



over Caribbean rhythms". Formally trained in the piano, recording, singing, acting and dancing, she performed for a crowd of over 11,000 at the opening of the Partille Handball Cup event years ago. She was recommended by her father when Ng Wai mentioned that he was looking for a new vocalist. "I got the call like on Monday and had to report for rehearsals that Monday evening. I didn't have time to think but that was good. I didn't have time to be nervous."

Both women spoke of individual 'tricks' for retaining elements of a performance. "I have a photographic memory so once I see something a few times, I would remember it," remarked Ballantyne as my attention turned to Hansson who agreed. "Yes, me too. Also, listening to it again and again helps."

The band's manager, Sharon Ng Wai-Pantin joined them and was in true 'mother hen' fashion. "I call them my children. This is a good age for them to be doing this. Twenty-seven? At 27, I was raising hell!"

When Joey Ng Wai arrived, he was his usual 'picong-packing' self. When he teased his sister, Sharon, the amused girls declared, "That's brother and sister business! We don't get involved!" He then taunted the girls about various habits.



With shared stories, personal jokes and outright likening to television and game characters, the tone and volume of cackling was so high, I totally expected security personnel to visit us with a warning to pipe down. In one of his serious moments, he commented, "This is the first time I've worked with two women in the band and there's this

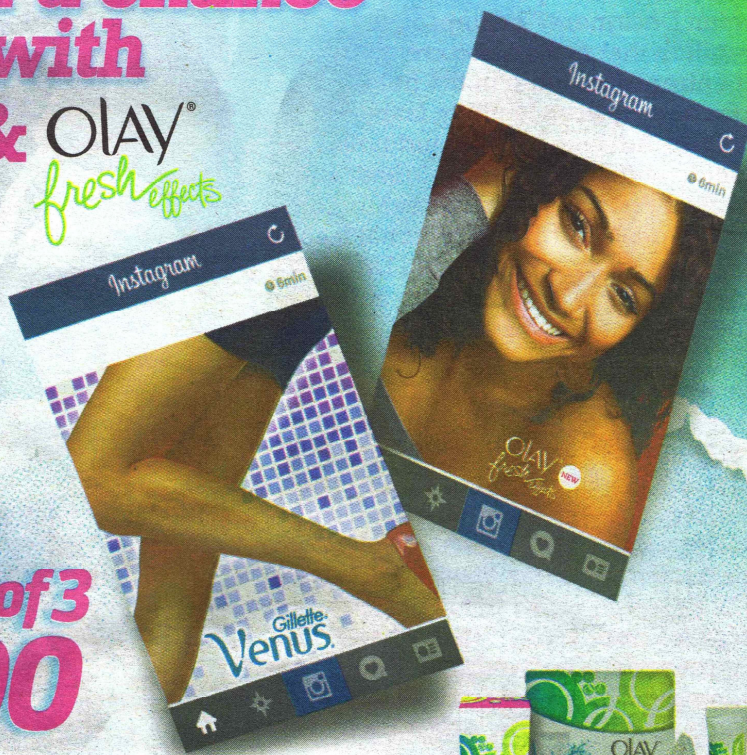
amazing harmony. I mean, they were literally thrown together. Things just flowed." Ballantyne chimed in, "Sarah is just so easy to get along with. She's so light-spirited." I asked, "So there's no drama about who got this or that first or more?" The response was swift. "No, we just both want to look good!"

Throughout the interview, mentally

I lay like a crouching tiger in some tall grass, just waiting. My figurative 'prey' would have been even subtle cattiness that one might expect between two young, beautiful, equally talented girls who have to share the spotlight. However, it never reared its head. My figurative limbs were cramped by the end of the interview!

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