



Little Manila

confidential

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wishing that 2021 brings all of us health, wealth, happiness & normalcy!

President Manny Pacquiao

It can and It may Happen, as Pacquiao takes over as president of Duterte's PDP-Laban

MANILA - For now, president of PDP-Laban.

As the 2022 elections draw nearer, Sen. Manny Pacquiao was sworn in as the new president of PDP-Laban, the political party of President Rodrigo

Duterte.

The oath-taking ceremony took place December 2, 2019, with House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco also taking his oath as the party's new executive president.

Boxer-turned-senator Pacquiao replaced Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, who will now serve as the party's executive vice chairman.

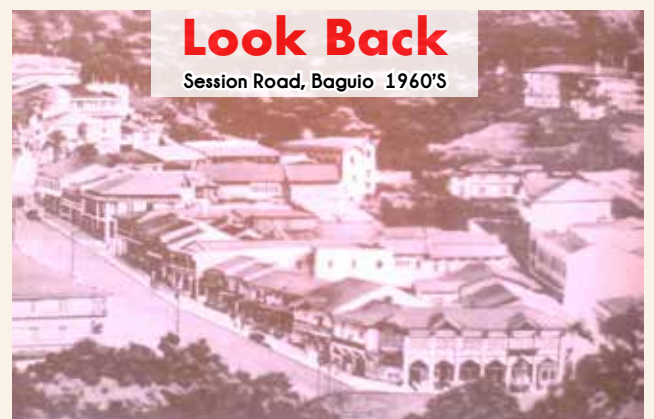
"Senator Koko Pimentel has passed on the practical day-to-day leadership

of the Party to one with new, 'modern' ideas and one who has the time, energy, and boldness to prepare the

PRESIDENT PACQUIAO continued on page 21

Real Fan Girl beats veterans for Best Actress Award for role in Fan Girl

CHARLIE Dizon



Look Back

Session Road, Baguio 1960'S

Filipino health workers in the frontline of vaccine history

TORONTO - On the opposite sides of the Atlantic, one was administering it, the other was receiving it.

'Now it feels like there is light at the end of the tunnel,' says Filipino nurse May Parsons, who has been working with the UK's National Health Service for 24 years

A Filipino nurse in the UK administered the world's first approved and fully tested COVID-19 vaccine Tuesday, December 8, in what she described as a "historic day"

showing "light at the end of the tunnel."

Filipino nurse May Parsons delivered Pfizer-BioNTech's coronavirus vaccine to 90-year-old Margaret Keenan at a local hospital in Coventry. Keenan is the first person in world to get the vaccine, approved just a week ago in Britain.

"I'm just glad that I'm able to play a part in this historic day," Parsons said in a statement released by the UK's National Health

FILIPINO HEALTH on page 26

Set your Alarm "cocks"

"OOOPS"

Humingi ng dispensa si Maris Racal sa kanyang typographical error sa pagpu-promote ng kanyang bagong palabas sa TV5.

November 23, nag-

tweet ang TV5 star ukol sa pilot episode ng pinagbibidhang weekly show sa Kapatid network na Stay-in Love.

Saad niya sa kanyang

COCKS continued on page 22

Pia Wurtzbach graces cover of LA magazine

Pia Wurtzbach banners the front page of Los Angeles-based publication Now magazine for December.

The magazine described the former Miss Universe titleholder as a “world-re-nowned model.”

Inside, the 31-year-old Filipina-German beauty is seen wearing different sparkly outfits.

She also talked about being a woman and what it is like “inside and out-side the beauty pageant



scene.” Among her quotes: “I’m glad I live in a day and age where women have more freedom to do what they want.”

Early this year, Pia had four covers with British Thoughts.

She also graced the covers of magazines from Vietnam and Malaysia.

Last year, she made it to New York-based luxury magazine The Hedonist. Way to go, Pia!

Cherie gusto nang mag-retire dahil kay Charlie Dizon

CHARLIE Dizon is now the actress of the hour.

This after winning the Best Actress award in the recently-concluded Metro Manila Film Festival 2020. Nagpanalo sa kanya ang mahusay ni-yang pagganap sa pelikulang ‘Fan Girl’ na nanalo ring best picture. Sa pelikula ni An-toinette Jadaone, siya si Jane, ang number one fan ni Paulo Avelino. Iba’t-ibang emosyon ang ipinakita niya sa nasabing pelikula. Mula sa kanyang kahibangan bilang fan girl hanggang sa pagkakatu-klas niya sa tunay na ugali ng kanyang idolo, maka-



totohanan ang atake niya sa kanyang karakter. Kaya maging ilang artista at direktor ay nagpahayag din ng kanilang paghanga at suporta sa young actress. Sa Face-book post ng award-win-ning director at writer na si Joey Reyes, “Charlie (is an ample proof) that the pandemic has created major changes in the ‘star system’ in this country.” Maging si Cherie Gil ay nagpahayag sa kanyang social media post. Aniya, “(Charlie) just seemed to have popped out of nowhere! But she

Honey Shot

Chloe has lots of talents. She can sing, dance, and act. She does modeling too. She also does makeup tutorials and design outfits. She admits, “I’m not the most athletic type but I do enjoy long walks with my family.” She is currently in grade 7 in the extended French program at All Saints school. Someday, Chloe wants to be a model. She is the daughter of Fredrick Sabatin and Michelle Agius. Her awards are: Philcan mosaic kids champion 2019, 2nd place at the Ontario music fest competition, finalist in open mic Canada, and currently Miss Teen Ipen beauty 2018. We wish her all the luck in her endeavours.



Chloe Sabatin

PHOTO BY NEIL GARCIA OF VNTG PHOTOGRAPHY

sure has broken the mold of performanc-es from the new breed and took it to another level. (An amazing level). Makes me want to retire... from acting.” Napah-anga rin niya ang kanyang kaibigan na si Nancy of Momoland.

Walang duda na si Charlie ang isa sa

mga breakthrough star ng 2020. Pero mas magningning pa kaya ang bituin ng aktres ngayong 2021? O magiging “one time, big time” lang ang pagkapanalo niya bilang filmfest best actress? Just asking...

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Janine Berdin now with 1 Million followers on Instagram

“Tawag ng Tanghalan” champ Janine Berdin continues to make strides in showbiz.

Just recently, she celebrated having 1 Million followers on Instagram with a photo, thanking everyone who made the feat possible.

Berdin’s full post: “How in the heck do I have 1 million followers on here. Happy 1 million, everybody. Thank you so much,” she wrote in all capital letters. “I hope it’s mainly cuz you guys find me cool or funny or something along those lines.”



“And pls let’s talk about this photo, Daghang salamat sa akong team for this photoshoot! Grabe! Can’t wait to show you guys the rest.” Earlier this year Berdin, 18, made headlines as she openly shared having undergone cosmetic procedure, particular-

ly her nose. Opinions were mixed about the dramatic change in her appearance but most of her fans stayed on her side including actor and host Luis Manzano.

How Sharon Cuneta lost the chance to meet ‘John Wick’ star Keanu Reeves online

It would have been a meeting of a lifetime between megastar Sharon Cuneta and Hollywood star Keanu Reeves online.

This after Sharon almost won the bid for an event to help raise funds for a



children’s hospital charity which is also being supported by Reeves recently.

Sharon confessed that she secretly bid US\$70,000 (roughly P3.5 million) for charity.

She lost, initially. Later, organizers sent her an email informing her that she could be the actual winner after the initial bidder couldn’t pay.

It took several days before Sharon opened her e-mail. Thus the organizers of the event forfeited the offer to Ate Shawie and awarded the winning bid to another bidder.

Apparently, the real winner would have the chance to talk to Keanu online.

“Waaaaaaaahhhh! I missed it because I didn’t open my dang e-mail! Oh well...Lord, sana may ganon pa po uli. Pero isip ko ayaw ni Lord makilala ko sya,” Sharon said.

Her full post: “I have a confession. Did you ever hear about that bidding for a few minutes live with Keanu over Zoom for a children’s hospital charity? I made a bid. I lost by \$100. “Natulog lang ako, paggising ko iba na nanalo. And my bid reached \$70K – for sick children naman na charity kasi. Then for days I didn’t check my e-mail. “When I did, there was one from the organizers pala saying that the winner couldn’t pay, after all! And if I still wanted to bid and get it! “Waaaaaaaahhhh! I missed it because I didn’t open my dang e-mail! Oh well...Lord, sana may ganon pa po uli. Pero isip ko ayaw ni Lord makilala ko sya. “Kasi baka makalimutan ko lahat ng kabutihang turo ng mga magulang ko at ng Bible sa kin. Juskopo.”

Fans react as Julia Barretto, Gerald Anderson exchange messages on social media

Rumored lovebirds Julia Barretto and Gerald Anderson’s recent effort to communicate with each other received mixed reactions from fans.

To be clear, the message exchanged was harmless at best.

Some even describe it as a “gimmick” of sorts. Well, it could be.



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Life’s brighter under the sun



It all started with Julia inviting Gerald to watch their film “Between Maybes” on Netflix with a short and sweet: “Tara?” Gerald replied simply: “Tara.” It could’ve ended there if not for some fans with lots of time on their hand. “Di na talaga mapakali si ate, di na niya kaya itago ang lahat,” said one. “The beach is in heat,” mocked another. “Halata talaga si Julia,” added yet another. Of course, there were those who were only too eager to defend the two. Said an obvious Julia-Gerald fan, “Ano ba kayo, line sa pelikula yan?? Wag nyo nga sila pakiala-man!!!” Another added, “Naku papansin ang mga bitter! Wag kayo!! Masaya sila!! Paki ninyo!!!”

Note the two already denied they are an item. But why the continued rumor? We are guessing it is mainly fueled by fans who simply refuse to believe their issued disclaimer.

Truthfully though, talk about Julia allegedly being sighted numerous times in Gerald’s resort doesn’t help matters any.

‘PakBoys’ star Dennis Padilla reiterates respect for LGBTQ+ community

Comedian Dennis Padilla maintained he will never mock the LGBTQ+ community, citing his own daughter as among them.

“My daughter is married to a woman in the States. My eldest daughter Dianne, who is 30 years old, is married to Kat who is also a woman. And I respect them because mahal ng anak ko eh,” he was quoted to have said in an article published on Pep.Ph. “So nang ikasal sila sa Amerika, I was happy for them. Ako pa ba ang babastos sa LGBTQ eh ‘yung daughter ko, asawa babae? Legally married sila sa California,” he reiterated.

Dennis is among cast members of “PakBoys: Takusa,” which, according to Miss Trans Global 2020 Mela Franco Habijan, mocked their gender in some scenes.

She called for the disqualification of the film.



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Technology is enough for fast vaccine creation but...

Moderna designed its vaccine in just two days in January, before some people had even heard of the coronavirus.

That wouldn't have been possible without the technology Moderna has bet on since its founding: messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines.

Pfizer's candidate also relies on mRNA

On January 6, Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel emailed Barney Graham, a vaccine researcher at the National Institutes of Health. Bancel was troubled by the mysterious virus outbreak in Wuhan. He then talked with Graham about developing a vaccine.

On January 11, researchers from China published the genetic sequence of the coronavirus. Two days later, Moderna's team and NIH scientists had

finalized the targeted genetic sequence they would use in the vaccine.

"This is not a complicated virus," Bancel said.

By February 24, Moderna had shipped its first vaccine batches to National Institute of Health scientists in Maryland. Researchers administered the first dose on March 16. That launched the first clinical trial of any coronavirus vaccine.

Where technology is not enough is in human relations. We crave human face to face interaction, one without the mask, the shields and other personal protective equipments (PPE).

There are those who want one Filipino organization to represent the Filipino community. Well, during this pandemic, you can imagine that.

What if that one organization had one festival last March and no more after that? This is how it feels. Of course, without the pandemic, we can go outside, that's the difference.

This year, it will probably be in August or September before we have Filipino events.

Seeing family and friends on the screen is an "alternative," and not a "replacement" for physical interaction. We need to be physically close to them IRL. That's the reason we celebrate Independence day the whole summer. ☺

I feel that when this pandemic is over, everyone will take the time to get out of the house, see family and friends. After all, Zoom, facetime, Messenger can only do a little to ease the feeling of isolation.

Alisah takes on Cecile masterpiece

A great voice deserves to record a great composition.

That exactly what had been achieved when crowd-pleaser Alisah Bonaobra, who wowed audiences in X-Factor UK and The Voice of the Philippines, interpreted a song called "Faithful" written by songwriting legend Cecile Azarcon, best known for her other spiritually-engaging piece, the classic "Lift Up Your Hands" popularized by Basil Valdez which she also composed. The track quickly gained traction when its official music video was uploaded on YouTube by RJA Productions, which has well-managed Alisah in these hard times.

Listeners loved it. The video, likewise, was very well received and was hailed by the singer's fanbase stronghold Alisah Warriors themselves.

Despite the pandemic, Alisah's career is on a roll in



2019, releasing four songs. Her other songs are "Kahit Na Malayo Pa Ang Pasko," "Ginto Ang Sandali," and "Gintong Tinig."

"Sobrang overwhelmed po ako sa blessings na dumaraming sa

akin kahit na may pandemic. Nagrequest po ako ng English song to interpret at ang binigay sa akin ay isang magandang composition na sinulat ni Ms. Cecile," shared Alisah who recently chatted with members of the press via the zoom app.

The composer's brilliance cannot be overstated. While that liturgical Basil classic may fit as her signature hit, other gems she scored are as memorable, including "Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin" (Martin Nievera), "I Think I'm In Love" (Kuh Ledesma), "How Did You Know" (Chiqui Pineda), "Even If" (Jam Morales), "Special Memory" (Iwi Laurel), "Reach-

ing Out" (Gary Valenciano), and "Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga," another Basil favorite.

The OPM icon related, "The music and lyrics just flowed together and fell into place as I reflected on the many times that I have experienced God's faithfulness in my life. Even in those times when I have not been faithful to Him, He remained faithful to me. May this song remind us that whether we are in good or bad times, God's caring presence and unfailing love will prove to be our greatest treasure, security, and blessing."

With "Faithful," Alisah is extra grateful she was able to further honed her skill under the stewardship of vocal coach Arnie Mendaros and Cecile herself.

"From a songwriter's perspective," the lady OPM stalwart added, "Alisah was able to capture my sentiments which is actually a testimony of my own personal walk with God."

San Juan mayor's daughter missed holidays with family to enter PBB house

San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora announced that his daughter Amanda is about to enter "Pinoy Big Brother: Connect" as the next housemate very soon.

"She has passed all her medical tests & is just completing her quarantine. She will be entering the Pinoy Big Brother's Bahay ni Kuya very soon!" Francis posted on social media Sunday.

In the process, the mayor revealed that the family has not spoken with Amanda since Christmas.

"The last time we got to speak with Amanda was on Christmas Day through a video call. It has been 9

days since then. We miss her dearly!"

The father wished the best for his daughter, regardless.

"So excited to watch you, Amanda. It's a dream come true for you my dear daughter."

The firstborn of Francis and Keri Zamora, Amanda works as a model who has graced both runways and glossies.

The 19-year-old was chosen to enter



the PBB house as a wild card through the KUMUnity Housemate Selection, which only took place after the latest season premiered last December 6.

"She (Amanda) has always wanted to join PBB since she was 13! Three years ago, even if I was hesitant, she lined up at 5 a.m. at Araneta Coliseum.

She didn't make it but that didn't stop her from trying and trying. Like her dad, she never stops!" Keri posted on her now-private Instagram account.

Maine Mendoza denies sex scandal video

Actress Maine Mendoza has denied that she is in a scandal video which circulated online.

"Wtf???? So-brang kamukha ko kinilabutan ako pero hindi ako to!" reacted Maine, as one of her fans encouraged her to report the malicious post.

Rams David, talent manager of Maine, also warned the people who are circulating the video about cybercrime law.

Offenses under cybercrime law include cybersquatting,



cybersex, child pornography, identity theft, illegal access to data and libel, among other legal issues concerning online interactions and the Internet.

Most of Maine's fans expressed outrage about it, advising the manager to not just warn the public but instead sue them right away. Fans claimed that the celebrity's reputation is in danger because of the alleged video scandal.

Angeline Quinto misses 'Mama Bob' on first Christmas without her

Angeline Quinto (R) with her adoptive mother, fondly called Mama Bob.



Christmas was different for singer-actress Angeline Quinto this year, as it is the first time

she celebrated it without her adoptive mother she fondly refers to as Mama Bob.

Quinto remembered Mama Bob, whose real name is Sylvia Quinto, on Christmas Day.

"Ito ang unang pasko na wala ka Ma. Ibang iba ang pakiramdam pero sa 30 years ng buhay ko na kasama kita walang patlang ang pag mama-hal na pinaramdam mo sa akin," said Quinto.

(This is my first Christmas without you, Ma. It feels so different, but in the 30 years I've spent with you, you have shown me nothing but constant love.)

Quinto also said there is nothing more she would thank the Lord for other than allowing her and Mama Bob to cross paths when she was just a baby.

"Ikaw ang buhay at mundo ko Mama Bob," said Quinto. "Maligayang Pasko Ma dyan sa langit." (You are my life and world, Mama Bob. Merry Christmas in heaven.)

In the end, the singer urged her friends, colleagues and relatives to hug their mothers tight.

"Lagi niyong ipaalala sa kanila na mahal na mahal niyo sila," she said. (Always remind them how much you love them.)

Quinto confirmed the death of her mother on Nov. 7 following months of hospitalization. Mama Bob underwent surgery back in July 2019 involving her heart's pacemaker.

In September, Quinto asked for prayers for Mama Bob. Al-

Alice in a very private affair

ALICE Dixson is happy to be back before the camera playing Dennis Trillo's first wife in "Legal Wives".

While waiting for her next acting assignment, she got busy doing stories for her own Youtube vlog. Recently,



her viewers were treated to a virtual tour of her home in Boracay, where she now stays with her partner who's an executive

in a big resort hotel in the island. They've been together for seven years now but she won't even reveal his name as he's a very low profile, private person. All she'll mention is his initials: GS.

Her partner is very liberal and allows her to continue working, even now that she's on lock in taping for "Legal Wives".

