

PBBM vow ‘better quality of life’

Marcos admin’s 1st year a critical pivot toward full economic recovery

MANILA - President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., at the start of his second year in office on Saturday, said the government will do its best to give everyone a “better quality of life” so that no one is left hungry.

“With the local government focusing on all aspects of your daily life that we have identified in the national agenda, we can look forward to a boost in local businesses, improved daily transactions and an overall better quality of life,” the president said.

Marcos tasked the National Anti-Poverty Commission during its en banc meeting to locate “depressed and remote communities” and address long-standing issues with poverty. He also ordered other government agencies to “synchronize” their efforts to efficiently use resources in combating poverty.

Marcos also reiterated his call for unity to resolve the

BETTER page 21



Why Dimples Romana was ‘forced’ to do fight scenes in heels



“I didn’t think I’d go beyond three weeks,” said actress Dimples Romana, whose character, the feisty Selene Larisa, in the action series “The Iron Heart” has been gaining a lot of traction and was even included in the program’s second season. “Selene was offered to me soon after I gave birth to Elio,” “When we’re on the set, I really feel empowered and inspired,” said the mom of three.

Selene, despite being one of the show’s villains, is a symbol of women empowerment, said Dimples. Don’t you feel empowered seeing a mom of three on television shooting guns, and in heels?”

Not taking the easy way out

She continued: “When I joined the program and saw that I would be working with Direk Lester [Pimentel Ong], I already knew what I would be getting myself into. When you’ve been in this business for two decades, you always look for roles that challenge you.”

Dimples then recalled being “forced” to wear heels while doing action scenes. “This was not planned. Napasubo lang ako. They told me,

‘Ate Dimps, you can always change your shoes.’ I said, ‘Why am I allowed to adjust? Is it because I’m a woman? No. I will not adjust, because the male cast members were never allowed to take the easy route. I-heels na ’yan!’ All the while, I kept praying that I don’t hurt my ankle or else we will be forced to pack up the set.”

Even if she wanted to, Dimples said she couldn’t go all out in her action scenes as she is still healing from a C-section operation in 2022. “I cannot do the twirls or tumbling. They know this and they understand,” she said.

Dimples also said she finds it “very satisfying” whenever she reads positive comments from viewers. “Mind you, this is not just about Selene. I also work alongside all these amazing, strong and independent women who we see fighting alongside men. I feel that it’s revolutionary. If I am a woman watching ‘The Iron Heart,’ I would feel empowered, I would feel like raising the flag for women—that this is not the time to say, ‘Babae lang ako.’”



**HARD
WORK
PAYS
OFF**

Marcos says PAF maritime patrols ‘essential’ amid Asia-Pacific geopolitical row

MANILA — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on July 3 highlighted the importance of the Philippine Air Force’s (PAF) maritime patrols amid persistent geopolitical tensions in the Asia-Pacific region.

During the PAF’s 76th founding anniversary at Clark Air Base in Pampanga, Marcos described PAF’s maritime patrols as “essential in upholding our territorial integrity and safeguarding Philippine maritime zones.”

“The days ahead will not be easy and will demand every ounce of our strength and our resilience. The winds of change signal geopolitical challenges around our region and other parts of the world

PATROL p15

Andrea Brillantes on girl she saw at Ricci Rivero’s place: “Hubad sa kwarto niya.”

Kinontra ni Andrea Brillantes ang mga naging pahayag ng dating boyfriend na si Ricci Rivero kaugnay ng kanilang paghihiwalay.

Katuwiran ni Andrea, may mga detalyeng hindi sinabi ni Ricci ukol sa dahilan ng kanilang breakup nang mag-guest ang huli sa Fast Talk with Boy Abunda noong June 26, 2023.

Nag-viral ang isang video ng babaeng nakatapis ng tuwalya sa condo unit umano ni Ricci.

Si Andrea umano ang kumuha at nagpakalat ng video.

Ang babae rin daw na ito ang naging dahilan ng

pag-aaway nina Ricci at Andrea.

Sa interview ni Boy, sinabi ni Ricci na ang “speculation” na may nakitang babae sa kanyang pad ang cause ng breakup nila ni Andrea.

“Pero ilang beses po naman naming pinag-usapan ito. Sobrang daming beses. Sinabi ko sa kanya, with all the evidences I have, na hindi sa akin yung girl,” sabi ni Ricci.

Ani Ricci, may kaibigan



siyang pupunta sa kanyang lugar at hindi niya alam na may kasama palang babae ang kaibigan niyang ito, at iyon daw ang naabutan ni Andrea.

Pero iba naman ang ikinuwento ng disc jockey na si DJ Jhai Ho ukol sa panig ni Andrea.

Sa online show na Marites University, sinabi ni DJ Jhai Ho na inusisa niya ang malapit na kaibigang si Andrea kung totoo ba ang mga pahayag ni Ricci sa

interview ni Boy.

Sagot daw ni Andre via message: “LOL. Nakalimutan niya atang sabihin na hubad kong nadatnan yung girl.”

Message pa raw ni Andrea: “Hubad sa kwarto niya. “Tulog siya, di daw nila alam ang nanyari. Lasing sila.

“Hindi niya [Ricci] minention. Madami pa siyang hindi minention.”

Ayon kay DJ Jhai Ho, naging malapit sila ni Andrea nang magkatrabaho sila sa ABS-CBN teleserye na Pangako Sa ‘Yo noong 2015-2016.

June 12, 2023 nang iulat sa Cabinet Files na nakipaghiwalay si Andrea kay Ricci dahil sa selos.



Forex joins PIDC Salo-salo sa Earl Bales



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Vice Ganda says Barbie Forteza’s ‘vibe’ is a good fit for ‘It’s Showtime’

(From left) Vice Ganda, Barbie Forteza.



Vice Ganda couldn’t help but express his admiration for Kapuso star Barbie Forteza, as he noted that her “vibe” is a good fit for ABS-CBN noontime show “It’s Showtime.”

Forteza was among the performers of “It’s Showtime’s” premiere episode on GMA Network’s GTV last Saturday, July 1, where she did a dance number with Kapamilya stars Kim Chiu, Belle Mariano, and Alexa Ilacad.

Following the show’s opening, the actress was given a bouquet of flowers and a warm welcome by mainstay hosts, including Vice Ganda himself and Anne Curtis.

“Thank you! Maraming salamat, ‘Showtime’ family,” she said in apparent excitement, before asking if she can greet the show’s audience, also known as “madlang people,” as seen in a Kapamilya Online Live clip via Philippine TV & Film Updates’ Twitter page.

Vice Ganda then said, “We love Barbie, ‘yung nanay daw niya laging nanonood ng ‘Showtime,’ to which Forteza responded: “Opo, si Mommy Amy po!”

Vice Ganda and Curtis then greeted the Kapuso star’s mother before the former said, “Parang matagal nang gustong sabihin ni Barbie ‘yan. Ngayon lang niya ‘yan naisigaw,” referring to her “Madlang

People” greeting. Shortly after the show’s premiere, the “Partners in Crime” star said on Twitter that her “vibe” is a good fit for the noontime show.

“Bagay si Barbie sa Showtime. I love her vibe!” his tweet read.

The actor-comedian’s tweet then caught the attention of netizens, with some hoping that the Kapuso network would allow Forteza to be part of the show.

One @txtlayp said, “Petition to make Barbie Forteza as regular host on It’s Showtime !!”

Another @kakaiBachii said, “MEME APPROVED ANG BINIBINING KLAY DASURV.”

Twitter user @bravo6live stressed, “ABS, GMA, listen to the madlang pipoooool.”

Another @alejoowx said, “I really love watching artists from two ‘rival’ stations do interact.”

The premiere of “It’s Showtime” on GTV was a star-studded affair as it featured appearances from Kapuso stars including Forteza, Sanya Lopez, Rayver Cruz, Gabbi Garcia, Christian Bautista, Mark Bautista, Richard Yap, Rodjun Cruz, and Pokwang.

The ABS-CBN flagship show was previously under TV5’s noontime slot until the end of their contract last June 30. Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto, and Joey de Leon’s new show “EAT” took over its slot, as of this writing.

Filipino-Scottish Alexa Grant of Canada advances to Top 10 of Miss Supranational online challenge

Filipino-Canadian Alexa Marie Grant, representing Canada, has advanced to the Top 10 of the semifinal round of the Miss Supranational suprachat challenge, which is a special addition to the competition before the coronation night in Poland July 14.

Grant’s achievement was announced by pageant organizers on its Instagram page on Tuesday after winning her group’s “Suprachat,” an online event where beauty queens are grouped in no particular order, and in which they have to interact with their fans and supporters online pre-arrival.

“Congratulations to @miss.supranationalcan CANADA @alexamarie_grant



You are advancing to the top 10 semi-final round of #suprachat and well done to all the other ladies in Episode 7!” Miss Supranational captioned its post.

Grant commented on this post, expressing her elation over

her initial victory. Incidentally, she also won the talent portion of the pageant.

Before she was Miss Supranational-Canada, the 21-year-old Grant was Miss Teen Philippines Canada 2018, then Binibining IPEN Canada 2022.

Philippines’ bet Pauline Amelinckx is included in Group 10 of the Suprachat, which premiered on June 20 (Poland time, 7 hours advanced) and will end in 48 hours.



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Life’s brighter under the sun



Arjo Atayde asks Maine Mendoza’s parents for her hand in marriage

Formal nang namanhikan ang pamilya ni Arjo Atayde sa pamilya ng fiancée niyang si Maine Mendoza.

Ang pamamanhikan ay Filipino tradition kung saan formal na hihingin ng groom-to-be ang kamay ng bride-to-be sa mga magulang ng huli. Sa nasabing okasyon ay pinaplano na rin ang kasal.

Sa Instagram post ng ina ni Arjo na si Sylvia Sanchez nitong Lunes, June 26, 2023, ibinahagi niya ang video kung saan makikita ang pagdating ng kanilang pamilya sa bahay nina Maine sa Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Mabilis at masaya silang sinalubong ng TV host-actress.

“The Very Important destination [red heart sign emoji],” mababasa sa caption ni Sylvia.

Kabilang rin sa hashtags na ginamit niya ang #casamendoza, #pamamanhikan, #AtaydeMendoza, #family, #happiness, at #thankuLORD.

Nasundan pa ang post ni Sylvia nang i-upload niya kinabukasan ang mga



kuhang litrato nila sa naganap na pamamanhikan.

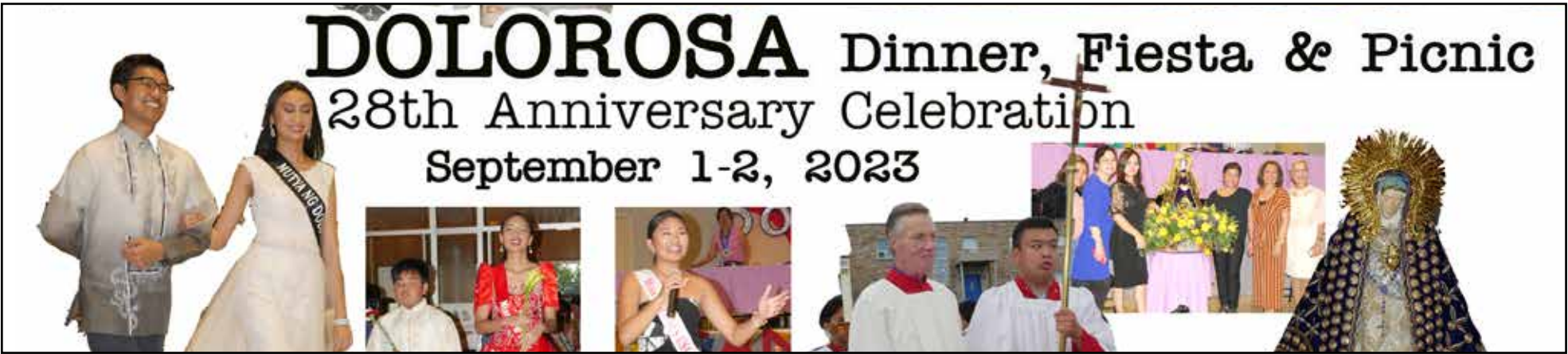
Bukod kay Sylvia, present ang asawa niyang si Art Atayde, at ang mga kapatid ni Arjo na sina Ria, Gela, at Xavi.

