## Philippines has too many holidays in Southeast Asia

MANILA - The Philippines loses a month of productivity yearly due to excessive holidays, a lawmaker said.

House Ways and Means Committee Chair Joey Salceda has filed House Bill 5032 which seeks to cut down the number of non-working holidays to 18 from the current 21 to 25.

"With 21 to 25 public holidays per year, the Philippines is one of the top countries in the region and among the most prolific in the world with the most holidays. Public holidays in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) average 15 holidays only per year," he said in his explanatory note.

Under his proposal, only the following regular holidays will remain:
New Year's Day

REDUCE PHL HOLIDAYS continued on page 11



Ina Raymundo defends daughter's Big Boobs
Asin Tax on "daing" considered
Nadine Lustre is Pregnant? Again?

Keeping Up With The Barrettos PHL to lift 1M Filipinos from Poverty

DOH MIGHT BAN E-CIGARETTES
Ai-Ai reveals former life as Mistress

The comedy show Charot featuring comedians AJ Tamiza and Boobay filled 350-400 of the 450 seats at the Korean Centre. In photo, fan Abby Diaz (CENTRE) recognizes them at Parkway Mall a day before the show.

## Manila is 3rd with lowest quality of life

MANILA, Philippines — Manila ranked poorly at third place among 56 cities worldwide with the lowest quality of life, research published by Deutsche

Model Kina Amarillo

Gellangarin design.

wears a Hector Totong

Bank has shown.

Based on its May 2019 report, Deutsche Bank said the top three cities with the lowest quality of life were Lagos,

Nigeria; Beijing, China; and Manila, Philippines.

One the other hand, the cities with the highest quality of life, according to the research, were Zurich, Switzerland; Wellington, New Zealand; and Copen-

MANILA continued on page 9

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#### 'Nobody remembers the runners-up': Miss Universe 1969 Gloria Diaz shares pageant bitter realities

MANILA, Philippines — Miss Universe 1969 Gloria Diaz did not hold back in revealing some unspoken rules among pageant queens during Netflix's Tuesday press conference for the season two of pageant-themed series "Insatiable," in which she is a guest star.

When asked by Miss Grand International 2016 1st runner-up Nicole Cordoves, the forum's host and moderator, on her interpretation of the series' season two theme, "Queens take control," Gloria shared how pageant winners are treated among beauty queens.

"Well, I'm talking based on experience. To a certain extent, the winner has the say. I mean, they always talk about the first runner-up, second runner-up. There comes a time, after one or two years, nobody remembers the runners-up. So it's the queens who take control," the award-winning actress explained.

Even in ordering food, the winners have the final say, Gloria claimed. "If the winner wants inihaw na baboy... even if everybody wants quinoa, it's the inihaw na baboy that comes." Debby Ryan and Dallas Roberts, who play the lead in the series, said they were able to experience what it means for "queens to take control" after working with Gloria.

"There's so many different types of strength that a woman can exude. It's just in the DNA of the show. And the thing I've noticed, and all of these women specifically working with Gloria, with her formidable, terrifying energy — respect is not demanded. It's commanded. I think that is really prevalent to me and all of the powerful women I'm around and look up to."

#### Joshua Garcia amused by romance rumors with Alexa Ilacad

Joshua Garcia shot down recent rumors that he's dating "The Killer Bride" co-star Alexa Ilacad.

The actor said: "May nakikita akong mga tweet about sa [amin], and sinabi ko sa kaniya, 'Alam mo bang pinagti-tripan tayo sa Twitter, na sinasabi na tayo?"

"So kami pinagtatawanan na lang namin, pati kami nina Janella [Salvador]," he said, referring to their other co-star in the late night drama. He also added that he and Ilacad are "just close."

Garcia explained that people might have gotten the idea because Ilacad's character is supposed to like his. He said that this dynamic led to them developing a better friendship that began when they both were part of the 2017 teleserye "The Good

Son."

"Lahat naman ng cast ka-close namin. Kaya sig-



uro nagagawa namin nang maganda yung mga eksena namin," he said.

Garcia's previous relationship prior to the new rumors was with Julia Barretto, while Ilacad was last linked with Nash Aguas.

#### James Reid admits he almost quit showbiz because of depression

Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon, umamin si James Reid, 26, na ilang beses na niyang muntikang talikuran ang showbiz dahil sa depression.

Saad ng Kapamilya actor, "Yeah, many

"Most of the time was before Nadine and I got together.

"I can say that was probably the height of my depression."

Si Nadine Lustre, 25, ang reel-and-real life girlfriend ni James.

Gaano kaseryoso niya itong ikinukunsidera noon? Tugon niya, "Serious enough for me to I wanna just drop everything, yup, like, saying goodbye to everything.

"I was still so affected by what fans said.

"At that time, I was still so affected by what people were telling me how to be me, people telling me what to do with my life." Dahil daw sa dikta ng mga tagahanga, nagmuni-muni muna si James ukol dito sa ibang bansa. Saad niya, "At that time, I took a trip to Japan by myself.

"Just alone.

"I wanted to get away from the country, away from the fans and bashers alike."

Dagdag pa ni James, pagkabalik niya sa bansa galing Japan, doon na raw lalong naging maigting ang ugnayan ng relasyon nila ni Nadine.

"With her, I didn't have to pretend. Naudlot daw ang balak niyang taliku-

ran ang limelight dahil na rin sa kanyang nobya.

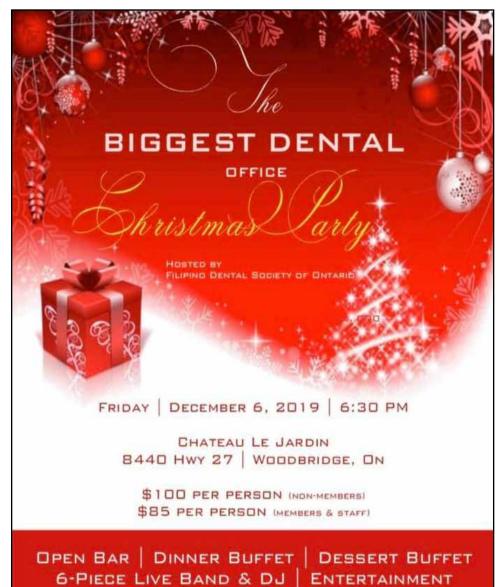
"Being able to share it with someone because, like, I would just bottle it all up and tried to forget it, but it doesn't work that way.

"Like, pain shared is half the pain." Inamin ni James na magka-live in na sila ni Nadine.



## Honey Shot





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#### Ina Raymundo defends daughter from remark on 'too big' boob size

Erika Poturnak, Ina Raymundo Mother and daughter Ina Raymundo (right) and Erika Poturnak

Ina Raymundo's daughter Erika Poturnak wowed this week in a

pre-debut video and photo shoot that showed her confident in her own skin. Poturnak modeled in bikinis and a corset on a beach, proudly flaunting her curves.

Raymundo has been supportive of her daughter willing to be out in public, after years of wanting to maintain her privacy. As the actress said in her Instagram. "During her early teenage years, Erika didn't want me to post any of her photos. She didn't want to be exposed because she wasn't ready and I completely understood."

"I'm so glad we waited for the right moment. Here she is... I'm going to support her all the way."

Along with the praises of her daughter's natural beauty came criticisms, one of which implied a boob job. One @ katvalencia1023 commented on Raymundo's post of her daughter's pre-debut video: "She's pretty but I hope she didn't make her busts too big. Comparing

CRUZ



Raymundo was quick to defend

her daughter and asked, "What are you trying to insinuate? #ignorant."

She explained that her daughter has been insecure about her chest. "If anything, my daughter wants to make her breasts smaller. You have no idea how this made her insecure about her body but I'm happy that it's not affecting her much anymore. She's embracing what she has. Be careful with what you say."

She added, "I beg to disagree. I see a beautiful face more than anything."

At 43, Raymundo is an example of being body-positive and embracing her sensuality. Being a mother of five has not stopped her from flaunting her sexy figure, whether on social media or in a men's magazine—truly owning what she has got.



### That's Entertainment

The Barretto family feud is going non-stop. Maybe, by the time this paper is distributed, it may have run out of steam already. Maybe. Family feuds used to employ guns, goons and gold and they used to kill each other when and where they see each other hanggang magkaubusan. Thanks to social media, now they shoot with their mouth. Nobody dies and people are entertained.

The Barretto feud can only be good for Duterte. The government doesn't have to come up with their own issue every two weeks. Here's how it works. Out of the blue, President Duterte wil badmouth another

person, another politician, another country for no reason. The media will write about it. If that doesn"t work, Duterte will make another crazy statement un-related to the one he just said. If it goes trending, the government will rest while the media feasts on the topic, congress and the senate will deabte it, create a committe to investigate it, summons all the witnesses, etc... Once that issue or non-issue has been milked to death, Duterte will make make another crazy statement and th emdia, like dogs, being

thrown a bone will chase it chew on it until all angles has been milked on it.

In another news, Philippines plan to lift 1-M poor people every year in 10 years daw. They already lifted mga 330 people out of retirement and made them millionaires for now. Mga Congressmen and senators po. If they stay there long enough, they will become billionaires. Ehe,e ste ano ba itong nasabi ko?

Balik tayo sa mga Barretto...

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## CANADA

SAT. FEBRUARY 22, 2020

etween promoting her self-titled EP, performing for crowds of thousands, and acing her Mathematics and English classes, this 17-year-old is taking time to find herself and figure out what

she wants to do next.

ANGELIN

More Than Just an

Angelina Cruz had never really considered herself the singer in the family. Her sisters were fond of singing, sure, but she wasn't. She was more of an artist, and she preferred curling up with a sketchbook and drawing or painting dreamy pictures like forest nightscapes. When she was in eighth grade, however, her sister Samantha got a ukelele. Out of curiosity, she picked it up and found that it wasn't so hard to teach herself to play.

"Eventually I started doing covers and posting them online," says Angelina.

"They reached out to my mom," Angelina recalls. (Her "mom," of course, is actress Sunshine Cruz, from whom Angelina has gotten her impressive stature and delicate features, not to mention her singing talent.) The team from Universal liked what she was doing with the music she was making for fun, and they wanted to know if she was interested in a record deal. "I was super surprised," she gushes. "Because, 'di ba, I'm not really used to singing, so it was really unexpected and it was exciting."

"I really prioritize my studies first, more than my career," she says. "[But] you don't [this kind of] opportunity a lot, so I took it."

Her mom was ecstatic—but if Angelina was going to put herself out there, she was going to have to practice and work hard, and focus on her studies. "[But] you don't get [this kind of] opportunity a lot, so I took it. It's also a great way for me to keep practicing and get better, and I'm happy that I signed with them."

Despite being no stranger to the public eye, Angelina has grown up to be soft-spoken and unassuming, so it doesn't come as a surprise that she often has to battle stage fright. "I get to release all [the nervous] energy out every time I perform."

This year, she released her self-titled EP, on which she collaborated and worked with We usually sing

collaborated and worked with award-winning producer Ito Rapadas of Neocolours, emerging songwriter Keiko Necesario, and Iñigo Pascual "It was actually Angelina the eldest of the relation to go by, it's sangelina is a genuine persongent agenuine persongent we're bored of her relation mom.

Necesario, and Iñigo Pascual. "It was actually really exciting," she says.

At 17, Angelina is still living her own coming-of-age story, existing on a planet of her own making, the way teenagers do. She loves horror movies, excels in English and Mathematics in school, and peppers her sentences with "obviously" and "actually."

There's such a grounded, easygoing air to her that first impressions and notions of her being a "celebrity daugh-(her parents, after all, are Sun-Cruz and Cesar Montano) suddenly trivial, something addressed with the wave of a hand. "I think I adapted to it [early]," Angelina admits, when asked about her childhood.

But the best pieces of advice she's gotten from her mom have always been to be herself and practice humility—and if Sunshine's rule of knowing your priorities and

sticking to them is anything to go by, it's safe to say that Angelina is a level-headed and genuine person today for a good reason.

"We're close," Angelina says of her relationship with her mom.

Angelina, the eldest of three children, became the first to pursue a singing career in her immediate family. On the topic of doing music with her siblings and possibly forming a sister act a la Haim, she beams, "Maybe! We usually sing together, but just for fun when we're bored."

And if neither singing nor acting end up being for her, she still plans to take up a business management course in college and find a balance between her passions.

"Right now, I'm [all about] being true to myself," says Angelina. Turning 18 soon, she adds, means that she'll have to start writing her own path and making some big decisions. "I'm still trying to find myself. I'm still trying to find my own thing. I'm getting there."



#### Ryza Cenon, ayaw na ng boyfriend na taga-showbiz

Ang maipatayo ang kanyang dream house sa lote na naipundar niya ang main goal ngayon ni Ryza Cenon kaya tanggap siya nang tanggap ng mga trabaho.

Hindi nabakante si Ryza at may action movie siyang ginagawa.



Ito ay ang Delta, kung saan kasama niya sina Phoebe Walker at Cindy Miranda. Ang sunud-sunod na projects kaya wala muna sa isip ni Ryza ang makipagrelasyon.

Besides, hindi pa raw siya handang magma-

"Ayoko na sa taga-showbiz, nakakapagod.

"Although si Cholo [Barretto] kasi, siya yung first na boyfriend ko from showbiz.

Tila napaso nang husto ang aktres sa pakikipagrelasyon sa kapwa artista.

"Kung magkakaroon ako ng bagong boyfriend, sana non-showbiz at sana last na, kasi ang tanda ko na.

"I'm turning 32 sa December 21.

"Nape-pressure ako dahil yung mga kasama ko, yung friends ko, may mga anak na, dalawa

"Kaya kapag may get-together kami, naa-out of place ako minsan. Nag-uusap sila regarding sa babies, so parang ako, gusto kong i-share yung aso ko. Siyempre, gusto ko rin magkaanak kahit isa lang. Sina Mike Tan, LJ Reyes, may mga anak na. Sila yung mga kasabay ko sa showbiz," sabi

Ang makapagbiyahe sa ibang bansa ang gusto ni Ryza na reward sa sarili pagkatapos ng siyam na buwan na taping niya para sa The General's Daughter.

"Sobrang simple lang ng reward ko, ang makapag-travel lang, pero may mga trabaho

"Siguro sa December na lang. Gusto kong pumunta sa Peru dahil mahilig ako sa hiking," sabi ni Ryza.



## **Nadine Lustre on Pregnancy rumours**

Pregnant? Here's what Nadine Lustre has to say

Nadine Lustre has yet again laughed off rumors that she is pregnant.

Earlier this month, a photo of Nadine Lustre posing at the airport with a plump belly before flying to Indonesia for an endorsement commitment made rounds online.

While netizens weren't exactly sure as to why she had a rather more round tummy, several netizens speculated that she was pregnant.

During the sidelines of the media launch for Your Moment, ABS-CBN's newest talent reality search, some members of the entertainment press asked Nadine Lustre if the rumors were true.

"Ha? Buntis ako? Ba't di ko po alam na buntis ako," she said. "Talaga ba? Hindi naman," she said.

With Your Moment reportedly set to run for 15 weeks, Nadine Lustre said she would be more than glad to take a break from showbiz for a while.

"Ako. I guess kasi buong taon tuloy-tuloy din po ako. So I think well-deserved ko

naman 'yung magpahinga. And meron din po kasi akong mga kailangan asikasuhin outside po of showbiz.'

Lustre also admitted that she doesn't know where the fake news came from, adding that she hopes people would believe in something if it came directly from her instead of other people.

"Oo. Bakit," she said. "Saan kasi nanggaling? Parang ako naman, if hindi naman nanggaling sa akin, sana 'wag nang paniwalaan 'di ba?" Asked why she now has a sexier

figure, Nadine said: "Nagkasakit po ako. Ano po, viral po. Siyempre lahat po halos ng tao ngayon may sakit. Kakagaling lang sa rainy season. So ayun po."

This is not the first time Nadine was rumored to be pregnant. Back in 2017, the same rumors surfaced on social media.

Meanwhile, the actress is set to judge the talent reality search Your Moment alongside King of Talk Boy Abunda and International RnB Sensation Billy Crawford.

The show airs this November 9 on ABS-

## **DOH** wants ban on e-cigarettes

MANILA - The Department of Health called Wednesday for a ban on e-cigarettes as it stressed that vaping has no positive health effect.

Vaping or using e-cigarettes, is not a proven nicotine replacement therapy and can cause lung illness as well, Health Undersecretary Eric Domingo

"If the DOH had its way, we would go for an outright ban," Domingo told reporters, noting that a bill is on the works for the proposal.

"Ang vape ay nakakasama sa ating kalusugan, hindi po ito ligtas," he said.

(Vape is not good or safe for the

At present, over 1 million Filipinos, or about 1 percent of the population are using e-cigarettes, Domingo said.

E-cigarettes are devices that vaporize a solution that users inhale. It does not use tobacco leaves, unlike regular cigarettes.

Its use became popular among Filipinos, particularly the youth, as the government implemented higher excise taxes on tobacco products, and the ban on smoking in public areas.

While long-term health impacts from vaping remain largely unknown, e-cigarettes were viewed as a healthier alternative that could help users quit smoking when they were first launched a few years ago.

But countries like South Korea and Malaysia have been considering pulling electronic cigarette products from markets and restricting advertising as vaping faces increased scrutiny.



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## Retirement system in Philippines among worst worldwide

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has the fourth worst retirement system among 37 countries, according to a study which assesses various pension systems across the globe.

Based on the 2019 Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index (MMGPI), the Philippines' retirement system ranked 34th among 37 countries, with an overall index value of 43.7.

This is the Philippines' first time to be included in the MMGPI study, which is now on its 11th year. The index studies 37 retirement systems across the world covering almost two-thirds of the global population.

"By benchmarking global retirement income systems, the Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index can help both the public and private sectors in the Philippines understand how they can improve the country's retirement system and generate better outcomes for retirees," said Harold Tan, wealth leader for Mercer Philippines.

According to Mercer, the study covers three sub-indices, namely sustainability, adequacy and integrity to measure each



retirement system.

The company said the 2019 index calculates the net replacement rate, which refers to the level of retirement income provided to replace the previous level of employment earnings.

Based on the study, the Philippines found itself among the top 15 for sustainability sub-index, with a score of 55.5.

Sustainability includes factors, such as the economic importance of the private pension system, level of funding, the length of expected retirement, labor force participation rate of the older population, the current level of government debt and the level of real economic growth.

On the other hand, the country had the third lowest ranking in adequacy, with a 39 sub-index value.

Mercer said adequacy refers to the benefits provided to the poor and a range of income earners, as well as design features and characteristics that enhance the efficacy of the overall retirement income system.

The Philippines was also at the bottom of the integrity sub-index—which considers regulation and governance, protection and communication for members, and operating costs of the pension system—with a score of 34.7.

"Based on its results and ranking in its first inclusion in the index, the Philippines can consider increasing the minimum level of support for the poorest aged individuals and widening coverage of employees," Tan said.

"It can also look into setting aside funds in the public system for the future and introducing options for retirement plan proceeds to be preserved for retirement purposes," he said.

## Did Kim Molina's talent fee increase after the success of 'Jowable'?

- Kim Molina's film Jowable is a hit in cinemas
- Rumors are that her talent fee increased after starring in the film
- The actress was overwhelmed by the movie's success

Singer and actress Kim Molina was overwhelmed by the success of her launching movie Jowable under Viva films. The movie which details one woman's search for love was directed by Daryll Yap.

"I'm very happy and I feel very honored to be part of it. Like my smile di siya matanggal ngayon sobrang saya ko kasi una sa lahat yung prodprod po kasi namin with everyone... masaya din kasi eh. Kumbaga parang we just felt like we are bunch of theater actors excited for another project, for another play kasi ganoon po yung nararamdaman ko whenever I have new musicals."

With the success of her launching movie, it was rumored that she is now enjoying an increased talent fee at ABS-CBN.