She loves her role as Dennis Trillo's Muslim first wife in "Legal Wives". Maganda ang pagkakasulat kasi, after all the conflicts between the three wives of Dennis, it reveals that no matter what your religion is, it still all boils down to your family and the values that you have. First time ko to work with Dennis, and also Andrea Torres and Bianca Umali and I really welcome the idea of working with younger actors in the industry. Feeling ko, bagets din ako."

Toni defends PBB housemate who favored ABS shutdown

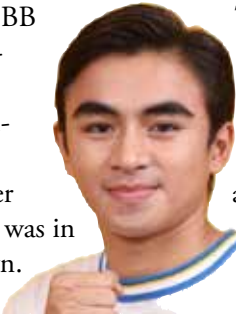
Toni Gonzaga defends evicted PBB housemate who supported ABS-CBN shutdown

Kapamilya TV host Toni Gonzaga asked social media users to forgive evicted Pinoy Big Brother housemate Russu Laurente who was in favor of the ABS-CBN shutdown.

In her Instagram account, Toni said Russu now realized the damage he has done and so asked Internet users to stop judging him.

“Back to work this 2021. For our 2nd eviction night housemate Russu was evicted because of a mistake he did that eventually made him realize the damage it has done,” Toni wrote.

“People are very quick to judge him, call him names and crucify him on social media because of it without realizing that at 19 years old, he doesn’t know the gravity of words spoken,” she added.



The PBB host also said that the evicted housemate has already learned his lessons and it will help him mature in life. “He has learned his lesson and this will help him grow and mature in life. And now that he knows better, He will do better. May this also serve as a reminder for us to not define and label a person by the mistakes they’ve committed but from how they rise up, rebuild and become a better person they are really supposed to be,” she said. “I hugged the boy after the show and he kept apologizing. Forgiveness is a gift everyone deserves,” she added. Russu was the second evicted housemate on the recent season of the reality show after he only received 4.39 % of the votes.

‘PBB’ housemate Justin Dizon apologizes to Jie-Ann Armero, but still got evicted

Days after making headlines for bad behavior mostly directed towards fellow “Pinoy Big Brother” housemate Jie Ann Armero, Justin Dizon finally apologized, asking for forgiveness.

Justin admitted he was wrong to bully Jie Ann.

“I really lacked understanding also na we don’t live in the same house. So if ever you feel offended, for like, for those jokes, I wanna say sorry for that kasi nga, ‘yun, I forgot, like realize na iba tayo (ng environment na kinalakihan),” he said.

“I wanna say sorry if... for saying those jokes to you because they’re, like, insensitive. Hindi ko naisip, initially, like, your background and my background – how different they are,”



he added. Justin then promised to do his best to be more “sensitive.” Jie Ann, on her part, shared, “Hindi naman nasasaktan sa mga joke Big Brother lectured the housemates about the incident. “Pinagsama-sama ko kayo dito sa aking bahay na may iba’t-ibang pinanggalingang kultura, antas sa pamumuhay, ugaling kinagisnan, at mga pang-araw-araw na pinagdaraan. Sa nangyaring ito, hangad ko hindi lang mas makilala pa ninyo ang isa’t-isa kung hindi ang igalang niyo rin ang pagkaka-iba ng bawat isa at matutong rumespeto at umunawa dahil kayo ay magkakaiba ng pinagdaraan.” Last December 27 episode of “Pinoy Big Brother: Connect,” it was announced that Dizon is this season’s first evictee after receiving only -2 percent of combined Kumu and text votes, which means he received more votes to evict than votes to save.



PROMINENT FIL-CAN CHARITY LEADER IS NEW CAR SALES ADVISOR By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT- Retired

There is a fresh and admirable salesman in town! Yes, mga kababayan! Ricky Cuenca, a respected former head of a charitable organization in Canada, has a new job as a sales advisor at ACTION Honda. The established Japanese-brand car dealership in Scarborough, Toronto, hired R. Cuenca as a desirable cog in line with the marketing expansion program for its growing Honda car clients.

General Manager Rafael “Paeng” Nebres has proudly announced that the hiring recently of Ricky Cuenca is expected to maintain ACTION Honda’s sales leadership in the Toronto car market. R. Cuenca has had solid experience in corporate management and business & sales operations. Previously, in the Philippines, he worked as the General Manager of Legacy Motors Sales and Service, starting as a manager in 1976 and as-



suming the GM position from 1980 to 1997. He also served at Filinvest Credit Corporation in Makati City. In Canada, for 6 years from 2014 to 2020, Cuenca was the President and CEO of ANCOP International Canada (“Answering the Cry of the Poor”), a charitable foundation working towards the upliftment of poor people and families, especially students and children through shelter and schooling projects in the Philippines and other parts of the world. A Christian-faith disciple, Ricky was formerly a Ministry Pastoral Worker for 3 years and was the Board Chairman of the Couples for Christ Global Mission from

2011-2014. A graduate of the Dela Salle University in Manila with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce, majoring in Business Administration and Management, Ricky immigrated to Canada in 1997. He is a proud recipient of the “Senate of Canada 150 Medals” in 2017. He solidly subscribes to as a great believer of Saint Mother Teresa’s famous quotes: “I can do things you can not, you can do things I can not, together we can do great things”. Ricky once served as a volunteer doing support tasks to men and women at Good Shepherd Ministries, a home for the homeless and vulnerable people in the GTA. Many of the people he worked with are one in describing Ricky as “ Mr. On Fire” and being a “ hardworking, passionate, organized, mild-mannered

and simple person” In his C.V., he characterizes himself as a “high-achieving leader and born change agent”. In his new working environment, Cuenca said he is poised to take on “the role with substantial responsibility and opportunity on sales business operations.” With Ricky’s proven experience in customer relations, product solutions, and profit optimization, he will no doubt be a strong asset as a sales professional. Thus with his non-aggressive persona coupled with his remarkable professionalism and people-skills engagements, he is fully confident of meeting the new challenge of contributing productively to the further growth and development of his “new home”, that is, the ACTION Honda family. And as he humbly pitched: “If you trusted Ricky at ANCOP, you can surely trust him at ACTION Honda!(Tony A. San Juan OCT-Retired)

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Flower pots, masks, outsell Christmas decors

DAVAO CITY – At around this time of the year in the downtown streets of San Pedro and Uyanguren here, assorted holiday decors, Christmas lanterns toys, and other gift items used to enjoy brisk sales ahead of Christmas Day.

Stalls would be built on every inch of the already narrow sidewalks as shoppers jockey for position for the best buys.

But almost like magic, everything completely changed this year in the time of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Gone are the colorful lights and wrappers of the holiday items as they have been replaced by flower pots and various health and safety devices like face shields, face masks.

Vendor Norliza Amintao said her family used to produce and sell Christmas lanterns in the past, and enjoyed good sales even as early as November.

But this year, they tried doing the same thing last month, but no one is buying.

“May mga lanterns man kami pero nasa bahay lang dahil wala naman bumibili. May mga nag inquire lang pero di naman umo-order. Hindi kagaya noon na November pa lang may mga



What used to be occupied by vendors selling Christmas items in the streets of Davao City, is now filled with these plastic pots amid the rise of urban gardening.

orders na kami (We have lanterns but we just keep them at home now because no one buys them. There were those who inquired but they did not order. It was different last year. We would receive orders as early as November)” lamented Amintao, a Maranaw trader.

So to respond to the demand of the times, Amintao’s family decided to sell face masks, face shields, and flower pots this time.

Another street vendor is Raihana Bantayaw, who sells plant pots in assorted colors and sizes.

“Ito na naman kasi ang uso ngayon dahil ang mga tao nasa bahay lang. Kaya mas maraming pots ngayon kaysa mga Christmas decors (These are what people look for these days because they are mostly at home.

That’s why there are more pots than Christmas decors now),” said Bantayaw, who is also a Maranaw trader.

Bantayaw admitted that she could earn up to P2,000 in some days.

As quarantine restrictions have literally limited the movement of the people, many have spent most of their time tending to their gardens at home. Some are into flower gardening while others are into vegetable gardening.

“(As Muslims) Hindi naman kami nag-celebrate ng Christmas pero napansin namin na parang nawala ang spirit of Christmas dahil sa pandemya (We do not really celebrate Christmas, but we noticed that the Christmas spirit have diminished due to the pandemic)

For Amintao, she attributed the scarcity of Christmas decors being sold on the streets to the absence of face-to-face classes and scrapping of Christmas gatherings in the city.

“Dahil walang pasok sa mga eskwelahan at wala ng Christmas parties, kaya rin wala na rin bumibili ng mga decors at gift wrappers. Bukod pa sa crisis din ngayon.” (No one buys decors and gift wrappers because there are no actual classes in schools and there are no more Christmas parties. Aside from that, we are really in a crisis right now).

Why Kim Chiu stays with Star Magic despite ‘big offers’ to move

MANILA, Philippines — Kapamilya actress Kim Chiu renewed her exclusive contract as a Star Magic talent last week.

In her Instagram account, Kim posted the video of her contract signing.

“I’m so very happy!” Kim screamed in the video. “Sums up my emotions today! SALAMAT ABSCBN! Sasamahan ko kayo sa hirap man o sa ginhawa isang pamilya tayo! Walang iwanan! Maghahatid ng liwanag at ligaya.”

“Proud Kapamilya. Always a Kapamilya and still a Kapamilya,” she added.

In a virtual press conference with Philstar.com and other media last Friday, Kim said she decided to still sign up with the network to show gratitude for everything that the network did to help

her succeed in life — from helping her build a house for her family to giving her jobs so she could help send her siblings to school.

“Ngayon lang ako naluha. Siguro kasi ang daming nangyari, ang daming mga open doors and do’n ako nasubok, but I still chose to be a Kapamilya. Siyemre noong lockdown nasa bahay lang tayo, and na-realize ko ‘yung bahay ko galing sa ABS-CBN,” she said.

“Yung mga kapatid ko okay naman sila, tapos na sila nang pag-aaral and it’s all because of ABS-CBN,” Kim said.

Kim recently starred in the Star Cinema’s horror offering “U-Turn,” which is now streaming on Netflix. She will also star in the new series titled “Bawal Lumabas” under Dreamscape Entertainment, set to be released on December 14.

Kim is currently hosting “It’s Showtime” and can be watched regularly on “ASAP Natin ‘To.”



her succeed in life — from helping her build a house for her family to giving her jobs so she could help send her siblings to school.

Angelica may bagong boyfriend

MARAMI ang natutuwa sa 34-year-old Kapamilya star na si Angelica Panganiban sa pagkakaroon nito ng bagong pag-ibig na isang non-showbiz guy na mukhang foreigner.

Kung masaya si Angelica sa kanyang best friend, si Angelica ang Ka-singer-ac si Glaiza Castro na engaged na sa kanyang Irish friend, puso na sa kanyang tress na de

Irish boyfriend na Rainey, si David rin si Angelica masaya Glaiza for sa pagkakaroon ng ba-boyfriend.

Ang na-ka-relasyon ay si John Cruz pero after of being together ay nagkahi-part ng thought

na muli silang magkakabalikan ng kanyang boyfriend, si Carlo Aquino pero hindi ito nangyari.

The “Walang Hanggang Paalam” star was also in a long relationship with athlete, model-turned actor na si Derek Ramsay pero sa hiwalayan din nauwi ang kanilang relasyon.

Umaasa naman si Angelica na sana’y hindi na magkaroon ng wakas ang relasyon nila ng bagong nobyo.

Angelica is currently in a relationship with a non-showbiz guy named Rainey, who is a friend of her best friend, Glaiza Castro. They got together in 2016. People thought they were back together, but they broke up. Angelica is currently single.

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Little Manila **LM confidential**

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‘Nakapagpakain siya ng 8K people’

that her viral “Bawal Lumabas” has become a TV series.

Kim said she became emotional because she never thought her controversial YouTube vlog will not only turn into a blockbuster song, but also because it enabled her to help feed families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Parang nag-flashback lang siya. Hindi naman daw nakakaiyak yung ‘Bawal Lumabas: The Series’ na showing na sa December 14 sa iWant pero parang, ‘Shocks nakagawa ako ng series.’ ‘Shocks naging kanta siya, shocks naging dance challenge siya at naging T-shirt siya, at nakapagpakain siya ng 8,000 people,’ so masaya,” Kim said.

“Parang bumalik lang na ‘Sa’n ba ‘to galing, bakit ba ko nagkaroon ng series?’ Pero I’m very happy,

sobrang kong happy sa Dreamscape, Sir Deo, for believing in me and sa paggawa ng ‘Bawal Lumabas’ The Series na Pasko feels. I’m very happy to end the ‘Bawal Lumabas’ era with this one. It’s about family, love, forgiveness and happiness.”

Also, partly because of “Bawal Lumabas,” Kim is one of the Filipino celebrities who landed in Forbes Asia’s latest 100 Digital Stars list alongside Hollywood stars like Hugh Grant, Rebecca Wilson and Chris Hemsworth, and K-pop superstars Blackpink and BTS.

Kim aims to bring warmth and laughter to the whole family this holiday season with a special story about love and togetherness in the iWantTFC original “Bawal Lumabas: The Series,” which premiered on the streaming service on December 14.

Viewers may be able to relate to the story of Emerald (Kim), an overseas worker who has been employed in various countries to support her family financially. Because her parents had

already passed away, Eme has to work extra hard to fulfill her parents’ wishes for her siblings.

After her latest employment contract expires, Emerald returns to the Philippines to reunite with her siblings.

When she comes home, however, she realizes that the result of her sacrifices is the sad reality that her siblings have already grown distant toward her.

Disheartened by the fact that she does not know them anymore, Emerald attempts to get closer to her by becoming her classmate. But to make things more complicated, Emerald finds out that their teacher is her ex-boyfriend (Rafael Rosell).

“Nag-flashback sa akin lahat simula nag-start ang ‘Bawal Lumabas.’ One mistake won’t define you as a person,” Kim said in her Instagram video where she can be seen as turning emotional while watching the series’ trailer.

“When you make a mistake, don’t look back at it long... ‘Mistakes’ are lessons of

wisdom. The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power.”



Heart may dahilan para manatili sa Sorsogon

TIYAK na matutuwa ang fans ng Kapuso singer-actress at celebrity endorser-model na si Heart Evangelista dahil magkakaroon ito ng bagong teleserye ngayong bagong taon.

Bagay na bagay kay Heart ang titulo ng kanyang bagong teleserye, “I Left My Heart in Sorsogon” dahil ito ang hometown ng kanyang mister, ang gobernador ng nasabing lugar na si Francis “Chiz” Escudero. Base na rin sa titulo, malamang na sa Sorsogon din kunan ang taping ng serye na tiyak na magugustuhan ni Heart dahil may rason siyang manatili nang matagal sa nasabing lugar to be with her husband although pabalik-balik naman siya ng Maynila.

On February 14 ay ise-celebrate ni Heart ang kanyang 36th birthday at kinabukasan, February 15 ay 6th wedding anniversary naman nila ni Gov. Chiz.

Ang last teleserye na ginawa ni Heart ay ang “My Korean Jagiya” from 2017 to 2018 kung saan nakatambal ng singer-actress ang Korean actor na si Alexander Lee. Ito’y dinirek ni Mark Reyes under GMA.

Sarah Geronimo’s makes mark at Worldvision 2020

Voters were one in pushing Sarah Geronimo’s “Tala,” allowing for the song to grab first place at the Worldvision 2020 music contest. It bested over hundreds of other songs from all over the world in the competition that ran for more than three months.

According to the official website of Bulgaria’s Popnoble, which sponsored the contest, “Tala” bested songs from Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Sweden, Mongolia, Albania, Puerto Rico, Uganda, and Latvia.

Note that “Tala” was originally released in 2016.

It has since been viewed over 166 million times on YouTube.

“Tala” also continues to rank in the top 10 of the most popular Filipino songs in 2021.



Are they Takusa?

Up for laughs is Viva Films’ Pakboys Takusa (as in “takot sa asawa”), the second caper of Jano Gibbs, Dennis Padilla and Andrew E who were a surprise hit in last year’s Sanggano, Sanggago’t, Sanggwapo, again directed by Al Tantay with Jerald Napoles added to the brew.

As a nod to the movie’s story (about four men who have a weakness for... women!), Funfare put the actors (and director) to a test.

Are you a “takusa”?

Janno: “Actually, I think all Filipino men are Takusa, feeling ko kasi that it’s already part of our culture, of being a Filipino, na ang lalaki ay laging takot sa kanyang asawa. It simply means that we men don’t want trouble, we only want our wives to be happy.”

Dennis: “Takusa? Yes, I am because my wife holds the budget, eh! It’s not being takot, it is about respect and

love.” Andrew: “No, because my wife and I treat each other as best friends and best lovers.”

Jerald (no wife; only girlfriend, Kim Molina): “Not really takot, more of respect. Mas balance kasi. I respect Kim so much. Kung minsan, I’m just prone to do things that would hurt her.”

Al: “No, I’m not, not at my age.”

Be honest now, have you ever been unfaithful, cheated on your partner?

Janno: “I’d like to say no but, uh, think the records show and it’s clear from history... if you make a research, you will discover my indiscretion, o mga kalokohan ko. But I’m proud to say that’s past me now, all behind me now.”

Dennis: “Yes, when I was younger. Nasampal pa nga ako, eh! Hehehe!!!”

Andrew: “It’s hard to tell a lie but... NEVER!”

Jerald: “I have played around when I was younger but those were the times when Kim and I were not yet boyfriend-girlfriend. That was some kind of

‘testing waw-kung okay.’ Al: “No, never. Not with my present wife.”

Anong matindi ninyong away ng partner mo at paano niyo na-resolve?

Janno: “Honestly, we had a serious quarrel or break-up. I thought it was hopeless na but I persisted in winning her back. I courted her. It took time but I’m glad that we are together again and stronger than ever now.”

Dennis: “When we fight, I say ‘sorry’ 100 times and gifts galore, maraming dates, out-of-town trips.”

Andrew: “We quarrel sometimes when my wife pushes me to deliver more as a rapper and as a movie actor.”

