M) confidential

OCTOBER MATERIA

President Duterte is sole source of conspiracies as Police and Armed Forces deny existence of any plots [P1]









is the next Darna?

Nadine Lustre, Kathryn Bernardo, Catriona Gray and even Maine Mendoza are just some of the names being pushed by showbiz insiders and their fans.





JOAQUIN 'Jojo' T. TADURAN, Jr. at daughter Regine's wedding.

Tribute of Regine Andrea Taduran Kunszt for her Father

Thank you all for being here today. Let me start off by telling you some things about the man we are here to pay our respects to. Joaquin (Jojo) Teoxon Taduran, Jr. was

JOJO TADURAN continued to page 17

Filipinos, other migrants keeping Christianity alive in 'unreligious' Netherlands

THE HAGUE - Churches are being converted or just closed forever because the practice of religion is declining. The Netherlands is no longer a Christian nation. Church attendance has fallen dramatically and the belief in a personal God has fallen sharply, the research concluded.

Pastor Jan Eijken, a member of the Pastoral Council who is in charge of immigrant communities at the Maria Sterre Parish in The Hague, said the decline of faith

among the Dutch started not long

CHALLENGING PERIOD The Catholic Church, with scandals, and criticized for covering up scandals, contributed to loss of

But all is not lost. Christian migrants, among them Filipinos, may just be the future of the country's

> CHRISTIANITY continued on page 4

A History of Why Filipinos Are Obsessed with Skin Whiteners No OHIP out of Canada Coco Martin, Yassi deny Romance

Jose Rizal even depicted Filipinos' obsession with whiter skin in Noli Me Tangere.

"Uy, ang guwapo naman ng anak mo – mestisong mestiso!"

How many times have we heard this line, repeated by our titas during random encounters, reunions, and get-togethers? Filipinos have always ascribed higher value to whiter skin, especially in the entertainment industry where it pays to have a lighter complexion.

In 2004, the skin whitening products industry in the Philippines was only an emerging market, but that is not to say that Filipinos haven't been obsessed with whiter skin prior to that year. In fact, this obsession goes back to more than

Filipinos were Taught to Love Whiter Skin

Our obsession with fairer skin is related to how our national psyche was shaped by colonial powers who relegated brown-skinned indios to lower class citizens, and elevated the white-skinned insulares, peninsulares, and mestizos to the nobilility.

Together, they form a class of pureand half-blood Spaniards living in the Philippines.

While their skin color was simply incidental, their status as Spaniards living in the Philippines afforded them unspeakable advantages such as not doing forced labor, not paying tributos (fealty), and the automatic and honorific titles of Don and Doña that came with their heritage. It was customary for regular indios to greet or stop for them in the streets and give them priority.

> WHITENER continued on page 4

Yam Concepcion hospitalized for Halik **Bad sex causes Christine Reyes' Divorce**

Barbie Imperial has wardrobe malfuntion Keanu Reeves rival is Filipino Yam Concepcion regrets doing Nude Scenes

Janella Salvador suffered Depression

Lorin Gutierrez defends baring her body

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ming series Dahil sa Pag-ibig (L-R): Lopez, Winwyn Marquez, Pancho Magno

Benjamin Alves replaces Rocco Nacino in this GMA-7 teleserve

Benjamin Alves will replace Rocco Nacino as Sanya Lopez's leading man in the upcoming GMA-7 series, Dahil sa Pag-ibig.

Formerly titled Blood Money, it was announced during the story conference that Sanya and Rocco were teaming up anew in this series. This comes two years



after their last show together, Haplos.

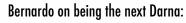
However, the omnibus plug of the 2019 second quarter shows of GMA-7 indicated that Benjamin will now be part of the series.

Winwyn Marquez and Pancho Magno, who were present at the story conference, are retained as cast members of the show.

Aside from the four leads, Dahil sa Pag-ibig also features the comeback of Sandy Andolong to the Kapuso network. She is still part of the ABS-CBN sitcom Home Sweetie Home.

An airing date has yet to be announced for Dahil sa Pag-ibig.

It is rumored that it will replace the afternoon drama series, Inagaw na Bituin, starring Sunshine Dizon, Angelika dela Cruz, Angelu de Leon, and teen stars Kyline Alcantara and Therese Malvar.



It's not for me

MANILA, Philippines — Playing the role of Darna is every girl's dream, but Kapamilya actress Kathryn Bernardo believes that

With Soberano's withdrawal, fans of various celebrities have started pitching for their idols, among which was Bernardo. However, Bernardo felt the role

was not for her.



"Personally, Darna is such an iconic role. Alam mo, dream lahat ng babae siguro na maging si Darna, pero, maybe it's not for me kasi hindi porke't gusto mo yung role, puwede siya sa iyo, e," she said in an interview over the weekend.

"For me, may binabagayan siya, and yung nai-imagine, napipiktyuran ko as Darna is someone who's a bit older than me. Someone na parang mas woman. Woman na talaaa.' she added.

Despite this, she said she was delighted to hear her fans pushing her to take on the Darna role.

Bernardo added that she could not see anybody playing Darna after Angel Locsin.

"Kung tatanungin nila ako kung sino yung perfect for the next role, I dont know kasi kahit ako iniisip ko sino pa ba yung pwede after Ate Angel? And, hindi ko alam kung sino,"

"So whoever man yung mapili for the role, kailangan talaga yung sobra sobrang paghandaan. Bigyan ng maraming trainings kasi hindi joke yung darna," she added.

She then expressed her "full support" for whoever will be picked by the network for the role.

Before announcing her withdrawal, Soberano started filming "Darna" in July 2018 when director Erik Matti still handled the project.

Matti stepped down as director in October 2018 due to "creative differences" with Star Cinema. He was replaced by director Jerrold Tarog.

LEFT, Catherine Chan-Thomas, Dr. Vicky Santiago and Agnes Pasaporte Miranda pose at the Filipino Centre





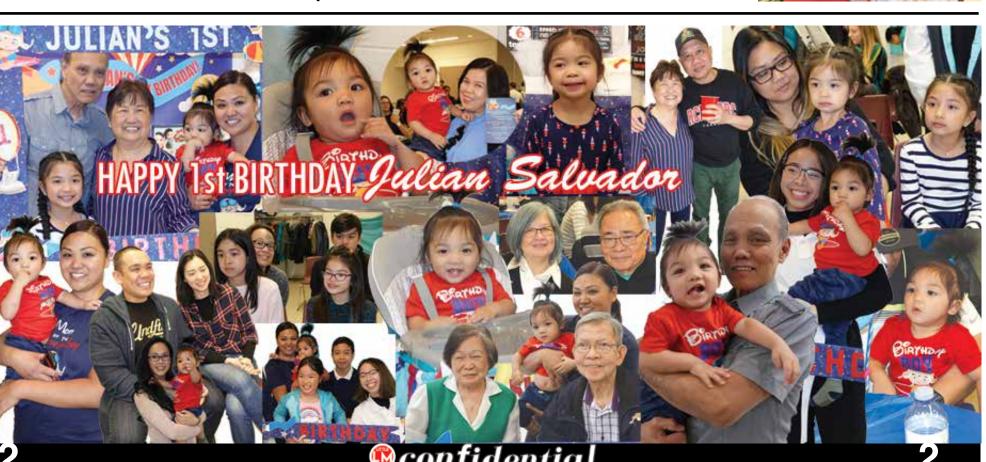
(1) Anita Diaz of Ready Honda, (2) Mary Ann Gamboa and FV Foods owner Mel Galeon judges the PIDC Ms/Mrs Pageant. BELOW, Nadeene Panaligan poses with the bishop after her confirmation at Prince of Peace Parish.





Birthday celebrant Hermie Esguerra and wife Luth poses with their grandchildren at





Here's why Venus Raj does not own many pairs of shoes



Venus Raj pair of shoes oecause her heels retired.

Fame has not changed the way Venus Raj lives.

Her life is definitely more comfortable now, but she remains frugal, practical, and a big believer of spending her hard-earned money wisely.

Her latest Instagram post read, "Until your slippers/shoes are worn out, you couldn't get a new

one.
"I grew up in this discipline, kaya sinisira ko tsinelas ko para ibili ng bago.

"But this discipline also taught me to be contented with what I have and maximize the use of things before I dispose them."

This belief, the morena beauty said, extends to other things.

She continued, "Same discipline applies to my gadgets, bags, clothes, hangga't nagagamit pa, hangga't puwede pa, bakit ka bibili ng bago?

When this Bicolana joined her first pageant, she bought a pair of shoes with her cash prize, and that was because, "Nanghihiram lang po ako noon ng sapatos para sa graduation ko sa elementary."

Venus recently got herself a new pair of shoes because her "go-to comfy heels retired." But even before doing that, she had to pray for

a new pair. The 30-year-old host explained, "You may think this is just a small thing, why do I even have to

pray to God for a new pair of shoes? "If I can trust God with the big stuff of my life, what more with the small smilingly insignificant things? God is a God who knows even the numbers of our hairs, He would be delighted if we trust

Him even with the littlest details of our lives." Venus became a household name in 2010, after she was dethroned and reinstated as Bb. Pilipinas Universe due to a citizenship issue. She also started the country's lucky streak in Miss Universe.

Direk Laurice describes Gabby as 'older but wiser,' Jodi as 'mysterious'

DIRECTOR Laurice Guillen wants to make it clear that her new movie, "Man and Wife" from Cineko Films, is not a remake of the classic radio show, "Gulong ng Palad", which has been turned into a movie twice and also into a TV soap twice. "We're still using the name of the lead characters, Carding and Luisa, but we have given it a modern touch to update the material," she says. "Hindi na masyadong stressed 'yung conflict ng rich and poor kasi mayaman sina Carding at mahirap sina



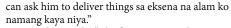
played Gabby Concepcion and Jodi Sta. Maria. The

now starts nang bumalik sila from the States but Carding's mom, Menang as played by Liza Lorena, continues to hate Luisa. But we now have a realistic way of dealing with the in-law problems. We changed the title to 'Man and Wife' because 'yun naman talaga ang sinasabi when you get married, you become man and wife. So we try to show here what does it mean to become man and wife."

How is it working with Gabby and Jodi? "This is the first time they work together and they're both fine. I've worked with Gabby in movies like 'Una Kang Naging Akin' and 'Tayong Dalawa', both with Sharon Cuneta, then 'Rosenda' and 'I Love You Goodbye', so this is our fifth movie together. On TV, we worked together for more than a year in GMA's 'Ika-Limang Utos'. And through the years, he hasn't changed at all. He's very professional, well-mannered, very charming. Kung male-late 'yan sa shoot, magte-text pa 'yan to tell you where he is, kahit hindi mo tinatanong. He's older but definitely wiser. He plays here an ordinary husband na may darkness nang konti. Friends kami, so we're now comfortable with each other that I



Jennifer Lancaon, dauaher Jessica Mae, Arielle Fina Abrazaldo, Melissa Saldua Ventocilla, Flora Saldua Ventocilla, Brenda Virtucio Cianchino pose after the Youth Talk program



How about Jodi? "The first time I met her was when we were casting 'Santa-Santita'. Pinadala siya ni Mr. M (Johnny Manahan of Star Magic) along with other young actresses to audition for the role. She was just about 16 or 17 then. But I found her na kulang sa kamalditahan which is needed for the role, so we got Angelica Panganiban. Now, she has become a real lady, refined, with good manners, but you cannot just reach her that easily. May mystery. But both she and gave played their roles well and really delivered as 'Man and Wife."

Also in the cast of "Man and Wife" are Amy Austria as Jodi's mother, Edgar Allan Guzman as Jodi's brother, Klea Pineda as Edgar's girlfriend, Dexter Doria as Liza Lorena's friend, Francis Magundayao as Peping, Ina Feleo as Nene, Denise Laurel as Mimi and Teroy Guzman as Liza's

We congratulated Direk Laurice as she will be given a lifetime achievement award by the FAMAS on Sunday, April 28, for her contributions in the local film industry. "Ricky Lee called me up to notify me about it and I was really dumbfounded," she says. "Kasi lifetime achievement award 'yan, e. Salamat naman that they recognize pala ang mga pinaghirapan ko for so many years. I'm really honored and grateful, and I'm happy to be alongside with Charo Santos and Marilou Abaya, women who have done so much for the industry."

As a director, Laurice is best known for such films as "Salome", "Tanging Yaman", "Kapag Langit ang Humatol", "Dolzura Cortez Story", "Kung Mahawi Man ang Ulap", among others. As an actress, she is memorable for her performance in "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang", "Ina, Kapatid, Anak", "Sister Stella L", "A Dangerous Life", "Nagalit ang Buwan sa Haba ng Gabi" and as Blanche Dubois in the Tagalog stage version of "Streetcar Named Desire" where she was even better than Vivien Leigh.

Sharon shocks John: 'Sige sampalin mo ako. Sakalin mo ako.

JOHN Arcilla says he never thought that one day, he'd be the leading man of Sharon Cuneta, with whom he is now paired in the Reality Entertainment horror offering, "Kuwaresma". "Never ko talaga na-imagine na magkakapareha kami sa isang pelikula," he adds. "We were all praying na sana tanggapin niya ang 'Kuwaresma' and I got so excited when I learned from Direk Erik Matti that she accepted the project."

He admits he was cautious at the start of their shoot. "Siyempre, Sharon Cuneta 'yan, megastar yan, diva, and she earned all her titles. At first, I didn't know what to expect, but first meeting pa lang namin, nag-click kami agad, kwentuhan kami agad. We talked about life, lahat. Di ko ine-expect, ang Sharon Cuneta, totoong tao pala. Napakasarap

Acting with Sharon turned out to be a mem-

orable experience. "It's an honor to have the chance to work with her, an experience I can never forget. She's a very generous actress. Kapag kaeksena mo siya, lahat ng kailangan mong emosyon, makukuha mo sa kanya kasi she's very giving. I also saw



her performance sa concert niya abroad and her performance on stage is an experience in itself. John is noted for his intense performances, like

in "Heneral Luna", and you can expect another superb portrayal from him in "Kuwaresma" as Sharon's abusive husband.

"Bida-kontrabida 'yung role ko. May scenes na sasaktan ko si Sharon and siyempre, hesitant ako, pero siya pa ang nagsasabing, sige, sampalin mo na ako, sakalin mo na ako. Ang galing niya talaga at may ginawa siya sa 'Kuwaresma' na hindi pa niya nagagawa sa kahit anong movie. Hindi ko sasabihin kung ano, basta abangan na lang ninyo when our movie opens in theaters nationwide on May 15. Guaranteed to give you a good scare."

Direk Erik Matti says John is their only choice for the role of Sharon's domineering husband.

"Si John kasi, very reliable na artista na puede mong itapon sa kahit anong role. Wala kaming ibang maisip kasi wala na sina Vic Silayan at Dindo Fernando na perfect for this role. E, si John, kayang-kaya niya ang character na bida-kontrabida so bagay na bagay siya sa role niya in 'Kuwaresma'. At very professional siya dahil sinu-shoot namin ito sa Baguio, nagte-taping din siya for 'Probinsyano'. So lagari siya sa shoot sa Baguio

at taping sa Manila. At kahit pagod siya at napuyat sa taping, darating talaga siya on time sa Baguio to shoot for us. Ganun siya ka-professional."



after the Youth Talk program





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CHRISTIANITY continued fromn page 1

Every Saturday and Sunday, churches are filled with Christian migrants and their families professing their faith. The remaining Dutch faithful who continue to flock churches are visibly an ageing group. Young people no longer see religion playing a role in their lives.

The Filipino Christian communities in the Netherlands are among the groups promoting religion and keeping the faith alive.

"I think the migrants, especially when they are in a weak position in the society, they are looking for some security. I think the faith is the strength to survive. They, can be Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists but faith for them very important."

RE-EVANGELIZATION Fr. Gilbert Razon and Fr. Sedfrey Nebres are two of the Filipino priests who do their mission outside the Philippines. They said the church gives a sense of security and community to migrants.

"Filipinos are innately religious and faith brings them together. Hindi katulad dito na individualistic na," said Nebres.

In the past, European missionaries were evangelizing the world. This time, it's the reverse track to do mission work.

Under the Society of the Divine Word (Societas Verbi Divini or SVD), congregation that was founded in Germany, Razon was first assigned in Argentina before coming to The Netherlands, while Nebres was sent directly here. He is currently on his last year and will go back to the Philippines.

FUTURE OF CHRISTIANITY The two priests see Filipinos and other migrant communities as having a special role in keeping Christianity alive. Filipinos are naturally religious and brings with them their faith wherever they go.

"Ang maganda dito ang mga Filipino groups ay maliliit na communities so mas intimate, people know each other. Unlike sa atin na anonymous lahat. Everyone goes, everyone leaves," said Nebres, adding that the Church has because in a true sense of the word—a community.

This strengthens more the faith of Filipino migrants.

Filipinos are not only influencing their fellow communities but also the Dutch society.

"The good thing is, Filipinos marry the Dutch. She brings her whole family to church. So the church reaches even the Dutch," narrated Fr. Razon.

Still, there are challenges. Not all Filipinos in The Netherlands would remain faithful. Liberal ideas and emancipation are playing a role in an immigrant's life.

For Couples for Christ (CFC), a worldwide organization of Catholic families, it is a real challenge to keep the faith in a society where religion no longer plays a big role.

"We had read that realization. We are bringing our children to the Church, to love and enjoy the mass. We talk about Jesus to them. And for the kids we have this Youth for Christ," said Junfer dela Cruz, country head of CFC in The Netherlands.

He believes that Filipinos are transforming the faith in Europe.

"Christianity started here where almost everyone was Catholic and it is going down. For us who are the remaining Catholics in Asia, when we come here, we start to plant the seed...we share our values, we share our faith and we start to grow," he said.

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What The Fact? BY JOSE BAKING

A MILLION LITTLE THINGS

I have predicted that the Liberals will still win the federal election in October. The SNC-Lavalin issue will not sink them. It is a family squabble, not a scandal worthy of front-page news. However, PM Trudeau seems to be making one small mistake here, a small mistake there... When confronted by First Nations protesters at a Liberal \$1500-a-ticket fund raiser, he gave a sarcastic response. Some were surprised by his flippant remark it is not something he is known for. He normally engages the person with an answer. Opposition members of parliament blasted Trudeau's comments saying it contradicted the Liberals' image of reconciliatory and progressive politics. If Trudeau is not careful, he just might become one of Canada's one-term Prime Ministers. And all because of his little self-inflicted wound here, a little there...

Pinoys want to be White

Glutamax, a skin whitening product in the Philippines is getting a lot of flak for their ad asking dark-skinned Filipinos to use their product to make their skin lighter so they will not be kawawa. Something like that. The ad may be tasteless. But the reality behind it is that, being light-skinned is synonymous with being successful and rich, kahit hindi totoo. African and Caribbean countries also have this belief. Siguro, kahit 50,000 netizens hate Glutamax, the other millions of Filipinos will buy this product. Glutamax has been selling in the Philippines before this ad. Let's face it, it will sell more becasue of this ad. Dahil sa ad, siguro, they expected to sell, sabhin na natin na 100,000 more. Pero dahil naging issue, mas marami pa doon ang mabebenta nila. More likely, Glutamax knew na magiging viral issue ang ad nila at magiging usapan. This is one case where bad publicity is still good publicity dahil the belief nating mga Pilipino na mas maganda maputi is deep na sa culture natin. Glutamax just pointed the obvious. Pero ako, mas mura ginagamit ko. para pumuti, photoshop na lang. para kahit man lang sa picture, puti ako. Ehe sus guinoo ni Roxanne, ano ba itong nasabi ko?

PHL Stands up to China

A certain Tatay Lito on facebook commented, "pogi points for the election." Kaya pala matapang ngayon lahat ng administration, dahil election. After the election, balik sa "well, we cannot defend it anyway, let's give it to China" or "do you want to go to war with China" or "you think we will win a war with China."

Carbon Tax Kicks In

Bad Timing. Carbon tax added .04 cents to every liter of gas on April 1. They should have planned any tax additions on gas during the winter when gas prices go down. That way, it is not too noticeable. Ontario

Premier Doug Ford took credit why gas prices went down last fall when he got elected and immediately withdrew Ontario from the carbon market. We all know gas prices go down when the weather starts getting colder. Prices were already creeping up before April 1. Now, just as anyone anti-Ford was about to get a chance for Ford to eat his words comes Trudeau's carbon tax to save Ford. Talk about Irony. Now, even Ford gets to blame the gas price increase on Trudeau.

China Claiming Spratlys

If you keep repeating a lie, it does not become truth. If nobody contradicts, it just becomes accepted. But it will not become truth. Just as vigorous exercise does not convert fat to muscle.

Only in the Philippines

Philippine Police presented a murder suspect to the media. The police said they are still waiting for the DNA to make sure it matches. Then, why did the police present him to the public? If the DNA of this guy does not match to those found on the body, what happens to their story? Was it a fabrication?

No funds for housing but booze in parks

Look on the bright side. Those homeless that you see on the streets don't have to hide those booze anymore in brown bags. And becasue it saves on paper, it's also environmentally friendly.

Derrick Monasterio officially named 'Kapuso Millennial Hunk'

It seems only yesterday when Derrick Monasterio was a tall, thin, 15-year-old teener who set foot in show business and emerged a star from the highly successful youth-oriented series "Tween Hearts." Seven years later, it's without a doubt that he's come a long way in his career.

Good looking as ever, he turns heads all the more nowadays, however, what with a well built physique that has officially earned him the title "Kapuso Millennial Hunk" at GMA Network.

His transformation, according to Derrick, didn't happen overnight and took a lot of hard work and discipline.

To backtrack, it was on his fifth year in showbiz that he thought of reinventing himself.

"It's the love for my career that took me on this physical journey that really tested my patience and endurance," Derrick declared.

Planning his every move, Derrick wasted no time in consulting a gym coach and dietician, both of whom still work with him now.

"Hindi siya madaling gawin," Derrick related of what through. "Lalo na sa food because it's not easy to stop conyou've been so used to eat since childhood. But the young determined to prove he could achieve a dramatic metamorsurged on.

"I wanted to surprise everyone so I wouldn't even post anything about my workout routine. I made sure I was clothed in all the pictorials I needed to do [while still on my program] even if I was open about going to the gym regularly. When I hit my target body form that was the only time I decided to show my transformation. And so far, wala namang negative reactions," he laughed again.

There's been no turning back for Derrick since then with a strict exercise schedule and healthy diet staples in his new lifestyle. He has also started posting his workouts and from the feedback said, "Parang nakalimutan na ng mga tao 'yung Derrick na tween star. I feel it their comments that they seem to

like the new me. And that's been my inspiration to keep on taking care of my body."

Naturally, offers to do more mature roles have been pouring in for Derrick. At his home studio too, he's been elevated to the rank of major GMA leading men.

His new look coupled and his acting chops have effectively made him the total leading man package.

After his sizzling movie with Sanya Lopez, Derrick is now busy with "Kiko En Lala" with Super Tekla and Kim Domingo, where — yes — he takes his shirt off in many scenes.

Once done with the comedy flick, he moves on to the set of a beach movie titled "G!LU"— the millennial acronym for "Go! La Union." Cast with the likes of Ruru Madrid, David Licauco and Enzo Pineda, need we say more how sexy the movie will be?

"Siyempre we have to look our best.
'Yung mga kasama ko, batak na batak kaya
hindi pwedeng maiwan. That's why I have to
keep working out talaga, epecially since our
leading ladies are all beauty queens!"

What's good about the new Derrick is that he still has the same attitude he started with in showbiz as a lanky teenager. He knows that his abs and form will amount to nothing with lousy performance.

"Kaya it's not only the workouts I'm busy with but also acting workshops. I actually finished a course under Alex Bova and I didn't miss a single session because I want to ve prepared sa mga eksena sa G!LU," he explains.

Eventually, he also wants to audition for a role in musical theatre to further

expand his acting skills.

And with the kind of determination and passion that he has for his career, Derrick might just be destined for greater things to

Jodi refuses to comment on Jolo's current lovelife

JODI Sta. Maria was having a severe case of sore throat when she attended the presscon for her new movie, "Man and Wife", but she shows she's truly professional by answering all questions thrown her way even if her voice is very hoarse. She gets to work for the first time with Gabby Concepcion as leading man and Laurice Guillen as their director in Cineko Productions' special Mother Day's offering, "Man and Wife". So how did it feel working with them?

"I must admit I was, at first, intimidated by both of them," she says. "But they both made me feel at ease very quickly and I'm now very thankful for the memorable experience of being able to work with them. Si Gabby, magaling siya and he's very humble even if he's way ahead of me in the industry. Si Direk Laurice, it's a great learning experience being directed by her in this film."

But she was surprised that on the very first day of her shooting with them, Direk Laurice quickly made her do a love scene with Gabby. "Ang hirap kasi I don't usually do love scenes. But dito, mag-asawa kami, so it's required in the story. Mahirap din kasi di pa man ako nakakapag-warm up kay Gabby and yet, magla-love scene na kami agad. I don't even know how to hold him or kiss him. But in fall fairness to him, he is such a gentleman. Siyang nagdala ng eksena, laging nakaalalay and never na nag-take advantage. After that, everything went on smoothly na."