Sa pamilya naman ni Maine, present ang kanyang ama na si Teodoro “Teddy” Mendoza, ang kanyang ina na si Mary Ann, at mga kapatid na sina Nico at Coleen, at iba pa nilang kaanak.

Saad ni Sylvia sa caption ng kanyang post, “The Ataydes & Mendozas will soon merge as one family [pray sign and heart emoji].”

Hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa naglalaras ng detalye sina Maine at Arjo kung kailan at saan sila ikakasal.

Ngunit base sa nakalap ng impormasyon ng PEP Troika ay sa July 2023 gaganapin ang kanilang kasal.



♥ A Festivals to attend and enjoy 😊🤔😊

The Festival season is in full swing. Filipino festivals are happening all over the city. Does one experience festival overload? Hell, no. Remember, technically, we only have 2 months to enjoy the warm weather. UN-technically, we have 4 months of “nice” weather if the weather Gods are generous. The remaining months are cold and colder. 😊 So far, we've had the PIDC Salo-salo sa Earl Bales, FCT Pistahan, PCCF Pinoy Fiesta and Toronto Fiesta Extravaganza. Did I miss some? I’m pretty sure I did. Coming up are Vaughan Fiesta Extravaganza, Fun Philippines, Taste of Manila, and Mabuhay festival. Then, there are those festivals na susulpot na lang bigla. Let’s enjoy summer. Two months lang ito. 😊

Even Canada’s scandals put you to Sleep

We just had a Mayoral by-election contested by 102 candidates. I was one of them. The

reason is that Mayor John Tory resigned because he had an extramarital relation with a staffer. Relax po kayo. Hindi na po bata iyong staffer. The 31-year old staffer does not work with the city anymore. And that is why we had a boring election. The irony is that the scandal itself does not even get the people of Toronto talking. We cannot compete with the Europeans and Americans when it comes to scandals. As for the Philippines, it seems every married politician has affairs that it seems normal already. In fact, sa Pilipinas, the scandal is if the politician does not have a mistress. In Canada, an overpriced orange juice bought in the hotel is enough to get you fired. Google Bev Oda. Or travelling too much like senator Pamela Wallin from Ottawa to Toronto, which is where she came from. Sus Guinoo ni Roxanne. Ano ba naman? 😊

Is Lorna Tolentino ready to fall in love again?

Following her stint in ABS-CBN’s longest-running drama series FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano, Lorna Tolentino had to take care of her health by addressing issues such as hormonal imbalance,



Lorna Tolentino and Coco Martin

as First Lady Lily Ann Cortez-Hidalgo, wife of Pres. Oscar Hidalgo, played by Rowell Santiago. We saw her playing the role for three years and five months.

“After Ang Probinsyano, I underwent executive checkup kasi ilang years din yun nawala. I looked after my health because health is wealth,” she told the press.

She explained that her weight gain had something to do with her hormonal imbalance. “I had to attend to that also, as well as my knee problem which I acquired while taping. Every time we had our rest period, I would roam around and walk. (The area) was hilly, so my knee got strained and had a tear, nawala yung gel na nagdidikit.” So, she consulted a doctor and had her platelet-rich plasma (PRP) session.

Besides her knee injury, the veteran actress

knee injury and gastric ulcer.

She was initially tapped for the FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano for 10 days only but the viewers got fond of her character

also suffered from gastric ulcer and had treatments for three months.

“When you reached a certain age, you should do (medical) checkup every year because of course, we experienced (physical) changes,” she advised. She also mentioned the stages of menopause — perimenopause and postmenopause as examples. “I treated my hormonal imbalance (right away) because papunta na sa hypothyroidism.”

All is well now for Lorna and she is feeling better, she shared. She went on to film FPJ’s Batang Quiapo, where she portrayed Amanda Salonga, partner of Julio Diaz’s Augustus.

She felt “grateful” for being part of ABS-CBN’s action-drama series, FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano and FPJ’s Batang Quiapo, both directed and topbilled by Coco.

“I am grateful and it’s a blessing to me,” she declared. “I’m so blessed because he (Coco) didn’t let go of me. Hindi niya ako binibitawan at iniwan. He would come up with characters that would make you feel alive as an actor again.”

When asked if she is ready to find a new love again, she said, “You know what hindi naman pinaplano yan. But I pray that someday, someone will take care of me when I get older. You can’t really avoid it but it’s up to Him (if He will give me that).”

The widow of the late action star Rudy Fernandez has no suitor as of the moment but she, nevertheless, is open to marriage when love comes knocking again.

Rudy passed away in 2008 due to periampullary cancer. Rudy and Lorna have two sons, Raphael Fernandez and Renz Fernandez.

PIDC Holds 35th Anniversary Picnic at Earl Bales Park

The Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC) commemorated its 35th founding anniversary at Earl Bales Park, North York, Toronto on June 3, 2023. It was a kick-off event to start the celebrations of June Filipino Heritage Month in Ontario, the 125th Philippine Independence Day, and the 162nd birth anniversary of the Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal. The festive occasion was sponsored generously by Canadian Heritage, TD Bank, Agnes P. Miranda of WFG, Scotiabank, and Imperial Worlds, Inc.

PIDC is a leading not-for-profit, and volunteer-run umbrella organization of several social, professional, and business organizations in the Filipino Canadian communities in Ontario. Its major goal is to promote, preserve and propagate the rich, vibrant, and unique heritage and history of the Philippines by organizing and offering culturally-focused programs and presentations.

Distinguishedly led by PIDC President Agnes P. Miranda, the Executive Directorate, the Council of Leaders, and volunteers, have planned and scheduled 5 main events for the summer of 2023 one of which was the PIDC Annual Picnic Salu-salo held on Saturday from 9:00 am. to 8:30 pm. The other upcoming activities are all parts of this year’s Mabuhay Philippines Festival, PIDC’s flagship project. The festival includes 1) the Golf Classic on July 16th, 2) the Beauty Pageant on July 29th, 3) the Line Dancing Competition on August 26th, and 4) the Parade and Santacruzán, Hip-Hop Dance Contest, and Battle of the Bands on August 27.

The June 3rd Annual Picnic festivities started with a ceremony at the statue of Dr. Jose P. Rizal presided by Melinda Manlapaz. Numbers included in the one-hour program were flag-raising, wreath-laying, group picture-taking, group singing, and special greetings and messages from Philippine government dignitaries headed by Philippine Dept. of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Paul Raymond Cortez and Consul General Angelica Escalona, PIDC executive officers, Ontario solicitor general and MPP Michael Kerzner, members of the Knights of Rizal-Canada Region, and the Kababaihang Rizalista.

On the same day, the Mabuhay Cup Volleyball Tournament was undertaken with eight teams each competing for the men’s and the women’s championship trophies. NBA-GTA & North York sports organizers Vilma Tahsin,



Roger Tarca, Marla Cuaresma, and Bob San Juan officiated and coordinated the volleyball competition.

A cultural presentation and unique entertainment numbers were performed at the centre stage ably hosted jointly by Danny Orbillo, Ryan Orlanda, and Chyrell Samson. The Honourable Minister of Public Safety and MP Marco Mendicino gave his congratulatory greetings and some leading Toronto mayoral candidates made their campaign pitches.

Sumptuous salu-salo lunch was served to picnic participants and special guests, after which community organizations parade in the park ensued. Several business product and service booths and Filipino-focused food vendors offered their fares and wares to the public. The Annual Picnic Event organizers Lorenzo “Jun” Villaruz (Chair), Minda Neri (Co-chair), and Roy Start (Vice chair), supported by other PIDC officers and directors. The whole-day park gathering is certainly characterized by attendees, guests, and participants alike as enjoyably successful. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

Marian Rivera gets real about aging

Kapuso Primetime Queen Marian Rivera has gracefully embraced the transformations that come with time. She is among the celebrities who embrace the inevitable process of aging.

“Kailangan nating tanggapin ang katotohanan na hindi naman forever young ka,” said Marian, when she was launched as the latest brand ambassador of BlancPro, a new skincare brand, held at a hotel in Quezon City recently. “Ang tanong. How do you take

care of yourself kapag tumatanda ka? Kaya nadyan ang ating mga lotion para alam natin kung paano natin alagaan ang sarili natin. Lahat tayo darating dyan. Lahat tayo tatanda. Yun nga lang, paano ka tatanda na mas maayos at mas maganda. For me, okay ako dun. Ine-embrace ko yung ganung pagkakataon.”

Marian, 38, disclosed that during her youth, she used a considerable amount of lotion to moisturize her skin. Her mother instructed her on the importance of applying lotion after taking a bath and before going to bed.

Her husband, actor Dingdong Dantes does not use lotion often, she said. So



what she does is she puts lotion on Dingdong while he sleeps. “Ang mga boys aminin natin hindi masyadong gumagamit ng lotion. Pagtulog na lang, saka ko sya lalagyan ng lotion.”

Full blast Marian said that she’s excited about her latest projects in showbiz: a movie

with Dingdong and a teleserye with Gabby Concepcion.

Asked about her kids Zia and Sixto who will miss her while taping for movies and teleserye, Marian answered: “Simple lang. Time management.”

Marian said that she and her husband always discuss with their kids the nature of their profession.

“And siguro maganda na open yung communication ko sa kids. At kahit bata pa sila, ine-explain ko sa kanila. Ito ang gagawin ni mama. Ito yung mga times na wala si mama. O, ito yung mga times na free si mama at masasamahan ko, makakapasyal tayo,” she said.



Bela Padilla on putting down roots in London

It has been almost two years since Bela Padilla decided to relocate to London. And while the adjustment period was challenging at first, the actress feels happy that, slowly but surely, she's finally finding her footing.

"I was like a 7-year-old kid, trying to relearn things. I didn't know where it was safe to walk at night, things like that... But I'm starting to put roots down, marking my favorite things like libraries, gyms and cafes. I'm setting my routines," she told reporters at her recent press launch as the newest endorser of the beauty and wellness brand Dear Face. And it helps that Filipinos are virtually everywhere in the world. In her neighborhood alone, she has already spotted three Filipino groceries. "I'm always in the Pinoy supermarkets, so much so that the owners already know what I usually buy. The Filipinos there are super sweet. Everyone has been nice," she related. London is one of the most expensive cities in terms of cost of living. But thankfully, Bela said, she has always been mindful of how she spends her money. "I worked hard every day. I didn't have time to spend my money. I didn't even have the time to go to the mall and shop for myself so I was able to save up... I'm happy about that," said Bela, who also has investments in food businesses. "I don't put all my eggs in one basket. And I still act and do movies. Those things sustain me."

Finding space
One of the biggest driving forces behind

Bela's decision was the nonrenewal of ABS-CBN's franchise. Amid all the uncertainties, she figured it was for the best that she find a space where she could feel secure once again. And because she holds dual citizenship (Filipino and British), the UK was the most logical choice. "I wanted to find a place where I could be completely safe, where they don't pull the rug under you and say, 'Sorry, wala ka nang trabaho,'" she related. These days, Bela flies to the Philippines only when there are new acting projects or product endorsements like Dear Face's collagen and probiotic drink Beauty Milk. As someone dealing with PCOS (Polycystic ovary syndrome) and hypothyroidism, Bela said her health has become one of her top priorities. "I work out every day, I eat clean, I don't smoke and I no longer drink. But I have noticed it has been getting harder for me to lose weight. Turns out, I have hypothyroidism... As we mature, we have to be more mindful about our intake. I'm careful with my diet not only to make myself look aesthetically good, but to also improve the quality of my life," she said. "I was like a 7-year-old, trying to relearn things," said Padilla. The 32-year-old actress also stressed the importance of self-care. "You have to take care of yourself to be able to take care of others. That's a fundamental



thing. We Filipinos like to take care of our families and friends, but you can't pour from an empty cup," Bela said. Bela, who also writes and directs films, will stay in the country to finish a script she has been developing with Adolf Alix Jr. and shoot a movie with JC Santos. She has also been offered to do soap operas, but said she couldn't connect with the material. "Nothing speaks to me yet... Because of the pandemic, we have lost a lot of time and loved ones. And I don't want to invest time on a project that won't help anyone, or that I can't learn from. I don't want to sound snobbish, but that's my thinking at the moment," she said.

