

BANNED FROM THE USA

Duterte Bans cabinet members from travelling to the USA

Duterte's latest pronouncement comes days after he ordered the termination of the Visiting Forces Agreement between the Philippines and US.

"No Cabinet member should be allowed to go to the United States indefinitely, so that we limit our contact in whatever aspect of international relations [that] would be discussed or subject to talks,"

he said

Asked if he is lessening the country's engagement with the US, Duterte said, "I'm slowly toning it down."

Duterte said his decision to abrogate

the VFA was not made on a whim, adding that it stemmed from the attempt of US senators to ban the entry of Filipino

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"You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks." Winston S. Churchill

It had Intrigue, espionage, secrecy, bad guy, nerve-wracking escape, religious people, a party and action. It was the **MATTEO GUIDICELLI & SARAH GERONIMO WEDDING**

From "The Voice Teens" taping, Sarah went straight to her wedding in her crew neck t-shirt so as not to arouse suspicion. If this was a movie, it would be like the

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

DID CIA PLAN SARAH GERONIMO-MATTEO WEDDING? 😂

Boracay to close again due to Virus?

Tourism hurt by Philippine, China & Korea Travel ban

Over the weekend, when the normally busy island would be packed with peak-season visitors, many establishments were empty or were closed entirely. Tour and transport operators struggled to attract customers from the relatively thin crowd.

"Walang Koryano, walang Chinese (No Koreans, no Chinese)." Electric tricycle operator Noli Solidum lamented, pointing out closed restaurants, tour operators and other businesses along Boracay's main road. "Normally, we (Solidum's transport cooperative)

have about 4,000 passengers per day," during this time of year, he explained. "Now, maybe 2,000. So, kalahati lang (only half)."

Travel restrictions imposed by the Philippines to and from China and South Korea, as well as those countries' own restrictions on travel due to the Covid-19 epidemic, have prevented virtually all Korean and Chinese tourists from visiting Boracay. Solidum estimated that Korean and Chinese visitors ordinarily account

ABS
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Nostalgia
Jones Bridge, 1960's

EROTIC TV showing on ABS IWant
Duterte warns Japan, Australia on VFA issue

GOOD NEWS-Phl Traffic is only World's 2nd Worse

Birit does not mean good - SHERYN REGIS

Alden Richards, click kung iba Producer

Business Worry about Duterte Government, NOT CORONA VIRUS



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An Iconic Woman behind the bag



GABRIELLE "COCO" CHANEL
 Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel's designs constantly challenged the established ideals of women's clothing during the early 20th century. Chanel was tired with the handbags of her era, saying that delicate hand-held bags simply weren't adaptable with a women's lifestyles. She sought to create the first fashion shoulder bag, debuting the iconic 2.55 bag in 1929 with the finalized version launching in 1955. The bag was named 2.55, after the date it was bore into fashion: February, 1955. The burgundy color lining the bag was inspired by the uniforms young Chanel wore at the Aubazine Convent, where she lived after losing her parents. he chain detail strap, seen on several of Chanel designs, was additionally borrowed from the keychains used by caretakers at the convent where Chanel grew up.

CHANEL 2.55 REISSUE
 When Karl Lagerfeld assumed the house of Chanel in 1983, the production of the 2.55 was halted for a period of time while 2.55's sister, the classic flap bag with interlocking CC closure (rather than 2.55's modest "mademoiselle" rectangular closure) gained popularity. The bag was revived in 2005 in celebration of its 50th birthday and was named Reissue 2.55. Lagerfeld modernized the bag, giving it a distressed look in various leathers complete with tarnished hardware. Chanel once said "simplicity is the keynote of all true elegance," holding true especially for her beloved 2.55.

Live The MITZIFY Life

Nadine Lustre Never Asked James Reid to Carry Her Bag

It's the one fashion thing you shouldn't ask your boyfriend to do for you!

Nadine Lustre Explains Why She Never Asks James Reid to Carry Her Bag when they were still together.

James Reid and Nadine Lustre, or JaDine as their fans like to collectively call them, have always been local show biz's cool millennial couple. Their Instagram feeds are proof of their devil-may-care aesthetic that's a bit different from the cookie-cutter sweet love team images we've grown up seeing. Having said that, the pair still manages to look coordinated and in-tune with each other's personal

styles whenever they're photographed together. So what's their secret?

We caught up with the couple a few months back during a press conference, and James revealed that their secret to always looking good together is—you'll never guess!—not actually talking about twinning or wearing coordinated outfits intentionally! "[Our thoughts] are just synchronized," he quips. "And for some reason, we're just thinking about the same color and we'll just realize that we're matching!"

Speaking of looking good as a couple, Nadine advises that girls should never let their boyfriends carry their bag. She explains, "I understand that the guy is just being a gentleman, but it looks weird!" True enough, boyfriends offering to carry their S.O.'s purses are a common practice here in the Philippines—some would even call it sweet. But Nadine does have a point, especially if your

choice of arm candy completes your outfit or if it's a designer bag you've saved up for. Knowing that it's a hard-earned purchase, you should be proud to flaunt it. That said, an accessory can make or break your look—and you wouldn't want your bag to ruin your boyfriend's ensemble now, would you?





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Love of beauty is taste. The creation of beauty is art. Ralph Waldo Emerson



Grilled Chicken

Forget everything you think you know about grilled chicken. This recipe shatters expectations by packing in tons of flavor from lemongrass, seasoned rice vinegar, achiote seeds, and even Sprite. Try the marinade on chicken wings, thighs, or drumsticks, too.

- INGREDIENTS**
- Achiote Oil
 - 2 lemongrass stalks, trimmed, tough outer layers removed, thinly sliced
 - 6 garlic cloves, crushed
 - 1 2" piece ginger, peeled, thinly sliced
 - 1 ¼ cups vegetable oil
 - 1/3 cup achiote (annatto) seeds
- Chicken and Assembly**
- 3 lemongrass stalks, tough outer layers removed, thinly sliced
 - 1 head of garlic, cloves separated, chopped
 - 1 small shallot, chopped
 - 1 2" piece ginger, peeled, chopped
 - ¾ cup seasoned rice vinegar
 - ½ cup Sprite or 7UP
 - 1 Tbsp. kosher salt, plus more
 - 4 chicken legs (thigh and drumstick)

Special Equipment

- Eight 8" metal skewers or soaked wooden chopsticks or bamboo skewers (optional)

RECIPE PREPARATION

- Achiote Oil
- Bring lemongrass, garlic, ginger, oil, and achiote

seeds to a simmer in a small saucepan over medium heat. Reduce heat and simmer gently, stirring very occasionally, until oil is brick-red and fragrant, 30–45 minutes.

Do Ahead: Achiote oil can be made 1 week ahead. Let cool; cover and chill.

Chicken and Assembly

Combine lemongrass, garlic, shallot, ginger, vinegar, Sprite, and 1 Tbsp. salt in a large resealable plastic bag. Whisk to dissolve salt. Set chicken legs, skin side down, on a cutting board. Working one at a time, cut a ½"-deep slash along both sides of thigh bone with a paring knife (this lets the marinade penetrate and helps the meat cook more quickly). Add chicken to bag and close, pressing out as much air as possible; turn to coat. Marinate at least 6 hours and up to 12 hours.

Prepare a grill for medium-high indirect heat (for a charcoal grill, bank coals on one side; for a gas grill, leave one or two burners off). Remove chicken from marinade and secure each piece with 2 skewers if desired (the skewers will help you maneuver chicken on the grill without tearing the skin). Season lightly with salt. Discard marinade.

Grill chicken over hottest side of grill, turning occasionally, until deeply browned and charred in spots, about 5 minutes. Move to cooler side of grill and cover. Continue grilling (covered), basting with achiote oil and turning every 5 minutes or so, until skin is burnished and meat is cooked through, 30–40 minutes longer.

UNVEILED
MAY 9, 2020
Coco shell handbag





Nathalie Hart, threatened ba kay Ivana Alawi sa pagpapa-sexy?



Nathalie Hart (left) on Ivana Alawi (right) being a threat to her: "It's not a threat, kasi at the end of the day, she has her own market, may market din ako."

Ayaw isipin ni Natalie Hart na si Ivana Alawi ang threat sa kanyang career pagdating sa pagpapa-sexy. Tanggap ng 27-year-old sexy actress na naudlot ang pamamayagpag ng kanyang career, lalo na sa pagpapa-sexy, dahil sa pagbuntis niya. Pero wala siyang pagsisisi dahil iba raw pala talaga kapag isa ka nang ina. "Nung una, noong buntis pa ako, naisip ko pa iyon. "Pero ngayong nandito na ang anak ko, hindi ko na naiisip. "I think, nakita naman nila ang anak ko sa pictures, naintindihan naman nila. "I'm a happier person now na may anak ako," nakangiting pahayag ni Natalie. Ngayong nakabalik na siya, naibalik din ang kapayatan at kaseksihan. OK lang daw siyang magpa-sexy sa mga pelikulang ginagawa niya, pero may limitations na at tinitingnan muna niya kung kailangan ba talaga sa pelikula. Kung pumasok man ngayon si Ivana sa limelight at ito na ang bagong pinagpapantasyahan ng kalalakihan,

hindi raw ito isyu kay Nathalie. Kani-kanyang panahon naman daw iyan. Saad ni Nathalie, "It's not a threat, kasi at the end of the day, she has her own

market, may market din ako. "Kumbaga siguro, naku-compare lang kami, sina Ellen [Adarna] and everything. "Kasi, lahat kami, nagpapa-sexy. Pero in terms of kung threat... baha-la na. "I think, every time naman, may bagong pumapasok. "So, after two years, may bago na namang pumapasok. So, it's understandable." Ayaw na raw ni Nathalie na matawag na sexy star dahil mas gusto na niyang malinya sa matinding aktin-gan, at hindi sa paghuhubad lang. Wala raw kaso sa kanya kung hindi na siya ang babansagang "pantasya ng bayan." "Sa akin, it's not about being on the top. It's about having a job. "As long as I exist and I still have a job, that's important to me," diretso niyang pahayag. Lumipad sa Japan si Natalie para sa shooting ng Viva movie na Steal. Ginagawa pa rin niya ang pelikulang Kunyari Mahal Kita kasama sina Ryza Cenon at Joseph Marco, at ang Pakboys kasama sina Andrew E at Janno Gibbs. Nasa iWant TV na ang digital



Alexa Rigonan

An IPEN model, 14-year old Alexa's favourites dish is pancit and lumpiang Shanghai. She plays badminton. She also kes skating. Someday, she wants to be an Architect. She is the daughter of Hilda and Ricarte Rigonan. We wish her all the luck in her endeavours.

Ahtisa Manalo withdraws from Miss Universe Philippines 2020 pageant

MANILA, Philippines – Binibining Pilipinas International 2018 Ahtisa Manalo announced she will no longer push through with her application as a Miss Universe Philippines candidate this year. On her Instagram on Saturday, February 1, Ahtisa, who was Miss International 2018 1st runner-up, said she decided to withdraw her application so she could focus on taking care of herself. "I need to take care of my health and I hope everyone will be understanding of it," Ahtisa said. "I was hoping that I'll be able to join this year; but after considering the opinion of everyone important in my life, we decided it'd be best for me not to push through. "Believe me that I want to give you the fight you want to see, but I honestly don't think I can manage to physically



perform the duties of a candidate as this surely involves physically draining tasks." Ahtisa said that for now, she will work 100% to get herself ready when she decides to compete and be a Miss Universe Philippines candidate. Another batchmate of Ahtisa, Bb Pilipinas Globe 2018 Michele Gumabao applied to be a candidate in the competition and Binibining Pilipinas 2018 finalist Sandra Lemonon. Ahtisa represented Quezon in Binibining Pilipinas 2018, whose batch produced two queens – Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray and Miss Intercontinental 2018 Karen Gallman. She competed in Japan in the Miss International pageant in Japan, where she emerged as 1st runner-up to Venezuela's Mariam Velazco. Official candidates for Miss Universe Philippines will be announced soon.

movie niyang Sunday Night Fever kasama sina Diether Ocampo at Ricky Davao. JERRY OLEA Nakachikahan ko si Nathalie sa 3rd Diamond Golden Awards noong Nobyembre 10, 2019 sa Marco Polo Hotel-Ortigas, Pasig City. At the time ay hindi pa niya inaaming hiwalay na sila ng ama ng kanyang anak, pero pursigido siyang maging aktibo muli sa pag-aartista. Aniya, limang taon pa ang kontrata niya sa kanyang manager, at siyam na pelikula ang pinirmahan niyang gagawin sa Viva Films. Mas ka-level ni Nathalie si Ellen

dahil pareho silang single mother. Si Kim Molina ang tinaguriang bagong pantasya ng bayan, ngunit iwinaksi niya iyon. Kaya walang kaagaw si Ivana sa kanyang trono.

NOEL FERRER Si Ivana ang Flavor of the Season sa mga batang sexy stars. She reminds of the Maui Taylor and Aubrey Miles of the previous era. Si Nathalie Hart, parang Abby Viduala/Priscilla Almeda noon. Si Ellen Adarna, puwedeng Kring Kring Gonzales dati. Sana, galingan nila, hindi lang ang pagpapa-sexy para mapansin sila sa kahusayan nila bilang mga legit na aktres!

Suffering for the Rock?

The “Rock” is Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa and is a close political associate of Duterte and a former police chief.

Then, US cancels Bato’s visa. President Rodrigo Duterte responded by unilaterally ending the Philippines-US Visiting Forces Agreement. Maybe, not happy that his threat does not look serious or he is getting opposition from the PHL military, he now bans cabinet members from travelling to the US.

Which begs the question, why cabinet members? Why not his fellow senators? Or even extend it to congress members? Wouldn’t you get pissed off if you were a cabinet member? Do all of them even like “Bato”

that much they will be willing to suffer for him? What if none of them like him, even hate him? E, kung si Duterte lang ang may gusto sa kanya, why make all suffer? Charot lang po.

May saving face naman siya. “I will not allow any Cabinet member to go there (US) at this time,” Duterte said January 29.

Iyong “at this time” niya, it means, temporary. So, if a cabinet member needs to go to the US for an important meeting, he will lift it. I’m sure he will say, “it’s for the good of the country.” Charot.

ABS Renewal Delayed

President Duterte accepted the apology and first daughter and Davao Mayor Sara already said

he wants the ABS franchise renewed and yet, congress will just extend the franchise until 2022 instead of just renewing it now. Why? I guess, theruling PDP-laban wants to make sure that their candidates in 2022 will get favorable coverage. Or maybe they do not want to look like they were just waiting for Duterte to ok it. They want to make it look like they are an independent body. Dios Mio santisima. Ano ba naman iyan? If Duterte is not their leader, e sino? Si Cayetano? Kung tutuusin, hindi naman kailangan ng debate iyan. Other franchises have been renewed withou anyone knowing. Sus Guinoo naman talaga ni Roxanne. Magkano ba iyan? Ehe, I mean, ano ba iyan?

Yam, Legit or Lie

Just because we watch our favorite stars on screen doesn’t mean we know the kind of lives they lead or what they are exactly like in real life. But nowadays, many celebrities give us a sneak peek of their “normal” way of living and even take us to house tours through vlogs. Photos of their travels, workouts/trainings, OOTD’s, among others also make the cyberworld colorful.

Celebrity Yam Concepcion who has 2M followers on Instagram alone. Yet, there’s certainly a lot more to her than meets the eye. And true enough, the Legit or Lie portion of Tonight with Boy Abunda (TWBA) had led the actress to bare more truths about her.

In the segment, Yam denied that it’s her habit to drink alcohol while at work. “FYI (For Your Information), I am not alcoholic so I don’t drink while working,” she declared.

“Legit. It’s true that I was a schoolteacher — art teacher — for three months,” she confirmed and shared that it was also during that time when she was discovered for the music video of Mayonnaise.

And who would have ever thought that Yam could actually play the drums? In fact, she once became part of a music band as drummer “but I’m a ouido (read: lacks formal training).” What’s good, Yam has the technical skills.

“It’s a ‘Legit’ that I love horror movies but it’s a ‘Lie’ that I could watch (them) solo. I need a companion to finish until the end.” If you’ve been reading the news, then you’ll know that Yam starred in the Yam Laranas-directed

horror film Nightshift.

Another wrong perception about Yam has something to do with her working relationship with her co-stars in Love Thy Woman.

“We’re okay. Actually, lum-alabas kami ‘pag walang taping. Kim would also invite us to go out and bond. I love Kim, she’s a sweet girl.”

On the rumor that she is already engaged to her long-time boyfriend Miguel Cuunjieng, Yam promised that once it becomes real or “Legit,” she will make it a point to return to the show to personally make the announcement. The two have been going steady for five years already.

Asked if she would say yes when Miguel pops the question, Yam broke into a smile and answered, “Yes.”

Charee weds Shalani’s cousin

Last February 28, ikinasal sa pamamagitan ng civil wedding ang Kapuso actress-turned politician na si Charee Pineda sa kanyang longtime boyfriend at dati ring konsehal na si Martell Soledad, pinsan ni Shalani Soledad-Romulo na misis naman ni Pasig Rep. Roman Romulo.

Ang civil wedding nina Charee at Martell ay ginanap sa Valenzuela City Hall nung nakaraang Sabado, February 28 na dinaluhan ng Kapuso actress at kaibigan ni Charee na si Yasmien Kurdi at mister nitong piloto na si Rey Soldevilla. Sa darating na March 14 ay ikakasal

naman ang engaged couple na sina Richard Gutierrez at Sarah Lahbati. Clueless pa rin ang publiko kung kelan at saan magaganap ang wedding nina Angel Locsina at Neil Arce gayundin sina Alex Gonzaga at Mikee Morada, KZ Tandingan at TJ Monterde at iba pa.

Tom opens informative new channel

TOM Rodriguez opens a new educational channel online where he aims to impart lots of information about a variety of subjects to today’s young people. “I will post enlightening but entertaining videos about history, science, mathematics and other subjects that will broaden their horizons and cultivate their minds,” says Tom who’s really one of our smartest actors today. “The

internet is flooded so many useless videos that don’t really help shape the minds of our youth to be more produc-



tive. So I want to provide them with alternative content na makakatulong para mas tumalas at lumawak ang pag-iisip nila.”

Well, we commend Tom for this project and I hope he succeeds because the internet is really flooded now with so much “kababawan” and nonsense shows and videos.

Metro Manila Traffic is Officially The Second Worst in The World

The 2019 edition of TomTom’s Traffic Index, which ranks the world’s most congested cities, has all of the answers. Asia has most of the biggest scores.

At the top of the list, Bangalore, India has the most distressing conditions for motorists, who spend up to 71 percent more time in their cars than they might on a normal journey. Manila in the Philippines is just as bad.

The Colombian capital Bogota, which had the dubious privilege of finishing first in the 2018 table, comes in third in the latest ranking. It should be noted that India has four of the 10 most congested cities in the world. TomTom also reports that the average level of

congestion around the globe in 2019 was 29 percent.

In total, the traffic index estimates that Filipinos in Metro Manila waste 257 hours or 10 days and 17 hours every year because of intense traffic congestion. To put that into perspective, that’s the same amount of time it takes to watch 227 episodes of Game of Thrones or 129 basketball games.



‘Ang bastos naman’:

Joshua Garcia refutes Julia Barretto’s statement on having closure

Former celebrity couple Julia Barretto and Joshua Garcia

MANILA, Philippines — Kapamilya actor Joshua Garcia does not agree with ex-girlfriend Julia Barretto’s opinion that “not having a closure is a closure.”

In “Tonight With Boy Abunda,” the veteran host asked Joshua if he agreed with Julia’s statement.

“Hindi, hindi closure yon. Importante sa relasyon ‘yung closure kasi kumbaga

doon maiintindihan ng isa’t isa na ‘yon na ‘yon, do’n na ‘yung end,” Joshua said.