What is her concept of a married couple being "Man and Wife"? "Nasa Bible 'yun, di ba? When you get married, you become one as man and wife. In every aspect of your life as a couple, dapat, iisa kayo, lalo na when it comes to decision-making. In the movie, the characters we play ni Gabby, Luisa and Carding, their relationship is put into a lot of trials, especially with in-law problems dahil sa domineering mom niya played by Liza Lorena, but they try to get through it all as 'Man and Wife'."

Lot of netizens praise Jodi for her friendly relationship with ex-husband, Pampi Lacson, and his current wife, former GMA star Iwa Moto. "It wasn't easy. You really have to work on it. But I'm really glad we're in good terms."

She and her ex-boyfriend, Cavite Vice Gov. Jolo Revilla, were on for more than five years, but they finally broke up last year. Now, it's rumored that Jolo is officially engaged to his current squeeze, beauty queen Angelica Alita. What can she say about this?

"I don't think it'd be proper for me to comment," she demurs. "You know naman na we're no longer together."

@confidential

IM de Guzman & Arci Muñoz

Their fight versus 'paralyzing pain' of depression

I try my best not to show it, but l still wage an internal war with depression every single day," admitted actor JM de Guzman, who spent time in a rehabilitation center twice for substance abuse.

'm not giving up. When I feel like it, I remind myself that I've already gotten this far. Palag lang nang palag, kasi may buhay," added the actor, as he was speaking to reporters during a gathering to promote his latest film, Eduardo Roy Jr.'s "Last Fool Show."

"I learned from therapy that I was unconsciously rying to sabotage myself [when I did drugs]. The second time was a cry for help, also unconsciously," JM explained. "I was so overwhelmed by emotions that my mind failed to function right. At the time, I wasn't just merely dealing with heartache. Sometimes, depression attacks you suddenly—and for no reason. It's so strong that you feel intense and

At one point during the press con, JM, and his eading lady, Arci Muñoz, were asked for their opinion on the campaign by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), urging broadcast networks to conduct surprise and mandatory drug ests on their talents.

"It's a smart move by the PDEA," said JM. "As elebrities, we are aware that we have a social reponsibility to set a good example to our audience.



I have been in rehab for three years. I've spent time with drug dependents, who did drugs because they were going through something that proved too difficult for them to handle. They have now chosen a different path, and have chosen to fight."

He added: "What I'm asking for is that, sana 'wag lang masyadong masaklap ang trato sa kanila. Yes, there's no death penalty in the Philippines, but these people are already as good as dead."

JM said he was also well aware of his duty to inspire former drug dependents to combat addiction. "It's not too late for us. We can still fight it. Whatever help the PDEA needs, I will give my all-out support. I'm willing to help anytime, anywhere," he declared.

Arci agreed: "Drugs are not the solution, but merely a distraction. If drug testing will help stop the spread [of substance abuse], why not do it?"

Arci then admitted that she once went through depression, "but it didn't reach a point where I became suicidal. I'm glad to have my family beside me. There was a time in my life when I got really depressed, but I kept on going, thanks in part to my strong relationship with God," she recalled.

For Arci, it was her first-even heartbreak. "I was still so young and naive then. I remember it was Christmas Day. My Papa asked me why I was feeling

down, then he said, 'There's only one man who will never hurt you. That's me. I'm here for you.' Then, he danced with me. I'm thankful that I have people around me comforting me."

JM said he was able to relate to his character Paulo because "I'm like him. I need to see for myself [that my girlfriend is cheating on me] before I move on. Sometimes, even though I've already seen her do it, I still need to feel the hurt more, 'yung nadudurog ako, before I'm able to let go," he explained.

Arci said she could relate to Mayessa because "I was able to use my heartaches in all the crying scenes I've done as an actress. If I need to show anger, I would just think of my ex and what he did to me. I also use this to motivate myself when I work out. I would tell myself, 'I have to be sexy. I have to be a better version of myself."

John Lloyd continues to make news

JOHN Lloyd Cruz may be in a self-imposed hibernation

at the moment, but he's obviously still considered as a very hot copy. Showbiz writers are still watching his every move. Each post made about him on the internet spawns many speculative and embroidered stories in gossip sites and columns, some of which are frankly preposterous.



His photos show-

ing him sporting a thick moustache and goatee prompted some showbiz writers to declare: "John Lloyd, mukha nang ermitanyo (hermit)." And because he is shown on his own in various parts of Mindanao like Cagayan de Oro, Lanao and Bukidnon while his inamorata, Ellen Adarna, is also on her own in Bali, Indonesia, this instantly triggered speculations that they've called it quits: "John Lloyd at Ellen, hiwalay

But they should all now be embarrassed as the latest social media postings on John Lloyd show him being reunited with Ellen and their son, Elias Modesto, in Bali. John Lloyd and Ellen are obviously now having their last laugh.

Speculative stories continue to circulate about John Lloyd. When he agreed to do an endorsement, some writers quickly concluded: "John Lloyd, magbabalik-showbiz na!" But this didn't happen.

Then someone wrote that he has already sent feelers to ABS-CBN to say that he wants to make a comeback, but Kapamilya exec reportedly said they're no longer interested.

We honestly doubt the veracity of this story. John Lloyd is one of their biggest stars and has made many blockbuster hits for them, so we don't think the Kapamilyas would reject him that easily. We ourselves have no doubt that, eventually, he will able to make a successfully showbiz comeback.

What happened to him has happened to Richard Gutierrez before. Burnout is real and can cause chronic stress that leads to physical fatigue and emotional exhaustion, so Richard took some time out and, in the process, started his own family. Now a dad of two good looking boys, he was eventually able to make a good successful comeback on TV and films.

We have no doubt that, if and when John Lloyd feels well rested and is ready to work again, ABS-CBN and his fans will also be more than ready to take him back with open arms. In the meantime, let's leave him alone and in peace as he enjoys having an ordinary stress-free life.

Canada to launch dedicated Agri-Food industry immigration pilot

The Canadian government announced plans for a new three-year immigration pilot designed to support the growth of Canada's agri-food sector.

In its Budget 2019, released March 19, the Government of Canada stated, "To help the agri-food sector meet Canada's ambitious export targets and attract and retain needed

labour, the federal government will launch a three-year immigration pilot to bring in full time, non-seasonal agricultural workers that will include a pathway to permanent residency." The Canadian Meat Council (CMC) supports the federal government's plans. In an update, the CMC says it has been requesting 2,750 immigration spots to fill meat packers, meat processors and equipment supplier positions that have not been filled by Canadians.

According to Industry Canada's 'Agri-Food Economic Strategy Table' report published September 2018, there is an alarming need to address the immediate labour shortages

facing the agriculture sector and to utilize Canada's permanent immigration and temporary foreign worker programs to attract workers across various skill levels.

Canada's Agriculture and Agri-food system contributes \$111 billion to the economy annually and \$304 million per

The federal government's immigration division, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), has yet to announce details on the pilot.

Further details will be published on CICNews as they become available.

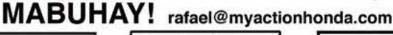


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Water pump is a weapon against ISIS

PADAS, Philippines (NYTIMES) While neither guided bomb nor armoured vehicle, a gray oblong water pump sticking out from the brush along a remote dirt road is intended to be just as clear a sign of US efforts to stop the spread of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq (ISIS).

It has taken two months, a US Special Operations civil affairs team, three non-profit organisations and an entire platoon from the Philippine army to bring the pump to Padas, a village of about 3,000 people in the Mindanao chain of islands in the country's south.

If all goes to plan, water from the pump will help impoverished farmers establish trust in the government, and, in turn, seek to undermine the militants' influence.

"Whatever the international community gives us, we'll accept," said Mr Macaraya Ampuan, an influential leader in the village. "But first thing to address is security. Eliminate ISIS so our livelihoods can be stable."

The project in Padas is also linked to the defeat of the Islamic State's self-proclaimed caliphate in Iraq and Syria and the Pentagon's race to stop its resurgence in other parts of the

Years ago, the Pentagon identified the Philippines as a remote locale where the Islamic State could expand and flourish. The US military's focus on Padas was fuelled by concerns about a backlash among local residents, and a possible regrouping by insurgents after the bloody battle for a nearby city, Marawi, in 2017.

The months-long siege there left hundreds dead, displaced thousands more and plunged much of the city into ruin. What remained of the Islamic State affiliate fled to the south and to other islands, and they started to rebuild and recruit around villages like Padas.

The Philippines is a majority Christian country with a minority Muslim population



ntractors installing a water pump in Padas, in the Philippines, on April 13, 2019.

in the south. A November report to Congress put the number of Islamic State fighters in the Philippines at around 500.

The US military has deployed about 250 troops to the southern Philippines. The mission is rarely promoted because of sporadic political tensions between Washington and Manila, the Philippine capital. President Rodrigo Duterte has previously threatened to eject US forces from the country.

During the battle for Marawi, the Pentagon played down the US military's role, but Marine commandos trained Philippine snipers who were struggling to defeat expert marksmen among the extremists who proved difficult to target within the city's concrete buildings.

Now, Marine Special Operations units work quietly alongside Philippine troops spread throughout the country's southern isles and is also helping the villages around Marawi.

At the tip of that effort is the US\$58,000 water pump in Padas.

The project to bring it to the village was started by Captain Angela Smith, leader of the four-person civil affairs team, after residents told her of their over 2-km trek to get water. The machine, and the solar panels that power it, was donated by two non-profit organisations: the US-Philippines Society and Spirit of America.

"One water pump, one classroom that we help build, those things make a difference," Ambassador Sung Yong Kim, the US envoy to the Philippines, said in a recent interview. "So we want to do as much as that as possible."

The State Department and the US Agency for International Development have funded nearly US\$60 million for reconstruction efforts around Marawi.

Captain Smith's team, whose soldiers wear civilian clothes and are often escorted by a Marine Special Operations unit based in Marawi, is the military's latest embrace of a trademark American counter-insurgency strategy of winning over local populations.

Similar efforts were taken in Afghanistan and Iraq, including by US troops, at the height of the Iraq War. That mission was largely credited with turning the tide against the insurgency in Iraq, before US forces withdrew in 2011 and the Islamic State swept across much of the country three years later.

Broadly, the US military's practice of counterinsurgency since 2001 has been plagued by frustration and failure.

In Padas, officials said it is a gamble to ensure that the extremist group does not regain the strength it mustered before the siege of Marawi, which caught the Pentagon almost entirely off guard.

"This village used to be controlled by the Islamic State," said Corporal Jumar Dayanan, a soldier with the Philippine army platoon who was sent to live in Padas. "But now we're trying to win the hearts and minds."

Last month, Philippine troops killed Abu Dar, last surviving Islamic State leader who was responsible for planning and carrying out the battle in Marawi.

The Philippines' southern islands have long been a home for insurgents. But in Padas, and the other villages around Marawi, the United States is fighting just as much against economics as it is against a creeping ideology.

Wages as low as US\$6 a day are the market compensation for untrained construction workers in the Marawi area, can get triple that amount by joining rebel groups.

In 2017, the Islamic State's leadership in the Middle East funnelled thousands of dollars to its Philippine counterparts to recruit fighters

continued on page 20

WHITENER continued from page 1

For 300 years, indios were made to fawn over these nobility, to the point of idealizing them and desiring to be like them. Jose Rizal very accurately depicted in his Noli this symptom in the character of Doña Victorina de Espadaña - a brown-skinned Filipino woman who pretended to be a Spanish mestiza, wore heavy white makeup, and spoke very broken Castilian to the point of hilarity.

Whiter Skin is More than just a Standard of Beauty

Today, marketing skin whiteners is more than just appeal to Filipinos' standards of b For Filipinos, having a lighter complexion is

desirable because it signifies social status, noble ancestry, and most significant, economic status. It also affords one the occasional preferential treatment - a reality that a certain skin whitening brand tried to exploit in their marketing campaign but instead

received generous criticism. Another reason why skin whitening products appeal to Filipinos is that many people associate dark or brown skin with low economic status.

On television and film, there is also a disproportionate representation of people with whiter skin. Despite Filipinos having just 5 percent of European heritage in our blood (we're predominantly Malay), switching on the television or watching any Filipino film will show you that majority of the cast are mestizo and have fair complexions

While there are many actors who are brown-

skinned or dark-skinned, they are often relegated to playing the minor roles as maids, drivers, or "poor" people. It indicates how, after more than 100 years of our emancipation from colonizers, we still can't shake off the social tenets that stratified society based on heritage and skin color.

Heck, even grade school textbooks teach us to adore whiter skin.

There is nothing wrong with wanting to lighten our complexion, just like there is nothing wrong with Caucasians doing the opposite by tanning or bronzing their bodies. But if colonizers were able to rewire the national psyche to our preferential treatment for people with fairer skins, perhaps we can also learn to reset that by imposing social content guidelines not only for textbook authors, but also for teachers, media producers, and advertisers.



Photographer: Jose Baking TEL: 416-609-1176

EMAIL: pleasurelife@email.com **PUBLISHED BY:** Match International Group



Jose "Joey" Baking





Fe Taduran



CORRESPONDENTS







Raymond Santos Jojo Taduran

CONTRIBUTORS: Ed Tubale • Nena Gumapac

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Froilan Baking



Faith Joy dela Peña and Lina pose at the Fiesta Filipina Dance gala.

Ogie Diaz ok if anak has no awards

Sa kabila ng pagiging matagumpay na public figure, hindi raw kailanman inobliga ng comedian-reporter na si Ogie Diaz ang kanyang mga anak na magkaroon ng honors o awards.

Ito sabi ni Ogie "Umiyak pa ang anak ko bago ang Moving Up Day, dahil wala daw siyang nakuha kahit



na ano," kuwento niya tungkol sa kanyang anak na si Erin. "Okay lang 'yan, 'Nak. Basta hindi ka kulelat at alam mong ginawa mo naman ang best mo."

Aniya, maraming bagay ang mas mahalaga sa kanya kaysa sa pagkakaroon ng honors o awards.

"Lagi kong sinasabi sa mga anak ko, 'di baleng walang awards or honors, basta hindi babagsak, at hindi sakit ng ulo ng lipunan, mabuti kang tao, happy na kami ng mama nila," wika ni Diaz.

"Ang tunay na laban ng buhay ay nasa labas ng eskwela. Importante ang abilidad at diskarte na wala sa curriculum, kun'di nasa 'yo, nasa impluwensiya ng mga tamang tao sa paligid mo," dagdag pa niya.

Pagbabahagi ni Diaz, noong may nagtanong sa kanya kung ayos lang sa kanya na walang honor ang anak niya, ang tugon niya, "Ókay lang naman po. Basta naka-graduate. Ako din po, walang nakuhang honors no'ng nag-aaral ako, mami. At high school lang po ang natapos ko."

Sa kabila ng kawalan ng honor sa eskwela, hindi maikakaila na malayong-malayo na ang narating niya at isa na siya sa mga haligi ng showbiz industry; mula sa pagiging showbiz reporter hanggang sa pagiging komedyante, sa pagiging manager ng popular actress at LizQuen other half na si Liza Soberano, sa pagiging isang manunulat at awtor ng libro, at marami pang iba. Patunay lamang ito na hindi nagtatapos sa loob ng paaralan ang buhay ng tao, bagkus ay nagsisimula pa lamang. Samantala, napag-usapan din ni Diaz at ng kanyang anak kung mag-aaral pa ba ito ng kolehiyo.

"Sabihin mo nga lang sa akin na tatapusin mo lang ang senior high school at ayaw mo nang mag-college, okay lang sa akin. Basta sa isang kundisyon—kukuha ka ng at least, five crash courses one at a time, dahil baka isa don, matumbok mong gusto mo pala at 'yon ang itutuloy-tuloy mong ima-master. Dahil gusto ko, gawin mo kung saan ka masaya and at the same time, nata-translate mo 'yong happiness mo into income,"

"Magka-college ako, daddy," sagot umano ng kanyang anak.

"Okay. If that will make you happy, I will support you all the way," tugon naman ni Diaz.

Huwag mo ako sasagarin Stern Charo leaves Vice Ganda speechless

Known for his wit and considered as local showbiz's top comedian, Vice Ganda doesn't usually run out of jokes and quips — unless he's in front of his boss whom he has impersonated time and again.



Charo Santos-Concio, star of "Eerie" and chief content officer of ABS-CBN. was an image of a stern and somewhat disappointed superior when she sat across Vice Ganda in the

latter's eponymous talk show "Gandang Gabi Vice."

She had been the subject of Vice Ganda's numerous arodies, particularly Santos-Concio's letter-reading duties as host of the long-running drama anthology "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

Initially all-smiles as she entered the studio, Santos-Concio shifted moods as she told Vice Ganda: "Bakit lagi mo akona pingalalaruan? Masakit, e. Ni hindi ka nga nagpapaalam sa akin."

The stern look left Vice Ganda uncharacterisically speechless. After a lengthy explanation and "tribute" to Santos-Concio, the veteran actress then turned serious, saying, "I just want to assure you - you have not done anything offensive towards me. "Masakit lang na 'yung nunal ko, hindi na nirespeto," she quipped, referring to Vice Ganda's skit in his recent concert where he, as "Charot Santos," pinned an artificial mole on several different spots on his face throughout the segment.

"Ako'y mapagpatawad na nilalang, pero huwag mo ako sasagarin. Baka masampolan kita," she warned,

Santos-Concio's first guest appearance on "Gandang Gabi Vice" was part of the promotional cycle for the horror film "Eerie." It marks the ABS-CBN executive's first collaboration with actress Bea Alonzo and acclaimed director Mikhail Red.



Cindy Kurleto teaches daughter to love her **Pinay features**



Cindy Kurleto wants her daughter Noa to see beauty as more than skin deep: "Appearance is secondary."

Beauty, according to Cindy Kurleto, shines best when you feel complete.

She said of people in general, "They might be physically attractive, they might have all the physical attributes, but because of their own worry or their own stress of their own life you can sense..

They don't look buo, balanced, in their appearance if

"They won't look as pretty or as handsome to you as they could...the inside talaga that makes a person beautiful... If you can share happiness, you will become pretty in other person's eyes."

So when Cindy and her family lived in a country where her daughter Noa's Pinay features would stand out, the two had a girl talk.

'She's only eight at that time... I sat down with my daughter. Together, we wrote down things that make a person beautiful, but don't mention the physical appearance," she said. "Mention everything else that makes everyone beautiful-confidence, clarity of mind, content...the reason we did that is because she is in a country where everyone else is blonde and blue-eyed, and she stands out different.

"I wanted to talk to her that appearance is secondary. It's important how you feel about yourself, how you believe in yourself, and how content you are with the life that you chose."

HOW TO TREAT YOURSELF

As a parent, Cindy thinks schools should teach children more about mindfulness, especially in terms of taking care of

"It should be common knowledge that the power of your mind talaga makes you either healthy or unhealthy," she underlined. "The drama in reality is all just noise... If you're gonna let anything stress you, you can get unhealthy. You don't want to do that to yourself, and I think it comes from experience that you know that...It is empowering to know that your thoughts have that power. Again, that's your arsenal the healthy eating, the healthy exercise, your supplements, your food and your brain food, what you feed your mind."

Cindy encouraged young adults to practice mindfulness as

She continued, "Step away from the drama, step away from the ego...Believe me, other people don't care so much about you like you've imagined they do, you know? You should care for yourself first and foremost. Nobody will ever care as much about yourself as you, so take care of yourself. Take care of your thoughts.

Cindy suggested that the best way to talk to yourself was to do so like you would converse with a child—with kindness.

She said, "When I had my children, I realized that the tone I have with my daughters when they do something wrong, you know, 'That's okay, don't worry.'

"If they spill something, 'Don't worry, it's quickly fixed.' "But if I spill something on me, I would you know be hard on myself... Talk to your own insecurities like you would talk to your child

"That's the tone that you should have with yourself. I believe that strongly."

Cindy has a second daughter named Lima. She is three

Jessy Mendiola ready for 'big decisions in life'

You can't blame poor box-office results on one particular actor.

his was according to actress Jessy Mendiola, who reacted to a comment saying she jinxed her previous two films-Jay Abello's romantic comedy "The Girl in the Orange Dress" and Miko Livelo's buddy comedy "Tol"—resulting in their lackluster performance at

These days, we can no longer understand what the audience wants Some romcoms do well compared to the reliable heavy dramas, while sometimes, we get surprised when a slapstick-comedy flick becomes a hit," Jessy pointed out.

But since January of this year, Jessy observed, there has never really been a big hit, except for "Alone/Together." "Let's be honest. That's a love team, and it has a huge following," she stressed.

"It's sad that these [industry] bashers, instead of supporting each other, would always prefer to put each other down. Let's lift each other's spirit. If films start earning well again, then we'll all benefit."

She also pointed out that "Orange Dress" was one of the country's

representatives to the 2019 Osaka Asian Film Festival in Japan. "If people here didn't appreciate the film, it was definitely received well in Japan," she declared.

Jessy is currently promoting another romcom, Ice Adanan's "Stranded," which also features Arjo Atayde. Incidentally, it will directly compete with another rom-com, Eduardo Roy Jr.'s "Last Fool Show," featuring Jessy's controversial ex-boyfriend JM de Guzman, who shares top billing with Arci Muñoz.

Asked whether she was willing to work with JM again, Jessy replied in the affirmative, but "I feel as if he is the one who's not yet ready. Also, I don't call the shots. It will really depend on management or on any company willing to produce a project for us. This has not happened yet, so I guess it's

not meant to be." Jessy said she had a chance encounter with JM in ABS-CBN two months ago, and hasn't spoken with him since.

The actress is now dating actor-TV host Luis Manzano.

"We've both been very busy lately, so we rarely see each other. If we do, I hope we get a chance to chill and really talk. What I would be interested in knowing is whether Luis still has future plans for himself," Jessy told the Inquirer. "You see, he is a generally happy person. I don't think I've seen him at his worst."

As to what could

Jessy said possibly exasperate Luis, Jessy said, "it would have to be the negativity in she would people. Luis is someone who readily often helps those he feels are in need of it. answer He is very giving. He is also a patient bashers not man, so if you piss him off, that means you've done something really hurtful." because Like Luis, Jessy said she would she wanted to pick a fight with them, "but

because I

feel that

something

to clarify.

I have

often answer bashers not because she wanted to pick a fight with them, "but because I feel that I have something to clarify. 'Di naman ibig sabihin, patola na ako. It's more of letting the person know what the truth is. I don't see anything wrong with that."

She was referring to her recent controversial post that had the caption, "Old endings and new beginnings." People thought the Kapamilya artist had decided to transfer to rival network, GMA 7.

"I'm still very much in touch with my bosses in ABS-CBN, and I am not aware of any offers from the other channel," she clarified. "The post was about my new business. It's also about the personal changes in my life. I'm at a point where I feel I need to make big decisions."

Jessy, however, admitted that she has started feeling restless, especially since it has been a while since ABS-CBN gave her a project. "It's up to you to explore what you can do with your free time. If you feel bored, then think of something productive to do," she

Tanging Ina back as Nanay Sabel

the role

former

erhaps, the most notable role, at least for the millennial batch of moviegoers, that Ai-Ai Delas Alas breathed life into was Ina Montecillo, the central character in the Tanging Ina movie series that raked in more than half-a-billion pesos at local tills.

The movie series made Ai-Ai firmly seated on the throne as the comedy queen, a moniker no other actress could steal from her unless someone from the new crop of comediennes would step up and exceed her success on the big screen doing the specific



cillo that appeared in three installations. The 54-year-old comedienne is back on the big screen with her extraordinary "Motherly Love" that promises to tickle and touch the audience's heart in Sons of Nanay Sabel. This time, Ai-Ai plays

tender (Sabel) who was supposed to be married to a prince. Unfortunately, the prince found out about that Sabel was leaving her six children at an orphanage, so he decided to call their wedding off. Thereafter, Sabel decided to look for her sons and reunite her family once again.

Her sons were left to the care of Sister Mary (Sheree), who kept all the details of Sabel's kids' foster families and handed it to her when she finally came back as she promised.

Sabel's sons are played by the members of the hit rap group Ex-Batallion. Bieber (Daryl) and Justin (Archie) were both adopted by a rich businessman and grew up with their Yaya Bona (Jon Santos) who went with them when Sabel took back her two sons; Troll Montero (King Badger) was adopted by a barber; Baby James (James) AND EZ (Mark) were both adopted by an old lady named Lola Narcisa, and they only discovered that they were brothers when

took them; Bhoy (Rhenn) adopted by a couple who abused him and never loved him, that's why Sabel forcefully took him from his foster parents.