When asked about the matter, the actress only answered in jest. "Ang masasabi ko po diyan Viva po ang makakasagot ng ganyang mga katanungan sapagkat ako po ay nagtratrabaho lamang. Ako po ay isang aktor na gustong ipamahagi sa inyo ang aking talento. Yun lang naman po. Sa mga na mga papera-pera na ganyan wala po akong alam as of now. Kakapalabas pa lang po ng aking pelikula na maraming salamat naman po tintangkilik nila."

Before gaining her lead role in Jowable, Kim was first seen in her iWant movie MOMOL Nights along with Kit Thompson. The movie centers on a woman, portrayed by Kim, who tries to move on from a failed relationship through MOMOL leading to one-night stands.

The actress was then asked to compare her two films both of which she said were challenging to do.

"It's two different materials po din kasi kumbaga I can't compare them with one another because it is too different from each other kumbaga. MOMOL Nights was hard for me in a sense it was my first lead role na launched digitally and it was also my very first bed scene as in bed scene talaga. I came from a very conservative family. Ang MOMOL Nights po kasi the material also delikado. Comedy po kasi siya but at the same time it's very sexy."

Meanwhile, the actress also opened up about her bed scene in the Viva film with real life boyfriend Jerald Napoles which she described as awkward.

"Jowable is hard for me but it was my real boyfriend kumbaga it was really awkward naman for me. Every time kasi me and Gerald, every time na mag-eksena kami we see to it na mauna po yung actor kami so tinatanggal po muna namin si Kim at si Jerald sa pagkatao namin. So it's really Elsa and Bumbay. We're just actually blessed na we're trained sa theaters so ganun po kami ka-trained," she shared.

What is her favorite scene in Jowable?

"Ako favorite scene ko yung bar scene ng friends. One take din po yun. It's my favorite because I'm working with two of the best comedians in the country for me Chad Kinis and Cai Cortez. Although idagdag na po natin so Jobelyn (Manuel) na bago sa industriya pero meron din yung bata eh. Para lang din po aking nasa teatro. Ang sarap ng batuhan kasama yung mga co-actors mo na generous sa eksena."

Though Kim gained praise for her performance, the actress said that she is not aiming to win any awards to avoid frustrations.

"Bonus na lang po if ever. It's another blessing if ever mabigyan po tayo ng pagkakataon. But I couldn't say I'm aiming for it kasi ako po pinalaki po ako ng magulang ko na if you are aiming for something more than what you already have, yung ulo mo lalaki tapos if hindi mo makuha, masyado kang made-depress or masyadong masakit para sa 'yo. If you expect too much, it's gonna be too painful for you that you won't be able to move on to another project."

In the recent updates, Jowable has now reached a gross earning of P47.5 million since it was released last September 25, Wednesday, in the cinemas. Kim said that the movie was unexpected for her. She was also thankful for the supporters of her movie.

"Sa lahat po na nakanood na ng Jowable maraming salamat po sa inyo. Jowable nation mahal na mahal po namin kayo. Hindi po namin inaasahan na ganito po kainit ang pagtanggap niyo sa amin. Hanggang ngayon po 41 million and counting. Sana marami pa po ang makakanood ng aking pelikula. Sana po patuloy niyo kaming suportahan. Thank you so much," Kim said.

The actress revealed that she has another Viva film lined up. Apart from this, she can also be seen in the hit afternoon series Kadenang Ginto as Savannah Rosales. She is also part of the movie Unforgettable as the best friend of Sarah Geronimo's character. In addition, Kim was also cast in the Viva film Love The Way You Lie starring Alex Gonzaga and Xian Lim.

The actress is still hoping to perform in a concert and showcase her talents as a singer.

Kimverlie Soriano Molina or Kim is also popular as a stage actress. She is known for her role Aileen in the hit Filipino stage musical Rak Of Aegis.

She has also landed roles in different series like The General's Daughter, Bagani, Sana Dalawa ang Puso, La Luna Sangre, and Till I Met You. While her previous movies were Miss Granny, Ang Pambansang Third Wheel, Ang Dalawang Mrs. Reyes, Luck At First Sight, Extra Service, and Camp Sawi.

### Alessandra on becoming writer/director: 'We have to grow'

ALESSANDRA De Rossi is happy to work with JM de Guzman in the Cinema One entry, "Lucid", where she plays Anna Cruz, a lucid dreamer, who meets JM, a man of mystery who challenges her to make her dreams more daring and adventurous.

"This is something that happens in real life, may lucid dreamers talaga, e," says Alex. "When it was first offered to me, sabi ko, aba, e meron na rin akong idea for a

movie like this, tungkol sa dreams-dreams. Sabi ko, naunahan ako! But I agreed to do it right away kasi nagandahan ako. Our movie is about a woman na marunong mag-lucid dreaming, so, sa kanyang daily life, hindi niya nakokontrol 'yung mga nangyayari sa buhay niya, bored na bored siya sa life niya, ganu'n. Parang empty na siya, burned out. Pero pagdating sa gabi, kapag natulog na siya, ayun, nakokontrol niya lahat sa panaginip niya at du'n sa isa sa dreams niya, she will meet 'yung karakter ni JM, a lucid dreamer din na nasa advanced level, at na-challenge siya kasi hindi niya ito makontrol."

How is it working with JM? "Hindi ko

alam na siya ang makakapareha ko, but when I found out, natuwa ako. Magaling naman talaga siyang artista at nagkasundo kami agad kasi pareho kaming seryoso with our craft."

She's confident that moviegoers looking for a different kind of movie will enjoy "Lucid". "Kakaiba kasi ang concept. Tungkol ito sa mga panaginip and how it affects our waking life. Mahirap gawin, but with a competent actor like JM, naniniwala akong naitawid namin nang maayos ang kakaibang movie

namin. Also, mahusay din ang treatment dito ng director naming si Victor Villanueva, who earlier did the indie hit comedy na 'Patay na si Hesus'."

Alex herself is now no longer just an actress. She wrote the script of the movie "12" last year and now, she not only writes the script but also directs her newest project, "Fuffy and Fream", opposite Piolo Pascual who is also producing it for his own company, Spring Films. "Siyempre, we have to grow," she says. "It's a new adventure for me but I'm glad bago 'yun, nagawa ko itong 'Lucid' with JM de Guzman and I really enjoyed working with him."



#### Imelda itinaob ang AlDub sa Philippine Arena

JUKEBOX Queen, Asia's Sentimental Songstress, KAPPT president, entrepreneur and Camarines Sur vice-governor Imelda Papin made history



as she filled-up
the 55,000-seater
Philippine Arena last
Saturday, October 26,
when she mounted
her 45th anniversary
in the entertainment
business. Billed as
"IMELDA PAPIN: Queen
@ 45 Anniversary Concert" and directed by

Joane Laygo with Mel Villena as musical director, the concert was jointly produced by Dream Wings Productions and Papin Entertainment Productions.

Naging special guest ni Imelda sina LA Santos, ang anak niyang si Maffi Papin, her sisters Gloria and Aileen Papin, her three grandchildren, Gary Cruz, Andrew E., April Boy Regino, Claire de la Fuente, Eva Eugenio, Darius Razon, Jovit Baldivino, Marco Sison, Pilita Corrales, Sonny Parsons and Victor Wood. Si Robin Padilla naman ang naging surprise guest na nagpaunlak ng dalawang kanta.

Nang unang lumabas ang balita na sa Philippine Arena magku-concert si Imelda, marami ang nagtaasan ng kilay. "Kaya ba niyang punuin`yan?" tanong ng iba. Until dumating ang araw ng Sabado, October 26 when people started to arrive in droves at the Philippine Arena hapon pa lamang. Nakakakilabot ang dami ng taong dumagsa sa nasabing venue na ang unang local atists na nakapuno ay ang AlDub nina Alden Richards at Maine Mendoza at Dabarkads ng "Eat Bulaga" nang doon ganapin ang first anniversary ng AlDub. No other local artists attempted to hold concert at the Philippine Arena dahil bukod sa malayo ito (Santa Maria, Bulacan), napakalaki nito (55,000 seater) para punuin.

Ang mga pinasikat na awitin ni Imelda at the peak of her popularity ay nagmistulang `national anthem' ng mga taong nasa audience ng Philippine Arena dahil sinasabayan nila ang pag-awit ng singer-politician.

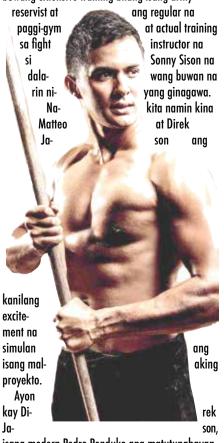


## Matteo handa na bilang Penduko

PHYSICALLY, emotionally and mentally ay handang-handa na si Matteo Guidicelli na gampanan ang pinakamalaking role bilang actor, ang Pedro Penduko na magkakaroon ng super powers sa pelikulang "Penduko" na nakatakdang pamahalaan ni Jason Paul Laxamana na siya ring sumulat ng script.

Ngayong November magsisimula ang filming ng "Penduko" na siya ring magsisilbing unang action-fantasy movie na ididirek ng batang filmmaker under Viva Films and Epik Studios na nakakatakdang ipalabas in 2020.

Malaking advantage kay Matteo ang pagiging althletic. Nakatulong din sa kanya ang isang buwang extensive training bilang isang army



isang modern Pedro Penduko ang matutunghayan kay Matteo pero hindi pa rin umano mawawala sa pelikula ang Pinoy touch at kultura na very much identified sa karakter.

Since Bisaya o Cebuano si Matteo, ididikit sa kanya ang bago niyang character as Pedro Penduko

Samantala, inamin ni Matteo na very proud siya sa bagong movie ng kasintahang si Sarah Geronimo, ang "Unforgettable" na patuloy na pinipilahan ngayon sa mga sinehan.

Since hindi siya nakasama sa premiere night ng movie na ginanap sa Cinema 1 ng SM Megamall last Monday, panonoorin na lamang daw nila ito ni Sarah sa regular run.

Natawa si Matteo nang ito'y tanungin namin kung siya ba'y nagselos sa bagong `leading man' ni Sarah sa movie na si Milo (Happy) na isang trained dog.

Samantala, napag-alaman namin na naka-P5.1-M sa opening day ang "Unforgettable" movie ni Sarah na magkatulong na dinirek nina Jun Lana and Perci Intalan na lalo pa umanong lumakas sa mga sumunod na araw dahil sa magandang feedback mula sa mga taong nakapanood na ng movie na nabigyan ng `B' rating ng Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB).

## Miss Eco Teen Philippines 2019 dethroned for unprofessional behavior, indecency



Vanessa Mae Walters, the first-ever Miss Eco Teen Philippines ,was dethroned by the Miss World Philippines Organization for failing to do her duties. PHOTO/S: @VANESSAMAEWALTERS ON INSTAGRAM

Tuluyan nang tinanggalan ng korona si Vanessa Mae Walters, 19, bilang Miss Eco Teen Philippines 2019 dahil sa mga paglabag sa tungkulin, ayon mismo sa national director ng Miss World Philippines Organization na si Arnold Vegafria.

Noong nakaraang linggo, kumalat ang blind item mula sa ilang pageant enthusiasts na isang beauty queen ang nanganganib ma-dethrone dahil sa hindi magandang asal at pagpu-post nito ng mapangahas na larawan.

Sa official statement na inilabas ng Miss World Philippines ngayong Biyernes, October 4, tinukoy rito ang tatlong paglabag ni Vanessa na naging basehan para tanggalan siya ng korona: misrepresentation of her credentials, unprofessional behavior, at indecency.

Ayon sa statement: "The Miss World Philippines Organization wishes to maintain high ethical and moral standards and uphold the integrity of the title holders.

"As Miss Eco Teen Philippines, Ms. Vanessa Mae Walters is expected to act as an ambassador of the Philippines in the Miss Eco Teen competition, represent the Organization in a professional matter, and serves as a role model for the youth."

Kaugnay ng "unprofessional behavior," binanggit ang mga pagkakataong

nilabag ito ng teen beauty queen.

Kabilang dito ang hindi pagdalo ni Vanessa sa functions upang i-promote ang kanyang titulo, ang pagwu-walk out niya sa mga meeting na ipinatatawag ni Vegafria, at pagtanggi niyang pirmahan ang kontrata kasama ang organisasyon.

Pagdating naman sa Indecency, binanggit ang mga lumabas na nude photo ni Vanessa sa social media at ang "public display of alcohol and tobacco use."

Noong nakaraang linggo ay isang mapangahas na larawan ang ipinost ni Vanessa sa mismong Instagram account niya.

Si Vanessa ay napipintong palitan ni Mary Daena Zaide Resurrecion, na isa rin sa kandidata ng Miss World Philippines 2019.

Ang Miss World Philippines 2019 ay ginanap noong September 14, 2019 sa Smart Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City.

Si Vanessa ang kauna-unahang Miss Eco Teen Philippines.

## Gina Pareño, tinanong si Sarah Geronimo kung kailan ito mag-aasawa



Gina Pareño (right) on Sarah Geronimo: "Napakabait na bata ni Sarah, sobra! Walang kaarte-arte. By nature, ganoon siya, mabait, masaya na katrabaho at very professional."

"Ewan ko sa 'yo!" ang natatawang sagot ni Gina Pareño nang itanong ng Cabinet Files ang kanyang pakiramdam bilang Sweet 70 dahil nagdiwang siya ng kanyang 70th birthday kahapon, October 20.

Ang makagawa pa ng maraming pelikula ang nag-iisang birthday wish ni Gina.

Natuwa ang veteran actress nang malaman niya na G or for General Audience ang classification na ibinigay ng MTRCB sa Unforgettable, ang pelikula nila ni Sarah Geronimo na mapapanood sa mga sinehan simula sa October 23, 2019.

"She's happiness!" description ni Gina tungkol kay Sarah.

"Matagal ko nang gustong makatrabaho si Sarah kaya nagpapasalamat ako kay Boss Vic [del Rosario, Viva Films producer] dahil ako ang napili niyang gumanap na lola ni Sarah sa Unforgettable.

"Napakabait na bata ni Sarah, sobra! Walang kaarte-arte.

"By nature, ganoon siya, mabait, masaya

na katrabaho at very professional.

"Nung tinanong ko nga siya, 'O, ano mag-aasawa ka na?' Sabi niya, 'Oh, my God!'

"Gustong-gusto ko siya," kuwento ni Gina tungkol sa pagsasama nila ni Sarah sa pelikula.

Idinagdag pa ni Gina na pareho sila ni Sarah na mahilig sa mga aso kaya walang dull moments sa set ng Unforgettable.

May tatlong aso si Gina na kasama niya sa kuwarto, limang Labrador, at isang Pomeranian na alaga ng kanyang anak na si Racquel.

"Sinabi mo pa," reaksiyon ni Gina sa komento naming parang nagtatrabaho na lamang siya para sa kanyang mga aso.

Pero walang panghihinayang ang multi-awarded veteran actress dahil natural ang pagiging dog lover niya.

Ang likas na pagmamahal ni Gina sa aso ang dahilan kaya naging malapit siya nang husto kay Milo, ang Jack Russell dog na co-star nila ni Sarah sa pelikula.

"Ang cute-cute ni Milo, napakatalino niya. Gusto ko na nga siya na iuwi.

"Importante ang role ko sa Unforgettable bilang lola ni Sarah dahil kaming tatlo ni Happy [Milo] ang magkakasundo.

"Maski sabihin mo na aso si Happy, madali siyang makaunawa. Kapag wala si Happy, malungkot kaming lahat.

"Itong pelikulang ito, parang dream come true. Ang sarap-sarap ng pakiramdam," ani Gina.

#### Barretto feud nakakaumay na

HANGGAT hindi tumitigil ang Barretto sisters sa kanilang family feud, tiyak na marami pang rebelasyon ang mahahalungkat. Tiyak ding may iba pang tao na tahimik ang buhay ngayon ang madadamay sa totoong teleserye ng Barretto family.

Kahit nasa San Francisco, California, USA ngayon si Gretchen, hindi pa rin ito ligtas sa kontrobersiya at patuloy pa rin ang pakikipag-bangayan nito sa nakababatang kapatid na si Marjorie, ina ng young star na si Julia Barretto na nag-grant ng exclusive interview with Karen Davila sa "Headstart" na ang portion ng panayam ay ipinalabas sa "TV Patrol". Agad itong sinagot ni Gretchen sa kanyang IG account maging ang bunso nilang kapatid na si Claudine ay nag-grant ng exclusive interview sa radio program nina Jobert Sucaldito at Ahwel Paz on DZMM para sagutin ang mga pahayag ni Marjorie sa panayam kay Karen.

The Barretto controversy is far from over. Sa takbo ng mga pangyayari, mukhang malayo pa ang lalakbayin nito lalupa't araw-araw ay may mga bagong pasabog ang lumalabas habang ini-enjoy lamang ng publiko ang mga bagong kaganapan sa giyera although nauumay na rin ang marami sa kanila

In fairness sa longtime partner ni Gretchen, ang business tycoon na si Tonyboy Cojuangco, tahimik lamang ito at hindi nakikisali sa gulong kinasasangkuhan ng Barretto sisters.

### Manila traffic congestion may be world's worst, says Waze

MANILA - Metro Manila is again set to take the dubious honor as the world's worst city for drivers, according to traffic navigation app Waze.

It takes around 4.9 minutes for a motorist to cover just 1 kilometer in the Philippine capital, Waze country head Sarah Rodriguez was quoted in a Bloomberg report.

This is worse than Bogota, Colombia where it takes 4 minutes to travel 1 kilometer, and Jakarta, Indonesia where it takes 3.83 minutes to drive the same distance.

Other cities that were noted in the report are Sao Paulo, Brazil and Tel Aviv, Israel,



where it takes an average of more than two and a half minutes to travel 1 kilometer.

The Waze report was based on data gathered in September, and traffic is expected to only get worse in the succeeding months with the Christmas holiday season.

Metro Manila has consistently been ranking as among the worst cities in the world to drive a vehicle.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently ranked Metro Manila as the most congested

city in developing Asia in a report released last month.

ADB cited the lack of efficient public transport as one of the reasons for the

congestion.

The Philippine capital's traffic congestion costs the country P3.5 billion daily, a 2017 data from the Japan International Cooperation Agency showed. This could rise to P5.4 billion by 2035 if no interventions are made.

Traffic congestion is also costing lives as ambulances face severe delays to reach hospitals.

Earlier this month, the capital's 3 main mass transit systems suffered breakdowns all on the same week, prompting an administration critic to say that Metro Manila was already experiencing a 'transport crisis.'

### Sheryl springs a sexy surprise

Better late than never? Sheryl Cruz thinks so.

Divorced from her husband Norman John Bustos, 49, last known to be a sheriff with the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), Sheryl is a single mom to teenage daughter Ashley. At 45, she said that she believes that it's the time to change — that is, from a sweet image to a sexy one. Sheryl undergoes her, well, "baptism of fire" via a sexy shoot for AOmnl.com

So what was she thinking?

"All I can say is why not? because I'm Probably, it's already of age to make my own decisions," she said in an interview with the portal, "plus I have nobody to ask permission from. And you know I'm celebrating being a woman...being an independent woman. I don't think that there's anything wrong with flaunting what you have, especially if you still got it."

And flaunt it she does. The full set of Sheryl's sexy shoot appears in a series of articles and videos on AOmnl.com this month.

AO means ALL OUT, the new local men's lifestyle portal that features the hottest and sexiest women in the celebrity and influencer worlds, and all the other essential guy stuff for the complete experience.

AO also publishes a bi-annual magazine

special. The maiden issue, AO at the Cinema with Bela Padilla on the cover, is now available on all National Book Store branches.

Part of the charm of the shoot is the appeal of the older woman – you know, May-December affairs and all that. Has it ever happened to you in real life?

Do you remember your signature look back then (during your That's Entertainment days)? How were the fans back then? Were they ready to go to war?

"Well, all I can say is grabe. Do you remember the days when movie fans drowned Vilma Santos and Nora Aunor in sampaguita garlands? Sa amin na nag-

"They were really, really kind. And now I have fans who are teachers, lawyers, doctors, nurses, and they would tell me na nakikipag-away sila nung mga panahon na 'yon! Doon daw sa basketball court nakikipag-sabunutan sa isang Jennifer Sevilla fan! Even though Jennifer and I are friends!"