Enjoying life
Is it hard juggling life in the UK and career in the Philippines? Thanks to technology, her situation has become manageable. "The pandemic made me feel that the world is small, that we don't have to be locked just in one place. You can be based anywhere and completely functional somewhere else," she pointed out. Bela doesn't know how long she will stay in London. But for now, the important thing is that she's enjoying her life. "I enjoy what I'm doing. I enjoy the company of the people around me," Bela said. "Even if there are challenges here and there, I try to overcome them the best way I can. I try to be positive amid everything."

The problem with Ronnie Liang's take on sexy actors

Back in college, it was already Ronnie Liang's dream to take up MA. Having then joined Pinoy Dream Academy, however, had stifled his plan. Immediately, he pursued an even higher degree which he describes as "not another degree but a pursuit of a higher dream in life." Ronnie — for all of local showbiz's uncertainties — is well aware of the fact that showbiz is not a lifetime career. "So I need to secure my future," he would say. With every reason to be picky with showbiz assignments offered, here's just hoping that Ronnie refrains from saying that going sexy onscreen is a no-no to him.

It will be remembered that months ago Ronnie got the flak for shunning flesh exposures onscreen even if the price was right. Instead of simply stating that going sexy wasn't right up his alley (period!), Ronnie went as far as enumerating his credentials. He bragged about being a master's degree holder, an accomplished product ambassador/endorser, a product of a decent family and to top it all, a practicing Christian. "They can have [those roles]," Ronnie stressed, leaving the going sexy stuff to the other actors who have the gall for it. But as far as he's concerned, no amount of money can make him bare skin. Make it final. His puritanical stand actually came from a showbiz reporter's hypothetical question. While the whole of showbiz respects Ronnie's opinion, he should likewise learn to respect other actors who've gone or going a bit too daring, and not look down on them. If Ronnie claims he's squeaky clean, then who are we to say otherwise? Yes, it goes down to one's respect for another person's viewpoint regardless of academic credentials. But congratulations are in order as very rarely do we find showbiz figures who are let alone college degree holders.





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Ramon Miranda
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Honda Accord 2023



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Terry Aquino
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Honda Civic 2023

ACT wants ‘living wage’ for workers

MANILA, Philippines — The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) has urged President Marcos to order a salary increase, both for public and private workers across all sectors, to a level that can support a decent standard of living.

The ACT said the P40 increase in the daily minimum wage of workers in the National Capital Region (NCR) is a “pittance and a slap in the face of workers who are the backbone of our economy.”

“The P40 increase in the minimum wage is a mere token that fails to address the rising cost of living, inflation, and the growing demands of Filipino workers in the private sector,” ACT chairperson Vladimir Quetua said.

“This meager increase remains inadequate in providing workers with a living wage, falling significantly short of meeting the P1,160 family living wage [that] a five-member Filipino family needs to survive,” he added.

A living wage refers to a wage enough to cover a family’s basic needs for its members to have a decent standard of living.

Apart from salary increase for private workers, Quetua said it is “similarly urgent and important for the government to also raise the salaries of public school teachers and all other government employees as they also bear the brunt of the continually high inflation and expected more hikes in electricity, water and transportation costs.”

“Not to mention teachers’ low salaries in comparison to other professions such as nurses and uniformed personnel,” Quetua added.

“ACT reiterated that the best the government can do to fulfill its constitutional and most fundamental mandate to its people is to recognize the real conditions of workers and employees, enact living wages across all sectors, strengthen local economy, and heed the people’s long-

standing demand for national industrialization,” the group said.

Meanwhile, six regional unions under the ACT have submitted their respective letters to the concerned regional offices of the Department of Budget and Management to seek updates on the status of the long-overdue release of their Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) for 2021.

He said that teachers are getting dismayed as this has been the longest delay in the release of their PBB since its implementation in 2013.

Other ACT regional unions are soon to submit their letters to DBM, Quetua said.

“We, once again, raise this concern. We are hoping for a positive response from DBM. We demand an update on the status and the urgent release of this overdue, longest delayed benefit,” he said.

Workers maintain balance while laying out steel reinforcing bars for the elevated road on the Sta. Mesa segment of the NLEX-SLEX connector in Manila on June 9, 2023.



Pay hike for non-minimum wage workers in Metro Manila

Labor group Partido ng Manggagawang (PM) yesterday pressed for the granting of a pay hike to Metro Manila workers receiving salaries slightly higher than the new daily minimum wage.

PM chair Renato Magtubo said employers should address the wage distortion resulting from the recent increase for minimum wage earners.

“We appeal to the employers to implement the P40 minimum wage increase to all its employees so as not to alter or distort the existing pay structure of their establishment,” Magtubo stressed. He asked DOLE-NCR to address complaints and act swiftly.

Aljur Abrenica’s ‘Revelation’

THE script holds immense significance in the world of filmmaking, serving as the foundation upon which a film is built. Recognizing its important role, actor Aljur Abrenica prioritizes the script evaluation process before committing to any movie project.

The actor proudly expressed how beautiful the story of the film *The Revelation* is, directed by Ray An Dulay and written by his wife, Joyzell Dulay.

“It’s a psychological thriller, so the twists in the story are different. This is the first one that I agreed to, apart from my co-cast members. Our working environment on set was very collaborative, which made the work lighter despite the intense scenes,” Aljur said in the vernacular.

Aside from loving his role in “*The Revelation*,” Aljur said he enjoyed shooting the film because he was working with his younger brother, Vin Abrenica, once again. They previously worked together in the film *Ang Hapis at Himagsik ni Hermano Puli* (2016), directed by Gil Portes.

“But you know what I liked most about this film? The opportunity to work with Vin. I really enjoyed this project because he was with me,” Aljur said.

“Back in 2016, it wasn’t like this. But now, it’s the opposite. We’re the protagonist-antagonist pair. It’s my first time having a major role like this. I’m grateful for the opportunity to work with [Vin] because we haven’t been together for a long time, personally as siblings. There are many revelations when we’re together. This is true,” Aljur added.

Beloved working boys

THE *Eat Bulaga!* saga is in essence a reflection of the enduring fame of a trio we so know as Tito, Vic & Joey. The length of time that the noontime show has aired on Philippine TV, specifically with them on board, mirrors the unwavering admiration their group enjoys from Filipino audiences.

While in terms of longevity, we should qualify their *Eat Bulaga!* hosting as that one job that has kept them visible and relevant despite the changing times, we have willingly embraced the fact that their multifaceted talents and infinite charisma enabled them to penetrate various fields of endeavors. They’re household comedians, with notable sitcoms under their belt whether done as a group or without the others.

Some comedians on TV can’t duplicate their success on the big screen. Not TVJ who are bankable movie actors, too. My younger brother Reinhard is placing bets

in his claim that the funniest Filipino movie ever is the 1985-released *Working Boys*, which saw the troika supplemented by a young Herbert Bautista. See it and laugh your way to agree, with many of the punch lines anchored on the theme of fakery – Joey De Leon’s face on a bill, fake wake with a breathing Palito lying in a coffin, and fake TV repair to keep a drunken Joaquin Fajardo entertained.

Tito Sotto launched a remarkable political career owing to his exposure as the de facto figurehead of the group, which led to everyone fondly calling him Tito Sen. His brother Vic Sotto had become a box office star in his own right, consistently drawing theatergoers to see his movies either featuring him as Enteng Kabisote or as the leading man of whoever is the hot-test ticket in the biz.

Joey, the acknowledged resident joker, has delivered the goods in various gigs – host of *Wow Mali*, the leader of the pack in *TO-DAS* (Television’s Outrageously Delightful All-Star Show), and boss of super sidekick Rene Requiestas.

It should put a smile on your face that when you google Tito Vic & Joey, you’d see them being officially identified as a musical band. They have more than 13,000 monthly listeners and 47,811 followers as of this writing, certainly not bad for an act that recorded materials for a laugh. Their most streamed track is one called “Upakan,” a song that sounds like a natural single from the band Cinderella until wordplay master Joey’s antics comes in at 1:21, which turns the piece into vaudeville way before Grin Department came up with “Skin.” Their parody of the Voltes V opening theme charms with the cute line “Pagdating ng araw at di na tayo kids.”

TV5 Chairman Manny Pangilinan welcomes the iconic Tito, Vic, and Joey in their new home network

And then there’s “Iskul Bukol,” the theme song to a sitcom of the same title the trio starred in for 10 seasons. This one possesses a riff that stands the test of time and features Bossing Vic’s disarming vocals that should remind everyone he’s a real-deal singer. On that note, VST &



Vin Abrenica (left) with brother Aljur



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Company, which sees his singing voice become a pioneer of Manila Sound, actually falls into a TVJ side project that turned out, once again, very big.

Indeed, Tito, Vic, & Joey as TV stars overshadowed their achievements in music. Both Vic and Joey wrote the VST classics “Awitin Mo At Isasayaw Ko” and “Ipagpatawad Mo.” Tito penned “Magkaisa,” sung by one Virna Lisa, which became a hit after the EDSA Revolution in 1986.

They are an act that for the longest time had nothing to prove anymore. They could have officially retired from showbiz after their announcement on social media that they’re leaving the show they painstakingly carved into a national pastime.

And yet, that’s the very reason why they can’t just drop the mic. They have become part of the national fabric that their retirement may prompt a politician aching for the spotlight to label it as a national emergency. As we have witnessed, the mere drama between them and TAPE Inc. led to Pinoys (despite having their own worries to deal with) sparing some time to write tribute posts about *Eat Bulaga!*

That TVJ will be back on TV as essentially they are, or as we have known them all these years, means the epoch that is inherently them continues.

15th Victoria Cup Basketball 2023 is still action-packed

Filipino Festivals come and go but sports tournaments have staying power. The players, their families and friends keep returning year after year.

The FCT-Victoria Invitational Basketball Tournament (VIBT) was founded in 2007 in commemoration of Dr. Vicky Santiago's passion for improving the health and well-being of the Filipino-Canadian community.



DR. VICTORIA SANTIAGO

On May 19 to 21, 2023 (Victoria Day weekend), the 15th VIBT took place. Around 18 teams and 54 divisions participated and numerous families and friends of team players attended to watch the games. A number of special guests also joined the fun-filled weekend, among them were: MP Rechie Valdez (Mississauga), MP Salma Zahid (Scarborough Centre), Councillor-Interim Mayor Jennifer Mckelvie (Scarbor-

ough Rouge Park), Mayoral candidates Ana Bailao and Mitzie Hunter. As of 2023, VIBT is the longest running tournament (formerly Mabuhay) and one of the most organized leagues with an assigned nurse and police security.

Former Mayor John Tory has never missed a VIBT Opening Ceremony since 2014 and he did not, even this year.

However, he did not sit in front, as was his choice.

Sources say that he did not want to be a distraction so he just sat at one of the bleachers.

As for the popularity of the former Mayor, it doesn't seem to have waned. Attendees to the tournament are still having their pictures taken with him.

The Filipino Centre Toronto 15th Victoria Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 was held at the Toronto Pan Am Centre.

There is a belief here **VICTORIA page 12**

Jake Cuenca on blossoming romance with Chie Filomeno: "I'm happy, super." Chie sa trabaho.

Ayaw pa ring lagyan ng label ni Jake Cuenca, 35, ang espesyal na relasyon na namamagitan sa kanila ni Chie Filomeno, 26.

March 2023 nang mabalita ang pagde-date ng dalawa, at hindi naman itinanggi nina Jake at Chie na sobra nilang nae-enjoy ang company ng bawat isa.

Sa panayam, nagbigay ng pahayag si Jake tungkol sa kanila ni Chie.

"Good, masaya," paglalarawan niya na namamagitan sa kanila ng dalaga.

"But like I've said, paano ba? I learned a few things from my past relationship.