“Dapat may malinaw na usapan para pagdating ng panahon, walang sisihan na mangyari. Halimbawa, kunyari nagkabiruan, kasi normal naman ‘yon sa magbabarkada, pagsamasama na parang ‘ito nang-iwan e,’ ‘yung mga gano’n. Alam namin sa isat-isa na walang may kasalanan, gano’n,” he added.

Joshua said he finds it rude to not give closure to the person you once loved.

“Tsaka parang ang bastos naman no’n sa karelasyon mo na hindi mo ibigay ‘yung closure eh minahal mo din naman ‘yon, ‘di ba?” he pointed out.

Lolit Solis reacts to Mocha Uson: ‘Don’t use me Mocha’

During the last episode of Take it per Minute, host and columnist Lolit Solis reacted to Mocha Uson’s tirades against her.

The columnist said, “Don’t use me Mocha,” pertaining to the Deputy Executive Director of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration’s Twitter post calling out Solis.

It all happened when Solis reacted to Robin Padilla’s post regarding the franchise renewal of ABS-CBN and the allegations surrounding the network.

On Facebook, the Mistah star posted several statements wherein he strongly believe that ABS-CBN had violated laws.

He even called out the celebrities who supported the renewal of the franchise and challenged them to publicize their contracts and even bank books to show the world how unfair the network is to its employees who are working behind the camera. He even called out Coco Martin for alleged misbehavior on the set of FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano.

However, Solis lambasted the actor for allegedly confusing people as to what he really is fighting for, and for being irrelevant.

The columnist and talent manager also pointed out that Padilla is “punching blindly” for dragging others into the issue and sticking his nose into other people’s issues.

However, Solis earned tirades from Uson who supports Padilla’s beliefs.

On Twitter, the former Communications Assistant Secretary now Deputy Executive Director of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration called out Solis and told her that she’ll never understand Padilla’s point for all she thinks about is the career of her talents under ABS-CBN Network.

Some netizens agreed with Uson, while some were irked as they believe that the issue is irrelevant to her duties with OWWA.

On Instagram, Solis clarified that she has no bad feelings for Padilla and she admires him for his concern for people. However, the columnist believes that Coco Martin’s issues are not his issues and if his statements were true, let the victims speak for themselves.

Lolit Solis is a known columnist, host, entertainment news writer, and talent manager. Mocha Uson is a known die-hard Duterte supporter and has been tagged the Queen of Fake News.



Jennylyn admits being inspired: Happy and positive

JENNYLYN Mercado is blooming at the launch of “Descendants of the Sun” that will replace “The Gift” starting February 10. Everyone who sees her is saying “ang ganda ni Jen ngayon. Magaling talaga mag-alaga si Dennis Trillo.”

When someone asked her if Dennis were the secret to her stunning beauty, Jen just laughed. “Wala naman pong sikreto. Masaya lang kasi ako talaga ngayon sa buhay ko. Lahat, positive. Bawal ang nega. Kapag masaya ka at positive, lababas ‘yun sa physical outlook po. Promise, happy lang po talaga ako these days. And yes, may kinalaman si Dennis diyan kasi happy kami ngayon sa relasyon namin.

And why won't she be happy? Both her love life with Dennis and her career are truly doing very well. She's so fortunate that right after she did “Love You Two” with Gabby Concepcion, she was quickly given a follow-up project that pairs her for the first time with Dingdong Dantes, the local adaptation of the



hit Koreanovela, “Descendants of the Sun”, where she plays Maxine or Doc Beauty, the love interest of Dingdong as Capt. Lucas or Big Boss. So how is it working with Dong?

“We’ve worked na before as co-hosts sa Starstruck but this is the first time talaga na magkapareha kami. I have so much respect for him and I consider it an honor na makatrabaho ang Primetime King ng GMA who is really a good role model in terms of professionalism and even as a very responsible family man.

“Mahihirap ang eksena namin, lalo na those that involve some action and stunts, but he’s very helpful, aalalayan ka niya talaga. Nag-uusap kami lagi kung paano namin mapapaganda ang bawat eksena namin and I’m really enjoying working with him. Pinagpe-pray ko ngayong sana ay suportahang mabuti ng viewers itong unang tamalan namin sa ‘Descendants of the Sun’ at hindi naman kami mapapahiya dahil lahat kaming involved, along with Direk Dominic Zapata, we really did our best para mapaganda ang

bawat episode ng aming show.”

Jen plays a doctor in the story and one of her nurses is Nicole Doneso, the current girlfriend of her first BF, Mark Herras. Was there any awkward women between them?

“Naku, wala. We’re all okay sa taping. Walang problema,” says Jen.

And Nicole herself attests to this at the presscon. “Marami kaming scenes together ni Jen kasi I’m the nurse who assists her. I thought noong una, mailang ako, but she’s really so nice to work with. Never naman naming napag-usapan si Mark. Basta masaya lang kami sa set and I really enjoyed working with her,” adds Nicole.

Sarah Geronimo finally speaks up on ‘secret’ wedding with Matteo Guidicelli

Sarah Geronimo’s co-hosts in the ABS-CBN Sunday variety show “ASAP” have congratulated the “Popstar Royalty” and her husband Matteo Guidicelli.

Ogie Alcasid wished the newlyweds all the best and said that he and wife Regine Velasquez will be there for them always.

“Gusto ka namin batiin. Gaya ng milyong milyong

nagmamahal sa’yo at kay Mat-binabati ka namin ng best wishes and congratulations. Asahan mo na sa lahat ng panahon, maaasahan mo kami ni Ate,” Ogie said.

Erik Santos, for his part, said he and the “champions” are happy for Sarah and Matteo.

“Kaming mga kaibigan niya sa Champions, sobra kaming maspara sa’yo Sarah. Sobrang saya ng puso namin dahil alam namin yung mga pinagdaanan ni Sarah. Ngayon na sobrang happy mo na, happy kami para inyo ni Matt,” he said.

Meanwhile, Luis Manzano joked that he hopes that Sarah and Matteo will name their first born Piolo Luis Ogie Reg Martin Zsa Erik Geronimo Guidicelli.

“Isang lambing lang ang hihingiin namin sa’yo. Kung saka-sakali man na dumating na ang tamang oras na kayo ni Matt ay magkakapanganay na, ang hinihingi namin na sana ipangalan mo sa magiging bata ay Piolo Luis Ogie Reg Martin Zsa Erik Geronimo Guidicelli,” he said.

For her part, Sarah thanked her co-stars and supporters for their best wishes.

“Abot-abot lang po ang pagpapasalamat sa lahat po ng sumusuporta, for your best wishes. Maraming salamat po!” she said.





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Bill aims to make mishaps fair to law-abiding drivers

Could this be a game-changer?

Law-abiding motorists may soon have something to fall back on in the event they figure in a road incident with a reckless motorcycle rider, pedestrian, or driver of a motorized vehicle.

House Bill No. 1987, also known as the Philippine Responsible Driving and Accountability Act, has been filed in Congress with the aim of protecting drivers who are in the right in the event of accidents involving pedestrians, bicyclists, and other motorists.

“Under current laws and procedures, drivers or motorists involved in road safety incidents and traffic violations are presumed at fault even when pedestrians and/or other motorists are at fault or also share fault,” the bill reads. “This bill seeks to make our laws also fair to the drivers who were not at fault.”

Under the Philippine Responsible

Driving and Accountability Act, the driver of a vehicle will be presumed not initially culpable or at fault for an incident if any of the following applies to the situation:

1. *The victim is intoxicated or under the influence of drugs*
2. *The victim was not crossing the street at a pedestrian lane or road intersection*
3. *The victim crossed a street or highway instead of using a footbridge*
4. *The victim is a bike rider not wearing protective gear or wearing dark clothing*
5. *The victim is operating a motorcycle, tricycle, or bicycle traveling on a national highway under the minimum speed limit or not on the rightmost lane*
6. *The victim is a driver who did not have right of way*
7. *The driver did not flee the scene of the incident*

8. *The driver was suffering a medical emergency, like a heart attack or stroke, at the time of the accident*

9. *The driver of the other vehicle has non-functional headlights, taillights, or other warning devices*

Reasons that the driver may be held initially culpable are if he or she flees the scene, was driving at high speed, committed at least one traffic violation, was operating the vehicle with an expired license, or was under the influence.

The initial presumption of culpability will be determined by authorities first at the scene of an incident and investigators who will secure sworn statements from those involved and witnesses.

If this passes into law, it could turn out to be a game-changer for drivers who figure into accidents with reckless pedestrians, riders, or drivers.

Soulstice, gustong si Ivana Alawi ang magbida sa official music video ng “Ivana”



Soulstice members on Ivana Alawi being the inspiration for their hit song “Ivana”: “Siya po ang inspirasyon namin sa kanta. Kumbaga, idinikit naming yung ibang tao. Yun ang naisip namin na angle, iba na, then Ivana.” PHOTO/S: SOULSTICE TWITTER

Ang pumayag ang sexy star na si Ivana Alawi na magbida sa official music video nila ang pangarap ng mga miyembro ng Soulstice.

Ang Soulstice ang flash rap trio na nasa likod ng tagumpay ng kanilang breakout debut single na “Ivana.”

“Sana makasama namin si Ivana sa music video,” hiling ng Soulstice.

Ayon kay Paolo Mercado, founder ng Peso Productions na namamahala sa career ng Soulstice, ipinapadaan nila kay Boss Verb del Rosario ng Viva Records ang posibilidad na maimbitahan nila si Ivana bilang feature star sa official music video ng “Ivana.”

Dedicated nina Msript (Rome Lagarde), Rowmee G (Jerome De Leon), at Seth (Ronald Abasta) sa rising star ang “Ivana.”

“Yung kanta po, puwede nating kantahin kahit kanino kasi puwede mong sabihin na ‘Ivana’ yung nararamdaman mo sa isang babae.

“Puwede siyang kantahin kahit hindi nila kilala si

Ivana,” paliwanag ng Soulstice tungkol sa kanilang monster hit song.

Ang “Ivana” ay nanguna sa Viral 50 Charts ng Spotify ilang linggo matapos i-release, at kasama rin ito sa Global Viral 50 Charts ng Spotify.

Mayroon na ito ngayong 9.2 million views sa YouTube Channel ng Peso Productions.

Big fan ni Ivana ang Soulstice, na masaya dahil nagkaroon sila ng oportunidad na makaharap ang social media star na hinahangaan nila.

“Masarap po sa feeling,” sabi ng Soulstice nang makilala nila nang personal si Ivana.

“Nung ginagawa namin yung kanta, parang nasa harap namin siya.

“Nagpasalamat si Ivana sa amin dahil napak-inggan daw niya ang kanta namin. Dun pa lang, thankful na kami.

“Siya po ang inspirasyon namin sa kanta.

“Kumbaga, idinikit naming yung ibang tao. Yun ang naisip namin na angle, iba na, then Ivana.

“Yun ang pinaka-angle na nasilip namin na alam namin na magiging catchy sa mga tao.”

Postscript: Hindi lamang ang Soulstice ang talent ng Peso Productions.

Ito rin ang in charge sa singing career ng AllmoSt, ang grupong nagpasikat sa “Dalaga” na nakapagtagla na ng 100 million streams.

Ang AllmoSt din ang kumanta ng equally compelling singles na “Bagay Tayo,” “Miracle Night,” “Dulo,” at “Heart React.”

ABS-CBN shutdown a blow to economic diversity, investor confidence

MANILA, Philippines — The non-renewal of the franchise of local media giant ABS-CBN may get in the way of pursuing diversity in the economy and affect investor confidence in the country, said Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia.

Sought for comment on threats to the renewal of the legislative franchise of the Lopez-led network, Pernia cited the wide-reaching public benefit from the operations of the network.

“A lot of people are benefitting. Congressmen and senators are benefiting from it, and even the masses,” Pernia told reporters, referring to the thousands of jobs created by the network as well as the role it plays in public discourse.

“So, yes, it’s a difficult thing. But it’s a political issue,” he added.

From an economic point of view, Pernia said that stopping the operations of the network by not renewing its franchise would get in the way of promoting diversity in the economy and fostering competition.

“The economist will always favor more diversity, more openness, progressive ideas,” said Pernia.

This will also have a negative effect on investor confidence as it is a direct government interference on a company that produces services desired by the public.

“I guess so (that it will affect investor confidence). Because investors realize that it’s very popular, it’s wanted by so many people,” he said.

As of last week, the House Committee on Legislative Franchises has still not scheduled hearings on the bills for the renewal of the network’s franchise.

Labor groups have called on Congress to renew the network’s franchise to save 11,000 jobs.

Media organizations, meanwhile, have denounced the threat of non-renewal as an attack on press freedom.


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Julia Barretto: All by herself and loving it

Julia Barretto is treading a new path in that she's building a career without being part of a love team.

After her pairing with Joshua Garcia ended, Julia feels it's time for projects that won't require her to make people "kilig."

"Graduate na ako doon. Graduate na din ako being permanent part of a love team. I can. still enjoy doing rom-coms but, hopefully, I can also do rom-drama. 'Yung more classic love story naman, more drama, even edgier roles."

Well, she's got a taste of it on her iWant original series "I Am U." She plays Elise, a girl who has everything and Rose, doppelganger.

"I am grateful that I've been entrusted with projects that are not the usual. I'm glad na nakapaglaro na ako (sa aking mga creative choices). I can take more risks, make that jump. I can do a variety of roles fearlessly. I can be the actress I want to be."

Playing dual roles has Julia reminiscing.

"It is funny kasi na-realize ko noong pinapanood ko ang trailer, tawang-tawa ako kasi parang dalawang projects ko na pinagsama. Kasi nakagawa na ako ng role katulad ni Elisse which is Trixie on 'And I Love You So.' Si Rose naman, nagawa ko as Eva on 'Ngayon at Kailanman.'"

She likes both characters as each has her own kind of "edge."

"May kulo silang dalawa. Meron silang tinatago sa loob na gusto nilang ilabas or something like that. I like that they're both edgy. Wala nang nagpapaapi ngayon. Ano na ngayon, laban sa laban."

To whom can she relate more?

"Let's not put na lang relate kasi dark silang dalawa. Na-enjoy ko sila pareho, eh. Si Rose kasi, siya 'yung tao na makikilala mo at akala mo na kilalang-kilala mo na. Kampante ka sa pinapakita niya sa iyo, confident ka sa pagkatao niya pero hindi mo alam kung ano pa ang ipapakita niya. Ang bait niya, eh, pero tingnan natin."

With her new projects, expectations can be very high. But Julia is not pressured as she's more focused.

"I just want to do my best," she declared. "To push myself to deliver, to perform. Siguro tumanda na rin ako."

So, she will be working with different leading men from here?

"Yes!" she exclaimed. "Excited ako. It's a new chapter."

She added: "I am very happy to be in the phase in my career na mas mature na ang nagagawa ko, mas

marami na akong nakakatrabaho, free na ako sa pagpili ng project.

"Hindi na ako parang nasa ibang box, I can now explore as an actress, do different genre and act with different leading men."

Nathalie Hart splits with husband, cast in 3 movies

- FOR the first time, Nathalie Hart talks at length about how she and her boyfriend and father of her daughter, an Indian national, separated.

"Ready na lahat for the wedding,"

she says. "May gown na ako at lahat, but I changed my mind kasi I felt the relationship wasn't really working. Ang usapan talaga, the wedding is after I gave birth sa Australia. After that, lumipat kami sa kanila sa New Delhi and all our individual and cultural differences came between us."

Didn't she see this when they were on? "I made it clear to him na this is my upbringing, you should understand our culture, sabi niya, okay raw. And noong una nga, okay naman, I thought it's gonna be a compromise. But I was shocked when we're living na in India, na hindi pala. Dapat, sumunod ako lagi sa family nila. Nothing in the middle. I just have to follow them totally. I have to be submissive to their whole family."

She says she tried her best to feel happy in India. "I really tried living there, I even gave up showbiz, but I cannot cope with it. At dumadalas ang away namin, sigawan, hindi naman nauwi at all sa physical, just exchange of hurting words. May post partum depression pa ako, so hindi na ako happy with my life, kaya bumalik ako dito sa Pinas."

She's thankful that her manager, Leo Dominguez, helped her get back on her feet. "Siyempre, I have to work, kasi may daughter ako, e. And also na-miss ko rin ang acting. I'm so glad to get new assignments. Right now, I'm doing three new movies for Viva."

The day after we interviewed her last Thursday, she flew to Japan with Meg Imperial and Ella Cruz to shoot a film in Fukuoka. "The title is 'Kunwari Mahal Kita'. Then I'm also doing a comedy with Janno Gibbs and Jerald Napoles, 'Pakboys', directed by Al Tantay. And there's another movie with Ryza Cenon and Joseph Marco na wala pang title. So I'm happy that I'm busy again."

Doesn't her husband send child support for their baby? "He does. Mahal niya "yung anak niya, saka friends na kami. He was just here last week kasi nami-miss niya ang daughter namin. Nag-uusap naman kami, e."

Does she still love him?

"Siyempre, may nararamdaman pa rin ako. After all, father siya ng anak ko, e. But no romance na. I'm still in the process of healing."

What if he woos her again? "Well, let's see. But definitely, if ever, it has to be on my terms

kasi I'm not the type who'll just be a very obedient wife. Mahal ko rin ang career ko at

di ko basta maiiwan ito."

Coney on Vico running for President: One day at a time

Only seven months in office, Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto has already been earning praises for his brand of governance and leadership, even from people from other cities. And his mother, veteran actress and television host Coney Reyes, couldn't be any prouder of her son.

"I'm grateful to the Lord for what He has done for Vico and what He's doing through him now. I just pray that he fulfills his calling in life, the destiny God has called him to do. I pray that he always looks after the needs of others and that he remains a humble man," she told reporters at a recent press conference for the upcoming GMA drama series, "Love of My Life." Because of Vico's popularity, not a few people, especially those on social media, are already urging him this early to run for President in the future. But her son isn't one to look too far ahead.

"As my son would always say, 'One day at a time.' There's a lot of work to do as a mayor. He's not even qualified yet, age-wise. He's the type who focuses on the tasks and problems at hand, and finishes what

needs to be done," she said. Many observers attribute Vico's work ethic and character to Coney's upbringing. But she refuses to take all the credit.

"It's a blessing to have been entrusted with a son like him. He says that much of who he is right now is because of me. And I thank him for giving me credit. But our family and friends from Church have been a big help, as well," Coney said. "I believe that if you guide a child toward the way he should go in life, he will never depart from it." She used to be more of a disciplinarian, especially when Vico was a child. But now, confident in how she raised her son, she just lets him do his own thing.

"I know God will give him everything he needs to accomplish his work. He's now 30—a grown-up. So I don't have to follow him around. I don't really meddle. If he asks me for my opinion or suggestions, which is seldom, I would probably ask him for his opinion, instead," she said of her son with Vic Sotto.

All she could do, she said, is to remind Vico to always "trust and look to the Lord." "We pray together. I pray for him on my own. I ask Him to grant my son wisdom and discernment. I pray for his constituents in Pasig. I pray for the entire country. I hope He guards our hearts from greed, complacency and apathy," she related.

And the same goes when it comes to her son's love life; Coney doesn't pry about whom or if he's dating someone. "Hindi ako tsismosa, eh!" she quipped, laughing. "If there's someone [special], my son would tell me. Kung wala, eh 'di wala ... I know that God is preparing him and somebody ... I want someone God wants for him. 'Yung swak talaga." What about her love life? "It's not in my heart's desire. I have so many things to do," she said. "And I'm content with where I am right now. I feel so blessed."