Sabel and her sons will experience the riot of living together for the first time and will form the family

bond that Sabel has always

dreamed of. But it will soon be tested when the beautiful

and flirty Helen (Kylie Versoza) makes the brothers fall in love with her and fight for

"Sons of Nanay Sabel is not Tanging Ina," says director Dado Lumibao during the films press conference held recently, "In the film series, Ai-Ai was an extremely caring mother and would go out of her way to keep her family intact. The same thing cannot be said of Nancy Sabel. She's an imperfect person. That's the conscious effort to make this role really different from the previous role Ai-Ai played.

Apart from the cast members' crazy antics, the movie offers something new for the fans of Ex Batallion as they release their new tracks "Sama-Sama", "Huwag Siya," and "Bagong Umaga" featuring Ai-Ai in the

Sons of Nanay Sabel is written by Mel Mendoza Del Rosario, the same writer who wrote the blockbuster trilogy of Tanging

confidential

Duterte jokes: Angara's lack of mistresses merits your sympathy vote

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte was all praises for Senator Sonny Angara in a recent PDP-Laban political rally in Biñan, Laguna.

"Yan ang kailangan ko yung mautak na abogado na walang yabang, walang hangin, disenteng tao. Wala akong nabalitaan na may kabit o babae. Kaawa naman siya. Para dyan na lang sa awa na iyan, si Sonny Angara! Kaya tama iyan magsimpatiya kayo. Biruin mo, araw-araw, ilang taong na doon ka sa isang bahay uuwi buti nakatiis ka," the President

(That's what I need, a brilliant lawyer but with no ego, no air, a decent person. I have never heard that he has a mistress. He is pitiful. If only for that, here's Sonny Angara! Imagine, going home to the same house for years. How did you stand that?)

Describing the senator as a "worthy son of a worthy father (the late great Senator Ed Angara), that's the person I need—a person



who is not a blowhard, not a braggart, a decent person," the President said, expressing

clear admiration for Senator Sonny's lineage, career, and personality.

And then as is typically the case, the President pivoted and lightened the mood by also pointing out that he has yet to receive reports of the senator being linked to an illicit affair or mistress. "He is really quite pitiful," the President joked to roars of laughter from the

Poor Senator Sonny indeed. We must join President Duterte in empathy for a man who must come home night and day to just one woman who happens to be Tootsy Angara, who in addition to being exceedingly beautiful, is a doyenne of style. In fact, the arresting and statuesque Tootsy was named the 2017 Most Stylish awardee by the Philippine Tattler magazine for Asia.

Perhaps that's why the crowd laughed so hard at Duterte's joke. One look at Tootsy Angara and every man would wish for a similar ball and chain.

John Wick's Main Rival in 'Chapter 3 - Parabellum' is a Filipino

Of course, the movie will still follow the dangerously exciting life and (mis) adventures of main protagonist and former hitman John Wick, played by Keanu Reeves. This time, Wick is on the run in New York City after being excommunicated from the international assassin's guild for killing one of its members.

In Chapter 3 - Parabellum, Wick will face a new and vengeful antagonist in the character of Zero, which will is performed by Filipino-American actor Mark Dacascos. He can be seen at the 1:40 mark (pun intended) of the movie's trailer.

Dacascos is more popularly known as the chairman in both Iron Chef America: The Series and Iron Chef Australia. He was also Kung Lao in the

web series Mortal Kombat: Legacy, and Giyera, a Hydra operative with Inhuman abilities, in the Marvel series Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (Notice how they used the Filipino word for "war" for his character!)

A trained martial artist since his childhood (kung fu and karate), Dacascos has portrayed many roles in the action genre. His performance as Mani, a member of

the Iroquois tribe in the Brotherhood of the Wolf (2001), earned him a lot of praise. The actor was even nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the

Throughout his career, the 55-year-old hasn't

forgotten his Filipino roots. In 1996, he starred in DNA together with local Filipino actors Joel Torre and Tom Taus. In 2015, he also directed the action film Showdown in Manila, which was aptly shot in the Philippine capital and released as a Filipino-Russian co-production. Local actress Iza Calzado joined the roster of Hollywood and Russian actors, which included Tia Carrere and Casper Van Dien.

"I love the Philippines. I think there is so much beauty. The land, and the people and so much talent. It's a joy to be able to show that in this film and I am so very excited and honored," said Dacascos to Rappler of his stay in the country in 2015.

Dacascos was born in Honolulu, Hawaii of a Filipino dad and Irish-Japanese mom. He's now married to American film and television actress Julie Condra, with whom he has two sons and a daughter.

Kim Domingo admits living together with boyfriend Mike Acuna

Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon, inamin ni Kim Domingo na nagli-live-in na sila ng boyfriend niyang si Michael "Mike" Acuña.

Mahigit tatlong taon na ang relasyon nila. Si Mike ay fourth-round draft pick ng KIA Motors sa Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) noong 2014. Ngunit hindi siya nakapasok sa final roster ng koponan.

Isa rin siyang model at part-time actor. Saad ng 25-year-old Kapuso actress tungkol sa relasyon nila ni Mike, "Live-in po. Live-in na.

"Áno yun, nung ano kami, nung ano pa lang... from the ano pa lang, nag-live in na kami.'

Sa kabila nito, wala pa raw silang balak magpakasal o kaya'y magkaanak na.

Sabi ni Kim, "Wala pa naman sa point na

nagpaplano kami na mag-baby na. "Hindi, ayoko pa rin naman na ano, e, kasi ang dami ko pang gustong gawin.

"Ang dami ko pang gustong magawa. "And siyempre, di ba, breadwinner din ako ng family, may mga pinag-aaral ako, so hindi puwede talaga.

"At ayoko pa rin naman pa. Masyado pa ring maaga." Umaasa ba siyang sa pagpapakasal hahantong ang tatlong taon na nilang relasyon ni Mike?

Tugon ni Kim, "Sana doon na, kasi okay naman kami, wala naman kaming nagiging issue, e.

"May mga konting ano, tampuhan, away, ganyan, pero hindi naman malaki na ano.

Nakausap ng PEP.ph (Philippine Entertainment Portal) at ilang piling media si Kim sa set visit ng pelikulang Kiko en Lala kahapon, April 25.

KIKO EN LALA

Ang Kiko en Lala ay pelikula ng Backyard Productions under GMA Pictures na pinagbibidahan nina Kim, Jo Beery, Derrick Monasterio, Divine Tetay, Kiray Celis, at Super

May special role din dito ang Philippine Comedy Queen na si Ai-Ai delas Alas.

Si Kim ang leading lady ni Tekla, na gumaganap bilang

Siamese twins kung saan ang isa nitong katauhan ay loud gay (Lala) at ang isa naman ay straight guy (Kiko).

Wala raw masyadong sexy scenes si Kim sa pelikula dahil gusto na niyang magbago

Paliwanag niya, "Ginawa ko talaga siya para sa sarili ko, kasi yun ngayon talaga ang gusto ko.

'Ginawa ko rin siya dahil hindi para mas matuwa sa akin ang ibang tao o magustuhan ako ng ibang tao, kundi ginawa ko siya kasi dun na ako ngayon

"Kasi ang hirap kasi gawin ngayon ang isang bagay na hindi ka na masaya, hindi mo

nai-enjoy ang pagtatrabaho mo. "E, ako pa naman, gusto ko kapag nagtrabaho ako, andun yung puso ko sa ginagawa ko.

"Gusto ko masaya ako sa ginagawa ko." Mula sa direksiyon ni Adolf Alix Jr., ipalalabas ang Kiko en Lala simula sa May 22

Ogie Diaz posts status about "pagiging ina" of Julia Montes

Ogie Diaz on Julia Montes's silence: "Hintavin natin si Julia. In time, magsasalita din yon. For now, let's be happy for them. Hayaan n'yong i-enjoy nila ang isa't isa.'

May pahiwatig ang comedian/talent manager/radio host na si Ogie Diaz tungkol sa panganganak ni Julia

Sa kanyang regular Facebook status na "Mama OGS Answers" kahapon, April 24, tinanong kunyari ng netizens ang Home Sweetie Home actor tungkol kay Julia at sa napabalitang panganganak nito.

Tanong kunyari sa kanya, "Mama Ogs, ba't di pa nagpapakita si Julia Montes?"

Tugon ni Ogie, "Hayaan nyo muna siyang namnamin ang pagiging ina."

So, kinumpirma na ba niya talaga na nanganak na si

Sagot ni Ogie, "Hintayin natin si Julia.

"In time, magsasalita din yon. "For now, let's be happy for them.

"Hayaan n'yong i-enjoy nila ang isa't isa." Dagdag pang tanong sa kanya, "Isa't isa? Sino yung

Ani Ogie, "Gagah, 'yung anak niya, hayaan nyo munang i-enjoy nila ang isa't isa."

NO STATEMENT OF DENIAL

Usap-usapan ang mga lumabas na balita nitong unang linggo ng Abril na nanganak na raw si Julia sa isang pribadong ospital sa San Juan City.

Nakatakip pa nga raw ang mukha ng aktres habang ito ay nasa delivery room.

Hanggang sa ilang showbiz insiders ang nagbigay ng impormasyon na totoong nanganak na ang Kapamilya actress. Nung nagsilabasan na ang balita, ikinagalit daw ito ng ama ng bata na si Coco Martin.

Naging mainitin daw ang ulo ng aktor sa set ng FPJ's Ang Probinsyano. Ang dahilan, may bago na raw napupusuan ang Primetime King ng ABS-CBN sa katauhan ng leading lady nitong si Yassi Pressman.

Nitong Easter Sunday, April 21, isang makahulugang mensahe ang ibinahagi ni Coco sa kanyang Instagram account. Ayon sa 37-year-old actor, hindi siya mapagpatol sa mga mga isyu, lalo na kapag tungkol sa pribado niyang buhay. Saad ni Coco, "Ang hindi ko pagkibo at hindi pagpatol sa mga bagay na hindi kauunlad na ating bayan ay hindi kabaklaan.

"may kanya kanya tayong buhay at tayo ang may dedesisyon kung pano natin patatakbuhin ito at sa aking palagay wala akong nagawang masama sayo kung sino kaman hindi ko kailangan ang mga masasakit na opinion

"Nagtatrabaho lang ako at may meron din akong pribadong buhay wag nman sana ang buhay ko ang pagkwentuhan nyo dahil hindi interesado ang buhay ko.



Jonas Gaffud joins Miss **Universe Phl**

of the

pines

Miss

Jo-

MANILA, Philippines - Talent manager and former head of Aces and Queens beauty camp Jonas Gaffud was formally on Thursday, April 4 as the announced

ative and events director 🌆 Miss Universe Philipbrand.

> nas, who helped train Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach, Miss World 2013 Megan Young, and Miss International 2016 Kylie Verzosa, International posted

Verzosa nouncement on his social media accounts.

the an-

The announce-

ment said that Jonas "will be responsible for elevating the level of Miss Universe Philippines further through his innovative and groundbreaking pageant creative concepts and ideas."

2016

Kylie

"In the process, he is expected to showcase the best of the Philippines. A strong component of which will be highlighting the advocacies of modern day Filipinas and pushing for Philippine tourism," it

According to the announcement, the growth of the brands will "place an emphasis on women empowerment and philanthropy, culminating in the selection of the candidate who is the embodiment of the modern day Filipina."

Aside from Jonas, Mario Garcia, an experienced marketing executive, will also be part of Miss Universe Philippines as brand and marketing strategist. According to the statement, he will be responsible for "fresh brand-building approaches and in pursuing meaningful partnerships with local businesses that will share the values and goals of Miss Universe Philippines."

Jonas said that his new position was the reason why he left Aces and Queens after 18 years.

"I had to leave the camp because it's like new beginnings for me and I have to concentrate on the brand," he said.

Jonas said that he'll be focusing on 3 important priorities: raising funds for charity, boosting tourism, and promoting women empowerment.

The talent manager admitted that he felt surreal about the new job but said it's challenging.

As for the future of Aces and Queens, Jonas said that the other members of the group are fixing everything.

Although he's no longer training beauty queens, Jonas believes the country's pageant scene will be better than ever.

"I think we will be stronger as a country of beauty pageant lovers. Ngayon mas makita natin...nagbubuo ng ibang teams eh. So ang dami-dami ng involvement ng mga tao (Now we see...there are different groups that are formed. So there so many people involved now), so I think we will be stronger," he said.

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Luis Manzano reveals Vilma Santos once rescued Jessy Mendiola and her sister from fire

Luis Manzano has just revealed that his mom Vilma Santos once saved Jessy Mendiola and her elder sister, Pam, from a fire.

he television host shared about the incident involving his girlfriend while they were enjoying a seafood feast, as it appears on Mendiola's vlog entry posted on her YouTube channel.





Vilma Santos; Jessy Mendiola

Manzano and Mendiola were asked if they had nicknames when they were kids. Mendiola got it right with Manzano's popular nickname "Lucky"; however, Manzano did not guess right Mendiola's nickname, leading her to reveal it as "Tisay," a nickname she earned for her fair skin

At this point, Manzano said that while Mendiola was still young, she, her sister and his "Star for All Seasons" mom Vilma Santos, once

worked together for a television commercial.

"Nasunog yung set, niligtas sila ni mommy," he recounted.

(The set got caught on fire, mommy saved them.)

Manzano added that a stove from the set may have been the cause of the fire.

"Three years old lang yata ako noon, karga-karga niya ako," Mendiola said.

(I think I was only 3 years old at that time. Santos carried me when she saved me.)

Mendiola said that another thing they have in common is that their respective fathers knew each other way before.

"Naging mag-on dati," Manzano joked. (They used to be a couple.)

Mendiola has previously expressed gratitude to the veteran actress-turned-politician for being kind to her.

"She will never make you feel you aren't welcome," she said of Santos. "She's always warm, and makes me feel like I'm part of the family when I visit."

Is Claudine Barretto appearing in Ang Probinsyano with Raymart Santiago?

Claudine Barretto is okay to appear in Ang Probinsyano when estranged husband Raymart Santiago is no longer part of the ABS-CBN show.

It seems like Claudine Barretto cannot appear yet in Coco Martin's ABS-CBN teleserye, Ang Probinsyano. This is based on her answer during her guest appearance in Tonight With Boy Abunda last night, April 24.

Claudine entertained a question from a netizen asking if she will soon appear in Ang Probinsyano, a TV show known for featuring actors who have been not been visible in TV shows and movies.

TV host Boy Abunda then told Claudine that her estranged husband, Raymart Santiago, is also currently part of the cast.

Claudine said, "Ah talaga, andun ba siya? Sorry, sorry."

Laughing, Claudine added, "Pag wala na siya. At saka yung sweldo ko basta mapunta sa akin!"

Still, the 39-year-old actress is open to working with Coco, who is the lead star and one of the directors of the Kapamilya series.

"Of course, with Coco Martin. With Coco Martin! Clear 'yon, ha."

It was in March 2013 when Raymart and Claudine separated after 13 years of marriage.

Ang Probinsyano is Raymart's first appearance as an official Kapamilya after being with GMA-7 for a long time. His first assignment is the upcoming drama series, Starla, where he will play the leading man of Judy Ann Santos.

Claudine is set to make a television comeback after almost three years via Maalaala Mo Kaya (MMK) this Saturday, April 27. **CLAUDINE ON WORKING AGAIN**

After three years of not doing a regular project, Claudine told Boy Abunda that she is ready to work again.

Claudine also revealed that the last time she did a movie, the 2015 Star Cinema film Etiquette for Mistresses, she got terribly sick.

She said, "This time, I really want to work na.

I really want to work again because the last time I did Etiquette, I got sick.

"I got really, really sick and I got really, really big and that's something I'm not ready to talk about

"I couldnt work, I was always in the hospital. I had six operations in four months.

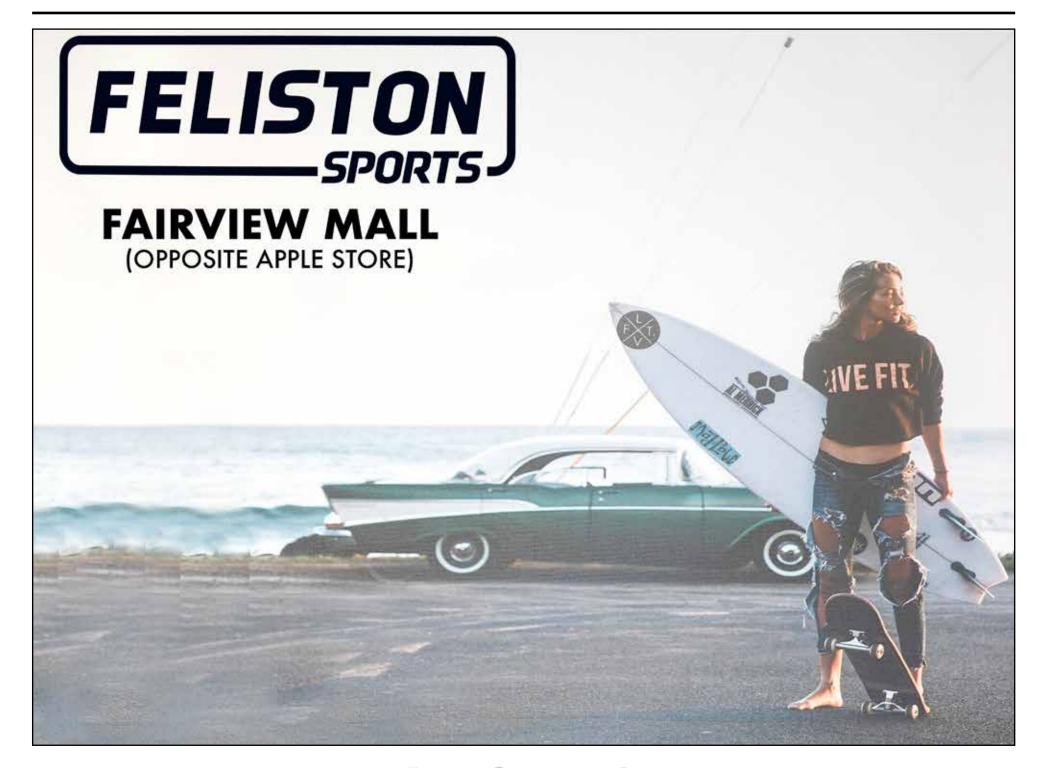
"Now, I'm okay. So, no more medicines, no more anything."

During the fast talk part of her interview, Claudine was asked if she's okay to playing a kontrabida.

In her previous TV projects, Claudine was always tapped to play kind-hearted lead roles.

When she was asked to choose among her triplet roles in her 1999 series Saan Ka Man Naroroon, she picked Rosenda, the kontrabida one. Her other two roles were Rosario and Rosemarie.

Claudine is now slated to do a movie with her Milan leading lady, Piolo Pascual, whom she considers as her favorite leading man, apart from Aga Muhlach.



SHIFTING FOCUS FROM DISASTERS TO DEFENSE

Locsin: It's time for PH to get warships, missiles

MANILA, Philippines —Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said that the government must begin focusing on national defense and start buying warships and missiles. Locsin made the statement after a netizen expressed the hope that the Philippine Navy would be able to send a boat to the Rim of the Pacific event this year.

"I just hope the Philippine Navy participate in Rim of the Pacific event with a boat this year as I remember back in 2014 where they only sent 2 personnel without even a bangka [boat]," the netizen said in a tweet.

"They should also focus on obtaining medical ships for disaster relief and life-saving operations,"



the netizen added.

Locsin then said that the government must start considering focusing on national defense.

"It is time we get warships and missiles. It is time

we stop whining about natural disasters and doing something about national defense," Locsin said.

The Philippine Navy earlier announced that the first of its two missile-armed frigates would be launched in May this year.

In an interview with military radio station DWDD, the Philippine Navy chief, Vice Adm. Robert Empedrad, said he would be with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in South Korea from May 17 to 19 to witness the launching.

The launching of the first frigate, which will be named BRP Iose Rizal, will be followed by the keel-laying of the second missile-armed frigate BRP Antonio Luna.

Bianca Gonzalez, Bela Padilla air sentiments about 'influencers'

Celebrities Bianca Gonzalez and Bela Padilla aired their sentiments regarding social media "influencers" after the White Banana Beach

Club resort in Siargao recently announced its refusal to collaborate with "self-proclaimed influencers" who had sent several messages offering collaboration.

Gonzalez and Padilla did not drop any names, but it seemed their recent tweets were aimed at a certain Lance de Ocampo,

an influencer who called out the beach club via Instagram after it made its announcement. Ocampo has since deleted his Instagram Stories and issued a statement apologizing for his post, although screenshots of the Stories have been shared via FashionPulis.

Ocampo, then, defended the role of "influencers," saying they have big contributions to boost Siargao's tourism. He claimed that the island would not be as appreciated today if it were not for the "breathtaking and well-curated Instagram photos" of influencers.

Padilla, however, did not seem to agree. The "Camp Sawi" star took to Twitter on March 28 to express her thoughts.

"It's soooo sad that you felt the need to take credit for a place so beautiful to begin with and would be perfectly fine with or without you," said Padilla. "Tsk tsk. [By the way], we all started going to Siargao three years ago NOT

because of your posts."

Gonzalez also took to her Twitter where she shared how the word "influencer" is being thrown a lot these days.

"All of us, regardless of follower count, have influence with people around us, for sure," she said. "But it should never be a license to feel entitled to demand to be given free things."

She added one should be grateful if given a free service or product, but they should never demand to be given such things.

"Hintayin na sila ang magbigay, 'wag ikaw ang mag-demand na bigyan ka," she said. "Kung gusto mo, bayaran please. Lumugar. #influencer." (Wait

for them to give it to you, don't demand. If you want it, then pay for it. Know your place. #influencer).

She also clarified she was not shading anybody and only wanted to remind everyone.

"This is a reminder for all of us who might at times feel entitled to demand because of this new social media 'influencer' culture."

Meanwhile, White Banana Beach Club on March 27 clarified via Facebook that it is not against "influencers," just freeloaders.

"A REAL influencer is called as such by the rest, he does not address him/herself as an influencer," the post said. "They are bloggers. We have actually collaborated with a few of them, in different terms and conditions, and we support them."

The beach club added that it is they who contact and pay real influencers: "They've never contacted us, as they don't need us. We need them."

Joyce Pring thanks Juancho Trivino for being a

Bukod sa pag-host nito ng kanyang segment sa GMA-7 morning show na Unang Hirit, may iba pa siyang hinu-host na events sa gabi tulad ng mga media at corporate events.

Nagpapasalamat si Joyce sa mga blessings na dumating sa kanyang career,

pero hindi niya itinatanggi na nakakaramdam na siya ng matinding pagod.

Isa sa pinapasalamatan ni Joyce ay ang pag-aalaga na ginagawa sa kanya ng UH co-host at manliligaw niyang si Juancho Trivino.

Sa pinost ni Joyce sa Instagram account niya noong nakaraang March 22, nasabi niya na isang blessing na makilala niya si Juancho dahil sa mga magagandang nagawa na nito para sa kanya.

Bukod sa lagi siyang kinukumusta at pinadadalhan ng pagkain, nagagawa rin daw ni Juancho na samahan si Joyce sa mga lakad niya at minsan ay pinagmamaneho pa siya kapag sobrang pagod na

Ramdam nga raw ni Joyce ang sincerity ni Juancho.

Laging inaabangan ang tambalang #Juanchoyce dahil sa mga nakakakilig moments nila sa kanilang segment sa Unang Hirit kunsaan pinupuntahan nila ang iba't ibang vacation spots ngayong summer.

constant in her life

Isa sa mga in-demand host ngayon si Joyce Pring.

with 59 percent of its population feeling the negative Tanzania (57 percent), Albania, Iran, Sri Lanka, and

Only Greece is more stressed than the Philippines

Jinkee Pacquiao says 'ku-

mare' Claudine Barretto

doesn't owe her money

her any money

of Sen. Manny Pacquiao.

on Barretto's livestream:

"Mare ipaalam ko lang

sa kanila na wala kang

utang sa akin. At wala

din tayong business.

Masaya ako na friends

tayo at kumare kita. I

In the livestream,

love u mare!"

Pacquiao.

Barretto said.

Jinkee left a comment

MANILA, Philippines - Jinkee Pacquiao has broken her silence and clarified that Claudine Barretto does not owe

Barretto belied rumors that she has unpaid debts to

"Lately, may mga lumalabas na baon baon daw ako sa utang kay Jinkee Pacquiao at saka lumalabas rin, meron kaming business or transaction or trabaho

na pinasukan na hindi nagprosper, parang ganyan,"

Pacquiao na kumare ko," she added.

issue and clearing her name.

name, @jinkeepacquiao."

according to a global survey.

the day before the survey.

"So kaklaruhin ko ngayon pa lang, wala po akong

kahit na anong utang kahit kanino. Kahit kay Miss Jinkee

Barretto also thanked Pacquiao for speaking up on the

Barretto posted a screenshot of Pacquiao's comment

on her livestream captioned: "Thank you for clearing my

Filipinos are among the most stressed people in the world

The same survey said the Philippines, along with three

other countries, also topped the list of most emotional

day, Gallup's annual Global Emotions report found 58

percent of Filipinos in 2018 to have experienced stress

Last year, the Philippines was the most emotional

country in Asia and the fourth in the world with 58

percent average "yes" responses to all questions.

nations last year. Asked about their feelings the previous

Pinoys among most stressed

Barretto held an Instagram livestream on Wednesday night to address the issue of her alleged debt to the wife

the United States of America (55 percent) ranked high on the list of world's most stressed populations. More than one in three people said they experienced

a lot of stress (35 percent) in the survey of more than 151,000 adults in over 148 countries in 2018.