Jerald: “About individual space and differences...those are usually the



causes of our (small) fights. Communication is key. I can’t sleep until the problem or issue has been ironed out.” Al: “About parenting...how to raise our children? How do we resolve it! Sex!”

How are you as a husband/partner?

Janno: “I’d like to think that I’m sensitive to my wife’s needs and feelings. I’m sweet but in my own way. Kami kasi ni Bing, hindi kami usually showy in public na naka-holding hands, na sweet-sweet, medyo naba-baduyan kami sa ganon eh! In our own way, we’re very sweet to each other and very sensitive to each other’s needs.”

Dennis: “Very loving, malambing! Very generous din, hehehe!!!”

Andrew: “Respectful and loving.”

Jerald: “I adjust to my partner. I am all-out support for all the things that she wants to achieve...personality development and bigger goals that we share.”

Al: “Faithful!!!”



Nurses in the Philippines can't go abroad

but there are few opportunities at home



Newly graduated nurses take their oaths at a ceremony in a mall in Manila in 2010.

- The country already has a surplus of trained nurses, but not enough jobs to go round, with some hospitals paying less than a shop assistant could earn
- Critics blame the government for depressing wages by 'commodifying' the nursing profession with its decades-long focus on exporting manpower

Lorna Sianen Pagaduan was en route to a new nursing job in Libya when she "got stuck in Hong Kong" more than two decades ago.

But that misfortune turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as 22 years later she is now president of the city's Filipino Nurses Association, and has used her earnings to



Newly graduated nurses gesture while having their picture taken by a friend before an oath taking ceremony in Manila in 2010.

"It's very discriminatory. We understand the Philippines needs nurses but our families also need something to put in their stomachs," said Pagaduan, who is in her late 40s. "What if, like me, you have six siblings, your father is jobless and your mother is sick? You would choose your family even if you love your country."

When announcing the cap imposed by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Covid-19, labour secretary Silvestre Bello said it was imposed to ensure the country had enough medical professionals to continue to fight the pandemic, adding that the cap might "increase eventually".

However, Dr Anthony Leachon, a former special adviser to the Covid-19 task force, said the cap was "unnecessary" even from the perspective of handling the pandemic. He

said the country had a large untapped pool of nurses who worked in "odd jobs like call centres" because of the low pay nurses earned in the Philippines.

Thousands of medical practitioners leave the Philippines to work overseas every year, with an estimated 16,000 nurses going last year alone, according to Eleanor Nolasco, vice-president of Filipino Nurses United advocacy group, which is based in Manila.

It is unclear how many nurses there are in the Philippines that are working in other fields. The estimates range from 200,000 to 500,000.

A study found that fewer than 68,000 nurses were employed in the country's hospitals and state-run community health centres.

"There are just not enough job opportunities even in government hospitals," Filipino doctor Hans Jesper del Mundo wrote in an essay

NO SHORTAGE

Dr Jean Franco, a professor of political science at the University of the Philippines, said she was "totally against the cap" on nurse deployment as "it violates the right of our nurses to work abroad".

"We really don't have a shortage of nurses," she said. "There are 200,000 jobless nurses because they don't want to be employed in hospitals where the pay is low."

After shelling out as much as 500,000 pesos (US\$10,400) for a four-year nursing course, many of these "standby nurses" look to recoup their investment by working better paid jobs such as "business process outsourcing ... or in high-end beauty salons and clinics", Franco said.

She blamed the government for "commodifying" the pro-

NURSES
continued on page 22

Coleen Garcia makes smoothie with own placenta



Coleen Garcia recently revealed having tasted her own placenta.

According to the actress-TV host, her doula made a smoothie out of it.

"Which I then consumed," she declared.

Why share it?

Well, Coleen feels like it is something that is not really talked about.

"And a lot of people disagree with it. I don't know, I did my own research and this is a personal choice. This is something I wanted to do," she shared.

Coleen revealed that she still take it once a day, mixing it with berries and yogurt.

"You guys will find this so gross, I don't know, I felt like it had a good effect on me. Though to each his own so don't judge me," she explained.

Billy, on his part, attested how it gave Coleen energy.

"Actually, it healed her a bit quicker, gives her good nutrients," he said.

The couple just released footage taken during her delivery.

The clip, which showed their special moments are "very raw, vulnerable, and personal," but they are "proud and happy" to share it with their supporters.

"This is OUR story, and Amari's birth has been nothing but good and beautiful to us. Everyone's story and experiences are different, so if you find yourself here, please share the good vibes with us! No disrespect and negativity please. This is not the venue for it," they wrote.

"Amari just turned three months old! Reminisce with us as we walk you through his birth! God has been so, so good to us. Amari is truly our biggest blessing, and his birth was absolutely magical! We filmed this over a month ago, and we're thrilled to finally be able to share it with you. So much has happened since then, and we're hoping to share more of what our journey has been like so far," they added.

Dud vaccines 'unacceptable,' senator says

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri on Saturday urged the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to rethink its plans to avail of vaccines with low efficacy rate, calling this proposition as "unacceptable."

"We appeal to our task force leaders to look at the effectiveness of the [vaccine] rather than political or geopolitical reasons. The safety of our people should come first not the feelings of our neighboring friends," he said.

Zubiri did not mention a specific brand, but he made the remark after the IATF announced that it preferred vaccines made by Chinese pharmaceuticals Sinovac, Sinopharm, and CanSino because of their "affordability and production capability."

The government also announced

that it was at an advanced stage in forging a deal for the purchase of 25 million doses from Sinovac after Western drugmakers struggled to meet the demand of nations, particularly the United States, which have already paid for the vaccines even before the completion of clinical trials.

But Brazil, the first country to complete a late-stage trial of the Sinovac vaccine, said on Dec. 23 that the vaccine, called CoronaVac, was only more than 50-percent effective based on trial data.

The Department of Science and Technology said CoronaVac's 50-percent efficacy rate is "acceptable" because that was the minimum requirement of the World Health Organization.

'Waste of funds'

Zubiri acknowledged that several factors must be considered in choosing a vaccine for Filipinos,

DUD
continued on page 24

DR. GUILLERMO DE VILLA MEMORIAL CUP 18th Invitational Golf Tournament

2021? Hopefully!

Granite Ridge Golf Club,
9503 Dublin Line,
Milton, Ontario.



Ricky reveals why he has to drop show about Christmas

RICKY Davao says it's not true Julia Clarete was fired from TV5's Christmasery, "Paano ang Pasko?", because she's asking for an increase in her talent fee.

"She had to leave kasi she is joining her husband who's assigned in Ireland," he says. "We're not killing her character. She'll have an accident and will be in coma. Para we can revive her in case she'd comeback. Kasi 'Paano ang Pasko' is extended. Dapat six weeks lang kami, but the network is so pleased with the show kaya ine-extend nila. Not sure yet up to when."

We jokingly tell him that if it goes beyond Christmas and is extended until February, they can title it "Paano ang Valentine".

"Tama ka," he says laughing. "Magiging 'Paano the Series', so we can have ang 'Paano ang Holy Week?', 'Paano ang Summer?' The problem is I will also have to say goodbye, kasi magi-start na



yung series na ididirek ko sa GMA by January."

Is this 'The Seed of Love' with Glaiza de Castro? "No, a new one. Actually, nag-start na kami ng taping noon ng 'Seed of Love', naka-10 days na kami. E, sa pandemic, bawal kasama ang mga bata, so hindi na puedeng mag-taping 'yung child characters sa show, kaya binago ng GMA."

So what replaces it? "We're now doing 'Nagbabagang Luha', based sa movie ni Lorna Tolentino noon, directed by Ishmael Bernal. It still stars Glaiza, with Rayver Cruz, Mike Tan and si Gina Alajar na artista naman dito. Kasama rin si Alice Dixon sa original movie, but we're still auditioning stars as to who will play her character in the TV show."



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Life's brighter under the sun



Dominic Roque, Bea Alonzo sighted together anew

Netizens trying to uncover the real score between Bea Alonzo and Dominic Roque are at a loss with the two still very much eager to keep it hush-hush.

Or are they?

There are those who adamantly believe the two are slowly making it known

they are together based on several social media posts.

They have a point.

Just recently, the two were seen dining out together anew.

They even made it part of their Instagram stories.

Note it wasn't the first time, too.

Prior, the two uploaded different short clips of them eating out.

Most revealing of all — well, at least



insisted one fan — was the hand seen in a photo that Dominic posted.

The shipper insisted that it is Bea's hand noting the "Christmas nails" she just shared.

Is it?

Who knows?

And why is it such a big deal?

Can't we just wait for them to finally reveal the real status of their relationship?



HONDA

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Socializing on the internet is to socializing what reality TV is to reality.

AARON SORKIN

Merry Christmas, Happy Birthday to me?

It was a somewhat sombre December as people followed social distancing, no-partying, self-isolating protocols ordered by different levels of government. People who had birthdays celebrat-

ed in their home by themselves, with family, with people they lived with. Or, people are interacting online. Christmas has come and gone and we had to make do with Zoom. It was probably a Christmas where there were more food

than people.

If people had any guests, it was limited to one or two.

Community associations are now

THE SOCIALLIST
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Kris Aquino promises to help Anthony Taberna after his trusted person stole millions from business

Queen of All Media Kris Aquino has vowed to help broadcaster Anthony Taberna after she learned that one of his employees stole the earnings of his restaurants.

“Nag message na ko kay Sel... maaasahan nyo ang ninang nyo,” said Aquino on her comment.

Lately, Taberna and his family encountered challenges in life, including his daughter’s battle with leukemia.

“2020: 16 days ka na lang!!!

Pinakamabigat na dinaanan namin sa taong ito ay ang karamdaman ni Zoey. Habang pinapasan namin ito ay pumutok ang Bulkang Taal at dumating ang pandemya na humampas nang husto sa Ka Tunying’s at sa mga umaasa rito. Nakakatindig naman kahit paano dahil sumusuweldo pa ako noon sa ABS-CBN pero nadale naman nang hindi maaprubahan ang franchise sa Kongreso. Pero okay pa rin. Pagsubok lang yan. Ngiti pa rin. Nakatindig pa rin. Tapang-tapangan,



lakas-lakasan,” he started.

Taberna said that he was heartbroken when his trusted employee embezzled the company’s money.

“Nadiskubre namin na ang taong aking pinagtiwalaan, ako pala ay matagal nang pinagnanakawan!,” he shared. “Ang pera ng kumpanya, namadyik niya at naidirecho sa sarili niyang bank account. Hindi maliit na halaga, milyong piso na mula sa paghihirap ng mga empleyado ng Ka Tunying’s – tama po, habang nagtitiis sa hirap ng pagtatrabaho ang mga panadero, kusinero, serbidor at serbidora, driver, janitor at iba pa, siya naman pala ay nagpapakaligaya sa perang hindi naman sa kaniya.”

Anthony has vowed to face all these challenges that came his way.

“Naghahanap kami ngayon ng KATARUNGAN. Tulad ng unti-unting paggaling ni Zoey, tiwala rin kami na makakabawi at hindi babagsak ang



Anthony Taberna and wife Rossel Velasco

kumpanya. Oo nga at nahihirapan kaming lahat ngayon sa Ka Tunying’s pero hindi kami basta susuko. Malakas ang loob namin dahil may mga taong tumatangkilik at nagmamahal sa amin at sa Ka Tunying’s. Hindi ko tatalikuran ang maraming umaasa rito na mga empleyado at kanilang pamilya. Pagsasama-samahin namin ang lakas namin at ang pagtangkilik ng publiko taglay ang inspirasyon ni Zoey sa amin. Higit sa lahat, sasandal ang aming tiwala sa Panginoong Diyos at manghahawak sa pangako na hindi Niya tayo pababayaan,” he said.

For the first time, PH short film makes it to Sundance

I just tried my luck and filled out their online application form,” said filmmaker Sonny Calvento on how his 15-minuter “Excuse Me, Miss, Miss, Miss” got included in the Short Film Program of the 2021 Sundance Film Festival in Utah, United States.

Starring Phyllis Grae Grande and Angelina Canapi, the film is a social satire about the plight of contractual workers in the Philippines. It debuted in the 2019 QCinema International Film Festival (winner of the Audience Choice Award) and also competed in the 2020 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.

“What really gave me hope was the idea that Sundance requires a ‘premiere status’ in order to be considered in their short film program,” said Calvento when Inquirer Entertainment asked him to recall how his film got into the prestigious festival. “But at the same time, this was also why the competition to get into the festival is way more stiff.

You will be fighting it out with other short films that have bigger production value and also premiered in other reputable festivals.”



Phyllis Grae Grande (left) and Angelina Canapi

According to the Sundance digital archives, “Excuse Me, Miss, Miss, Miss” is the first Filipino short film to ever make it to the festival.

“When they first sent an email a month ago, I couldn’t open it because

I was having trouble with my internet connection. I could only read the subject headline that it’s an email from Sundance,” said Calvento, recalling the time he first learned of the good news.

I had to rush outside our house to look for a good LTE signal,” the director recalled.

Calvento pointed out that amid the pandemic, there’s one great reason for him to be happy. “This has brought a different kind of happiness for me. I’m also delighted because this recognition is a clear validation of my real voice as a filmmaker,” he declared.

Calvento said that while his plan as a film director was really “to delve into social realism,” he wanted to focus more on “the absurdities of Filipino living, for the meantime. I want to tackle funny but tragic moments in the lives of Filipinos.”

The 2020 Sundance Film Festival, which will run from Jan. 28 to Feb. 3, is organized by the Sundance Institute and is the largest indie filmfest in the United States.

Calvento said he expected to learn a lot from his experience. In fact, Sundance organizers already asked him to preview some of the short films from our program since he would be participating in one of their online forums this week.

“I’m excited to learn more about emerging filmmakers from other countries and how they tell their stories,” he added. “I am also interested to learn their impression on Philippine cinema. And also, I hope to meet people, especially producers and content developers, who would be interested to develop similar stories with me.”

Netizens ask: Did Jeric Gonzales get Sheryl Cruz pregnant?

Rumors are flying that actress Sheryl Cruz is pregnant and on-screen partner Jeric Gonzales is reportedly the father of the baby!



“Nabuntis ka daw niyan sabi sa article sa fb,” a netizen asked in the comment section of Cruz Instagram where the actress shared her photo with the hunk on Dec. 19. Cruz and Gonzales, 28, engaged in steamy love scenes in the afternoon series “Magkaagaw”

which began in October 2019. The popular series was halted in March due to the pandemic but shooting resumed in November. It will be shown in 2021.

Some fans defended Cruz saying that the pregnancy rumor is fake news.

Hours after Cruz once again sparked pregnancy speculation, the 46-year-old star uploaded a video that showed her playing the hoola hoops during break for the lock-in taping of her TV series “Magkaagaw,” in Clark, Pampanga.

“Caught some free time while on location in Clark, Pampanga,” read the video caption of Cruz.

Magkaagaw tells the story of a legal wife who eventually becomes the person she hated the most – a mistress.

Regine Tolentino mas nagkaroon ng panahon sa pamilya dahil sa lockdown

NINE months old na ang youngest daughter ng dancer-choreographer, actress-host, fashion designer, entrepreneur, fitness instructor at vlogger na si Regine Tolentino na si Rosie Rignee, her daughter sa kanyang present partner na si Dondi Narciso, isang director, photographer and businessman.

Kung si Regine ay may grown up daughters kanyang ex-husband, ang na si Lander Vera Perez na sina Reigne (22) Reigen (21), may tatlo namang anak na lalake si Dondi sa kanyang previous relationship. Ang mga ito ay sina Miguel, Gabriel at Joshua.

Regine’s two daughters with Lander are both very close sa kanilang stepdad na si Dondi.

Napag-alaman namin na matagal na umanong walang communication sina Reigne at Reigen sa kanilang ama at mag-isa silang iginapang ng kanilang ina maging sa kanilang pag-aaral.

Dahil sa pandemya, Regine is able to spend more time with her family laluna sa kanyang bunsong anak na si Rosie na siyang sentro ng joy ng pamilya.

Regine designs and operates her own Regine Tolentino Atelier gayundin ang kanyang sariling dance studio, ang RT Studio. Siya rin ang kauna-unahang Filipino VJ sa MTV Asia.

She’s glad that she has found a loving, understanding and supportive partner in Dondi.



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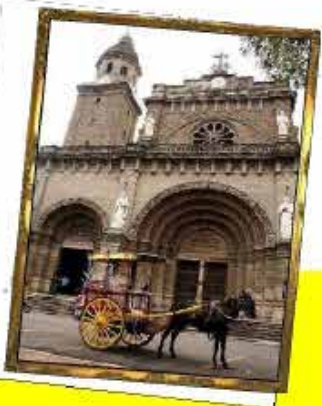


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Manila



ABS-CBN writer admonishes Toni Gonzaga for defending Russu Laurente

Defending an evicted "PBB" housemate who supported the closure of ABS-CBN, Toni Gonzaga received a mouthful from writer Jerry Gracio. A senior screenwriter of the defunct network, Jerry

wrote on Twitter: "Toni, libo ang Kapamilya natin na nawalan ng hanapbuhay. Ano ang karapatan mong mag-sorry sa ngalan ng isang housemate na pumabor sa pagsasara ng ABS-CBN?"

"Wag mong insultuhin ang mga Kapamilya na lumaban pero nawalan pa rin ng trabaho, di tulad mo na may trabaho pa rin ngayon." The post has since garnered 2,000 retweets and 20,000 likes.

Frankie Pangilinan gets rape threat after calls for justice for slain flight attendant



Singer Frankie Pangilinan revealed that she received a new rape threat after voicing out her support to find justice for reportedly slain flight attendant Christine Dacera.

Frankie said it's awful to receive rape threats when she talks about rape.

"There's something awful and stupid about how I only get rape threats when I talk about rape not being okay," Frankie wrote on Twitter.

The daughter of "Megastar" Sharon Cuneta and Sen. Francis Pangilinan recently said that rape exists because of rapists.

"It is never the clothes, never the drinks — never the victim, period. It is always, ALWAYS, the rapist's fault. How many more times do we have to hammer this home for it to stick in your thick skulls, please??!?!?" she said.