"Love of My Life," which airs weeknights beginning Feb. 3 and stars Carla Abellana, Mikael Daez and Rhian Ramos, will have Coney playing Isabella—a character who shares her fierce love for her children. "We both love, fight for them," Coney said, adding that she decided to take on the project, after a much-needed break after the campaign season. "I really wanted to rest after that. And when I was finally ready, it so happened that GMA 7 came up with this offer," said Coney, who has no plans of retiring from show biz. "I do pace myself. But I love my career, and I think I will continue acting till my dying day. Learning is a continuous process."





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Sheryn Regis on birit queens:
“Di porke’t birit, maganda
na ang kanta mo.”

Nag-trending sa social media si Morisette Amon dahil sa tila di niya naabot na nota nang bumirit sa pinasikat na awitin ni Basil Valdez, ang “Sometime, Somewhere,” noong nakaraang January 19, sa ASAP Natin ‘To.

Kasama ng singer sa naturang “Birit Wars” production number ang mga kapwa niya biriterang sina Kyla, Elaine Duran, Elha Nympha, Angeline Quinto, at Sheryn Regis.

Sa presscon ni Sheryn para sa upcoming concert niyang Back To Love, hindi

namin napigilang hingan ng reaksiyon si Sheryn tungkol kay Morisette.

Tinaguriang Crystal Voice of Asia, si Sheryn ay kasama ni Morisette sa nasa-bing production number.

Lahad ni Sheryn, “Ako, bilang singer, naiintindihan ko.

“Baka di niya kinaya, or baka nataasan lang niya masyado. Nasobrahan lang niya, na-challenge siguro, na-motivate siguro.

“Maybe impromptu niya ginawa yun na di pala siya ready. Minsan kasi pag hindi ready, may mangyayari talaga. Baka hindi siya ready nung time na yun na ibirit o baka may sakit siya.”

Bilang isa sa datihan na ring singer, ano ang payong maibibigay ni Sheryn kay Morisette?

Sabi ni Sheryn, “She has to take care of her voice kasi. Like ako, ang tagal ko na rin sa showbiz pero ako name-maintain ko.

“One, di ko inaabuso ang aking boses, pinapahinga ko siya. Kung may shows na puwede kong tanggihan just to rest, why not?

“Saka di porke’t birit, maganda na ang kanta mo.

“Tamang pagkanta at respeto din sa kanta. Ginawa ng composer iyan—galing sa puso, sa utak ng composer. Melody itself, nakikita.

“Puwede mong ibahin, pero wag mong ibahin nang sobra, wag baliin masyado kasi mawawala yung ganda ng music.”

Kathryn Bernardo at Daniel Padilla,
sasabak sa action movie?

Posibleng mapanood ulit ang sikat na love team ng KathNiel sa pelikula o sa telebisyon sa mga susunod na buwan.

Halos dalawang taon ding namahinga ang tambalan nina Kathryn Bernardo at Daniel Padilla na huling napanood sa pelikulang The Hows of Us, na ipinalabas noong August 2018.

Tila sumabak sina Daniel Padilla at Kathryn Bernardo sa action scenes sa isang shoot kamakailan, tila naganap ang shoot sa isang tiangge.

Isa pang clue tungkol sa bagong project ng KathNiel ay ang presence ng batikang action star na si Rez Cortez, na kilala sa kanyang kontrabida roles sa pelikula at telebisyon.

Kung sakali, ito ang kauna-unahang pagkakataon na bibida ang KathNiel sa isang action project.

We’re sure excited na ang mga fans na mapanood

Congress urged to heed Sara advice on ABS-CBN



Rufus Rodriguez standing in front of a crowd: Congress urged to heed Sara advice on ABS-CBN© Facebook/Rufus B. Rodriguez Congress urged to heed Sara advice on ABS-CBN

MANILA, Philippines — With Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio supporting the franchise renewal of broadcast giant ABS-CBN, the House leadership was urged yesterday to extend the validity of the franchise until a new one is approved.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, among proponents of 11 bills seeking to renew the network’s 25-year franchise, said the mayor’s statement, which was given after her father President Duterte accepted ABS-CBN’s apology over issues involving campaign commercials in the 2016 polls, should guide the House leadership on the administration’s position.

“Since President Duterte has already accepted the apology, and with the statement of Mayor Sara Duterte supporting the franchise, I appeal to the House leadership to set the hearing of our resolution extending the franchise for at least a year

up to May 4, 2021 in order to let ABS-CBN continue its operations and also give time for the House to deliberate on the 11 bills extending the franchise for another 25 years,” he said.

Rodriguez was referring to House Joint Resolution 29 that seeks the extension of the franchise to May 2021 until Congress is able to resolve the matter and decide on the bills seeking to renew the network’s franchise set to expire on May 4.

Another resolution was filed earlier by Cebu Rep. Raul del Mar, which sought a franchise extension to June 2022 or until the end of the 18th Congress.

Rodriguez shared the opinion of retired chief justice Reynato Puno that the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has no power to grant provisional authority to allow ABS-CBN to continue operating with expired franchise.

“Only Congress can extend the franchise and ABS-CBN cannot legally operate without a valid franchise,” he stressed.

This is contrary to the position taken by Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano who ordered the NTC to issue a provisional authority to the network to operate from May 4, 2020 until such time that Congress has made a decision on its application for renewal of franchise.

Cayetano has yet to comment on Mayor Duterte’s pronouncements on the matter.

But he earlier said that while the President’s acceptance of the network’s apology was a positive development, it would not affect the House’s position on the matter.

In supporting the network’s franchise renewal, Mayor Duterte cited its significant help to the city and the rest of the country through the years. She hopes that the issue would be resolved in a positive way as she recalled that the President used to host a weekly talk show over the local ABS-CBN station in Davao City.

Cayetano said the franchise renewal is not hinged on the personal issues of Duterte.

“It’s never been about the President. The President never dictated the direction we are taking on this ABS-CBN franchise issue. This issue is a big gateway for us to balance democracy, press freedom, role of the media and role of big businesses and political actors in our country,” he stressed.

The Speaker explained that there are still issues that the network needs to address for its franchise renewal application as he stressed that the Senate cannot as yet intervene on the issue.

“Senate should not be in the picture as of now because, as you know, if we deny the franchise it does not go to the Senate anymore... Let’s respect the Constitution,” he said. – Edu Punay, Paolo Romero, Evelyn Macairan

muli ang pagsasama ng kanilang paboritong love team.

Super Tekla on those criticizing his brand of comedy: “You cannot please everybody.”

Simple lang, natural” is how Super Tekla describes his brand of comedy.

“Siyempre kailangan yung timing, atake, natural lang,” he said at the recent press conference for The Sweetheart and The Balladeer (Fun Night Only), the Julie Anne San Jose-Christian Bautista concert that the comedian will be guesting in.

“Be yourself,” he added. “Hindi kailangang maging OA para magpatawa.”

But some people have contrary observations regarding Super Tekla’s weekly comedy show with fellow GMA-7 talent Boobay.

The two gender-bending comedians host The Boobay and Tekla Show (TBATS) that airs on GMA-7 every Sunday night.



For those who don’t appreciate the way Super Tekla and his show make people laugh, the comedian could only shrug his shoulders.

He simply said, “Wala,” when asked for his reaction to negative comments.

“Tinitingnan ko na lang kung sino yung may gusto,” he pointed out. “Siguro naman mas marami yung nakaka-appreciate sa ’yo kesa sa hindi.

“But I love them both. Ganun lang talaga, you cannot please everybody.”

Needless to say, Super Tekla would rather focus on his work, as blessings continue to pour in.

Barbie finds new best friend in Kate: No comparison

BARBIE Forteza declared when she did “Kara Mia” with Mika de la Cruz, who played her sister, that they have formed a beautiful friendship while doing the show. How about now that she and Kate Valdez play sisters in “Anak ni Waray vs. Anak ni Biday”, which is now on a new time slot shown after “Descendants of the Sun” and before “Love of My Life”, how would she call their relationship now?

“Nagkaroon din kami agad ng connection ni Kate

kasi sa start pa lang ng taping namin, nag-out of town locations na kami sa Tacloban in Leyte and later sa Ilocos region,” she says. “Papunta pa lang doon, nag-bonding na kami and siyempre, while we’re taping there, kuwentuhan kaya mas naging close kami agad.”

So how would she compare Kate to Mika? “Ay, unfair namang mag-compare. When it comes to people, I never want to compare. Kasi ako mismo, ayoko nung feeling na ikino-compare ako sa iba. So bakit ko naman gagawin yun sa kanila? Bawat isa sa atin, may kanya-kanyang katangian at personality, magkakaiba tayo ng ugali at goals sa buhay, so it’s useless to make comparisons. Basta ang importante, friends ko sila pareho. Both of them, nagkaka-sunod kami, on and off camera.”

They’re just happy now that their show is getting very good feedback from the viewers. “Nagte-trending kami, ang gaganda ng comments sa social media, so we are encouraged na mas pagandahin ang trabaho namin. Even our senior co-stars, si Tita Snooky Serna as my mother and si Tita Dina Bonnevie as Kate’s mom, kasundo namin. On screen, magkaaway sila kasi nag-agawan sila noon sa naging father namin ni Kate, played by Mr. Jay Manalo, but sa set, masaya kami lagi. Happy set kami.”



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Beauty Gonzalez gets emotional as she recalls battle with anorexia

ABS-CBN actress Beauty Gonzalez got emotional as she recalled her battle with anorexia during the first few months of the afternoon drama series Kadenang Ginto where she plays the role of Romina.

Tearing up, Beauty told the press last January 29, "When I started the show, I was anorexic. I was [a] hundred pounds. I'm the healthiest I've been now in my life.

"Pero sa totoo lang, this is the best who I am right now."

Beauty later said, "It's a blessing to be alive right now and to be healthy. I'm happy to be here and healthy."

Asked how much she weighs now, Beauty quipped, "Wag na lang!"

Kadenang Ginto started airing in October 2018.

It was around the same time Beauty flaunted a slimmer body. Beauty is among the celebrities who walked the runway of Bench Fashion Week Holiday 2018 on Saturday, September 1, 2018.

After the fashion show, the 28-year-old actress said she lost weight through "jumping ropes and boxing, and a lot of prayers!"

Asked what inspired her to lose the extra pounds, Beauty said she wanted to prove that moms like her can achieve a fit body even if she's busy juggling time for work and her family.

She said, "I've been fat for almost all my life and then I got pregnant. For me to have this body right now, I worked my best talaga. 'Cause I wanna show to everyone na kaya nila rin, na even if you're a mom already, you can still walk on a Bench runway."

Beauty admitted that she had always struggled with her weight and body-sham-



ing insults from other people. But the actress learned to turn these negative comments into something positive.

Beauty said, "Wala akong magawa 'cause it's true naman, e. "Why will I feel sad about it? Lalo akong malungkot and I'll eat the world. "I'd rather, like, accept it and know that it's true, then I have to work on it."

It seems the pressure of maintaining a slimmer figure eventually took its toll on Beauty, resulting in her more recent struggle with an eating disorder.

But Beauty learned to overcome her inner struggles by developing a positive outlook and focusing more on herself.

In an Instagram post last January 27, she wrote, "Happiness is not having what you want, It's actually wanting what you have. [emoji] Wise words right? But easier said than done. Why are we our own worst critic? Why are we never satisfied?"

"Maybe the answers are outside ourselves. Maybe we should view ourselves the way the people who love us do. Focus on the good then run with it.

"The opinion of one person who truly cares for you is surely worth more than those of a million strangers. [heart emoji] Baby steps, baby steps. We'll get there."

Mississauga, Ont. man takes giant pearl on the road at Toronto's auto show

A Mississauga, Ont. man has taken his giant pearl on the road for the first time and he's showing it off at the Canadian International AutoShow in Toronto this week.

The huge pearl, which the Guinness Book of World Records calls the "largest natural non-nacreous pearl" in the world, is on display in a glass case in the show's Auto Exotica section.

Clutching the pearl is a large octopus, specially made out of 22-karat gold leaf to hold the valuable gem. Insurance appraisers have said the pearl may be worth between \$60 million and \$90 million. It weighs 27.65 kilograms.

Abraham Reyes, the pearl's owner, says he wanted to give members of the public a glimpse of the pearl, which he considers to be one of the natural wonders of the sea.

"We don't know when Mother Nature will give us a gift like this again," Reyes told CBC Radio's Here and Now.

"It was so important to me to really showcase it. I really want people to learn about it," he added.

"It's physically out in public for the first time. The people are so curious. They see all of these exotic cars, almost like a gallery, and then they see a pearl in the middle. So they wonder: 'What is that?' Then they approach us and we are able to educate them. For me, it's a privilege that I am able to showcase it at the auto show."

Reyes said he chose the auto show, the largest consumer event in Canada, for the pearl's debut because more than 350,000 people are expected to attend and Reyes said the sheer volume of people means the pearl will receive much exposure.

He said the presence of pearl at the auto show gives him a chance to talk about where the pearl is from, which is the Philippines, and the importance



Ava Santos gets to touch the giant pearl.

of preserving the world's oceans. Pearls do not only come from oysters and they are not only the small round ones, he said.

"Any kind of mollusk can produce a pearl," he added.

The pearl was given to Reyes's great aunt by his grandfather who came to visit her in Manila and brought a giant clam as a gift or pasalubong, a custom in Filipino culture. The pearl was inside. His aunt was 94 when she gave it to

Reyes in 2016. She believed it was a pearl, but no one else in the family did.

The pearl was still attached to half of the clam. Reyes said she gave it to him because of his passion for collecting art.

Reyes's grandfather bought the clam from a fisherman in Camiguin, a small island southeast of Manila. The pearl has been in Reyes's family since 1959.

"It's culturally important to me," he said.

Called a Giga Pearl, it is white and cream-coloured and looks like a huge tooth. It is classified as a natural blister pearl.

According to the British Pearl Association, a non-nacreous pearl is made of calcite, a rock-forming mineral.

"The nacre is the combination of calcium carbonate (aragonite) and conchiolin. Secreted from a mollusc and layered together to form the nacre," the association says on its website.

"Some pearls do not have this nacre and are made of calcite and not aragonite. Technically speaking, these non-nacreous pearls are not actually pearls. They are classified as calcareous concretions and do still produce stunning gems and are very rare and highly expensive."

PEARL continued on page 13

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Businesses worry about Duterte gov't, not virus

MANILA, Philippines – The novel coronavirus has caused most stock markets in Asia, including the Philippines' to bleed.

While the stock market is not totally indicative of the economy's health, it does tell quite a lot about business sentiment.

Analysts and even the government's economic team have all been somewhat unanimous in saying that the economy, so far, can take the hit.

The Philippines is also a domestic consumption-driven economy, which means that the economy is not very reliant on trade to grow. Trade-driven economies like China have taken a direct hit on both the lingering trade war and the spread of the coronavirus.

So why are investors still fleeing the Philippines?

It seems that more than the virus, businesses are getting more worried over the political climate under the Duterte administration.

With no clear gameplan and a credible, assuring tone in containing the virus, the business community is more jittery.

Business as usual?

Strictly looking at the numbers and somewhat excluding all other factors, the Philippine economy is perceived to be surviving the novel coronavirus.

Meanwhile, ING Bank Manila chief economist Nicholas Mapa noted that the warm ties between the Philippines and China mean that Duterte also inherits Beijing's problems.

"When China sneezes, the Philippines catches a cold and picks up a cough given recent developments in economic ties," Mapa said.

China is currently the Philippines' top trading partner. Mapa estimated losses to hit as high as \$600 million due to the slowdown in tourist arrivals, effectively hitting overall consumption from retail sales, restaurants to hotels. "Another possible hit would be the restricted movement of Chinese to and from the mainland, with POGO [Philippine offshore gambling operators] workers not able to return or incomes curtailed by the slowdown in business," Mapa said.

While economists have estimated the impact to be minimal so far, the novel coronavirus scare is fueling the business community's jitters.

Uncertainty

The presence of the novel coronavirus in the Philippines comes at a time where Duterte has weaponized contract reviews, seen by some as a move to favor allied businessmen.

The elite, not used to attacks by a strongman, were quite unsure about how to handle such a scenario they never saw coming.

Duterte's rants against Ayala-led Manila Water and Manny V. Pangilinan's Maynilad has sent stock prices so low, the market has not seen such prices in over a decade.

This February, investors were somewhat given a boost when Enrique Razon, a perceived ally of Duterte, took a slice or

25% of Ayala's Manila Water. After the announcement, euphoric investors pushed stock prices back in the green.

"Yes, it somewhat calmed down the market. But it is still bad for the business environment overall. Does this mean that the whole contract review is all over? It does not feel right," said an analyst.

The business community is also awaiting the fate of the Lopez's ABS-CBN, as well as keeping a close eye on the economic impact of Taal Volcano, and the reported cases of African swine fever outside Luzon.

Prior to these negative developments, the Duterte administration has already started to show signs of having difficulty attracting investors.

Foreign direct investments (FDIs) from January to September 2019 posted \$5.1 billion only, down nearly 37% compared to the \$8.1 billion recorded in the same period in 2018.

How soon can we see the impact of all these uncertainties?

University of Asia and the Pacific economist Victor Abola said that "Real effect can be felt after a year or so. For the current year, plans are there already and people will not stop executing plans because of certain negative actions," Abola said.

After missing its growth targets and struggling to attract more investors, the government now has the additional task of stemming the domino effect that the new virus has triggered.

TORONTO

Taste of Lawrence



FV Foods owner Mel Galeon poses with Michael Thompson, Deputy Mayor of Scarborough.

Mel Galeon of FV Foods is proud to announce Taste of Lawrence at Scarborough on July 4-6, 2020 this year.

The Philippines is the feature country.

"We help to organize looking for Filipino performers, dancer and bands. Contestants for Scarborough idol must be a resident of Scarborough," says Mel.

Interested parties, pls pm Mel or contact FV Foods at 416-751-7555.

Alden Richards gets approval of Bea Alonzo for a movie team-up

Pararangalan ng Box Office Entertainment Awards sina Alden Richards at Kathryn Bernardo bilang Phenomenal Stars of Philippine Cinema.



Ito ay dahil sa tagumpay ng pelikula nilang Hello, Love, Goodbye, na may hawak ngayon ng record bilang highest-grossing Filipino film of all-time.

Pahayag ni Alden tungkol dito, "Siguro po, ang una kong naisip, hindi po sa akin yun, para po iyon sa pelikula, sa Hello, Love, Goodbye.

"Of course, I owe it so much kay Direk Cathy [Garcia]. Kung hindi po dahil sa kanya, sa paghulma niya sa character, hindi naman po ganoon ang kalalabasan.

"Siyempre po, I'm very thankful to GMA and Star Cinema. Hindi po namin isinasara ang pintuan namin for the part 2 of Hello, Love, Goodbye dahil napamahal na po sa amin yung project.

"Lahat ng cast, crew and people involved. Pero, sa ngayon po, naghihintay lang po kami ng go signal."

MOVIE WITH BEA ALONZO?

Pero may mga naglu-look forward na rin sa kanila ni Bea Alonzo, simula nang makita silang magkasama sa Suvarnabhumi Airport ng Thailand.

"Looking forward po ako na, sana, magkaroon kami ng movie ni Bea.

Ano ang sagot ni Bea sa sinabi niya?

"Game rin daw siya, gusto niya.

"So, mabait kasi na tao, walang arte sa katawan.

Sheryn Regis happy to be singing again after winning battle with thyroid cancer

Singer Sheryn Regis may be years now but she still turns about roid cancer-free for four solemn when talking her battle with thyroid cancer that began in 2016.

In a recent episode of "Tonight With Boy Abunda," the 40-year-old artist said it reached the point when she was already resigned to not being able to sing after she undergoes surgery.

"Kasi nga ang surgery for sure ma-affect 'yung voice ko after. Nakita ko 'yung isang patient nga what happened is wala siyang boses, tinanong ko siya after six months



and wala pa rin siyang boses," she said.

She thanked a doctor from Cebu who did the surgery.