The study measures life's intangibles-feelings and emotions—that traditional economic indicators such as GDP were never intended to capture.

PH among most emotional countries

The Philippines is among the world's most emotional countries in 2018, according to a global well-being index.

Six in 10 Filipinos reported experiencing positive or negative emotions the previous day the poll was conducted, the Gallup 2019 Global Emotions Report found.

The Philippines, along with Niger, Liberia and Ecuador, had an average 60-percent "yes" response among respondents, making up the top tier in the list of 12.

They were followed by Costa Rica, Sierra Leone, Papua New Guinea, and Peru at 59 percent, and Nicaragua, Honduras, Sri Lanka, and Guatemala at 58 percent.

Meanwhile, fewer than 4 in 10 residents in Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Latvia reported experiencing any positive or

negative feeling. Sociologist Clifford Sorita said the Gallup report shows that Filipinos are "in touch" with their emotions and does

not necessarily mean they are predisposed to "place our feelings above our intellect.

"Rather, the positive and negative questions asked in the survey regarding our day-to-day experiences reveals that Filipinos are "in-touch" with our emotions and that we do not hide behind them. This is possible because we have a strong social support mechanism of family and friends, which allows us to ventilate how we feel and cope with these emotions in a healthy way," he said.



Crime-drama series on love and justice

Two mothers with opposing versions of the truth will take a stand in the name of love and justice on the ABS-CBN primetime crime-drama series "Sino Ang May Sala?: Mea Culpa" to premiere tonight.

Starring in the series and returning to primetime is award-winning actress Jodi Sta. Maria, who plays Fina, a hardworking farmer who hopes to give her family a better future, and later on looks for and fights for her missing child.

She clashes with Bela Padilla, who plays a lawyer who covers up a crime, along with Tony Labrusca

Kit Thompson, Sandino Martin, Ivana Alawi, and Ketchup Eusebio.

Their real-life nightmare begins when Juris (Bela), Andrei (Tony), Gaylord (Sandino), Greco (Kit), Lolita (Ivana), and Bogs (Ketchup) travel to Baguio to celebrate after passing the bar.

The road trip takes a disastrous turn that will compromise their future - they get into an accident that will separate

Fina from her child, while Juris takes on adopting and raising the little girl.

They keep their dark secret hidden in the grave up until construction unearths a rotting corpse. Because of the news, Fina gets her hopes up, starts to believe that her daughter is still alive, and embarks on a search for her.

The controversial case then sparks a dispute between the two mothers - Fina believes her daughter is with Juris, who, in turn, defends herself against the accusation in order to keep the child she has raised and come to love.

Does Fina stand a chance to obtain justice against the five successful lawyers? Will she ever be reunited with her daughter? How long will Juris and her



FV Foods owner Mel Galeon and Alan Ocampo poses with TNT Boyzin

friends hide the truth?

Also part of the "Sino Ang May Sala?: Mea Culpa" cast are Agot Isidro, Janice de Belen, Ayen Munji-Laurel, Jay Manalo, Allan Paule, and Boboy Garovillo. It is under the production of Dreamscape Entertainment and directed by Andoy Ranay and



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Direct Line: 416-963-2444 EXT. 221 Tel: 416-963-2444

Fax: 416-963-3444

E-Mail: Alexguarnes@yahoo.com WWW.GUARNESLAWOFFICE.COM

Dueling Ouster Plots ignite the Philippines

Alleged "Oust Duterte" plot aimed at toppling the president targets journalists and could presage a clampdown ahead of pivotal midterm elections

In the run-up to crucial midterm elections, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has accused his media and civil society critics of plotting to overthrow his government, a politically charged accusation that some fear could presage a severe new crackdown on dissent.

The alleged plot, first published in the Manila Times newspaper and likely based on information provided by the President's Office, involves journalists who have allegedly attempted to "manipulate public emotion, touch base with the Leftist organization, enlist the support of the police and the military, then go for the 'kill' [of overthrowing Duterte].'

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo backed the validity of the conspiracy diagram published by Manila Times' owner Dante Ang, a known Duterte ally and advisor, which exposed an alleged "matrix" of progressive groups and media personalities involved in an anti-government plot.

The spokesman claimed that the "Oust Duterte" matrix corroborates the president's own intelligence findings, without elaborating.

'The source of that is from the Office of the President. It's from the President himself," Panelo said on April 22 during a press briefing. "I was supposed to release it [separately] today," he added, implying that there was no coordination with the Manila Times report.

In particular, the diagram accuses leading journalistic outlets such as Rappler, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism and the Vera Files, as well as the left-leaning National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL), which counts prominent opposition senatorial candidate Neri Colmenares among its ranks.

The accused journalists and lawyers have flatly rejected the matrix and related conspiracy as "a lie" intended to intimidate government critics and distract public attention from potential illicit activities by the presidential family and its closest allies ahead of hotly key elections next month. PCIJ lashed out at the plot accusation for being "wrong on many points" and constituting a violation of the named journalists' privacy.

Colmenares, meanwhile, threatened to sue the government on behalf of the NUPL. "It is an option, for this latest script that is absurd, funny, hilarious, if not life-threatening to those whose names are listed in the matrix," he said. The conspiracy claim came days after the circulation of a series of videos entitled "Ang Totoong Narcolist", or "the real narco list", by an anonymous source known as "Bikoy." The videos accuse the presidential family of years-long collaboration with Davao-based and international drug syndicates, including from

Last year, Paolo Duterte resigned from his vice mayor position in Davao amid Senate investigations into his alleged involvement in the drug trade and ties with drug syndicates. He has consistently and strongly denied the accusations. In September 2017, Duterte told police to "kill" his son if the drug trafficking allegations were proven true.

Still, the viral videos have undermined certain confidence in the tough-talking president, who has placed a scorched earth drug war at the heart of his policy agenda. Rights groups estimate as many as 16,000 suspects have been killed in the campaign.

His critics accuse him of not only widespread human rights violations, some of which have been taken up by International Criminal Court investigators, but also of a systematic

cover up of the real roots of the country's rampant and lucrative drug trade.

Certain opposition members have accused Duterte of orchestrating the drug war in order to conceal his family's involvement in the illicit business as well as eliminate any competition. Duterte and his family members have steadfastly denied the unproven claims.

Enraged by the "Bikoy" videos, the president has apparently struck back with his own accusation of a coup plot against his perceived political enemies, which if proven could justify their incarceration on treason or other anti-state charges.

Significantly, Philippine security forces have been quick to question the conspiracy

"There is always that possibility about groups wanting to oust him, but as of now we have not seen any specific threats likely to succeed to oust the president," Armed Forces of the Philippines public affairs chief Colonel Noel Detoyato said on April 22.

Even the Philippine National Police (PNP), which has been largely subservient to the president and a key actor in implementing his controversial drug war, has been openly skeptical of the supposed plot.

"As of this time, we don't have specific evidence on that," PNP chief General Oscar Albayalde said. "But the police will always be on their toes, regardless of whether there is an ouster plot or not."

Duterte's own daughter, Davao City mayor Sara Duterte, has also questioned the veracity of the alleged conspiracy to topple her father's government.

"I don't know if there has been a concerted effort, but let's give the media entity the benefit of the doubt on what they choose to report and deem as deserving of coverage for the people" she said.

Vice President Leni Robredo, Duterte's top political opponent, echoed that assessment. This is the second matrix: if you remember, in the first destabilization matrix, I was included. And it wasn't true."

In 2018, Robredo, was accused of involvement in a supposed conspiracy with leading businesses that included Jollibee, to topple Duterte's government. The list was circulated by Duterte's son, Paolo, who at the time was facing accusations pursued by the Senate of his involvement in the drug trade. No action was taken against those identified on that plot list.

But with this month's pivotal mid-term elections many seen as a de facto referendum on Duterte's nearly three years in office, there are concerns the latest allegation could be leveraged to justify a clampdown to quiet rising anti-government criticism.

Sophie Albert levels up her kontrabida game

Pagkatapos sampal-sampalin ni Carla Abellana sa Pamilya Roces ay si Max Collins naman ang mananampal nang bongga kay Sophie Albert.

Pangalawang beses nang isang kabit ang role ni Sophie. Hindi raw takot na ma-typecast si Sophie sa other woman roles. "No naman. As long as there's work, why not, di ba?" Mas challenging nga raw para sa kanya ang ganitong klaseng role. "And actually because nga TV, I'm not so worried about the scenes kasi nga it's still gonna be wholesome.

"Hindi naman siya talagang intense or super-sexy," paninigurado niya.

KONTRABIDA ROLE

At kahit magmula noong lumipat siya sa GMAnaman daw fans na nang-away sa kanya kapag

nakikita siya sa mga pampublikong lugar tulad ng mall. "I guess siguro sa Pamilya Roces kasi kahit kontrabida siya nabigyan namin ng... medyo lovable pa rin siyang kontrabida.

"This one [Bihag] is different, though. "Hindi siya masyadong lovable.

"Dito talagang full-force na kontrabida. "So let's see. First time, first time."

CHARACTER PEGS

May pinanood ba siyang mga pelikula para paggayahan ng papel ni Reign. Lahad niya, "Hindi naman gaya, but more on I really had to get into the mindset of somebody who's obsessed. "So, I have to really get myself into the character na medyo not in the right state of mind." Sa tunay na buhay ay hindi pa naman daw naranasan ni Sophie na ma-obsess sa kahit

na kanino. Dagdag pa ni Sophie tungkol sa karakter niyang si Reign sa Bihag.

"Ibang level of obsession, medyo dark obsession. And in real life meron talagang mga tao na ganoon! And will go thru any length to make the life of the person they're obsessed with miserable.

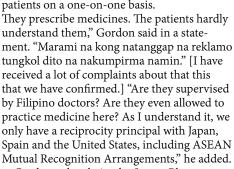
Marami akong napanood na documentaries na ganun, and also Fatal Attraction, The Hand That Rocked The Cradle also The Nann

"Very innocent looking siya and all, pero yun pala, pamatay."

Foreign doctors working in PH without permits

on Saturday called for a probe of syndicates allegedly bringing in foreign doctors in the country even without working permits.

Gordon's stemmed after reports that several Pakistani or Nepalese doctors had been practicing medicine as medical consultants here in the Philippines. "I am concerned because they are allowed to deal with patients on a one-on-one basis.



Gordon, who chairs the Senate Blue Ribbon committee, said that his office first saw a related incident at the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital, a government facility in Olongapo City. "Dapat matigil ito [this should be stopped] because this concerns the health and well-being of the public and I fear that this is being practiced not just in Olongapo but in other areas too," Gordon said.

Under the law, only the PRC is authorized to issue licenses or "special temporary permit to foreign professionals who desire to practice their professions in the country under reciprocity and other international agreements."



7 at kontrabida (o kabit) ang roles niya, wala pa MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Richard Gordon

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Yam Concepcion regrets doing nude scenes in the past

ctress Yam Concepcion admitted she would not have done her nude scenes in award-winning director Erik Matti's drama film "Rigodon" had she known they would be spread

Concepcion made the revelation in an interview on "Tonight with Boy Abunda" on April 22 when she was asked if she regretted doing sexy scenes in the past. The question came from a netizen via Twitter, which Abunda flashed on

"This has always been an issue sa akin. I'm not gonna deny, dun ako nanggaling (This has always been an issue for me. I'm not gonna deny, that's where I came from)," she said.

"Of course, dapat hindi mo kalimutan kung saan ka rin nanggaling, but I don't get it kung anong gusto niyong patunayan, kung anong gusto niyong maramdaman ko (Of course, we shouldn't forget where we came from, but I don't get what people are trying what they want me to feel)."

Concepcion appeared to be rferring

to those who spread her nude scenes in "Rigodon" online. Just this April, she called out a netizen after she found them

sharing the scenes on Twitter. She also appealed to those spreading the scenes to stop, saying she felt disrespected.

> That is why I'm working hard also, to prove also that's not only what I can do," she added. "So looking back, nagsisisi ka ba or do you view it as 'I needed to do it to get to where I am today?" asked Abunda.

Concepcion answered that everything happens for a reason, but that had she known, she would not have done the

"Everything happens for a reason, I guess that's part of my journey," she said. "I'll be honest with you, kung alam ko lang tito Boy, hindi ko na ginawa (had I known, tito Boy, I wouldn't have done it)."

Concepcion, back in 2014, said the sharing of the scenes in pornographic websites was disrespectful to the art she and director Matti created, adding they were done tastefully.

> 'Rigodon" was one of the Filipino films showcased in the New York Asian Film Festival in 2013 and the New Filipino Cinema Festival at

Buena Center for San Francisco,



CLAUDINE BARRETTO TO STAR IN COMEBACK MOV-IE WITH PIOLO PASCUAL

Claudine Barretto is set to return to the big screen with her former leading man, Piolo Pascual. The film will be directed by Cathy Garcia Molina and will be shot in Florence, Italy.

On her most recent guesting on Tonight With Boy Abuda, Claudine Barretto confirmed that she will start shooting the film this coming June or July with Piolo Pascual. The Optimum Star will be flying to Florence, Italy to shoot the film.

Host Boy Abunda first opened up the topic by asking Claudine if there is a possibility of her working on a project with Judy Ann Santos to which the actress replied, "Matagal na yan eh. Matagal na namin yan pinagusapan ni Juday. It's just that siguro wala talagang maganda pang project but I will be doing a movie this end of June or July in Florence with Piolo."

What can she say to the conclusion



After Liza Soberano's backs out of Darna, Angel Locsin responds to fans asking her to take n the role of Darna

'No': Angel Locsin says won't take back Darna role after Liza's withdrawal

Angel Locsin remains to be the top choice to play Philippine

At least, that's what fans keep telling her, usually -one can imagine—with hands clasped together in prayer, ignoring that she herself has said that her time as the Pinay superhero is up and that it's only right to hand down the fabled "bato" to someone else to keep the character's legacy alive.

It's been more than a decade since Locsin wore the iconic costume for a TV series, imbuing it with gravitas and grace –a famous performance that defined, in the eyes of many, what a strong female superheroine should be for years to come.

She was supposed to don it again for a movie but had to exit the project due to health concerns regarding her back. Since then, she has expressed her full support for her replacement, young actress Liza Soberano, and yet there were still rumblings.

This noisy clamor for her to take the role back found headwind when she was seen doing stunts for her primetime series "The General's Daughter." It only grew stronger when it was revealed that Soberano has decided to back out because of a finaer iniury.

But Locsin's answer remained to be a firm "no."

Her first thought when the news broke out, she shared, was not that if she could possibly reconsider putting on the costume again. Rather, it was one of worry.

"Nag-alala ako sa kaniya," she said of Soberano.(I was worried about her.)

"Kung mayroon man sigurong tao na makakaintindi sa pinagdadaanan niya ngayon, ako iyon. Nag-alala ako na sana OK lang siya. So nag-try ako mag-message sa kanya. Sabi ko lang , 'Liza.' "Sagot niya, 'Ate, I'm sorry.'"

"Naramdaman ko kung gaano siya ka-devastated sa nangyari and kung gaano niya kagusto i-please iyong network and fans niya na nagaantay. Pero siyempre, kailangan din niyang alagaan iyong sarili niya. Siguro ganoon din niya kamahal iyong role, na feeling niya hindi niya maibibigay iyong buo

She also begged fans to give the selection process for the new Darna some time, true to the comics' lore about the hero, "ang bato talaga ni Darna, namimili ng tao. Hindi basta basta lang." (Darna's stone chooses. It's not that simple.)

Kathryn, ikinalungkot ang pagbitiw ni Liza bilang Darna

MANILA – Ikinalungkot ni Kathryn Bernardo ang pagbibitiw ni Liza Soberano sa pelikulang Darna.

Umaasa naman si Kathryn na makakahanap ng doktor si Liza para maipagamot ito at alam ng aktres na hindi biro ang pinagdadaanan ni Liza.

Nanghinayang din si Kathryn lalo at puspusan na rin ang naging paghahanda ni Liza sa proyekto.

Sa ngayon ay gusto muli ni Kathryn na gumanap bilang Darna si Angel Locsin.

Shaira says there's no secret understanding between her and Edgar Allan

the Yerba

the Arts in

California,

SHAIRA Diaz auditioned for "Sahaya" and she felt sad when she did not qualify as a member of the cast. "But it turned out, may iba palang project waiting for me," she says. "Kasi mas maganda ang role ko as Sam in the new primetime romcom na 'Love You Two, as the sister of Jennylyn Mercado na magiging ka-love triangle niya kay Gabby Concepcion."

There were many young actresses who auditioned for the role of Sam and she was surprised when she was informed that she was the one who got it.

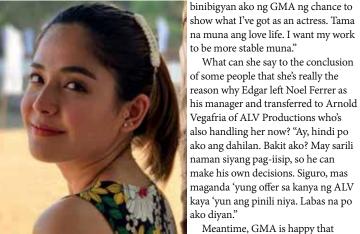
"Naiisip ko nga, baka mas deserving 'yung ibang nag-audition kaysa sa'kin, but the fact na sa'kin ito ibinigay, it means may nakita sila sa'kin and it's now my turn to show na pagbubutihan ko talaga para naman hindi sila magsisi na akong kinuha nila as Sam. I really feel so blessed to be given the chance to work with Jen and Kuya Gabby kasi, bukod sa ang laki ng role, it's really great to be working with such established stars in the industry like them. Second show ko pa lang ito sa GMA after 'Pamilya Roces', pero ang laking role agad ang ibinigay sa akin. I'm really very thankful to GMA for making me a part of this show. Nang sabihan akong ako ang nakuha, pinamalita ko agad sa family and friends ko. 'Yung mga tita ko, naiinggit sa'kin, lalo when they learned may kissing scene with Kuya Gabby. Dapat daw, sila na lang ang kinuha. Sa simula pa lang ng taping namin, si Kuya Gabby, very helpful agad. He felt na kinakabahan ako noong una, but he guided me. Sabi niya, practice muna tayo para hindi ka mailang, so we rehearsed our scene so I would loosen up. Ang

bait niya. Sa story, I would fall in love with him kahit malaki ang agwat ng ages namin. In real life, very charming talaga si Kuya Gabby so I'm not surprised women easily fall for him."

Has she experienced falling in love with someone older than her in real life? "Naku, hindi po. Kaya nga challenge din po sa'kin ang role kasi I want to show kung ano ba ang personality ni Sam at nabaliw siya sa isang lalaking puwede

na niyang maging daddy in real life. With the help of our director, Irene Villamor, hindi naman po ako nahirapan in interpreting my role."

Didn't Edgar Allan Guzman, her boyfriend when she was still with TV5, get jealous when she kissed Gabby? It's said that they didn't really break up and it's just a ruse to distract those who are against their relationship. "Totoo pong nag-break kami. But we've remained friends naman. Bawal ba pati 'yung friendship? Sa lahat ng nagsasabing ayaw lang namin umamin, e di bahala kayo sa gusto nyong paniwalaan. Basta whether you believe it or not, I want to focus on my career muna, lalo na ngayong



Meantime, GMA is happy that "Love You Two" quickly became a trending topic online right from its pilot episode. Various netizens registered their approval on social media. Says @PinoyTr1013" "First few scenes pa lang, it's easy to see that Jennylyn Mercado is really the Queen of RomComs #LoveYouTwo." And @1995xejgn adds: "Ang husay ni Jen pagdating sa rom-com, very very light lang and natural itong atake ng #LoveYouTwo. Queen Jennylyn Mercado is really the ROMCOM Queen. Revelation din si Clint Bondad! Ang husay ni Shaira Diaz! Thank you again

for this @gmadrama @gmanetwork @mercadojen @



Shairadiaz .'

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Maymay Entrata joins cast account. of Kathryn-Alden film

will join the upcoming Cathy Garcia-Moli- [Sangre]," she added.

The 21 year old act



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HANNAH MAKES HER FAMILY PROUD

(1) Johannah Baguisa Alilio makes her family proud playing the part of Dorothy in her school musical. Posing with her are her mom (2) Perly Baguisa, her tita Teo Baguisa Paculanan and (3) family and friends. She is currently grade 11 at Father Michael Mcgivney Catholic Academy.

ryn Bernardo and Alden Richards.

Entrata happily announced the news in a video posted by ABS-CBN Music Head Roxy Liquigan on Thursday via his Twitter

"Ang movie po ni Ms. Kathryn Bernardo

at si Sir Alden, makakasama po ako doon," Entrata said. "Sobrang excited na ako dahil sobrang kakaiba 'yung

story nila. Tapos kakaiba 'yung support ko dito kay Ms. MANILA, Philippines — Maymay Entrata Kathryn. Kahit na support na po talaga ako sa La Luna

The 21-year-old actress previously worked with Ber-

nardo in ABS-CBN's 2017 fantasy drama series "La Luna Sangre."

She also thanked Garcia-Molina for the opportunity to ioin the upcoming movie's cast: "Direk Cathy, maraming salamat din po ma'am, kung isa man po kayo sa sumang-ayon na maging parte po ako ng cast niyo, maraming salamat po. Talagang napakalaking oportunidad po

Bernardo and Richards' new project together was an-: nounced by film production company Star Cinema in early



Nadeene Panaligan, (4TH FROM LEFT), poses with family at her confirmation at the Prince of Peace Parish.

RAFAEL NEBRES GETS **FCT AWARD**

Rafael Nebres (3RD FROM LEFT), manager of Action Honda receives an Outstanding Seniors Award at the Filipino Centre Toronto

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VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS

Therese as one of 'most hated': **Preparing for fallback**

THERESE Malvar is now one of the most hated villains on televi-

sion for her portrayal of Ariela in "Inagaw na Bituin". How does she react to all the bashing she's getting for being so mean and bitchy to Kyline Alcantara and her sister who has since died?

"Áctually, expected ko naman pong magagalit ang viewers sa kamalditahan ko but 'yung grabeng feedback ng haters is more than I expected," she says. "One episode na i-sabotage ang performance nina Kyline and Melbelline, umabot ng 1 million hits at sobrang galit talaga ang viewers sa akin, hating me with a passion. At first, medyo ako affected ako, but then, iniisip ko na lang na hindi naman sila sa akin galit nang personal but doon sa character ko, so hindi ako dapat magalit din sa kanila. It's Ariela who's being bashed, not



really me as Therese."

But since then, there have been some changes in the way that the story is going. "Lately, mas bumait na 'yung character ko, e," adds Therese. "Lumambot na ang puso ni Ariela.



Gabby happy to be with young co-stars

GABBY Concepcion says he's thankful to GMA-7 for giving him

shows where his leading ladies are much younger than him, like Carla Abellana in "Because of You" and Sunshine Dizon and Ryza Cenon in "Ika-6 na Utos", both big hits. He's now paired with Jennylyn Mercado who's just turning 32 on May 15. He's 54, so Jen could very well be his daughter, since his own



eldest child, KC Concepcion, is now 34 years old.

But in all fairness to Gabby, he has really taken very good care of himself and looks much younger than his age. His star quality has not diminished and a lot of girls still find him very appealing. And judging from the way the viewing public has warmly accepted his shows with his past younger

co-stars, we have enough reason to believe that "Love You Two" will also be a big hit on GMA Telebabad."

"Masaya talaga na mas bata ang mga nagiging kapareha ko kasi nakakabata rin ng feeling, e," he says. "Dito ngayon sa set ng 'Love You Two', I'm really enjoying kasi batambata rin ang director namin, si Irene Villamor, so nakakabagets talaga at Lalo na nang si Angelika de la Cruz as Lucy, nabisto nang siya pala ang kumidnap sa anak ni Sunshine Cruz as Belinda na si Ana kaya pinaghahanap na siya ng mga pulis. Nag-sorry na nga ako kay Angelu de Leon as Aurora para sa mga kasamaang ginawa ko sa kanila ni Kyline Alcantara as Elsa. Pero magkakaroon ng bagong villain sa show, si Gabby Eigenmann as George

who felt betrayed pagkatapos na umurong si Belinda at ayaw nang ituloy ang showbiz career niya after matagpuan ang nawawalang anak at maging reunited na sila nito. Paplanuhin naman niyang maghiganti kina Belinda at Anna."