Nakakatawa kasi this all happened long before social media. If this were now, viral 'to! We're assuming fans sent you letters then. How many did you get in a day?

"I was getting sacks full of letters. As in sako-sako! My mom (Rosemarie Sonora, now remarried and living in California)

eventually had to help me sort through my fan mail. But I did send letters back, and what we did was gumagamit na kami ng carbon paper so I can sign multiple letters, ha ha! For every sack mailed out, tatlong sako ang babalik."

How were you able to take this fame when you were barely 18?

"The truth is, it was too much to handle."

#### Ai-Ai delas Alas opens up about being a former mistress

Ai-Ai delas Alas on being a former mistress: "Hangga't maaari, kung puwedeng iwasan, iwasan na lang."

Naging hot topic noong nakaraang linggo ang pagiging other woman o kabit dahil sa pag-amin ni Marjorie Barretto na may anak sila ni former Caloocan City Mayor Recom Echiverri at naging mistress siya.

Minsan nang naranasan ni Ai-Ai delas Alas na maging other woman nang makipagrelasyon siya kay Miguel Vera.

Pero ang kaibahan lang, hindi niya alam noon na may ibang asawa ang mahusay na

Ang kanyang karanasan bilang other woman ang itinanong kay Ai-Ai nang humarap siya sa entertainment press.

Saad ng Comedy Queen, "Naranasan ko rin na maging escabeche, mahirap. Crayola ka nang crayola.

"Siyempre kung ano lang ang time para

"Doon lang naman ako nakaranas na maging Cavite City. Pero, kumbaga, yung pagiging Cavite City ko, hindi ko pa masyadong alam. Alam ko na nung huli, pero go pa rin ako, so mali pa rin ako."

Inamin ni Ai-Ai na hindi madali ang pamumuhay niya noon.

Lahad niya, "Parang ang bigat-bigat ng buhay mo, 'tapos parati ka pang malungkot, hindi ka masaya.

"Seven years akong Cavite City, dalawa yung naging anak ko sa kanya.'

Ang mga naging anak ni Ai-Ai kay Miguel ay sina Sofia at Nicolo.

Mensahe pa niya, "Try niyo na lang na huwag maging ganoon.

"Hangga't maaari, kung puwedeng iwasan, iwasan na lang. Kasi sabi nga nila, sa bawat pagpatak ng luha ng legal na asawa, yun ang pagbabayaran mo.

"So ako, ang tingin ko, marami akong pinagbayaran."

#### NO PEACE OF MIND

Ang kawalan ng kapayapaan ang sinabi ni Ai-Ai na dahilan kaya nagpasya siyang tapusin ang relasyon nila ni Miguel.

Pero ngayon, magkaibigan sila ng unang asawa ng ama ng kanyang dalawang anak.

"Kasi wala ka rin naman peace, e. "Hindi rin naman siya sa 'yo umuuwi, dun pa rin siya umuuwi, e.

## Sheryn Regis reveals winning battle against the Big C

It's been awhile since fans have seen Sheryn Regis active in the music and concert scene. Well, the Visayan singer revealed only recently that it's because she had thyroid cancer diagnosed in 2016.

"I really never revealed it until now. I was always covered, I didn't show my scar," Sheryn said in an interview.

Sheryn said there weren't even symptoms prior to the discovery of her illness. She admitted feeling scared especially when her immune system started aettina compromised.

Thankfully, she has a new lease in life and she is back to doing what she loves—singing.

"Natakot din ako, syempre hanapbuhay ko ito. Ano kaya gagawin ko? Pero kapag dumating ka pala sa sitwasyon na iyon, pipiliin mo talaga ang life. Iisipin mo lagi na I'm thankful I'm still alive. Hindi mo na iisipin kung may boses ka ba or whatever, kundi I'm just so thankful to be alive," she said.

Having fully recovered from the Big C, Sheryn learned to value her life and family more. She also stays away from stress.

"I know now how to balance my life, not to be too stressed," she said.

Sheryn is thankful that her voice wasn't affected by the disease and that she can still reach high notes as before. She revealed singing "Come On In Out Of The Rain" and "Love On Top" upon recovery.

"Nung kumanta ako, para akong laging may sharp. Kinukulot technique lang talaga. Alam naman ng

tion na hindi okay. Pero gusto producko lang talaga kumanta," Sheryn said.

She's grateful her daughis by her side to give her strength in tough times. Sheryn raised her with Filipino values despite that she's been living in the United States for many years

"She's so sweet. Bisaya pa din siya. Sabi ko sa kanya, 'Hindi ka Amerika-Pilipina ka.'"

Apart from having regular ing engagements in the US, has fulfilled her dream of be-Sheryn coming a teacher. She works part-time preschool teacher.

nα,

sing-

as a

"I'm strict but also very cool with the kids. They like me a lot. I have a teenager so I know how to handle them. When I was still on 'Star in a Million,' I got an offer to teach in an international school. International school or pag-aartista? Nag-artista ako," she said.

When she was still active in the Philippines before migrating to US, Sheryn sung many ABS-CBN teleserye theme songs, including those for "Marina," "Gulong ng Palad," "Prinsesa ng Banyera," "Kristala," "Kampanerang Kuba," and "Sana Maulit Muli." She also did TV dramas, such as, "Love Spell" with Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson and" Betty La Fea."

Given the chance, Sheryn hopes to star on a teleserye while she's in the country. Coco Martin's "Ang Probinsyano" is also in her mind.

"Kahit saan. Actually, mahilig ako sa comedy, pero pwede din ako mag-drama. Gusto ko sila MayWard, gusto ko din makatrabaho ulit sila Bea Alonzo and Kim Chiu. They have grown so much talaga," she said.

Now that she is back, Sheryn hopes to collaborate with Regine Velasquez and fellow "Star in a Million" finalist Erik Santos in concert.

"Iba pa din ang Sheryn and Regine. Ate Regine, ako naman ang susunod. We talk to each other. Actually, wala pa kaming back-to-back ni Erik Santos. I look forward to that. I look forward to working with the icons like sila Sir Martin Nievera and Sir Gary Valenciano."

#### Alex Diaz flies to Canada after indecent-proposal controversy

Magpapalamig muna sa Canada ang dating MYX VJ at Kapamilya actor na si Alex Diaz.

Ito ay matapos niyang masangkot sa "indecent proposal" controversy.

Bago siva lumipad patungona Calgary, ngapaglam muna si Alex sa kanyang mga tagasuporta sa Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng Instagram noong October 28.



Mensahe niya (published as is): "leaving the ph now for a little while.

"see vou all in time.

"heres to being better than before soon—in mind, body and in spirit, cheers."

Nalagay sa alanganin ang papausbong na career ni Alex nang ibinulgar ng fitness coach na si Miguel Lagman Chanco sa Facebook na nag-direct message (DM) sa kanya ang aktor para sa isang "indecent proposal."

Hindi raw sana ito papansinin ng fitness coach, ngunit nainsulto raw siya dahil dalawang beses na itong ginawa ni Alex sa kanya.

Noong October 22, humingi ng dispensa si Alex sa kanyang management, kapamilya, kaibigan, at

supporters. Kasabay nito ang pag-amin ni Alex na isa siyang bisexual.

Sinabi naman ni Alex na wala siyana planona maasampa ng reklamo laban kay Miguel, na nagbulgar ng kanyang sexual orientation.

## STAR CIRCLE ENTERTAINMENT JUMP WITH BOOBAY & AJ





## Aga gets chance to be more daring with Alice





AGA Muhlach is happy to be working again with Alice Dixson in Viva's psychological drama, "Nuuk", which was shot on location in Nuuk, Greenland and opens in theaters on November 6. "Bale 22 days kami roon na nag-shoot," he says. "It's a very cold place at lahat kami, kung minsan, hindi makatagal sa lamig when we're shooting exteriors. Nakaka-depressed din kasi sobrang tahimik and you're always cooped up inside your home."

The movie's director, Veronica Velasco, says doctors and nurses are used to getting reports of people who get drunk and lose consciousness while still outside and they're just fetched by an ambulance so they won't die of hypothermia. The bleak-

ness of the place which is fully covered with snow is captured vividly in the movie. Those who have seen the trailer of "Nuuk" are all intrigued about Aga's character as he is seen disappearing mysteriously and no one can remember seeing him at all with Alice.

"Marami nga akong nababasang comments sa internet speculating about the twists in my character and the story," says Aga. "Ano ba raw talaga ako? Multo lang na si Alice ang tanging nakakakita? Pero siyempre, we cannot reveal anything kasi you have to see the full movie for you to be able to understand it. And you have to see it from the start dahil tiyak na magugulat kayo kasi hindi siya predictable."

It's said he and Alice have a bedscene in the movie. How is it? "It's passionate, but shot with so much tenderness," says Aga. "Actually, in the past movies we did sa Regal Films noong early 90s, wala kaming ganitong mga eksena. Marami pang bawal kay Alice noon. Aabutin pala ng 30 years at pareho na kaming 50 years old bago kami makapag-love scene."

Alice says it's a given that Aga is a very good actor. "Kaya siyempre, kailangang

humabol ako para hindi niya ako maiwanan sa eksena," she adds. "It's really nice to get to work with him again."

"Noong araw, hindi naman kami masyadong nagkakausap sa set, e," says Aga. "Puro trabaho lang. Unlike ngayon, mas may time kaming magkuwentuhan, lalo na sa Nuuk na kami-kami lang ang nandun kaya we have time to communicate with each other. Feeling ko nga, parang first time pa lang naming magkatrabaho at dito namin mas nakilala nang husto ang isa't isa. Pareho kaming Leo, e, and we're both more introverted so may connection kami."

He says he is at his happiest in his life now. "Yes, kontento ako sa buhay ko, I feel very comfortable with my wife, my kids. Kaya lang 'yung katawan mo, 'yung metabolism mo, nag-iba na, e. Kahit anong workout ang gawin mo at kahit anong diyeta ang gawin mo, grabe, parang walang epekto. But still, never surrender, laban lang! Lalo ngayon, may bago pa akong movie, 'Miracle in Cell no. 7' na entry sa Metro Manila Filmfest, so sa set, sabi ko, 'wag na silang magdadala ng kung anuanong pagkain para hindi ako natutukso."

## Mark Your Calendars on November 30, 2019

Come and join us in the celebration of the First Ever Filipino Heritage "GALA" and Filipino Heritage Achievement Recognition Event organized by the

FILIPINO HERITAGE
COUNCIL OF CANADA
at the
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Attire: Filipiniana

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### Philippines to triple local rice purchases

MANILA: The Philippine government will nearly treble rice purchases from local farmers this year, officials said on Monday, after it rejected a proposal last week to impose safeguard duty.

The National Food Authority (NFA) said it will now buy up to 1.14 million tonnes of unmilled rice from local farmers, who were hurt by the removal of quantitative import restrictions, compared with the previous target of 389,000 tonnes.

The state-run agency's purchases this year have already exceeded half of the new target, spokeswoman Rebecca Olarte said.

NFA also said it has been authorised by its council to buy the staple grain at 19 pesos (11 baht) per kilogram, from 17 pesos previously, and sell them to retailers at 23 pesos per kg, reduced from 25 pesos.

The announcement comes after Economic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia



said on Friday that the "foolhardy idea" of imposing safeguard duty on rice imports, which could push up inflation, has been dropped.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar had pushed for the safeguard duty to be imposed on top of existing tariffs, as proposed by some farmers' groups, to ease the pain of local producers hit by a surge in rice imports.

The Southeast Asian nation, which is

one of the world's biggest rice importers and often buys grains from its neighbours Vietnam and Thailand, lifted a two-decade-old cap on purchases early this year and replaced it with tariffs.

The policy shift has led to unhampered rice importation by the private sector, with this year's purchases seen reaching a record annual volume of more than 3 million tonnes, way beyond what the country needs to fill the supply gap.

While that helped bring down retail prices and ease inflation to the lowest in nearly three years in September, from its peak in almost a decade last year, farmers suffered as farmgate prices plunged.

The fall in farmgate prices is not a nationwide concern, however, according to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, saying those in central and southern Philippines in particular "seem to be holding up".

## Martin del Rosario open to more 'Panti Sisters'-like roles

Even Martin del Rosario himself said he was surprised when he won Best Actor at



the third Pista ng Pelikulang Pilipino Awards for his role in "The Panti Sisters."

He found his role as the youngest of the gay brothers as "simple" but was pleasantly surprised

that a lot of people liked his performance.

It was the first time for Martin to win a Best Actor award and he was really shaking because he wasn't expecting anything, the reason why he didn't have a prepared speech.

At the One Esplanade victory party, he said that winning moment for "The Panti Sisters" seemed like his triumph at the Gawad Urian when he won as Best Supporting Actor for "Dagitab" in 2014.

He said all three of them — he, Paolo Ballesteros and Christian Bables — shone in their respective roles, and they all gave their best that's why he shared his award to his co-actors. Martin said it would have been a happier moment had the three of them tied for the Best Actor honors.

Besides winning several trophies, including the Audience Choice Award, The Panti Sisters is the runaway winner in the box-office race, with a very big lead over the second placer. It had earned more than P61 million on the third day of the festival.

Martin also felt elated with the box-office success of their film and added he didn't expect that kind of reaction from the viewers. He was so overwhelmed and was proud to say his loved ones were proud of his winning

He is willing to do another gay role after this film. In fact, The Panti Sisters has a sequel but he doesn't know whether his character can be reinstated in the sequel since he already died.

Incidentally, Martin plays Alden Richard's half-brother in the new GMA series, "The Gift," which started airing last Monday. He is happy with the opportunity given him by GMA to work with one of the prime actors of the Kapuso Network.

\* \* \*

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno is supportive of his son, Joaquin Domagoso's decision to join showbiz that is why he agreed to do a special cameo appearance in Joaquin's launching film titled "Jolly Spirit Squad," where he plays himself as mayor of the country's capital.

Mayor Isko said he should be a part of his son's first movie and during the shoot, he was even the one who fixed his son's attire so he would look good in their scene together.

Joining the supporting cast of "Jolly Spirit Squad" are some of Isko's friends in showbiz like Lotlot de Leon, Epi Quizon, Glydel Mercado, Tonton Gutierrez, Vin Abrenica, Papa Ahwel Paz and Charo Laude.

The movie is directed by Chiqui Lacsamana, from the script written by JR Reyes. Supervising producer is box-office director Tony Y. Reyes and produced by DWR Productions and Joyfull Robot Films.

The movie is intended as an entry to the 2019 Metro Manila Film Festival.

#### The new pop princess

Barely three months after conquering the Idol Philippines stage, teen singer Zephanie Dimaranan is taking her music career to a whole new level, this time by bannering a solo concert at the New Frontier

Theate

"I have a lot of things to be thankful for and being given this opportunity to stage a concert is one of them. It still feels like a dream," the 16-year-old singer says.

RISING STAR. Teen singer and Idol Philippines grand champion Zephanie Dimaranan conquers the concert stage via a solo show at the New Frontier Theater.

Fresh from the success of Moira dela Torre's Braver concert at the Araneta Coliseum last September, where Zephanie appeared as one of the Cornerstone Concerts under the

under the agement of Cornerstone Entertainment committed to ing a different taste of concert experience to the public.

The time has come for her to bring her story on the concert scene, Zephanie at the New Frontier Theater with other young tal-

ents. Also in full support to her first major performance on the concert stage are Erik Santos, Moira dela Torre, Sarah Geronimo, and Regine Velasquez.

"It's our first time to share the stage after my The Voice Kids journey. I'm so excited to sing with my idol," Zephanie shares.

With her great voice and determination, this promising artist is truly unstoppable. Her winning song "Pangarap Kong Pangarap Mo" has already reached six million views on Youtube and 700,000 streams on Spotify making it one of the chart-topper hits in the Philippines.

Dubbed as the Pop Princess of this generation, Zephanie is ready to give her fans a night to remember.

"More than my dream, it's my way of saying thank you to all the people who have ben helping me in my journey as a young artist," she enthuses.

## Kyline still says no to love at 17

Since she was 16 years old, several young actors have been linked to Kyline Alcantara. In fact, she was even accused of boyfriend-grabbing once but remained quiet through the ordeal. This, even if she was hurting from social media bashing and the cold shoulder from two of her co-stars and their constant backbiting.

The fact that she knew she was innocent,
Kyline believed the truth
eventually come out so long
she remained professional and
dignified amid the controversy.
And when it did, the
experience made Kyline
tougher. She learned
to accept that there will
always be people who easily believe gossip and
are quick to judge.

"Masakit pa rin when I think about these personalities who are young and new and yet spreading lies about me. The other one naman, talagang she ignores me. She will kiss everyone except me; I just let her be. Just like what the Beatitudes in the Bible says, 'Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.' May isa pa, 'Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.' These are what I hold on to when I get affected by them. I just pray and hope they decide to get to know me instead," Kyline opened up.

Luckily, the rising star has remained positive even with her shaky beginnings in showbiz. She always looks on the bright side and says, "I count my blessings all the time because I have more things to be thankful for in my career and my life. I have my regular shows, I have my sunflowers who really love me, and my family who is very supportive of me."

Indeed, the good far outweighs the bad in Kyline's life with her launching movie, "Black Lipstick" as one of her biggest blessings. Opening in cinemas on October 9, Kyline is both nervous and excited to see this so called "millennial version" of the '80s classic "Blusang Itim" on the big screen. Just like Snooky Serna's character in the original who goes from ugly duckling to pretty woman whenever she wears her magical blouse, the same happens to Kyline when she puts on her black lipstick.

Snooky stars as her mom in the movie while her leading men are Migo Adecer and Manolo Pedrosa. Kate Valdez and James Teng complete the cast in this movie helmed by Julius Ruslin Alfonso under Obra Films.

Showbuzz witnessed how close Kyline, Migo and Manolo got on the set of the movie, but the Black Lipstick lead says she thinks of them as if they were her two brothers who are currently back home in their province finishing school.

"Sila ang mga kuya ko na kinukulit ko. Mga tropa ko sila. A lot of people are asking if they are like, you know, nagpaparamdam na they like me. Wala po, wala po kaming ganun. We're just happy we're all friends. Masaya lang silang kasama."

At 17, Kyline is still determined to focus on her career and avoid entertaining the thought of having a boyfriend. While she cannot avoid guys courting her, she believes she isn't ready for a relationship.

"I'm only 17 and I believe I should enjoy being young first. I also want to focus more on my career kaya love life is still a no for me. Kung may manligaw, I am ready to tell them, their timing is wrong. Manhood na lang sila ang Black Lipstick," she laughed with a sweet smile.



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#### Regine returns to acting, intimidates other actors

REGINE Velasquez has a new movie and it excites us as we've always told her she has the potential to be an award-winning drama actress like other

singers before her who went into acting, such as Ate Guy, Sharon Cuneta, Zsa Zsa Padilla.

"Hindi naman kasi talaga ako artista, singer naman talaga ako," she says. "Pero nung i-offer nila sa'kin itong 'Yours Truly, Shirley', nabudol ako, I accepted it. Niligawan kasi nila ako, e. Maganda 'yung

role ko as a widow ang akala, 'yung husband niya is reincarnated in a young man played by Rayt Carreon. Comedy naman ang approach at hindi drama kaya hindi masyadong nakaka-stress sa emotions."

We heard she has now intimidated all the other actresses that have an entry in the coming Cinema One Originals since she

is the biggest star in it. They now concede she would win as best actress in the festival. "Hindi naman totoo 'yan," she says. "May entry rin si Cherie Gil. Ano naman ang panama ko roon? Saka hindi ko alam na may competition. Hindi po ako na-inform."

But the other actresses admit Regine has an edge when it comes to box-office appeal and even in the best actress race.

"Malaking pressure po kasi big star naman talaga si Ms. Regine," says Anna Luna who stars in the movie "O". "E kanina lang, bago mag-presscon, nang pumasok siya sa dressing room, nanginig na kaming lahat nang makita namin siya. But we're very happy 🥦 na makasama namin siya sa isang festival like CInema One."