"I don't wanna do anything para maudlot, kasi it's very happy and it's very good right now.

"For me, basing it from the things I've learned from the past, parang I don't wanna pull the trigger too



early. Wala pa."

Pero diin din niya, "For me, right now, I can be blunt by saying she makes me happy, super."

Masasabi bang exclusively dating sila ng aktres? "She makes me happy," malamang sabi ni Jake.

Tinanong namin si Jake kung anu-ano ang mga espesyal na katangian ni Chie ang nagugustuhan niya. "Alam mo, what's so special about her is her heart. Si Chie kasi ever since nung nakilala ko pa lang siya nun, the first time, I always knew she is a very kind person, sobrang bait saka sobrang family-oriented. "E, ganun din ako, very family-oriented so I really appreciate that."

Hinahangaan din daw ni Jake ang determinasyon ni

"I appreciate her journey, na-appreciate ko yung journey niya sa showbiz, kasi she's a person who's been here for a long time pero now pa lang dumaraming ang time niya, which she waited [for]. "She waited for her time to come. For me, I find it beautiful, just as beautiful as she is."

FIGHT SCENES IN IRON HEART

Nakausap si Jake sa presscon ng Iron Heart Book 2.

Napapanood si Jake bilang Eros sa prime-time action series na ito ng Kapamilya Channel.

Sa presscon proper ng Iron Heart ay nabanggit nila Richard Gutierrez na may mga di maiiwasang aksidente na nangyayari sa Iron Heart, lalo na't action serye ito. Para kay Jake, hindi big deal sa kanya ang ganitong mga bagay.

"For me, kapag nangyari yun sa set, I don't really get mad and get emotional about it. It's part of the

job."

ON WORKING WITH JM DE GUZMAN

Isa sa karakter na papasok sa Book 2 ng Iron Heart ay si JM de Guzman. Excited naman si Jake na makatrabaho ang aktor.

Ibinahagi rin ng Kapamilya actor ang mga karanasan niya nang mag-tape sila ng mahahalagang eksena ng serye sa Rome, Italy.

"Certainly it was very fun, but it was lot of work, it's more work, e. We're all happy and we're all satisfied with what we did kasi we're all happy with the work.

Inspirado si Jake dahil nabibigyan siya ng iba-ibang roles kunsaan napapakita niya ang kanyang talento sa pag-arte. Bagay na talaga palang target ni Jake sa tuwing tatanggap siya ng proyekto.

"I try my best not to repeat my performance. For me, what I'm trying to do is try to create from scratch and then present it to the fans and audience."

'Lipstick lesbian' Sheryn Regis on getting married, having another baby

Celebrating 20 years in showbusiness, Asia's Crystal Voice Sheryn Regis wants to be known as a lesbian lipstick.

It is a slang term for a lesbian that shows a greater number of traditionally feminine gender attributes, like wearing make-up, dresses or skirts, and having other features associated with women.

Sheryn says she's happy flaunting her true identity. "I'm flaunting. I'm very open now kasi alam ko na nandyan ang support ng family ko. Pagminsan pala na muntik ka ng mamatay, you treasure the moment. Doon mo ma-feel na you have to treasure everything: Who's in front of you? Who's beside you? That's why I'm flaunting everything at na-express ko lahat ng nasa damdamin ko. I'm happy that I have a happy heart."

Sheryn's upcoming concert will kick off at the Music Museum in San Juan, Metro Manila on July 8. A week later, Sheryn will take her concert to the US and Canada.

While many may not know this, Sheryn fought thyroid cancer in 2016.

"This is another chance for me in life after I

survived thyroid cancer.

Akala ko after surgery mawawala ang boses ko eh. Hindi pala. Pwedeng mag change but hindi siya nawala. Matigas talaga ang ulo ko na after three weeks kumanta po uli ako. Pwede siyang bumuka pero sabi ko 'Lord, ikaw na bahala.' Scientifically, what I'm doing is wrong but my faith is still there. This is a miracle of life," she says.

Mel de Guia says she's been flattered about being Sheryn's partner for two years now.

Sheryn and Mel say they're not planning on marrying any time soon.

"Sapat na sa akin na mahal mo ako at tanggap ako ng pamilya mo. Hindi na kailangan ipagsigawan," Mel tells Sheryn.

On her part, Sheryn adds: "Grabe ang support ni Mel sa akin dahil tinanggap niya ako kahit may anak ako."

Mel and Sheryn also say they don't plan on having a baby at this time.

"Unang-una may baby na



nga ako si Inday (Sheryn) nga po. I mean si Sweetie po. Nakakaisip din tayo ng ganyan pero hindi ngayon. Kung ibibigay na Lord. Pinaghahandaan din namin si Sweetie ngayon para sa pagpasok niya sa college," Mel says.

Sheryn adds: "Mahirap din magkaroon ng anak. Kung magkakaroon man kami ng anak why not? Blessing din yan eh. Pero dapat paghandaan. It's a lifetime commitment."

Sweetie, who already came out as a member of the LGBTQ community, is the daughter of Sheryn and former partner Earl Echiverri.

Michael V. wants to do a skit with Vice Ganda on 'Bubble Gang'

Michael V. wants to do a skit with Vice Ganda on 'Bubble Gang'

Veteran comedian-actor Michael V. expressed his desire to work with Unkabogable star Vice Ganda in the long-running GMA Network gag show Bubble Gang.

During the media conference for the newly-relaunched comedy show, Michael admitted he wanted to do a skit with Vice.

Bubble Gang is set to make a

television comeback this coming Sunday, July 9, with new cast members, which include Cheska Fausto, EA Guzman, and Buboy Villar.

Michael said he is hopeful that the It's Showtime host will be able to guest on the variety program, revealing that they already discussed the possibility of collaborating on the show. He added that Vice "has always been open to collaboration."

"The last time we met, the last time na nag ka-usap kami, lagi niyang sinasabi: [sana] makapag-guest ako sa 'Bubble Gang,'" he shared.

He also said that he wants to do the Mr. Assimo skit with the Kapamilya comedian should he be given a chance to work with him in the future.

Mr. Assimo is a character Michael plays in a skit on Bubble Gang, wherein he responds sarcastically to people who are stating the obvious.

The Mr. Assimo skit became a hit with the public, popularizing the phrase "Hiyang-hiya naman ako sayo?!" towards the end of each of the skits while facing the camera with a seemingly surprised look.

"I think, yung top of mind, si Mr. Assimo and Vice Ganda," he added.



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Housing czar says to deliver 100,000 units by 2024

MANILA — The government will deliver around 100,000 housing units by next year, Human Settlements and Urban Development Secretary Jerry Acuzar said Monday, as President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. inspected a site in Pampanga that aims to provide homes to some 8,300 families.

During his visit to the Crystal Peak Estates on Monday, Marcos reaffirmed his vow to build 1 million homes annually under the government’s public housing program.

“Hindi ganoon kabilis gumawa ng projects. Gagawa ng plano, kukuha ng lupa,” Acuzar said, noting that vertical housing units were more difficult to build than horizontal row houses.

“Hindi kagaya ng horizontal, hindi puwedeng madaliin baka madaya yung construction. Dapat matibay,” he also said.

So far, at least 20 housing projects are being constructed in different parts of the country, the housing secretary added.

“In a year’s time baka maka-50 projects kami na ginagawa.”

Among these projects is the Crystal Peak Estates, a 9.8-hectare housing development site being built by state-run Social Housing Finance Corporation in San Fernando City.

The President said the project was an extension of his administration’s Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino Housing (4PH) program, with some 30 buildings planned to be built in the estates to help establish a community.

“Maliban sa pabahay, hangad ng programang ito na mabigyan ng isang matiwasay na komunidad ang mga maninirahan. Bukod pa rian, siniguro din natin



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. inspects a housing project under the Pambansang Pabahay sa Pilipino program in San Fernando, Pampanga on July 3, 2023. The housing development is composed of 30 12-story buildings with a mix of 25 sq.m. and 28 sq.m. units.

na ang residential units ay malapit sa mga eskwelahan, sa mga ospital, pamilihan, at iba pang mga recreational facilities,” Marcos said.

According to DHSUD, Crystal Peak Estates would be composed of 12-story buildings with units ranging from 25 to 28 square meters.

“It also features various amenities for social and physical wellness such as club-

houses, basketball courts, and swimming pools. Shophouses or commercial areas will likewise be incorporated on the ground floors, providing livelihood opportunities for unit owners,” DHSUD said in a statement.

Aside from Crystal Peak Estates, local chief executives in Pampanga also presented to Marcos other 4PH projects in nearby Minalin and Candaba towns.

Developments were underway for St. Andrews Residences, a 5.7-hectare project in Barangay Mandasig, Candaba where 18 mid-rise buildings with 5,000 units are expected to be built.

Another 7-hectare project would also be built in Barangay Santa Maria in Minalin, featuring 24 low- to mid-rise buildings with 5,016 units.

“The three projects will significantly reduce the huge housing need of the Province of Pampanga which is pegged at 91,000 units,” the DHSUD said.

Another successful Durham Invitational Basketball Tournament (10th DIBT)

On behalf of FBA of Durham, I would like to thank all the participants, Players, Team Managers, Coaches, Parents and supporters for your continued support to DIBT.

To the officers and volunteers, thank you for your hard work, patience and for selflessly volunteering your time to DIBT every year. Our sincere appreciation to our sponsors UMAC FORWARDER EXPRESS OF TORONTO AND CHATIME SIMCOE for your continued support. We could not have done it without your sponsorships.

Thank you so much, hope to see you all next year.

SAVE THE DATE! 11th DIBT - June 29-30, 2024 Oshawa, Ontario

2023 Tournament Results

2013 Div.
Champions - PBT ELITE
Finalists - DURHAM (FBANA)
MVP - Jathan Escudero

2012 Div.
Champions - UNDFTD

Finalists - TFP
MVP - Ryan Felipe
2011 Div.
Champions - CKATT (NABA INTERCITY)
Finalists - DURHAM (FBANA)



2009 Div.
Champions - CKATT (NABA INTERCITY)
Finalists - DURHAM (FBANA)
MVP - Jayden Williams

2008 Div.
Champions - UNDFTD
Finalists - CKATT (NABA INTERCITY)
MVP - Jordan Ducusin

2007 Div.
Champions - UNDFTD
Finalists - GILAS MONTREAL (NABA)
MVP - Nate Sundararajah

2006 Div.
Champions - NYPAA (NABA)
Finalists - CKATT (NABA INTERCITY)

MVP - Brando Cristini

2010 Div.
Champions - DURHAM (FBANA)
Finalists - NYPAA (NABA)
MVP - Jordan Magboo



Durham Champs, 2010 division

MVP - AJ AGUA
6FTU Div.
Champions - BUZZ CITY
Finalists - MOVEMENT
MVP - Ernest Tolete

Ladies Open Div.
Champions - 24MM
Finalists - MOVEMENT
MVP - Nikki Ylagan

Open Div.
Champions - LAKAN (USFBA)
Finalists - TTB
MVP - Elliot Dimaculangan

Ariel Rivera dislikes

Ariel Rivera considers it “presumptuous” for him to be dubbed “Kilabot ng mga Kolehiyala,” revealing he never liked the title as it does not suit his personality.

The actor-singer spoke about this during an interview with Boy Abunda in the latter’s show “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda.”

“Tama ba ang pag-



‘Kilabot ng mga Kolehiyala’ moniker: ‘It’s just not me’

kaalala ko na ayaw mo nung ‘Kilabot ng mga Kolehiyala?’” the TV host asked Rivera. (Do I remember it right that you did not want the moniker “Kilabot ng mga Kolehiyala?”)

“I did not,” the singer admitted.

Rivera recalled certain instances when he was younger and would express his disapproval of using the said title.

“There were a few times when Bong [Quintana] (Abunda’s partner)—[because] Bong would always be backstage, [along with] Hansel and Ernie—would

say, ‘Introduce Ariel—Please welcome, Kilabot—’ [then] I told Bong, ‘Bong, you introduce me as that, hindi ako lalabas sa stage (then I won’t go up the stage),’” Rivera recounted while laughing.