Off camera, Therese is a very obedient to her mom, Cherry Malvar, who's also a character actress. Despite her hectic showbiz work, she strives hard to continue with her studies. "Yes, I make it a point to do my homework and assignments kaya dinadala ko sila sa set so I can do them during shooting breaks," she says. "It's good high tech na tayo kaya, with the help of my laptop, I can accomplish the requirements I need in school while I'm working on the set. I promised my parents

na hindi ko pababayaan ang aking pag-aaral kaya naman I'm doing my best para tuparin 'yon, kasi alam ko namang it's for my own good. We all know naman na ang acting is not always stable so mas mabuti na rin kung may maganda akong fallback kung wala nang magandang offers sa'kin sa showbiz."



para lang kaming naglalaro sa taping namin. Pati ibang co-stars namin, puro mas bata, like Solenn Heussaff, Sheena Halili, Kiray Celis, Michelle Dee. So magaan ang trabaho ng lahat. Feeling ko, introducing ulit ako and I have nothing to complain about, but only a lot to be thankful for."

In "Love You Two", Gabby plays Jake, a rich hotel owner who

is initially at odds with Jennylyn Mercado as Raffy, who he hired to do some designs for his hotel. Complications occur when both Jennylyn and her younger sister, Shaira Diaz as Sam, both fall in love with the irresistible Gabby.

A lot of writers wanting to interview Gabby one-on-one at the pressoon of "Love You Two" were disappointed. Right after

the question-and-answer portion, Gabby quickly left, obviously avoiding being interviewed more intimately. He's currently in the news because his younger brother Mike filed a case in court against him for "fraudulent sales" of a family property.

While Gabby seems to be hiding, Mike is allowing himself to be interviewed in various media. He was on DZMM saying

to Gabby: "Bro, you have a lot of the things that can make this right. Sundan mo lang 'yon and everything will be back to normal. We can have breakfast tomorrow morning sa bahay, we can hug each other, we can do what we used to do. That's all. Maisauli lang, mailagay lang sa ayos lahat and all will be fine."

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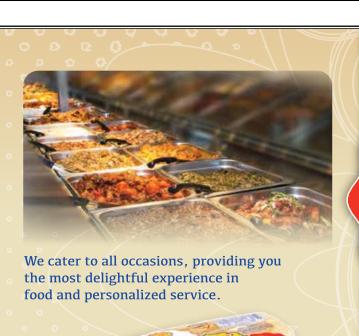
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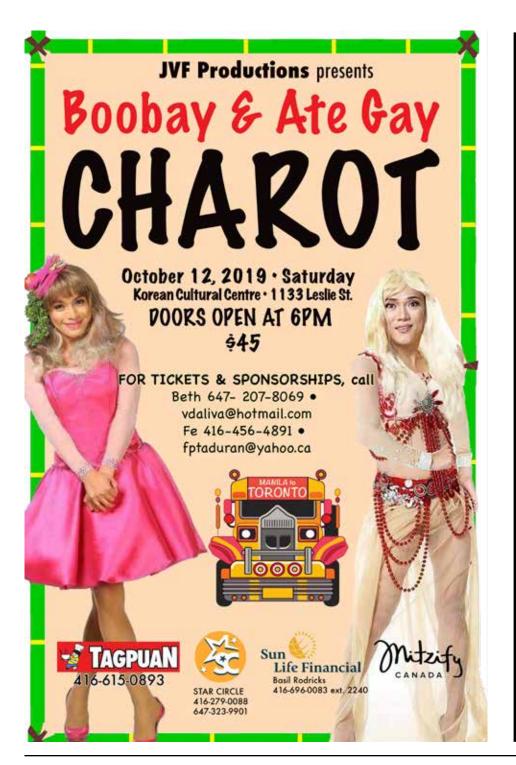
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Darren Espanto defends Jayda Avanzado from his fans who are reportedly bashing Jayda Avanzado.

Darren Espanto tells fans to stop threatening Jayda Avanzado

Nagsalita na si Darren Espanto, 17, sa matinding pambabatikos na natatamo ng kanyang kapwa Star Magic artist na si Jayda Avanzado, 15.

Mismong ina ni Jayda na si Jessa Zaragoza ang umalma sa pagbitiw ng masasamang salita ng isang natukoy na fan ni Darren laban sa kanyang anak. Sa pakikipagpalitan ng tweets ng naturang fan sa isang kaibigan nito, inakusahan nilang ginagaya ni Jayda ang ex-Pinoy Big Brother teen housemate at singer na si Ylang Garcia

Umabot sa puntong nag-tweet ang kinilalang Darrenatics fan na "kill that girl" laban kay Jayda—na naging sanhi upang mag-alala nang husto ang mag-asawang Jessa at Dingdong Avanzado para sa kanilang anak.

Inako naman ni Darren ang pagkondena sa mga netizen na nanakot at naninira kay Jayda.

Tweet ni Darren: "Please RESPECT JAYDA and STOP THE ATE."

Agad na nagpasalamat ang ama ni Jayda na si Dingdong sa pagtatanggol ni Darren sa anak ng veteran singer.

Ang reply ni Dingdong sa tweet ni Darren: "Thank you for being a true friend to @jaydaavanzado your actions really show what you are really made of.

"Your parents raised you well.

"You have set a good example for others especially your generation to emulate."

Sina Darren at Jayda ay kilalang magkaibigan at minsan na ring hinangaan nang sila ay mag-duet para sa sarili nilang bersiyon ng "Rewrite The Stars," na sumikat sa hit musical movie na The Greatest Showman.

Bad Sex causes Cristine Reyes' marriage split

UP TO now ay mum pa rin si Cristine Reyes sa dahilan ng break-up nila ng asawang si Ali

All that she could mutter in her recent inter-



view is "we're civil."

No, she's not about to divulge the reason why they separated. She wanted to keep it that

But to her closest amigas, Cristine is said to be very vocal as to what straw broke the camel's

Apparently, Cristine was telling her female friends that she broke up with her husband because he's giving her cold nights. Naging malamig na raw ang kanyang esposo sa kanya and their physical intimacy waned.

Being still young, hindi matanggap ni Cristine ang panlalamig sa kanya ng kanyang dyowa. Hindi pa naman siya losyang, bata pa naman siya ang she could give other girls stiff competition when it comes to their bodies. Super sexy si Cristine, she still has the dangerous curves and the to-die-for- bod.

Noong una, Cristine suspected that there was a third party. But there was none. Ang nakakaloka pa raw, when her husband makes love to her ay may mga hiling allegedly ang guy, usually gadgets.

Hindi na raw nakayanan ni Cristine ang ganitong situation kaya she decided to split

with her husband. True ba ang lahat ng ito, Cristine? Can we have your side of the story? Hindi kasi kami naniniwala na that was the reason sa break up n'yo ni Ali.

Anyway, busy naman si Cristine sa kanyang career. She's cast in Nang Ngumiti Ang Langit series and her movie "Maria" is still showing.

Yam lands in hospital for doing 'Halik'

YAM Concepcion's role as Jade in "Halik" definitely boosted her No one really knows her career. this, but her character as before cho Rosales' unfaithful Jeriwife in the series suddenly made people take notice of and she became one of the most hated women in local television. How aid she react to all the bitter and cruel bashings that she got? "Actually, ang

na nagagalit sila sa akin," she says. "It means I'm effective in doing my job. Pero noong una, I admit, nasasaktan ako, kasi tao rin lang naman ako. But I realized hindi naman sila sa'kin nagagalit kundi kay Jade. I am just playing a character and, sa

sarap ng feeling

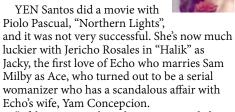
totoo lang, I like her, kasi she's just human. After she had a miscarriage, she had post partum depression, unpredictable mood swings, and I can relate with her insecurities and flaws. In the end, she's really a fighter and I can accept her victories and defeats."

She says she'll really miss "Halik" now that it's going to end in two weeks. "I'll miss all the sampalan, kahit nagkakasakitan kami. One time, nadala ako sa ER sa tindi ng sampal sa'kin ni Yen Santos. Nasaktan talaga ako but hindi naman niya sinasadya. I will miss din lahat ng kasama ko rito sa cast, lalo na si Amy Austria na para talagang naging nanay sa amin. Lagi rin siyang may baon sa set na inaabangan ko nga lagi tuwing may taping kami. Mami-miss ko rin ang director namin, si Direk Cathy Amarillo. Naging malalim ang connection namin kasi sobrang helpful siya sa'kin in interpreting Jade. I will miss all the friendship na nabuo namin ng buong cast sa show," at this point, Yam becomes emotional and starts crying.

Ruel S. Bayani, head of the RSB Business Unit that produced "Halik" says it started airing last August and is a consistent hit for 8 months. "It's the most successful show in my career as a business unit head," he adds. "It's currently being replayed on iWant and is one of the most viewed shows there now. Its rights have also been bought in some African countries. I'm really proud of what it has achieved and I want to thank all the actors and all the staff. We won't be this successful without their concerted efforts."

+ other stories

Yen luckier with Echo than Piolo



"I felt na nagmarka pala sa tao ang role ko as Jacky when, one time, I was eating in a restaurant and someone approached me and told me, 'Ma'am Jacky, puwede ba 'wag kang tatanga-tanga? Niloloko na nga ng asawa mo, wala ka pang alam.' Natuwa ako kasi it means na nanonood talaga sila ng show. Alam nila ang mga nangyayari sa story nito. I really feel so blessed na mapasama sa isang very successful show like 'Halik'. Hindi ko na siya malilimutan for the rest of my life."

She has nothing but good words for Jericho as her leading man. "He's such a generous co-actor," she says. "Talagang tutulungan ka niya kasi gusto niyang mapaganda nyo ang mga eksena nyo together. Ang lahat naman, very collaborative ang working relationship sa set. Lahat, nagtutulungan. Kaya yung friendship na nabuo namin sa cast ng 'Halik', hindi talaga matutumbasan ng salapi. Kahit mabibigat lagi ang mga eksena namin sa show, gumagaan kasi lahat ng kasama mo, puro helpful at mababait."

JOJO TADURAN continued from page 1

born on September 26, 1941, a Friday, in Bato, Camarines Sur, in the southeastern part of Luzon in the Philippines. He was a proud Bicolano. He worked his way through school in Manila, taking on odd jobs. He embarked on a career as journalist and made a name for himself. He was on radio via a radio program aired daily countrywide, the "Pulong-Pulong sa Kaunlaran." He was also a prolific print journalist, having written for many national newspapers in the Philippines. He is a Lifetime member of the National Press Club of the Philippines, a professional and social organization of journalists in the Philippines, which was incorporated in 1952 through the initiative of his mentor, Teodoro F. Valencia.



My Dad was relevant. He totally embraced technology,

maintaining a website, www.ugnayan.com, which he regularly updated. He introduced his friend Eddie Flores' muntingnayon.com website to Filipino Canadians. He was the quintessential journalist. Seeing his work ethic and passion, it was no surprise that I also pursued a degree in Journalism.

Personally, I feel so blessed that he was there to walk me down the aisle when I married Ferenc in October 2017. Family and friends, to this day, still tell me that our father-daughter dance was the best. He let my Mom deliver their message to Ferenc and I. For his part, it was not the usual speech or toast; he sang me a love song. Papa, "Portrait of My Love," will always be our song.

I know my Dad is looking down on this and us. I am sure he will see how loved he really is, looking at the number of people here today. My Dad would have loved all this attention from his family and friends.

What can I say about the world's greatest dad? He was honest and honourable. He was kind. He was fair and real. He was definitely sweet, charismatic, gentle, loving and giving. He was passionate in what he believed in. He worked hard on everything he put his hands on. My Dad has taught me many lessons in life. He enjoyed teaching and I loved learning from him & Mom. Many of you here would know how genuinely involved he was with community undertakings. He was a part of numerous Filipino-Canadian events.

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LITTLE MANILA confidential <u> entertainment</u>

At 19, Loisa Andalio builds family's first owned home

sigh of relief because soon their family will have their very own home. While some teens are still figuring out their dreams, at the age of 19, Loisa was able to fulfill her family's dream. On Instagram, the Star Magic star revealed that she and her family had been living with others for 20 years. Like any daughter, she wished they could have their own home too.

Loisa Andalio can finally breathe a

Now, Loisa posed at the top balcony of her mansion that is still under construction. She's urging herself to work harder. Loisa wrote, "Trabaho pa Loisa, para matapos na."

The teenage actress continued, "After 20 years na nakikitira lang kami, natupad din 'yung pangarap ko na magkaroon kami ng sariling bahay, 'yung matatawag namin "Nakikitira kami dati" been proud of her humble beginnings. na bahay talaga namin. Thank you, Lord!"

Last September, Loisa shared their house's



foundation which was still under construction. She also said that her family members will be getting their own rooms.

The Pinoy Big Brother alumnus has always

Dubbed as the "Darling

of Parañaque", Loisa doesn't mind being called



jologs" for her difficulty in speaking the English language. She previously shared, "Hindi po kasi talaga ako lumaki sa pamilyang Inglisero at Inglisera. Tagalog po

talaga kami."

She added, "Laking kalye din po kasi talaga ako. Before ako mag-showbiz, 6 to 14 years old, naglalaro ako sa kalye at lagi akong nasa labas ng bahay namin - patentero, luksong-baka."

Loisa admitted that she doesn't aspire to be "sosyal" because that's not who she really is; saying, "Walang mali na hindi ka nakikisabay sa mga sosyal-sosyal. Hindi mo kailangang mag-pretend na hindi naman ikaw. Maging totoo ka lang, at least hindi ka nahihirapan na itago 'yung sarili mo, nai-enjoy mo pa 'yung mga ginagawa mo."



NETIZENS THINK NADINE LUSTRE'S ABS-CBN CONTRACT SIGNING IS FOR DARNA

Actress Nadine Lustre became the hot topic on the internet once again when she signed a two-year contract with ABS-CBN on April 25. This contract signing led netizens to believe that Nadine's renewal with the network is because she will be replacing Liza Soberano for Darna.

The caption of VIVA Communications employee, Miguel Laureta, even magnified the rumors about the Darna project. He captioned the photos of the contract signing with "Konti na lang, lilipad na. @nadine contract signing in ABS-CBN."

These Actresses Share Their Thoughts on Who the Next Darna Should Be

Nadine Lustre, Angel Locsin, and more talk about the role.

The Darna remake has had fans waiting in anticipation for years now, and with Liza Soberano's recent withdrawal from the role, fans are intent on casting the new Darna and have been very vocal about it on social media.

Miss Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach recently declared that she's willing to play Darna if given the chance, and former Darna director Erik Matti has said that he sees Nadine Lustre in the role. As early as now though, some of the front-runners have given their opinions regarding the new casting.

Here are five actresses who have more or less said "no" to playing Darna:

Kathryn Bernardo: "I imagine Darna as someone who's a bit older than me."

According to Bernardo, snagging the role of Darna may not be a priority for her, saying that a more mature actress would better fill the role. "Personally, Darna is such an iconic role. Alam mo, dream lahat ng babae siguro na maging si Darna, pero, siguro, it's not for me kasi hindi porke't gusto mo 'yong role, pwede siya sa iyo, e." She continues, "For me, may binabagayan siya, and 'yong nai-imagine, napipiktyuran ko as Darna is someone who's a bit older than me. Someone na parang mas woman. Woman na talaga."

Nadine Lustre: "It doesn't have to be me." Although Lustre didn't exactly close her doors at playing the iconic superhero, she says that she's sure the role will be given to someone who's really deserving of it. "I'm really happy that they [her fans] are very supportive, but I know naman kasi that the role is going to be given to someone who's deserving and someone who can do it. I mean, it doesn't have to be me. It just has to be someone who can give justice to the role."

Jessy Mendiola: "Dapat talagang morena this

"May Darna bang blonde? " Mendiola says in an interview with ABS-CBN. "Personally I think na dapat morena kasi nakakalimutan na siya ng Generation Z. 'Yong iba pag tinatanong 'yong mga bata, 'Kilala mo ba si Darna?' Tapos sasabihin nila, 'Sino si Darna?' Parang feeling ko kung Pinay superhero dapat talagang morena this time."

Maja Salvador: "Sana si Angel Locsin." Although Salvador expressed her joy at being cast by fans as Darna, she says that she still sees Angel Locsin as the superhero. "Sana si Angel Locsin, because Darna is Angel Locsin, Angel Locsin is Darna. Ang hirap tanggalin ni Angel Locsin kay Darna. Pag sinabi mong

Darna, nakatatak talaga sa kanya, e. Perfect, e. Katawan, Pinay beauty, skills, lahat. Sana."

Angel Locsin: "Ang bato talaga ni Darna, namimili ng tao. Hindi basta basta lang."

Locsin, who played Darna on the small screen more than 10 years ago, remains firm in her decision not to play the role again. Her final statement: "Of course, masaya ako sa pagmamahal na binibigay nila...Maraming salamat po sa pagmamahal, pero, no."

Arci Muñoz, Yassi Pressman, Anne Curtis, Julia Montes, Gabbi Garcia, Sanya Lopez, Bianca Umali, Maja Salvador, Nadine Lustre, Pia Wurtzbach

Maja Salvador not keen on Darna role

Maja Salvador on fans' clamor for her to play Darna: "Nakakatuwa lang na marami ang may gusto, pero di ko kayang sagutin kung tatanggapin ko kasi ang hirap magsalita. Nandun ako sa ang hirap sundan."

Kabilang si Maja Salvador sa mga pangalan ng ilang aktres na hinihiling ng maraming netizens na gumanap bilang Darna ngayong hindi na matutuloy gawin ni Liza Soberano ang movie remake

ng Pinay superhero. Para sa iba, bagay na bagay daw kay Maja ang role dahil bukod sa Pinay na ganda nito ay swak din daw ang husay ng Kapamilya actress sa comedy, drama, at maging sa aksyon. Lahad niya, 'Natutuwa ako.

"Nagulat ako, nakahiga lang ako nung gabing yun, trending ako. "'Bakit ako trend-

ing? Ano ang nangyayari?' Pagka-click ko, about Darna pala.

"Si Liza, parang baby sister ko yan.

Parang hindi ako sumabay, ayokong sumabay sa ingay nun sa pagwi-withdraw niya sa Darna, kasi love ko yan, e. "Respeto ko sa kanya.

"I'm sure masakit sa kanya, alam ko na masakit sa kanya

at alam ko na gustung-gusto niya gampanan ang Darna para sa nga fans niya.

'Marami ang naghihintay pero may mga sitwasyon nga na di mo mapipilit.

"Kailangan nating unahin ang kalagayan natin, yung naaksidente niyang kamay."

Ayon kay Maja, di rin biru-biro ang pressure na dadaanan

ng kung sinumang mapipili bilang bagong Darna. Inamin din niyang di pa siya makapagbigay ng sagot kung tatanggapin niya ang role.kung iaalok nga sa kanya.

'Nandun ako sa ang hirap sundan." Iwas namang magbigay ng komento si Maja tungkol sa bali-balitang magbabalik-showbiz na raw ang kaibigan

niyang aktor na si John Lloyd Cruz. "Bilang isang kapatid niya, I respect him. I respect his

"Ayokong magsalita, ayokong galing sa akin."

Is Catriona Gray open to auditioning for Darna?

Is Catriona Gray willing to try acting and audition for the

Miss Universe 2018 laughed before answering, "Am I open for acting? Yes, I'm open for acting.

"I'm open to any opportunity that may come my way. "Acting is a field that I have not yet had any experience in but I'm a very eager learner."

Since Liza Soberano backed out from playing the Pinay superheroine, Star Cinema is now looking for the actress to bring life to the new Darna.

Catriona pointed out, "As for auditioning for a certain role, I would very much be open to it."

What has kept her busy for the past few months? 'The last time that I was here in the Philippines, it was the homecoming. It was very emotional for me. I think I cried everday that week. I was so overwhelmed

Erik Matti says Nadine Lustre is his pick to replace Liza Soberano as Darna

Nadine is a fan favorite for the role of the iconic superhero

Even Erik Matti is on

him, it's Nadine Lustre.

Team #DarNadine. The former director for the upcoming Darna remake weighed in on the ongoing conversation about who will take over the Darna role after Liza Soberano's exit, and for

"After [Liza] I only see Nadine Lustre so far as someone who can be Darna. Very sultry. She has a lot of female sensuality and at the same time still looks tough and very Filipina," Erik

"The key to casting Darna has always been someone who can look plain and ordinary in her Narda alter ego but can be tough, spunk and can be very sexy as well when she transforms to Darna. Nadine can look all of that,"

The Ulan actress was a favorite when netizens named their bets for the next Darna.

Aside from Nadine, Pia Wurtzbach, Maja Salvador, Maine Mendoza, and Kathryn Bernardo were also favored by netizens as the next actress to play the iconic role that has historically been played by the likes of Vilma Santos, Regine Velasquez, Marian Rivera, and Angel

Sanya Lopez surprised by clamor for her to play Darna

Nagulat si Sanya Lopez sa dami na netizens na umayona bagay siyang mag-Darna matapos ma-post ang edited picture na naka-Darna costume siya.

"Parang sa Bench po yata na picture yun," pakli ni Sanya nang makausap ng PEP.ph (Philippine Entertainment Portal) sa pictorial ng Kapuso teledramang Nang Dahi sa Pag-ibig nitong Abril 8, Lunes, sa Studio 4 ng GMA Network.

"Tapos, nag-post pa ang kapatid ko. Parang nag-trending po yata ako noong day na pinost," pagtukoy ng Kapus actress sa Instagram post ng kuya niyang si Jak Roberto.

Dagdag pa ni Sanya, "Nakakatuwa dahil kinokonsider po

"Pero siyempre, dapat ibigay pa rin po sa karapat-dapat." Nagulat ba si Sanya

nang mag-trending siya dahil sa Darna? "Nakakatuwa, naka-

katuwa dahil siyempre,

sobrang strong ng character ni Darna, very empowered.

"Pero siyempre, iniisip ko pa rin na may karapat-dapat para doon and, for sure, ibibigay po ng Star Cinema sa karapat-dapat," tugon ng sexy actress.

Ang ABS-CBN/Star Cinema ngayon ang may hawak ng rights para sa pagsasapelikula ng Darna.

Inamin ni Sanya na pangarap niyang gumanap na superhero.

Aniya, "I think, lahat naman po yata ng artista ngayon, gustong maging superhero, in a way."

Pinangarap niyang maging Darna?

"Noong bata pa lang po ako, pangarap ko na pong maging Darna.

"Pero sa ngayon po kasi, mahirap pangarapin ang Darna dahil hindi po sa GMA.

"Pero masaya na po ako nun na kinonsider po ako." Pangarap din ni Sanya na maging bida-kontrabida sa TV

Peg niya ang Rhodora X (2014) ni Jennylyn Mercado. "Opo, pangarap ko pong makagawa ng bida/kontrabida.

Yung makita pa po ang ibang Sanya. "Hindi yung palaging nakikita lang nila akong umiiyak,

sa drama na ganito. "Gusto kong makita rin nila ang side na, 'Ay! Puwede

"So, I think po, yung Rhodora X ni Ate Jen. Para nakikita yung dalawang side."

Yen Santos has no illusion of becoming the next Darna

Yen Santos on success of Halik: "Super-duper happy and very thankful talaga na naging hit



yung show." Naisip ba ni Yen Santos na maging kapalit ni Liza

> Darna ng ABS-CBN Star Cinema? 'Ay! Wow! Naku po!

Soberano sa pelikulang

bulalas ni Yen.

"Baka po puwedeng ako na lang yung bato!" at tumawa si Yen.

Paano kung isa siya sa makunsidera na maging Darna?

'Naku! Feeling ko po ano, hindi po yun para sa akin," sambit ni Yen.

Magtatapos na in three weeks ang Kapamilya teleseryeng Halik, pero hindi pa makakapagbakasyon sa States si Yen.

Nagsu-shoot pa kasi siya ng pelikulang Two Love You, kasama sina Hashtag Kid Yambao at Lassy Marquez.

Sino o ano ang mami-miss ni Yen sa pagwawakas ng kanilang teleserye?

"Maraming mami-miss dahil ang tagal naming nagsama-sama. So, siyempre, yung friendship, nandoon

Noong Agosto 13, 2018 nag-umpisa ang

Ilang beses na silang na-extend, kaya hindi na sila nag-request na ma-extend pa.

Ina Raymundo's daughter Erika Rae is va-va-voom in first pictorial

Ina Raymundo's 17-year-old daughter Erika Rae has shown interest in joining showbiz... not beauty pageants.

Is that you, Ina Raymundo?

But the caption revealed that the young lady was Ina's eldest daughter Erika Rae Poturnak, who, for many years, had been "camera shy," but began coming out of her shell late last year.

The proud mom wrote, "She's all that [fire emoji] @erikarae.p

"My eldest daughter has been camera shy for years but it's finally sinking in that it's ok to show what she's got. [collision emoji]."

Mark Nicdao handled the photo shoot.

To the fans who asked: "Is she joining showbiz?" Will she let Erika become the next Sabado Nights girl? In 1995, Ina earned such moniker following the popularity of her television commercial for a liquor brand. The mom of five replied, "May pangarap nga ako na nakini-kinita ko na when she's at the right age, parang yung 'Sabado Nights' commercial ko, it's so nice to pass it on to her. "Na parang nasa bar kami 'tapos siya yung papasok, 'tapos magmi-meet kami as mom and daughter, may date kami.