"Actually, nang malaman kong may entry si Regine, ayoko na sanang magpunta rito sa presscon," says Alessandra de Rossi in a joking tone. "Sabi ko, kailangan pa ba ako? Kaya na niyang mag-isa. But we're really glad that she is acting again,

pero gusto ko naman siyang hamunin sa isang singing showdown."

This made Regine laugh a lot. "Ako 'yung honored na makasama sa isang festival na ang daming magagaling na artista," she says. "Hindi ko naman tinuturing ang sarili ko na isang aktres, so hindi ko maihahanay ang sarili kong kasama nila. Salimpusa lang ako rito."

#### Why Jasmine grabs every opportunity

JASMINE Curtis is one of our busiest young actresses today. She is in the cast of three new movies, two of which will be shown on the first week of November and one in December. And she's also taping for



the new GMA-7 series based on a popular Koreanovela, "Descendants of the Sun". Does she still get to sleep?

"Oo naman," she says at the presscon of her movie with Ruru Madrid, APT-Cignal Entertainment's "Cara X Jagger", to open in theaters on November 6. Aside from "Cara X Jagger", she's also in Cinema One's horror flick, "O" with Lauren Young that opens on November 7. She is also in "Culion", an entry in the December Metro Manila Filmfest with Iza Calzado. "We all know na ang trabaho naming mga artista, seasonal, so when offers come, better grab them kasi later on, you might regret na bakit ba hindi ko ginawa 'yun? But siyempre, importante pa rin na you find time to rest, so hindi ka ma-stress out. Ako naman, four to five hours of sleep lang a day, okay

How is it working with Ruru Madrid in "Cara X Jagger"?

"It's our first time to work together and one thing I discovered about him is magaling siyang makisama sa lahat ng tao sa set," she replies. "Mahilig siyang makipagkulitan, but he takes his work very seriously. He really wants to be involved in the process of shooting his scenes and he asks our director, Ice Idanan, for specific instructions on what's he's supposed to do. It's good our director is very collaborative and always coordinates with us."

In the story by Acy Ramos, Jasmine plays Cara and Ruru plays Jagger. They used to be sweethearts but a horrible accident happened to Ruru while he's on motorcycle that causes him to lose his memory. He is now trying his best to remember his life before the accident while Jasmine is trying her best to forget a painful event that ruined her former relationship with Ruru who's afflicted with hypethymesia, a condition that also afflicted Jerome Ponce in the recent movie, "Finding You".

"Cara X Jagger' is a very different and unique love story," says Jasmine. "It's about loving someone unconditionally and moving on no matter how painful your relationship has become. We have worked so hard to make it an unforgettable love story and we're so excited to show it to everyone."

Jasmine and Ruru cannot be romantically linked off cam because Jasmine has been on with non-showbiz guy Jeffrey Ortega for sometime now while Ruru is said to be canoodling with Bianca Umali, but they have yet admit it.

#### **MANILA** continued from page 1

hagen, Denmark.

Manila also lagged in other indices from Deutsche Bank's report, ranking 53rd in terms of purchasing power, 46th in safety index, 45th in both health care index and property price to income ratio, 51st in traf-

fic commute time, 54th in pollution index, and 47th in climate index.

In terms of cost-of-living index, the country's capital ranked 10th out of 56 countries but lagged in terms of monthly salary (net of taxes) ranking 50th out of 55

The Deutsche Bank report stated that the net monthly salary in Manila dropped to

\$480 in 2019 from \$498 in 2018.

Other cities with the lowest net monthly salaries indicated in the report were Istanbul, Turkey with \$433; Bangladesh, Dhaka with \$375; Jakarta, Indonesia with \$362; Lagos, Nigeria with \$236; and Cairo, Egypt with \$206.

San Francisco in the United States, meanwhile, was ranked as the city with the highest monthly salary at \$6,526 followed by Zurich in Switzerland at \$5,896.

Deutsche Bank clarified the research "makes no representation as to its accuracy or completeness" though it assured the information and its public sources are "believed to be reliable."

#### **REDUCE PHL HOLIDAYS** continued from page 1

Eid'l Fitr Labor Day Independence Day All Saints' Day Bonifacio Day Christmas Day Rizal Day

The following will become special days:

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Chinese New Year EDSA Revolution - Monday nearest February 25 Maundy Thursday Eid'l Adha Araw ng Kagitingan - Monday nearest April 9, Founding anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo - July 28 Ninov Aquino Day - Monday negrest August 21 National Heroes Day - last Monday of August Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - December 8 Christmas Eve - December 24 Last day of the year

Under the measure, a total of 9 regular

nonworking holidays will remain, while there will be 2 local nonworking holidays allowed, and 7 special days that would be nonworking to be agreed upon by employees and employers.

"In this way, we are embracing our country's diversity and public holidays can be more meaningful for the individual based on his or her choice," Salceda said.

The bill also enjoins each local government unit to have only 1 local holiday

by law or ordinance to commemorate its founding, heroes, or festivals. This essentially means 2 local holidays, 1 for province and 1 for the town or city.

"This bill aims to provide the employers a stable and more predictable environment for their business operations. The reduced nonworking days, which is on the ASEAN average, will also give the country more competitiveness," Salceda said.

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## Nadine Lustre's separate career from James Reid

MANILA — In a span of a month, separate projects of "love team" and real-life partners James Reid and Nadine Lustre were announced — an indication that their fans may have to wait a while longer before seeing them together onscreen.

Reid was introduced as the star of the upcoming Dreamscape teleserye "Soulmate," where he will be paired with K-pop performer Nancy of the girl group Momoland.

Lustre, meanwhile, was recently presented as one of three judges of ABS-CBN's pioneering 2-in-1 reality talent competition, "Your Moment," alongside Boy Abunda and Billy Crawford.

Reid and Lustre's last acting project together was "Never Not Love You" in 2018. However, they have regular music collaborations under Reid's music label Careless.

During the press conference of "Your Moment," Lustre was asked for her



'Your Moment' judges Billy Crawford, Nadine Lustre, and Boy Abunda share a light moment.

thoughts on her and Reid having a succession of separate projects, among them the recently concluded "Idol Philippines," where Reid was similarly a judge.

"Parang magkasunod lang halos, 'no?" Lustre began, referring their respective judging stints.

"I guess in the future din naman, magkakaroon kami ng projects together. How do I feel about it? Excited! I'm excited. Pero now kasi I'm also very excited na gumawa ako ng projects without him din naman," she said.

The break from "love team" projects, at least for Lustre, allows room for growth. In the case of "Your Moment," the format has improved the actress'

Ako kasi talaga, takot

ako 'pag public speak-

kayang gawin.

ing. Hindi ko talaga siya

confidence as a public speaker, she said.

"Personally, gusto ko rin maka-experience ng iba't ibang klaseng bagay. Like

this one, first time kong mag-judge. Ako kasi talaga, takot ako 'pag public speaking. Hindi ko talaga siya kayang gawin.

"Every time may ganitong presscon or event na magsasalita ako, kinakabahan po talaga ako. So itong 'Your Moment,' naging way siya para matuto ako and mas maging confident ako para magsalita," she explained. Referring to Reid, Lustre added: "And it's good, kahit hindi kami magkasama, at least 'di ba, I'm learning things on my own."

Conceptualized by ABS-CBN with Fritz Productions, "Your Moment" will feature a revolving

set that offers the judges and the audience views of the opposite stages for the singing and dancing acts.

Competitors are both local and foreign, with no age limit.

As judge, Lustre — along with Abunda and Crawford — will

use an emotion meter with a knob, to indicate their impression at three time markers during an act's performance.

Through three rounds, acts with the highest scores will get a chance to perform in "Your Grand Moment," or the grand finals, where one act per competition will be named winner.

Hosted by Vhong Navarro and Luis Manzano, "Your Moment" will premiere later this year.

Klea's answered prayer

MANILA, Philippines — "It's an answered prayer...a dream come true."

That was StarStruck 6 Female Survivor Klea Pineda talking about her first-ever lead role on GMA 7's latest drama series Magkaagaw since winning the Kapuso reality talent show four years ago. Prior to this, she admitted to have thought of giving up her showbiz career and focusing on her studies instead. But she waited for the big break to come along and it paid off.

"I've waited and prayed for this for so long since StarStruck. This is the turning point of my career and I'm really happy. I don't know if I deserve this," she trailed off as she held back tears during a group interview after the presscon of Magkaagaw, which premieres today after Eat Bulaga.

"I came to a point when I asked a sign from God if this was really the path He wanted for me," she continued, "that I just decided to continue my studies. When the good news came, it brought back the fire inside me. Sa kagustuhan ko and sobrang in love ako with my craft, biglang bumalik yung fire na yan."

She learned that one needs not be impatient but persevere instead because competition in showbiz gets stiffer with the influx of artists. But Klea clarified that she never felt neglected by her mother network.

"In fairness with (GMA) Artist Center and GMA Network, wala along na-feel na ganun because I believe every artist has his own time to shine," said Klea, 20, who has prepared herself for the emotionally-demanding role of Clarisse, an ambitious, determined and strong lady.

"I'm flexible naman with anything as long as makakabuti

ito sa akin," she said. "I want to grow as a person that's why I accepted this project because I want to explore, para mas may matutunan pa and not just stay inside my comfort zone."

The series, which reunites Sunshine Dizon and Sheryl Cruz portraying rival characters as in their past series Bakekang, also sees Klea in a new team-up with Jeric Gonzales.

Her onscreen love team with Jeric has piqued the curiosity of showbiz watchers when sweet photos of them together were seen on their Instagram posts. Klea noted that they are friends, recalling that their friendship started when they were paired together in previous shows including Ika-5 Utos. Gracing regional shows and out-of-town trips to promote Magkaagaw have allowed them to bond and get to know each other more.

"Uploading our photos on Instagram is our way of expressing ourselves sa mga tao so they would know us better kung ano kami on-cam and off-cam. And sa mga nakakakilala naman sa amin, I think they can attest kung gaano ka-strong and kung gaano kami ka-close ni Jeric.

"After StarStruck, siya na yung ni-lo-love team talaga sa akin. That's why I feel really comfortable working with him kasi tiwala na ako na ang tagal ko na siyang kakilala and we have become more comfortable with each other because of our bonding in Magkaagaw."

Will their closeness blossom into something deeper than friendship?

"Bakit hindi? Anything is possible," replied Klea, adding, "I can say that 80 percent na yung closeness namin, which is nice because we already have a good foundation. Jeric is gentleman and may respeto siya sa babae. He also loves his family and that's what I like about him."

#### Alex Gonzaga-Isko Moreno vlog on Manila, a hit

Alex Gonzaga explored Manila recently with no less than Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso as her tour guide.

The actress documented the tour on her YouTube vlog. As of writing, it already has two million views, making it the number one trending video on the platform.

"Yorme for mayor. Ano bang gusto niyong tawag sa inyo," Alex asked him.

"Kahit ano, kung ano ang gusto ng tao," he replied.

Isko is known for his "jeprox" humor. He uses reversed or colloquial Filipino words like "alaws (wala)" and "tolongges (idiot)."

In the course of their tour, mayor shared his insights on good governance. They also talked about Manila's clearing operations and raids.

Alex asked Isko why usually does his raids at night. He replied that some people

think the government is inactive at night

so he wanted to change that perception by showing they are active 24/7.

The vlogger rode with the mayor. She joked that if he wanted cleanliness in Manila, maybe he should start with the back of his car, pertaining to the pile of clothes in the trunk. Mayor Isko laughed.

The highlight of the tour is the new and improved Mehan Garden. Isko said it will soon open to the public as cleaning operations and initial lighting installation have been carried out.



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1. Jay M. of Pinoy Taste runs a Filipino fastfood inside Fusion Supermarket at Morningside and Milner Avenue. 2. Boobay and AJ Tamiza eats lunch at Tagpuan and poses with staff afterwards. 3. TFC and 4. UMAC sponsored the Pair of Aces concert of Darren Espanto and Jona. 5. Boobay and AJ Tamiza eat boodle at Dbarkadz. 6. Philippine comedian Boobay poses with Tagpuan owner Normie Santos Pabitu (RIGHT END) and staff. 7. Philippine comedians AJ Tamiza and Boobay pose with Beth Tiru Cunanan & Jake Aquino of Dbarkadz Filipino Cuisine.





#### Iames Reid doesn't want to work with Julia Barretto for now

Young star James Reid would rather not do a project with actress Julia Barretto at the moment.

He said so in a recent episode of "Tonight With Boy Abunda," during the games "Games Reid or Games Over Reid" segment where the 26-year-old actor was made to give his two cents on leading ladies he wants to work with or not.

Show host Boy Abunda



showed pictures of Yassi Pressman, Janella Salvador, Liza

**JAMES REID** continued on page 25



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## Filipino Good Life

## Bookay & AJ's Comedy show gets the last laugh

Another Fashion show rises and Pair of Aces with Darren Espanto & Jona Viray takes the high road successfully



Mitoy and the Draybers arrives and announces a show on the same night.

FILIPINO GOOD LIFE continued on page 17

Boobay and AJ Tamiza entertained the appreciative audience.



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LBC AIR CARGO continued on page 25

## Lovi Poe back to drama on 'Magpakailanman'

Lovi Poe is back on primetime slot tonight via the "Pati Ba Pintig Ng Puso?" episode on Magpakailanman."

The actress plays Anna who is maltreated by her mother only to find out later she was adopted. She longs for the love of her foster father who passed away when she was young. The episode shows her journey to finding true love and peace of

mind. Co-starring with Lovi

are Jenine
Desiderio,
Anna Vicente
and Dominic
Rocco.

Lovi will also be seen on the big screen soon. She is cast in the sexy drama film "The An-

nulment" under Regal Films, opposite Joem Bascon. The movie opens in cinemas on Nov. 13.

She has new song out titled "Segundo" under Viva Records.









Fast-rising fashion Mitzify handbags' brand owner Mitzi Faigal poses with Boobay and AJ.

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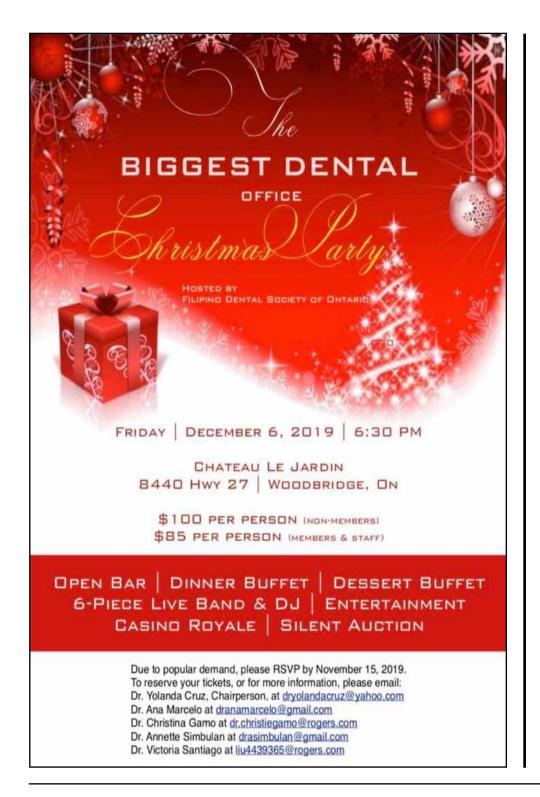




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### FILIPINO GOOD LIFE continued from page 15

Boobay and AJ did not disappoint. JVF Productions pulled it off. Composed of the late Jojo Taduran, wife Fe Taduran and friend Velona "Beth" Daliva, their second comedy show is also a success. It had its twists and turns. First, they had to replace Boobay's co-starrer Ate Gay when he accepted a "free" gig this summer, undercutting sales for the show. JVF then chose Sephy Francisco, a UK X-Factor winner, a singer who can sound man and woman to co-star. Sadly, she was denied a visa. AJ, a comedian from JVF's first comedy show willingly stepped in. With help from friends, families and colleagues,

they overcame the hurdles. Of 448 chairs set up at Korean Cultural Centre, there were 96 empties, which would be the last 3 rows at the back. I would put the number of attendees from 300-352. Let's put this in perspective. If they only put 352 chairs, Boobay can be called capacity crowd or sold-out. Aware of a competition from a concert on the same night, Boobay asked the audience to turn on their phone flashlight for a dramatic and beautiful effect. In the end, it was a very happy ending for this undertaking. Fe and Beth produced a comedy show and came out laughing as a result. Mission Accomplished. Runway Canada Promotes local & Philippine designers

Runway Canada (RC) is another stand-alone show featuring fashion. It is in direct competition of Canadian Asian Fashion Week, which does not really take a week. It's just one night. RC aims to promote Philippine fashion to Canadians. It featured local designers Kimberley Ortiz, Khen Beiler, Kim Mahistrado and our 4 Icons International fashion designers Jaki Peñalosa, Aisha Penalosa, Sidney Eculla, Hector Totong Gellangarin who came all the way from the Philippines. It was a night of glamour and light entertainment.

Pair of Aces concert featuring Darren Espanto and Jona Viray with comedian Negi was a different kind of concert. With Darren and Jona lacking any loveteam in Philippine showbiz, the concert was a

presentation of high brow class instead of relying on "kilig" songs to entertain the near-capacity crowd. Performing songs like the theme from Phantom of the Opera, the audience was treated to a different caliber of entertainment.

Comedian Negi opened the show by asking the audience if they want family rated or R-rated comedy. As expected, the audience wanted the r-rated kind of comedy.

"So, todo-todo, walang masasaktan. Joke lang tayo," he said to the delight of the audience.

When Darren and Jona entered, it was refreshingly different. They sang Everybody wants to rule the world and other non-OPM (Original Pilipino Music) songs which the audience enjoyed. Of the OPM's they sang their signature anthems: Espanto with "Alam," Jona with "Maghihintay Ako,"

Jona also surprised us with her rendition of Jennifer Lopez's "Love Don't Cost a Thing," complete with very sleek dance moves.

Espanto had his share of big moments, too and we were hooked on the 18-year-old when he sang his part in The Phantom of The Opera medley and Andre Bocelli's Con Te Partiro (Time to Say Goodbye). I thought Darren's "Dying Inside to hold you" would be sang as a closing song but sang it in the middle of the concert. They had a duet of "Rise up." and Jona sang Lady Gaga's "I'll Never Love Again."

Darren's legion of fans, the Darrenatics, were cheering his every song and every move.

The meet and greet after the show with Darren, Jona and Negi reveals the character of the stars. While the production staff were rushing the fans because of time constraints or else they will pay overtime to the venue, the stars were willing to take their time with the fans. When the Darrenatics turn

FILIPINO GOOD LIFE continued on page 27

## Keeping up with the Barrettos: That's so us, says sociologist

MANILA, Philippines — And so the Barretto sisters are at it again. It's "distracting," it's tabloidish, it's addictive — and it says a lot about the audience that laps it up, according to a sociologist.

"Three things which are commonly stereotyped as part of Filipino culture are at play here — namely, being family-oriented, being 'celebrity-centric' and being intrigue-driven," Athena Presto, who teaches at the University of the Philippines.

"This issue becomes more engrossing because it is not only the Barretto family who is involved, but also no less than the President and other politicians and businessmen linked to the Barretto women," Presto pointed out.

"The Barretto family checks a lot of boxes in the requirement list of controversies."

The latest cast members, so to speak, in this real-life drama are former Caloocan Mayor Recom Echiverri, controversial businessman Atong Ang and President Rodrigo Duterte himself.

#### Attempted reconciliation

On Oct. 16, the President visited the wake of the family's patriarch, Miguel Alvir







Barretto. His attempt to help reconcile the feuding sisters at the vigil, set to jazz ballads, turned instead into a fresh confrontation between Marjorie and Gretchen Barretto, one of the President's celebrity supporters in 2016.

The celebrity-centric netizenry and media, as well as the officialdom were soon weighing in. "Sawsaw pa more. Take it! Take it!" to paraphrase Gretchen in one of her angry posts.