"Pinatugtog nila 'yung (hit version ko nang) 'Come In Out Of The Rain' while nag-surgery sa akin para daw makonsensiya sila na 'wag matamaan 'yung laryngeal nerve ko,'" Sheryn recalled.

Though she was advised to not use her singing voice for six months, Sheryn admitted she did not strictly followed doctor's order as music has been a passion all her life. Less than a month after surgery, she sang at an event for Santo Niño de Cebú.

"I told myself, it's because of my faith kaya kakanta ako at gagaling ako," she related. "And now I am cancer-free pero may check up pa rin all the time because I need to be careful."

Andrea nagkaroon ng sariling bahay dahil sa 'KG'

HINDI ikinakaila ng 16-year-old Kapamilya young-star na si Andrea Brillantes na malaki ang naitulong sa kanyang pamilya ang mahigít isang taon niyang pamamalagi sa top-rating afternoon TV series na "Kadenang Ginto." Dahil dito, naisakatuparan niya ang pangarap na makapagpatayo ng sariling bahay na

matatapos na sa April.

Although napakabata pa ni Andrea, siya ang tumatayang breadwinner sa pamilya.

Since palipat-lipat umano sila ng inuupahang tirahan, itinanim ni Andrea sa kanyang isipan na gusto niyang magkaroon sila ng sariling bahay.

After "Kadenang Ginto," umaasa ang teen-age star na sana'y magkaroon siya ng follow-up project kaagad dahil kakailanganin naman niyang makapamilya ng mga gamit para sa bagong bahay.

"Dalangin ko po sa Diyos na sana'y tuluy-tuluy po ang trabaho ko para sa pamilya ko po," pahayag niya.

Sa "Kadenang Ginto" naman nabuo ang tambalan nila ng ex-PBB housemate na si Seth Fedelin at nagkaroon umano siya ng new set of friends kina Francine Diaz at Kyle Echarri.

Tulad nina Kathryn Bernardo at Julia Montes, si Andrea ay produkto rin ng now-defunct kiddie gag show na "Goin' Bulilit" kung saan siya nagsimula nung 2010 when she was barely 7 years old.

Kabaliktaran sa kanyang role in "Annaliza" noon, si Andrea na gumanap sa papel na Margaret `Marga` Mondragon Bartolome ay naging kontrabida sa character ni Cassandra `Cassie` Mondragon na ginampanan naman ni Francine.

"But I'm glad na nagampanan ko po nang tama ang role ko," aniya.



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How Ian revived his career

IAN Veneracion was one of our most sought-after young action stars in the 90s. His career dimmed when action flicks lost their attraction to local viewers, but he was able to revive his career through the soaps he did with ABS-CBN, like "Pangako and "A Love to Last". He also did several movie-like "Achy Breaky Hearts" and "Unbreakable".

Last week, he showed up in three consecutive presscons at ABS-CBN. Thursday, he was in "Make it With You", Friday in "My Single Lady", and Saturday in the movie "Block Z" where he plays the dad of Julia Barretto.

It's in "My Single Lady" where he plays his biggest role as the dad of Jodi Sta. Maria's love child. He says he didn't have any second thoughts doing "My Single Lady".

"Even after the past projects we did, Jodi and I have maintained our friendship," says Ian. "When she told me na siya ang producer nitong 'My Single Lady', automatic na yes agad ako kasi, as a friend, I want to be there to support her. And when I read the script, kakaiba siya. I like my role as Chester. Iba ang dynamics ng characters, lahat sila flawed, mga totoong tao, so okay talaga. And in fairness to Jodi, kahit friends kami, hindi naman niya ako binarat sa talent fee ko rito. Ha ha ha!"

Jodi says it's nice to work with Ian in a romantic comedy like "My Single Lady".



"Dito ko kasi na-realize na hindi lang pala sa drama magaling si Ian kundi also in comedy. Magaling din ang comic timing niya. We really had fun doing 'My Single Lady'."

Playing Jodi's other leading man is Zanjoe Marudo as BG, an electrician

who becomes the new guy in Jodi's life as Chona. In the story, Ian wants to come back to Jodi's life after learning they had a son, Red (Ynigo Delen), but Jodi becomes conflicted as she's also chummy to Zanjoe who says he enjoyed his role as Jodi's other man.

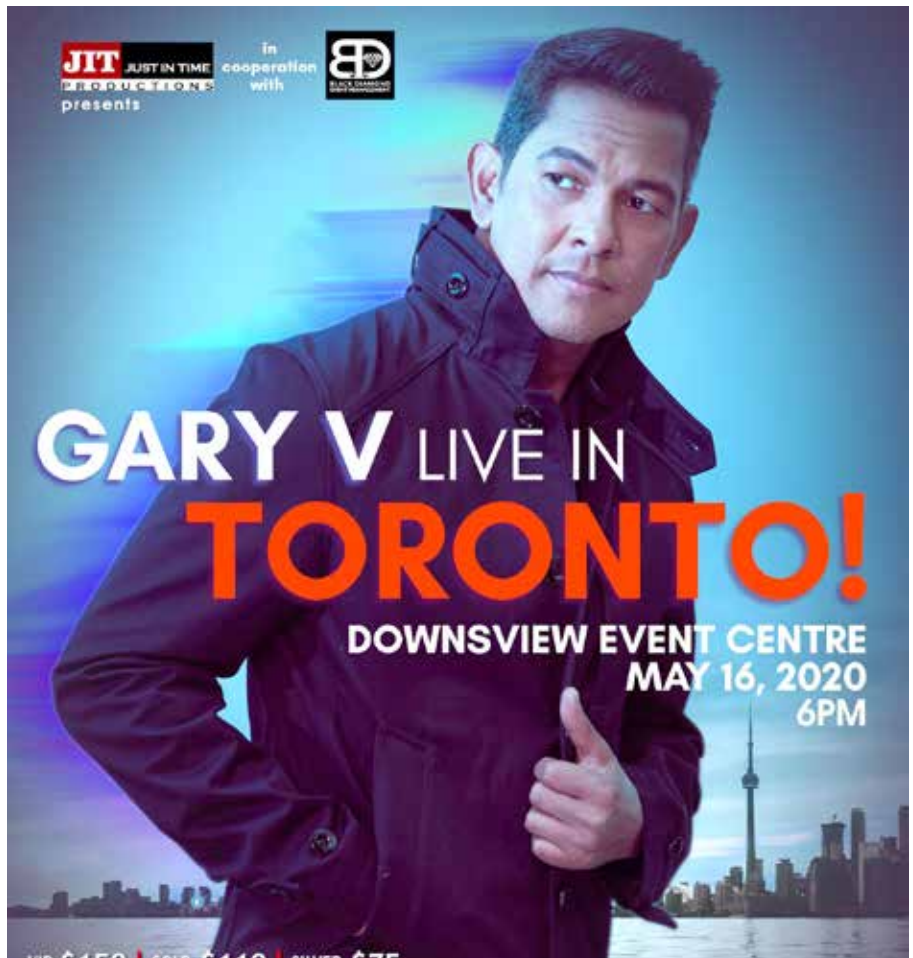
"Marami na akong nagawang light roles, comedy ang treatment, but kakaiba itong 'My Single Lady', kasi nga, as Ian said, hindi kami basta good or bad dito kundi flawed lahat ng characters namin, parang sa totoong buhay na may kanya-kanyang strengths and weaknesses ang bawat tao. I've worked with Jodi before sa horror movie na 'Maria Leonora Teresa', but it's our first time to work on TV na romantic comedy naman, so I really welcomed the chance of doing 'My Single Lady' with her."

So which one does Jodi choose in the end, Ian or Zanjoe? "Naku, that you have to find out for yourself when 'My Single Lady' starts streaming on iWant starting January 22," says Jodi.

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James Reid Speaks Up About Nadine Lustre: 'I still love her' Aww.

James Reid has finally spoken up about Nadine Lustre after their confirmed breakup in January.

In an interview with fashion magazine Mega Man, James revealed that he's still trying to find himself after they went their separate ways.

"We've been in a love team for so long," James shared. "And that's been my whole life. I can't even begin to think of who I am or what I'm supposed to be outside of that love team, which is scary. And that's why I said I got a lot of figuring out to do," he said.

"People might say I'm a bit heartless," James added. "I don't want it to seem like me wanting to know who I am without



Nadine is the only reason. There are too many to point out, but that's all I'm able to share without going into depth."

"I still love her. It's just my perspective on love has broadened," he said.

In a separate interview with Mega magazine, Nadine confessed how she considers James her security blanket.

"He's the first person to come and rescue..." Nadine shared. "I've learned so much from him. I'm always going to be thankful that that guy came into my life, no matter what happens."

James is set to start filming in February for his upcoming teleserye Soul-mate Project with Nancy McDonie of K-pop group MOMOLAND.

In January, Nadine released a statement indicating that she has terminated her contract with her VIVA Artists Agency. VIVA responded by saying that Nadine remains their exclusive talent and that their contract remains valid. Nadine has been under VIVA since 2009. James, who was also with VIVA, left the agency in September 2019.



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The Face of 2020

by Ricky Lo

Ding, ang bato!

Jane de Leon had to learn how to deliver that iconic three-word line with urgency as part of her training as the newest Darna in yet another remake of the well-loved movie about the superwoman created by Mars Ravelo, originated by Rosa del Rosario and replayed through the decades by, among others, Eva Montes, Liza Moreno, Vilma Santos, Nanette Medved, Anjanette Abayari, Angel Locsin (on TV) and Marian Rivera (also on TV).

This time around, the task of “reviving” Darna is in the hands of Jerrold Tarog (Heneral Luna, Goyo ang Batang Heneral, etc.), taking over from Erik Matti who quit halfway through the long-drawn preparation for the reportedly “big-budgeted” Star Cinema project... to the tune of a hundred-plus million? It’s interesting to see how Jerrold will “update/upgrade” Darna in this era of superhero flicks churned out by Hollywood with heady regularity, sometimes bringing together superheroes and, one time, casting former Miss Israel Gal Gadot solo in the revival of Wonder Woman (a huge hit).

Like Jerrold, Jane is not the original choice. The first was Liza Soberano who begged off due to a damaged finger incurred during a shoot for the Kapamilya series Bagani, requiring surgery in New York. The search for the new Darna ended when Olive Lamasan, Star Cinema’s managing director for film, and Kapamilya resident director Lauren Dyogi, saw “something” in Jane when they saw her in the TV series Halik (playing Jericho Rosales’ sister). Eureka!

“Jane was the unanimous choice,” Olive told The STAR in July last year when the “precious find” was revealed. Actually, Jane was among the 13 “probables” presented to Olive and Lauren two years earlier by Star Magic head Johnny “Mr. M” Manahan, but it was only when she spotted Jane in Halik did Olive take a closer look.

Even Erik, who was eyeing Nadine Lustre as his Darna, conceded that Jane is a good choice. “She has a fresh face...”

That “fresh face” is The Face of 2020, made more refreshing by Dr. Vicki Belo who put her on giant billboards around the metropolis, prompting motorists and pedestrians to wonder who she is.

Until she was revealed as the new Darna, Jane had actually been around except that perhaps she remained “unnoticed” in the company of many other newcomers.

“From the start,” recalled Tyrone Escalante, Jane’s discoverer/manager who heads T.E.A.M. (Tyrone Escalante Artists Management), “I knew that Jane was headed for something big. She was just waiting for the right time, sa tamang panahon.”

Jane told Conversations that she couldn’t believe she was “it,” asking herself, “Totoo ba ang narinig ko?” It took several weeks before things sank in. “Part of my growing up was watching Darna on TV, the series with Angel Locsin and then with Marian Rivera. I never thought I would be following in their footsteps.”

Jane Florence Benitez de Leon was born on Nov. 22, 1998, in San Pedro, Laguna. Her mom, Maricar Benitez, hails from Bohol. Her dad, Ruel Florencio de Leon, was a salesman who died when Jane and her only sibling were young.

“I would say that my childhood was happy even if we went through tough times,” confessed Jane.

“Marami kaming pinag-daanang mabibigat na crises. After my dad passed away, my mom lost her job so I became the breadwinner at an early age. My journey in showbiz was hard kasi kahit walang-wala kami, mom would find ways for us to show up in our appointments. Para makauwi, we had to borrow money for transportation...nakikipag-habulan ng bus at nalilipasan ng gutom kasi nagtitipid talaga kami, o kaya walang pangkain. But I never lost faith in God.”

Fate brought Jane in the path of talent manager Tyrone.

“Jane was referred to me by another aspiring talent,” related Tyrone who counts many other talents (among them Vance Larena and Kelvin Miranda). “I

brought her to Eat, Bulaga but she missed the audition. While auditioning for a show of Edgar Mortiz, Jane was spotted by Mr. M who asked her to join a Star Magic workshop.”

From then on, Jane became a member of GirlTrends, a girl group featured in It’s Showtime, and auditioned abroad for Now United, a group being groomed by Simon Fuller, along with three other aspirants including Bailey May who got Fuller’s nod.

“She was patient,” continued Tyrone, “happy to be doing bit parts...as Derek Ramsay’s sister in the movie Ex With Benefits and in a flashback in the hit TV series Be Careful with My Heart. I brought her to Mother Lily who cast her in the films The Debutantes and Walwal. It was when she appeared in Halik that she began to be noticed.”

For months now, Jane has been training, starting with conditioning and then stunt routines under martial-arts experts from abroad. Anytime now, she will be fitted for the Darna costume and the start of the shoot is tentatively set for next month.

Incidentally, Jane is a Tiger.

According to the Chinese astrology, Tigers (born in the years 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 and 2022) are “brave, competitive, forceful, have a tendency to be selfish but overall are

extremely generous, very intelligent, always on alert, very charming and well-liked by others.” (Other Tigers: Joaquin Phoenix, Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Cruise, Marilyn Monroe, Robert Pattinson, Jim Carey, Karl Marx and Ludwig van Beethoven.)

(Postscript: As this story was being written, Jane texted this message: I wasn’t really able to celebrate Christmas because I was bedridden. My family was with me in my room all the while. Good thing, I was well enough to spend New Year with my family in Singapore. It was our first time to go abroad. My Christmas wish? Good health so that I can achieve my goals. And, of course, sana maging successful ang Darna project.)



The last Darna on TV Marian Rivera meets the new Darna Jane de Leon.

Shooting ni Jane para sa ‘Darna,’ natuloy na

IT was in 2013 nang unang lumabas ang balita na si Angel Locsin ang gaganap na bagong Darna sa pelikula which was officially announced by Star Cinema in 2014. But a year later, nag-back out sa role si Angel dahil sa kanyang back injury.

In 2017, it was announced na si Liza Soberano na ang papalit kay Angel sa role bagay na ikinatuwa ng kanyang mga tagahanga.

Just when Liza was already starting her training for “Darna” ay nagkaroon naman siya ng finger injury habang ginagawa nito ang “Bagani” friend had her finger operated in the US.

Halos kasabay ng pag-at-na ay din ang original director ng proyekto na si Erik Matti at siya’y pinalitan ng writer-director na si Jerrold Tarog. And after months

of preparations for the project ay tuloy na rin finally ang paglipad ni Darna dahil nagsimula na ang shooting ng bagong Darna movie.

When the role was offered to Jane, agad siyang sumailalim ng iba’t ibang training including stunts and fight scenes at regular siyang nagdyi-gym for her fitness program.

Si Jane ang pang-14 na actress to portray the role of “Darna” which was created by the late novelist Mars Ravelo and artist Nestor Redondo.

Ang nasabing nobela was serialized sa Pilipino Komiks in May 1950 at makailang beses nang ginawang pelikula maging sa telebisyon.

Ang mga female star na gumanap ng “Darna” include Rosa del Rosario, Liza Moreno, Eva Mones, Gina Pareno, Vilma Santos (thrice), Lorna Tolentino, Rio Locsin, Sharon Cuneta, Nanette Medved, Anjanette Abayari, Regine Velasquez, Angel Locsin at Marian Rivera.

Si Jane ay inaasahang maging major star sa taong ito dahil sa kanyang pagganap na “Darna”. Beast.”



Marco uncomfortable doing hot love scenes with Lovi

MARCO Gumabao admits he is initially uncomfortable doing the hot love scenes he did with Lovi Poe in Viva’s sizzling love triangle flick, “Hindi Tayo Pwede”.

“I guess it’s but natural kasi, even if Lovi and I have known each other for quite some time since we’ve worked together in some fashion shows, this is our first movie together at ngayon pa lang kami aarte nang magkasama sa harap ng camera,” he explains. “So, pareho kaming uneasy at first in doing the love scenes. It’s good our director, Joel Lamangan, was there to assure us he’ll support us every step of the way, basta gawin namin lahat ng instructions niya para hindi na paulit-ulit ang take ng eksena. But still, the love scene took more than two

hours to shoot. I’m curious to see how they edited it and how it will come out on the big screen.”

He has done love scenes with Anne Curtis before in “Just a Stranger”. So how is it now working with Lovi Poe?

“It’s not fair to compare them with each other but they’re both nice, magaan katabaho at parehong napakagaling umarte sa dramatic scenes namin. I feel privileged to be given the chance to work with both of them at this point in my career and I want to thank Viva na kinuha akong maging leading man nila.”

How about working with Direk Joel Lamangan? “It’s also my first time with him and siyempre, andami kong narinig na sobrang higpit niya, so I was intimidated at first. Very nervous ako sa first shooting



day, but it turned out everything is light and easy on his set. Basta gawin mo lang nang tama ang trabaho at on time ka laging dumating sa set. So I’m always early kasi ayoko rin namang maging cause of delay.”

He’s now so happy to be given the chance to be helmed by Direk Joel. “It’s really a great experience to work with a seasoned director like him. He motivates you to give your 100 percent in every scene kaya alert ako lagi to focus on my acting. I now have the highest respect for him. And of course, it helps na ang galing-galing din lagi ng kaeksena mo, si Lovi. Sa story, I play Dennis, ka-office mate niya na matagal nang secretly in love sa kanya, pero hindi ako makaporma kasi nga alam kong sila na ni Tony Labrusca.



Guests, the Octave Band and JDL dancers perform at the Ivory Keys dinner fundraising concert for ANCOP.

Albie Casino, Vance Larena in erotic drama anthology

Indulge in secrets and desires insensual teamup in Sunday Night Fever and new episodes of the erotic drama Hush as they are now streaming on iWant.

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PEARL

continued from page 9

Nothing exudes a luxury lifestyle like pearls'

The pearl at the auto show is drawing crowds, even a handful of Ontario Provincial Police officers, and they were very interested in learning about the gem.

David McClean, director of marketing for the Canadian International AutoShow, said the pearl is a perfect addition to the event.



"The ownership of exotic vehicles is all about a particular lifestyle and nothing exudes a luxury lifestyle like pearls," McClean said.

"Of course, the first question people ask when they come down here is: 'How much is that car worth or how much is this exotic car worth?' So the alignment of this particular pearl, worth \$90 million U.S., it was just a perfect fit with our event."

And the next public stop for the pearl? "Potentially TIFF," Reyes said.



Heart promotes body positivity with daring photo



Heart Evangelista has uploaded online a somewhat revealing photo with the aim of promoting body positivity to her followers.

The photo shot by Filipino photographer Charisma Lico shows the actress exposing her back and some sideboob.

"Treasure yourself every single day," she wrote as caption.

Heart's photo surprised her fans used to seeing her in stylish outfits than baring skin.

While she got several praise for the photo, one follower asked what her husband, Francis "Chiz" Escudero, thinks of it.

"He told me to post it (and) he said I should be proud," Heart replied.