"Ayaw kong mag-preempt, pero I'm such a daydreamer. So, that's one of my daydreams na sa kanya malilipat yung title."

How about Ina's "Miss Universe" dream? At present, joining a beauty pageant is the farthest thing from her mind.

Ina related, "Sabi ko nga, 'Erika ipagpatuloy mo yung 'Miss Universe.'

"Sabi niya, 'You are so obsessed.' Sobra raw ang obsession ko sa beauty pageants.

"Sabi ko, 'Why not?' One of my daughters to be ano [beauty queen], why not?

"She's 5 feet 4 inches to 5 feet 5 inches tall. Pero ayaw raw niya

For now, the 17-year-old teen's priority is her studies.

"Ibibigay ko ang lahat": Pia Wurtzbach willing to audition for 'Darna' role

Pia Wurtzbach isn't sugarcoating her willingness to grab the highly coveted role of "Darna."

After Liza Soberano announced that she has decided to withdraw from the "Darna" project, netizens have been

throwing their bets perfect to play the role.

One of the netizens' frontrunners is Pia Wurtzbach.
The 2015 Miss Universe admitted

The 2015 Miss Universe admitted she feels flattered just being considered by netizens. Speaking with MJ Felipe, Wurtzbach said, "I'm very flattered they think I could play

the role of Darna. That's an iconic role and a really sought after role."

She called it, "The role of a lifetime."

Wurtzbach continued that she is willing to work hard to play the iconic Filipino heroine.

She said, "Kung papalarin na ibibigay sa akin 'yung role na Darna, tatanggapin ko. I will work hard, I will train, I will attend workshops. Ibibigay ko lahat ng lakas ko."

The beauty queen, however, left the decision to the ABS-CBN management to see who is the "perfect fit to play the role"

Wurtzbach even shared that she had looked up to "Darna" as an idol when she was young.

Asked if she's willing to audition, Wurtzbach replied, "Oh Yeah, of course! If I find out that they're open to have me audition, then I'm going to try. Why not?"

Meanwhile, Wurtzbach also revealed that she reached out to Soberano after hearing she backed out from the 'Darna' role

It can be recalled that the two became friends when Soberano portrayed Wurtzbach in her life story in an MMK

Wurtzbach said, "Nalungkot ako talaga kasi kaibigan ko na din si Liza eh. I remember talking to her about the movie Darna while we were doing ASAP in Australia, the preparation and how she was really excited about it."

"And 'yung feeling na, alam mo 'yun sa iyo na eh pero may things na 'di natin ma-control. I feel bad for her. And I also messaged her kasi I can imagine what it feels like," she added.

Rufa Mae Quinto reacts to being nominated to replace Liza as Darna

MANILA, Philippines — The search is on for the next actress who will replace Liza Soberano in the Star Cinema revival of Mars Ravelo's "Darna."

Among fans' favorites to revive the Pinay superhero onscreen is comedian Rufa Mae Quinto.

In an exclusive interview with Philstar.com prior to the screening of her new movie "Jhon En Martian," Rufa Mae shared what she thinks about fans' request to see her as Darna.

"Oo nga eh. Star Cinema, mag-isip-isip pa! Lumipad na tayo, together!" Rufa Mae quipped.

She thinks people associate her 2002 superhero film "Super B" with Darna.

"Gusto kasi nila 'yung Super B... Pero pwede namang gawing Super D!" she vouched.

"Pero thank you sa inyong lahat na nakapag-isip (to suggest me). I mean, sineryoso nila 'yung pag-vote for me. Talaga, akala ko nga joke lang. S'yempre isipin ko ba, D'yos ko, iisipin ko pa bang aabot ako sa Darna role? Charot!"

At first, sha sangat baliaya that sha hasa baga paginatad

At first, she cannot believe that she has been nominated to replace Liza.

"'Di kasi 'yun nga, gusto ng bayan gumanap akong Darna. S'yempre, una 'di ako naniwala dahil nga ang bagets-bagets ni Liza, 'di ba? Pero sabi ko, okay, mag-woworkout ako. Charot!"

She, however, is open if ever Star Cinema offers her the role.

"Paghahandaan ko kayo at aabangan ko tawad ninyo, Star Cinema! Charot!" she said with a laugh.

"Pero nakakatuwa 'yun. Magandang balita 'yun na iniisip nila ko, kino-consider. Matinding request ng bayan, yes!"

Rufa Mae also made a shout out to the movie's director, Jerrold Tarog.

"Direk, hello!" she said.

Ethel Booba on corrupt officials:

'Huli pero hindi kulong'

Ethel Booba is back again with her hard-hitting cheeky gags on the court of Twitter, where one's prowess is tested, it seems, by how witty, intelligible and articulate one can get their point across in only 280 characters at most.

Ethel has long mastered Twitter's limited characters with her essential "charotisms," whether it's delivering one-two comical punches about the Department of Foreign Affairs' bungled OFW rescue in Kuwait, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' new Philippine coins, or poking fun at the crowned beauties of Bb. Pilipinas.

It seems Ethel plans to keep the ball rolling, as she once again took to her Twitter page last May 24 to give her piece of mind about government officials who were revealed to be "corrupt."

"Huli pero hindi kulong," started Ethel. "Noon kasabihan lang ng jowang nagloko yan pero now pati nabistong corrupt official. Charot!"

(They just get caught but don't get jailed. That used to be just a saying about boyfriends who cheat, but now, it also applies to corrupt officials. Charot!)

Although Ethel did not drop any names, she made her tweet just two days after actor Cesar Montano resigned as chief operating officer of the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB). This was after the project Buhay Carinderia was criticized, when checks amounting to P80 million were discovered to have been paid to an ad agency. The checks were signed by Montano and former Secretary Wanda Teo, who also resigned from her position earlier this month.

A netizen, however, replied back to Ethel, saying that even though officials get caught, they are still supposed to undergo due process. "May I remind you that even if an official got caught, they need to undergo due process. Hindi pwede kulong agad (They can't be jailed right away)," said one @ apislaan.

The netizen added, "Unless you want to go back to martial law which I am sure you are against. By the way, I still love you even with this difference in opinion."

Despite the differences in opinion, it can be noted that the exchange between the two was absent of vitriol and hate, with them choosing to spread the love instead.

"May I remind you din na di ko naman sinabing kulong agad agad," wrote Ethel in reply. "Di naman to about sa administration ngayon lang kundi sa mga nagdaan din. By the way love din kita. Charot!"

(May I remind you too that I did not say they should be jailed instantly. This is not about the administration now, exclusively, because it applies to past ones too. By the way, I love you too! Charot!)

Maine Mendoza as Darna? Maine's manager speaks up on fans' request

Is it possible for a Kapuso star to portray the coveted role of 'Darna'?

Among those name being screamed by fans is Maine Mendoza. AlDub and Maine fans have been nominating the Kapuso "Phenomenal star" for the role.

Maine's Talent manager Rams David spoke up to put an end to the fans' request. Although he didn't turn down the possibility of the idea, Rams admitted that it's quite difficult.

Rams told Pep, "Parang masarap lang isipin, pero hindi yata. Sa ABS yun, e, 'di ba? Parang ang hirap naman."

"Ang daming girls sa ABS. Sana, doon sila makahanap. Maraming magaganda, magagaling, at deserving din for the role," he added.

Rams gave the last decision to Maine. He said, "How I wish, si Marian nag-Darna. Pero siyempre, si Maine ang sasagot niyan. Hindi ko katawan 'yan."

Marian Rivera, who played the role of Darna in the TV adaptation of GMA Network which aired from August 2009- February 2010, is also a celebrity managed by Rams.

Despite the near impossibility of Maine playing "Darna", Rams assured the fans of Maine that movies will be lined up for their favorite star this year.

Rams even said that not only one movie but maybe two are in the works for Maine to finish this year.

A sequel to the 2018 Metro Manila Filmfest entry "Jak Em Popoy, The Puliscredibles" is already confirmed.

Meanwhile, another Kapuso star, Sanya Lopez, also trended online after fans said that with her built and looks, she would look perfect for the Filipino heroine. Nagulat si Jennylyn Mercado nang sinabi sa kanyang isa siya sa gustong mag-Darna.

"Hindi ko po masyado nadidinig 'yan. Siyempre, flattering naman po yun," sabi ng Kapuso actress.

Iza Calzado wants Darna costume change: 'It's hard to fight justice in a bikini'

Iza Calzado thinks it is best for Darna to have a costume change. The actress questioned why the iconic Filipino superheroine should wear a bikini in an interview with ANC's "Headstart" aired Friday.

Host Karen Davila first expressed how hard it was to find the perfect actress to play the superheroine. Calzado then interjected: "So hard kasi naka-bikini siya (It's so hard because she wears a bikini). "Palitan na kasi yung costume (The costume should change)," Calzado continued. She pointed out that unlike Darna, other superheroines such as Wonder Woman and Captain Marvel wear a one-piece and full suit, respectively.

Calzado also said that if Darna's costume will have a redo, she thinks that it can "possibly widen, broaden" the choices who can play the superheroine.

"Not everyone will be comfortable," she said about Darna's current outfit. "It's also hard to hit that perfect Darna body that they want, 'di ba (right)?" In my opinion... it's hard to fight justice in a bikini, because there's a lot of injustice that could happen," she jokingly added.

ABS-CBN and its movie arm, Star Cinema, are currently in the process of finding the actress who can portray Darna after Liza Soberano had to withdraw from the project due to medical reasons.

In a "The Bottomline with Boy Abunda" interview in 2014, Calzado revealed that she was tapped to play the role for GMA's series adaptation in 2005, which was later portrayed by Angel Locsin.

While she did not get the role, Calzado became one of the four Sang'gres in another GMA fantaserye, "Encantadia."

She is currently the star of the iFlix film "Mystified," which reunites her with fellow Sang'gres Karylle, Sunshine Dizon and Diana Zubiri.



Jericho, wife have different marriage set-up

ERICHO Rosales says "Halik" is his most successful show after "Pangako Sa'Yo" which he did 20 years ago. "Napakalakas talaga ng impact nito sa viewers kasi everywhere I go, they call me as Lino, my name in the show," he says. "But after this, ayoko ng gumawa ng teleserye. Kasi, this is a tough act to follow.

Also, I want to challenge myself to do something new. I've been doing soaps on TV for 23 years now, so I don't wanna do soaps anymore. It doesn't mean titigil ako sa pag-arte kasi passion ko yan. But I'm

now more open to do other projects, lalo na ngayon, uso na ang digital. We should be open to exploring more options, more venues. I'm inspired and excited to do new things and RSB (Ruel S. Bayani) has offered me to do shows with different concepts that I can produce, write or direct. I want to challenge myself to do something new. So, we'll see."

So is he and his wife, Kim Jones, not ready yet to start their own family? "I'm so blessed to have a beautiful wife who actually has the same passions as mine. We've talked about it. She's going to study and I'm going to study. She's building a company, I'm rebuilding myself and her job is abroad. We've had the set-up for a very long time now, na if she

Lorin Gutierrez stands up



3 or 5 months and magkikita kami somewhere kung saan mang parte ng mundo, we're fine with that. This is the reason why we don't want to have kids muna. Parang ang daming umaagaw ng mga gusto naming gawin sa buhay namin. Kaya parang bringing a baby into this world is not a good idea kasi kawawa 'yung baby.

Papatayin namin ang mga pangarap namin dahil gusto naming mag-baby. Wala namang nagpe-pressure sa aming magka-baby, di ba? Ano, kultura lang at tradisyon? May anak ako na mahal na mahal din ni Kim, nagmamahalan kaming lahat. So, it's a wonderful family, parang ganu'n. I have the best set-up right now."

JM de Guzman on Ria Atayde: "Kung ano man ang mangyari or whatever, I would like to keep her forever."

Is JM de Guzman courting Ria Atayde?

Nilinaw ni JM de Guzman ang napapabalitang magandang pagititinginan nila ng kapwa Kapamilya star na si Ria Atayde.

Sa presscon ng pelikulang Last Fool Show, tila ibinuko ng leading lady ni JM na si Arci Muñoz na may "something" sa pagitan ng aktor at ni Ria.

Kaya diretsahang tinanong si JM, 30, kung nililigawan nga ba niya si Ria, 27.

Tugon ng aktor, "Hindi... kasi nakilala ko si Ria sa isang small circle din namin.

"Hindi ko alam... ang bait-bait niya. Napaka-genuine. "Parang naa-attach lang ako sa mga taong ganun, sa mga positive na tao.

"Hindi siya showbiz."

Tungkol naman sa estado ng relasyon nila, sabi ni JM, "We're really good friends.

"Hindi pa ganun katagal ang friendship namin, pero yung investment namin sa friendship namin, we're really

Balak ba niyang ligawan ang anak ni Sylvia Sanchez at kapatid ni Arjo Atayde?

Ayon kay JM, "I would like to keep her...

"Kung ano man ang mangyari or whatever, I would like to keep her forever."

Sa ngayon, ang focus daw ni JM ay ang kanyang Katuwiran niya, "Ayokong kapalan ang mukha ko

masyado na pagsabay-sabayin na naman ang lahat. Huwag muna.

Ang ibig sabihin marahil dito ni JM ang pagsasabay ng kanyang showbiz career at love life, na naging dahilan noon ng pagkalulong niya sa masamang bisyo.

'Di pa na-elect, nag-

nakaw na': Raymund Marasigan slams politicians using unauthorized pop songs as campaign jingles

Rock musician Raymund Marasigan took a jab at

political candidates who use popular songs without permission as campaign jingles: "dipa naelect nagnakaw na." (You have not even been elected yet but you already steal.)

The former Eraserheads drummer aired his reminder to

voters for the May 2019 mid-term polls in a Twitter post. "Whenever you hear an unauthorized bastardized

version of a popular song as an election jingle, pls don't vote that candidate," Marasigan said. A netizen named King Audric (@al_dwin) asked

the rocker how will voters like him know if a song was authorized by the artist. Marasigan replied that people can check with either the artist and his management, or the Filipino Society of Composers, Artists and Publishers

Meanwhile, other netizens such as one Rosario fiel (@fiel_rosario) complained that hearing such jingles is annoying as it is widespread.

'Kanta nga kinukuha nang walang paalam, pera pa kaya ng taumbayan," another netizen, Gep Macadaeg (@gepmacadaeg), echoed Marasigan's sentiments.

(If they got the nerve to steal songs, all the more will they steal from public funds.)

During the 2016 election period, Filscap tried to

forge an agreement with the Commission on Elections,

for politicians to be reminded to seek permission from

composers in using their songs for campaign jingles. This would make candidates abide by Republic Act 8293, or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.

MY BODY

for herself after being told to 'cover her body' Lorin Gutierrez stood up for evervone else.)

herself after being told she needs to cover up her body. The young model first turned

heads for posting a photo of her wearing an animal-printed bikini, as seen in her Instagram post last While most of her followers

and celebrity friends were stunned at Gutierrez's curves, one netizen going by @kenneth_castro_divina told the 15-year-old on Tuesday: "Itago mo yang katawan mo iha (Cover up your body, child)..."

"Dapat may pinaglalaanan yan na special na tao," the netizen went on. "Wag mong ipagkalandakan."

(Your body should be for someone special. Don't flaunt it for

But Gutierrez appeared not to let the comment slip and had an answer to the netizen. "My body doesn't belong to anyone else apart from me po," she replied. 'That means if i want to show it off, as long as my family is ok with it (which they are) then i will."

"[G]irls should be able to choose [whether] they want to be more conservative or showy depending on what they feel comfortable with," she added as a message of empowerment. "[N]ot for a 'special na tao' because that special person, whoever they may be, doesn't own me and should be ok with me being confident in my own skin."

Gutierrez concluded that she will not cover up for anyone else, and will continue to do what makes her happy and confident.

Gutierrez is the daughter of actress-model Ruffa with ex-husband, Turkish businessman Yilmaz Bektas. She is currently on holiday in Thailand, along with her mom and sister Venice.

New star siblings impress Sharon, John and Direk **Erik**

SIBLINGS Kent and Pam Gonzales are so happy that in the very first movie they made in their entire life, "Kuwaresma", they play the kids of Sharon Cuneta no less. Kent is the one who auditioned with Reality Entertainment and quickly impressed Direk Erik Matti.

"Sa audition, you can see he's very raw, kasi nga he has had no previous acting experience at all," says Direk Erik. "But you can see ginagamit niya 'yung utak niya, so Dondon Monteverde and I chose him to play Sharon's son. The first scene he shot is iyakan scene agad with Sharon. Alam mong kabado siya, but hindi siya nagpaiwan kay Sharon, he delivered. We had difficulty looking for an actress who'll play his twin sister. Then he said, may kapatid po akong babae. Sabi ko, bakit hindi mo sinabi agad? So we called Pam at 'yun, perfect sila for the roles of Sharon's children. They're not really twins in real life, but dito you'd believe na kambal

sila with a special and strange connection with each other. Pam has played bit role in teleseryes, but pareho nilang first movie ito. They're both revelations here."

"We really feel so lucky, so blessed, so honored to be part of 'Kuwaresma," says Pam. "The moment pinatawag nila ako, sobrang bilis, nag-shoot na agad, and now that we've finished the movie, I feel I'm still on Cloud 9."

"For someone like me na wala pang karanasan sa acting, big learning experience ang pinagdaanan ko in 'Kuwaresma," says Kent. "And it's been a thrilling and fulfilling experience working with big stars like Sharon Cuneta and John Arcilla. They were a big help to us ng kapatid ko and they really guided us in interpreting our roles. This will remain unforgettable for me for the rest of my life."

Sharon vouches that Kent and Pam are really good in the movie. "They may be new but they delivered," she says. "Lumalabas ang tunay na emosyon ko bilang isang ina in my scenes with them and I really treated them like my own."

Their parents are both based abroad and got excited when they found out they're in a big movie. "Uuwi po sila sa Manila sa premiere night to watch it with us," says Pam.

Derek Ramsay's most unforgettable kissing scene was with Kiray

At his welcome press conference at GMA 7, Derek Ramsay said that one of the most unforgettable kissing scenes he has ever done was with Kiray Celis in the rom-com "Love is Blind" three years ago. What was the young comedienne's reaction upon hearing Derek's "revelation"?

saw him say that he would like to work with the likes of Carla (Abellana), Solenn (Heussaff) and Lovi (Poe) ... tapos ako. Parang ... ang layo!" Kiray said, laughing, in a recent interview with reporters. "I want to work with him again—my Kuya D. That would be nice."

Like Derek, the 24-year-old actress has just transferred to GMA 7. While she will always be thankful to ABS-CBN for the eight years she had spent with them, Kiray felt she needed "to grow" as a performer.

"May utang na loob ako sa ABS. I wouldn't be here if it weren't for the people there. I wouldn't have been able to show what I could do," she said. "I have learned the importance of humility; of not being complacent even if you feel secure about your capabilities because there will always be someone better."

"But I felt like I needed to grow—I'm not getting any younger," she added. "And GMA 7 is giving me an opportunity to explore. Not everyone gets that kind of chance, so I grabbed it."

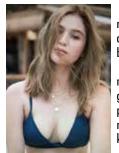
And frankly, Kiray pointed out, signing up with the Kapuso network was a practical move for her. "Of course, I need to work hard to earn a living we all do. So I have to go where there's work; where I can show what else I can do," she said.

One of her dream projects is to be part of the long-running gag show, "Bubble Gang." "Michael V is one of the artists I would really love to work with. He's so good \dots a genius," Kiray said.

Barbie Imperial has a candid reply to netizens criticizing her boobs

Tinawanan lang ni Barbie Imperial ang netizens na binabatikos ang kanyang pangangatawan, partikular na ang

Kasabay ito nang ibinahagi niyang sexy swimsuit photos sa kanyang Instagram at Twitter accounts, Huwebes ng hapon, April 18.



Dito ay makikitang nakasuot ng swimsuit top at maong shorts ang Kapamilya actress sa isang beach.

Marami sa mga tagasuporta ni Barbie ang naghayag ng paghanga sa kanyang sexy photos, pero may ilan ding netizens ang nag-iwan ng malisyosong mga komento patungkol sa aktres.

Isa rito ay pinuna ang hindi raw pantay na boobs ni

Hindi nagpatinag si Barbie sa kanyang detractors. Sa halip ay diretsahan siyang nag-tweet nito: "Bakit pati di pantay na dede sobrang big deal...'

Kalakip nito ang cold sweat at laughing-with-tears emojis. Dinepensahan din si Barbie ng kanyang Instagram followers mula sa ibang kritiko ng aktres.

ISIS continued from page 6

and help seize territory.

Mr Ampuan, the village leader who once commanded the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Padas, is afraid there are Islamic State fighters who have yet to surrender or be killed.

"They know people in the community," Mr Ampuan said. "ISIS offers money and guns to the young people."

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front is a separatist militia that signed a peace deal with Manila in 2014. While Muslims in the southern Philippines gained more autonomy last year, Mr Ampuan said government officials in Manila still have not given the people of Padas the necessary authority to stop the Islamic State from infiltrating the village. The government's presence in Padas also makes residents skittish, he said. That tension is mirrored by the 30-member Philippine army platoon living in a

few abandoned farming sheds in Padas, some of whom warily eye the villagers as possible Islamic State sympathisers.

Trying to mediate from the middle are the American civil affairs soldiers and employees of Impl. Project, a non-profit group based in Virginia that works on development and stabilisation in conflict zones. They are working in tandem in Padas to install the 4-gallona-minute water pump and help form a local council to manage it.

For the water pump to work, the Philippine military must provide enough security to protect the people who, in turn, need to learn how to keep it running.

"The water pump becomes the vehicle for them to learn how to govern themselves again," said Justin Richmond, the founder of Impl. and a former Army Special Operations soldier.

Cindy Kurleto, iniwan ang showbiz dahil sin-

abihan ng limang doktor na 'hindi na siya magkakaanak'



Inamin ng aktres at modelong si Cindy Kurleto na ang kagustuhan niyang maging isang ina ang nagtulak sa kanya para iwanan ang show business at manirahan sa ibang bansa.

Ayon sa isang pahayag sa GMA News,



nagkaroon daw si Kurleto ng polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), isang kondisyon na nakaaapekto sa hormone level ng isang babae kaya nagkakaroon ito ng

komplikasyon na magbuntis.

Hindi rin daw naging madali ang pagharap ni Kurleto sa nasabing sakit dahil limang doktor na ang nagsabi sa kanya na hindi na raw siya magkakaanak dahil sa kanyang

"At the end of my ten years in show business, I had a hormonal imbalance which led me to have PCOS and five doctors told me that I will never have children," paliwanag ni Kurleto na nagbabalik sa Pilipinas para sa ilang commitments.

Sinabi pa ni Kurleto na ang stressful environment daw ng showbiz ang isa sa mga nakapagpalala ng kanyang kondisyon kaya minarapat na lamang niyang magpahinga muna sa kanyang trabaho sa loob ng isang dekada.

"I wasn't fertile because of the stressful environment that I was in," paglalahad ni Kurleto.

Gayunman, kaiba sa sinabi ng limang doktor na tumingin kay Kurleto, ngayon ay ganap na siyang ina sa dalawang anak na babae.

Kuwento ni Kurleto, binago niya ang kanyang lifestyle upang mas matugunan ang pangangailangan ng katawan para magkaroon sila ng anak ng asawang si Daniel.

"I changed my lifestyle around and I try to live healthier," sabi ni Kurleto.

Masayang namumuhay sina Kurleto, ang kanyang asawa at dalawang anak na sina Noa, 9, at Lima, 2, sa Vienna.

Binago raw ng pangyayaring ito ang pananaw ni Kurleto sa buhay at mas pinahalagahan ang kanyang kalusugan bago ang anupamang bagay.

Kinakailangan niya rin daw mamuhay nang malusog ngayon dahil kailangan niyang alagaan ang kanyang mga anak.

Iniwan ni Kurleto ang showbiz noong 2007 para lumipad sa Peru kasama ang asawa, at kalaunan ay nanirahan sa Vienna upang alagaan ang ama niyang may karamdaman.

Jessy Mendiola slams bodyshamer criticizing her boobs

Hindi pinalampas ni Jessy Mendiola ang isang bodyshamer na malisyosong pinuna ang kanyang boobs.

Binatikos si Jessy ng isang netizen na nagcomento sa post niya

Sabi ng ng netizen, "Bat lawlaw dede mo?" Prangkang sagot ni Jessy, "OA ka naman sa lawlaw [laughing with tears] ganyan ang normal na boobs hindi tayong tayo"

Dinepensahan din si Jessy ng ilan niyang Instagram followers na nagsabing wala raw modo ang netizen na nambatikos sa aktres.

Sila na rin mismo ang kumastigo sa bodyshamer upang matigil na ito sa paninira sa 26-year-old Kapamilya actress.

Sadyang may mga pagkakataon daw na kailangang paalalahanan ang netizens na hindi tamang basta na lang sila manira ng tao.

"It's more of letting the person know kung ano yung totoo. Kung ano yung truth mo. And I don't see anything wrong with that, di ba?"