Sen. Christopher "Bong" Go described the squabble as "parang nagshu-shooting" (like they're shooting a scene).

Broadcaster Raffy Tulfo "invited Gretchen, Marjorie and Claudine Barretto on his radio program ... to have them settle their differences," Inquirer.net reported on Thursday. A film critic, meanwhile, suggested on social media that the Barrettos could monetize their goings-on like the Kardashians.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo — whose views on the matter were also sought — appealed for understanding in the family's behalf.

"The matter of the Barrettos is private," he said of the Instagramming family. "We should not feast on the tragedy and misery of our fellow human beings. Everyone has the right to grieve in silence."

Escalating the drama were tell-all interviews with Marjorie, who admitted that Echiverri was the father of a daughter of hers, and with Ang, who pointed out that Marjorie as well as Gretchen were no longer active in show biz ("pareho naman kayo na hindi na nag-aartista").

Marjorie's last appearance on television was the series "My Fair Lady" in 2015. She had a string of film projects in the 1990s, but was later sidetracked to politics when she became second district councilor of Caloocan City in 2007.

Claudine announced last April a new movie reuniting her with "Milan" costar Piolo Pascual. That month she also made a comeback on TV. Gretchen last appeared on television in 2013, when she also starred in a Cinemalaya entry.

#### 'Invested in this issue'

Canadian gossip "scholar" Elaine Lui, who has established a wide following with her insights on gossip: "How can gossip not be counted as academic? Gossip is anthropology. Celebrity gossip is the conversation that exposes who we are."

Presto said about this particular celebrity gossip: "People are talking about it, and through social media, one can vividly see how invested people are in this issue. "Social media also allows ordinary citizens to field in their concerns and get answers right away, especially seen in the IG (Instagram) posts and IG stories of Gretchen. "The Barrettos have always had rocky moments, and now we see the names of the younger nieces, who are themselves celebrities, being dragged into the controversy."

Presto, however, also pointed out how this controversy has become a reflection not only of the Barrettos.

"This issue may seem very personal on face value, but the way that the media and the way that the Filipinos have subscribed to this family feud shows a lot about our national character of being intrigue-driven and celebrity-centric."

## Jeric Gonzales gets asked about "luhod" scene with Sheryl Cruz

Mapangahas na si Jeric Gonzales. May love scene sila ni Sheryl Cruz sa drama series na Magkaagaw, at nag-underwear siya sa Bench pictorial.

"Kasi, dito na rin po talaga papunta. And then ito rin naman talaga yung ginagawa ko ngayon," lahad ng 27-anyos na Kapuso actor.

"Bini-build ko yung body ko, pinapaganda ko siya. Kasi ayun, napunta na ako sa Bench, nag-Bench Body na ako." Kinakarir ni Jeric ang pagwo-workout at diet.

"Iyon talaga ang ginagawa ko. Kasi, anytime dito sa mga eksena, hindi ko alam kung ano ang mangyayari, kung anong ipapagawa sa akin ni Veron [karakter ni Sheryl], kung anong gagawin namin. So, kailangang ready ako.

May eksenang "lumuhod" si Sheryl sa harapan ni Jeric

"Hindi ko na rin alam kung paano ko nagawa yung

eksena na yun," at natawa si Jeric habang namumula.

"Siguro, iyon yung sinasabi ko na before and after, nagse-shake pa rin ako. Kasi, hindi ko alam kung ano yung kaba na nararamdaman ko since first time.

"Pero dahil iba siya, iba siya sa asawa ko, lalaki lang ako so...

"So, dapat po panoorin talaga."

Sa tunay na buhay ba ay puwedeng umibig si Jeric sa isang babaeng mas matanda sa kanya?

"Oo naman po. Puwede naman. Pero hindi ko po siguro ma-imagine na sobrang laki ng age gap. Siguro, five or ten years, puwede.

"Kaya nung ginawa namin itong Magkaagaw, challenge talaga sa akin. Kasi, I respect Miss Sheryl so much, na to the point na sabi ni Direk [Gil Tejada Jr.], 'Tanggalin mo yan, tanggalin mo yang respect na yan! Hindi mo puwedeng gawin yan.'

"Parang ganun. So paano?

"Kasi, sweet ako kay Miss She, nirerespeto ko siya. So, iyon, kaya nagkaroon kami ng sensuality workshop."



## Maja Salvador, salutes OFWs in'Hinahanap' series

Playing lead on a series that highlights the lives of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) has made Maja Salvador realize even more how much sacrifice and heroism go into being one.

At the recent press conference of TFC Studios' maiden digital original series, "Hinahanap-hanap Kita (Searching For You)," the dancer-actress revealed the eight-episode series was shot in Dubai for 10 days during which they met many Pinoy workers.

"Sobrang malaki silang inspirasyon sa amin lalo na nu'ng nagshoot kami duon," she said. "Mahirap ang malayo sa pamilya at ang pa ulit-ulit ang pagtratrabaho kahit pagod na pagod ka na."

The series is about Helen (Maja) whose husband suddenly stops communicating with her but continues to send support to his family. Helen then decides to go to Dubai to look for her husband, finding support and help from her friends Joy (Hannah Ledesma), Lawrence (Geoff Eigenmann), Margot (Pamu Pamorada), Homer (Pepe Herrera), and Reggie (Prince Stefan) who are working in Dubai.

The group's journey in searching for Helen's missing husband also serves as a journey to self-discovery, acceptance, and freedom from the personal burdens that they carry in their hearts.

"Pag nag-share ang mga OFWs ng mgs storya nila, 'di namin maiwasan maka-relate and maging affected sa kwento nila. Mahirap malayo sa pamilya at walang may gustong malayo sa pamilya pero dahil sa hirap ng buhay natin dito (sa Pilipinas) ginawa nila yon," she said.

One story hasn't left her long after it was story.

"Meron du'n kwento ng isang character du'n, 'yung nurse, na lahat ng pamilya niya, magkakasama na sila du'n (sa Dubai). Pero hindi pa siya nakakapagbigay ng oras sa mga anak niya. May trahedyang nangyari at sinisisi niya 'yung sarili niya," she shared. "Grabe, kahit kasama mo na pamilya mo, hindi pa rin kayo nagkikita dahil grabe ang oras na kinakain ng trabaho."

At the end of the day, Maja is confident most of them will withstand their trials "dahil Pinoy sila."

"Iba lumaban ang mga Pinoy," the actress stressed.

As "Hinahanap-hanap Kita" is both OFW story and love story, we asked Maja to give her take on people who find themselves at a crossroad as the characters they played.

"Ang pinakamensahe ay maaari

kang umibig, maaring laging

piliin ang pagibig pero 'wag mong kakalimutan ang sarili mo at ang mga pangarap mo dahil walang kasiguraduhan ang lahat," she said. "Para kung dumating man ang kung anong sitwasyon sa buhay, alam mo kung paano itayo ang sarili mo ng magisa at paano mo mamahalin ang sarili mo." Aside from her character, Maja said she would want to have Pamu's Margot dubbed Queen Rakitera because of the many part-time jobs she holds just to make ends meet.

"Actually nu'ng screening namin sa Dubai, kay Margot sila sobrang aliw na aliw. Parang nakaka-relate talaga sa character 'yung mga Pinoy kasi ugaling Pinoy — wais. Hindi lang isa ang gagawing trabaho, kaya mag bebenta kahit ano — kakanin, ballpen, notebook. Para may pandagdag padala sa Pilipinas. Nakakatawa na nakakaiyak 'yung character," she said.



# "Nawala na lang ako sa eksena": Marlo

Mortel reveals how hurt he was after being replaced as Janella Salvador's leading man

The love team of MarNella (Marlo Mortel and Janella Salvador) was born out of the success of the daytime teleserye Be Careful With My Heart. Their Niccolo-Nikki tandem brought the teen kilig to the show

They had another show after Be Careful With My Heart titled Oh My G!, but later on Janella was paired with other actors.

Recently, Marlo confessed what he felt when he was replaced as Janella's leading man. He said, "Mas bias.

"Pero kasi natural naman yun eh, there will always be someone sa kompanya na dahil kilala ka ni boss, di mawawala yun kaya

dapat mong trabahuhin sarili and that's what I'm trying to do now.

"Baka may kulang pa sa akin, kaya yun yung gusto kong i-develop sa akin. Continue learning, continue discovering. Makikita

naman nila if may improvement sa 'yo."

Marlo expressed how he truly felt when he was replaced without notice.

"Kase sa totoo lang kung andon ka sa situation ko, very heartbreaking, kasi never naman ako nagsalita sa amin ni Janella and [we're] very close.

"Pero para tanggalin ka sa isang love team na very successful is heartbreaking for a person. Siguro kung yun iba na depress na sila pero ako, hindi ko siya tinake personally."

Has Marlo ever spoken out about what happened?

"Never naman ako naging vocal. Ayoko naman isipin na bitter ako."

Marlo also stated that while being in a love team with Janella helped, he'd like to think it was also through his hard work and effort that have propelled his career.

"Pero mostly people are telling after that baka iniisip nila na wala na, dahil lang doon. Kaya sumikat, dahil kay Janella, pero hindi pa kase nila nakikita yung paano ako nakarating doon.

"Yung journey ko, yung potential ko din na trinabaho ko mag isa, inaral ko mag acting magisa dahil never naman ako nag acting workshop. Wala akong manager."

Marlo also has no idea why he was replaced. "Nung tinanggal nila ako nun, hindi ko alam kuna bakit."

Marlo said he was removed without any notice, too. "After Oh My G (wala na), wala siyang personal abiso. Parang ganun. Basta nawala na lang ako sa eksena."

But what was his reaction when he learned that Janella was paired with Elmo Magalona? "Tinaggap ko yun wholeheartedly.

"Tapos all throughout kinausap ako ng handler ko. 'Okay ka lang ba?' pero wala talagang paalam ang nangyari talaga naiwan ako sa

Janella is in the primetime series The Killer Bride with a new leading man, Joshua Garcia. What was Marlo's reaction?

"Hindi kasi ako greedy, hindi ako competitive tulad ng ibang artista. Binigyan ako ng blessing sa Be Careful with My Heart. Binigyan ako ng Oh My G! and thankful ako dun. And naka pag-build ako ng friendship with Janella kaya I'm happy sa kung anong binibigy sa kanya."

After Oh My G!, the actor revealed that opportunities and projects were few and far between.

"Mas wala ng opportunities ang nag-open after."

He shared his struggles as an actor and as the breadwinner of his family.

"Pinagdadasal ko lang ay consistency lang sa work para may pangtustos sa amin, dahil ngayon pa lang ako ako bumabawi sa lahat ng nawala sa akin."

### The real story behind the Maine-Carlo tandem

MANILA, Philippines – When news first came out in June that Maine Mendoza and Carlo Aquino were going to be partnered in Black Sheep's Isa Pa With Feelings, it raised not a few eyebrows and questions not only about the pairing but also the timing.

Some of the burning questions that lit the online world included, was the film a response to the Star Cinema-produced Alden Richards-Kathryn Bernardo starrer, Hello Love Goodbye (HLG), announced earlier and went

on to become the highest-grossing Filipino film ever? Why is ABS-CBN's year-old film division Black Sheep producing it and not the "flagship brand" Star Cinema? How did the Carlo-Maine tandem come to be in the first place? The stars belong to rival networks and are still very much identified with previous love teams — especially Maine with her popular AlDub team-up with Alden.

But the seemingly wild idea of pairing the two in Isa Pa With Feelings started with less drama than imagined.

Black Sheep, a division under Star Cinema that primarily targets the millennial market, is producer because the material originated from them. And it all began with the story concept of its director Prime Cruz, said Black Sheep head Kriz Gazmen.

"Since Black Sheep started, it's very director-driven. It's really our vision for Black Sheep because we want to give parang voices to new directors. When we started Black Sheep, we started talking to our director-friends na finally this is your chance to make your dream projects. We talked to Prime and asked him, what is your dream project and we will co-produce it. Ito young nilapit niva sa amin."

In Isa Pa With Feelings, Maine is the disheartened intern Mara who wanted to become architect but failed the licensure board exams. She meets Gali (Carlo), a deaf sign language teacher who is out to prove that he can dance the same way hearing people can.

Producers revealed that it was the female character who was deaf and the male character hearing in the original story.

"Originally nga, baliktad siya. Yung girl talaga yung deaf, yung lalaki yung hearing. That was the



ence) would want to hear what a woman is going through, what her feelings are for the guy. If you take out the faculty of language, it's going to be difficult," Gazmen said.

"Generally, men are quiet and mysterious so mas okey pagbaliktarin (better to swap the characters). But we always knew that if we made the female character the hearing one, we had to have somebody who is so charming, so cute," he added.

The name of Maine was brought up by Kookai Labayen, who co-wrote the screenplay with Jenilee Chagainsu

Gazmen recalled, "We really got so excited with the idea of Maine but it was a long process, a lot of back and forth with APT," referring to Maine's talent management team. ?

That's why Gazmen deems it very unfair for the film to be compared to Hello, Love, Goodbye.

"Even before the tandem of Alden and Kathryn was finalized, we were already talking to (Maine). Maayos na talaga communication namin. So, when the Alden movie came out, it was so unfair that they were being compared na 'pansagot niyo ba 'to or something?' because even before that, inaayos na talaga namin yung movie with Maine."

Maine was cast first before Carlo came on board the project.

"We really thought of Maine first before casting Carlo in his role," confirmed Labayen.

But Carlo was the first and only choice. The actor starred in Black Sheep's hit inaugural film, Exes Baggage, which earned more than P300M at the box-office.

"We couldn't think of any actor who can deliver the requirements of the role aside from Carlo. Si Carlo kasi, kaya niya yung mata-mata acting talaga. Also personal bias, he's our favorite at Black Sheep," said Gazmen.

Labayen also shared, "I remember when we pitched the story to him, it was the first time I saw his ears turning red, as in he was very nervous with the role. He felt it was going to be really difficult because it was, indeed, difficult. We were going to ask a lot from him because he had no dialogues."

Gazmen acknowledged that Carlo and Maine's pairing did come as a surprise. "Of course, it felt like it came out of nowhere. Pusta-pusta nalang talaga (we're placing our bets on it)," he said.

By opening to a total of 265 cinemas, Isa Pa With Feelings already feels like a hit in the making.

When asked about the box-office expectations for the movie, ABS-CBN Films (Star Cinema) executive Mico del Rosario said, "That's putting too much pressure on Carlo and Maine. We have high hopes for the movie because based on the feedback, malakas siya. Let's see."

"I mean, who would have thought that Hello, Love, Goodbye would do really, really well?" he added.

According to him, Star Cinema was surprised that HLG would become the highest-earning Filipino film of all time with its global gross of over P880M.

of all time with its global gross of over P880M.

Del Rosario further said, "It was the same with Hows of Us (referring to the top-grosser before HLG). You know it will make money, but not that kind of money. But, of course, we're thankful for all the support. Hindi naman nagiging mindset na kailangan ito matalo ito kasi it would be unfair to all the movies. You just create movies. And hopefully, it does well and is attuned to the audience."

Gazmen agreed that Isa Pa With Feelings is not burdened with box-office pressure. "Honestly, we are not pressured at all. The reason we're not pressured, I think, is because we know that this is just a story that we want to tell. It's different. We didn't design the project to compete, to have a huge box-office draw.

"We just wanted to design the perfect casting for the story we want to tell. It's not a response to a previous success. It's not designed that way. So, we're not pressured because we all know that wherever this takes us, we're proud of the film."

#### Cindy Miranda, itinodo ang nude at torrid kissing scenes sa lesbian movie na Adan

"With tongue" ang description ni Bb. Pilipinas Tourism 2013 Cindy Miranda sa kissing scene nila ni Rhen Escaño sa

2019.

lesbi-

an-themed

Isang



"Sobrang excited na ako sa Adan. Hindi ako makapaghintay na mapanood ng mga tao kasi isa iyon sa mga

wa ko na hindi ko makakalimutan—yung hirap sa set, location pa lang, grabe na.

"Being a lesbian, siyempre, may gusto ka na babae.

"Nung ginawa ko yung kissing scene namin ni Rhen, akala ko, hindi ko kaya."

Kuwento pa ni Cindy, "Kahit sa totoong buhay, never akong naka-kiss ng isang babae, pero dahil propesyonal yung co-star ko, kahit awkwardness, wala akong naramdaman.

"Ganoon kaganda, ka-flawless yung

Diretsahan ding sinabi ni Cindy na bigay-todo sila ni Rhen sa kanilang torrid kissing scene.

"Sabi nila, grabe, may chemistry kami ni Rhen.

"Kung ten ang pinakamataas na intensity, nasa 11 ang intensity ng kissing scene namin, na matagal, pero hindi ko alam kung ipalalabas lahat.

"Nadala kami sa eksena.

"Hindi namin inisip na babae yung kahalikan ko. Naisip ko, may mahal ako

"Ganoon din kagaling ang kaeksena

"Mahal ko talaga ang pag-arte at kapag mahal mo ang isang bagay, lahat, makakaya mo na gawin."

Aminado si Cindy na mapangahas ang tema ng Adan, lalo pa't mayroon din silang nude scene ni Rhen dito.

Tiyak daw na hindi magugustuhan ng organizer ng Binibining Pilipinas ang mga daring scene niya sa Adan, pero mas importanteng makita ng moviegoers ang kanyang acting ability.

Paliwanag ni Cindy, "As a beauty queen, alam ko na hindi ito magugustuhan ng Binibining Pilipinas.

"Pero sabi ko nga, noong nag-decide ako na maging aktor, iisipin ko ba yung pagiging beauty queen ko o pagiging aktor ko?

"Kasi nang mag-decide ako na mag-artista, gusto ko na maging mag-

"Hindi nila maaalala kung sino si Cindy Miranda in real life at yung Cindy Miranda na Bb. Pilipinas.

"Gusto ko makilala nila ako na magaling na aktor."

## 5 FilCan Students Receive FCT Outstanding Awards

The Filipino Centre Toronto-FCT, a 20 -year old community-based, service-focused & volunteer-run hub in the GTA, has aptly recognized and honoured 5 top student graduates during its 12th "Annual Rosalinda C, Javier Outstanding Students Awards Day" on October 27, 2019, at the FCT Social Hall, Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario. Celebrated yearly, the competition aims to encourage, challenge and reward students to achieve academic excellence and success.

The honourees belong to those who completed their respective elementary, high school and post-secondary studies during the school year of 2018-2019. Given awards are Sophia Danielle Arellano, Jordan Michael Santos Bouckley and Gianne Esmino Mangalino- Grade 8; Lizzacriz Portodo- Grade 12, and Jennifer Dela Cruz Villafuerte- Post-Secondary. All five graduates each received a Plaque of Recognition and a Cash Prize. The popular awards program, which started in 2005, has already presented a total of 120 recipients under the 3

Selected by a panel of judges, the proud awardees have extraordinarily qualified and satisfied the 4 main criteria: Average Grades, Extracurricular Activities, Community Involvement, and Interview Performance. The FCT-RCJOSA Committee is composed of Chairman Tony A. San Juan(chair of Filipino Heritage Council of Canada); Co-chair Mary Ann S. San Juan( president & CEO of Filipino Centre Toronto); and Members Steve Pagao ( president of Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto); Rose Tijam (president of Philippine Press Club-Ontario); Fermer Santos (vice-principal of Agincourt Collegiate Institute-TDSB); and Jodelyn Huang (community relations officer-TCDSB).

Among the distinguished guests were the new Philippine Consul General to Toronto, Hon. Orontes V. Castro who was the event quest speaker and presenter of the awards. Likewise, Mr. Nick D'Avella the TCDSB Superintendent of equity, diversity, indigenous education and community relations gave an inspirational address. Reelected Member of Parliament for Scarborough North Shaun Chen greeted and congratulated also the awardees and their parents. FCT president & CEO Mary Ann S. San Juan and Board of Directors Chairman Efren De Villa made the welcome and closing remarks, respectively. Student awardee Gianne Esmino Mangalino provided the response and FCT Vice president Tess Lumanlan ably hosted the program. FilCan singers Bart Santos and Nicholas Manlapaz rendered vocal music. Also in attendance were the FCT directors & officers, the awardees' parents, relatives & friends, donors, community & media leaders & volunteers.( Tony A. San Juan-OCT-Ret.)

