1. Dr. Solon Guzman poses with the world's largest pearl and it's owner Abraham Reyes at the Metro Toronto Auto Show. 2. Mitzi Faigal of Mitzify Fashion poses with the pearl. 3 & 4. JDL Cupid Arch and Josie de Leon perform at the Ivory Keys dinner concert. ALL PHOTOS BY RAYMOND SANTOS

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Was Sarah-Matteo wedding
a CIA Operation? 😊😊😊



Joey Albert & The Company pose with Belinda Reyes and family after the concert. PHOTO BY BING MARIANO

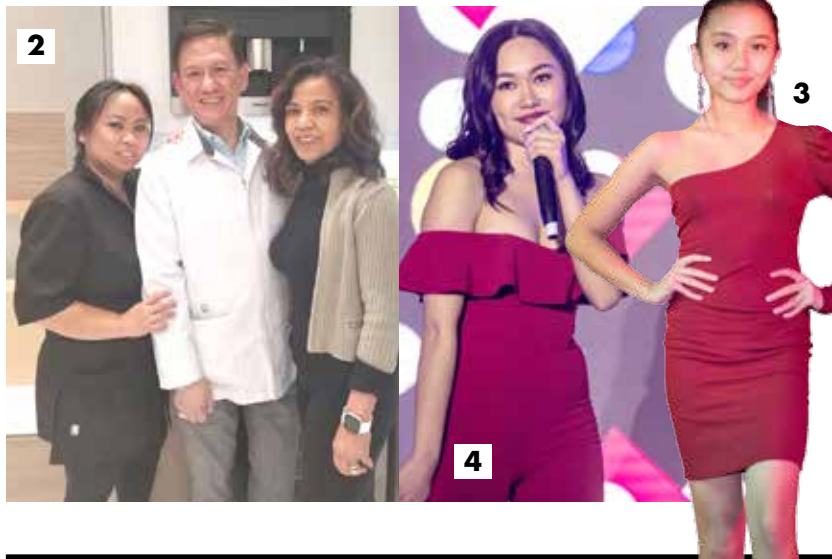
By now, everyone who follows Philippine showbiz would know about the wedding of Matteo Guidicelli and Philippine Popstar Royalty Sarah Geronimo.

Well, how it happened could have been straight from an espionage novel or a movie. And just like a spy mov-

THE SOCIALLIST
continued next page



1. Joey Albert and The Company takes a selfie with the audience. 2. Dr. Solon Guzman opens a new dental office at Seafood City in Mississauga. 3. Arielle Kayleen Perez will be holding a concert at Republika on 22nd of Marc. 4. Celine Grey was one of the opening act at the Joey Albert & The Company concert. 5. JDL Divas perform at the Joey Albert & The Company concert. CONCERT PHOTOS BY BING MARIANO



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ie, details of the wedding are not forthcoming. Only a few guests are talking☺. Even the pastor was not talking☺. Nasa witness protection na yata karamihan ng guests. Or they signed a non-disclosure agreement. You'd think Divine and Delfin Geronimo are powerful political clan na mato-tokhang lahat ng magsalita. People, they are just parents of Sarah na sumikat at nag-payaman☺sa kanila. Start talking. We want the juicy details ☺. Anyway, they are now Mr & Mrs. Guidicelli. Let us hope there is Forever, and it's them.☺

Last February 22, we were treated to a packed house at the Korean Cultural Centre. It was a concert by Filipino singer, now Vancouver resident but Toronto favourite Joey Albert with The Company.

Jimenez, asked Joey which of her hits is close to her heart.

Joey: Tell Me...Because of its endurance and longevity (three decades now and young people still sing it) and more importantly because of how deeply I have touched and remained in people's heart.

She also asked Moy of The Company (you know that their concerts in Manila are always SROs) about their favorites.

Moy: We love the legendary Manhattan Transfer. We've performed with them three times already in Manila. Their versatility and staying power inspires us to no end. We also love the purity and simplicity of The Carpenters. No theatrics. No gimmicks. Just pure and earnest beautiful music.

Anyway, the concert was a treat of mass appeal and high class. Friends I don't see in concerts suddenly appeared.

"You're a fan," I asked Alain Canizares.

"Yeah. Long time," he said.

"The Company," I half guessed.

He said yes. Joey Albert is a regular per-

THE SOCIALLIST
continued on page 23



1. Mitzify handbags, one of the sponsors of Joey Albert and The Company (JATC) concert makes a classy appearance at the meet and greet in front of Joey Albert.
2. Mitzify model Arielle Abrazaldo will be appearing at the Unveiled fashion show on May 9 (PHOTO BY NEIL GARCIA).
3. Sammy and KC pose before shopping at the Fashion Outlet in Buffalo.
4. Singer Keana Cerezo dances with Kathryn Reyes and Chollo Lagdameo.
5. Giancarlo Bobila performs one of the old songs at the JATC concert.

LORNA T CLEARS COCO MARTIN

Asked about the alleged "pangbubuhos ng tubig" issue involving Coco, the actress looked puzzled.

"Buhusan ng tubig? May nangyari ba sa totoong buhay na ganoon?," she said.

It was Robin Padilla — who happens to be Lorna's cousin — who gave birth to the controversy. He accused Coco of waking up some members of the crew by pouring water on them.

Lorna said she has not seen any incident of that nature on set.

"Hindi ko alam, hindi ako informed diyan," she said.

"Wala akong experience na ganoon. Medyo nagka-puyatan din kami before dahil kailangan 'yung mga pulitiko na tatakbo ay mawala na sa show. Wala akong na-experience or nakita na may buhusan ng tubig."

As far as she knows, she's the one who poured water on a co-actor in one of the scenes.

"Pitsel ng tubig, pinabawasan ko nga dahil punungpu-no. Pinabawasan ko nga, sabi ko, 'Ano bang gusto niyo?'

Sabi



ko nga, 'Sobra naman yatang puno ito. Paano ko ito bubuhatin? Ang bigat,'" she narrated.

Lorna attested Coco seems to be unbothered by the controversy. In fact, he's busy conceptualizing every episode of the show.

"Talagang ang daming trabaho ang ginagawa ni Coco para sa produksiyon para mapaganda ang 'Probinsyano.' Minsan nga, nakikita ko na talagang sobra 'yung stress niya na parang, 'Eto na naman, ginawa na natin 'to. Kailangan mag-isip naman tayo ng bago,'" she said.

"Naririnig ko lang, ha, kasi medyo malapit-lapit ang distansiya namin, na tuloy kung minsan, meron mga eksena na kailangan niyang isipin. Basta makikita mo na siya mismo ang gagawa ng blocking ng lahat ng buong eksena. Siya ang nag-iisip para sa buong eksena. I feel na parang, siguro, 'yung sobra niya talagang pagmamahal sa 'Ang Probinsyano' sa four years na iyon, ayaw niyang basta na lang mawala o basta na lang mawalan ng saysay 'yung paghihirap nila sa apat na taon."

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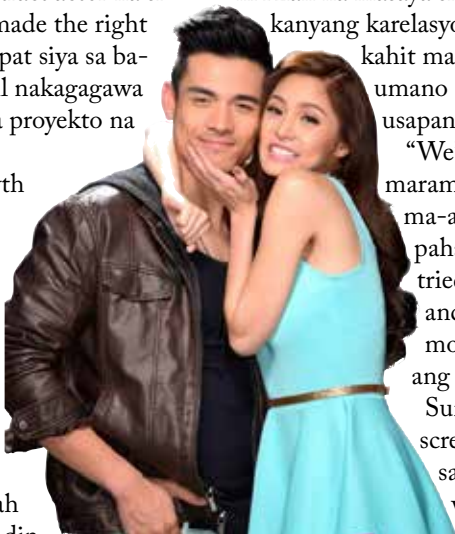
No Wedding talk yet for Xian and Kim

I namin ng Viva contract actor na si Xian Lim that he made the right decision nang lumipat siya sa bakuran ng Viva dahil nakagagawa umano siya ng mga proyekto na hindi boxed type.

“It’s for my own growth as an artist ang naging reason why I moved to Viva,” pag-amin ng nobyo ni Kim Chiu.

First movie niya with Viva ang local adaptation ng Korean movie na “Miss Granny” na pinangunahan ng Pop Superstar na si Sarah Geronimo at kung saan din tampok sina James Reid at Nova Villa in 2018. He also did one movie last year, ang “Hanggang Kailan” na pinagtambalan nila ni Louise de los Reyes at dinirek ni Bona Fajardo. And he has three or four movies lined up for this year at una nang ipalabas ang first team-up nila ni Cristine Reyes, ang “Untrue” on February 19.

Samantala, as to his lovelife, inamin



ni Xian na masaya sila ni Kim Chiu na kanyang karelasyon since 2011. Pero kahit matagal na sila, hindi pa umano sumasagi sa kanilang usapan ang salitang kasal.

“We’re still young at marami pa kaming gustong ma-achieve individually,” pahayag ni Xian who also tried writing, directing and producing an indie movie for Cinemalaya, ang “Tabon”.

Sumailalim si Xian ng screenwriting workshop sa award-winning writer and screenplay writer na si Ricky Lee

Bukod sa kanyang pelikulang “Untrue” kung saan niya kasama si Cristine Reyes, may bago rin siyang teleserye sa Kapamilya network, ang reunion TV series nila ng kanyang girlfriend na si Kim Chiu, ang “Love Thy Woman” kung saan din niya kasama ang kanyang kapwa co-Viva actor na si Yam Concepcion.

Saving for the wedding

ROCCO Nacino’s ongoing romance with Jasmine Curtis Smith in “Descendants of the Sun” has gained a lot of loyal fans who are rooting for their romance as Moira and Diego.

“We were honestly surprised with the very warm reception that the viewers gave us,” says Rocco in a special lunch presscon hosted by GMA-7 for him and Jasmine. “Kami mismo nagulat pati sa reactions sa social media. Marami talagang nanonood ng show who sympathize with the forbidden love of the characters we play and are cheering us not to lose hope and to fight for our love.”

The love story of Rocco as Sgt. Diego and Jasmine as Capt. Moira is really very engaging as it’s a forbidden romance. Moira has a higher rank and is also a doctor, so her dad, who’s a general, is against her love affair with Diego, who was told to avoid Moira because he belongs to a lesser social status. But Moira won’t accept it and continues to earnestly pursue Diego even if he’s doing his best to resist her.

“Talagang sinusubaybayan ng mga tao ang love story namin kasi kahit dun sa recent episode involving hopia and a handkerchief, grabe ang reaction nila,” adds Rocco. “Nag-click sa kanila nang husto.”

So, will he as Diego eventually relent and defy Moira’s dad to reciprocate her love for him? “Of course, we cannot reveal that. Basta abangan nyo na lang.”



How is it working with Jasmine? “It’s so easy to relate with her. Three weeks pa lang ang show on the air but actually, seven months na naming tine-taping ito so we’ve become very good friends. We engage in a lot of small talk sa taping and friend ko rin yung boyfriend niya, si Jeff Ortega, na una ko pang nakilala sa kanya because I met him when we shot a movie ni Solenn Heussaff sa province nila, in La Union.”

How is his real life GF, athlete Melissa Gohing, reacting to his love team with Jasmine?

“She’s very supportive. Nagpo-post pa nga siya ng picture namin ni Jasmine from screen shots. Actually, noong mapanood pa lang niya ang original ‘Descendants’, naging fan na siya at siya pang nagsabi sa akin na, watch this, kamukha mo yung aktor dito. And little did I know na ako pala ang gaganap as him dito sa local adaptation.”

How’s the new house that he is having constructed in Antipolo? “Matatapos na. Finishing touches na lang. Labor of love talaga ‘yun for me. Hopefully, makalipat ako roon in time for my birthday next month on March 21.”

So does that mean wedding bells will ring soon after he has moved to his own house? “Naku, after the expenses sa house, ‘yan naman ang susunod na pag-iipunan ko, so matagal pa ‘yan.



Carlo Aquino says compass points to Trina Candaza

At 34 years old, actor Carlo Aquino is thinking of settling down more seriously than before although he won’t let number pressure him into making a decision just yet.

“Nasa tamang edad na ako pero tingnan natin sa mga susunod na buwan, taon,” he said about marriage.

It’s only a question of time, though. In his mind, Carlo is sure forever for him points to only one person and that is his girlfriend Trina Candaza.

Oh, how’s that?

“Nag-iba ‘yung outlook (ko) sa buhay (dahil sa kanya),” he said. “Mas magaan, mas happy.”

The two have been a couple for one year and two months now.

Asked if he has set a marrying age for himself, Carlo shook his head.

“Wala eh. Parang sa pakiramdam ‘yun ng isang tao eh. Wala namang tamang edad unless sa tamang tao at sa tamang pakiramdam. Natagpuan (ko) na ‘yung tamang tao ang wala pa lang ‘yung pakiramdam.”

When the time comes, the actor dreams of getting wed on a mountain top as “mahilig kasi ako sa nature.”

At length, we asked Carlo how Trina has taken to his celebrity. Does she understand the nature of his job? How did she come to terms with it — especially as she now has her own share of bashers?

Well, the boyfriend always tells the girlfriend this: “Hindi importante ‘yung sasabihin ng ibang tao tungkol sa atin. Ang importante, mahal natin ang isa’t-isa at masaya tayo.”

Kiana collaborates with Fil-Aussie producer Billy Davis

KIANA Valenciano has dropped her latest single titled “No Rush,” a funky R&B track that she recorded with Filipino-Aus-R&B/hip-hop artist producer, Billy Davis.

Produced under ABS-CBN Music’s Tarsier Records, the song boasts of sensual guitars and Billy’s pulsating beats, complementing Kiana’s voice. It talks about trusting the natural course of a relationship.

“Often times couples get into arguments because of insecurities and pressure and I wrote this thinking about how sometimes you just have to reassure your partner that you’re on the same page and there’s no need to rush the natural flow of the relationship,” Kiana explained.

Billy, on the other hand, says the song is one of his favorite creations. “I’m half-Filipino so I’ve always had a big interest in everything going on back home, especially music created... The bass line [of “No Rush”] especially is one of my favorite things. I see the tune banging out in Asia, Australia and really pumping in UK/Europe.”

Kiana’s newest record follows the success of her single “Hide My Love,” which landed her on the top spot of Spotify last December.

She will soon release another bop, as she just finished recording with another top-notch producer HARV from Los Angeles, California.

“No Rush” is another exciting addition to Kiana’s yet-to-be-named EP, in continuation of ABS-CBN’s commitment to introduce the unique artistry of Filipino talents to the global music stage.



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New Beginnings

UNITED STATES

FBI raids Quiboloy's church in Los Angeles in human trafficking probe

A smashed in door is seen at the entrance of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ Church in the Van Nuys section of Los Angeles.



of Jesus Christ Church in the Van Nuys section of Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES — Federal agents raided a Philippines-based church in Los Angeles early Wednesday in a human trafficking investigation that led to arrests of two church leaders in what prosecutors said was a decades-long scheme to trick followers into becoming fundraisers and arrange sham marriages to keep them in the U.S.

The local leader of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ church was arrested on immigration fraud charges in the early morning bust along with a worker who confiscated passports of the victims of the scheme, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Its founder, Pastor Apollo Quiboloy, was briefly held by US customs officials in February 2018 after \$350,000 in cash and gun parts were found in his Philippine-bound private plane.

Pastor Quiboloy is being crowned Patron by the Royal Institution Singapore

Fundraisers who managed to escape from the church told the FBI that they had been sent across the U.S. to solicit donations for the church's charity, The Children's Joy Foundation, and were beaten if they didn't make daily quotas, according to affidavit filed in support of the charges. Some described having to live in cars at truck stops.

An FBI agent investigating the case documented 82 sham marriages over a 20-year period and tracked \$20 million raised between 2014 and the middle of last year that was sent back to the church in the Philippines.

"Most of these funds appear to derive from street-level solicitation," according to the affidavit by FBI Special Agent Anne Wetzel. "Little to no money solicited appears to benefit impoverished or in-need children."

In addition to raiding the church's Van Nuys compound, agents were conducting searches at other Los Angeles locations and at two places in Hawaii linked to the church.

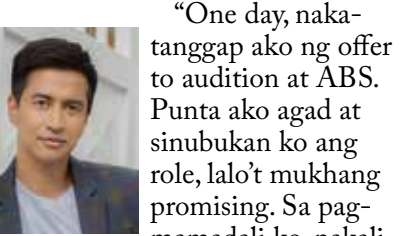
Calls to the church for comment were not immediately answered.

President Rodrigo Duterte has been known to have close ties with Quiboloy, the self-proclaimed appointed "Son of God." Quiboloy was reportedly among those who supported Duterte's 2016 presidential campaign.

RK naubusan ng gas bago natanggap sa ABS-CBN

HINDI ginamit ni RK Bagatsing ang impluensya ng magagaling na artista niyang kapatid na sina Raymond Bagatsing at Monina Bagatsing para magtagumpay sa showbiz.

"I wanted to make it on my own," aniya sa isang interview.



"One day, naka-tanggap ako ng offer to audition at ABS. Punta ako agad at sinubukan ko ang role, lalo't mukhang promising. Sa pagmamadali ko, nakalimutan ko ang wallet ko. Parating na ako sa ABS nang maramdaman kong ubos na ang gas. Binilisan ko ang takbo ng sasakyan para maabot sa loob ng gate. Binuksan ko ang sasakyan habang sumisigaw ako na babalikan ko nalang ang sasakyan ko.

"Lyon, nakuha ako dahil bagay sa akin ang role!

"It was a good start at nagsunud-sunod ang breaks ko. This time, hindi lamang itinuturing na napakaga-ling ding artista si RK tulad ng kanyang kuya. Considered na siyang isa sa mga handsome star at kinakikiligang actor ngayon.

Mapapanood si RK sa pelikulang "Us Again." Napuna rin ng mga nanonood ang napaka ganda ngayong si Jane Oineza na leading lady ni RK. Wala siyang ginawa kundi tumawa nang tumawa sa interview. Sabi tuloy ng matatanda, matindi daw ang pagkagusto ni Jane kay RK dahil ganoon daw ang babae kapag tawa nang tawa kapag kaharap ang isang lalake.

Hindi nga ba?

KATHRYN'S BUSINESS TIP: Kahit Piso, importante

When talking about finances, Daniel admits his girlfriend Kathryn and her mom Min know more about this aspect than he does.

"Nagtatanong lang din ako sa kanya," the ABS-CBN idol says.

Kathryn then reiterates that her mom is the force behind her family's businesses.

The young Kapamilya actress says, "Siya nagga-guide sa amin. Totoo, grabe siya. Kung paano mag-handle ng money, mga tao. Lahat ng stress, grabe, si Mama iyon.

"Ang hirap kapag company. It's a whole new world for us kasi iba iyong artista, 'tapos iba pag pinasok mo iyong mundong ito."

What financial tips have Kathryn learned so far?

The Star Magic talent says, "Keep track sa mga gastos mo. Kung ano mga income mo na pumapasok, ano iyong lumalabas.

"Kasi with business, lahat iyan, e. Kahit piso iyan, ten pesos, lahat iyan nagma-matter kasi hindi lang iniisip mo dito kayo lang. Meron mga empleyado ka na may mga pamilya, so kailangan mo rin sila isipin."

"It's very important may record ka of everything."

She adds that it works to have a budget plan as well.

"Kunwari for a month, I'll say, budget ko for shopping, ito. Budget for food, budget for tao... Budgeting. It's very important."



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We Like To Move It

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Getting married should not be like this. This is like planning an invasion complete with secrecy, intrigue and bad guys. But this was not an ordinary wedding. Some say, this can only happen in the movies. Well, it happened in real life for Matteo Guidicelli and Sarah Geronimo, now Mr & Mrs. Guidicelli.

In the 1965 movie “The Sound of Music,” the Von Trapp family had to escape Nazi-occupied Austria. The climactic scene had them singing in front of with German officers in the audience. They were all on stage and they all had a solo number. One by one, they would exit the stage until all of them have left the stage. The audience will be clapping waiting for them to all come back and take their bow. That’s when somebody would run onstage and shout, “they’re gone.”