Despite rift, director Jadaone reaches out to Nadine Lustre after FAMAS

Nadine Lustre holding the Best Actress trophy at FAMAS 2019. (Instagram/fdcpofficial)

Despite the misunderstanding that occurred between the two last year, director Antoinette Jadaone congratulated Nadine Lustre for winning Best Actress in the 67th FAMAS Awards for "Never Not Love You."

The 25-year-old actress bested nominees Judy Ann Santos, Angelica Panganiban and Perla Bautista who have lengthier acting experiences.

Lustre in her acceptance speech shared that she initially did not want to star in "Never Not Love You" since she was facing a very difficult challenge in her life that time.

"October 2017, may malaking bagyo na dumating sa buhay ko, sobrang laki ng damage na ginawa sa buhay ko. Ilang beses ko din po gustong umatras. Kahit po nandun ako sa lowest point ng buhay ko, naitawid ko po with flying colors," she said.

That time, the actress admitted that she was struggling with depression. Her younger brother also passed away.

Jadaone, the director she worked with in the movie, congratulated the actress on Twitter and cited other roles Nadine took on in their projects together.

Jadaone has worked with Lustre in the television series "On the Wings of Love," "Till I Met You" and the drama-romance film "Never Not Love You.'

Lustre shared a picture of her FAMAS trophy on her Instagram Stories and tagged people she had worked with in the movie— Jadaone, Dan Villegas and her boyfriend, James Reid.

"Atin to," she wrote as a text within the picture.

The rift

Not too long ago, Jadaone and Lustre were embroiled in a controversy during the filming of "Never Not Love You."

The director in her blog on Jan. 15, 2018 lamented the unexpected cancellation of the shooting dates, saying that filming the entire movie was "becoming erratic."

"Filming for #foolishmovie is becoming erratic. Sayang, andun na ang momentum eh. More and more shooting days canceled some reasons more heartbreaking than others, so heartbreaking they make me cry," Jadaone

She did not directly mention any names but she used a hashtag that was associated with her earlier blog posts stating she had a project with Lustre and James Reid.

Two days after, Lustre shared an Instagram Story of what appeared to be an x-ray scan and wrote, "Diarrhea, fever, severe back pain since last Friday. That's all you need to know."

The actress also shared in an interview that she was diagnosed with an inverted cervical curve on her back, apart from her scoliosis.

By February 2018, social media users noticed that Lustre stopped following Jadaone on Instagram. The director eventually admitted that she pressured the love team to work faster so that the movie could be released on its play date on Mar. 31, 2018.

NO OHIP OUT OF CANADA?

The Ontario government is proposing to end OHIP coverage for Canadians travelling outside of the country.

According to the proposal, the amendment "aligns with government's commitment to implement changes to restore accountability and trust in the use of taxpayer dollars and to bring greater modernization, efficiency and transparency to OHIP to benefit both providers and patients."

"Ontarians who decide to travel outside of

Canada may continue to seek the best, most comprehensive coverage from travel insurance companies who already cover 94 per cent of reimbursement for eligible costs related to emergency care services out of country," the proposal reads.

If the amendment passes, the change would start October 1.

OHIP currently covers up to \$400 a day for out of country inpatient care.



She also shared that she reached out to Lustre to talk about the issue.

"Ang ginawa ko nung lumabas 'yun, kinausap ko agad si Nadine. 'Yun ang first instinct ko. Actually nasa soap nga ako noon, nagdi-direct ako noon. Hindi ako makapag-direct. Hala kailangan ko makausap si bakla," Jadaone recalled.

"So tinext ko siya, 'Te, may ginagawa ka ba? Tawagan kita.' Sabi niya, 'Ay direk, nasa shoot ako.' Minessage ko siya after," she added.

As of now, the two appear to be on friendly terms and has continued following each other on Instagram.

Janella Salvador opens up about depression after breakup with Elmo

Actress and singer Janella Salvador opened up about her depression after her breakup with ex-boyfriend Elmo Magalona, who she accused of physical abuse back in 2018.

"I got depressed, I didn't want to get out of the house anymore," she said." However, she received text messages from three different friends who were not particularly close, like actress Erich Gonzales.

[She] told me, 'Hi Jea, I know we just became friends now but I feel like I'm very much connected with you and I think God wants to tell you this," she said. "She sent me a long message telling me that there is

something better in store for you, God wants to tell you that..."

She attested it is in time of need when one realizes that God is there. "I didn't realize it while I was there, but I gave too much of myself away that I forgot that I had my own person."

Magalona has not apologized to Salvador after the alleged physical altercation, but despite his refusal, Salvador shared back in March that she forgives him nevertheless.

It was also reported in October 2018 that Salvador sought professional counseling after the alleged abuse.



LEFT, Sir Mauro "Jun" Calaguio, Jr, KGOR of the Knights of Rizal, Canada Region (seated left) posed with Talakayan Radyo Filipino broadcast staff after a discussion on Dr Jose Rizal's early European studies & travels (1882-1885), at MCBN TV Pinoy Radio station on April 13, 2019. L-R: producers Sir Jess Cabrias & Lady May Cabrias, and Tony A. San Juan. Back row: Sir Joe Damasco, Sir Nelson Galvez and Sir Bobby Achacon. (Photo by May Cabrias)

RIGHT, The Talakayan Radyo Filipino broadcast staff with Action Honda general manager Rafael Nebres and service advisor Ronaldo Aquino at MCBN -TV Pinoy Radio studio on March 30, 2019. L-R: Nelson Galvez, R. Nebres, Jess Cabrias, R. Aquino & Tony A. San Juan. Back: Joe Damasco & Bobby Achacon.(Photo by Nestor Von





LITTLE MANILA confidential entertainment

Tom RodriGuez, Not too concerned about TV Ratings



For Kapuso actor Tom Rodriguez, TV ratings, whether afternoon or prime time, don't really matter: "Sa akin it's no different, e. For me it's the same."

"As long as I'm there working with brilliant people, with people who are just as excited and just as passionate to be where they are, I already feel like a winner.

"Sa akin hindi ko inisip yung... "I know it's siguro bad of me to think about it, pero hindi naman sa dini-disregard ko yung rating, coz I

know that it's important. "Pero since it's not something I directly have influence over, I mean kung ano lang naman yung trabaho ko, iyon lang makakaya kong gawin,

ako sa kung ano yung mae-enjoy ko.

"Iyon nga, itong team na napakagaling at napaka-passionate sa ginagawa

"Sobrang excited ako na makasama sila, ganun kababaw yung iniisip ko usually when I'm preparing for a show.

"So whether it's primetime or afternoon, for me it's the same level of stakes and passion."

Sa Dragon Lady ay gumaganap si Tom bilang si Michael Chan at si Janine dito si Celestina Sanchez.

SHAPING UP FOR HIS ROLE Passionate si Tom sa kanyang acting career kaya bukod sa pag-aaral ng Mandarin ay nag-aral siya ng

May eksena kasi sa Dragon Lady na nasa isang rowing competition siya.

Lahad niya, "One day lang, kasi humingi ako sa GMA na kung puwede akong mag-immerse sa kanila.

"Pinagbigyan ako, yun nga lang the next day nag-taping na kami." Na-enjoy ni Tom ang rowing.

Bulalas niya, "Sobra! Hindi ako nakagalaw nung second day, gumugulong akong parang uod sa

kama!' Kapag nagkaroon ng pagkakataon ay itutuloy ni Tom ang rowing bilang regular sport activity niya.

"Gusto ko sana. "Medyo inaano ko kasi grabe kapag nasa ilalim

ka ng araw dun. Kahit naka-sunblock ka hindi tumatalab," at tumawa

Ready din si Tom sa shirtless scenes niya sa Dragon Lady.

"Kasi ngayon naka-keto diet

"So far, parang okay naman

"Ang hirap lang ng walang... ang dairy bawas, tsaka yung mga carbs talaga," hinaing niya.

. Nakakatulong din daw sa allergy ni Tom ang keto diet.

Patuloy niyang kuwento, "I initially thought na since I have to prepare for a new role, I have to lose weight.

"At the same time, it might help me with my atopic dermatitis, yung allergies na

"Sabi nila, since lately me-

"So dun lang ako nagpuo-focus, so nagpu-focus "Sa akin it's no different, e. For me it's the same.

dyo umaano siya nung umuwi ako ng Pilipinas galing sa States, nagpe-flare up, sabi daw a keto diet is ano... kasi carbs is very inflammatory, e.

nila para sa Dragon Lady ay nagbakasyon sa Amerika si

Any wedding bells para sa kanila ni Carla Abellana this

"Ahh... I don't wanna put a definite date to it, pero working up to it."

This year kaya? "Secret," natatawa niyang Arci gets a new ally in Rufa Mae:

'Pareho kaming baliw'

ARCI Munoz is so busy both on the big and small screen. Her movie, "Last Fool Show", with JM de Guzman is currently showing in theaters nationwide. And now, she's doing another new movie with JC Santos. Tentatively titled "Open", this is about a mature, open relationship and will require them to do sexy scenes, co-starring Vance Larena and Alexa Ilacad, under the direction of Andoy Ranay.

So is she ready to be more daring and sexy? "Okay lang, kasi maganda talaga 'yung material. First time ipapakita how couples in a long time relationship would react when they decide to open up their relationship. 'Yung dapat, walang selosan. Let's see kung ano'ng mangyayari."

On TV, Arci is now taping a new teleserye for ABS-CBN, "Project Kapalaran", where she co-stars with Sylvia Sanchez, Joey Marquez and JM de Guzman. With iWant, she plays the leading lady in a new comedy show, "Jhon and Martian". They call this an intergalactic romcom since Arci plays an alien named 223 from the planet Mars. 223 falls down to earth and meets comedian Pepe Herrera as Jhon, a delivery boy who gets her space ship, which has been reduced to miniature size, by mistake.

"Kulang na nga ako sa tulog kaya ako nagkakasakit," she says at the nagagawa pa rin namang ayusin ng handler ko ang very hectic schedule

in "Jhon en Martian", where they even have a kissing scene? "First time naming magkasama at magaan siyang katrabaho. 'Yung kissing scene, required 'yun sa story kasi the Martians communicate directly through their lips para maipahatid ang thoughts nila sa mga tagalupa. Nag-imbento sila rito ng sariling Martian language at 'yun ang ginagamit ko sa umpisa, hanggang magkahalikan nga kami ni Pepe at dahil doon, nakakapag-Tagalog na ako. Wholesome po kami rito. Sa planet namin, gusto akong ipakasal sa isang taga-Pluto so I escape at napadpad nga ako sa Earth."

Rufa Mae Quinto plays her mother as the Martian Queen. How is it working with her? "Ang saya! First time namin to work together but nagkahulihan kami agad ng loob kasi and I'm learning so much from her kasi natural comedienne siya."

presscon of "Jhon and Martian". "Buti't How is it working with Pepe Herrera

pareho kaming baliw. Tawanan kami at kuwentuhan lagi sa set. Napagkuwentuhan na namin ang buong buhay namin

Janine's siblings not interested in show biz ... for now



Clockwise from top left: Jessica Gutierrez, Maxine Gutierrez, Ja-

Actress Janine Gutierrez initially did not want to enter because, as she recently told us, the unexpected acting commitments of her parents—Lotlot de Leon and Ramon Christopher would sometimes get in the way of planned family time when she was a kid.

But she eventually found herself interested in an acting career,

The "Dragon Lady" actress, now 29, and with a number of high-profile film and TV credits under her belt, is busier than ever.

Janine, the eldest of four, has similarly good-looking siblings—two sisters and a brother.

But while some of them have had modeling gigs, do they wish to follow in her and their parents'

"Right now, they say no, pero 'yun din ang sinabi ko dati, so I'm not sure," Janine tells the Inquirer of her siblings (Jessica, Diego and Maxine), with whom she is close.

In their Instagram pages, the kids post photos with each other during down time.

And, speaking of family, Janine feels elated that her mom has found happiness and tied the knot with Fadi El Soury last December.

"I'm happy for her," Janine declares. "I saw during the wedding how [the] family was so support-

The actress adds: "I really wanted to be there for her and show her that she deserves to be happy."

Jayda Avanzano thanks Darren Espanto for defending her against bashers

Jayda Avanzado Garcia: "Hindi po. being true and myself both as a person." Malaki ang ni Jayda 15. sa at kapsinger yang

denies copying Ylona I'm focused on authentic to an artist and as pasasalamat

kaibigan

Espanto, 17, sa pagtatanggol nito mula sa mga bumabatikos sa kanya sa social media.

Pahayag ng baguhang singer, "I'm very appreciative and I'm very thankful to have a friend like Darren.

"And I'm just thankful for the love and support that I've been getting from everybody else." Matatandaang nitong March 7, mismong si Jessa

ang sumagot sa isang basher ni Jayda na natukoy bilang isang fan ni Darren. Inakusahan ng nasabing basher na ginagaya

umano ni Jayda ang kapwa ABS-CBN talent na si Ylona

Sa pakikipagpalitan ng tweets ng naturang fan ni Darren sa isang kaibigan nito, umabot pa sa puntong sinabihan nito si Jayda ng "kill that girl" laban kay Jayda, dahilan upang lubos mag-alala ang magasawang Jessa at Dingdong.

Ipinagtanggol naman ni Darren si Jayda sa Twitter and sinabing, "Please RESPECT JAYDA and STOP THE

NOT COPYING ANYONE

Samantala, itinanggi rin ni Jayda ang paratang na ginagaya umano nito si Ylona.

Aniya, "Hindi po. I'm focused on being true and authentic to myself both as an artist and as a person."

Pahayag pa nito, "I feel like, part of it is being in showbiz. Hindi maiiwasan to be compared. "But I don't have much to say on that."

Alam ni Jayda na makakatanggap ito ng samu't saring komento bilang isang artista lalo na sa social media, kaya naman handa na ito sa mga negatibong komentong matatanggap niya.

"I think it's something that I was kind of aware that it comes with it when you step into the business.

"But I think, you know, to a certain extent, you have

Dagdag pa nito, "That still doesn't justify that people should be able to be allowed to do it.

I think people should be held accountable for their

Paano naman kaya siya nagre-react sa mga negative comments na natatanggap niya sa social media? Sagot ng Kapamilya singer, "It depends on what it is, but as much as possible, I don't let it get to me

"But if it's constructive criticism, I try to use it to better myself as a person and as an artist."

MayWard signs contracts with ABS-CBN



LOVE team MayWard, consisting of Maymay Entrata and Edward Barber, officially inked their respective two-year network contracts with ABS-CBN.

Edward currently top-bills the recently launched fantaserye "Hiwaga Ng Kambat" which replaced "Wansapanataym." "Everybody works doubly hard on the set. You may see them tired after a long day but everything's worth it just to make our Kapamilyas happy," shared Edward.

Maymay, who also appears on the said program, is busy taping for the Kathryn-Alden movie "Hello, Love, Goodbye." "I was very nervous on the first few days of the shoot. But I've already adjusted and have learned to be more comfortable especially, now, that I've seen how caring they can get with their colleagues," Maymay remarked.

Present in the signing were ABS-CBN chairman Mark Lopez, ABS-CBN president and chief executive officer Carlo Katiabak, chief operating officer of broadcast Cory Vidanes, head of treasury, investor relations, business decision support & finance operations cluster 2 Rick Tan, Star Magic head Johnny Manahan, and Edward Barber's father Kevin.

"So nakaka-inflame yung footsteps? nine Gutierrez, Lotlot de Leon and ano, nakakamaga yung mga Diego Gutierrez - INSTAGRAM rice, kahit mga quinoa. "So for me daw, baka makat-Bago magsimula ang taping show biz when she was younger

as well, and learned to love the

The Filipino Centre, Toronto receives Government of Canada Grant The Filipino Centre, Toronto received \$100,000.00 grant funded by the Government of Canada's 2018

Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) program – small projects component. The Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) provides funding for eligible projects that increase accessibility for people with disabilities in Canadian communities and workplaces, creating more opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community activities, programs and services, or access employment opportunities. Shown in photo is Shaun Chen. MP Member of the Canadian Parliament for Scarborough North presenting the grant and certificate to FCT officers and board members during the FCT Spring Gala confidential

Boobay & Ate Gay to entertain T.O. fans on October 12

Boobay thankful for support after 'TBATS' beat 'GGV' in the ratings war

Prior to the premiere of "The Boobay and Tekla Show" (TBATS) in January, comedian Boobay admitted that he was nervous about the show going up against the long-running "Ganding Gabi, Vice" (GGV).

But Boobay, whose

But Boobay, whose real name is Norman Balbuena, can now breathe a little.

According to AGB
Nielsen, the weekly
talk-comedy program
"TBATS" has been
beating its competitor
in the ratings war since
its pilot on Jan. 27. Latest
figures (March 10) show
"TBATS" getting 5.3 percent
compared to "GGV's" 3.9.

"We didn't have any intention of competing; just wanted to have fun and make viewers laugh," Boobay told reporters in an interview during a GMA 7

told reporters in an interview durin a GMA 7 regional tour in Baguio City early this month. "But we're thank-ful

to so we focus purpose what to be he

The was bishow contains segments that include skits, riotous discussions about pop culture, celebrity interviews, live pranks,

ers for

the good

ratings. I

don't want

compare,

and needs

done,"

added.

will just

on our

performances, as well as man-on-the interviews. Like most tertainers in show biz, Boobay used to have a work, work. work' mindset

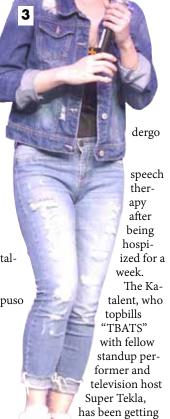
cerned. He went from one taping to the next and did as many gigs as his schedule allowed.

But after suffering a stroke in 2016, Boobay learned the hard way that

way that there's no job more valuable than one's health and life.

"I have learned that it's important for us to put a premium on our health. Our

on our health. Our
boss- es always remind us to
we rest, so
can give
in tapings
shows,"
Boobay,
need
our health. Our
make sure
that we
our best
and live
said
who
ed to
un-



Boobay has also become smarter in how he handles his career and health, making sure to listen to what his body tells him. "I'm getting old, so every so often, I have lutang moments. But once I feel I'm starting to get exhausted, I slow down or take a day off," said the 32-year-old celeb, who has trimmed his stint in "Unang Hirit" from five times a week to three.

more offers than

ever before.

Boobay also looks for different ways to relieve stress. Luckily, spending time with my family, or playing with his "baby"—6-year-old Shih Tzu Kendra—usually does the trick.

Coco Martin's simple text brings overwhelm-ing joy to Ate Gay

Ate Gay spotted Coco Martin at Bacolod

where

career

con-

airport. He sent Coco a DM to confirm if it was really him. Coco Martin replied and it overjoyed the comedian

Comedian Ate Gay, out of

extreme happiness, he can't help but share it to the world his short text message exchange with Coco Martin.

He sent an SMS to Coco saying that he spotted the "FPJ's Ang Probinsyano" star in Bacolod.

The

come-

dian wrote, "Nasa Bacolod ka. Nakita kita airport hehe."

After 30 minutes, he was caught by surprise when he received a reply from Martin and answered," "Sayang di tayo nagkita. Manila npo ako now."

He immediately replied, "Ang saya ko naman sumagot ka hahaha. salamat mwaaah."

Ate Gay posted their conversation on Instagram captioned, "Eh yung Napasaya nya ako ng sobra sa pagsagot nya hahaha ang

sayaaaaaah koooooooooh."

Boobay and Ate Gay wille ntertain you, make you laugh and make you forget your problems on Oc-

They will be joined by our Toronto artists.

1. KC Adajar

2. Samantha Gavin

3. Angela Castillo

4. Angelica Tagadtad

5. Lady Diana Alva

4. Angelica Tagadtad
5. Lady Diana Alvaro
6. Audrey Bushell
7. Angelica Ladouceur
8. Chollo Lagdameo
9. Ariana Pantaleon







Michelle Madrigal marries American boyfriend in Texas

Michelle Madrigal is now married to her American boyfriend, Troy Woolfolk. The couple tied the knot in Austin, Texas last April 12 (U.S. time).

Base sa mga larawang lumabas sa social media, dumating ang ilan sa mga kaibigan ni Michelle at ang kapatid nitong si Ehra Madrigal.

Ilang araw bago ang kasal ay nag-post pa si Ehra ng litrato kasama ang kanyang kapatid.

Huling napanood si Michelle sa teleseryeng Pasion de Amor, na siyang naging comeback project niya sa ABS-CBN pagkatapos niyang maging bahagi ng GMA-7 sa mahabang panahon.

Tumakbo ang teleserye mula June 2015 to March

Bago pa matapos ang Pasion de Amor noong January 2016, lumipad na patungong Texas, USA, si Michelle para sa kanyang "culinary journey."

Dito niya nakilala si Troy, na tinatawag niyang "MyWillSmith."

May 2017 nang inanunsiyo ni Michelle na siya ay 13 weeks pregnant sa panganay nila ni Troy.

Noong July 2017, ilang buwan bago manganak si Michelle, ay na-engage siya kay Troy.

Noong October 2017, nagsilang si Michelle na isang baby girl, at pinagalanan nila itong Annika Austin.

Lorin Gutierrez, now all grown up, is a beauty queen in the making



Lorin Gutierrez, the firstborn of Ruffa Gutierrez, will turn 15 this 2019.

Lorin Gutierrez is all grown up now.

The young model surprised Instagram when her mom Ruffa Gutierrez posted a poolside photo of her wearing a printed bikini.

Ruffa captioned, "Family bonding with my first born @loringabriella"

Sarah Lahbati, Phoemela Baranda, Sunshine Cruz, and Almira Muhlach were among the first to comment on Lorin's photo.

Sarah wrote, "Insaaaaaane [fire emoji] [red heart emoji] my beauty queen"

Almira seconded this, writing, "Beauty queen [crown emoji]"

Sunshine remarked, "Beautiful Lorin!!!" Phoemela added, "Oh em gee thought Kendall?" "Kendall" is international model Kendall Jenner.

FUTURE BEAUTY QUEEN?

Ruffawas asked about the idea of her firstborn joining beauty pageants back in 2017.

The former Binibining Pilipinas World said, "She's thinking more about college. Happy ako na ganun."

A year later, Lorin told the press at her first endorsement event that pageantry was the farthest thing from her mind.

When asked to choose between becoming a beauty queen and acting, the young Gutierrez said she'd ao for the latter.

But if acting would turn out to be "too time-consuming," Lorin would "rather focus on school."

The young lady, who will be 16 on August 3, 2019, plans to pursue a Business degree in college.

LITTLE MANILA confidential entertainment

Coco Martin, Yassi Pressman cozy in Japan amid romance rumors

Amid romance rumors, Coco Martin still remains close to FPJ's Ang Probinsyano leading lady Yassi Pressman.

Hindi nakaligtas sa mapanuring netizens ang umano'y pag-aalaga ni Coco Martin kay Yassi Pressman habang

namamasyal sila sa Japan.
Si Yassi ay halos tatlong taon nang leading lady ni Coco
sa ABS-CBN prime-time series na FPJ's Ang Probinsyano.
Noong April 18 lumipad ng Japan sina Coco, Yassi, at iba pang cast members ng show para sa show na Kapamilya Fiesta World Japan. Base sa pangtrabahong Instagram account ni Coco, nagkaroon ng pagkakataon ang kanilang grupo na lumibot sa Asakusa Temple sa Tokyo, April 19.

Dito napansin ng netizens ang sunud-sunod na posts kung saan makikitang tila sweet si Coco kay Yassi.
Sa isang litrato, tila tinutulungan ni Coco na ayusin ang mga dala-dalang gamit ni Yassi.

Hindi maiwasang bigyang-pansin ang sweet gesture ni Coco lalo pa't kamakailan lang ay naungkat ang espekulasyong may namuno diumang magandang pagtitinginan sa pagitan ng aktor at ni Yassi.

May hiwalay ding video na nakabandera ang pag-akbay ni Coco kay Yassi habang kinukunan sila ng litrato ng kapatid ng aktres na si Issa Pressman.

KILIG REACTIONS

Marami sa mga tagasuporta ng tambalan nina Coco at Yassi ang kinilig at naghinalang totohanan na raw ang ugnayan ng dalawa.

Sa kabilang banda, una nang nabalita ang tungkol sa panganganak ng aktres na si Julia Montes at ang itinuturong

April 1 nang umugong ang blind item mula sa showbiz insiders tungkol sa isang aktres na sinasabing nasa ibang bansa pero lumalabas na nanganak sa isang ospital sa San Sa comments section, nagsihulaan ang mga netizens at panay sina Julia at Coco ang binabanggit. Ilang industry insiders ang nagsabing nanganak na si Julia at si Coco ang ama.

Diumano, hindi raw maamin-amin ni Coco ang tungkol dito "dahil mayroon na itong ibang napupu-suan, at nangangamba itong makasira ang balita sa bagong relasyon.

Parehong tahimik ang kampo nina Coco at Julia sa isvu.