#### Ariel mortgaged house to finish movie

ARIEL Villasanta's movie, "Kings of Reality Shows", will be shown on November 27 and he says it's a one-man show as he gives himself sole credit as lead actor, producer, writer, director, editor, in charge of sales, marketing and creatives. "I mortgaged my house para lang matapos ko itong movie na ito," he says. "Two years in the making ito and this is dedicated to all struggling artists. Anuman ang kahinatnan nito, okay lang. Ayoko lang 'yung mag-regret ako pagtanda ko at magsisi ako kung bakit hindi ko ito ginawa.'

Ariel is the other half of the comic duo, Ariel and Maverick, who did TV shows and movies in the 1990s. They were supposed to do a movie for GMA Films to be shot in the U.S. but it was suddenly scrapped. "Dahil doon, nasaktan si Maverick. Kasi nag-presscon na kami, reding-ready na kami, tapos biglang hindi itinuloy. Ako, may day job. Siya, wala, so bigla siyang lumayo sa lahat. Puwedeng na-depressed, pati ako, hindi na ako kinausap. Ni hindi sumasagot sa text. Hindi ko alam kung nasaan siya ngayon. Ang message ko sa kanya, kung anuman ang nangyari, sana, 'yung pagkakaibigan namin, hindi mawala, nandiyan pa rin. Sana mapanood niya itong movie at kontakin niya ako.'

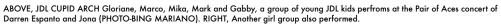
He asked the help of various big celebrities who appear in his movie for free, including Sen. Manny Pacquiao, Alden Richards, Vice Ganda, Anne Curtis, Coco Martin, Sen. Antonio Trillanes, Sarah Duterte, Isko Moreno, Empoy Marquez, Gen. Bato de la Rosa, Jose Manalo, Suzette Ranillo, Regine Tolentino, Jasmine Trias of 'American Idol', even the late Eddie Garcia, and don't be surprised if you'd also see Pres. Duterte himself.

He was once married to businesswoman and former TV host Cristina Decena. Did he ask her help for the movie? "Yes, tumulong siya at kasama rin siya rito sa movie. Friends naman kami. We're okay. Walang issue sa amin pagdating sa pera.'

Ariel's mom, the late Mommy Elvie who used to have her own reality show on TV5, was the sister of Joey de Leon's late mom. "I miss her so much. We don't say I love you to each other at ang lambingan namin, 'yung nilalait niya ako. Sinasabi niyang pangit ako, hindi gaya ng daddy ko na maayos daw, at ako, hindi. Nami-miss ko 'yun sa kanya and I also dedicate the movie

## **Pair of Aces Concert**









## Men of the moment

It's Ruru's time to shine on the big screen

The long wait is finally over as Ruru Madrid collaborates with Jasmine Curtis for the first time in APT Entertainment and Cignal Entertainment's upcoming romantic drama "Cara X Jagger."

Cara X Jagger is an unforgettable love story centered on a pair of young lovers who are faced with the most unlikely dilemma that could potentially make or break their relationship. Cara is doing everything in her power to forget a painful event that ruined her relationship with Jagger while Jagger is fighting to remember his life after he lost his memory due to a terrible accident.

Madrid is one of GMA-7's most talented homegrown artists. After catapulting to mainstream popularity via "Protege: Battle for the Big Artista Break," Ruru top-billed a consistent string of GMA-7's top rating series such as "Encantadia," "Alyas Robinhood," a regular mainstay of "Sunday Pinasaya" and recently concluded "TODA One I Love," among many others.

Since Madrid started in the business as a neophyte artist some seven years ago, GMA-7 has meticulously honed and nurtured his craft. He is a young dramatic actor who also excels in the genre of



action as evident in the numerous awards that is rightfully given to him such as his Outstanding Breakthrough Performance by an Actor win in the 5th Golden Screen TV Awards for his superb performance on Dormitoryo and his Best Male Actor award, for which he tied with Dingdong

Dantes, in the 31st PMPC Star Awards for Television for his remarkable role on Encantadia.

It should be noted that after being featured in several movies, Madrid is all set for his first leading role in a mainstream film in Cara X Jagger.

"It's a dream come true," says an ecstatic Madrid. "I'm excited and nervous at the same time. I have always wanted to work with Jasmine because I truly believe that she is one of the best actresses of her generation. I am grateful for the trust that APT gave me and Jasmine. This is one project that I will never forget. I am very proud of Cara X Jagger."

\* \* \*

Arjo's autism portrayal wins hearts Arjo Atayde's character Elai in "The General's Daughter" may have long died before the show's finale but he sure left a mark among the audience and the Internet.

In fact, Elai stayed on the trending topic

list of social media platform Twitter two weeks after he exited the show.

One of those who openly lauded Atayde's performance was Autism Society Philippines (ASP) who tweeted, "Arjo Atayde's portrayal of #autism is sensitive and nuanced. The character was well developed and avoided stereotypical caricatures.

Bravo!"

The 28-year-old, in return, promptly thanked ASP and tweeted, "I did not expect this! Maraming maraming salamat po. It means a lot, it really does. Salamat po talaga."

After his successful portrayal, Atayde is now

busy completing the second season of iWant's digital series "Bagman." It will return on the popular local streaming app in November.

Meanwhile, on matters of the heart, Atayde chose to keep mum on his real life girlfriend Maine Mendoza who is now busy with her own projects, particularly her upcoming movie "Isa Pa With Feelings" opposite Carlo Aquino.

Atayde said he wouldn't want to step on Mendoza's spotlight and prefers that the write ups and news about them are focused on their own projects.



Scana from "Rahaa at Raril"

## Janine faces moral dilemma in contentious QCinema drama

One of the things growing up in a show biz family has taught Janine Gutierrez is that achieving fame doesn't necessarily result in happiness. And so, chasing after it has never been her goal when she decided to enter the industry herself.

"I wasn't concerned about being a superstar or anything like that. There are a couple of stars in the family, and I can safely say that it's never about fame, but the happiness and pride you get out of your work. That's what I keep in mind," she told the Inquirer in a recent interview.

"I just want to do good work," added the 30-year-old actress, whose parents are Lotlot de Leon and Ramon Christopher. She's also the granddaughter of Pilita Corrales, Eddie Gutierrez and Nora Aunor.

That's exactly what she has been focusing on the past few years: Establishing herself as a capable and versatile actress.

After doing the charming romantic drama "Elise"—for which she turned in a performance some critics described as a "revelation"—Janine continues her search of interesting projects, by way of the psychological thriller "Babae at Baril."

In the film, an entry in the Asian Next Wave Competition of the 2019 QCinema International Film Festival, Janine plays a jaded saleslady in a local department store.

One night, she discovers—weirdly enough—a gun on her doorstep, and decides that that she has had enough of being an underdog. Along the way, she learns of the power one gets from wielding a gun.

"It touches on the lack of options or the circumstances that force young people to cling to a knife's edge. It's about all sorts of harassment girls go through on a daily basis. She gets raped," she revealed. "If you were in her position and get the gun, would you use it?"

Another facet of her character she relates to is the constant pressure of meeting people's expectations. "Like a saleslady and as a celebrity, you always have to be accommodating. You have to have a smile on your face all the time; you can't frown or lose your cool. You can't talk back," she

"But how much longer can you do that when deep inside you're hurting or going through hardships?" Janine said of the movie, which is writer Rae Red's first solo directorial effort.

Janine is thrilled about landing such an offbeat role, but there's also a lot of pressure, she admitted. "Direk Rae wrote the scripts of 'Eerie' and 'Birdshot,' and I admire her for that. This is her debut film, so I want to please her and give justice to her concept," she said.

Luckily, the positive reception to her performance in "Elise" has given her a much-needed confidence boost. "I'm super thankful for that movie because it showed a different side of me, and proved that I can go beyond television ... that I can do films, too," the 30-year-old actress pointed out.

"It made me realize na kaya ko pala, especially when you're working with the right people. The experience made me trust in my skills more. In a way, it raised my standards when it comes to the projects I choose," Janine added.

"Some of my friends who don't watch television teased me, 'Wow, marunong ka pala talaga.'"

Compared to her contemporaries, Janine's career started to take flight at a considerably later age—in her late 20s. But she's thankful that things turned out the way they did.

"Now that I'm more mature, I already know what I want in terms of what direction I want to take in my career. And I believe that comes with knowing yourself better. Back then, I would sometimes get talked into doing something I'm not totally convinced is right." she said.

"But now, I can maneuver through these things much better," Janine said. "Like this project, for instance. I can't not do this film, I told myself."

### Loveless but not lonely

Loveless but not lonelyHappiness is something that Bela Padilla doesn't consider

lacking or missing in her life at the moment. Even though she's loveless at present, the 28-year-old actress admits it doesn't mean that she's lonely.

In spite of her current personal state, the witty actress feels content with how she's doing.

"I like it the way it is. I think I already came to a point when I don't really look or ask myself if I should be getting out more. I don't think of love as a lacking factor or aspect in my life. I feel there's nothing missing because I'm happy at this point," Bela avers.

She also adds that she's not dating and she's already okay that she gets to enjoy the things she wanted to do.

"I just do activities that please me like if I want to work-out today, I will. It's all light, no pressure whatsoever."

While some quarters think that men get intimidated by her, Bela dismisses it and says that if it does happen, it's not her fault if they feel that way towards her.

"I've never heard from anyone that I'm intimidating. Everyone says I'm friendly and easy to deal with. Perhaps, I just hav-

en't met my perfect match yet," she muses.

Asked about her previous involvement with film producer Neil Arce who will soon tie the knots with Angel Locsin, Bela says: "We've been together for four years. We separated in early 2017. One factor was that I chose my career over our relationship. Maybe, we're not really meant for each other. But as of now, we're fine. In fact, I'm so happy with the recent development on his love life. I wish him and Angel all the best in their engagement!"

How about Zanjoe Marudo, the hunky actor she co-starred in the ABS-CBN soap opera, My Dear Heart.

"Admittedly, it had a potential to bloom only, it didn't fully materialize. During those times, Zanjoe and I had 'something special' at the initial stage but sadly, it never deepened. Whatever should have happened simply didn't. One more thing, I remember that Zanjoe revealed that he wasn't ready yet to enter a relationship then," ends Bela.

## Dennis Trillo in a movie at Star Cinema

Dennis Trillo is happy that he was able to do a project for Star Cinema, the horror vehicle titled Hell Come Home, which is the outfit's Halloween presentation.



It can be remembered that in 2015, he did a movie You're Still the One opposite Maja Salvador under the production company in collaboration with Regal Entertainment, Inc.

"I'm glad that it's another wonderful experience," he states. "The mere thought that I'd be working with Star Cinema is already an assurance that it's a quality film. Apart from that, it's exciting to work with artists whom I don't get to work with often. That's why I'm always excited to do a project with them."

The Kapuso has only good words for Bobby Bonifacio, Jr., the film's director.

"It's my first time to work with him and it went smoothly. I didn't encounter any problem at all. He's a visionary and I like that. As early as our maiden meeting, he discussed the story with me. Our direction was clear even from the start. The actors understood the demands of their roles."

The award-winning star is also all praises to his co-actors in the project.

"That's right! I'm with Beauty Gonzalez, Alyssa Muhlach and Raymond Bagatsing in this movie. They're all very competent. All of us did our best so I hope viewers will patronize our Halloween offering," says Dennis.

### "Asin" Tax eyed, on 'daing' for your health

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) is considering to impose taxes on salted food products.

"Ito 'yung iniisip natin na pag-aralan na pagtataasan natin ang buwis sa salted food, maaaring magkaroon ito ng positive na outcome sa ating mga kalusugan," Health spokesperson and Undersecretary Eric Domingo said. (We're studying increasing taxes on salted food. This move may have a positive outcome.)

"There's nothing concrete right now but it's something the

Department of Health is studying," Domingo added.

The health official said tax may be levied on salted

products like "daing" or sun-dried fish.
"Basically, yes. Oo, it should be included—it will include all foods," he said.

"That is a possibility but I'm not saying right now that that is where we are going," he also said, adding that "we don't have any guidelines on that yet."

Domingo cited that excessive salt in one's diet "is

directly correlated to hypertension, heart disease and kidney diseases."

During the 17th Congress, former Masbate Rep. Scott Davis Lanete filed House Bill 3719 that seeks to impose a P1 tax per milligram of salt – in junk food, canned goods and processed food – in excess of one-third of the allowable daily intake as prescribed by the health department.

## Chavit Singson's advice to men who got turned down by women



Chavit Singson, Liu Yuxin posing for a photo:

- Chavit Singson admitted that the real reason for both his happiness as well as sadness are women and he also gave advice to men who got turned down by the opposite gender
- The politician also revealed his other concept of happiness is that being able to bring joy to other people
- He shared as well the secret to his wealth and gave a tip to those aspiring business owners how to be a billionaire just like

Chavit Singson admitted in his interview for The Bottomline with Boy Abunda that the real reason for both his happiness and sadness are women. He also gave a piece of his mind how he deals with the opposite gender turning him down.

Boy Abunda recalled from his 2009 interview with the politician for the same show that he asked him the importance of a woman to his happiness. Singson stated that a woman meant everything for his lifetime of happiness.

This time around, the show's host asked Chavit the reason for his sadness. He told the interviewer with jest that still, the reason should be women. Though he tries to make an effort not to really succumb to grief.

"Simple lang ako e, kung ayaw sayo ng babae, 'Thank you! Thank you pa ko, hanap ako ng mas maganda sayo.' Ganon ako. Hindi yun malulungkot ka na mamatay ka na dyan sa lungkot. Di ako ganon," according to the former

Other than women being one of the reasons for his

happiness, what brings joy to the current Mayor of Narvacan, Ilocos Sur is if he delights people through a reward system.

He donates money to scholars with good grades. He tends to the hardworking in need of help and many more. In fact, that's what makes him seem not to age considering that he's already 78 years old.

"Pag mapasaya ko isang tao. Like for example, pag namatay ka di mo na madala ang pera mo so ako gusto kong gastusin lahat through reward system."

"So pinapahanap ko ngayon yun mga masisipag, kailangan ng pera, pinapadal-

Furthermore, Singson also admitted that the secret to his wealth is to always invest in partnerships no matter how small it is because what matters is the volume to maximize returns.

He also encouraged those who aspire to become successful like him to give importance to their relationship with the business employees.

"Kelangan mabait ka. Do not take advantage. There's enough for everybody. Di ka dapat maging greedy."

KAMI previously reported about Chavit Singson's apology to Catriona Gray over hilarious viral video.

Chavit Singson is a businessman and famous politician from Ilocos. He is the former governor of the province and is now currently serving as a mayor of Narvacan, Ilocos Sur.



#### Isko and Nanette: Reinventing life after

WHAT do Manila Mayor Isko Moreno and Nanette Medved-Po have in common?

Pareho silang nagpa-seksi noong kasikatan nila sa showbiz. At ngayon parehong namamayagpag sa larangan na kanilang pinasok matapos iwanan ang pag-a-artista. Both prove that there is life after showbiz.

Sino ang mag-aakala na ang dating basurero ay mayor na ngayon ng Maynila? Sumikat sa "That's Entertainment" hanggang bumida sa mga daring role noong panahon

ng sexy movies. Sa katunayan, naglabasan ang ilan sa kanyang mga sexy pictorial para siguro siraan ang kanyang imahe. Pero 'di naman nakaapekto sa kanyang pagiging mayor. Yorme Isko, as he is widely addressed, has earned the admiration of no less than President Rodrigo Duterte for his mission to make Manila a world-

At 45, Mayor Isko can still give young actors a run for their career. Lalo na't hindi pa rin kumukupas ang kanyang charm at sex appeal, na kitang-kita sa viral video na kung event. Pero sa kabila ng kanyang sipag, marami pa rin ang nagsasabi na pa-pogi lang daw si Yorme dahil bawat kibot daw niya ay ipinu-post sa social media. Well, that's how it is now. Ang impor-

tante, may nagagawa siya para sa Maynila. Meanwhile, former actress Nanette left

showbiz when she married business tycoon Cris Po. Sumikat ang aktres lalo na nang gampanan niya ang iconic role na "Darna." Today, Nanette is busy with her philantropic work being the founder and president of H.O.P.E, a non-stock profit social entersaan game na sumayaw sa isang dinaluhang prise; while her hubby oversees the business empire Century Pacific Food, Inc. as its executive chairman. Pero ang nakakabilib sa kanya ay ang pagkakatalaga niya bilang chairperson ng Po Family Council. First time ito sa mga Po na babae at non-Chinese ang napili nila sa nasabing position. Her role is to maintain peace and harmony within the business and among the members of the Po clan. Whew!

Sa status ngayon nina Mayor Isko at Nanette, napatunayan nila na kailangan i-reinvent ang sarili para maging mas purpose-driven ang buhay. So, is it difficult for other showbiz peeps to reinvent themselves

### Samahang Sampablenyo holds a fundraising dinner

One of the oldest assocaitions in Toronto is celebrating 40 years next year. This year, they ahd their fundraising dinner for cahrities in the Philippines.

Beneficiaries are children with special needs, Paaralang Pagibig Pagasa for deaf and mute and Special Education Centre in San Gabriel, San Pablo city, Laguna







## LITTLE MANILA confidential <u> entertainment</u>

## **Beauty confident** Sampalan get high ratings on mother roles

**EAUTY** Gonzales says she's not a fan of horror movies but what's funny is she has just finished two horror movies in quick succession. First was "Abandoned" on iWant where she played a lady security guard who is assigned to an abandoned building that turns out to be haunted. Now, she is also in Star Cinema's special Halloween presentation that opened on October 30, "Hellcome Home". In the movie, she plays the wife of Raymond Bagatsing and their family gets to live in a haunted old house, along with their kids played by Teejay Marquez, Gillian Vicencio and Miel Espinosa.

"When we were doing 'Hellcome Home', sinabi ko sa director namin, si Bobby Bonifacio, na hindi talaga ako mahilig manood ng horror movie dahil ayokong magbabayad na nga ako, tapos tatakutin ko pa ang sarili ko," she says. "But I now ask the viewers, magbayad kayo rito kasi maganda ho itong pelikula namin. Hindi kayo mabibigo, lalo na 'yung mahilig sa scary movies, dahil siguradong sisindakin kayo nito."

In the movie, she plays the role of a mother to two grown up kids, Teejay and Gillian, and one little girl, Miel. In real life, it's said her age is not really that far from that of Teejay. So how come she agrees to do mother roles when she turned only 28 years old last May 28?

"E, yun ang roles na binibigay nila sa'kin," she shrugs. "And it's not the first time naman that I played a mother role, kasi sa TV series na 'Pusong Ligaw' noon,

mother din ako nina Diego Loyzaga and Enzo Pineda. And also sa 'Abandoned', mother din ako ni Seth Fedellin. Now, 'Kadenang Ginto' mother rin ako, so okay lang naman sa akin kasi mother na rin ako in real life with my

own daughter Olivia."

She says she doesn't really mind doing mother roles as she knows she doesn't at all look like the mother of grown up kids in rea life. "Secure ako sa beauty ko, kaya hindi na issue 'yan for me. I'm just happy to do my job and that viewers believe naman that I'm really a mother of these kids on screen. But what's important is I'm always a cool mom and in real life, I don't really look naman like their mom."

Beauty was discovered when she became 4th placer in PBB Teen Edition Plus in 2008 where she was with Ejay Falcon (the winner) and Robi Domingo, who both now have flourishing careers of their own. But among the female housemates, she's the only one who succeeded in cultivating a showbiz career and is still active on cam up to now. She continues to enjoy the support of viewers even if is now married to non-showbiz hubby Norman Crisologo who's also supportive of her career as an actress.

#### Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano guarantees fairness in tackling ABS-CBN renewal

Magiging patas ang House of Representatives (HOR) sa pagtalakay sa mga nakahaing panukalang batas kaugnay ng franchise renewal ng network giant na ABS-CBN, ayon kay Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano.

Sinabi nitong, "la-assure ko ang lahat ng ating kababayan, ang mga Kapamilya, ang mga newscaster, artista, and all concerned na magiging fair ang hearing sa Kongreso." Ngunit sa pagbabalik sesyon ng

Kongreso ngayong November 4, uunahin muna nilang ratipikahan ang proposed P4.1-T 2020 national budget, bago nila talakayin ang ibang usapin, katulad ng renewal ng prangkisa ng ABS-CBN.

Sabi pa Cayetano, "Pero ako, naniniwala na yung management niyo ay determinado na harapin itong mga issues na ito at makahanap ng resolution.

"So, hindi naman ako makasagot sa inyo ng definite ngayon na definitely hindi, o definitely maibibigay."

Sa March 20, 2020 na magtatapos ang 25-year franchise ng ABS-CBN.

MAJA Salvador's "The Killer Bride"

seems to be not picking up in the ratings game.

Maging sa social media hindi rin siya maingay. That is compared to her last teleserye "Wildflower." Or maybe, it's too early to gauge its success.

The teleserye is now over two months on air since it premiered last August 12. Kaya namin napansin na hindi pa rin nagiging bukambibig ito hanggang ngayon. Iba talaga 'pag may matinding kontrabida sa isang teleserye. Dahil mas pinag-uusapan. Parang tried and tested formula na ito sa teleserye. Pinatunayan 'yan sa "Wildflower" na kung saan sina Emilia (Aiko Melendez), Natalie (Roxanne Barcelo) at Red Dragon (Zsa Zsa

Padilla) ang nagpahirap kay Ivy

Matatandaan na Killer Bride" nang masunog at mamatay ang anak ni Camila (Maja). At nang muling magpakita na buhay pala siya. Doon

na nagsimula ang pagsu-solve sa kaso ng kanyang "pagkamatay" sa katauhan ni Emma (Janel Salvador). At mula noon, hindi na ito sa Pinoy ang "mystery solving" na teleserye. Katulad ng "Mea Culpa, Sino ang May Sala?", mabagal pa rin ang usad ng "The Killer Bride" sa ratings game.

Bakit nga ba mas patok sa

## Aguas/ Lily Cruz.

nag-trending ang "The

# umingay. Mukhang 'di pa rin kagat

#### masang Pinoy ang mga bangayan at sampalan sa teleserye?

### Kakie's debut single

She could have easily joined show business by banking on the strength of her mother's name, popularity and strong influence. Yet, even with her distinguished lineage, Frankie Pangilinan or fondly called

"Kakie," opted to bide her time and did not instantly embark on a showbiz career.

She acknowledged that acting is a great avenue. However, Kakie is not certain if she is cut out to become an actress, like her mom, Sharon Cuneta.

Early on, Kakie tried stringing words and melodies together to create beautiful songs. It comes as no surprise that she really wants to record songs that she herself has written.

"I've written songs that cater to a separate sound that perhaps Filipinos haven't heard before," she insists "My voice is deeper than most women and realize isn't a characteristic that's often associated with success or greatness to Filipino

"I want to change that. There's a thing about birit and high notes that — while completely valid as a tier of



Kakie recently launched her debut single, tyl (true young

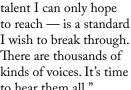
There are thousands of to hear them all."

release, tyl impressively entered the iTunes the Philippines, Canada and Australia.

Aside from her mom, Kakie counts "a million" other influences when it comes to her music. She grants, "I liked a lot of jazz standards growing up — Ella Fitzgerald, Eartha Kitt,

"To this day, they're my standards, too," Kakie allows. "Then there were the influences of my parents' tastes — The Beatles, Michael Jackson, Andrew Gold, James Taylor, Barbra Streisand, many others. I can't even begin to list them all."

There was a time, Kakie even had her "rock phase," that she still remembers fondly. "My



Only a week after its chart simultaneously in

> Is Arra ready for stardom and bigger projects "I just trust the process. Whatever's given to

least prepared myself for it."

Why Arra San

Agustin didn't

her big break

show "Starstruck," Arra San

gets to play her first title

teleserye "Madrasta."

"This is a gift I

will never forget,"

said. "When

of this as the

look back later,

will always think

biggest thing that

happened to me."

waiting for the

break for years

She didn't mind

wasn't the right time yet."

mind waiting for

Four years after her stint on GMA talent reality

as "even though I was exerting effort, maybe it

"Encantadia," "The Cure," and "Meant to Be."

"It happens to people. Sometimes at work,

people get frustrated why things are taking so

long. In my case, I knew I was just starting and

On" Madrasta," Arra plays Audrey, an optimis-

tic nurse who got swindled by an illegal recruiter.

She eventually got involved with a married man

Arra will not waste the opportunity and so she

"This is a big responsibility and I cannot just

take it easy. Everyone knows, even my family and

friends, I don't see them as much now. I try to rest

At 24, Arra doesn't mind playing mother role.

whenever I can because I have to be physically

To prepare for it, Arra watched movies about

mothers and also observed those around her.

"She's not the typical evil stepmother, like,

when you think of Cinderella's or Snow White's

Arra admitted feeling nervous especially on

first taping day. She was so stressed out that she

had a hard time sleeping on eve of the big day.

"I was already anticipating what's gonna

happen the next day. I was worried and expecting

the worst so if something bad happens, I have at

stepmother. My character is kindhearted."

able to give my best at work," she said.

that I needed stronger foundation."

played by Juancho Trivino.

gives her all during tapings.

Arra previously starred on "My Special Tatay,"

Agustin

role on

me, I will acknowlege and accept it."

#### Alden suportado ang pelikula nina Maine at Carlo

DALAWANG beses pinanood ni Maine Mendoza ang megahit movie nina Kathryn Bernardo at Alden Richards na "Hello, Love, Goodbye" na



dinirek ni Cathy Garcia-Molina ang siyang may hawak ngayon ng highest grossing Filipino film of all time.

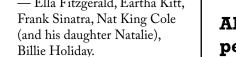
Kung sinuportahan ni Maine and unang tambalan nina Kathryn at Alden, gayundin si

Alden sa first team-up nina Maine at Carlo Aquino sa pelikulang "Isa Pa with Feelings" na dinirek ni Prime Cruz under Black Sheep Productions and APT Entertainment at kasalukuyang palabas sa maa sinehan nationwide.

Natutuwa pareho sina Alden at Maine para sa isa't isa na parehong nagi-explore ngayon sa kanilang respective solo careers.

Kumita umano ng P6.8M sa opening day ng IPWF last Wednesday, October 16. Hindi man ito kasinlakas ng HLG, masaya ang mga taga-Black Sheep Productions at APT Entertainment dahil lalong papalakas ang pelikula na nabigyan ng Graded A ng Cinema Evaluation Board.

Ngayong nakagawa na ng mga solo project sina Alden at Maine, patuloy pa ring umaasa ang AlDub fans ng dalawa na sana'y muling magtambal sina Alden at Maine balang araw.



Chemical Romance made these beautifully executed conceptual albums that still don't get enough credit for their core artistic value," she rues.



#### Alden Richards' fans react after their 'bae' was 'forgotten' in Eat Bulaga

After Alden Richards was "forgotten" to be introduced in an Eat Bulaga segment yesterday, his devoted fans flooded social media to show they would not just brush it off.

The Pambansang Bae appeared in Eat Bulaga as a presenter for the winners of the Miss Millennial 2019 segment.

As Richards was set to present the pag-

eant's second runner-up alongside SKAL International chairman Robert Lim Joseph Jr., host Pia Guanio forgot to introduce Richards and only acknowledged the latter.

Richards appeared unfazed, however, as fans pointed out that the actor was all smiles throughout the coronation. One twitter user @yammyite124 said Richards should have been acknowledged by the host.

"Whether his name was on the cue card or not, the mere fact that he was standing there in front of them, his presence should be acknowledged. Ganun lang ka simple yun (It's that simple)," said the netizen. The hashtag #LabyuALDEN took the top spot on Twitter's trending list after thousands of fans weighed in on the issue.

Some fans, however, are clearly hurt for the actor.

After Guanio forgot introducing Richards, fellow host Paolo Ballesteros quickly mentioned Alden after 2nd runner-up Annabelle McDonell was awarded.

"Congratulations! Thank you din, Alden (Thank you too, Alden)" Ballesteros said.

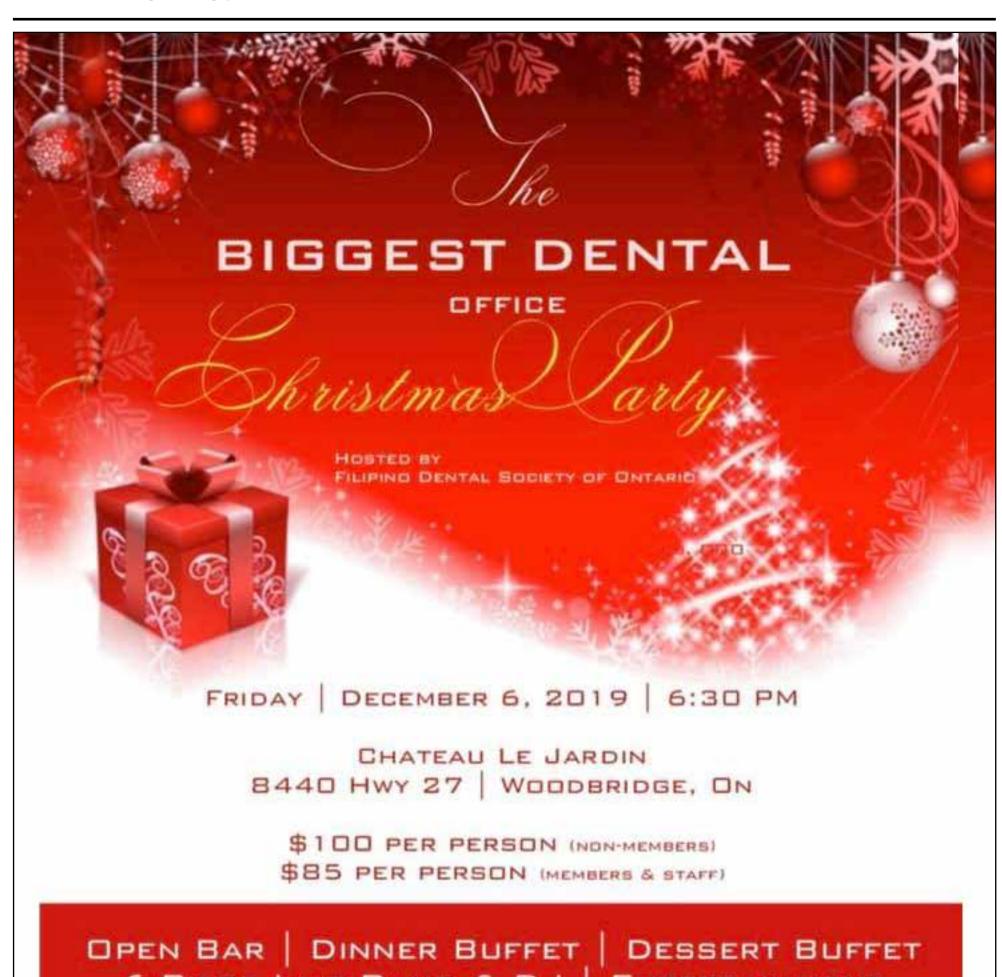
Alden is yet to comment on the incident. Guanio, however, took to Instagram yesterday to address the issue and appealed to Richards to "please tell your fans not to

get mad na! Wag na mag-away (Don't fight anymore)! God bless you all!"

Guanio, as of this writing, has already edited her post, and now simply says she is "[s]o proud to be part of a segment that aims to show how beautiful our country is."

Richards and Guanio are known to be good friends. Richards is the godfather of Guanio's daughter, Soleil Brooklyn.

Fresh from his breakthrough role in the acclaimed film "Hello, Love, Goodbye", the actor recently bagged the Asian Star Prize and was dubbed as Asia's Multimedia Star in the 2019 Seoul International Drama Awards in August this year.



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Dr. Victoria Santiago at liu4439365@rogers.com

#### More Filipinos dragged into poverty by higher taxes under TRAIN

MANILA - The higher excise slapped on oil products and other goods and services under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act pulled more Filipinos into poverty, according to staterun think-tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

"The results show that although excise taxes on fuel products entailed minimal increase in poverty incidence, the first package of TRAIN increased poverty among households and individuals and across all sectors considered. This was due to the increase in commodity prices that offset the increase in factor incomes," according to researchers Czar Joseph Castillo, Ramon Clarete, Marjorie Muyrong, and Philip Tuaño in a report titled "Impacts of TRAIN fuel excise taxes on employment and poverty."

Nonetheless, the UCT [unconditional cash transfers] for households at the bottom 50 percent provided by the TRAIN mitigated the increase in poverty, the report added.

In a separate report titled "Effects of TRAIN fuel excise taxes on goods and prices," the same authors said: "While the goal of the TRAIN as a tax reform law is very commendable, which is to raise public revenues to improve the delivery of basic services and improve social and economic outcomes in the future, there are considerations that the government should make in designing tax policy."

The authors' calculations showed that from the computed poverty rate baseline of 16.48 percent among households, the higher petroleum and coal excise under TRAIN added 0.16 percentage point (ppt) to the poverty rate.

The entire TRAIN law, which besides fuel also slapped higher or new excise on sugar sweetened beverages, vehicles and cosmetic procedures, among other goods and services, was estimated to have had hiked poverty incidence by 1.72 ppt.

But with the unconditional cash transfers under TRAIN, the increase in poverty incidence was minimized to only 0.26 ppt.

Across vulnerable sectors, the most affected by the higher oil excise were transport workers, while the entire TRAIN law increased the poverty rate the most among fisherfolk.

## Chavit Singson beats competition, builds first common tower in PH

Caoayan, Ilocos Sur—In the Northern Luzon town of Caoayan, Ilocos Sur, the Philippines' first shared cell tower is set to

A groundbreaking ceremony was held by LCS Holdings Inc., controlled by Ilocos politician Luis "Chavit" Singson and Thailand's UA Withya PCL. The tower is expected to be operational in a few months.

This is expected to be the first of at least 50,000 shared cell towers being pushed by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). The lack of cell sites—the Philippines has about 18,000 versus Vietnam's 70,000 towers—is often cited for spotty mobile services.

"True to our commitment, we are also concentrating our efforts on prioritizing the deployment of our common towers in regional and rural areas," Singson said



Why is Enchong Dee lying low? + other stories

Actor and TV
host Enchong
Dee reveals that
he still has no
upcoming regular
show
with

with home studio ABS-CBN.

last program with the network was The Blood Sisters in 2018.

"I don't know why it's like that," he says. Did he receive offers previously to do a show or it's his decision not to be visible in the soap opera scene at this point?

"There were offers in the beginning but you know, you have to weigh things. You have to assess if you will do a project because you want it or you will do it because your mother network couldn't give you something really meaty. I simply have to consider wisely regarding the next show I'll be doing."

With this scenario, does he toy with the idea of transferring to the rival camp?

Enchong Dee may be jobless on TV but he's busy with other things like traveling, endorsements, and promoting his healthy and active lifestyle advocacy.

"I don't think it's the right time to think about that because I still have an existing contract with the Kapamilya. To be honest, it hasn't crossed my mind, maybe because I don't consider the 'biz as my sole source of income. Next year, his contract with ABS-CBN will already expire. Does he feel impatient with having no regular show now?

"Well, it's just fine. Anyway, it gives me the time to make movies at the other end so, just the same."

He also has other successful businesses and has bought various properties.

Some quarters ask if he has started contemplating on quitting show business.

"Nope, I haven't thought of the idea. There are still lots of things I dream to accomplish like representing our country to different international film festivals. It will be very memorable and prestigious."

Speaking of prestige, the chinky-eyed actor achieved another milestone in his career when he was adjudged Best Single Performance by an Actor in the recent 33rd Star Awards for Television.

"Oh yes! It's the second time that I

received such recognition. In 2011, I also bagged the same trophy from the Star Awards. I was cited for my work in the Maalaala Mo Kaya episode titled, Wheelchair.' I'm proud with the award. It validates my growth as an artist," Enchong states.

Meanwhile, what's the present state of his love life?

"Actually, I'm doing so many other stuffs apart from show business. The 'biz is like just ten percent of my whole life. There are other aspects which I attend to. Love life? Perhaps, if I have right now, I'll just keep quiet and be on low profile. I learned from my experiences in the past. But definitely, I'm dating," Enchong ends.

## Donnalyn calls out cheating men, laments double standard

Donnalyn Bartolome is no stranger to men pulling out the "boys will be boys" card to excuse cheating or bad behavior in general. And so, she wrote a song about it.

> Her trending new single the bouncy, female empowerment bop "Di Na Lahat" which features a rap verse that resonated with a lot of female listeners, particularly the lines: "Galit na galit ang mga lalaki 'pag nilalahat sila/ Pero sa

babae, ganun din ang mga sinasabi, mas matitindi pa nga, eh / Tapos 'pag kasalanan nila, normal kasi lalaki."

"I'm already used to men saying that 'boys will be boys.' But in my mind, I'm like, 'Mali pa rin!' This is a song for people who have had enough of that. When a girl does something (that men deem wrong), it's like the end of the world. But when they do it, it's just normal. Hala!" she said.

This mindset, the 24-year-old singer-songwriter stressed, needs changing.

"Being a man shouldn't excuse you for your wrongdoings—cheating, whatever. Lalaki kasi, eh—that's what they say. That's not how it should be. If you messed up, then you messed up—you don't try to justify it by saying you're a man, and that's simply your nature," she pointed out.

"But of course, there are also guys out there who are super loyal, so I'm thankful for that," she added. "The title 'Di Lahat' goes both ways." The song, whose music video has so far notched over 3.2 million views, less than three weeks after it was released on June 12, is also Donnalyn's response of sorts to the multitude of songs that are "degrading" to women.

Donnalyn, who started out as a You-Tuber before going mainstream via her 2014 viral hit "Kakaibabe," is thankful that her label, Viva Records, gives her creative control over her material.

"Not everyone has that freedom. It's hard to promote something you don't love, when your heart isn't in it," she said of the song, which is from her album "Surprise."

"Di Lahat's" music video features features women of different shapes and colors, as well as cameos from Anne Curtis, Sue Ramirez, Nadine Lustre and Alex Gonzaga. "I messaged them all personally. I asked them if they could be part of my music video. And luckily, they all agreed," she related.

Moving forward, Donnalyn vows to continue creating the kind of music she loves, regardless of what other people think about it. "Whatever I have to do in order to express myself, I will do it, as long as it doesn't compromise my beliefs," Donnalyn said.

#### Action star wannabe

Rayver Cruz wants to do action after starring in a string of drama series.

"Action!" he avers. "If given a choice, I want to do an action project."

Many notices that he's one of the busiest actors in his home studio. Apart from the recently-concluded Hanggang sa Dulo ng Buhay Ko he is also in Studio 7 and The Clash.

"I'm really grateful to GMA for the trust and confidence. It's simply a blessing."

Now that he's also hosting,

how can he compare it with acting and dancing?

"For sure, it gives me a different high. It's a nice feeling to realize

that you can do something new apart from the usual tasks assigned to you. Definitely, my inclusion as a main host in The Clash adds to my versatility as it further widens my horizon. I'm realty thank-

ful to be given the chance," says Rayver.

#### Gov't targets to lift 1-M Filipinos out of poverty every year — Palace

MANILA - The government has targeted to lift 1 million Filipinos out of poverty every year, Malacañang said Tuesday, October 22.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo issued the statement after the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey showed fewer Filipino families labeled themselves poor.

The survey showed 42 percent or some 10.3 million Filipino families consider themselves poor as of September this year.

Panelo said that "notwithstanding the latest survey showing favorable results, there is no denying that millions of families remain poor."