She also said that she chose respect over protection after #ProtectDrunkGirls trended on Twitter.

"Like it's fxxd up, I get it — girls have so much more to fear in intoxication. But it's so damn sad that we have to be 'protected,' because that implies this kind of danger is inevitable, when it's not. Teach your fking kids not to rape people, let us deal with the hangovers," she said.

Ogie Diaz on Nadine Lustre's squabble with Viva: 'Sana nagpaalam ng maayos'

Ogie Diaz obviously does not agree with the manner by which Nadine Lustre left Viva Artist Agency (VAA).

He has nothing against the 27-year-old actress-singer, but he maintained she should've have honored her contract with the company.

He said, "Ano pang silbi ng kontrata kung papairalin natin 'yung pag ayaw na ng talent eh aalis na?"

Naikwento rin ni Ogie ang "sakit" ng mga baguhang artista sa showbiz sa tuwing pipirma ng kontrata sa isang agency. Hindi na umano binabasa ng mga artista ang kanilang kontrata dahil sa excitement at tiwala. Dumarami raw ang reklamo ng isang artista kapag sumisikat na ito. Halimbawa nito ay ang 30% cut na nakasaad sa ibang mga kontrata, 'tulad na lamang ng build-up contract. Taliwas sa pagkakaalam ng ibang mga artista, sila ay ginagastusan ng management upang sumikat; kaya narapat lamang umano na maibalik din ang mga nagagastos at ini-invest na pera para



sa kanila. Mahalaga rin daw na may kasa-mang abogado at naintindihan

ng artista at mga magulang nito ang laman ng kontrata bago pumirma.

"Nadine, pag-isipan mo'ng mabuti. Kung ayaw mo na talaga, then pumunta ka do'n [sa Viva] at mag-settle kayo... I-buy out mo na lang ang contract mo [through amicable settlement] and start a new career."

Ogie reiterated, "Sana nagpaalam ng maayos si Nadine at pinakawalan din siya ng maayos ng Viva para walang samaan ng loob."

VAA filed a lawsuit against Lustre. Nadine's lawyer immediately reacted, declaring that they "welcome" VAA's "complaint" against their client, expressing confidence that the "truth will come out" about VAA being "predatory, oppressive and abusive not only of Nadine but its many other talents."



Sarah at Matteo gustong magpatayo ng sariling dream house

KASAMA sa future plans ng mag-asawang Sarah Geronimo at Matteo Guidicelli ang pagpapatayo ng sariling dream house. But for now, nagre-renta muna ang celebrity couple ng isang four-bedroom house in Makati where they moved from a condo (also in Makati) last October.



Although wala pang baby ang mag-asawa who will be celebrating their first wedding anniversary on February 20, 2021, nagi-enjoy ang dalawa sa kanilang buhay may-asawa. They will be celebrating their first Christmas together as a married couple.

Nasa plano rin nina Sarah at Matteo ang magkaroon ng wedding kung saan present pareho ang kanilang respective families and close friends. The couple had their secret intimate Christian wedding last February 20, 2020 sa Victory Church in Bonifacio Global City.

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Entertainment

Your girl **MIMIYUUH** is getting her own Netflix digital series



Our favorite challenge queen is getting that mainstream (virtual) airtime and we are absolutely here for it

During these difficult times, we love to be well-informed. But remember that self-care means taking breaks from the news and social media when you are getting overwhelmed. What should you do during those breaks? Thankfully, Mimi Yuuh has teamed up with Netflix Philippines to star in her own social media series: Eh Di Ikaw Na!

Both Netflix and Mimi content has provided us with a much-needed respite recently. A true original in the social

media landscape, Mimi first gained attention on YouTube after her Dalagang Pilipina challenge went viral. It only makes sense that her Netflix digital series goes back to those roots with fun challenges.

In the first episode, already available online, Mimi takes on the 'Wag Kang Bitter challenge. She tries her best not to react to the most kilig scenes from Netflix. If she does, she has to eat a spoonful of coffee.

Talk about an impossible challenge. Just thinking about some of the kilig scenes from K-dramas, classic shows, and original series streaming on Netflix has got us feeling all the feels. And watching Mimi react with all her chaotic good energy

is exactly what we need this 2020.

Challenges Mimi will take on in upcoming episodes of Eh Di Ikaw Na! include the Drink the Water challenge, where she quenches her thirst with some of Netflix's heart-throbs, and the Pambahay Awra challenge, where she recreates iconic looks from shows.

Move over Emily in Paris, we are going to be getting Mimi Yuuh in pambahay. A teaser photo Netflix shared suggests that we get to see (Lady) Mimi taking on what we can only guess is fashion from The Crown.

Eh Di Ikaw Na! is available to watch on Netflix Philippines' Facebook and YouTube account, with new episodes every Wednesday at 12 n.n.

Jinggoy a big surprise as actor - Sylvia

Sanchez was in the lock-in taping of a new show, "Huwag Kang Mangamba", when she joined the zoom presscon of her Metro-Manila Filmfest entry, "Coming Home". She plays Salve, the martyr wife of Jinggoy Estrada as Benny, an OFW who became unfaithful to her while working in Qatar. When he got sick, Jinggoy's mistress, Ariella Arida, returned him to Sylvia and their kids.

"I can relate with my role kasi nang-yari 'yan sa family namin," she says. "Seaman din ang tatay ko na nagkaroon ng ibang babae at hindi na bumalik sa amin. Nakita ko ang epekto nito sa family namin, lalo na sa nanay ko. May line ako sa movie na sinabi rin sa amin ng nanay ko: Gaano man kasama ang tatay nyo, wala kayong karapatang magalit sa kanya dahil tatay nyo pa rin siya."

Has she forgiven her dad? "Yes, 1992 pa, napatawad ko na siya. Hindi magandang magtanim ng galit sa loob, lalo na sa magulang mo. Dapat, matuto tayong magpatawad to heal the wounds."

What if it happens to her in real life and her husband, Art Atayde, becomes



unfaithful?

"Of course, masasaktan ako, magwawala ako sa umpisa. But eventually, patatawarin ko pa rin siya at tatanggapin ko, kasi mahal ko talaga 'yung husband ko."

How is it working with Jinggoy?

"Matagal na kaming magkakilala. Nung nag-uumpisa pa lang ako, very thick ang Visayan accent ko at lagi niya akong pinagtatawanan. Ang tawag niya sa akin, si Bisaya. Ang Sylvia ko noon, I pronounced it as Selvia. Buti ngayon, straight na ang dila ko. I'm thankful

to Jinggoy na kinuha niya ako for this movie na produced ng kanyang Maverick Films. I saw him then sa action movies niya, pero dito, hindi siya action star, hindi siya goons dito. Nagulat ako sa kanya. He showed here na kaya niyang magdrama. Kapag gifted ka talaga as an actor, lalabas 'yun with the right project at ang galing-galing niya rito."

She's currently nominated as best

actress for the movie "Jesusa" in the FAP Luna Awards. Some quarters now say she also has a good chance of winning an award in the filmfest for "Coming Home".

"I don't do a role expecting to win an award, madi-distract ka lang. But maganda talaga ang role ko

rito as Salve and I want to thank Direk Adolf Alix for giving me this role. Kung mananalalo ako, bonus na lang 'yon."



VP Leni Robredo praises Kathryn Bernardo, Daniel Padilla, fans

Popular love team Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla recently received a special shout out from Vice President Leni Robredo.

Not only that, she also praised the couple's fandom.

On Facebook, the government official posted a photo of her with boxes from KathNiel's Share The Love relief.

According to her, the boxes are intended for recent typhoon victims.

"Kathryn and Daniel have been quietly helping victims and now their fans are following their footsteps. This is the power of having good role models," she wrote.

Angeline Quinto claps back at netizen critical of her enhancements

Singer-actress Angeline Quinto didn't let it slide when a netizen left a malicious comment on a selfie she posted on social media recently.

"Nasobrahan yata pagawa," the comment read.

The 31-year-old star was quick to defend herself, pointing out there's nothing wrong with undergoing a knife as long as she hasn't hurt anyone.

"Kung ipagawa ko man buong katawan at pagkatao ko, hindi naman makakaapekto sa pamumuhay mo," she noted. "Much better kung buhay mo na lang ang unahin at pag kaabalahan mo. Loveyou babe ♥."



Arjo wants to marry Maine

Hindi naging madali sa fans na tanggapin ang relasyon ng magkasintahang Maine Mendoza at Arjo Atayde. Pero nangibabaw ang pagmamahalan ng dalawa over the bashings ng mga hindi pabor sa kanilang relasyon.

Unti-unti na ring tumahimik ang fans na hindi sang-ayon sa relasyon ng dalawa lalupa't napatunayan naman ng award-winning actor kung gaano niya kamahal si Maine.

Sa isang panayam namin noon kay Arjo, inamin nito na si Maine na umano ang gusto niyang makasama habambuhay.

Suportado naman ng kanilang respective families ang pag-iibigan ng dalawa.

Arjo turned 30 last November 5 habang si Maine naman ay 25 going 26 on March 3, 2021.



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Ivana Alawi is Tanduay's 2021 calendar girl



The social media star poses for the brand's 2021 calendar. Social media star Ivana Alawi was announced on Friday, November 20 as the new Tanduay Calendar Girl for 2021. Ivana posted some of the photos that will come out soon. The photos were taken by Mark Nicdao. "I am your Tanduay Calendar Girl 2021," she said. Mark also shared one of his favorite photos from the shoot. Ivana follows in the footsteps of other stars who've been Tanduay calendar girls - Erich Gonzales, Heart Evangelista, Bela Padilla, and Barbie Imperial, to name a few.

How Arra eases pandemic anxiety

ARRA San Agustin welcomes 2021 with open arms. "Magan-da ang naging pasok ng taon for me kasi nabigyan ako ng bagong show, 'Lolong', with Ruru Madrid and Shaira Diaz. "Action-drama ito so we had to do some training on how to do fight scenes and stunts to prepare for our roles in 'Lolong'." She's really happy to be back working before the cameras. "Na-miss ko talaga ang acting kasi nawala pati 'yung taping ng 'Bubble Gang'. Ako pa naman, may pagka-workaholic. I don't want to be just idle

at home. I feel useless kapag nakatengga lang ako sa bahay at walang trabaho." "Matagal din akong nabakante," she says. The lockdown forced her to have a prolonged rest period. "Noong umpisa ng lockdown, nagkaroon din ako ng anxiety. Ang dami kong naiisip. Ang last regular soap ko was 'Ma-drasta' pa in 2019." But after some meditation, she learned to leave it all up to the Lord. "I've always been spiritual and I embraced what happened as the Lord's way of saying for me to devote more

time to Him, and also for myself and for my family. I learned how to be more thankful for what I have. At ngayon, may bagong show, nag-enjoy ako sa lock in taping namin. It's really nice to be back to work." Since Arra is a trained ballet dancer and figure skater, she's hoping to someday be given a project that will require her to display her talent and skills in ballet and figure skating.



Joseph Marco details Russian 'love connection'

Remember the James Bond film "From Russia With Love?" No? Well, it doesn't matter really. We were just reminded of the film hearing Joseph Marco's tale about how he found love. Appearing as guest on "Mangandang Buhay," Joseph revealed details relating to his first meeting with his beautiful Russian girlfriend Darja Romanova. "Nagkakilala kami ni Dasha through a common friend and we started talking gamit ang Google Translate. Kasi hindi siya nagi-English. But now, she learned how to speak in English. But you know what, even without the (Google) translate, alam mo 'yung

feeling na may connection talaga kayo? You guys understand each other. So ganoon 'yung feeling. Parehas kami ng iniisip," he shared. Asked what he thinks made Darja fall for him, he shared: "Well sabi niya akin na nagustuhan niya raw ako dahil sa smile ko. Kasi mahilig siya sa BTS. Sabi ko Russian na mahilig sa BTS, K-pop, doon ko talaga nasabi na iba siya. Mayroon siyang isang gusto roon, si Suga na palaging nagi-smile, na-compare niya ako." At first, Joseph was not comfort-

RUSSIAN continued on page 19



TOP, Christopher Gavin celebrates his birthday last December. ABOVE, Model and singer Samantha poses with her brother Christopher.

Julia Barretto reunites with her father Dennis Padilla

They may not see each other often but on the latest post of the "PAKBOYS: Takusa" actor Dennis Padilla, the father and daughter were seen in a selfie and a promotional video with Julia. Dennis started the video saying: "Guys! may mag-iimbita sa inyo sa PAKBOYS, Eto siya oh." No other details were mentioned about their recent meeting, although in their past Instagram posts, Julia and Dennis typically spend time together during the holidays. Besides Julia, Dennis has two more children with his ex-wife Marjorie Barretto, they are Claudia and Leon.



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Jane de Leon ecstatic after being entrusted with Darna series on ABS-CBN:
“I feel blessed to be a Kapamilya.”

Aminado si Jane de Leon na tila “rollercoaster” ang emosyong naramdaman niya dahil sa atras-abanteng estado ng proyektong pagbibidahan niya bilang Darna.

Pero nangibabaw raw ang saya sa puso ni Jane na maramdaman ang tiwala at pagmamahal sa kanya bilang Kapamilya ng ABS-CBN managment. Last December 4, kinumpirma ni ABS-CBN chief operating officer Cory Vidanes na sa 2021 ipalalabas ang Darna na pagbibidahan ni Jane. Ani Cory, “Tuloy na tuloy po po ang paglipad ng Darna, at ang gaganap bilang Darna ay walang iba kundi si Ms. Jane de Leon.” Kasabay ito ng pag-renew ni Jane ng kontrata bilang talent ng Star Magic, ang talent management arm ng ABS-CBN.

“I’m really, really happy na maki-ta kayo lahat. I feel so blessed to be a Kapamilya,” bahagi ng mensahe ni Jane sa top executives ng network. “And grabe yung pasasalamat ko talaga sa mga boss. Until now, andun yung tiwala nila sa akin na ibigay nila sa akin yung bato.” Hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa rin daw makapaniwala si Jane na hindi siya sinukuan ng ABS-CBN sa kabila ng mga aberya sa Darna. November 26, 2020, inulat ng isang ABS-CBN insider na tuloy pa rin ang paglipad ni Jane bilang Darna, pero sa halip na pelikula ay para sa isang serye. JANE THANKS ABS-CBN FOR ENTRUSTING THE ROLE TO HER Sa parte ni Jane, sumagi raw sa isip niya noong una pa lang ibinigay ang proyekto sa kanya na hindi niya ipipilit kung hindi niya tadhana ang maging Darna.

“Akala ko postponed, hindi na matutuloy. Ayoko talaga mag-expect. “Yun ang pinaka-prinomise ko kay Lord na ayoko mag-expect ng kahit ano because alam ko naman na may darating na blessings. “And then, yun ang sinabi ko dati habang nag-audition ako sa mga boss. “Sinabi ko sa kanila na, ‘If hindi po talaga para sa akin ito, naiintindihan ko na baka para talaga sa ibang tao or para sa ibang nararapat na artista. Pero kung ibibigay niyo po sa akin ito at pagkakati-walaan niyo po ako, nagpapasalamat po talaga ako.”

MESSAGE TO HER CRITICS Hindi rin daw kaila kay Jane na may ibang tao na hindi boto sa kanya bilang Darna. Ano ang kanyang pakiramdam sa mga batikos na natatanggap niya? Sagot ni Jane, “I think it’s very normal

to feel down if it’s a negative comment. Kailangan lang talaga matututo ako kung paano mag-manage nun because it’s really normal sa showbiz. May apela rin siya sa ga solid Kapamilya viewers. Sabi ni Jane, “Sana subaybayan niyo po lahat ng mga proyekto na labas sa ABS-CBN. Hindi po kami maggi-give up especially yung mga bosses.” Sa ngayon ay magbabalik daw ulit si Jane sa training para sa kanyang action scenes sa Darna, dahil pansamantala raw siyang tumigil noon.



Aiko Melendez walks out of Ogie Diaz’s interview

It all started quite happily with the two long-time friends seemingly enjoying some catching up. It didn’t take long, however, for the whole thing to turn nasty, with Aiko admonishing Ogie for asking probing questions, noting how these were a tad too embarrassing not only for her but also for her co-guest, boyfriend Jay Khonghun. She told Ogie, “Mother, bakit mo kinakargahan si Jay? Nakaka-

hiya dito sa YouTube channel mo. Napapahiya ‘yung tao. Napapahiya din ako. Kaibigan mo ako, dapat pinoprotektahan mo ako dito. Ano ba naman ‘to Mother? Vlog mo ‘to. Dapat protektahan mo ako. Nakakahiya. Maghihiwalay kami nu’ng tao sa vlog mo!” After her rant, Aiko then stood up, leaving Ogie looking somewhat shocked and speechless. Awkward!

This lingered for a moment until Aiko returned to reveal it was all just a prank. Darn. And here we were actually waiting for them to spill drinks on each or something. Not.



Genelie Panaligan (2ND FROM LEFT) is joined by his daughters and son on her birthday.

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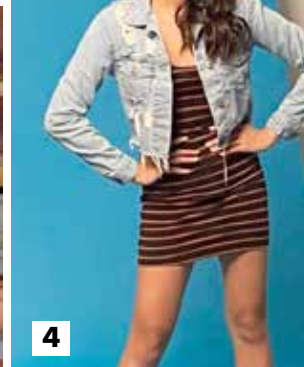
Alexandra Abdon apologizes to Willie Revillame

Beauty queen Alexandra Abdon has made peace with TV host Willie Revillame. Willie called her out recently for not showing up in his show as scheduled.

In a recent episode of the show, Alexandra personally said sorry to Willie.

She said, "Mag-a-apologize ako for not showing up, personally, live dito, maririnig niyong lahat. Kuya Wil, sorry."

The Miss Universe Philippines 2020 candidate from Manila explained that she had a commitment prior in Tagaytay and that she failed to return in time for the show.



1. Ampee Panaligan celebrates her birthday with fiancée Joseph Mendoza. 2. Noemi Cabrera joins Melissa on her birthday; 3. Parents Ricky and Flora join pose with daughter Melissa on her birthday; 4. Arielle Perez had a photo session with photographer Neil Garcia for her singles album.