MANILA, Philippines – After days of rumors, reports, and rumblings, Matteo Guidicelli posted on Wednesday, February 26, the first photo of himself and wife Sarah Geronimo. The pair got married in a secret ceremony on February 20.

“A day full of pure love, honesty and genuine emotions. Yes, we got married. Mr and Mrs Guidicelli,” wrote Matteo as a caption to a photo of herself and Sarah, toasting with their hands intertwined – with wide smiles to boot.

Matteo said they kept the ceremonies “as intimate as possible because of private matters” as he expressed “the overwhelming joy, love and excitement we have in beginning our life together.”

“Each and everyone of you have been

Matteo Guidicelli on secret wedding to Sarah Geronimo: “That evening was almost perfect until some unexpected events took place, but don’t worry I never ‘punched’ anyone. I will forever stand up and protect my wife just as how my father would protect my whole family.”

everyone for your love and support!”

part of our love journey and we want to say, Thank you. Friends, family, and everyone on “social media” have been a source of inspiration, strength, and most importantly, of LOVE,” he added.

Matteo then addressed the elephant in the room – Sarah’s bodyguard’s allegations that the actor punched him in an alternation that followed when Sarah’s mother Divine Geronimo gatecrashed the wedding reception. None of Sarah’s family members were invited to the wedding or the dinner that followed.

“That evening was almost perfect until some unexpected events took place, but don’t worry I never ‘punched’ anyone. I will forever stand up and protect my wife just as how my father would protect my whole family,” he said.

Matteo then thanked his family “for loving Sarah like a daughter.” “Our family is growing and we are blessed. Papa and mama, thank you for deeply loving and welcoming Sarah into our family,” he said.

Without mentioning the Geronimos explicitly, Matteo expressed confidence that “in time, with God’s grace and Love, everything will heal and fall into place.”

“We are happy, we are blessed, and



we are husband and wife! Let’s always celebrate life and love! Nothing will ever defeat pure honest LOVE. God bless

He signed the post off with “Mr and Mrs Guidicelli.”

Matteo and Sarah have been a couple since 2014. While they’ve managed to keep their relationship very private, it’s become no secret to the public that Sarah’s mother, Divine, disapproves of the pairing.

Divine was apparently not informed of nor invited to the February 20 wedding, despite a leak from the Philippine Star’s Ricky Lo. After the pair wed via Christian rites at the Victory Church in Taguig City, they held a reception at a nearby hotel. It’s there that Divine allegedly gatecrashed the wedding, and hurled invectives at the couple and the Guidicellis.

Viva boss Vic del Rosario was among those who intervened. While the Guidicellis, including Sarah, tried to slip out through the fire exit, Sarah’s bodyguard allegedly tried to stop them upon Divine’s instructions. It was then that Matteo supposedly punched the bodyguard – a claim several parties, including Matteo, had denied.

“We are happy, we are blessed, and we are husband and wife! Let’s always celebrate life and love! Nothing will ever defeat pure honest LOVE. God bless everyone for your love and support!”

LizQuen shares couple bucket list

MANILA, Philippines – Enrique Gil and Liza Soberano are oozing with maturity in their new series Make It With You or at least that’s what the teaser trailer is promising viewers as their reel and real pairing returns to ABS-CBN primetime bida tonight.

And the maturity has obviously extended off screen, with the two having grown much since their last series in 2018, Bagani, going by how they talked about their new roles, new challenges and all.

“We always say this, but expect a new LizQuen because each time we try to be better and better at our craft, and all we want is for our audience to be happy and satisfied with the show, and of course, we want them to learn something from it. That’s what we’re looking forward to,” said Liza during the show’s presscon.

The trailer introduces Enrique as Gabo, a drifter who leaves home and wanders off to a foreign land that’s Croatia and meets Liza’s character Billy, an OFW who sidelines as a matchmaker. She

tries to pair off the down-and-out Enrique with a rich Croatian socialite but as the age-old saying goes, “the bridge is the owner,” right?

All we want is for our audience to be happy and be satisfied with the show.

Filming in another country presented logistical difficulties, Enrique related, revealing that in some parts of Croatia, it was hard to secure permits, that they resorted to “guerilla shooting.” Language barrier posed another challenge to the work experience between the Filipino production and the local crew. “But I think that was a small obstacle for us,” said Liza.

The actress also shared that Croatia has the least number of Filipino OFWs, just a little over a hundred, and some 15 of them helped them during the shoot.

Much as they wanted to, unfortunately, they didn’t get to explore Croatia that much because dayoffs were spent traveling to the next place they were going to shoot.

Asked about other things they hope to do as a couple, they’ve added a few more to their bucket list.



Liza enumerated, “Go to another country that we’ve never been to and do a dream project together that we’ve never done. We dream of doing a docu film and a horror film, and maybe a business together.”

Ending up with each other in the future is also part of the wishlist. Enrique told reporters that he believes Liza is the one for him. “Yes, I really believe so, 100 percent in my heart, yes,” he said.

“I’m happy because he makes me feel secure,” Liza responded. “He’s always assuring me and I think that’s what any girl in a relationship is looking for.”

They’re still young Enrique is 27 and Liza is 22 but they and their fans certainly hope they make it.

Also starring in Make It With You are Ian Veneracion, Katya Santos, Fumiya Sankai, Eddie Gutierrez, Pakwang, Vangie Labalan and Herbert Bautista, with up-and-coming actors Jeremiah Lisbo, Anthony Jennings and Daniela Stranner.

Make It With You airs weeknights after FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano.

Daytrip to Buffalo



LEFT, Daytrippers pose before shopping in Buffalo. RIGHT, Gina Baterna, Els Mariquit and Annabella Mohan pose at the Shrine at Lewiston.



Ngayon at Kailanman has taken on a deeper meaning to me

In 2017, Basil noticed that he was experiencing occasional “impaired vision,” he couldn’t focus for several seconds, and his cardiologist found “something wrong” with him. An ECG (Electrocardiogram) and an angiogram revealed that there was blockage in his heart, so he underwent an angioplasty.

“I was shocked,” Basil confessed. The night before the procedure, Basil recalled that he heard his neighbor playing his song Ngayon at Kailanman.

“I guess that when George was writing that song,” continued Basil, “hindi niya naisip ‘yung mas malalim na meaning ng song. Like his other song, the Bible-verse-inspired Lift Up Your Hands, Ngayon at Kailanman makes not only Basil but many other people cry as well.

While his songs have a healing effect, Basil actually did pranic healing (a no-touch energy-based therapy) for several years (1990 to 2001) and stopped because, according to him, it was spiritually draining since each session rendered him “washed out” by the symptoms of his patients.

“I’ve been praying The Rosary daily, without fail, since 2009,” shared Basil. Kung kailan ako tumanda saka naman dumami ang shows ko.” (He has done more than 50 church concerts.)

But his enduring voice sounds as young as it is in the early ‘70s when he started in the business.

“Mas lumalim,” was how Basil put it. “Maybe it has something to do with my lifestyle now. No problems, no stress. Ayoko mamroblema. My voice is a gift from God. Until I can, I will keep on singing. Sa Diyos nangaling ang boses ko and I leave it up to Him kung kelan niya babawiin sa akin.”

Jak Roberto says sister Sanya Lopez is ready for love but...

The internet may be shipping Alden Richards and Sanya Lopez because of a viral video that shows them laughing together ending in embrace but her brother advises the fans to not make much of it.

“Wala naman siyang kwinekwento pa if she’s dating, and wala namang um-e-effort umakyat ng ligaw sa bahay,”

her brother, Jak Roberto, said in an interview at the grand opening of Metro Dental’s flagship clinic in Ortigas where he and girlfriend Barbie Forteza came as guests. “So, malamang ang focus pa din niya sa ngayon ay work and her dogs.”

Sanya has never had a boyfriend that’s why Jak is extra protective of her. Still, it doesn’t mean he is against the sister having a love life.

“It’s about time na din naman na she finds happiness,” he said “Basta kung sino man ang pipiliin niya ay andito lang ako to guide her so she won’t be led astray.”

Are they close with each other?

“Mas close siya sa treadmill niya,” the actor joked.

Straightening up, Jak said he always advises Sanya to not look for love “as kusa lang ‘yang dumaramating.”

Well, Sanya had better listen to big brother as he speaks from experience. Recall that romance between Jak and Barbie developed unexpectedly on the set of their defunct TV starrer “Meant To Be” in 2017.

Asked how they keep the romance alive, Barbie said she appreciates it that Jak makes time for her and that he exerts effort to make her feel special. Just recently, he sprang a surprise yet again on her by arranging a lavish dinner for Valentine’s Day.

Jak said it’s not easy pulling off surprises for Barbie. The first step is throwing her off the scent. The actor prepares in advance especially as she has a hectic schedule so he has to know her every move unless she discovers what he is up to. Usually, he has “reliable sources” telling him what Barbie wants and where she is so he can do his thing on the side.

“But it’s all worth it,” he said, smiling at Barbie. “Hindi kasi pwedeng pabayaang ‘yung mga ganitong occasion to just slip by—”

“—kasi baka last mo na ‘yon!” she finished for him in mock indignation.





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KG

Stars look back on KG’s ‘golden’ moments

Kadenang Ginto ended. For its lead stars Beauty Gonzalez and Dimples Romana, it’s been an emotional ride for characters who have experienced major ups and downs, and delivering some of the biggest dramatic moments Philippine TV has ever seen.

The series that “launched a thousand memes,” many thanks to the warring antics of Romina and Daniela. Off-screen, tears have been shed as well by Dimples and Beauty — tears from overwhelming gratitude for being part of the long-running Kapamilya Gold series. Both became emotional and thanked everyone who made it possible. Dimples said, “Kadenang Ginto is the big answer to my prayers. I remember before Kadenang Ginto was offered to me, my prayer was wherever You will lead me, Lord, I will follow. Ganun pala yun, kapag nagsabi ka, iayon niya.” Beauty was equally thankful. “I don’t say thank you to God, I believe in God, but thank you, Lord, because to be honest, Kadenang Ginto was my make-it-or-break-it teleserye. I almost transferred (to another network).” On a more serious note, Beauty revealed that she wasn’t in a good place when she started doing Kadenang Ginto. “When I started the

show, I was anorexic, I was 100 pounds. I’m the healthiest I’ve been now in my life. This is the best of who I am now.” For her performance in the series, Beauty repeatedly gave credit to Dimples. “I’m so thankful to have worked with her. I once said in (a Magandang Buhay guesting) that I want to be Dimples Romana because lahat ng shows andun siya,” Beauty added. Dimples, on the other hand, is flattered by Beauty’s comments. “Whatever my bida needs, I will give.” Beauty was candid enough to admit that she was so busy becoming Romina that she somehow neglected to deepen relationships off screen, so much so her only wish after Kadenang Ginto is to make friends with her co-stars. “Pagdating sa set, mukha akong tanga at ang sungit-sungit. Kasi sa totoo lang, hirap ako sa Tagalog ko (her native tongue is Cebuano) kaya dapat concentrate ako, kasi siempre, ‘pag sampalan na (magkamali ka) uulitin yung sampal, masakit din.” “No (I don’t talk to people that much on the set), everyone knows this and I won’t deny it. I’ve distanced

myself from them. this show. I hope bonding with why I’m saying the ending, it’s beginning of a friendship.” Dimples agreed, saying, make it a point know that in this it’s not hard to friend. People always say that showbiz, it’s to find a That’s not

because I have a lot of friends.”

Meanwhile, asked about their “golden moments” from the show, Beauty said it was when she won for the first time a Best Actress award from EdukCircle. For her part, Dimples considered her family’s reaction to her performance in the series as the most important moment. “The most personal, golden moment, for me, was when my husband started sharing articles about my character. Hindi showbiz ang asawa ko, ang hirap niyang i-please kasi noong kinasal kami, artista na ako. I told myself, look at my husband, after 23 years in showbiz, he finally gets on board.” The show ended on a high note. After consistently topping its timeslot in terms of nationwide TV ratings and producing memes online, it has gone international as it is currently airing in Myanmar and has been acquired for an Indonesian adaptation.



“I’ve distanced myself from them” BEAUTY GONZALES

Maganda ang intensyon pero pinupuna

ANG relationship counsellor nina Sarah Geronimo at Matteo Guidicelli na si Letty Fuentes es ang nagkuwento sa TV Patrol ng ABS-CBN ng mga detalye tungkol sa surprise arrival ni Divine sa wedding reception ng bagong kasal na ginanap sa isang restaurant sa Bonifacio Global City noong February 20, 2020.

Nanggaling kay Fuentes ang kuwento na natumba at gumulong sila ni Sarah sa sahi ng restaurant dahil naitulak ang singer-actress ng kanyang ina. Nang lumantad si Fuentes, marami ang nag-akala na may permiso nina Sarah at Matteo ang pagsasalita niya sa primetime news program ng ABS-CBN. Pero lumitaw ang katotohanan na kusang-loob ang pagpapainterbyu ni Fuentes sa TV Patrol showbiz reporter na si MJ Felipe. Maganda ang motibo ni Fuentes, ang lumabas ang katotohanan para mahinto na ang mga maling kuwento tungkol sa mga nangyari noong fateful night ng February 20. Pinabulaanan din ni Fuentes ang paulit-ulit na pahayag ni Jerry Tamara na sinuntok ito ni Matteo. Si Tamara ang bodyguard ni Sarah na naging susi para malaman ni Divine ang lugar na kinaronan ng bagong kasal. Unfortunately, sa kabila ng magandang intensyon ni Fuentes, may mga nagsasabi na hindi na siya dapat nagsalita, lalo na kung walang pahintulot nina Sarah at Matteo dahil bilang relationship counsellor ng dalawa, alam niya dapat ang kanyang mga limitasyon.



Is Nadine Lustre in danger to become a ‘frozen delight’ ?

It seems Nadine Lustre is bent on fighting Viva Entertainment till the end. Nadine issued a statement from her lawyers, saying she is terminating her contract with Viva and will manage her career on her own. But Viva answered back with a press statement saying that Nadine’s contract is still binding and cannot be rescinded. As such, the actress cannot do any project outside Viva without the company’s consent. Any entity that violates this will face a lawsuit. It is only Nadine who is adamant in saying that she is out of Viva but as far as Viva is concerned, Nadine is their property, having signed an exclusive contract with them. In fact, based on her contract, she is

supposed to do seven more movies for her home studio. It seems Nadine was ill-advised. What she should have done instead was to talk to Viva and explain to them the provisions in her contract she is not amenable to. It is hard to lock horns if when tied down by a valid contract. Nadine should realize that Viva can freeze her career. And it is not

nice to be a frozen delight. No matter how much she would assert that she released from her contract, she last say if the contract she herself signed in the presence of





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NADINE LUSTRE WITH VIVA UNTIL 2029

'This matter is about respect – respect for the law and contractual commitments, and good faith in professional relationships,' says Viva

Nadine Lustre may have announced that she has terminated her contract with Viva Artists Agency, but Viva said that she is their exclusive artist for the next 9 years.

In a January 31 statement, Viva said that Nadine first signed an agreement with Viva in 2009, with the assistance of her parents. Afterwards, she "executed subsequent contracts with Viva to extend their Exclusive Agency and Management Agreement until June 2029."

On January 27, Nadine through a statement from her lawyers said that she is now "self-managed" and has decided to terminate her contract with Viva.

Viva responded hours after Nadine's statement, saying she is still their contract artist and threatening legal action against her or anyone who deals directly with her.

Nadine's legal counsel Lorna Kapunan welcomed the threats of legal action "so [Viva's] unconscionable, oppressive and illegal contract with Nadine (and their other artists) can be litigated in the proper forum."

"It's about time that a David strikes

out a Goliath that has taken advantage of young artists in the industry for the longest time," she said.

Viva responded to Lorna, saying: "This is not a David versus Goliath scenario as portrayed by Atty Kapunan. Neither is this a situation where artists are taken advantage of by a talent management company."

Viva Artists Agency also threatens legal action against Nadine or third parties that strike deals directly with the actress

"Rather, this matter is about respect – respect for the law, respect for contractual commitments, and good faith in professional relationships," it added.

Viva said that their contract with Nadine was mutually beneficial. The contract "required Viva to invest their time, resources, and good will to hone Nadine's talent and build her reputation."

"As a result of Viva's efforts, Nadine is one of the most sought-after actresses in her generation," Viva said.

"On the other hand, Nadine as Viva's exclusive talent is obligated to abide by the terms of her agreement. This requires Nadine to appear in tapings, shows, and events; to perform roles in movies which she agreed to do; to coordinate with VIVA on projects and endorsements

that would advance her career; among others," it added.

The agency reiterated, "Nadine cannot simply turn her back on her contractual commitments after she received benefits as a Viva talent."

It also said that contrary to of Nadine's camp, not take advantage artists.

"This accusation is malicious and unjustified," Vica said.

Nadine rose to fame in 2014, after starring in films like Diary ng Panget and Talk Back You're Dead with James.

The pair then starred in the hit series On The Wings of Love, catapulting them to superstar status, and turning them into one of the country's most beloved love teams. They became a real-life couple in 2016, but announced their breakup in January 2020.

James, who was also a Viva talent, left the agency in late 2019 without much controversy, saying that he is focusing more on his music label, Careless.



Toni Gonzaga clears mom's name over alleged quote about Geronimos issue

Singer-actress Toni Gonzaga has slammed a certain news portal for spreading "fake news" about her mom, Pinty, who allegedly commented about the parenting style of Divine Geronimo to singer-actress Sarah Geronimo.

"Please stop quoting our mom," Toni wrote along with a collage picture of the post of the website which shows her mom along with the quote she supposedly said.

The 36-year-old artist also advised the writer to practice "responsible journalism."

"Please don't involve her. She was never interviewed nor she gave an official statement. Please stop spreading lies," the text read.

She reiterated in another post that the quotes circulating online never came from Pinty.

"Let us practice responsible journalism and be careful on what we share to the public. Stop aggravating the issue by fabricating lies," Toni reminded.

Sen. Bong all set for comeback

SEN. Bong Revilla is all set to start taping his new GMA-7 show, "Agimat ng Agila", on February 8, with airing in either late March or early April. It will be directed by Rico Gutierrez, who has directed him several times before.

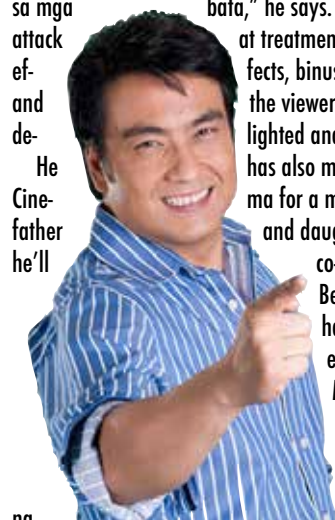
"We polished the script muna to make sure it will be a good show for the whole family at puwede maski sa mga bata," he says. "Ibang-iba ang attack at treatment nito, pati special effects, binusisi. Very fresh and the viewers will surely be lighted and pleased." He has also met with Star Cinema for a movie with them, a and daughter story where co-star with Kathryn Bernardo. He also has a prospective entry in the next MMFF with his popular Budots dance as the peg. "Sabi nila, katulong daw nang malaki kaya nakabalik ako sa Senado, so sige, gawin nating movie," he adds.

Is he sore at Janine Gutierrez for her "oh God" comment when it was reported that he's doing a show on GMA? "No, I respect everyone's opinion. Right nila 'yun, so hindi problema sa'kin. Mahal ko lahat ng nasa industriya at gusto ko, magtuturingan tayo bilang magkakapatid. Maliit lang ang industry natin so, let's just move on, magtulung-tulong na lang tayo."

What if Janine would be a guest in "Agimat ng Agila"? "It's all up to GMA-7, ipaubaya na natin sa kanila kung sino ang gusto nilang i-guest sa show. Okay lang naman sa'kin, no problem. Sa ngayon, I'm just thankful to GMA that they welcomed me back pagkatapos ng pinagdanaan ko. Nandiyan pa rin sila at hindi nila ako pinabayaan."