He then explained his take on the matter and said, “It’s so presumptuous of me to feel [that] all these kolehiyalas (college girls) love me. That’s so presumptuous of anybody to feel that way, and it’s just not me.”

“Plus, looking back, I didn’t know Hajji was the original ‘Kilabot,’” he con-

tinued, referring to singer Hajji Alejandro. “Wala naman akong alam sa history ng (I didn’t know the history of) OPM during that time. How can you take somebody’s title when there’s already somebody who has that title?”

During the interview, Rivera also narrated the “wildest thing” a fan did to him, which happened during his show in an exclusive school for girls.

“Ang ginagawa namin (What we do is) we take a girl up [the stage] then we give them a kiss. When it was time for me to kiss her, she just grabbed my face and [we kissed] lips to lips,” he narrated. “The next day, ka-date ko na siya (we were already dating).”

Ellen Adarna reveals John Lloyd Cruz willing to exceed financial support for son Elias

Ellen Adarna revealed that her ex-partner, actor John Lloyd Cruz, is willing to double his financial support for their son Elias, although she pointed out that she wants to fulfill her obligations as his mom.

Adarna said this in response to an anonymous follower on her Instagram Stories last Friday, June 30, where she was asked if Cruz provides financial support to their son. The story had since expired and was reuploaded on one @bethaglas’s Tiktok account.

“Okay, I’m going to answer this because I get this a lot. Yes, he does. When he asks me how much does Elias need, I give him a breakdown of his basic needs, just his basic needs. That’s P10,000 max,” she said.

The actress then shared that while Cruz is willing to

double the amount of his required financial support, she said that she cannot accept “anything more than P20,000” as she wants to accomplish her responsibilities as a mother.

“He insisted on doubling it. I know he’s more than capable of giving more than that but I told him I cannot accept anything more than P20,000 and that’s it,” she said. “Because we are co-parenting, I have my obligations and responsibilities for Elias so that’s just fair.”

Adarna also pointed out that “anything more than P20,000” is “not morally right” because their son hasn’t started schooling at the moment.

“Anything more than P20,000 for me is just not right,



not morally right. Because he’s not schooling yet. He hasn’t started school yet, so that’s just basic needs,” she

added.

The ex-couple’s division of financial responsibilities caught the attention of netizens, as seen in the comments of @bethaglas’s post, with some praising Adarna and Cruz for being responsible parents.

Adarna and Cruz, who welcomed Elias in 2018, confirmed their split the following year. The former is currently married to actor Derek Ramsay, while the latter has yet to confirm his relationship with artist Isabel Santos, as of this writing, despite being seen in public together.

Despite this, the couple remained amicable on multiple occasions, where Adarna wished the actor well in his relationship with Santos. On the other hand, Cruz hoped that the actress would have a “strong and fun marriage” with her husband.

Jane Oineza finally reaps the rewards of hard work



Jane is set to take on the lead role in the forthcoming joint series of ABS-CBN and TV5, Nag-aapoy na Damdamin, along with (from left) Tony Labrusca, Ria Atayde and JC de Vera. It is helmed by FM Reyes.

MANILA, Philippines — Kapamilya actress Jane Oineza is relishing every acting project she’s offered up to this day.

She began her showbiz career at the age of five in the ABS-CBN teleserye Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan in 2001. In 2008, she joined the children’s sketch comedy show, Goin’ Bulilit, which paved the way for more showbiz projects. She has appeared in various television and movie shows since then.

Just recently, it was announced that Jane will take on the lead role in the forthcoming joint series of ABS-CBN and TV5, Nag-aapoy na Damdamin, along with JC de Vera, Ria Atayde and Tony Labrusca. It is helmed by FM Reyes, who previously directed Maging Sino Ka Man, Magpahanggang Wakas and Ang Sa Iyo Ay Akin.

“I’ve been patiently waiting and I’m really overwhelmed with all the positive response that I’m getting,” she responded when asked for a reaction on fans getting excited that finally, after being in the showbiz industry for quite some time, she will now headline a teleserye in Nag-aapoy na Damdamin.

“And I always say this, I’ve been planting my seeds and being patient lang and waiting for it to grow. And if this is my time (to shine) then I know that I’ve put in my hard work as well,” she furthered during the press event of Cattleya Killer.

She previously portrayed one of the major characters in the afternoon teleserye Nasaan Ka Nang Kailangan Kita in 2015 as Corrine.

Asked on how she would handle opportunities in her decades-long career, she remarked, “The same as my usual naman na with every project that I get, regardless of the role, I just try to do my best to give them what they are asking from me and to give (the role) justice and to give my 202 percent in everything. And it doesn’t change whatever my role is.”

That’s why when she was offered to play detective agent Tina Galvez in the crime-thriller Cattleya

Killer, she readily accepted the part. The six-episode series was co-produced by ABS-CBN International Production and Nathan Studios. It is also the first series of the former with Amazon’s international streaming platform Prime Video.

Directed by Dan Villegas (Exes Baggage, English Only, Please) and written by Dodo Dayao (Midnight in a Perfect World, If You Leave), Cattleya Killer became the most-watched series among Filipino subscribers when it premiered last month .

It was based on the classic ‘90s Filipino thriller-film, Sa Aking Mga Kamay (In My Own Hands), starring Aga Muhlach.

Cattleya Killer stars Arjo Atayde, Jake Cuenca, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Ria Atayde, Ricky Davao, Nonie Buencamino and Christopher de Leon.

When Jane first learned that she would be joining



She plays detective agent Tina Galvez in the six-episode crime-thriller series.

the cast, she got “super excited” and said yes immediately.

“So there’s no reason to say no to it because first of all, this is one of my dream roles. One of my dream roles really is to do action (and) to do something cool like this. So from there, I grabbed that opportunity and I was game to do it right away,” she explained.

Jane went out of her comfort zone while filming the series and that’s what she considered as the fun part of doing it.

“I enjoyed (filming it) because I also believe that... I don’t like din na putting people in a box. I don’t like it na, ‘Ito ka, ito lang yung pwede mong gawin. Because you are a woman, because you are this (you set a limit to what you can do).’”

“I was able to prove that just do what you like. Don’t let others define what you can and cannot do,” she added. She believed that Cattleya Killer is “world-class” because “it’s something new.” “We



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Life’s brighter under the sun



don’t usually release psycho-thriller series but this one, it has a different tempo (and) approach. And I’m proud to say that (Cattleya Killer) is on a par with other available series from other countries,” she said.

She also maintained that the Filipino audience is “ready for new and daring concepts.” “Na-open tayo sa ganun when streaming platforms became more available for our audience and yeah, I think we’re ready,” she said.

Meanwhile, Jane and boyfriend RK Bagatsing will essay more daring roles in their upcoming film, Swing, an “adult love story about a couple who’s trying to save their marriage through unconventional means – that is engaging in swinging or swapping sexual partners.”

According to Jane, she and RK are able to balance out their personal and professional lives, individually and as

a couple. “I guess we’re both professionals also so when it comes to work mode, work mode din. He has his own thing going on and I have my own thing going on,” she shared.

“We don’t forget to keep each other updated (and) to make time (for each other) when we can. Kung maisingit yan sa schedule or if we have (some spare) time na pwe-deng isingit na magkita then we would. I’m just happy that it’s all balanced out, our work and a happy life.”

Is RK “the one” for Jane? The actress said that she will just leave it to the “universe to decide.”

“We put in the work, and then we wait for it and then well, yeah because we will get there naman,” she asserted.



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Life is back in the community

It seems the life is back in the community. Events are happening everywhere.

Philippine Independence Day Council PIDC started with their Salo salo sa Earl Bales Picnic. Mayoral candidate, now Mayor Olivia Chow made her appearance there.

Next was the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation PCCF Pinoy Fiesta at the Scarborough Civic Centre. last year, PCCF was the first Filipino event after the lockdowns

were lifted. Understandably, being the first one, people were excited and filled the square. Well, PCCF has proven that they can bring the crowds as they came back this year with more vendors and more crowds. And this was not just the crowd that attend Filipino events. These were regular crowds that attend festivals. As of closing time, they were still lining up at one vendor. Of course, the vendor was selling French fries and other snacks. The Filipino

vendors were already packing up. I heard Lechon Repuplik sold out their lechon. And jackies ran out of halo halo and had to get replenishment.

The biggest event of the month had to be the Eraserheads concert on a Friday at First Ontario Centre in Hamilton. The arena was packed. It seems every Filipino who attends community event was there. Philip Beloso was looking for anyone to attend Mayoral candidate Ana Bailao's speaking engagement somewhere in Toronto. The travel time to Hamilton took us 3 hours. Probably, a big part of that traffic were Filipinos going to the concert. The concert was a success.

The Philippine Artists Group (PAG) held their annual exhibit entitled Paleta 35. Frank Cruzet received a certificate for his



MP Rechie Valdez was a special guest of Josie de Leon at their annual Broadway show.

work teaching painting seniors at the Filipino Centre Toronto, which also received a certificate of recognition for its continued support of the PAG. Frank's wife, the lovely Theresa Lumanlan also received a certificate of appreciation for her continued support of PAG. Special guests were MP Rechie Valdez, Congen Angelica Escalona and Toronto medical officer Eileen de Villa.

The Josie de Leon Performing

Arts (JDL) held their annual Broadway show. Special guest was MP Rechie Valdez who had special singing part in one part of the program.

Toronto Fiesta Extravaganza was held at the parking lot of Wilson subway. Next year, it will have to find a new location as construction of new building will rise from the parking lot. John Tory was there campaigning for Ana Bailao. She lost.

Roy Start invited me, publishers Carlos Unas and Tess Cusipag on a Thursday lunch to Sukhothai restaurant that opened in Markham, just across Steeles Avenue near Brimley. They served us a variety of delicious dishes that we shared so that we can taste each one.

It's going to be a busy summer.

LM confidential ENTERTAINMENT

Kyline Alcantara finally meets her 'idol' Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo

Kapuso actress Kyline Alcantara kept it calm and composed during her first encounter with her "idol," veteran actress Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo.

In a short video the "Inagaw na Bituin" actress shared on Instagram, the two are seen posing for some photos, presumably on the same day they taped for "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda."

Contrary to her composed demeanor in the video, Alcantara's caption revealed her true feelings about meeting Santos-Agoncillo, who she described as her "idol."

"Grabe. Sobrang kinikilig po ako dito. [shy monkey emoji]," the "Annaliza" actress claimed. She then proceeded to tell Santos-Agoncillo, "So happy to see you in person po, Ms. @officialjuday



[smiling face with open hands emoji]."

"FINALLY! [both hands raised emoji] [teary-eyed face emoji]," she emphasized.

The "Luv Is: Love at First Read" star also shared their encounter on her Instagram Stories, which Santos-Agoncillo saw and reposted on hers.

In her Instagram Story, Santos-Agoncillo reshared Alcantara's post, saying, "It

was nice meeting you too @itskylinealcantara [heart emojis]."

The encounter made some users excited about the prospect of the two working together in an acting gig. One netizen commented on Alcantara's post, "My two local favorites, Miss Judy Ann and Kyline Alcantara. I hope may movie and series sila together. [face with heart-shaped eyes emoji]" (I hope they'll have a movie and series together.)

Like Santos-Agoncillo, Alcantara started out as a child star in the entertainment industry. She competed in the fourth season of the kiddie edition of "Star Circle Quest," and although she failed to win the talent search, she was able to land roles in different Kapamilya programs before making a transfer to the Kapuso network.

Dominic Roque hints engagement

Dominic Roque reiterated that he has not popped the question yet to his girlfriend Bea Alonzo, but he appeared to have hinted that it would be anytime "soon."

The celebrity couple was earlier hounded by engagement speculations after the actor showed photos of them together, which were taken during their romantic getaway in Amanpulo. The actress then clarified that they were just throwback photos, and that she and Roque are not

yet engaged.

During the recent MEGA Ball, Roque and Alonzo were once again asked about their reactions to the engagement speculations, as seen in a video shown by entertainment reporter MJ Marfori via her TikTok page on Tuesday, June 13.