Direk John pumalit kay Direk Johnny

MARAMI ang pinahanga ng actor-director at entrepreneur na si John Prats dahil sa kanya ipinagkatiwala ng ABS-CBN management ang pagdidirek ng star-studded and non-stop 2020 Christmas special ng network.

Nasanay na kasi ang mga manonood na lahat ng major TV events and specials ng ABS-CBN ay ang veteran director na si Johnny Manahan ang nagdidirek nito. But he decided to move to Albie Benitez's Sunday noontime show na "Sunday Noontime Live" kung saan



magkakasama sina Piolo Pascual, Maja Salvador, Catriona Gray at Jake Ejercito as hosts.

Sa rami ng stars and talents ng ABS-CBN, hindi napansin ang pagkawala ng ilang (dating) mga Kapamilya sa most recent Christmas special ng Kapamilya channel tulad nina Piolo, Maja, Alex Gonzaga, Dimples Romana, Beauty Gonzales, Sue Ramirez, Donny Pangilinan, Wacky Kiray at iba pa na napapanood na ngayon sa mga programang produced ng Brightlight



5. Katelyn Mohan celebrates her 16th birthday; 6. Katelyn receives a mini projector on her 16th birthday;

Ogie Diaz shares how Liza Soberano helped save his daughter's life

Ogie Diaz has a lot to be thankful for his ward Liza Soberano.

But one thing that stuck most is how she helped him financially following his daughter's birth several years back.

Ogie reminded Liza of this in his birthday message for her.

Liza celebrated her 23rd birthday Monday, Jan. 4.

Diaz wrote: "Nu'ng February 9, 2017 ipinanganak ni Mommy Sow! si Meerah Khel.

"Halos 30k a day ang gastos ko kay Meerah sa NICU para madugtungan lang ang kanyang buhay.

"Apat na buwang nakatira sa ospital ang anak ko at lagi, ang kailangan – pera.

"Gano'n nga yata talaga pag naoospital ka, di pwedeng wala kang pera or else sa case ni Meerah, baka wala na ang anak ko or bulag na siya or me problema sa kanyang immune system.

"Ang bait talaga ni Lord. Never Niya akong zinero balance sa banko. Pag paubos na, may dumarating.

"Handa na akong ibenta isa-isa ang mga naipundar kong properties, mabuhay lang ang anak ko."

"Pero hindi nga nangyari yon. Kasi, sa tuwing magbabayad ako sa ospital linggo-linggo ng daan-daang libo, nagkakataon namang me endorsements na pumapasok kay Liza. At doon ako sa komisyon humuhugot lagi ng pambayad ng ospital."



THE SOCIALIST continued from page 4

migrating their presentations online. This

coming Valentines, Peyton Garcia is having a virtual concert.

May 2021 bring us back to normalcy.

Productions ni Albie Benitez na napapanood naman sa TV5.

Naniniwala ang maraming (natirang) mga Kapamilya stars and talents na sisikat din ang liwanag sa kabila ng maraming pinagdaanan ng TV network sa taong kasalukuyan.

Meanwhile, kudos to Direk John Prats for a job well done.

Aga nag-enjoy sa 'The Masked Singer'

MAGTATAPOS na sa darating na Sabado, December 26, 2020 at 7 p.m. ang unang season ng "Masked Singer Pilipinas" na jointly produced ng Viva and Cignal TV for TV5. The local musical franchise is hosted by singer-actor-TV host Billy Crawford kasama ang celebrity judges na sina Aga Muhlach, Cristine Reyes, Matteo Guidicelli at Kim Molina.

Tatlong mga kilalang professional singers-participants ang natitira na maglalaban-laban for the grand prize this Saturday evening na kahit ang host at mga judges ay walang clue kung sinu-sino ang mga ito.

Although magtatapos pa lamang ang 1st season ng "Masked Singer Pilipinas," looking forward na sina Aga at mga

kasama sa second season ng programa next year dahil sobra umano silang nag-enjoy at na-excite sa program na may local franchises (na nag-originate in South Korea) in over 40 countries throughout the world including USA, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, Arab World, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Czech Republic (Slovakia), Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Russia, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam at iba pa.

Bukod sa nag-enjoy sina Billy and the four celebrity judges sa "Masked Singer Pilipinas," nakapag-bonding din ang lima. Inamin din ni Aga na sobra umano siyang napahanga ng kanyang mga kasama sa programa dahil sa ipinakita nilang enthusiasm and professionalism

during the entire run ng programa.

Hindi naman ikinakaila ni Kim Molina na sobra umano siyang na-startstruck kay Aga na dati-rati'y pinanonood lamang niya sa TV when she was in Saudi Arabia.

Samantala, sa ikawalang season ng "Masked Singer Pilipinas," gusto ni Aga na sana'y may ibang celebrities from various sectors tulad ng business, sports, politics and actors ang sumali para may variety.



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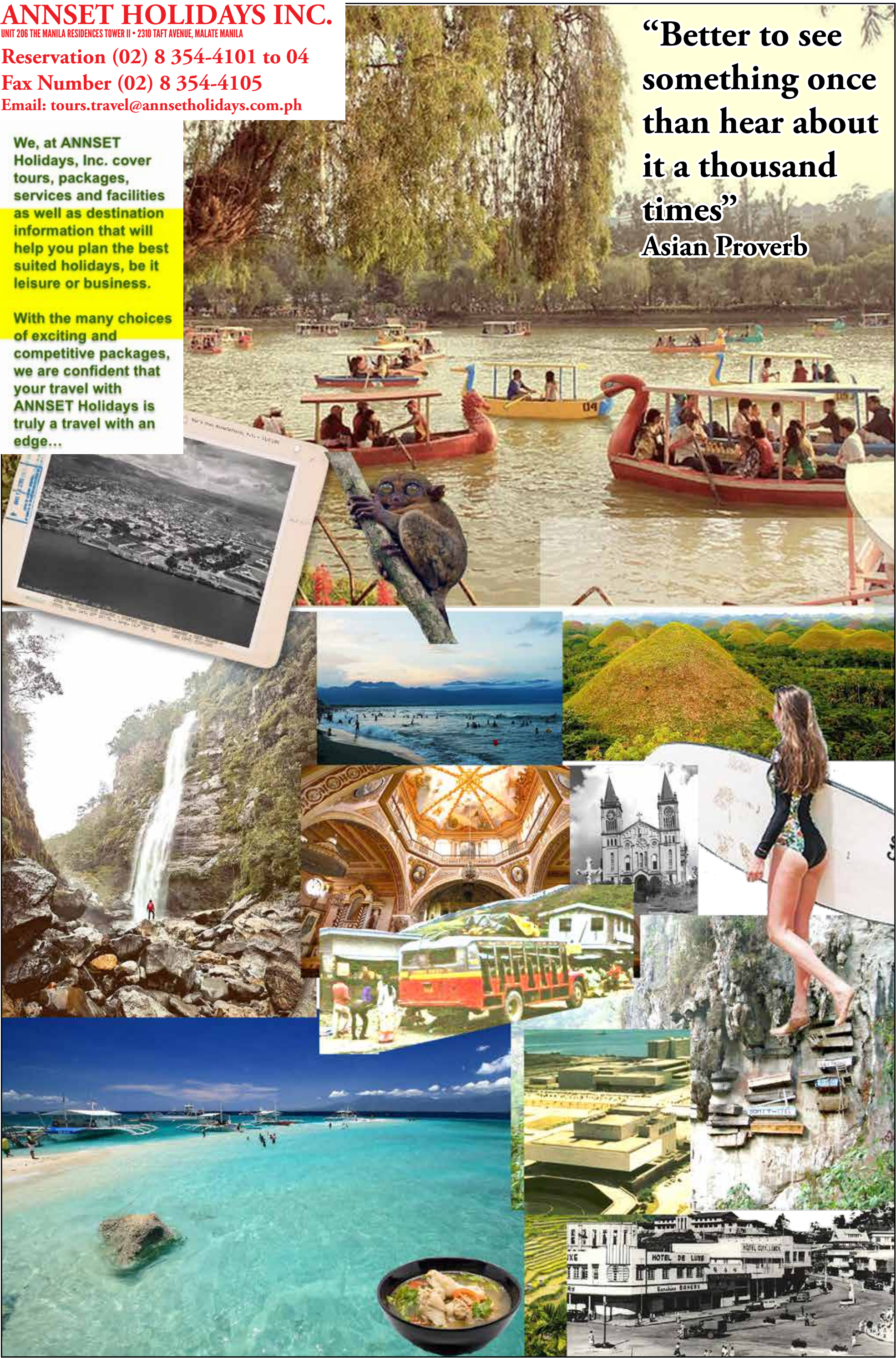
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Want Happiness? Don't Buy Stuff,
Go on Vacation

That raises a crucial question: If we want to maximize the happiness or satisfaction we get from our money, how should we spend it?

Research has shown that experiences bring people more happiness than do possessions. The idea that experiential purchases are more satisfying than material purchases has long been the domain of Cornell psychology professor Thomas Gilovich.

Even when the vacation is not perfect, they do not view it negatively.

When it rains through a beach vacation, "People will say, well, you know, we stayed in and we played board games and it was a great family bonding experience or something." Even if it was negative in the moment, it becomes positive after the fact. That's a lot harder to do with material purchases because they're right there in front of you. "When my Macbook has the colorful pinwheel show up," he said, "I can't say, well, at least my computer is malfunctioning!"

"At least my computer and I get to spend more time together because it's working so slowly."

"Yes, exactly."
"Turns out people don't like hearing about other people's possessions very much, but they do like hearing about that time you saw Vampire Weekend."

I can't imagine ever wanting to hear about someone seeing Vampire Weekend, but I get the point. Reasonable people are just more likely to talk about their experiential purchases than their material purchases. ("What did you do this weekend?" "Well! I'm so glad you asked ...")

Dimples Romana's daughter
Callie starts business

Dimples Romana is proud to report she is now a mother to a budding entrepreneur.

Her daughter Callie, 17, is launching her online business Cal the Brand soon.

Callie said she envisions the brand to be an online showcase of bags made by artisans using native materials.

She said, "I've been working on this project maybe a little over a year now, and I'm actually launching very soon."

"I'll be mainly doing it online for now. I want to use it as a platform to promote the products of local artisans."

"So, for example, my first collection is a few rattan bags that are handmade in a province."

According to Callie, starting her own business while she's still in her teens has been her goal for some time.

She elaborated, "I've been really wanting to start something on my own as early as now so that, at least when I'm older, there's a chance for it to get bigger and, hopefully, reach a lot more people."

Callie wants to do collaborations as well, expand the brand's catalogue from bags to accessories, and hopes the brand will appeal to young people.

DIMPLES ROMANA: DAUGHTER'S
BIGGEST SUPPORTER

Impressed by her daughter's endeavor, Dimples said, "When I found out she wanted to come out with Cal the Brand, I was so excited."

"Plus, she wanted to push for local artisans nga from the Philippines. I think Albay is the first one. I like that because, especially during this time, we want to be able to help one another, especially the communities, the artisans from different provinces natin sa Pilipinas."

"Lalung-lalo ngayon na I'm sure a lot of industries are suffering from COVID, from not being able to create more, to produce more products."

"I'm just happy that Callie, being very

young at 17, really thought about being mindful about the communities and the resources that we have now."

Did Dimples assist Callie in putting up her business?

She answered, "I want to take credit, but no. Even her money was her own money from the other endorsements that she's been doing lately."

"All this is actually her. I think that's why she also takes pride in saying it's



Dimples Romana is "happy" to see her 16-year-old daughter Callie "using her strengths" to put together an online business that helps local artisans promote their products.

Cal the Brand, not Cal and Mom the Brand.

"I'm just happy that she's taking it into her own pace, using her strengths, and you know, being mindful kasi iyon naman iyong pinaka highlight para sa akin."

"Cal the Brand is very conscious on how we can help out."

Although Dimples is going all out in her moral support for Callie, she is not one to interfere with her daughter's decisions.

The actress said, "You know, as parents naman, at least for me, I let her be. Like I'm sure everyone knows

naman that I let Callie pick the path."

"Usually, di ba, when you're an artista, your children get asked if they want to be artistas as well. And for Callie's case, she wasn't keen to doing that."

"At least in the first 17 years of her life, she didn't feel like she wanted to be in this business. I was just really letting her be."

"In fact, she's about to go to Australia to be in college next year to study aviation. Mas ganoon siya."

"That makes me very, very happy that she wants to push this online kasi at least she will be able to do it pa rin while she's in Australia next year."



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Maine Mendoza inspires
ARJO ATAYDE
to go on after suffering 'massive damage' from showbiz

Kapamilya actor Arjo Atayde almost quit showbiz because of the “massive damage” it has done not only to him but also to “a lot of people.”

“You know what, I’m out. I don’t like it anymore. I don’t want to do showbiz because of this damage they’ve done,’ not only to me, but to a lot of people... I was just so affected that I wanted to quit,” he said. His mom, veteran actress Sylvia Sanchez, confirmed this.

“Sinabi mo sa akin, ‘Ma, stop na ako sa pag-arte, ayoko na, pagod na ako.’ Ang dami mong pangamba sa sarili mo, ang dami mong questions, ‘nak, na alam mo ‘yun, hindi ko rin masagot. Sabi mo magpo-produce ka na lang, ayaw mo kitang sabihan noon anak na, ‘Huwag kang mag-quit ng pag-arte, anak, kasi ito ‘yung mundo mo.’ Pero buhay mo ‘yan eh, desisyon mo ‘yan. Hindi kita puwedeng pakialaman.”

But everything changed when Arjo won the Best Actor award at the recent Asian Academy Creative Awards, making him the first Filipino to achieve the feat.

Sylvia said she’s proud of her son for winning the award and that the honor is proof that Arjo deserves to stay in showbiz.

“Sa lahat ng mga tanong mo, pagdadalawang isip at pangamba, ito ang eksaktong sagot anak!! Ito ang mundo mo. Dito ka nararapat!!!” Sylvia said.

“Super super Proud of you Juan Carlos Campo Atayde!!!” she added.

The veteran actress vowed that the whole family will support Arjo.

“Walang kasing sarap ang naging kapalit ng lahat ng hirap, kabiguan at pasakit sayo. Abutin mo ang lahat ng gusto mo at dito lng ako mga kapatid mo at daddy mo na aagapay sayo kasama ng mga asal ng buong pamilya at ng mga taong may tiwala, nagtiwala



la at nagmamahal syo, at salamat sa lahat ng mga nagmahal at nagtiwala sayo,” she said.

“Salamat sa pagiging Pag asa, Ligaya at Liwanag naming lahat. Kaka proud ka!!! A well-earned merit for a gifted performer. You really deserve it nak. Embrace it. Own it. Take care of it and Use it but don’t forget to stay humble and always keep your feet on the ground.”

Arjo dedicated his achievement to his girlfriend Maine Mendoza, saying that she is among his inspirations to move forward.

“I’m very happy and blessed. She knows naman what I have to say. I’ve just dedicated this for her. She’s an inspiration to me, she’s my cohort and I’m happy,” Arjo said.

Instead of quitting, he now even looks forward to working with Maine.

“Anything, just something different,” he said when asked what his dream project with Maine is.

“Kabiti ano po, basta makatrabaho ko siya and something that we would both enjoy and present something new.”



Fil-Canadian is the new voice of Bugs Bunny

Eric Bauza started doing voice imitations by replicating his parents’ Filipino accents. CBC Filipino Canadian Eric Bauza, 41, will be the voice of the iconic Looney Tunes character Bugs Bunny, who turned 80 this year.

Since being featured on CBC’s The National, he’s been inundated with interview requests and even got some shout-outs from celebrities, leaving him exhilarated and a bit bewildered, according to the Toronto Star.

“Ken Jeong just tweeted at me,” he told the Star from his home in Los Angeles. “This is getting out of control.”

Bauza can effortlessly shift in and out of character. His repertoire includes Daffy Duck, Tweety Bird and Marvin the Martian.

The voice imitations started at home when Eric would mimic the accents of his Filipino parents – Elvira, a property assessment clerk, and Eddie, a correctional officer.

Bauza grew up in the Scarborough area of metropolitan Toronto. At Cardinal Newman Catholic High School in the 1990s, he delivered the morning announcements in the voice of Homer Simpson and produced video sketches for school assemblies invoking Ace Ventura and Austin Powers, according to the Star.

He pursued radio, television and film at Centennial College. He had an internship at an animation studio in Los Angeles, where he worked as a production assistant and voiced some side characters. He got his name out by distributing a rudimentary demo reel on audio cassette.

In the mid-2000s, he got his first big role after meeting Jorge Gutierrez, who was developing a pilot for Nickelodeon called El Tigre: The Adventures of Manny Rivera.

Gutierrez says he had auditioned hundreds of people to play Rodolfo Rivera, the overprotective superhero father of the title character, but couldn’t find the person with the right voice – a blend of Ricardo Montalban and Scarface but with a Mexican accent.

Bauza took up the challenge. Gutierrez says he told Nickelodeon executives: “We found a Canadian-Filipino guy who can do a better Mexican accent than any Mexican I’ve ever auditioned.” The studio agreed to bring him on and get him a U.S. work visa.

COCKS
continued from page 1

tweet, “Set your alam cocks!!! 9:30 pm bukas!! Stay-in Love ♥♥”

Binura kaagad ito ni Maris.

Pero may mga netizens na

na-screen-shot agad ang post ni Maris at saka ni-retweet ito.

Kasunod nito, nag-apologize naman agad ang aktres.



Aniya, “Typo yun. sorry omg. (crying face emoji)”

Natatawa naman ang ilang netizens sa typo error ni Maris.

Narito ang ilan sa kanilang mga reaksiyon:

STAY-IN LOVE

Ang Stay-in Love ay ang bagong kilig-serye ng TV5 mula sa CS Studios at Cignal.

Ayon sa website ng TV5 ukol sa istorya ng palabas: “Hindi ito typical katulong vs. amo drama.

“Maaaliw kayo sa kwento ng mga magkapitbahay at kasambahay na, taga-utos man o tagasilbi, sosyal o promdi, Englisher o may punto, pare-parehong ‘pag na-in-love, makalat!”