Sen. Bong and his wife, Bacoor Mayor Lani Mercado, were together in hosting a special lunch for the press who showed them support all these years. Bong is very proud of Mayor Lani for immediately helping the victims of Taal eruption in Cavite and also in Batangas.

"Unang araw pa lang ng pagputok ng Taal, ni hindi nagsabi sa'kin, sumugod na siya roon on her own," says Bong. "May sarili siyang initiative."



What makes rom-coms Successful

Direk Joey Reyes on why rom-com movies become box-office hits

Director Jose Javier "Joey" Reyes says that romantic-comedy or rom-com movies are considered "comfort food" by Filipinos.

The filmmaker talked about rom-com movies during his interview with Movie Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) chairperson Rachel Arenas, for an episode of MTRCB Uncut.

According to Reyes, the rom-com genre has been existing in the Philippines as early as the '60s, with the popularity of the love team of Nida Blanca and Nestor de Villa.

He explains, "It's not only the past years that rom-coms have become hits as far as the Pinoy moviegoer is concerned.

"Remember, during the time of sina Nida Blanca, Nestor de Villa, there were already rom-coms, hindi lang siya branded as rom-coms.

"So, in other words, Filipino comfort food na ang rom-coms. Merong mga nagsabi na when you want to spend more than 200 bucks to enjoy yourself for 120 minutes or so, you want to go somewhere where you want to feel good."

This behavior, according to Reyes, stems from the fact that Filipinos are "die-hard romantics," which is why they love watching stories that bring "kilig."

"Filipinos are such die-hard romantics. Love is our placebo and falling in love and being young and in love has always provided comfort and even hope for Filipinos.

"When you enter a dark moviehouse and immerse yourself for 90 minutes to 120 minutes of people falling in love, you go out feeling better.

"And Filipinos are addicted to that."

Reyes himself has directed a number of hit rom-com movies like Radio Romance (1996), Narinig Mo Na Ba Ang L8test (2001), Kung Ako Na Lang Sana (2003), Can This Be Love (2005), Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo (2006), and My Bebe Love: #KiligPaMore (2015).

ROM-COMS ARE CAST-ORIENTED

Arenas asks if there is a perfect formula for the hit rom-com movie.

Reyes answers, "No, there is none."

The prolific director of rom-com movies cites one example, which is Write About Love.

Write About Love is an entry at the 2019 Metro Manila Film Festival which won Best Screenplay.

It is top-billed by Miles Ocampo, Rocco Nacino, Yeng Constantino, and Joem Bascon.

Yeng and Joem were both recognized by MMFF when they won the Best Supporting Actress and Actor awards during the awards night.

Reyes explains, "I was telling the writer-director, Crisanto Aquino, he did a very original and beautiful romcom,



it's very smart, it was very well-acted, the attack was very new.

"It did not depend on hugot lines. It made you fall in love and at the same time, maybe because I'm a writer that

I can relate to how things that happened in my real life are translated to things I write about in the characters in my stories.

"It did not make as much money as the usual romcoms which were shown by mainstream studios."

Although there could be a familiar formula for rom-coms in terms of plotting, Reyes believes that there is one factor that really sells for the masses: the movie's cast.

He continues, "I realized that despite the credibility and the quality of acting of the actors in Write About Love, they did not have the popularity of love teams of, let's say, the Star Cinema movies.

"Sa rom-com, importante ang casting kaysa sa kwento sometimes.

"Dahil kung minsan, kahit bugbog na yung kuwento pero ang daming fans na manunuod, dudumugin yun sa pelikula."

Reyes says that rom-com movies are more cast-oriented than horror films.

His points out, "If it is so scary, dudumugin yan ng tao.

"Rom-coms are very fan-based oriented in order to generate money out of that romance."

Loisa Andalio in tears, as she breaks silence on 2019 ordeal

Loisa Andalio opens up about a controversy in 2019 that caused her to nearly turn her back on showbiz. ABS-CBN

MANILA — For the first time, actress Loisa Andalio spoke in detail about a controversy in 2019 that admittedly marked a dark phase in her life, and nearly



made her “give up.” The “James & Pat & Dave” star was asked about the incident in her interview on “Tonight with Boy Abunda” that aired on Tuesday.

“Ngayon, masasabi ko na natuto ako. Bumabangon ako, nakabangon ako. Dahil po iyon sa mga taong nagmamahal sa akin sa paligid ko. Hindi po ako perpektong tao. Nagkakamali din po ako. Ang mahalaga sa akin, natuto ako, bumangon ako, lumaban ako. Tuloy ang buhay,” she said.

Andalio, 20, turned emotional when prompted to give a message to herself during the height of the controversy.

“Masasabi ko sa kaniya na proud ako sa kaniya, dahil kinaya niya ‘yung sakit, kinaya niya ‘yung panghuhusga. Gusto kong sabihin na, ‘Proud ako, kasi hindi ka sumuko, kinaya mo,’” she said.

“Sa totoo, ang daming pumasok sa isip ko na, ‘Ayoko na, pagod na ako.’ Hindi ko na kaya ‘yung masasakit na binibigay sa akin ng mga tao, lalo’t hindi naman nila alam,” Andalio explained.

Andalio credited Ronnie Alonte, her onscreen partner

and real-life boyfriend, as one of the sources of her strength to grapple with the situation at the time.

“Siya po ‘yung isa sa dahilan kung bakit naging mas matapang ako lumaban... Sinabihan niya ako na, ‘Ako bahala sa ‘yo, taas-noo tayong lalabas, hindi kita pababayaan,’” she recalled.

Andalio said she hopes her experience, and how she has managed to overcome it, will help inspire others who may be similarly going through a dark episode to keep counting on better days.

Maja tatanggi sa proyekto kung kasa-ma sina Gerald at Kim

APAW pa rin ang saya ni Maja Salvador sa tuwing binabati siya sa success ng huling teleserye niya sa ABS-CBN, ang The Killer Bride.

At hindi pa man nakaka-get over ang publiko sa TKB, may bagong proyekto agad na inalok sa kanya ang Kapamilya network.

“May pinitch sa akin na movie the other day. Hopefully, kapag tinanggap ng aking makakasama e, magtuluy-tuloy, yes. Pero hindi siya guy (ang makakasama niya). Hindi ako magbibigay ng hint kasi nga syempre, wala pa,” kwento ni Maja after ng fashion show ng Guitar Apparel kung saan siya ang solo female celebrity endorser.

Kaya grateful si Maja sa magandang pasok sa kanya ng 2020.

Umpisa pa lang ng taon, grabe na ang blessing na bumuhos sa kanya, “Like, itong renewal ng Guitar. So, magdadalawang taon na ako sa kanila. Sabi ko, ta-



mang-tama kasi ang Guitar, ang similarity nga namin parehas na basic, simple lang,” pahayag ni Maja.

Last year, Maja joined the league of the other accomplished and diverse artists representing Guitar namely Gloc 9, Carlos Agassi and Jake Cuenca.

Inilunsad ang nasabing brand noong 1960 by the late Mr. Choa Bengtong.

Ang launch ni Maja as celebrity endorser marked the birth of Guitar’s first ever denim series collection.

And speaking of The Killer Bride, si Maja ang “itinuturo” bilang promotor ng pagkaka-link sa co-stars niya sa serye na sina Janella Salvador at Joshua Garcia.

Binansagan din si Maja bilang matchmaker ng dalawa. Pero sabi ng dalaga nagsaya lang daw sila nu’ng thanksgiving party ng The Killer Bride.

“So, kung may lumabas na mga video ng ano, syempre mauunahan ng malisya. At lahat naman friends. Alam mo naman yung dalawa, fan ako nu’ng dalawa. Kasi, in fairness ang lalim talaga ng friendship na kahit ano’ng tukso mo, talagang wala. Yung party namin, siguro alam nilang maghihiwalay na, so, may extra sweetness,” depensa niya.

Pero dahil daw sa extra sweetness nina Joshua at Janella kaya sila in-unfollow sila ni Julia Barretto sa Instagram, “Hindi ko alam,” sabay iling ni Maja.

Personally, boto ba siya kay Joshua para kay Janella? “Oo naman,” mabilis na sagot ni Maja. “(As) loveteam, oo. Dahil, parehas may chemistry.”

Sa nalalapit na celebration ng Valentine’s Day, inalam namin kay Maja kung ano ang plano nila ng boyfriend niyang si Rambo Nuñez.

“Mag-iibigan pa lalo,” ngiti ni Maja. “Ang date namin ay sa kasal ng best friend niya. Sa Feb 14, meron kaming wedding na pupuntahan,” anyia.

Tiniyak ni Maja na hindi nila wedding ‘yun ni Rambo, “Hindi ko wedding yun. Hayaan mo, kung totoong wedding ko yun, kung sakali man, invited ka.”

Ready na ba siya mag-settle down with Rambo? “Hindi ko kasi pwedeng...ang precious kasi ng mga ta-nong na ‘yan, so, pag sinagot ko kayo diretso, parang mawawalan na yung moment na yun if ever, sakaling magustuhang itanong ni Rambo. Kaya sini-save ko po yun.”

Pero promise ni Maja, isi-share niya raw yun sa public, “Yeah, ipatatawag ko ang madlang pipol. Ha-hahaha!”

Tinanong naman namin si Maja sa reaksiyon niya sa nalalapit na wedding ni Sarah Geronimo at ex-boy-friend niyang si Matteo Guidicelli.

“Super happy ako, for ate Sarah lalo kasi, katulad na naman niyan, ang tagal na nating prinsesa. Hina-hangad na natin na maging masayang-masaya siya, and finally, heto na,” sagot ng Dance Royalty.

Kung iimbitahan, pupunta kaya si Maja sa wedding nina Sarah at Matteo? “Hindi pa kami nagkikita ni ate Sarah ulit. Pero siyempre naman, doon na tayo sa katotohanan.”

Anyway, we also asked her if open ba siya to work with Gerald Anderson na naging boyfriend din niya noon, wala naman daw problema sa kanya.

Sila pala ang original choice na magbida sa pelikula nina Maine Mendoza at Carlo Aquino na “Isa Pa With Feelings” pero nagkaroon nga ng problema kaya hindi na natuloy.

Once pa lang daw sila nagkatrabaho ni Gerald sa isang Christmas special. Pero sa posibilidad na gumawa siya ng project with Gerald kasama si Kim Chui, pumalag na si Maja.

“Hindi ko po ilalagay ang sarili ko sa isang po-sisyon na pagpipiyestahan ninyong lahat. Ha-hahaha! Parang, bilang ikaw, alam mo kung paano alagaan ang sarili mo. So, isa-isa lang!” lahad pa niya.

Ganern.

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fomer here in Toronto and I have not seen him once watch her concert.

The concert was another successful one of Belinda Reyes’ Black Diamond productions. For as long as I have been publishing this newspaper since December 1999, Belinda Reyes has been the longest and most consistent of all the producers I have met.

Another talented girl is holding her first concert at Republika. She is a talent of Marky Hugh Productions. Her name is Arielle Kayleen Perez. She used to be a Little Miss Philippines 2014 winner. Now, she’s grown up to be a beautiful, talented girl. The concert is on March 22.

I do not know how long it’s been since I heard the name Ivory Keys. Last February,

they held a fundraising concert at JC’s palce for the benefit of ANCOP. It featured the Octave band. They had the JDL uber-di-va (a compliment people before you got berserk) and JDL Performing school owner Josie de Leon, the JDL group Cupid Arch and a group fo dancers. Photos are in the other pages on this issue.

M&M Travel and Tours, with Ellen Galorport Galorport and Mila Tolentino had

a day trip to Buffalo. I joined the day trip. We went to the Fatima Shrine. We went to pray to win the lottery so we will have money to pay the bills when it arrives after we shop ‘til we drop at the Fashion Outlet Mall at Niagara Falls. It was a fundraising for a friend who had a successful medical operation here. Afterwards, the person went home, got sick and cannot fly back

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Why Lorna T is also nearly fed up with Lily

“Hanggang September 2019 lang kasi talaga ang contract ko,” she said in an interview. “Pero since then ay sinasabi nila sa akin, ‘Oh, etong December ay mawawala na si Lily sa storya.’ Tapos pagdating naman ng December, magte-text sila, ‘End of February na lang.’ Ngayon naman, hanggang end of March na lang daw. So pausog ng pausog, pahaba ng pahaba. Ako naman, okay lang ako ng okay.”

It’s a happy “problem” in an industry where many actors would kill to be a regular on that show. Grateful as she is for the villainous role, there are times Lorna herself can’t

stomach the kind of character Lily Cortez is.

“Wala siyang galang sa matatanda, wala siyang sini-sino,” she said of Lily. “Sobrang intense ng pagmamahal niya sa kapangyarihan at pera.”

The character is so sinister that Lorna sometimes would remind her co-actors in a scene that what they are about to do – what they are about to hear from Lily – is “just work, nothing personal.”

“Nakaka-drain siya (Lily) talaga. Minsan, sa ginagawa ko, natiyak ako. Kahit nanlilisk ‘yung mata ko, teary-eyed pa rin ako. Kasi, parang sa puso mo, alam mo na minsan parang, ‘Meron pa bang ganito? Meron bang ganitong tao?’

“Pero napa-pacify naman ako ng mga katrabaho ko rin na kapwa ko artista. Sinasabi nila sa akin, ‘Marami silang



ganyan.”

Still, she has neither asked her director and co-actor Coco Martin nor the scriptwriters to tone down the evil in Lily. The only thing Lorna has done is to suggest a revision in a line or two to make them more “realistic.”

“Sometimes I put it (her suggestion) in the dubbing then I leave it up to them kung isasama nila o hindi,” she said.

She’s so good at playing Lily that the bashing Lorna gets online sometimes turn personal.

“Yung iba sasabihin, ‘Ang sama-sama mo, hindi na namin panonoodin ang show!’” she said. “Minsan din, umaabot sa point na sa sobrang inis nila, pati laki ng mukha ko ay pinupuna nila. ‘Kulang na lang lumabas ang mukha

mo sa TV sa sobrang close up’ or ‘Parang siopao mukha mo, magpa-thermage (a type of reduction procedure) ka!’”

To Lily’s credit, Lorna pointed out the character has not committed murder in the story.

“Never pa siyang pumatay – pinapapatay niya!”

The actress revealed just how challenging playing Lily is. She said that many times, the script is revised on set so she has to memorize the new lines on the fly. Fortunately, Coco is collaborative so he listens to suggestions and would sometimes use them.

Would she take on another kontrabida role after “Ang Probinsyano?”

“Hindi muna siguro,” she said. “Pahinga na muna, kumbaga magpagpag (na muna).”



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James & Nancy have Perfect Chemistry

After the “look test,” those behind the anticipated The Soulmate Project were convinced (beyond reasonable doubt) that there is “perfect chemistry” and “magic” between James Reid and Nancy McDonie, the new loveteam calculated to take TV land by storm as soon as the TV series starts airing. Shooting will start anytime this month in both Manila and Seoul.

Following the storycon, James and Nancy are undergoing workshops with Antoinette Jadaone who is directing the series. It was also Antoinette who directed James and his former partner in the hit Kapamilya series On The Wings Of Love (OTWOL).

“The series will be in Tagalog, English and Korean with subtitles,” Cory Vidanes, ABS-CBN COO of Broadcast, told Fun-

fare. “It will air in the Philippines and we are looking at the possibility of airing it in Korea as well.”

According to Cory, The Soulmate Project is an unconventional love story set in a dystopian near-future Philippines where, instead of the usual arduous way of looking for your Soulmate, the Government assigns the Soulmate for you — whether you like it or not. An unlikely couple gets assigned as Soulmates. They despise each other at first but later on they fall in love like real Soulmates do.

Meanwhile, let’s get to know more about Nancy through a backgrounder from www.hallyulife.com and www.viki.com:

Nancy is the stage name of Nancy Jewel McDonie, a singer and MC who is

a member of the South Korean girl group Momoland. Nancy was born on April 13, 2000, to an American father and a Korean mother, and grew up in the US. She competed in the Korean music survival program Finding Momoland and debuted in late 2016 as one of the seven members to make the cut. Her Korean name is Lee Seung Ri. In 2017, Nancy became a host of the popular music program Pops in Seoul.

Momoland and its maknae (youngest) member Nancy have been in the social media buzz lately, not only because of their successful comebacks mainly attributed to the girl group’s single Bboom Bboom and BAAM, and the stunning visuals of members, including Nancy which captured each and every human-turned-Nancy-stan (a fan of Nancy).

Her motto is: “If you get the chance, don’t miss out on it.”



Pastor Paolo mum about ‘Ash-Matt’s’ after-nuptials drama

Days since the “secret wedding” of Sarah Geronimo and Matteo Guidicelli, it’s still a hot topic because of the colorful subplots.

Sarah’s bodyguard, Jerry Tamara, claims that Matteo punched him for squealing about the wedding to Sarah’s Mommy Divine. In show biz circles, it’s an open secret that she’s not too keen on Sarah’s relationship with Matteo. She ought to do a version of her daughter’s hit “Tala” and call it “Hala.”

On the other hand, the spiritual counselor of the newlyweds, Letty Fuentes, clarified that it was Mommy Divine who caused a commotion when she gatecrashed the reception. In her “TV Patrol” interview, Letty said, “Matteo did not hurt the bodyguard. Mommy Divine wanted to slap Matteo and called him, “Traydor.”

Sarah intervened, but her mom pushed her away, so all she could do was cry. If I were to coin a hashtag for the “after-nuptials drama,” it would be “#AshMatt didn’t AskMa.”

I am more inclined to believe the story of Letty. Born-again Christians like her shy away from controversy. That’s why I understand why Pastor Paolo Punzalan (who officiated the controversial wedding) refused to comment on the issue when I asked his sis, Princess, to relay my request for an interview. But Letty took it upon herself to come to Matteo’s defense.

Jerry was just doing his job. But for him to insist that he got punched by the groom is a desperate attempt to put Matteo in a bad light. The Kapamilya star is such a mild-mannered guy. It’s unthinkable that he would flare up on the happiest day of his life.

Sarah has been working like a horse as the breadwinner of her family all these years. No wonder she broke down during one of her shows abroad due to “burnout.” She’s no robot, après tout. I told her during our interview last July, “You should spoil yourself on your birthday.”

The idea seemed alien to her. She has always put her family first. So, now at 31, the Pop Princess more than deserves to make her “happily ever after” with Matteo a priority. It’s high time the dutiful daughter turns into a devoted wife.

When news about their engagement broke out, I asked Matteo’s mom Glenna for her sentiments about it. She said that it would be better if I ask Matteo, instead. It only goes to show that Glenna doesn’t meddle in her son’s life, but supports his decisions. Matteo’s happiness is hers, as well.

Hopefully in due time, Mommy Divine will do the same. She should not worry who her daughter loves more, her or Matteo, because Sarah has loved her and their family longer. At this point of their lives, Divine should not be too much of a mother to be a friend to Sarah.

The lyrics of Sarah’s hit song “Tala” is so apt for their “against-all-odds” love story. Let the honeymoon begin as AshMatt does the famous “Tala” dance (but with a “Tara” twist): *Parang nakatingin ang buong daigdig ‘pag ako ay yakap-yakap mo/ At kung hanggang dito lang talaga tayo/ Hindi pababayaan ang daang tinabak na kapiling ka/ At kung umabot tayo hanggang dulo/ Kapit lang ng mabigpit/ Aabutin natin ang mga tala/ Tala, tala, tala/ Ang ningning ng mga tala’y nakikita ko sa ‘yong mga mata/ Tala, tala, tala/ Ang ningning ng ‘yong mga mata’y nahanap ko sa mga tala...*

Viva Entertainment executive Vincent del Rosario said he and his family were just as surprised as the fans, when they discovered that two of their biggest contract stars, Sarah Geronimo and Matteo Guidicelli, had already gotten married. “None of us were there at the wedding. We had no idea,” he recently told reporters at the Viva offices. “We thought it was going to be in March.”