Sa parte ni Yassi, noon ding April 8 ay may sinagot siyang netizen na inakusahan siyang third party sa ugnayang Coco at Julia.

Sinabi ni Yassi na hindi welcome sa kanyang Instagram

feed ang anumang negatibong comments. Nasundan ito ng cryptic posts ni Yassi tungkol sa kanyang pagbabakasyon sa Palawan upang maibsan daw ang pinagdadaanan niyang problema. Kung ano man ito ay hindi naman binanggit ng aktres.

Jennylyn denies she's living in with Dennis

JENNYLYN Mercado is happy to be back on primetime TV after the thriller. "The Cure", which ended in July of last year. Her co-star in that show, Ken Chan, has since been quickly given "My Special Tatay" and it has also ended. It took almost 8 months before Jen is given a new show, "Love You Two", which pairs her for the first time with Gabby Concepcion. How does she feel about it?

"Well, I'm really happy to be doing a romantic comedy again kasi bahagi ito ng comfort zone ko as an actress," she says. "Even sa movies, andami kong nagawang romcoms. But I must admit that during the start of our taping

for 'Love You Two', kabado ako kasi first time ko to work with my leading man, and let's face it, Gabby Concepcion yan, ano? Medyo starstruck ako noong una at sa pictorial pa lang, parang nahihiya ako sa kanya. Sa taping naman, nabubulol ako, nalilimutan ko ang lines ko sa first few scenes

namin. Sir Gabby pa ang tawag ko sa kanya kasi I didn't know how to address him. Pero sabi niya Kuya na lang. And very friendly naman siya, approachable, laging nagjo-joke, so naging comfortable din ako agad sa kanya. It also helps that our director. Irene Villamor, na first time ko rin to work with, ang gaan katrabaho so enjoy lang kami sa taping."



So what occupied her time while she's not busy acting? "Di ba I started some businesses? Isa roon 'yung pagbebake ng cookies. Kasosyo ko si Dennis (Trillo, her inamorato) at kung minsan, he joins me in baking cookies na talagang nakakaaliw naman and it's doing good business."

But she quickly clarifies that the speculation she and Dennis are living in are not true. "Hindi po, hindi po kami live in. Nagpupunta lang siya sa'min to help me, but may sarili naman siyang bahay. May bago rin kaming business that will be launched soon. Malalaman nyo later kuna ano. It's something really big."

GTA Toronto Hoops to Conduct Summer Palarong Basketbol 2019 By: Bob A. San Juan



The First GTA Hoops Basketball Invitational Tourney graced by special guests Hon. Marco Mendicino, MP for Eglinton-Lawrence and Hon. Micl Levitt, MP for York- Centre at HoopDome June 16, 2018.

Once again the ever-popular sporting league, the GTA Hoops, will host its "2nd Annual Basketball Invitational" competitions on June 14, 15 & 16, 2019. The 3 - day exciting event known as the Palarona Basketbol - 2019 will be conducted at the HoopDome, Downsview Park, 75 Carl Hall Road, North York, Toronto.

The Palarong Basketbol is being held in the Filipino Canadian community in conjunction with the inaugural commemoration of "June Filipino Heritage Month" across Canada as proclaimed by the Canadian Parliament in the House of Commons on October 22, 2019. As most basketball aficionados will attest that playing basketball is "Pinoy's national sports" and, almost "a national pastime".. genuine part of our Filipino heritage.

According to the organizers, the Palaro will have 11 age-group player divisions, such as: 2009 - Novice; 2008 - Atom; 2007 - Major Atom; 2006 - Bantam; 2005 - Major Bantam; 2004 Midget; 2003 - Juvenile; 2001/2002 - Junior;

2000 & older - Open; 2004 & younger - Girls; and 2003 & older - Ladies. As usual, leading basketball teams from the Greater Toronto Area and suburban communities are expected to join the challenging basketbolan liga.

Interested participating clubs and teams are requested

and encouraged to register early. 3 games are guaranteed to be played by each team. Registration deadline is set on June 1, 2019 (Saturday). Team directors and leaders are requested to contact any of the following: call/text Bob San Juan -416-697-5197; Manny Villamor -905-301-6118; Roger Tarca -416-527-7784 or Vilma Tahsin -416-697-7201 or email: gtahoopsbasketball@gmail.com.

Moreover, a meeting of the leaders and /or representatives of participating ball clubs will be called sometime in May 2019. Every registered ball club or participating team will be duly invited and notified to attend, accordingly.

The members of GTA Hoops Basketball Organizing Committee are sponsoring and conducting anew the summer tournament in purposeful pursuit and support of community and youth development through friendly games of competitive basketball. Specifically, the organizers expect and hope to help promote sports fitness, discipline, leadership skills, fellowship and goodwill amongst the players, participants, officials, parents, sponsors and spectators alike. (BSJ/tsj)

JOJO TADURAN continued from page 17

He touched the lives of many. My Mom and I have been getting overwhelming messages from all over the world, many of which are from

people we do not know.

have been receiving, we are truly humbled and immensely proud. To our family, March 21, 2019 was

a life-changer. This was the day when we found out that my Dad had pancreatic cancer and when we were told that he had "a few weeks to a few months" to live. He calmly accepted this information, and we had to follow his lead. My Mom and I promised each other that we would make however long he would have, to be private,

memorable and comfortable. I told him I was going to write his story and he was enthusiastic about the idea. It was two-thumbs up! I spent the next few days talking to him about anything and everything. He relayed stories of his growing up days, getting started in his chosen career path his experiences as a Journalist, the people he met. He left me words of wisdom. He left profound advice and messages for future grandchildren.



had in days." My Mom asked, "Do you feel rested?" to which he answered, "Not just rested, I feel rejuvenated!" He then sat down with my Mom for 4 rs. listening to his playlist, checking emails and his Facebook, going through photos

On March 29th, he went to bed

at 9:30pm and woke up at 12:30am

saying, "That was the best sleep I've

and chatting. When they were tired. they lay down and he went to sleep peacefully. On

March 30th, 2019, he signed -30- to his

Papa, our time together will always be in our hearts. The week after your diagnosis was truly heartbreaking and painful, yet cathartic. Being able to spend all that time with

you and being able to tell you how much I love you, and hearing you say that back to me, will always be in my heart and mind.

We are devastated that you are physically gone but are comforted by the thought you will not have to endure the pain brought about by this terrible, terrible disease. There is so much to say about you and we all wish your story could have continued



(September 26, 1941 - March 30, 2019)

In your own fashion, you faced "the final curtain" and left the world your way. You would not have had it in any other way. We love you so so much! (April 5, 2019)

Jewish Praver of Comfort by Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack

At the rising sun and at its going down, We remember him.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, We remember him.

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, We remember him.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer, We remember him.

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beguty of the gutumn. We remember him

At the beginning of the year and when it ends, We remembe

As long as we live, he too will live, for he is a part of us. We

When we are weary and in need of strength, We remember him

When we are lost and sick at heart, We remember him. When we have decisions that are difficult to make, We

When we have joy we crave to share, We remember him. When we have achievements that are based on theirs. We remember him.

For as long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us, We remember him.



Phoebe Yap Chan, Fe and Jojo Taduran, Ellen

PIDC welcomes Miss Universe, Catriona Gray to Toronto!!!





Toronto, ON, March 24, 2019/PIDC/ - "Philippines!!!" That was the enthusiastic cry of Miss Universe host, Steve Harvey, when he announced Catriona Gray as the winner of Miss Universe 2018. And with that, many Filipinos, globally, shared that same proud moment, from seeing one of their own reach such a crowning achievement on an international stage.

PIDC was humbled and delighted to welcome Catriona Gray, Miss Universe, to Toronto, as part of a charity gala, to benefit Bantay Bata 163. The gala event raised a total of \$6000.

The evening gala, which took place at the InterContinental Toronto Centre Hotel, offered Catriona Gray the opportunity to share her mission as reigning Miss Universe. Needless to say, those in attendance, experienced an unforgettable moment.

PIDC would like to thank the InterContinental Toronto Centre Hotel; WFG with Agnes Miranda; Knowledge First Financial; Task Network; Mercedes-Benz Burlington; Papercrane; Honeylen's Event Management; Partyon Productions and Vintagebash Décor.

Apart from being graced by Miss Universe's presence, other distinguished guests were in attendance, including Marta Stepian, Miss Universe Canada 2018 and MP Rob Oliphant.

Guests were treated to a number of performances from: Michael Elefano, Danny Orbillo, Thelma Dillon, PIDC pageant alumni Bianca Manlapaz (Little Miss Philippines PIDC 2016), Celine Grey (Miss Philippines PIDC 2016), Elizabeth Mabb (Miss Philippines PIDC 2017), and Melanie Lazarro (Miss Philippines PIDC 2018). The Mini Pops Kids rounded out the evening's entertainment.

PIDC would like to thank Shawn Walen, recipient of the prestigious Certified Master Chef designation, who prepared an award-winning menu for the evening's festivities.

Last, but not least, PIDC would like to

thank Cristina Carpio and Bea Santiago for sharing the emcee responsibilities, and keeping the crowd engaged, for the evening.

For more information about becoming a member, please contact us at: info@pidctoron-to.com

About PIDC

PIDC is an organization, whose main objective is to foster unity within the Filipino-Canadian community by showcasing the best of Philippine Arts, Culture and Heritage. Events for 2019, will include:

- Mrs. Philippines (Saturday, April 6, 2019, at Rembrandt Banquet Hall; featuring dinner, show and dance);
- Salu Salo Community Potluck Picnic, marking the inaugural National Philippines Heritage Month (June 1, 2019, at Earl Bales Park);
 Independence Day Flag Raising (Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at Toronto City Hall):
- Mabuhay Cup (MCup) Basketball Tournament date TBD at Durham College);
- Miss and Little Miss Philippines PIDC (Saturday, July 6, 2019); at Sandra Faire and Ivan Fecan Theatre, York University and
- Mabuhay Philippines Festival (Friday, August 23, 2019 to Sunday, August 25, 2019, at Nathan Phillips Square).

For additional information, on these events, as well as other upcoming events or to join and/or volunteer with PIDC, please check their website at www.pidctoronto.com or their Facebook, Instagram and Twitter page under Philippine Independence Day Council Toronto or pidc.toronto.

Barbie Imperial Experiences Wardrobe 'Malfunction' in Boracay

The Kapamilya actress took a quick break from work to relax in the white beaches of Boracay. And of course, her summer vacation will not be complete without a few Instagram-wor-

thy shots.



For her Boracay vacation, the 20-year-old actress prepared several 'outfits-of-the-day.'

However, prepared as she might be, Barbie still encountered wardrobe malfunction during her Boracay getaway. Apparently, some of the undergarments she brought were too loose for the petite actress.

If you think a little wardrobe malfunction will dampen Barbie's

mairunction will dampen Bal summer spirit, then think again.

summer spirit, then think again. On Instagram, she shared how

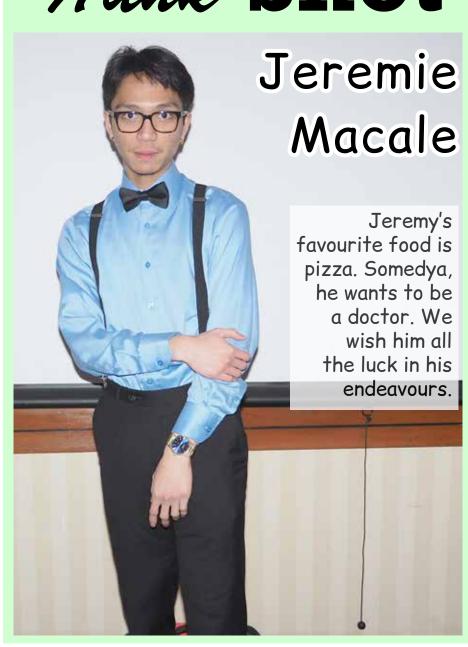
On Instagram, she shared how she managed to fix her clothes: "Pag hindi kasya ang bra, itali mo. Pag maluwag ang shorts, tahiin."

Because of this, many people were impressed with the

creativity of the actress! As expected, her Boracay photos immediately went viral. As of writing, one of her shots has already garnered more than 247,000 likes on Instagram alone.

Barbie's photo also elicited praises from other celebrities like her half-sister Chiena Filomeno, Joj Agpangan, Sarah Lahbati, Elise Joson, and many more.

Hunk Shot



Sharon Cuneta prefers not to be on good terms with ex-husband Gabby Concepcion

After briefly patching things up early last year, former couple Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion had a falling out again a couple of months later.

Inamin ni Sharon Cuneta na hindi pa sila nagkakabating muli ng dating asawa na si Gabby Concepcion

Pero ayon sa Megastar, mas mabuti na raw ito. Noong nakaraang linggo, nag-post si Sharon ng collage ng larawan nila ni KC Concepcion, anak ng singer-actress kay Gabby.

Caption dito ng singer-actress: "The VERY BEST PROJECT/PRODUCTION of Sharon & Gabby. She got her Pa's perfectly handsome face, and most everything else from Ma."

Sa comments section, isang fan ang nagtanong kay Sharon kung bati na ba sila ni Gabby. Sagot ng Megastar: "No pa nga eh. Hayaan na natin buti na ganito."

A VERY SHORT REUNION

Noong February 2018, nagkaroon ng TV reunion sina Sharon at Gabby para sa endorsement ng isang kilalang fastfood chain.

Nagkaayos ang dating mag-asawa at finollow pa nila ang isa't isa sa Instagram.

Ikinatuwa naman ito ng anak nilang si KC.

Nagkaroon din ng planong magkaroon ng reunion movie ang dating magka-love team.

Pero pagdating ng April, nag-unfollow ang isa't isa sa social media, kasunod ang balitang

hindi na matutuloy ang kanilang reunion movie. Hindi tinukoy kung ano ang pinag-ugatan ng muling pagkasira ng samahan nina Sharon at

Pero matalinhaga ang posts at comments ng dating mag-asawa sa social media.

BIRTHDAY GREETING FOR KC Samantala, ipinagdiwang ni KC ang kanyang 34th birthday nitong April 7, Linggo.

Idinaan nina Sharon at Gabby ang pagbati nila sa anak via social media.



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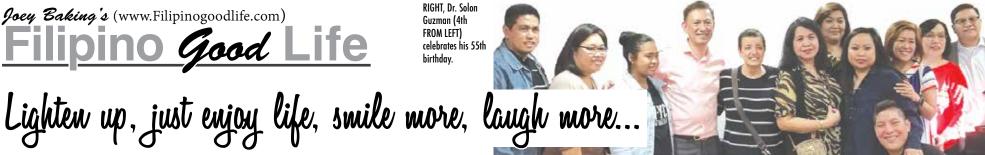
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RIGHT, Dr. Solon Guzman (4th FROM LEFT) celebrates his 55th

one of our foodie outings at Cacao 70.



Actor Kenneth Branagh once said "Lighten up, just enjoy life, smile more, laugh more, and don't get so worked up about things." I believe Jojo lived life by that rule.

On April 6, Jojo Taduran, Dr. Solon Guzman and Clowie Layoso celebrated different milestones in their life.

Jojo Taduran left this world on that day. His family and friends attended mass at the Our Lady of Assumption before his body was brought to St. John's Norway Cemetery and Crematorium to be cremated.

Dr. Solon Guzman was celebrating his 55th birthday that day.

Clowie Layoso was celebrating her 18th birthday that day.

I know what you are thinking. How could Jojo's death be a celebration of life? You see, when a person dies, family and friends remember his life and how he

"His smile," Father Ebcas said, of what he remembers about Jojo. "He always had that smile when he greeted me 'how are you father?"

There is a TV show entitled "A million little things." You will be remembered for big

things as well as the little things that you do to people. Obviously, Jojo loves to be around people. You wouldn't be a member of many associations if do not love being surrounded by people, specially friends.

When Father Ebcas said that story about Jojo's smile, I remember it too. Jojo always had a smile when he saw me. When he greeted friends, he always had a smile. And a joke. It may be a bad joke. But he will always follow

it with a laugh. You may not laugh but now that he's gone, I know I will miss it. Why? Because if you were not having a good day, Jojo's smile, that joke, and that laugh will make you feel a little better, a little lighter. You will not feel worse I can tell you that. Jojo Taduran (FAR LEFT) wife Fe Paca-Taduran and me in $\,$ Like I said, "a million little things" and those are Jojo's million little things, his

smile, his joke and his laughter.

"Kulang na kayo, Kuya," says Nathan Mendoza, referring to me, Jojo and his wife Fe when we go on our our foodie

"I know," I said. I will definitely miss him when we eat out. While we will surely miss him during our eat-outs, Jojo will be eating in GOD-ly company, GOD.

Then, there's Dr. Solon Guzman who never



dances the 18 roses.

fails to celebrate his birthday, his wife's birthday, his children's birthdays, his mother's birthday, etc... I wouldn't be surprised if, one day, I get an invitation for a party for his househelp's birthday. I always wondered if he ever gets tired of celebrating birthdays. I believe he doesn't get tired of celebrating birthdays. He loves being with people. He loves celebrating life.

Clowie Layoso's life is just starting. I don't know much about her. She is one Debutante' Clowie Layoso (RIGHT) of the students of Star Circle Entertainment. All I can say is, "Clowie, enjoy life to the

fullest like Uncle Jojo Taduran did and like what Dr. Solon Guzman is doing."

Life is too short not to be enjoying it to the fullest with family and friends.

Ria Atayde ready to take a chance on JM de Guzman

He is worth taking the chance for," said actress Ria Atayde when reporters asked her to confirm the rumor that fellow ABS-CBN artist JM de Guzman

is courting her. However, Ria said she wasn't sure of the actor's real inten-

"It's hard to assume with this gener-

ation—labo-labo na kasi. It's not like courtship in the past," she said at a recent thanksgiving lunch she hosted with her brother Arjo and mom Sylvia

Sanchez. "I feel more pressured whenever you (members of the media) are asking me about it. It's like mas malaki ang issue kapag sa inyo. [But when we're together], parang wala lang."

The rumor between JM and Ria started when Arci Muñoz, JM's good friend and leading lady in Eduar-do Roy Jr.'s romantic comedy "Last Fool Show," kept teasing the latter to Ria in one of their press conferences. JM even fanned the flames when he replied, during an ambush interview, that Ria "is someone I'd want to keep in my life forever."

To this, Ria said: "I feel that if you have a connection with somebody no matter who he is, and if he has such a high value in your life, you'd truly want to keep him forever. I think that person is someone worth treasuring."

The actress insisted that she and JM were simply "hanging out." In fact, the two last saw each other at John Mayer's concert in Hong Kong two weeks ago.

"As for the question 'may pag-asa ba?' I see no problem. We click. He is kind-hearted and respectful. Like me, he also loves his family so much; and yes, he is boyfriend material," Ria pointed out.

JM entered a rehabilitation facility twice for drug dependence.

When asked what she thought of his "difficult past," Ria replied: "I see no problem. I think he wouldn't be the person he is now if he didn't go through all of that. The person he is now is a good person and is worth giving the chance.'

However, she said they don't see each other as often as people thought they do.

We're both busy. He isn't someone who is fond of calling or sending text messages. We would communicate only when we feel like it," she confessed. 'Being single has been therapeutic for me. I'm able to focus on myself, able to explore more things. I feel like it's been good for me."

She added: "Having a relationship now would mean having less time for myself. It's a matter of finding somebody who is worth breaking up with myself for. I hang out with a lot of couples. People would make fun of me on social media. Excuse me, ang sarap kayang maging single!"

As for the qualities she is looking for in a man, Ria said: "I have never liked someone because of his looks; as long as we click emotionally and mentally, as long as we have a connection."

Jasmine says she's no comparison to Anne

JASMINE Curtis Smith is ecstatic over the glowing reviews she received for her short but sweet appearance in "Sahaya" in its first two weeks. Everyone says she completely disappeared in the role of Manisan, a young Badjao maiden impregnated by a city boy and oppressed by her mother in law. Even her older sister, Anne Curtis, praised her and urged GMA to give a lead role next time. What's her reaction to this?

"First of all, I want to thank all those who took time in posting on social media to praise my performance," she says. "I was really overwhelmed by the good reviews and they're all music to my ears. As always in any role I do, I just gave my 100 percent and I'm so glad viewers appreciate it. As for my Ate Anne, kinilig ako sa kanyang very sweet gesture and I want to thank her for always supporting me."

How does her Ate Anne feel when people say that Jasmine is much better than her? "Hindi naman namin napag-uusapan 'yan. We



always encourage each other kapag may napapanood kaming trabaho ng bawat isa na maganda ang execution. At saka, magkaiba naman kami. Hindi naman ako singer like

her. Hindi ako nakakapuno ng concert sa Araneta, siya 'yun. Pinupuri niya talaga ako at ganun din naman ako sa kanya. Inaangat namin ang isa't isa and we don't treat it as a contest or competition."

She's glad to star in a new film, "Maledicto", a horror movie, and it so happened she's also doing two other horror flicks. We tell her she's now the new Horror Queen. "Ay, ayoko ng ganyang title, ayokong ma-identify lang sa iisang genre," she laughs. "Nataon lang, sunud-sunod nga ang horror na ginagawa ko. But I really like my role in 'Maledicto' as

She finds her role very challenging. "To begin with, it's my first time to play the role of a nun. Challenging din 'yung possession scenes na habang may rite of exorcism, nagliliparan ang mga plato and other objects sa paligid namin.

FILIPINO CENTRE TORONTO continued from page 15

membership, professional certification, awards, honours, distinctions received, education and training, and overall assessment like effectiveness, impact, quality, commitment, engagement , and amount of accomplishments, contributions, service and volunteer time to the community before and after the age of 65.

The FCT -OFCSYA board of judges is composed of Dr Alice Herrera, University of the Philippines Alumni Association -Toronto President; Steve Pagao, Philippine Chamber of Commerce -Toronto President; Nita Rejdik, Filipino Centre Toronto Director; Garry Tanuan, Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustee; Antonio Villarin, Toronto Solicitor-Barrister; and Tony A. San Juan, retired Toronto educator (Chairman).

Introducing briefly, Carol Banez, a registered nurse, is president of Scarborough Ontario Seniors Association & ex-president of Philippine Heritage Band; Norma Carpio, a travel agency owner, is chair emerita of Mabuhay Philippines Festival & former president of Philippine Independence Day Council; Ted Dayno, a CPA, is an entrepreneur & president of UMAC & FOREX; Agnes Miranda, a supporter of community organisations, is the senior executive vice-chair of World Financial Group: Rafael Nebres. a community & faith-based leader, is the general manager of Action Honda; George Poblete, a retired engineer, is a top officer

of the Knights of Columbus & the Knights of Rizal; and Arturo T. Viola, a retired medical technology manager, is former politician and Lord Mayor of the Niagara- on- the- Lake township. Also, Erlinda Insigne, a real estate broker is long-serving president of Filipino Canadian Assn. of Vaughan; Rolando Dela Cruz, a Lion & former district governor, is an optical lab technician; and Joel Recla, a K of C Maharlika member, is a multicultural TV-Radio producer, creator & host.

In attendance were dignitaries, civic and community leaders such as Canadian Members of Parliament Shaun Chen, Salma Zahid & Majid Jowhari, Philippine Deputy Consul General Bernadette Fernandez, Toronto Councillor Cynthia Lai, Gary Gladstone, Jess Cabrias, Joe Damasco, Earl Dacara, Karen Binaday, Ramon Estaris, Ed Prillo, Ed Joaquin, Mel Galeon, Suzy Llanera, Willie Rafanan, Lito Martin & Danny Orbillo. Nestor Canton and Ctherine Chan ably hosted the evening's program.

Organised in 1990 as a not -for- profit, volunteer-run, community-based organisation, the Filipino Centre Toronto-FCT operates and offers its many well- established programs and services to the community from its newly owned site at 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario M1S 1T9. The current major officers are Mary Ann S. San Juan, President & CEO and Efren De Villa, Chairman of the Board of Directors. (Tony A.San Juan, OCT.)

Candid SPOOF

(Pop-ups are not supposed to be taken seriously - EDITOR)



Filipinos Centre Toronto board member Philip Beloso talks on the phone at the FCT Spring Gala

Nadine Lustre

Is she willing to play Darna?

MANILA- Nadine said she is happy that

she is one of those being suggested to remake the movie of the Pinay heroine. "I know naman kasi that the role is going to be given to someone who's deserving and someone who can do it. I mean, it doesn't have to be me.

It just has to be someone who can give justice to the role," Nadine said. When asked if she is willing to do the role, Nadine said it depends.

"I don't know. It depends. I don't really like saying that I don't want to do it or not because mapupunta talaga 'yan sa kung sinong deserve nung role na 'yun eh," she said.

Nadine admitted that she does not have a new teleserye coming soon, but said she has a new movie with Sam Concepcion.

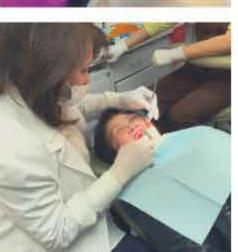
















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