"Actually, mukhang engagement talaga pero it was 2021 pa 'yung picture namin



with Bea Alonzo will happen 'soon'

na 'yon. Late lang lagi talaga akong magpost," Roque said. (Actually, it really looked like it was an engagement [setup] but those photos were taken in 2021. It's just that I always post photos way after they were taken.)

Marfori then asked, "Will it be next?," to which Roque replied affirmatively.

"Yes, it will. It will be next. Soon," he answered briefly. Fans then gushed over the celebrity couple, with some pointing out Roque's straightforward answer when asked how sure he was of Alonzo.

Alonzo confirmed her relationship with Roque in August 2021. Last March she revealed that she came close to breaking up with Roque, but that the latter reminded her that their relationship is worth fighting for.

Arron Villaflor content as a Single man

Arron Villaflor revealed that he is currently relishing his life as a single man. It's worth noting that he was previously romantically linked to actresses Jane de Leon and Yen Santos, as well as Miss Chinatown 2020 candidate Camille Buenaventura.

"I enjoy being single," he says. "I've already put my heart into my acting craft. I'm turning 33 so I need to prioritize what needs to be prioritized in my life already. My priority as of now is work."

Speaking about his work, Arron mentioned that he is currently quite busy. He expressed gratitude towards Viva, as signing with them has brought him numerous projects. Amid the height of the pandemic, he signed a contract with them, which included a lineup of 15 movies. As of now, he has completed five of them.

When asked if all the movies are for Vivamax, Arron confirmed, saying that he feels it's the right time for him to take on more ma-

ture roles. He believes that, given his age, he is ready for such projects and has made a personal commitment to accept daring roles as long as the story is compelling.

Regarding how he prepares for these sexy portrayals, Arron shared that he focuses on working out



to maintain awareness of his physique and muscles.

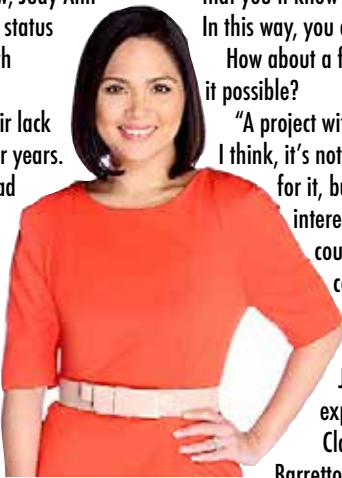
In terms of limitations on doing sexy roles, Arron stated that as long as they are necessary and significant for the film, there would be no issue. However, he emphasized that he is not confining himself to this genre alone and also has the desire to explore dramatic roles with Viva.



Sukhothai restaurant owners Jeff Regular, Nui Regular, Nonoy Regular, Joel Regular pose for us when we ate there.

Judy Ann Santos open to collaborate with Claudine Barretto

In a recent television interview, Judy Ann Santos was asked about the real status of her off-screen relationship with arch-rival Claudine Barretto. Judy Ann candidly shared their lack of closeness during their younger years. She explained that they never had the chance to form a strong bond due to their respective affiliations, Claudine with Star Magic and herself with the late Alfie Lorenzo. Adding to the complexity of their relationship, they were constantly pitted against each other, creating an atmosphere of rivalry. Despite these circumstances, Judy Ann emphasized that they were not enemies but rather friends. She clarified that while they hadn't been given the opportunity to connect truly, they were on good terms with each other. Judy Ann Santos reveals that she's open to work with fellow actress Claudine Barretto "Our supporters were behind us all the time. I guess it was a very healthy competition back then," said Judy who still believes that having a rival in the industry is necessary. "You need competition so



that you'll know in what areas you can still improve. In this way, you can elevate your stature." How about a film collaboration between them? Is it possible? "A project with Claudine? Of course, why not? I think, it's not because the public clamors for it, but it would be an interesting project. It could be something that hasn't happened before," Judy Ann explained. Claudine Barretto is known for her notable characters such as 'Carla' in the highly-commended 2000 movie 'Anak' Furthermore, Judy Ann expressed her belief that the present moment could be the ideal opportunity for her and Claudine to collaborate on a movie. With both actresses now in a mature phase of their lives and being mothers themselves, Judy emphasized that the timing feels different.

Skyea celebrates her 12th Birthday



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Skyea D'Aoust celebrates her 12th birthday at the 360 Restaurant at the CN Tower. Above, Skyea enjoys some caviar.



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Rita Daniela splits from baby's father

Rita Daniela finally confirmed talk about her being separated from the father of her child, Juan Andres or Uno.

She did son on "Fast Talk With Boy Abunda" saying, "Naghiwalay na po kami nung tatay ni Uno."



Rita didn't give details as to what exactly led to the separation saying simply, "We really tried our best just like everybody else, but it didn't work out."

According to Rita, she and the guy have since decided to simply co-parent Uno.

"I'm actually proud of ourselves, kaming dalawa. Kasi hangga't maaga inaayos na namin siya. Para pag lumaki na si Uno, alam mo po yun, peaceful po kami and we can still be

a family na wala na pong issue-issue sa both sides."

Talk about the split started early on, with Rita refusing to identify the father of her child.

When asked about it prior, Rita maintained it is merely a privacy issue with the guy not being involved in show business.

Now the truth is out.

Is she open to loving another if ever?

"Definitely, yes. Of course, it's still one of my dreams

to be, you know, na maglakad (sa altar) na may wedding gown. Part pa rin iyon ng aking pangarap. But now, not yet. Because my focus is to be a better person and to be the best mom to Uno."

Snow globes and a pink journal

When traveling abroad, most people take snapshots of interesting things and places that they can look at from time



What's not common knowledge is how she has found a way to deal with everyday stress.

"My favorite thing is my little journal that I take with me wherever I go. Being an overthinker, it's been really helpful to write down my thoughts when I get overwhelmed. The journal is cute, pink and has a pocket on the front. Purple is actually my favorite color, and that's why I love the details as well."



When she's MOD (model off-duty), Maureen reaches for her other favorite thing. "My Levi's 501s bring out my most genuine self. I have always loved going for denim since it's easy to style and wear. I am myself when I wear my Levi's."

Herlene Budol almost quits Miss Grand Philippines 2023 because of bashing

Kapuso actress Herlene Budol revealed that she almost backed out of Miss Grand Philippines 2023 because of the bashing she received after the preliminary interview.

In talk Boy Abunda, Herlene said she got depressed on

what she read on social media about her.

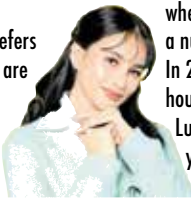
"Umabot sa punto na hindi ako nakakatulog, hindi ako nakakapag-cellphone, dinelete ko lahat ng apps ko sa cellphone ko at hindi na ako kumakain din ng two days. First time po kasi na ganu'n kadamí," she said.

"Pero dito kasi, hindi ko maipagtanggol 'yung sarili ko kasi alam kong mali lahat ng sagot ko nga raw po. Nababasa ko lahat ng comments, sabi ko nga sa kanila, 'Ang galing

to time. Now that few people have their travel photos printed and laid out in albums, the images only exist online or in their phones.

Actress and working mom Elisse Joson prefers to gaze at her collection of snow globes that are mementos of past foreign trips.

"I buy snow globes every time I travel to a new place, so I can take a piece of that place with me when I come home," Elisse



said. The actress, who started out in the entertainment industry when she was 16, has appeared in a number of movies and teleserye. In 2017, the year she became a housemate in "Pinoy Big Brother: Lucky Season 7," was also the year she appeared in an ad for a fast-food chain that went viral



for its "hugot" appeal. This time around, Elisse was chosen as the endorser of Miutiso, a fast-rising provider of assorted household essentials and organizers. A self-avowed "OC multitasker" (obsessive-compulsive disorder), she said it's her "duty to keep everything in her home beautiful" and in their place. "I keep my snow globe collection in a special cabinet in front of my bed so I can see it from afar," she said.

Off-duty look

For her part, model and beauty queen Maureen Wroblewitz is known for winning the fifth season of "Asia's Next Top Model," where she became the first Filipina to bag the top prize. She was also a runner-up at Miss Universe Philippines 2021.





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DR. VICTORIA SANTIAGO

However, unlike last year where a coach left the court, this year's tournament was devoid of drama. There was a \$500 prize for one parent from each team who can shoot from the centre of the court.

No one was able to make it. While most of the games were exciting enough there were a few that were quite lopsided. See you all next year.



nyong mam-bash. Naapektuhan ako.' 'Yung mental health ko, zero talaga," she added. Herlene said that the reason she will continue her quest in the pageant is because of her fans who look up to her as inspiration. "Naisip ko rin ho, kung mag-back



out ho ako rito, parang sinabi ko ho sa kanila na 'yung inspirasyon na sinasabi ko, mawala, magiging back to zero 'yung inspirasyon nila," she said. "Kung lumaban po ako ngayon, win or lose Tito Boy, kahit lumaban ako ngayon, matalo o manalo ako,

at least 'yung tinatawag nilang inspirasyon, lumalaban lang hanggang dulo," Herlene said. "Para sa akin naman po seryoso naman po ako roon sa ginagawa kong ito. Pero hindi ko ho talaga maintindihan 'yung tanong. Hindi ko ho alam kung bakit kahit sanay naman akong tanungin nang tanungin ng maraming tao," she added. When asked what she learned from that incident, Herlene

said, "Ang natutunan ko po rito sa pagkakamali na ito, is 'yung more talk, more mistakes. More learning.' Gusto ko pong matuto ako sa lahat ng pagkakamaling nagagawa ko sa buhay." "At nanghihingi po ako ng sorry kasi 'yung inspirasyon na sinabi ko po ngayon, nanghina, which is ako po 'yun. Pero hindi naman matatapos sa isang pagkakamali, eh. Puwede pa namang itama 'yun," she added.

Artist Group celebrate 35 years

Congratulations to the Philippine Artists Group of Canada for a successful opening of its Annual Art Exhibit “Paleta 35”

Great to see our guests and art lovers MP Rechie Aileen Valdez, PH Consul General - Toronto Hon. Angelica C. Escalona, Dr. Eileen De Villa, community leaders, media and friends.

Great job to PAG officers and members. Let us continue promoting creativity and cultural expression!



1. Congen Angelica mendoza, MP Rechie Valdez, Toronto medical officer Eileen de Villa; 2. Theresa Lumanlan, Eilee de Villa, Frank Cruzet; 3. Frank joins his wife Theresa Lumanlan in receiving a certificate of Appreciation.



A milestone achieved and a shining star recognized! Congratulations to my incredible daughter Alyssa, on graduating grade 8 and winning the prestigious Effective Communicator award! Your dedication, intelligence, and outstanding communication skills have set you apart. I couldn't be prouder of the remarkable young woman you've become. Here's to the next exciting chapter in your academic journey!

1. Alyssa Torreno with dad Marvin, mom Heather and sister Madi. 2. Alyssa Torreno



6. Shaine with Melissa Ventocilla; 7. JDL students perform at the Broadway show; 8. Special awardee Marco Landicho poses with MP Rechie Valdez, JDL mentors and school founder Josie de Leon.



PINOY FIESTA 2023

9. Daniella Cruz; 10. Sophia Sambrana; 11. Marianne, GMA7 zumba king Ron Antonio; 12. Ron Antonio and Bonna Esporas; 13. PCCF Pinoy Fiesta organizer Rosemer Enverga takes a rest after the festival.

Piolo Pascual takes role in Horror movie

Piolo Pascual wanted to be a priest. In an intriguing twist, the A-list actor takes on the challenging role of a Catholic priest harboring a dark secret as a serial killer. Titled Mallari, this horror thriller is directed by Derick Cabrido and produced by Mentorque Productions.

After exploring Mallari, reading the script,



and uncovering the authenticity behind the character he will be playing, Piolo discovered that the film is based on a real-life story. Intrigued by this revelation, he took the initiative to research Mallari further.

"I have a great fondness for supernatural horror films and enjoy watching them. These stories have been passed down through generations and are based on extensive research. It's the enchantment of cinema that truly captivates me, and

I eagerly anticipate witnessing the magic unfold during the filming process," the 46-year-old actor alluding to his decision to do a horror film for the first time.