But he assured the public that "bringing a comfortable life for all, with the objective of reducing poverty at a significant level, is the overarching socioeconomic goal of the



Duterte administration."

He, however, said that "poverty is a concern that cannot be addressed overnight and this administration recognizes this fact."

"[O]ur economic managers have intensified their efforts and targeted to lift one million Filipinos from poverty every year,"

he said.

To realize this, he added that "pertinent departments and agencies have instituted social protection measures, which include rice liberalization and institutionalization of cash transfers, to ensure that no one is left behind as we progress as a nation under the leadership of [Duterte]."

He said the Executive Branch would "continue to implement medium to long-term programs to alleviate poverty, such as enhancing investments not only in infrastructure to address economic disparities in urban-rural areas but also investing in human capital, including ease of access to education and health, in order to make good the commitment of the President to deliver genuine and meaningful change to our society."



### LBC AIR CARGO continued from page 15

Air.

LBC is the Philippines' market leader in courier and cargo services with 1,400 branches nationwide. It also offers other services in other parts of the world including Canada to keep Filipino families in touch.

Prior to the new available size options, the courier company has been offering air cargo with the following weight breaks: 1lb, 2lbs, 5lbs, 25lbs. Clients can now send packages that can fit in the 1lb, 2lbs, 6lbs, 9lbs, 12lbs, 25lbs box sizes. They can now send 6lbs for the same price as 5lbs before giving them more savings which will accommodate more variety of packages that can be sent to the Philippines.

Boxes are available for purchase at any of our air cargo agent locations or at Vancouver and Toronto warehouses.

Customers can choose from the following:

Manila and Luzon

12x12x6 inches (up to 6 lbs) = CAD40 12x12x10 inches (up to 9 lbs) = CAD60 12x12x12 inches (up to 12 lbs) = CAD80 Visayas and Mindanao

12x12x6 inches (up to 6 lbs) = CAD45 12x12x10 inches (up to 9 lbs) = CAD65 12x12x12 inches (up to 12 lbs) = CAD85

To check which box sizes fit their immediate needs, clients can call 1800 # or the nearest Canada Air Cargo warehouse where customer representatives can explain to them in full detail the types of boxes that they can use. The company will process the shipment over the counter in the store and or when they decided to

pick it up. The customer will be advised of the TAT and expected delivery of their air cargo shipment.

Air cargo shipments can be dropped off at any of its air cargo agent locations or at its Vancouver and Toronto warehouses. Air Cargo shipments usually take 7-10 days to be delivered to the Philippine address. The couriers can pick up their air cargo free of charge for shipments weighing more than 5lbs. Anything below 5lbs will be charged \$10.00.

Canada Air Cargo has weekly air schedules via Filipino flag carrier Philippine Airlines. It is present in two key cities of Toronto and Vancouver and does pickups in several other areas. LBC also covers these areas through its own couriers. It has a strong presence of air cargo agents where customers can drop off their packages.

Recipients in the Philippines, as well as senders in Canada, can monitor their packages through the LBC Connect App to see almost real-time destination.

In 2013, LBC started offering its LBC Air Cargo to assist Filipinos abroad who regularly sends packages to families and friends in the Philippines. The aim is to offer fast, reliable, and affordable cargo services to keep families in touch at whatever time of the year. Overseas Filipinos usually send large packages to the Philippines during the holiday season to send gifts for their loved ones.

With the new multi-level box options, they can now send any time of the year at their convenience because these are not only within their budget but also fast and reliable.

### JAMES REID continued from page 13

Soberano, and Kathryn Bernardo. When the latter's photo was presented, he asked, "Do I have to explain?"

"Oh what... Games Over," he told the host when the latter asked him to expound on his answer.

"Just that, it is too much. Like too much



comes to fans
James said. "I
no problem
with her at
all, it's just
that too
much noise."

"Para walang gulo?" Boy interjected. "Yeah. Let's make life easy," the star ended.

James also played the game in terms of his girlfriend, Nadine Lustre, possibly working with other leading men. The actor consented to Joshua Garcia, Arjo Atayde, and Daniel Padilla.

For Coco Martin and Gerald Anderson, however, he answered Games Over Reid but later changed his mind about it.

"I just can't see them in a project together... No, if it's an action project then Games Reid. Nadine always wanted to do that — an action star. Alongside Coco, that would be cool," James said.

For Gerald, he said he was gonna say Games Over Reid but with how the former smiled in the picture, James said, "It's hard to say no when he's smiling like that."

## Angelica Panganiban scolded by police for sitting on tourist attraction in Italy

Part of the thrill of traveling is taking Instagram-perfect pictures—and celebrities like Angelica Panganiban cannot resist sharing their favorite vacation moments on social media.

However, such a picture landed her

in trouble while touring Rome, Italy. Panganiban revealed yesterday, Oct. 29, via Instagram that a police officer told her off for sitting on the famous Spanish Steps, which lead to the Santissima Trinità dei Monti Church.

She made light of the situation with her caption: "For almost 28 years, [I] have been [in front] of the audience. Naramdaman ko pano mahusgahan. Paano panoorin ang bawat galaw mo. Paano [magsalita], lumaban, para sa sarili mo. Sa [pag-upo] ko sa spanish steps... nahusgahan ako... bawal pala umupo dito. Sorry na po mga pulis."

(For almost 28 years, I have been in front of the audience. I have felt what it is like to be judged, how your every step is watched. How to speak and fight for yourself. For sitting on the Spanish Steps, I was judged...sitting is not allowed here. Sorry to the police.)

New rules were implemented this year in Rome, which in effect limit activities in the city. Sitting on the Spanish Steps, which were made in the 18th century, can cost you €400 (P22,600). For the most

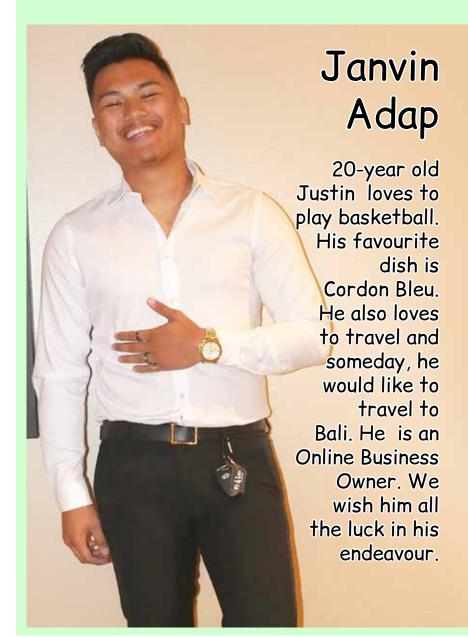


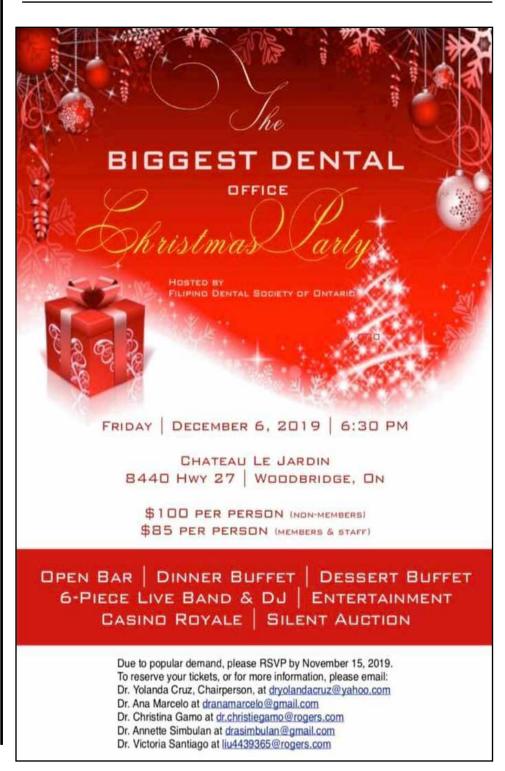
part, police blow whistles to warn tourists rather than slap them with fines.

When it came to posing at another well-known attraction, the Trevi fountain, Panganiban abided by the rules and stood for a photo—sitting on the fountain is banned, while taking a dip in the water carries a fine of €450 (P25,500).

Despite the strict rules, Panganiban has been enjoying the best of Italy, such as having breakfast with wine and chowing down what she dubbed as "the best tiramisu in the world."

## Hunk Shot





## Sarah, 'nawawala' kapag 'di kumakanta

EWAN kung bakit, pero parang hindi yata masyadong matunog sa ngayon si Sarah Geronimo. May pelikula siyang ilalabas

ha, at kasama pa niya si Daniel Padilla, pero hindi ganoon kaingay. Wala kasing masyadong development ngayon sa career ni Sarah. Bihira na rin ang kanyang record-



ings at natural walang bagong hit. Iyong kanyang recording company ay mukhang mas interesado ngayon bilang production group na lang sa mga nagsisimulang singers na siyang nagpo-produce din ng sarili nilang recordings. Eh iyang si Sarah, parang Nora Aunor iyan eh. Huwag mong pakantahin iyan, wala iyan.

Ang mangyayari sa kanya, para ring si Sharon Cuneta. Noong mawala ang mga hit na kanta ni Sharon, nawala na rin siya sa pelikula at telebisyon. Kasi mas una silang nakilala bilang singers.

Wala kang nababalitaan kay Sarah maliban sa in love masyado kay Matteo Guidicelli.

#### Jessy, 'iniligtas' ng Sandugo sa pag-alis sa Kapamilya

MANANATILING Kapamilya si Jessy Mendiola dahil sa Sandugo. Nagkaroon kasi ng espekulasyong lilisanin ng aktres ang Kapamilya Network dahil sa parinig na post nito na tila iiwan na ang Dos.

Tatlong taon bago muling nabigyan ng regular teleserye si Jessy. Ang huli ay ang You're My Home (2015) bago nasundan ng guest appearance sa FPJ's Ang Probinsyano noong 2018 lamang.

After ng FPJAP, ngayon lamang muli siya nagkaroon ng regular teleserye kaya naman dahil sa Sandugo, mananatili na siya sa ABS-CBN, for now, anang aktres.

Sinabi ni Jessy na medyo late na nang ipasok siya sa Sandugo na pinagbibidahan nina Ejay Falcon at Aljur Abrenica.

"Medyo mahirap for me kasi buo na 'yung story at ongoing na 'yung taping nila noong pumasok ako.

"Nang i-explain sa akin 'yung character ipinagdasal ko gray ang character na ibigay sa akin. Kasi gusto ko naman na kakaiba siya sa mga ginawa ko," ani Jessy.

Sinabi pa ni Jessy na medyo nanibago siya dahil may katagalan nga ang hindi niya paggawa ng teleserye.

Ang Sandugo ay kuwento ng dalawang pamilyang pinagbuklod ng isang nakaraang sinira ng kahirapan na mapapanood na sa Kapamilya Gold simula ngayong Lunes (Setyembre 30).

#### Manolo, hinangaan ang pagiging hard working ni **Kyline**

EXCITED na si Manolo Pedrosa sa first movie niyang Black Lipstick bilang contract artist ng GMA. Ito'y hatid ng Obra Cinema at idinirehe ni Julius Ruslin Alfonso.

Si Manolo si Angelo na isang campus heartthrob na magiging dahilan para magpaganda si Ikay/Jessy (Kyline Alcantara).

Bagamat may pagkakahawig sa Blusang Itim ang Black Lipstick, hindi ito remake ng dating pelikula ni Snooky. "It's like a millennial thing, inspired," sambit ni Manolo. "It's literally a black lipstick but then, it changes colors, depending on the

Very proud si Manolo kay Kyline dahil, "when were doing this film she's also doing

a teleserye, the 'Inagaw na Bituin,' it's perfect because I was able to bond with her. I really believe the chemistry on cam has to have chemistry off cam. I'm glad that with 'Inagaw' and the movie has the avenue for us to get very close that will also transpire on screen."

Sa pagkakapareha nila ni Kyline, sinasabing may ka-loveteam na siya. "I wouldn't say loveteam, but then loveteam kami sa 'Inagaw na Bituin' and in this movie. I hope masundan pa ito."

Okey lang naman kay Manolo na magkaroon ng screen partner. "Very important din na magkaroon ng ka-loveteam."

Hindi rin itinago ni Manolo ang paghanga niya kay Kyline. "She's really a hard working, she's really passionate and I really love to work with her more kasi nga nakaka-inspire rin. For someone her age na ganoon ka-hardworking, nakakahanga talaga."

Nangiti lang naman si Manolo nang matanong ito kung crush ba niya ang dalaga."I find her attractive but she's the type na who would like to keep professional kaya I would like to respect that. Same with me naman, keep things professional. I don't get into a relationship agad-agad. I'd like to know the person for a long time."

Nagkakilala naman silang mabuti ni Kyline dahil sa maraming oras nilang magkasama sa serye at pelikula. "The magic about that is we're free to talk about anything that goes. Ako I'd like talking about fitness. I'd like inspiring people. Kasi I'd like pitching about health. Kasi health is number one in your life."

Ito rin ang dahilan kung bakit nabawasan ang timbang ni Manolo. Aniya, advocate na siya ng fitness. "Matagal na akong advocate ng fitness kasi I got injured in my back. I couldn't walk properly that's why I got fat, I got obesse. That's why 'yun din ang naging dahilan kaya ako nawala sa limelight."

Nagkamali ng pagbuhat sa gym si Manolo kaya naapektuhan ang lower back niya. Sinabihan siyang magpa-surgery subalit hindi niya iyon sinunod at naghanap ng ibang paraan para hindi maoperahan ang lower back.

"I opted for a natural way at nag-research talaga ako-health, habits, gym, diet," kuwento pa ni Manolo na tatlong taon ang ginugol para mabaibalik ang tamang posture ng balakang.

Samantala, naisip pala ni Manolo na mag-concentrate na lang sa pag-aaral nang mangyari ang naturang insidente. "And hopefully to put up my own business. But since I was able to fixed it and na-rehab, ayun might as well strike the iron while it is hot. And dumating nga ang GMA at ang first year ko sa kanila maganda naman. Lot of teleseryes and guesting. And I'm very thankful naman sa kanila," giit pa ni Manolo na tumaba pala ng 250 lbs. at ngayon ay 118 na lang.

#### Vice Ganda on rumored **boyfriend Ion Perez**

It's Showtime host Vice Ganda wouldn't want to comment on the real status of his relationship with Ion Perez.

At the 10th anniversary presscon of It's Showtime on Monday, Vice was asked to spill the beans regarding him and Ion. Vice said he is elated that a lot of people are happy that he has a love life. But all he can say is that he is happy and he would like to thank those who expressed happiness regarding the state of his love life.

Of course, Vice is also thankful that "It's Showtime" is marking its 10th anniversary. He said that he and his co-hosts, plus the production team, are thankful to reach such milestone. He recalled the time he sought leave from the show as he is getting burnt out. But he was not permitted by management to resign so he asked to be given a rest instead. As such, he went on a concert

But Vice missed the show.

"I am also happy with the friendship that we have developed among the hosts. We are like one big family and we look forward to seeing each other every day," he said. "If it may seem that we have tampuhan, it's but natural among friends but we always patch up our differences."

#### Juday, nag-enjoy sa pagmamaldita; mga anak 'di alam na artista siya

NAPAGOD nang maging api-apihan at nangilo na ang pisngi sa mga sampal na natatanggap si Judy Ann Santos kaya naman sumusubok na ang Teleserye Queen na magbida-kontrabida, mangapi o magmalupit.

Unang nakita ang pagko-kontrabida ni Juday sa FPJ's Ang Probinsyano na gumanap na serial killer. Ngayon, isang malupit at powerful na abogado na gustong maghiganti sa kanyang pinanggalingang baryo na itinuturing niyang simbolo ng pagkatalo at masakit na alaala ang gagampanan sa bagong handog ng Dreamscape Entertainment, Inc ng ABS-CBN, ang

Starla. Ani Juday, mala-Meryl Streep ang role na ginagampanan niya sa bagong primetime series na Starla. Bida-kontrabida siya na aniya'y pinag-aralan

niyang mabuti ang bagong role.

"Pinanood ko si Meryl Streep sa 'Devil Wears Prada' nang ilang beses para pag-aralan 'yung pagsasalita niya, ʻyung paglalakad niya pati ʻyung pagiging impakta niya," aniya pa bukod sa pagdadamit ng bonggang-bongga.

> Sinabi pa ni Juday na pinag-aralan din niya ang mga legal terms dahil abogado nga ang rol niya.

Iginiit pa ni Juday na na-enjoy niya ang pagiging kontrabida at pagiging impakta sa Starla kaya naman umaasa siyang makagawa pa ng mga ganitong klaseng

> projects in the future. Sa kabilang banda, naikuwento pa ni Juday na hindi alam ng mga anak

niya na artista siya. Natatawang kuwento ng aktres, "Hindi sila naniniwala na artista ako. Ang alam lang nila host ako, ha ha ha."

Ang Starla ay mapapanood sa Primetime Bida after ng Ang Probinsyano. Ang Starla ay idinirehe nina Onat Diaz, Darnel Villaflor, at Jerome Pobocan.





#### **RUNWAY CANADA**

FAR LEFT, Kina Amarillo walks at the Runway Canada fashion show.

LEFT, Miss International 2013 Bea Santiago walks with designer Jaki Penalosa at the closing of Runway Canada.

## Candid SPOOF

(Pop-ups are not supposed to be taken seriously - EDITOR)



AJ Tamiza plays a skit with a member of the audience at the comedy show Charot. Boobay headlined the show.



### FILIPINO GOOD LIFE continued from page 17

to pose with the three came, they were being rushed so they just put their banner on the floor and started taking their positions with the stars. But Jona said, "the banner, sayang naman, i-open ninyo," something to that effect. So, they unfurled the banner. The word NICE comes to mind when talking about these 3 stars.

It was a satsifying, entertaining and slightly different kind of concert.



### Lovi consents to do 'forced sex'

LOVI Poe was last seen in a regular TV series last year in "The One That Got Away". After that, she had a long vacation abroad. Now, she's finally back in a new movie, "The Annulment", with Joem Bascon and directed by McArthur 'Mac' Alejandre. She plays Joem's wife, Gari, while Joem is Sherwin, and they have sizzling love scenes together. She admits it's one of the sexiest films she has ever done. Why did she consent to do such provocative bedscenes?

"Simply because it's needed in the story," she says. "The movie shows sex in the different stages of the relationship of a couple. First is the honeymoon stage when the relationship is new, very intense and passionate. May shower scene pa kami rito. Then as the relationship sours, ipinakita ang sex habang magkagalit 'yung couple. There's forced sex, so sinampal ko siya, pinagbigyan and asked him: ito ba ang gusto mo? It helps that I feel very comfortable with Joem kasi we've worked several times before and neighbors kasi kami. Also, I completely trusted Direk Mac kasi very different, beautiful and cinematic ang attack niya sa sa mga eksena. We've already watched the love scenes and we're all happy with the outcome."

But she stresses that the movie is not just about the sexy bedscenes. "More than that,

it dissects the dissolution of a marriage that leads to annulment. I play Gari, a pre-school teacher who comes from a well-to-do family. Then I meet Joem who comes from a different background. I thought we'd be compatible and although I've seen some traits in him na hindi ko gusto, I thought mapagbabago ko

siya once we're married. But it didn't happen, so the marriage suffers and I ask him for annulment. I realized that I thought I planned my life well, my career, but ang hindi ko napagplanuhang mabuti, 'yung pag-aasawa ko. I thought love would be enough for a marital relationship, I realize, is not just about love. It turns out Joem and I have different perspectives and expectations in life."

Lovi also sung the film's theme song, "Di Lang Ikaw", originally by Juris. In real life, she's of age but is not yet married. How does she feel when folks chide her for being still single?

"I don't compare myself with others. Just because they're married na, I also would. I don't want to rush and regret it. I'd rather wait until I find the right person for me, kahit abutin pa ako ng 60 years old. I'd get married nga at 30, then realize later that it's a mistake, huwag na lang. That's why it's important to find the right guy."



























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