Makakasama ni Maris dito sina Kokoy de Santos, Ruffa Gutierrez, Pooh, at Bobby Andrews. Kasama rin dito ang baguhang aktor na si Marc David.

Sa kanyang Instagram, ibinahagi ni Maris ang official poster ng palabas noong nakaraang November 8.

Sabi niya sa caption, “We’re down to our last shooting day of the first cycle and seeing this poster now, slowly, nagssink in na lahat. Dati pinapangarap ko lang ‘to. Salamat Lord!”

“Sana po supportahan niyo ang series na ito! Excited na si Diding maglinis ng mga kalat sa bahay at buhay.

Jake susunod sa yapak ni Erap

MARAMI ang nagsasabi na ang 30-year-old actor-TV host na si Jake Ejercito ang isa sa mg anak ng dating Pangulo at mayor ng Maynila na si Joseph `Erap’ Estrada na may posibilidad na pumasok sa pulitika balang araw ngayong retired na ang kanyang ama.

Si Jake ay nagtapos ng Political Science sa Mary Queen University in London and took his master’s degree in Marketing sa Northumbria University in Singapore with honors.

At first, Jake was considered a reluctant actor dahil mas binigyan nito ng priority ang kanyang studies hanggang ito’y nakapagtapos ng kanyang master’s in June 2018.

Turning 31 on March 27, 2021, mas ini-enjoy ngayon ni Jake ang pagiging ama sa kanyang 9-year-old

daughter sa ex-girlfriend na si Andi Eigenmann na si Ellie (Adrianna Gabrielle Eigenmann) at pagiging one of the hosts ng Sunday musical show na “Sunday Noontime Live” na napapanood sa TV5 every Sunday lunch.



Jake Ejercito and daughter Ellie

Unlike other young dads (Jake became a father at age 21), Jake is definitely a good father and provider kay Ellie who is co-parenting his daughter with Andi. Ito’y bihirang makita sa ibang guys who sired their children out of wedlock.

Gusto ni Jake na maging hands-on father kay Ellie laluna ngayon na tapos na siya sa kanyang pag-aaral sa ibang bansa. Katunayan, hindi priority sa ngayon ng actor-host ang pagkakaroon ng lovelife dahil mas naka-focus ang kanyang attention sa kanyang anak na in a couple of years ay isa nang ganap na teenager maging sa kanyang bagong career bilang actor at TV host.

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New Beginnings

‘Mind your own business’ Angelica Panganiban on being asked about marriage

Angelica Panganiban hates it whenever people would ask her about marriage. She discussed this in an episode of her online talk show relating how her family often ask her about it.

“Si- na sa Si yempre lalo pamilya ‘di ba. Mama ”yung, ‘Sana magkaa- no ka na ‘no? Magka-boy- friend ka na, ‘tapos ‘pag ano, siya na talaga iyon,’ ‘Yung mga ganu’n?” she shared.

It is annoy- she said. “Kasi parang Bakit? Bakit niyo gusto ang isang tao magkaroon ng partner eh nakikita mo naman na buong-buo siya by herself. Talaga ba? Kailangan ba talaga ng lalake o ng babae sa buhay mo para lang masabing kumpleto ka?,” she related. “Eh ‘di ba nga dapat buo ka bago ka makipagrelasyon sa iba, dahil kung hindi, hindi rin naman kayo magiging masaya.”

She firmly believes it’s something that’s personal.

Angelica reminded those who keep asking about it to simply “mind your own business.”

“Batuhin mo ‘yung mga taong nagtat- anong ng ganyan. Sabihin niyo, ‘Kayo, kelan kayo gaganda?’”

Did Mimiyyuuuh throw shade at ‘PBB?’

It seems that YouTube sensation Mim- iyyuuuh is not a huge fan of “Pinoy Big Brother (PBB).”

We might be wrong but based on a recent vlog, “My dog controls my life for a day,” Mimiyyuuuh doesn’t like it that the show seems to favor good-looking contestants, even going on to comment how it just repeats itself.

“Bwiset yung iba nga walang ginaga-

wa. Pogi lang at maganda, hindi pa manom- i- nate-nominate. ‘Di pa matanggal-tang- gal sa bahay ni Kuya. Wala namang mga talent. Puro ganda, puro pogi lang mga ki- nukuha ni Kuya. ‘Tas kapag panget ka kailangan funny ka. Kailangan masipag ka, kailangan mabait ka,” Mimiyuuuh said.

The comedic vlogger highlighted the “biased treatment” by calling the attention of the show, saying: “Woohh! The inequality up in here in this house, PBB!”

Just recently, the show’s newest edition, “PBB: Connect,” took a great leap forward auditioning wannabe stars online.

Hosted by Toni Gonzaga, Bianca Gon- zalez, and Robi Domingo, it premiered last Sunday, Dec. 6.

Mimiyuuuh’s vlog has already garnered over 338,000 views on YouTube as of this writing.

Ariella enjoys unplanned career

ARIELLA Arida won the Bb. Pilipinas Universe title in 2013 and represent- ed our country in the Miss Universe pageant held that year in Moscow. She placed third runner up, the only Asian to make it among the top finalists. She has now made her first movie, “Coming Home”, where she plays an OFW in Qatar who becomes the other woman of



Jinggoy Estrada, whose legal wife, Sylvia Sanchez, is in Manila with their children. In the movie’s zoom presscon, Ariella says her joining the movies wasn’t planned. “It’s my manager, Arnold Vegafria, na nagsali sa akin sa project,” she adds. “Sa bagay, kahit ‘yung pagig-

ing beauty queen ko, hindi rin planned, nangyari na lang. Things just happen kung talagang para sa iyo. But being a beauty titlist helped in opening a lot of opportunities for me. Una ‘yung hosting and now, acting.”

She was born in Alaminos, Laguna and got her name from her dad (Ariel, who passed last year) and her mom (Estrella). She was already a graduate of UP Los Banos, majoring in chemistry when she joined her first beauty pageants, Miss Laguna and Miss Philippines Earth. But it was in Bb. Pilipinas Universe that she got her title.

After her reign, she joined ABS-CBN and became a host in “Um- agang Kay Ganda”. She also did two soaps, “Playhouse” with Angelica Pangan- iban and “Killer Bride” with Maja Salvador. So how is it working with Jinggoy and Sylvia in “Coming Home”?

“They’re both very nice,” she says. “They know na first movie ko lang ito, so they helped me a lot. Sobrang bait nila, inalalayan ako, so I was not intimidat- Excited nga ako doing pero kinakabahan din nga first movie ko, dati puro TV lang, so bagong vironment ito for me.”

She was also daunted by her role. “Kasi siyem- pre, baguhan lang ako, tapos mistress pa ang role Kaya ko ba? Nagta- nong-tanong ako how to play a mistress. Our director, Adolf Alix, also helped me interpret my role. Nag-enjoy ako sa shooting, I learned a lot at ang sarap pala nitong gawin. Now, I pray that sana, I’d be given more good projects in the future.”



AC Bonifacio reportedly the first Filipino to appear in ‘Riverdale’

MANILA, Philippines – Kapamilya dancer AC Bonifacio will appear on the 5th season of popular US TV show “River- dale.”

In her Instagram account, AC TV shared a video of the US show featuring her in dance battle with the series’ main character, Cheryl Blossom, played by Ameri- actress Madelaine Petsch.

The new season of “Riverdale” is set to premiere in the US this January 20.

This is reportedly the first time that a Filipino talent will be appearing in the US series. In 2010, Charice Pempengco appeared on the musical drama “Glee” as Sunshine Corazon.

AC was last featured in “The Ellen DeGe- neres Show” last 2013. AC made headlines last year for her dance covers of Blackpink songs, which the K-pop group recognized.

In 2018, “Riverdale” trended in the Philippines after its lead stars, KJ Apa and Cole Sprouse, were “investigated” in a pro- motional video on how Filipino they are.

RUSSIAN continued from page 13

able with their long-distance relationship, but now he realized it is what makes it special.

“At this age, parang important sa iyo na: hindi lang sa magkita kayo but to maintain whatever it is kahit pa gaano

kalayo ang distance. So we talk every day, we update each other. And ‘yun din ang na-realize ko, na I think healthy din for couples na may space, may space ng konti.”

Marco, 32, made his relationship with Romanova known to the masses last August via a heartfelt post on Instagram.

Joseph feels blessed as he has not just one but two filmfest entries in the ongoing Metro Manila Filmfest: Regal Entertain- ment’s horror offering, “The Missing” and Heaven’s Best Entertainment’s dramatic thunderbolt, “Isa Pang Bahaghari”.

Joseph is also part of an HBO Malaysia crime-drama TV series called “The Bridge”.



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Charlie Dizon wins Best Actress

against veteran actresses

Charlie Dizon couldn't believe that she won Best Actress of the virtual 2020 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) for Fan Girl which won a lion's share of the awards.

It was a big upset, Charlie pitted against some of the industry's acting (multi-awarded) giants such as Nora Aunor (Isa Pang Bahaghari), Sylvia Sanchez (Coming Home) and Iza Calzado (Tagpuan), the biggest surprise of the yearend. Fan Girl is the story of an obsessed teenage girl (Charlie as Jane) who spends a memorable night with her idol (Paulo). Of course, there's nothing wrong with teenagers admiring their idols but not to the point of obsession. Although a fan herself like Jane, Charlie (real full name: April Rose Dizon Matienzo) said that she is not the "obsessive" type.

"Reserved na fan," she qualified. "Mahiyain talaga ako in real life. I am shy. During the shoot, direk told me not to judge my character, to forget my real self and think that I am Jane." Yes, in real life, she's a "silent" fan of Paulo Avelino. During the audition, direk pointed to the door and told me, 'Hayun si Paulo!' at doon nawala ang poise ko. Napatili ako! Hahaha!!! That's when direk was convinced that I was really Paulo's fan." Actually, Paulo was not around during Charlie's audition.



"I was asked to act in a scene where Paulo and I were drinking. There was a stand-in for Paulo. Honestly, when I got to the audition, I felt strange. The other auditionees were very young, mga 15-16-17 ang edad and, I wondered, 'What am I doing here?' But you know, I desperately wanted to have a job, so..." How did she feel during her kissing scene with Paulo? "I was conscious and a bit nervous because when it was shot, I wasn't close to Pau yet," she laughed. Good thing her boyfriend didn't get mad at her? "I don't have a boyfriend!" She's an avid fan of K-pop. She actually auditioned and went to Korea to train for a K-pop group until an issue about her visa cropped up. Two of her fellow trainees joined other groups and Charlie came home empty-handed, broken-hearted.

I desperately wanted to have a job, so..."

"Pinagdasal ko 'yon kay St. Jude (Thaddeus, Patron of the Hopeless). At that time, walang nagpapa-audition dito na Koreans so I went to Seoul. But I guess it wasn't meant for me, although grabe ang dasal ko, pinag-novena ko... nine times a day for nine days. Natupad lahat including what month I would be called to Korea. Noong binawi, I got depressed. I didn't go out of the house for several days. I didn't want to show myself to people. I stopped schooling (Ateneo) and went to Korea pero nothing happened." She continues to pray to St. Jude. It turned out that bigger things were in store for her. In 2018, she joined Star Magic and was given the boy name Charlie by Charo Santos-Concio. She's in the cast of Four Sisters Before the Wedding, a prequel to Four Sisters and a Wedding (now streaming in Kapamilya platforms). Any expectations now that she's on the brink of stardom? "None," said Charlie. I guess she will have to make another novena to St. Jude.

Alden winnings to cancer patient

ALTHOUGH isa si sa mga host ng longest-running noontime show na "Eat Bulaga" nagsilbi siyang contestant sa popular segment ng programa, ang "Bawal Judgmental" on his 29th birthday celebration sa nasabing pro-

gram. Five thousand pesos lamang ang nabawas sa kanyang P50,000 na panalo



na personal niyang idu-donate sa isang fan na may sakit na kanser. Ang kanyang P45,000 win ay tinumbasan ni Maine Mendoza ng katapat na amount para makatulong. Since may pandemya at sarado na ang Concha's Garden Café ni

Alden sa may Scout Madrinan in Quezon City, isang simpleng get-together with his family ang naganap sa kanyang kaarawan. Pero ang nakakatuwa, hindi nakalimot ang fans ng actor-host at celebrity endorser ng pagpapadala sa kanya ng mga birthday cakes at iba't ibang regalo.

John Lloyd magbabalik-TV na

MUKHANG tuloy na ang pagbabalik-showbiz ng actor na si John Lloyd Cruz sa pamamagitan ng isang bagong sitcom sa TV5 produced by Brightlight Productions ni Albee Benitez. Matagal-tagal na ring nagkausap sina Albee at Lloydie at doon pa lamang ay marami na ang nag-speculate na may proyektong niluluto ang dalawa. Ito'y nakatakang idirek ni Edgar 'Bobot' Mortiz na siya ring director ng huling TV sitcom ng comebacking actor, ang "Home Sweetie Home" na pinagtambalan nila ni Toni Gonzaga. Ang nasabing sitcom ay nagsimula nung January 5, 2014 hanggang October

2017 nang pansamantalang tumigil ang actor sa kanyang showbiz career. Pero nagpatuloy ang sitcom until 2020. Wala pang nire-reveal kung sinu-sino ang makakasama ni JLC sa kanyang bagong sitcom na magsisilbi rin niyang showbiz comeback. Bukod sa sitcom ay may plano ring i-produce ng pelikula si John Lloyd ng Brightlight Productions. Samantala, bago ang lockdown, may balik-tambalan sana sina JLC at Bea Alonzo sa bakuran ng Star Cinema na pamamahalaan ni Cathy Garcia-Molina. But the project was put on hold dahil sa pandemya. Ang comeback movie ni JLC ay ang "Servando Magdamag" na

pinamamahalaan ng award-winning actor na si Lav Diaz under Blacksheep Productions. The movie started nung wala pang quarantine. Kasama rin sa cast ang ex-girlfriend ni JLC na si Shaina Magdayao. Mahigit tatlong taon din huminto si Lloydie sa kanyang karera along with his ex-girlfriend na si Ellen Adarna kung kanino siya may two-and-a-half-year-old son na si Elias Modesto.



Albee Benitez and John Lloyd Cruz



Zanjoe hiwalay na sa Pinay-Australian GF?

MUKHANG hiwalay na rin ang ex-PBB housemate-turned actor na si Zanjoe Marudo sa kanyang Filipino-Australian (ex) girlfriend model-surfer na naka-base sa Siargao (just like actress Andi Eigenmann) na si Josie Prendergast, 16 years the actor's junior. Sa isang post, nakita si Josie na may ibang foreigner guy na kasama sa halip na si Zanjoe pero hindi nagsasalita tungkol dito ang actor. Zanjoe was in a long relationship with his ex-girlfriend actress, Bea Alonzo but the actor admitted their break-up in his January 20, 2016 guesting sa programa ng King of Talk na si Boy Abunda, ang "Tonight with Boy Abunda". Lately naman ay nali-link ang actor sa kanyang co-star sa "Walang Hanggang Paalam" na si Angelica Panganiban pero agad itong pinabulaanan ito ng actor na nagsabing sila'y magkaibigan lamang. There was also a time na na-link din siya sa kanyang co-star sa "Dream Dad" na si Bella Padilla na hindi rin totoo liban sa kanilang pagiging magkaibigan lamang. At 38, mukhang hindi pa natatagpuan ni Zanjoe ang makakatuwang niya sa buhay.



Diego Loyzaga reveals he's in a relationship with Barbie Imperial

MANILA, Philippines — Kapamilya celebrities Diego Loyzaga and Barbie Imperial are now officially in a relationship. In his Instagram account, Diego posted a photo of him and Barbie embracing each other on the beach. "Happy new year to us," Loyzaga wrote, with a heart emoji. "Thanks for making the end of my 2020 memorable. Let's go, 2021!" Diego captioned the post. Sunshine Cruz was among the celebrities who congratulated the young couple for their relationship. "You both deserve to be happy! Happy New Year Diegs and my beautiful Cai," Sunshine commented. Diego and Barbie sparked romance rumors last November when the actor commented on the actress' bikini photo on Instagram. They were also spotted together in a museum in Antipolo last December.



Zanjoe Marudo deny romance with Angelica Panganiban

"Wala pong katotohanan 'yon." These were the words of Zanjoe Marudo as he addressed rumors linking him romantically to his Walang Hanggang Paalam co-star Angelica Panganiban. The actor was interviewed by his friend Hyubs Azarcon in his YouTube vlog and one of the questions that came up was about the said rumor. To clarify things, Zanjoe categorically denied that there is a brewing romance between him and Angelica. "Bakit ba ganun, 'tol? Nagulat din ako sa isyu na 'yan sa YouTube. Puwede ba 'yon? Puwede bang gawin 'yon? 'Di ka ba madedemanda sa ganun? Nag-iimbento ka ng kung



ano-anong palabas," Zanjoe asked Hyubert. Zanjoe continued, "Para sa mga umaasa at mga naniniwala, lilinawin ko na po, wala pong katotohanan 'yon. Mabuti po talaga kaming magkaibigan nung tao." The actor further explained they had to be in a lock-in taping for five months to shoot the series because of the pandemic. "Nag-lock in kami, nag-taping kami sa Subic ng 'Walang Hanggang Paalam' dahil 'yun nga pandemic, kailangang mag-lock in. Parang limang buwan kaming lock-in pero may break naman. "Sa awa naman ng Diyos, tapos na kami at mapapanood niyo kami hanggang Marso pa sa ABS-CBN," Zanjoe stated.

Rhen nagpapasalamat kay Coco

AYON sa sexy star na si Rhen Escano, sobra umano siyang nagi-enjoy sa kanyang pagiging bahagi ng cast ng top-rating and long-running action-drama series na “FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano” ni Coco Martin.

“We are like a family sa set,” pahayag ni Rhen na isa sa mga anak-anakan ng yumaong Master Showman at star

builder na si German ‘Kuya Germs’ Moreno sa now-defunct late night show ng GMA, ang “Walang Tulugan with the Master Showman”.