"This is going to be really hard for me. Physically exhausting, and emotionally draining. I'm portraying three roles but I'm up for the challenge and I'm happy to be given the privilege to be acting in this film. It's quite an interesting story," he carried on.



Toronto Kapuso Lions Club participated in the All Filipino Lions Clubs Picnic organized by PDG Rollie dela Cruz held at Thomson Memorial Park. The

event provided Lions the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, lots of good food and the chance to get to know each other. Three new members were welcomed

to the Lions family and incoming Club officers were inducted by DG Ferdinand Polintan-Coronel. 2VDGE Abdullah Gmandie graced the occasion.



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Why ‘Unbreak My Heart’ is Mark Rivera’s ‘rainbow’ after family’s COVID-19 ordeal

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Filipino-Italian celebrity Mark Rivera found himself falling into depression and riddled with anxiety.

Four of his family members contracted the disease: Mark’s mother, who’s based in Milan in Italy, stayed in the intensive care unit for three weeks; his paternal grandmother in Pampanga died; his paternal grandaunt in Manila who took care of him, taught him how to cook and speak Tagalog is now bedridden; and his maternal grandmother in Batangas had to stay in an ambulance for two days, and was shuttled to Antipolo, to Manila and then to Laguna in search of a vacant hospital bed. The string of misfortunes caused Mark “so much pain.” It didn’t help that there were no projects to be had.

But through persistence and a renewed faith, Mark managed to weather the storm. “I kept a positive outlook. I made sure I stayed healthy. That way, I could give the energy my family needs, and support them emotionally, even if some of them are far away,” he said.

“I made it a point to go to church every Sunday, even if I had to wear a face mask and face shield and undergo swab



tests,” he said.

And when he least expected it came a blessing. In December last year, Mark was finally able to fly to Italy to visit his parents whom he hadn’t seen in four years. Apparently, someone from the production team of the drama series “Unbreak My Heart,” which was shot in Switzerland and Italy, saw Mark’s Instagram posts in Italy.

Before he knew it, he was offered to join the show’s cast. “‘Unbreak My Heart’ is my rainbow amid the pandemic. It gave me joy... and hope about my life and future. I couldn’t be more thankful about what’s happening right now,” said Mark, who plays Jacob, an undocumented immigrant seeking greener pastures with his partner.

His ordeal, he added, encouraged him to express his feelings more. “I’m not the kind of child who calls my parents every day and shares my experiences or struggles. I don’t tell them if I’m feeling sad. But after what happened to my mom, it made me realize that I have to spend more time and open up more to my loved ones. Family is what matters,” he said.

Mark came to the Philippines in 2013. However, repeated injuries kept him sidelined. He then pivoted to commercial modeling, before trying

his luck with acting. His first television break was a supporting role in the 2016 late-morning series, “Be My Lady.”

Now his goal is to try different genres, like heavy drama, action and romantic comedies. It would be interesting to be in a love team, too. Outside acting, Mark has also ventured into music, signing a contract with Universal Records that plans to mold him into a songwriter and balladeer.

“I’m excited to learn and grow. I’m not going to get tired; I’m going to keep trying,” said Mark, whose Tagalog has improved a great deal since his debut. “When I first came here, I could only speak Italian. So I learned Tagalog and English. I started singing a lot of Tagalog songs in karaoke and translating them. This also sparked my love for OPM.”

“Back when I did ‘Be My Lady,’ they had to translate my lines to English. That motivated me to work hard. I didn’t want to have that problem anymore,” he added.

Sustaining a career in show biz is a challenge, he admitted. Every day, you see new faces. But the doors “Unbreak My Heart” opened for him and the fire it ignited in him will keep him going, he said. “Even if it’s difficult... maraming bago. But I will find a way. I will show up. And I believe the right time will come,” he said.

A perfect season for Lovi Poe

LOVI Poe recently extended her partnership with Imono Jewelry, coinciding with the launch of the brand’s new collection that embodies an ethereal and playful style suitable for all seasons. Lovi perfectly embodies the charm of the sought-after designer jewelry brand, which embraces the essence of contemporary elegance.

This renewal of ties signifies Lovi’s ninth year as the ambassador of Imono Jewelry. Simultaneously, Lovi is eagerly anticipating the release of her film titled Seasons on Netflix, co-starring with fellow Kapamilya actor Carlo Aquino.

What makes this project particularly special for Lovi is her involvement in its conceptualization. Describing the film as a story about love and friendship, Lovi shared that it was one of the first projects she proposed to Regal Films. Together with Roselle Monteverde, they developed the idea, and Lovi is genuinely delighted with the final outcome.

Seasons also features Sarah Edwards and Jolo Estrada, with the screenplay written by Dwein Baltazar and directed by Easy Ferrer.

In addition to her film success, Lovi continues to shine in the primetime series FPJ’s Batang Quiapo, which consistently tops the ratings. The audience has grown fond of Mokang, the true love interest of Coco Martin’s character Tanggol.



PATROL from page 1

that affect us,” he told PAF personnel.

As the military commander-in-chief, Marcos also reaffirmed his administration’s support for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which he said was seen in the acquisitions under the AFP modernization program.

He also thanked PAF personnel for their contributions in “laying the groundwork for the enhancement” of the country’s defense capabilities. During the anniversary celebration, Marcos also awarded several PAF servicemen for their achievements that he said exemplified the branch’s values: integrity, excellence, and patriotism.

“As members of the Philippine Air Force, you must always uphold these values as the custodians of our skies, entrusted with the task of upholding our national interests, protecting our people and defending our territory,” he said.

Before leading the anniversary rites at Clark, Marcos also attended PAF’s capability demonstration at the Col. Ernesto Rabina Air Base in Tarlac.

Marcos’ pronouncements came as the Philippines continues to be caught in the

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crossfire of growing geopolitical tensions between the United States and China, as well as a persisting maritime territorial dispute in the South China Sea.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro earlier said the Philippines was not a pawn

of either the US and China, even as the two countries agreed to keep lines open following US Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s visit to Beijing last June.

“The Philippines is a value proposition by its own self, and not a pawn of any-

body else in the geopolitical battle that’s raging within our area now,” Teodoro said.

Founded on July 1, 1947, the PAF has 17,600 active and 16,000 reserve personnel all over the country.

Atasha Muhlach joins showbiz, shares parents Aga and Charlene’s advice

“We have the next big star of showbiz.”

That’s how Viva big boss Vic del Rosario described Atasha Muhlach, one-half of the twins of celebrity couple Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzalez, as she officially entered showbiz by signing up with Viva Artists Agency (VAA).

“It’s very heartwarming,” a beaming Atasha said in reaction to Boss Vic’s comment.

She said she’s very grateful that the Viva bosses saw a potential in her.

“This is something that I’ve always wanted to do ever since I was 10 years old when I did (the musical play) Sound of Music. That’s when I realized that I really do love to perform. I love to sing,” she said

when asked what made her decide to follow in her parents’ footsteps.

“But at first, it clashed with my school. I needed to focus on my studies first. It was a promise to my parents and to myself,” she added.

Now that the 21-year-old is completely done with schooling — she took up a Business course in the UK — she has finally pursued what she has always dreamt of doing.

“I just really want to work,” she said.

According to Atasha, a self-described “daddy’s girl,” her father has been nothing but “supportive throughout this whole process,” adding that her parents are no stage parents. (In fact, they were not present at the launch.)

Although she admitted that her parents, particularly the former matinee idol, weren’t initially that keen at first.

“I would guess he (Aga) wasn’t as open because I was still in school. That

was always a priority. Whenever I’m focused on something, I always try my best to make sure that I gave my all, like with school or my studies. So, for years, it was always school first. Now that it’s done, (he said) OK, you’re ready. Go, spread your wings and fly.”

Asked about her parents’ words of advice for her as she now ventures into the entertainment business, she said, “Best advice of my parents would be always be yourself, always be kind, always be respectful. In any opportunity you get, like this, give your best and (again) just be yourself.”

Her decision also has the support of her twin brother and “best-friend” Andres, but she wouldn’t say if he’s also interested in entering showbiz. She will leave it up to him to express that. “We’ll see,” she said.

There might be pressure being a Muhlach but she’d rather view



it as an inspiration to do well more than anything.

Speaking about the disadvantages and advantages of belonging to a showbiz clan, she said, “The good side about it is that I get advice from them. They’ve been in the industry for years. Their advice means a lot to me.

The 21-year-old says her decision to enter the entertainment industry has the full support of her parents — Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzalez — and twin brother Andres.

“In terms of disadvantage, I wouldn’t say it is, I use it more of an inspiration because I really do admire them, their seriousness about work and their craft. If anything, it inspires me to, at least, do better.”

Atasha is excited to take on different projects — from singing to hosting to acting. “I don’t want to close my doors to anything,” she said. “I would like to try everything.” She wants to remake her mom’s film Dyesebel if given the chance, sharing an anecdote that as a kid she really thought her mom was a mermaid.

But her first-ever project would be a single (“it’s a happy song,” she teased), which she will start working on before she leaves for the UK to attend her graduation.

In fact, she auditioned for Viva via a song performance, revealed Vincent del Rosario, Viva Communications, Inc. president and CEO.

“Siempre kinikilig yung buong Viva about it, but we never made kulit because Atasha’s priority was school,” said Vincent when they first learned that she was interested in signing up with Viva.

“Our dream for Atasha is to be a multimedia artist,” the Viva executive further said. “We will work at her pace. We will provide the best in the business for her.”

Sarah Geronimo, Matteo, open production company for Filipino talents during pandemic

Sarah Geronimo and Matteo Guidicelli’s production company, G Productions, started as a joke during the pandemic. But it turned out to be an idea worth pursuing, especially when it comes to bringing the couple’s projects to life.

“G Productions was a project (that) started during the pandemic. At that time, we were shooting videos at home kasi ‘di pa tayo pwedeng lumabas. Sabi namin, ‘Love, gawa nga tayong sariling production company, G Productions.’ Tapos tawanan lang, and then we took it seriously,” Guidicelli said at a brand event, where his wife was also present.

The actor-TV host then shared that the production company has been co-producing Geronimo’s projects with her label Viva Artists Agency for two years, which includes her music videos and upcoming concert with musician Bamboo on July 7.

Guidicelli also pointed out that the singer-actress is the “president” of their production company, and who has a say about the direction of their entertainment pursuits.

“This is hers, [Sarah] is the president of G Productions. She has creative control in doing what she wants. Extra lang ako, I’m just here to support my wife,” he said.

The Popstar Royalty, who seemingly blushed at her husband’s words, said she hoped they



would have the chance to be involved in producing music and honing the talent and potential of Filipino musicians.

“May mga nakikita kamining potential sa mga artists. [Pero] we feel like kulang ng push. Magaling ang artista na ‘to pero hindi napu-push masyado. Hindi nama-maximize ‘yung talent or capabilities as an artist,” she said. “Even me, [personally], when I hear certain music that’s offered to me, pero iniisip ko na may certain artist na parang mas bagay [for it]. So, I told my husband, ‘Love, it would be nice that in the future, we can also get involved in production, whatever project man ‘yun.”

Guidicelli also revealed that they will put up a new studio called G Studio “at the end of July.”

“My wife has a businesswoman heart eh, it’s inside her. I just like to support her. Sarah is about collaboration and lifting Filipino artists. If we hear her new songs — spokesperson na ko eh — these came from Filipino artists, new Filipino artists,” he further explained.

A giggling Geronimo responds, “I’m more on the creative side lang po eh kasi lumaki akong gan’un. Pero naniniwala po talaga kami na kailangan pag-yamanin ang ating sining.”

Geronimo and Guidicelli, who tied the knot in February 2020, also admitted that they’re still learning the ropes of being a married couple.

“We got married in February 2020, and a week after, lockdown because of COVID-19 happened. We stayed in a condominium for six months, kasama ‘yung aso namin, and it was actually a challenge,” the latter said.

Despite this, the actor said he and Geronimo had a “great time” going through “adulthood” and learning more about each other, although he admitted that he’s the one who’s more likely to track their expenses.

