves to be treated this way. I can definitely say that Janella deserves to be treated specially.” Janella comments, “*Grabe,*” before giving her answer. “He simply makes me happy. That’s it. We’re really happy when we spend time with each other and we just enjoy every moment. That’s it. *Tapos* we really make sure that we help each other *talaga*. We are good partners off-cam and on-cam.” They are grateful for the time they get to spend together while on the set and even outside of work. Janella was Elmo’s date to his sister Maxene’s wedding in January.

They are constant partners on television from *Wansapanataym: Christmas Witch*, *Born for You*, *FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano*, *Wansapanataym: Holly & Mau*, *Wansapanataym: Jasmin’s Flower Powers*, to their upcoming *Maalaala Mo Kaya (MMK)* episode which will be aired in February. They are also the Celebrity VJs for February on music channel MYX.

Janella believes that something is being cooked up for ElNella. “I’m sure there are gonna be more opportunities to work with each other. Right now, *hindi pa nababakante ‘yung schedule namin*. Hopefully,” she says. “Definitely there’s something for this year. I just can’t really tell yet when,” assures Elmo.



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SELFLESS WISHES

They know that they have a long way to go in showbiz. Even though they are wishing for more projects together, they also do not hold back each other when it comes to their individual careers. In fact, Janella is slated to work on a movie with Jameson Blake, and Elmo is totally cool with it.



“I’m definitely happy for her because, you know, we’re both super young *pa*. And I think she’s really talented *na* even if it’s not the both of us, she should keep on making projects because like I said, she deserves to be special. I wish that she keeps on doing her best,” states Elmo.



Janella has this to say: "I'm okay with working with others, but everybody knows that *siyempre*, I would be really happy if Elmo and I would work together. But I think as an artist, it's inevitable. Eventually, you're gonna explore many projects and you're gonna work with a lot of different people. But right now, *i-ne-enjoy ko talaga na nakaka-work ko si Elmo.*"

As for their special friendship, Elmo replies, "I hope we become even closer this year. I really wish that Janella knows and feels that even if I'm not there physically, that I would always be here, like what she says, I'm her 'No. 1 electric fan.'" Janella adds, "I really just hope *na ma-maintain namin na* we get to help each other be better as long as we're both happy working with each other. I wish we will always be there for each other and make each other happy."

The concept of an ever after, in fairy tale speak, is still far, far away for these youngsters. They have more dreams to chase, further obstacles to overcome, and even more accomplishments to achieve. But it is safe to say that Elmo and Janella are living happily in the moment, thanks to their care and efforts for each other.



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