Sobra rin ang pasasalamat ni Rhen kay Coco dahil sa tiwalang ibinigay nito sa kanya sa “Ang Probinsyano”.

Dahil sa lock-in set-up sa mga tapings and shootings, hindi masimulan ni Rhen



ang bago niyang movie project sa Viva Films, “The Other Wife” na pagsasamahang nila ni Lovi Poe at ang continuation ng local remake ng Korean movie na “Spellbound “ kung saan tampok na mga bituin sina Bela Padilla at Marco Gumabao.

“2020 is a very challenging year for everyone,” dugtong pa niya. “Sana Covid-free na tayo sa susunod na taon,” asampang ng lead actress ng hit movie na “Adan” na ipinalabas in 2019.

PRESIDENT PACQUIAO continued from page 1

Party for the 2022 national and local elections,” Ron Munsayac, PDP-Laban executive director, said in a Viber message.

“Senator Koko Pimentel is now Executive Vice Chairman of the Party and will work very closely with our Chairman President Duterte, National President Sen. Manny Pacquiao, and Executive Vice Presidential Speaker Lord Velasco,” he added.

Speculation reached new levels after the wearing-in, a sign experts said was a positioning move ahead of the 2022 presidential elections. Pacquiao’s name is among those being floated as a possible contender in the 2022 presidential elections.

Can the 41-year-old add president of the Philippines to his list of titles?

Back in June this year, Bob Arum, Pacquiao’s former promoter, said he wouldn’t be surprised if the boxer-turned-senator would run for the presidency in 2022.

“I did a telephone call with him. ‘Bob, I’m gonna run in 2022 and when I win, I want you there at my inauguration,” Arum said.

But Pacquiao denied that he discussed any plans about running for president with Arum.



Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III (left) swears in two new officers of PDP-Laban – House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco (center) as executive president and Sen. Manny Pacquiao as president.

In 2016, he was elected to the senate with 16 million votes. Some past leaders have come from the the senate before running for the presidency. Being a devout Christian surely helps where the church remains influential.

As a member of the Philippine Senate, Pacquiao authored the law declaring the last Monday of January as the National Bible Day in the Philippines. People from all pillars of society – the government, entertainment, business, and the church – unite on this day to celebrate the Holy Bible as the cradle of the Christian faith. And 100,000 Bibles were printed for this event to be given away to the different sectors of society.

“The Bible is the only book we need to discover the foundational truth of how to know and walk with God,” Pacquiao said at the National Bible Day event in January.

He also emphasized the importance of reading God’s Word, “Read the Bible

because it will lead you to all truth. The Bible is the manual to life.”

In 2019 Pacquiao emphasized the importance of preparing for eternal happiness while still on earth.

He said, “Read the Bible continually, pray continually ...until when? As long as you are still alive on this earth. You are forming your destiny which way you go, either eternal suffering or eternal happiness. Hebrews 9:27-18, ‘Just as people are destined to die once, and after that face judgment, so Christ was sacrificially

has opposed legislations favoring the LGBT community just as Duterte has wavered on the the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Expression Equality Bill, also known as the Anti-Discrimination Bill (ADB), or SOGIE bill. He once called gays as “worse than animals” but apologized afterwards.

Some are calling for a massive voter education to prevent a Pacquiao presidency.

The Philippines is crazy about boxing, specially a world-title-winning Pacquiao bringing glory to the country. The masses see in him themselves as someone small and poor winning against the big and rich foreigner.

The country grinds to a halt during his bouts and crime falls down to near-zero during his televised fights.

He would have the wealth, political allies and Duterte’s masterful campaign machine to help him if he decided to run.

...gays as “worse than animals”

ficed once to take away the sins of many, and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for me.”

His rags to riches story is also a strong selling point. He generously donates through various projects to help the poor.

Netizens flooded Twitter, mostly horrified at the thought of him becoming Philippine president. Pacquiao has no leadership track record and has dutifully followed Duterte’s drug war. He

In boxing,he has won titles in different classes. But he has yet to amass the same notch of victories in the political ring, and it remains to be seen if he can pull off a presidential victory.

“Winning a seat in the Senate is different from running a presidential race. If Pacquiao has already tapped the support of local politicians at this point, probably, he might have a chance,” Go added.

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Richard Yap changes a different path

While Richard Yap had other offers from different networks, transferring to GMA 7, the former ABS-CBN talent said, was the “easy” and “most practical” career move.

“GMA has been there for a long time, it has been doing a lot of shows. I simply chose a more established network; it’s the main reason we went here,” related the actor, who recently signed an exclusive contract with the Kapuso network

The nonrenewal of ABS-CBN’s franchise—coupled with the production restrictions prompted by



the COVID-19 pandemic—forced a number of Kapamilya stars to seek projects elsewhere: Some found work in the revitalized TV5; others like Richard, opted for GMA 7.

Network transfers are typically met with mixed reactions from fans. But given the current situation in the industry, people, Richard observed, have become more forgiving.

“I think they’re more understanding now because of what happened,” he related. “But of course, there were some who

didn’t want me to transfer.”

Asked which Kapuo stars he’s most excited to collaborate with, Richard said it’s Michael V. “I have been a fan of ‘Bubble Gang’ for a long time,” the 53-year-old star said.

As for possible leading ladies, Richard named Heart Evangelista, Rhian Ramos, Marian Rivera, Lovi Poe, Solenn Heussaff and Jennylyn Mercado. “I would love to work with anyone of them. There are a lot of great actors here, too,” he said.

The year 2020 was a challenging one for everyone. In his case, it’s his restaurants that took a beating. But the past

few months were better. We’re slowly recovering,” the actor-entrepreneur said.

Richard is also thankful that show biz is starting to find its footing again. “We haven’t been able to work a lot this year,” he said, adding that vlogging has been a good way to maintain visibility while television work was nonexistent.

“At least my supporters still get to see me and get updated about what I do,” he pointed out. Richard and his family usually travel during the holiday season. This time, they stayed at home. “We’re just happy and grateful that we’re alive and healthy,” he said. “I hope 2021 is better for all of us.”

Piolo at Claudine magtatambal 16 years after their first movie

DAHIL sa pandemya, maraming proyekto ang nabinbin sa bakuran ng Star Cinema at kasama na rito ang reunion movie nina John Lloyd Cruz at Bea Alonzo maging ang reunion film nina Claudine Barretto at Piolo Pascual na parehong nakatakdang idirek ng box office director na si Cathy Garcia-Molina.

Kung matutuloy ang balik-tambalan sa pelikula nina Piolo at Claudine na may pamagat na “2gether Un4ever,” this will

be 16 years after their first hit movie, “Milan” na ipinalabas nung February 2004.

Ang last movie na ginawa ni Piolo ay ang second team-up nila ni Toni Gonzaga, ang “Last Night” in 2017 na dinirek ni Joyce Bernal at joint production ng Star Cinema and Spring Films.

Sina Piolo at Claudine ay dating prized talents ng Star Magic ng ABS-CBN.

Kathryn nagdaos ng first anniveresary

LAST January 3 ay first anniversary ng box office star and influencer na si Kath-

ryn Bernardo bilang YouTuber na kanyang sinimulan nung January 3, 2020 na pinamagatang “EverydayKath” at meron nang 2.65m subscribers.

Masaya ang fans and followers ng nobya ni Daniel Padilla dahil nasusubaybayan nila ang everyday life ng aktres.

Samantala, sina Kathryn at Daniel ay kasalukuyang napapanood sa digi movie TV series, ang romantic-comedy na “The House Arrest of Us” na pinamahalaan ni Richard Arellano. Pero patuloy pa ring umaasa ang fans ng dalawa na muli silang mapanood sa mainstream TV sa

isang TV series. Huling TV series na ginawa ng dalawa ay ang horror-fantasy-drama na “La Luna Sangre” na tumagal sa ere ng siyam ng buwan, June 2017 to March 2018.

Dahil sa pandemya, nabalam din ang kanilang reunion movie project dahil hanggang ngayon ay sarado pa rin ang mga sinehan. Their last movie together ay ang mega hit movie na “The Hows of Us” na dinirek ni Cathy Molina-Garcia in 2018.

Kathryn holds the title of Box Office Queen matapos umabot ng almost P900-M ang first team up nila nila ng Kapuso prized actor na si Alden Richards, ang “Hello, Love, Goodbye” na dinirek din ni Direk Cathy in 2019. Mahigit P800-M din ang kinita ng movie nina Kathryn at Daniel in 2018, ang “The Hows of Us” with Direk Cathy also at the helm.

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Maymay Entrata, Edward Barber miss working together

Kapamilya loveteam Maymay Entrata and Edward Barber collectively known as MayWard expressed their longingness for each other as they geared for the release of their newest movie

titled “Princess DayaReese” on January 1, 2021.

MayWard was present during the Iwant TFC’s “Royal Presentation” for their upcoming movie under Star Cinema: “Princess DayaReese.” which will be their second lead-roles in a movie since they debuted in “Loving in Tandem” in 2017.

MayWard expressed how much they missed working and being close with each other.

“Na-miss ko na nagsu-suportahan kami; kung paano pagandahin yung eksena at na miss ko makipaglaro sa kanya na maglaro sila ng mobile legends.” said Maymay.

Edward replied with a joke saying: “Si Maymay ata na-miss yun pero ako hindi, ang bigat niya sa ML.”

Maymay laughed with Edward, and continued: “Sa kabila po ata ng mga nangyayare (since 2016) isang hindi nagbago sa kanya eh yung pagiging maaalananin niya; nafi-feel ko na hanggang ngayon, importante pa rin ako sa kanya...Isa yun sa pinasasalamatan ko na nandiyan lang siya lage; one-call away siya talaga ‘pag may problema ako...bihira lang rin makahanap ng ganun.”

Edward also shared the things that he missed about Maymay. “The thing I missed about her was just the ‘bright person’ that she is...Maymay has this aura, that atmosphere that she brings with her.”

“I can compare it to: ‘pag malamig tapos may hot choco ka, ayung, you know the feeling that Maymay brings in the set.”

“One thing I’m thankful for Maymay is... let’s just say everyone gets the free sample of the amazing person that she is, but very few got access to the ‘care’ that she brings...it’s not just work, she’s a special person not just on cam but off.”

Alden breaks record

LUBOS ang pasasalamat ng Asia’s Multimedia Star na si Alden Richards sa matagumpay na 10th anniversary celebration niya via “Alden’s Reality: The Virtual Reality Concert (AR).”

Tinatawag na record-breaking ang nasabing handog ni Alden sa kanyang mga tagasuporta here and abroad dahil ang AR ang kauna-unahang virtual reality concert dito sa Pilipinas. Mara-

mi nang naunang virtual concert, pero si Alden pa lang ang nakagawa ng may virtual reality component. Mabilis ang fans sa pag-secure ng tickets para sa concert kaya naman di kataka-takang sold-out ang AR na napanuod sa tatlong timeslots noong December 8 at 9. Top trending topic din ang hashtag na “AldensReality” sa Twitter Philippines. Hindi nabigo ang mga nanuod dahil isang ‘virtual date’ ang binigay ni

Nasaan na si Kitchie?

Fans are wondering where acoustic singer-songwriter of songs “Huwag na Huwag Mong Sasabihin” na si Kitchie Nadal. Naka-base na ito ngayon sa Madrid, Spain with her Spanish husband na si Carlos Lopez





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Alden pag-kasa-concert-pa tour mismo ng bahay. row seat ‘date’ sa at na niya. rin ang pagbab-ni Al-jour-loob sa kanila. Mula sa gising ni Alden ay ma na niya ang goer at may pa sa loob kanyang May front-din ang ni Alden mga song dance numbers inihanda Marami na-touch sa alik-tanaw den sa kanyang ney as an artist sa ng isang dekada. Matagal-tagal pa siguro bago ito maulit kaya anuman ang sabihin ng bashers, this is still history.

at ang kanilang anak na si Keon. Si Kitchie ay dating lead vocalist ng pop-rock band na MOJOFly from 1999 to 2003. Umalis siya sa grupo to concentrate on her solo career. In 2004, her self-titled debut album was released by Warner Music kung saan hango ang kanyang hit song na “Huwag na Huwag Mong Sasabihin” na ginamit pang theme song ng local remake ng Korean TV series na “Lovers in Paris” na tinampukan ng dating magkasintahang Piolo Pascual at KC Concepcion sa ABS-CBN. In 2005, Kitchie received 6 different awards including from Aliw Awards as Most Promising Entertainer of the Year (Female), Best Performance In A Concert (Female), Best Ballad at Best Performance By A Female Recording Artist.

RitKen may bagong teleserye

ANG tambalan ng singers-actors na sina Ken Chan at Rita Daniela ay muling mapapanood sa bagong teleserye ng GMA na “Ang Dalawang Ikaw” kung saan nila makakasama

ang baguhang aktres na si Ana Vicente. Sina Ken at Daniela or RitKen sa kanilang mga fans ay dalawang beses nang nagtambal sa TV series. Nauna na rito ang rom-com na “One of the Baes” at ang drama series na “My Special Tatay”. Magkasama rin ang dalawa

sa reality singing competition “The Clash” maging sa Sunday musical show ng Kapuso network, ang “All Out Sundays”. May movie rin ang dalawa, “Luis Loves Luisa.”



NURSES continued from page 8

fession as part of its decades-long policy of exporting manpower, which, depressed wages and led many hospitals in the country to only hire nurses on temporary contracts for low pay, on the understanding that they would leave for jobs abroad once they had enough experience.

Some hospitals in the Philippines pay their nurses as little as 500 pesos (US\$10.40) a day – less than what a shop assistant in a large grocery store chain could earn. In other words, Franco said, “nurses are disposable”.

This leads to a high turnover, with one medical director of a large private hospital in Metro Manila saying that nurses in his hospital who join “in January leave by the end of the year” and those left behind are “not that good”.

In October last year, the Philippine Supreme Court ruled that nurses working for public hospitals and health offices were entitled to higher basic pay. The ruling effectively increased their monthly starting salary to 30,531 pesos (US\$636) from 20,754 pesos previously – but it did not cover private hospitals, where entry-level salaries can be as low as 15,000 pesos.

OVERWORKED, UNDERPAID

As well as being underpaid, Filipino nurses are also often overworked, with many hospitals in the country ignoring Department of Health guidelines that a nurse should only care for a maximum of 12 patients over an eight-hour period, according to Nolasco of Filipino Nurses United, who said it was more common for nurses to care for as many as 40 patients as part of 12 to 16 hour shifts.

There is one part of the Philippines where nurses can expect to earn a competitive salary, however – the conflict-ridden Bangsamoro Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao

“We really don’t have a shortage of nurses”

in the country’s far south where a Department of Health deployment programme is offering salaries of 41,000 pesos per month, according to Yasmin Bacarat, governor of the Philippine Nurses Association’s local branch.

A lack of infrastructure, poor transport links and frequent power outages make working in the region a challenge, however.

Bacarat, who had a stint in Saudi Arabia before embarking on her 20-year career as a community nurse in Bangsamoro, said Filipino nurses should be given the opportunity “to experience life outside the Philippines” if they wanted.

“From my personal experience, it is really difficult to walk to all the barangays (villages),” she said.

“At first I looked at the rice fields and wondered why am I here, I want to work in Manila, but I realised I was helping save lives. It’s very self-fulfilling, so I fell in love with what I’m doing.”

As for Pagaduan in Hong Kong, now that all her siblings have finished school, “I’m already getting ready to go back home,” she said.



A nurse holds a vial of blood to be sent for HIV testing at a clinic in Manila in 2018.



ABS-CBN officials thank eight stars, other artists for standing by the network

in our company, and thank you for supporting us in our most difficult moments,” Katigbak said.

Katigbak ended his speech by introducing Laurenti Dyogi as the new head of Star Magic who also expressed his gratitude to the Kapamilya artists who stayed and signed up with the talent agency.

“Star Magic is known to produce, to hone, and to manage the brightest and most talented stars in Philippine show business, and today we continue this legacy and tradition,” said Dyogi, who assumes his new role in Star Magic starting January 2021 concurrent to his current position as head of TV Production.

“As we welcome new artists to the Star Magic family, we also want to express our deepest gratitude to the Star Magic artists who chose to stay with us as we continue to rebuild and explore new opportunities,” he added.

Sunshine Cruz slams basher of her relationship with Macky Mathay

Sunshine Cruz has welcomed the year 2021 with bashing after her photos with loved ones have received negative reactions.

In fact, one netizen even assumed things about her relationship with Macky Mathay.

“Kaya pala nag hiwalay kau ni Cesar Montano dahil pala nyan ni kalbo dako man gud guro na bunal,” the online user’s comment read.



To which the 43-year-old star immediately replied with: “I share my photos hindi para bastusin mo lang. 3 taon na kaming hiwalay ni Cesar ng makilala ko si Macky. Opo kalbo sya pero palagay ko mas edukado at gwapo sya sayo. Happy New Year! 2021 na. Mag-

bago ka na!”

Sunshine also left some advice to haters.

“Happy New Year guys! I share my photos pampa good vibes. If you find my posts offensive you can unfollow or just ignore it. 2021 na po. Let’s try to be better people. Artista po ako pero hindi po ibig sabihin may karapatan ang iba na bastusin ako o kami dahil wala naman po akong ginagawang masama sa kapwa ko.”

It was in 2000 when Sunshine and Cesar tied the knot but they got separated in 2013 after she caught him cheating multiple times.

The following year, Sunshine petitioned for annulment which was granted four years after.

Sunshine and her businessman boyfriend celebrated their fourth anniversary as a couple last year.

Philippines' Giselle Sanchez crowned 2020 Noble Queen of the Universe International

MANILA, Philippines – Actress-comedienne Giselle Sanchez won the Noble Queen of the Universe International.

In her Instagram account, Giselle posted a photo of her wearing the title's crown.

"I did it! I was able to bring home the crown as Noble Queen of the Universe International," Giselle wrote.

"I would like to congratulate my fellow International delegates who won the major titles like me," she said.

The beauty pageant was joined by 16 family-oriented women all over the world. Giselle said she's glad to brought a crown for the Philippines.