Even his father, Viva’s top executive, Vic del Rosario, didn’t know about the couple’s marriage plans, he said, until Matteo called him up to pacify Sarah’s mother, Divine, who made a scene at the wedding reception. “I believe he was in a meeting at The Podium when he was asked to come over,” Vincent related.

Super Tekla, sobrang thankful sa showbiz blessings

Super Tekla remains humble and thankful amid the many blessings he has reaped as one of the Kapuso network’s prime comedians.

“Asawa” ang trato ng comedian na si Super Tekla sa brand new car na naipundar niya dahil silang dalawa ang araw-araw na magkasama.

Natatawag ikinuwento ng isang malapit kay Tekla na hindi ito umaalis ng bahay na hindi dala ang kanyang sasakyan, kahit malapit na malapit lang na lugar ang pupuntahan niya.

“Nakakapagpundar na si Tekla, kahit papaano. “Nakabili na nga siya ng kotse na alagang-alaga niya.

“Parang yun ang asawa niya dahil sila ang araw-araw na magkasama,” sabi ng confidente ni Tekla na saksi sa lahat ng mga pagsubok na pinagdaanan ng komedyante bago ito nakaranas ng maayos na pamumuhay.

Maraming ipinagpapasalamat sa Diyos si Tekla dahil dalawa na ang regular shows niya sa GMA-7—ang The Boobay and Tekla Show at ang All-Out Sundays.

Maligayang-maligaya si Tekla sa mataas na ratings ng comedy talk show nila ni Boobay, at masaya siya dahil nadagdagan ang kanyang mga kaibigan mula nang maging mainstay siya ng All-Out Sundays, ang Sunday noontime musical variety show ng Kapuso Network.

“Happy si Tekla sa All-Out Sundays. Nag-e-enjoy siya sa “Tapsikret” segment ng show.

“Sobrang kulitan kaya nagpapasalamat siya sa kanyang mga kasamahan, like Paolo Contis,” dagdag na kuwento ng taong malapit kay Tekla.

Ipinagpapasalamat din ni Tekla na kasama siya sa The Sweetheart and The Balladeer (Fun Night Only), ang concert series nina Christian Bautista at Julie Anne San Jose.

Dahil sa concert series ng GMA Entertainment Group, GMA Pinoy TV, at GMA Regional TV, narating ni Tekla ang mga probinsiyang hindi pa niya napupuntahan.

Catriona supports Bb. Pilipinas

ALL eyes are on Catriona Gray and Stella Marquez-Araneta these days.

Nakaw-eksena ang naganap na meeting ng dalawa kamakailan. Kaya lalong umiinit ang usapin hinggil sa local pageantry. Lalo na’t may sarili nang pageant sa pagpili ng official candidate sa Miss Universe simula ngayong taong 2020. Sa Facebook post ng Sash Factor, iba-iba ang naging reaksiyon ng mga pageant aficionado. Isa sa kanilang ispekulasyon ay si Catriona na raw ang magiging National Director ‘pag nag-retire si Madam Stella. Pero mas malapit sa katotohanan ang usap-usapan na si Cath ang magiging host sa coronation night.

Nakakatuwa na makita ang Miss Universe 2018 na suportado ang Binibining Pilipinas Charities, Inc. (BPCI). She

re-ally epitomizes the organization’s battlecry - “a binibini is always a binibini.” Her support helps boost the morale of Madam Stella and the organization. Patunay lamang na may utang na loob itong si Cath. Indeed, she is beautiful inside and out.

Samantala, nilinaw na ni Shamcey Supsup, National Director ng Miss Universe-Philippines, na wala dapat kompetisyon sa dalawang organisasyon. Pero sa pagsasanib puwersa nina Cath at Madam Stella, mukhang lalong titindi ang kompetisyon sa pagitan ng BPCI at MUP. So, who will win in the ratings game come coronation night? Just asking...



Alden, box-office star sa iba?

ALDEN Richards is undoubtedly GMA’s prized talent. Kaya naman alagang-alaga siya ng network.

Pero hindi mismoang home network nito ang nagbigay ng phenomenal hits sa kanyang showbiz career. Let’s give credit to where credit is due. Thanks to Eat Bulaga, a blocktime-produced show, for partnering him with Maine Mendoza resulting in their phenomenal tandem called Aldub.

Maging sa pelikula, tanging Star Cinema ang

nakapagpatikim sa kanya kung paano maging box office star. Naitala ang pelikula nila ni Kathryn Bernardo na “Hello, Love, Goodbye” bilang “highest grossing local film of all time.” Dahil dito, mas tumas ang kaniyang premium bilang celebrity. Kaya naman lalong dumami ngayon ang brand endorsements ni Alden. Patunay lang ito kung gaano siya kasikat.

Alden is not only Asia’s Multimedia Star but also a certified box office star. Pero kapag gumawa siya ng pelikula na prodyus ng kanyang home network, magiging blockbuster din kaya ito? Just asking...



Dr. Solon Guzman Opens Dental Office at Seafood City



Dr. Solon Guzman’s dentistry practice is already open at Seafood City in Mississauga.



Maja Salvador reveals
real score between
Joshua Garcia, Janella
Salvador

MANILA, Philippines — Kapamilya actress Maja Salvador clarified that she’s not Joshua Garcia and Janella Sal-

vador’s matchmaker. In an interview with the media after she performed at the recent Guitar Apparel event in which she was launched as endorser, Maja said they were just having fun in the party of the recently concluded series “The Killer Bride.” “Kung ano man ang lumabas no’ng time na ‘yon, we’re just having fun. Siyempre masaya kami dahil ang daming nagsupor-



ta sa show namin,” Maja said. Maja was talking about the videos from the party that circulated online, showing her teasing Joshua and Janella, who were seen sweet that night. Joshua even dedicated a song for Janella. “Nagsaya lang kami nang gabing ‘yon, so kung meron mang lumabas na videos, siyempre mauunahan ng malisya, but lahat kami friends. Alam naman ng dalawa na fan ako no’ng dalawa. Bilang siyempre si Camila,” Maja said. Maja clarified that Joshua and Janella were just friends.

“In fairness do’n sa dalawa, malalim talaga ‘yung friendship na kahit anong pagtutukso mo, wala. Then siguro no’ng party namin, maghihiwalay na, wala na kaming taping, so may extra sweetness. Pero hanggang do’n lang,” Maja said. Maja performed a song and dance number in front of a crowd in Robinsons Place Manila. Together with Maja were fellow endorsers Gloc 9 and Carlos Agassi.

ABS
continued from page 1

for more than half of Boracay’s tourism business. Solidum’s estimate was the most optimistic of any of the several local business; the consensus was that business on Boracay is down about 80 percent since the beginning of February for lack of visitors. “We just got over Typhoon “Ursula” (international name: “Phanfone”) [in December], and now this,” one of Solidum’s colleagues chimed in. “A lot of people are worried they will close Boracay again.” In April 2018, Boracay was ordered closed for six months by the government in order to carry out a large-scale rehabilitation of the popular tourist destination. A number of other vendors and local workers also confirmed that “people are talking about the island closing again.”

Safe to travel
Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat, however, said there were no plans to close Boracay because of the Covid-19 epidemic. Puyat clarified, “No closure of Boracay.” “Also, there is no local transmission [of Covid-19] in the country,” the Tourism chief added. “So, it’s safe [to travel] in the country.” News reports over the weekend claimed that 11 South Korean visitors in Boracay from South Korea’s North Gyeongsang were suspected of being infected with the coronavirus. They were allowed to depart on February 28 and 29 after they exhibited no symptoms of Covid-19. The Philippines banned the entry of visitors from North Gyeongsang on February 26. The city of Daegu, where the largest number of Covid-19 cases in South Korea were recorded, is located in the province. Small comfort
Puyat’s reassurance that Boracay will not be closed likely comes as small com-

fort for local businesses and entrepreneurs struggling to make ends meet in what should be their most profitable season. “There is almost no business now,” tour coordinator Jerrick Arellano said. “A lot of places have just closed and a lot of people have lost their jobs,” most of them seasonal or contractual workers. Several vendors said 700 to 800 people had been put out of work by the downturn in visitors, but The Manila Times was unable to independently confirm those figures with local government officials or the Department of Labor and Employment. Arellano did confirm, however, that he and the several other employees of the tour company he works for had been informed that they would be reduced to half-salary as of March 1 “indefinitely.” “Before, P20,000 [per month] — now P10,000,” he said. “They said until further notice. We don’t know when it will get better. And almost everybody has the same problem.” “I don’t know what we’re going to do,” he added, visibly worried at the thought. Silver lining
Not everyone is unhappy with the virtual collapse of business on the island, however. “It’s okay for us,” a group of police officers casually observing the passers-by told The Manila Times. “Not too many people, not much trouble.” The visitors who did make it to Boracay were apparently enjoying the quieter surroundings. “It’s fantastic, isn’t it?” Mark Wells, an Australian visiting Boracay with his wife Terri said as he waited in line for coffee on Sunday morning. “It’s beautiful weather, the beach isn’t crowded at all, you don’t have to wait to get a table for dinner. I know the people are having problems because there’s not as much business, but it’s been lovely for us. If you ask me, this is a great time to come here.”



Photographer Bing Mariano and wife pose with Joey Albert and The Company

Hunk
Shot

Keiffe
Randa
Manzano

An IPEN model, 22-year old Keiffe is currently a Mr. IPEN Ambassador of Hope. Along with 4 other IPEN ambassadors, they will go to the Philippines. His favourite food is sushi. He plays basketball and ultimate frisbee. Someday, he wants to work in finance. We wish him all the luck in his endeavours.



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Myrtle Sarrosa begins new chapter in her career

Cosplayer, host, singer, songwriter, and actress Myrtle Sarrosa is now officially a Kapuso after she inked a management contract with GMA Network.

Myrtle Sarrosa begins new chapter in her career After weeks of speculation, Myrtle Sarrosa has finally inked a management contract with GMA Network.

Present in the contract signing were Senior Assistant Vice President for Alternative Productions Gigi Santiago-Lara and GMA Artist Center Senior Talent Manager Daryl Zamora.

A cum laude graduate with a degree in Broadcast Communication at the University of the Philippines Diliman, Myrtle is ready for the opportunities and experiences that will be given to her as she embarks on her journey in the Kapuso Network.

«I'm so excited to be a Kapuso. Everyone is so nice and they're so warm. I'm happy to be in a new environ-

ment. I've really wanted to work with GMA because of the shows they have, these are the kinds of shows that I want to be a part of. I can feel that GMA believes in me and I'm so happy to find people who believe in me," she said.

With all smiles, Myrtle promised to work harder and to stay focused on learning more about her craft in GMA. She is looking forward to working with GMA's brightest stars including Alden Richards, Julie Anne San Jose, and Ruru Madrid.

«I really want to reinvent myself and to experience new things. Life is about making new memories and creating new experiences. I'm so excited for what's yet to come,» she related.

Myrtle with GMA's Senior Assistant Vice President for Alternative Productions Gigi Santiago-Lara and GMA Artist Center Senior Talent Manager Daryl Zamora

Santiago-Lara

revealed that Kapuso viewers should watch out for Myrtle in various GMA shows, "GMA Center is very to welcome in our roster talents. She's a artist so we're she chose to join the Kapuso Net- also very excited will see her soon back



Artist happy Myrtle of versatile glad that us here in work. We're because we on television."

BANNED FROM THE USA continued from page 1

officials linked to the arrest of opposition Senator Leila De Lima.

"I am terminating the VFA. I was not joking. The day I said it was the day that I decided it should be terminated," he said.

The President last week warned to end

the VFA, which governs the presence of American troops in the Philippines for military exercises, if the US would not correct the revocation of



Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa's visa.

Dela Rosa is the former chief implementer of the Philippines' war on drugs having served as Duterte's first Philippine National Police head.

Have you tried the Tita Challenge?



(From left): The author Giselle Sanchez, Candy Pangilinan, and Kim Molina

There's a series of tests to determine if you are member of the Titas of Manila and my colleagues Candy Pangilinan, Kim Molina and I took it recently.

The first part of the test is a bag raid wherein you bring out every item inside your bag. Judges will decide if these are "tita-ble" or not.

To be honest, I really don't like being called tita. Among us, I am the tita in denial. That's why I was so happy that I forgot to put my reading glasses inside my bag because that would have been 50 points! I would've won instantly—I would have been bona fide tita!

Anyway, they found alcohol, tissue and pens and those earned me five points.

Then it was Candy's turn. Apparently, having a red lipstick in your bag makes you a tita, and so with receipts, membership cards, perfume (apparently because millennials use cologne).

Those items along with alcohol and tissue—she also had those—gave Candy seven points. She's more tita than me, ha!

We both expected millennial tita Kim Molina to lose

in the game. After all, she is the youngest among us.

To my surprise, she brought out a bag highly identified with titas, Givenchy. She had the same items found in both my and Candy's bag and—even for higher points than a reading glass—Kim had medicated balm! That's easily 80 points.

Really, what's a millennial doing with medicated balm? Only titas with arthritis and aching backs and legs do that! But Kim says it soothes her headaches. What a tita!

Our next challenge was called Try Not To Dance. They played '80s, '90s and 2000 music to see which songs would literally move us (remember, hips don't lie).

Kim, was unable to keep still once Beyoncé's "Single Ladies" came on. I lost the game as well when they played Madonna's "Like A Virgin" (hey, I was virgin back then and that was my song except for the line "touched for the very first time," hihi).

Later, I realized it is not so bad being a tita if it means enjoying music from those eras. I don't mind being one if titas are required to have wine night with pairing (if you don't know what pairing means, you are not a tita).

It's not so bad to be a tita if it means you have membership and credit cards as you can afford to buy anything you want. In fact, in that case, it feels great to be a tita!

It's also good to be a tita when it means people ask you for advice on how to be successful. It means we are made: we have got the four B's namely beauty, body, brain and bank account.

Many millennials don't have the last b, haha...

Happy sa GMA-7 si Coney Reyes

Coney Reyes is happy with the continued trust given her by GMA Network. She is playing an important role in the upcoming drama, "Love of My Life," which focuses on family, relationships, love and forgiveness.

She added that there are no heroes or villains in the story but the show mirrors what happens in our everyday life.

"This is about reality, truth. We all have problems in life that we cannot resolve. Sometimes we are happy. Sometimes we are sad. There is conflict but what is important is into what direction does life take us?"

She admits being choosy in accepting roles on TV



but she is glad she agreed to do "Love of My Life." She hopes to meet the expectations of the network, her co-stars and the audience when it comes to her performance.

With Coney around, you can't help but ask about her son, Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto.

As a mother, she is proud of the accomplishments of Vico as chief executive of the city. She said Mayor Vico seldom asks her opinion with regards to his work in the City Hall but she believes her son is doing his best on his job.

When it comes to girls allegedly being linked to the good-looking mayor, she doesn't ask him about it.

"If he opens up about it, I am willing to listen and I will give him advice if he asks me. But I am always here to support him," the actress said.

Palace warns Japan, Australia not to meddle, rules out new US pact

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said that while the defense agreements with Australia and Japan remain in force as of now, President Duterte is also keen on scrapping those pacts if the two countries interfere with the sovereignty of the Philippines.

He also maintained that President Duterte remains firm in his decision to abrogate the country's VFA with the United States amid reports that the envoys of Manila and Washington are working for another military deal to replace it.

Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel Romualdez said his counterpart, US Ambassador Sung Kim, was in Washington exploring the possibility of a new agreement with Manila.

Romualdez said the country's military deals with Australia and Japan were among the agreements "recommended for study" as a model for a new accord. The proposal would be presented to President Duterte, he added.

In 2007, the country entered into a visiting forces deal with Australia that took effect in 2012. The Philippines also has a military pact with Japan signed in 2016, which provides a framework for joint research and development projects between the two countries, as well as Tokyo's supply of defense equipment to Manila.

Panelo said the initiative to work out a new deal does not have the go-signal of President Duterte, insisting that the commander-in-chief wants the Philippines

This former "better half" is no "bitter half"

My dearest "sis" Princess "Cess" Punzalan-Field was in town recently for the Christian wedding of her nephew,

Nathan and Pauline. "I cried at the ceremony because their love is so pure, just the way love should be," gushed Cess. "Believe it or not, when Nathan kissed his bride, it was the first time they really had a torrid kiss." Take note, millennials.



Speaking of marriage, Cess dropped by the taping of her ex-husband, Willie Revillame, just to see how he was doing. "I asked if his resthouse in Tagaytay is OK after the Taal eruption," shared Cess. "Even if we separated, I wish him well. Exes must not lose respect for each other because once upon a time, you were part of each other's journey." Cess and Willie are living proof that an ex-"better half" must not turn into a "bitter half."

Now that Cess is back in Los Angeles (where she's a member of the Screen Actors Guild), she's ecstatic because an agent has signed her up. It's pilot season, so Cess is hoping to get auditions for TV shows or web series.

Even if she is already an accomplished actress, Cess does not sit on her laurels. She still attends acting workshops and keeps evolving. She's raring to go global.

Candid SPOOF

(Pop-ups are not supposed to be taken seriously - EDITOR)



Samantha and KC poses for pictures before shopping at the Fashion Outlet Mall in Buffalo.

How Alice puts younger colleagues to shame

ALICE Dixon left ABS-CBN after doing the soap “Ngayon at Kailanman” and started guesting on the show’s like “Beautiful Justice”, “Madrasta” and “Magpakailanman”. She now gets a regular role as one of the lead stars in the newest drama series,

“Legal Wives”. She will play one of Dennis Trillo’s three wives. The other two are former Miss World Megan Young and HBO’s star in “Half Worlds”, Bianca Umali. Alice is now together with the top executive of the 5-star Crimson Resort and spa in beachfront Station Zero of Boracay. She won’t reveal his full name except for his initial, GS. They’ve been on for seven years and she’s hoping

they will someday have their own baby through surrogacy. At 50, Alice remains very fit and young looking through a healthy lifestyle of eating right and exercising diligently. She can put some of her younger colleagues to shame with the youthful good looks she’s able to maintain since she won in the Bb. Pilipinas in 1988. She became so popular then because of her



“I can feel it!” TV commercial and Regal would later launch her in their blockbuster remake of “Dyesebel” in 1989. Alice says she’s looking forward to working with her co-stars in “Legal Wives”. “They’re all young and talented so I’m sure we’re all gonna have lots of fun taping our show,” she says. “We also have a very young director who I heard is one of the most competent in the business today so I’m really looking forward to be directed by him.”

Star Circle Mix’d Up Band Concert



THE SOCIALIST continued from page 23 because the doctor will not give the clearance for the person who is too weak to fly.

Last February, Star Circle Entertainment led by Ellen Galorport, again, had a day-after Valentine show at Kusina ng Ating Bahay at Ajax. It featured the Mix’d Up Band composed of Kate Mohan, Lizzy Trovato, Aidan Rodricks, Sean and Jestin. Other performers were Kathryn

Rodricks, Samantha Esporas, Shermaine, Crizia, and Gennelyn. Before I forget, the food was delicious. We were taken cared of by Ating Bahay manager Jam Lazaro and her family and the staff. Jam also doanted some raffle prizes. Star circle will be having a repeat perfromance of the Lip-Sync bBattle at the Dragon Centre on March 14. It is located at the corner of Brimley and Shepapr in Scarborough.



1. Ellen Galorport with Ating Bahay’s Jam Lazaro
2. The daytrippers pose before shopping.
3. Photographer Noli Gumapac of 4ENS Photo poses with IPEN model Melissa Saldua Ventocila in between sessions.

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