Giselle, who also won the queen of social media and the noble ambassadress of humanity, thanked Filipinos for their support.

"I also would like to thank everyone who supported me in social media as I am also the winner of the Noble Queen of social media and noble ambassadress of humanity," she said.

Giselle said that she was convinced by Patricia Javiera after she learned that she could use the pageant as a platform to get more donors for her advocacy to help homeless families.

"I was finally convinced when Patricia told me that I can use the Noble Queen Pageant as a platform to get more donors so I can help more homeless families which is my advocacy. And now, in a few days I will be blessing a newly constructed home for a homeless family courtesy of the Noble Queen franchise," the beauty queen said.

"I am so blessed that I have found this sisterhood who has fully supported my advocacy to help the homeless and provide food, shelter and sustainable livelihood for them," she added.



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Scenic Bohol Casts an enigmatic charm drawn from the many archaic mementos spread throughout the oval-shaped island: from the chocolate hills and the tarsier to the 16th century watchtowers and Jesuit baroque mission churches. The Chocolate Hills that abound in Central Bohol, two have been developed into top class resorts.

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One of the Rare Faunas found in the Philippine archipelago, the Tarsier is the smallest primate in the world. It is a nocturnal primate measuring from four to five inches, with a tail that is longer than body.

Those interested in tarsier watching are always welcomed by the Boholanos to see the famous primate in its natural adobe up the hills in the town of Corella

A black coral forest is among its main attractions but virtually anywhere you drop in is sure to be rewarding. another major attraction, Cabillao is renowned for the hammerhead sharks that shoal around the clear waters. Large pelagics are very common here. And if you are really lucky, you can find yourself swimming with a passing school of dolphins.

A tropical havel of beauty, the coastline of province is skimmed by gentle coves and white sand beaches. You can find some of the country's great dive sights here. Balicasag in Bohol is one of the most popular dives in visayas.

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Rich Asuncion proud as waitress, happy with quiet life in Australia

Rich Asuncion is living a happy and blessed life.

The Kapuso actress is now based in Australia with her husband Benjamin Mudie and their two-year-old daughter Bela Brie.

Rich said the COVID-19 pandemic has not only strengthened her marriage with Ben, but it has also allowed them to raise their daughter in a good environment.

She wrote, "Mas lalong tumibay ang samahan namin ni Ben. Doon ko na-prove na kaya kong iwan ang lahat para sa kanya at sa pamilya namin. Dahil bago ako sa Australia, kung saan ako na-stuck during pandemic, inalalayan niya talaga ako kaya malaking tulong talaga sa aking adjustment. And I honestly think, we are in the best place-to-be in terms of raising Bela."

Canberra has zero active case of COVID-19, hence, its safety protocols are less strict than Manila.

The Kapuso actress continued, "Kasi marami na siyang friends sa Daycare. We are happy she still gets to live normally amidst the pandemic.



"Maayos kasi ang pag-handle nila dito kaya parang meron kaming safe bubble dito."

LIFE AWAY FROM THE LIMELIGHT

Rich now works as a waitress in Australia.

The former Star-Struck Season 4 First

Princess said that while it is very different from the showbiz life she had experienced since 2006, she is enjoying her job.

"Sa totoo lang, enjoy ako sa work ko as a waitress. Nagagamit ko kasi ang background ko sa Tourism and Hospitality.

"Tsaka may mga ka-work akong Pinoy at madami rin kaming nagiging customers na Pinoy.

"At mabait kasi ang boss ko at mga katrabaho kaya masaya sa trabaho."

She may have a secure family life in Australia, but Rich still believes there's no place like home.

She related, "Siyempre, nami-miss ko pa rin ang Pilipinas.

"Iba pa rin iyong saya diyan, e. Kasi

nandiyan pa rin ang family ko at mga friends.

"Hopefully makabalik pa kami, pero at least three years pa siguro kami dito sa Australia."

This is why she also wishes that life would return to normal for everyone around the world.

"Ang wish ko lang talaga matapos na itong pandemic. Para makauwi kami sa Pilipinas kahit bisita lang. Or para maka-travel lang kami ulit. "Other wishes ay ang matapos ko sa 2021 ang time-take up ko na Child Care course at makalipat na kami soon sa bago naming bahay."

Rich may be living away from the limelight now, but she is still happy when she is recognized as an actress.

"Maraming nakaka-recogize sa akin. Minsan pa nagpapa-picture. Pag nasa ibang bansa ka, ang sarap ng feeling na may nakakasalamuha ka na kapwa Pinoy.

"Kaya miss ko na ring umarte. Sana magkaroon ako ulit ng chance maka-arte pagbalik sa Pilipinas."

Rich was last seen in the teleserye Dahil sa Pag-Ibig in 2019.

Next Bea and John Lloyd?

Kira Baling, Grae Fernandez react



Kapamilya love team Kira Baling and Grae Fernandez admitted that they felt humbled when people compared them to Bea Alonzo and John Lloyd Cruz.

The love team said they appreciated that people are seeing their hardwork.

"It's very humbling, you know, that people around see to potential in us. I appreciate it, we appreciate it. You know, over the years, all of

the hardwork leads us to this moment, so I'm very grateful. I promise that I'll do everything I can to be the best version of myself as a person and as an actress," Kira said.

Grae admitted that they still have long way to go to reach the John Lloyd-Bea success, but being compared to one of the best love teams of all time feels inspiring for them.

"Ako po, napakasaya ko po na 'yung mga tao na-appreciate 'yung mga ginawa namin, nakikita naman po nila 'yung passion namin sa trabaho namin through the screen. 'Yung sabihin na parang Bea and John Lloyd, parang nakakahumble naman talaga kasi alam ko naman talaga na ibang level nilang dalawa eh, ibang level 'yung acting, iba 'yung chemistry nila, so parang ma-compare sa kanilang dalawa sobrang grateful and thankful," he said.

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Pops finally talks about rumors with Derek

POPS Fernandez clarified in the Zoom press-con for her talk show, “Exes and Whys with Pops and Martin”, that the rumors linking her to Derek Ramsay are simply not true.



Robin Nievera, Pops Fernandez, Martin Nievera and Louie Ocampo

“I was surprised when suddenly, people were asking me about it, even my friends from abroad,” she says. “Wala akong masabi kasi I really don’t know how it started. Siguro because we have the same manager, Joji Dingcong. But the last time we saw each other, magkasama pa sila ni Andrea (Torres), and his parents and her parents were also there, sa bahay ni Derek. After that, hindi na kami nagkita, we don’t even text each other. So once and for all, hindi po talaga totoo. Dapat siguro, siya na mismo ang mag-guest sa aming show ni Martin para siya na ang mag-explain.”

Martin butts in at this point. “Actually, ako talaga ang cause ng break up,” he jokes. “Naiinggit kasi si Derek sa abs ko.”

How will their new show be differ-

ent from “Penthouse Live” where her tandem with Martin started? “We’re sure the two shows will be compared,” says Pops. “The big difference is that I was so young then, 14-15 lang ako. Baguhan ako and I felt uncomfortable sa hosting. Tito Fritz Ynfante, our director then, helped us a lot kasi wala pang teleprompters noon, cue cards lang, and we have to learn how to adlib. But now, Martin and I are both very mature and more experienced in our hosting abilities. We also have a wealth of experience we can share with our viewers, so this is very different from ‘Penthouse Live’.”

“Another difference is that Pops is now wearing more hats,” says Martin. “Aside from co-hosting our show, she’s now also working behind the scene as producer of our show and the show of Louie Ocampo and our son, Robin. We’re really

much more invested in what we’re doing now and we’re sharing the lessons we’ve learned through the years as hosts and also as friends.”

They’re the best examples of a separated couple who became good friends. How did they achieve this? “It’s a process,” Pops replies. “The foundation is we started with a good friendship. If you have to feel the pain and sadness, go ahead and feel it, but don’t dwell on it, you have to move on. If you keep remembering only the pain and sadness, it would just pull you down, so just go forward. Trust me, it will feel so much better when you do.”

Their son Robin is also in the zoom presscon. And we’re so glad to see that he has shaved off his beard because, honestly, it doesn’t become him. He also lost a lot of weight and looks more fit. Is it difficult to direct his own parents?

“No, they’re not at all hard to direct, also Tito Louie in our own show. We are all just being yourselves. We’re all just having fun.”

“With Martin kasi, it doesn’t feel like work,” adds Pops. “We both know each other so much he can finish my thoughts, he can complete what I’m saying. It’s just very all natural.”

Palace tells firecracker makers to look for other livelihood

MANILA – Firecracker manufacturers should start finding a new source of income now that President Rodrigo Duterte has pronounced a likely total ban on the sparkly pyrotechnics starting December next year.

“Kumbaga, binigyan na ng warning ng Presidente, humanap na kayo ng ibang hanapbuhay dahil sa susunod na taon magkakaroon na tayo ng absolute firecracker ban,” Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said in a press briefing.

(The President already gave them a warning that they should find other livelihoods because next year there will be an absolute firecracker ban.)



Duterte, in his weekly address on Monday night, said he is considering declaring a total ban on the use of fireworks – the same policy being implemented in Davao City, his hometown – beginning December 2021.

“I was toying with the idea of making it just like Davao. Let’s just do it this way: At least, you still have one year. Maybe next December, I will ban fireworks,” he said, speaking partly in Filipino.

Jodi nabigla sa pagkaron ng GF ni Thirdy

NABIGLA si Jodi Sta. Maria sa pagkakaroon ng girlfriend ng kanyang teen-age son na si Thirdy (Panfilo Lacson III) who just turned 15 last December 23.



Alam ni Jodi na balang araw ay magkakaroon ng girlfriend ang kanyang kaisa-isang anak sa ex-husband na si Panfilo ‘Pampi’ Lacson, Jr. pero hindi umano niya inaasahan at a very young age.

Si Thirdy ang dahilan kung bakit nagsisikap sa buhay ang actress. Si Thirdy rin ang kanyang best friend and travel buddy.

Samantala, hanggang ngayon ay quiet lamang ang relasyon ng aktres sa actor na si Raymart Santiago na nagsimula nung isang taon.

DUD continued from page 8

mainly safety, efficacy, pricing, and ease of distribution and implementation.

But spending taxpayers’ money for vaccines that were only 50-percent effective would be a “total waste of funds and resources,” he added.

“That means there’s a 50-50 chance of you getting COVID even after being vaccinated, [which] is a joke!” he said.

He said other brands, such as Pfizer, have a higher efficacy rating of 95 percent, but the country lacks storage facilities that can maintain temperatures of -70 degrees Celsius.



Meryll Soriano shows new baby to dad Willie Revillame

For the first time, actress Meryll Soriano showed her new baby to her father “Wowowin” host Willie Revillame.

On Instagram, Kuya Will cuddled his grandchild as Meryll embraced them.

Meryll, 38, simply captioned the photo “lolo.”

On New Year’s Day, Meryll showed her new baby to actor Joem Bascon.

It is believed that Meryll and Joem



have rekindled their romance.

Recalled that Joem and Meryll were together for a year before they broke up in 2010.

Meryll is the daughter of Revillame and Bec-Bec Soriano, niece of Diamond Star Maricel Soriano. The new baby is her second child. In 2006, she was married to actor Bernard Palanca but they split. They have a son Elijah.

FILIPINO HEALTH continued from page 1

Service (NHS). “The last few months have been tough for all of us working in the NHS but now it feels like there is light at the end of the tunnel.”

“I’m happy it’s happened and now I’ve done it and hopefully more people come along and do as I did, you know?” Keenan told CNN.

The moment watched by the world was not lost on Parsons, who has worked with the NHS for 24 years.

She encouraged the public to avail of the vaccine.

“It’s important that we’re making this as popular as can be for everyone to take,” Parsons said.

The UK is the first country in the world to mount a mass vaccination campaign against COVID-19, with the elderly, vulnerable, and front line health workers among the first in line to receive the shot in the program.



Nurse May Parsons administers the COVID-19 vaccine to 90-year-old Margaret Keenan.

The historic moment, which came after an unprecedented worldwide sprint to produce a safe and effective vaccine, marked a milestone in the pandemic that has so far killed over 1.5 million people and sickened over 67 million.

Seven days later on December 14, 2020, in Toronto, a Filipino personal support worker was on the receiving end of the vaccine.

Three of the first five people to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Canada were Filipino-Canadian, a moment significant to the Filipino community, who for decades has played a major role in the nation’s healthcare system.

About one in every 20 caregiving professionals in Canada are Filipino and with frontline workers the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, it’s no surprise they played a large role in the



Personal support worker Anita Quidangan is the first vaccine recipient in Canada.

historic inoculations.

Registered practical nurse Lucky Aguilera received the shot the same day. Aguilera said it hasn’t quite sunk in that he is now a part of history.

“In that moment, there’s a lot of atten-

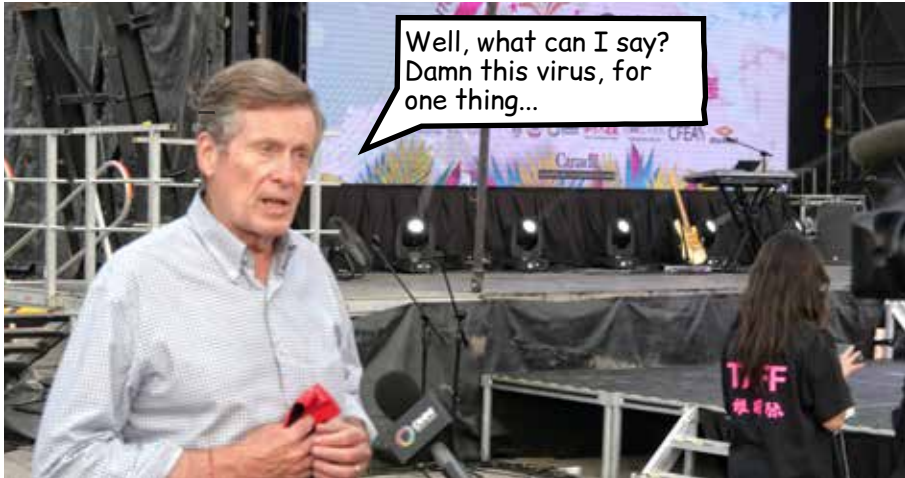
tion towards you so you’re very nervous, I’m very nervous. And then I got the vaccine and it didn’t hurt at all,” he said.

Personal Support Worker, Cecile Gat-

FILIPINO NURSE continued next page 27

Candid SPOOF

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



Toronto Mayor John Tory addresses the guests at last October’s Asialicious 2020 at Woodside Square.

Ysabel may bagong business venture

LALONG dumarami ang celebrities na sumusubok na sa pagne-negosyo lalo na habang naka-quarantine. Sa latest vlog ng Kapuso artist na si Ysabel Ortega, ibinahagi niya ang magiging bagong business venture ng kanilang pamilya na poultry farm and lemon plantation sa

La Union. Excited na nagbigay ng mini tour si Ysabel, "I wanted to make this vlog because I wanted to give you guys a glimpse of what I've been doing every day. Staying here [in La Union] during the quarantine, mas lalo namin natutukan 'yung businesses, especially 'yung broiler house."



Sa kabuuan, may-roon ng 3,000 lemon trees na naitanim sa kanilang lupa at nagha-handa na rin silang mag-alaga ng 45,000 meat-type chickens para sa poultry farm. Mapapanoood ang whole tour ni Ysabel sa kaniyang YouTube channel. Si Ysabel ay anak ni Sen. Lito Lapid at dating singer-ac-tress, Michelle Ortega.

Angel Locsin wishes it won't rain on her wedding day

It seems that Angel Locsin and Neil Arce are still planning to get married during the rainy season in the Philippines which usually takes place from June to November. On Instagram, Angel claimed that she ended 2020 "very happy" as she shared her New Year's wishes. "...sa 2021, wala ng Covid, mananalo ako sa lotto, gaganda ang environment, wala ng corruption, more job opportunities for all, magandang education, magagandang values para sa mga kabataan, walang sakuna, walang masamang tao, papayat ako, walang abuse, gaganda ang takbo ng economy, tataas ang sweldo ng lahat, babalik ang ABS-CBN, magandang love life para

sa lahat, walang magugutom, walang magkakasakit, walang masasaktan, walang mangaabus... ibig sabihin, Lord, kayo na po ang bahala at kayo lang po ang makakagawane neto at kami pong mga tao ay mga instrumento mo lang po, Panginoon," she wrote. She also asked for guidance for "mas maganda at payapang mundo para sa lahat." Then added a postscript: "Sana hindi umulan sa kasal ko!" Angel and her fiancé Neil were supposed to get married on Nov. 8, 2020 but it was cancelled due to the pandemic.



Hunk Shot



Marco is a member of the Josie de Leon (JDL) Performing Arts School to hone his singing and dancing talents. He is also part of the JDL singing group Cupid Arch. His hobbies are reading and gaming. He plays volleyball. He goes to St Paschal Baylon school. He is the son of Diomie and Marissa Landicho. He won Second Place in The Sport Governing Body For Karate In Ontario. He wants to be a Singer. We wish him all the luck in his endeavours.

Marco Landicho

FILIPINO NURSE continued from page 26

co, and Anita Quidangen, who was the first to be inoculated in Ontario, were the other two Filipinos who received the vaccine on Monday. Filipino nurses have been recognized worldwide for their contribution to foreign health systems across Europe, the Middle East, and North America, among others.

While many have been hailed for their dedication, their service on the front lines also means Filipino health workers have been one of the hardest-hit groups, suffering from high death rates during the pandemic. For decades, Filipino nurses have also opted to work abroad due to low wages and poor working conditions in the country.

Sharon Cuneta shares mantra for 2021

The Megastar Sharon Cuneta is wiser and stronger as she faces 2021, imparting her experiences last year. Sharon uploaded a lengthy post on Instagram, in which she highlighted how the people she loved hurt her, and also how she "lost friends but made new ones." Which led to her decision "to leave the city." "Needed to get away and LET GO of all things and people negative and toxic."

Cuneta updated her fans about her move to relax in a COVID-free area near a beach as a reward for surviving 2020. Don't worry Sharonians, no retirement plans were mentioned.



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