The “Tala” singer was seen nodding her head in agreement, almost as if she’s Guidicelli’s stage wife as well.

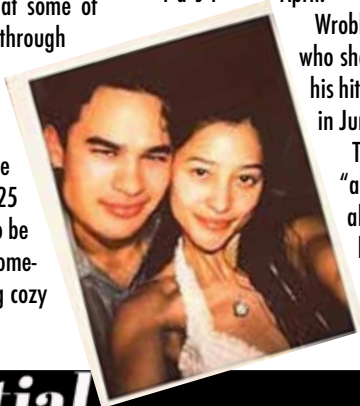
“He’s very supportive and helpful sa aming paga-asawa (in our marriage), especially when it comes to handling our finances,” she said.

Has Maureen Wroblewitz gone Instagram official with new beau?

Maureen Wroblewitz has seemingly gone Instagram official with her rumored boyfriend, as she shared a photo of what appeared to be a romantic birthday dinner with her special someone.

Wroblewitz took to her Instagram account on Friday, June 30, to look back at some of her favorite birth month moments through a series of photos, one of which includes a “bday dinner” with a mystery man.

The ninth photo then showed the beauty queen-model, who turned 25 last June 22, having what seemed to be a romantic dinner with her special someone, where they can be seen getting cozy in one polaroid photo.



PHILIPPINES



DoT terminates contract with tourism agency DDB

The Department of Tourism (DOT) on Monday said that it will terminate its contract with DDB Philippines, the agency it hired to prepare its promotional campaign for its new slogan “Love the Philippines.”

In a statement, the department expressed solidarity with Filipinos who were outraged by the use of non-original or stock footage taken in other countries in the audio visual presentation produced by DDB Philippines as part of the launch of the country’s enhanced tourism branding campaign.

Under the terms governing the DoT’s contract with DDB Philippines, “material/s produced by the winning bidder should be original and aligned with the DOT’s advocacies.”

“The DOT reserves the right to change, suspend, or discontinue temporarily or permanently the contract at any time should the DoT deem the agency incapable of the project,” the department said.

It added that no payments had been made to DDB for the branding campaign.

QC village bans sale, use of ‘lato-lato’

Barangay Matandang Balara Chairman Allan “AF” Franza issued Executive Order (EO) No.4, June 27, which prohibits the distribution, possession, sale, and playing of the toy within the jurisdiction of the barangay. A copy of the executive order was posted on the barangay’s official Facebook page (Barangay Matandang Balara - Action Forward).

A “lato-lato” toy has two plastic balls attached to both ends of a string. Children play with it by making the two balls hit each other, thus, creating clacking sounds.

According to the EO, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has warned the public in selling and playing “lato-lato,” it has not gone through the agency’s notification process.

It added that the FDA cannot assure its quality and safety and it may also pose health risks to those who are using it.

It also said that the toy was already banned in different countries including Canada, United States of America, and United Kingdom due to safety hazards and high risk of injuries like choking, eye injury, and strangulation that it may cause to children.

The toy also creates noise that may cause disturbance to the neighborhood, it added.

The leaders of the barangay said that all stores in their community, as well as the residents, are prohibited from selling the toy.

Barangay public safety officers were authorized to confiscate “lato-lato” toys that they will see in their area.

All the confiscated toys will be brought to the main barangay hall for proper disposal, the EO stated.

Those who will refuse to surrender their “lato-lato” will be required to render eight hours of community service.

The parents of minors caught with the toys will be the one to render the community service, the EO said.



Wroblewitz’s fans can’t help but express their joy over the former’s love life, although some noted that he resembles her ex-boyfriend, singer-actor JK Labajo. Some eagle-eyed netizens also speculated that the “Asia’s Next Top Model” alum is in a relationship with model Noah Steinbuch, who commented a smiley face on her post.

While the couple has yet to confirm their romance, it can be noted that Steinbuch’s shared a short video of Wroblewitz enjoying her time at a park last April.

Wroblewitz was previously in a relationship with Labajo, who she starred with as leading lady in the music video of his hit song “Buwan.” The ex-partners confirmed their split in June 2022.

The beauty queen-model then confirmed that she “already has someone” in December of the same year, although she chose to not disclose his identity. Months later, she took to Instagram to greet her boyfriend, saying he makes her feel like the “luckiest girl in the world.”

How Kylie Verzosa landed ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ Cannes experience

For Kylie Verzosa, winning an international acting trophy last year was an affirmation that there’s more to her than being a beauty queen.

“It’s heartening because when you’re there, it’s not only yourself you’re carrying, but the Philippines, too,” she said of being named best actress at the 2022 Distinctive International Arab Festivals in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for her performance in the drama thriller “The Housemaid.”

“It makes you realize that people can see us in another light ... that we can also be confident and that we can shine,” she told reporters at the opening of the Shangri-La Plaza store of LVNA by Drake Dustin, a fine diamond jewelry brand she endorses.

“I’m so glad that I was able to represent the Philippines to the best of my abilities. You see how you measure up with other people, and you realize that we Filipinos can,” said the 2016 Miss International pageant winner.



But more than the accolade, her presence at the said event also paved the way for a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity”—walking the red carpet at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in France.

“They (festival organizers) saw me when

I won best actress in Dubai. And I was invited through my publicist there. I was so lucky ... I was like, ‘Is it really me you want to invite?’ I couldn’t believe it,” she said.

Kylie had only a few weeks to prepare and put together possible red-carpet looks. “Mabilisan lang. My glam team couldn’t get visas on time, so I had to look for one there (in Cannes). But it’s nice to get to experience working with a new team,” she said.

With only a stylist in tow, the 31-year-old celebrity flew to Cannes with six suitcases filled with dresses, some of which were provided by designer Mark Bumgarner. The P50-million worth of jewelry from LVNA, meanwhile, she kept close to her. “Of course, I hand-carried it!” she said, laughing. “I was excited about showcasing works by Filipinos.”

Kylie was only supposed to attend the

opening ceremony red carpet event, but the actress ended up getting invited to two more events, the premieres of Martin Scorsese’s “Killers of the Flower Moon” and “Black Flies,” starring Sean Penn.

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I was very happy. It was tiring, stressful, but super rewarding to have the opportunity to see the international scene. I felt like I learned a lot. And I got to see many

celebrities like Johnny Depp and Leonardo DiCaprio,” she said.

She was also introduced to different producers and directors. “I got to meet some of the members of the Philippine team,” related Kylie, who dreams of starring in an international project one day.

“I still have a movie contract (with Viva Films) and I’m working on a few, including one with Brillante Mendoza. But I would love to do an international film and go abroad,” she said.

How to land a distribution deal in Cannes, according to ‘Ako si Ninoy’ filmmaker

“To be able to make it to Cannes is considered a badge of honor,” said writer-filmmaker Vince Tañada, whose musical drama “Ako si Ninoy” and horror flick “The Embalmer” were included in the Market Screening category at the recent 67th Cannes Film Festival held in France.

Tañada recalled the tedious process he went through to be able to make the cut in Cannes. This required the screening of 125 films in the category that his two films belonged to, he said.

Needed promotions

“I first met [former actress] Evelyn Vargas in October 2022 in Switzerland, where another film of mine, ‘Katips,’ was screened. She works as a festival programmer there. She convinced me to apply for a ‘badge’ at the Cannes film fest, adding that she would



Vince Tañada (third from left) with Bela Padilla, Johnrey Rivas and Evelyn Vargas

orient me with all the requirements and help me join their booth at the film market,” Tañada began.

Tañada, who owns Philippine Stagers Inc., said he immediately sent documents that included the screeners of “Katips,” “Ako si Ninoy” and his unreleased film “The Embalmer.” He added: “I also submitted a director’s profile, five sample press releases from our website, and clips of my interviews with CNN and ABS-CBN. In February 2023, Tita Evelyn said my application (but only for ‘Ninoy’ and ‘Embalmer’) got approved, so I asked her if I could also apply for two other companions (cast members OJ Arci

and Johnrey Rivas).”

“It’s so hard to get accreditation. We waited a long time. To be honest, I received the accreditation for ‘The Embalmer’ only when we arrived there,” he explained. “I was told that not all film applica-

tions were screened. A screener has to reach a certain level of quality in order to get previewed by the organizers. When it was time for the actual film screening, not everyone got to watch. You had to have a badge to be let in. You either have to be a producer or distributor to get this badge.”

Tañada reported that both “Ninoy” and “Embalmer” were screened in packed theaters, “Because of all the promotions that the Filipino press had been giving us for the past several months,” he said, adding that he was able to close five distribution deals for both films. “The offers are almost simi-

lar, so Tita Evelyn and I are thinking of signing up with the distribution company that has the widest reach.”

Worth it

Incidentally, Tañada recently signed up with the Swiss production and management company called Maison ZBZ, owned by Vargas’ daughter Dee Zialcita. Actress-director Bela Padilla, who recently put up her own production outfit called Risky Marmalade, has signed up with Zialcita, as well. “They now manage our international affairs,” reported Tañada. Was all the trouble of trying to make it to Cannes worth it? “Of course. It was a life-changing experience,” Tañada stressed. “Not everyone is given the opportunity to have a film booth, to screen their films there, and be able to represent the Philippines.”

Tañada said the most interesting observation he made while at Cannes was that “in a top-tier film festival like this one, there is no such thing as a star or celebrity. We are all considered artists. A lot of them just walk on the streets. You can even share a drink with them while bar-hopping at night,” he said.

Kathryn Bernardo recalls not owning a smart TV set before, now awaits completion of her dream house

Life is coming up roses for actress Kathryn Bernardo, who started as a young lass from Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija dreaming of becoming an actress to help provide for her family.

Bernardo recalled that she used to dream of having a nice TV set to watch her favorite shows and series. Now, she’s fulfilling her dreams of not just owning her own smart TV, but also in building her dream house for herself and her family.

“I enjoy watching movies, my favorite TV series, when I was a child, so my go-to (dream) was to have a really nice TV... We didn’t have smart TVs back then, and no Netflix. The top-of-the-line were the big ones that are slim,” she told the Inquirer at the sidelines of the event held in Parañaque City last June 15.

Bernardo literally patted her own back

as she recalled the moment she was finally able to buy one for her family. “I was really proud of myself back then, I worked hard for it!”

And now that their much-delayed move-in to their new house is nearing, the actress said she will make sure to fill their home with all the TV sets everybody would need. “Originally, they told us we could move in by Christmas (of 2022). Then it was moved to March, my birthday, but the house was not finished yet. Now they’re telling us we can move in either June or July,” she said.

Bernardo shared how difficult it was for the family to manage their first house construction. “I’m happy that there are people who are guiding us on what to do. It was difficult for us, but my family is enjoying it,” she continued.

She said they are now in the finishing stages of the build, and they are carefully planning what pieces of furniture to put

inside, and what appliances to get for the different rooms of the house. “We’re really enjoying the process because it’s our dream home,” Bernardo shared.

The actress is relying on her mother, Min, who has been hands-on since the first day of the build.

Bernardo has already buckled down to work on her new movie project “A Very Good Girl” with Golden Globe-nominee Dolly De Leon, and produced by Star Cinema.

“We have already filmed for 10 days. So far, I’m really enjoying it. I was really nervous because this is my first time to work with Petersen (Vargas, the director) and everybody else. The environment is pretty different from the usual,”

Bernardo said.

She also shared how she gushed over De Leon. “Oh my God, she’s so cool! I love her. She’s very supportive, super! We have a deal, that whenever we have a scene, we will team up to make it work. I’m just happy that she’s guiding me every step of the way. She’s very supportive, and I love her, she’s so cool,” Bernardo said. The two have previously worked together on the 2010 TV series “Endless Love.”

The young actress was last seen on the silver screen in the 2019 drama flick “Hello, Love, Goodbye” opposite Alden Richards, and where she earned nominations from the Film Academy of the Philippines, FAMAS, Gawad Urian, the Asian Academy Creative Awards, and the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts.



Vivamax stars enjoyed shooting ‘Hosto’ in Japan

Overseas Filipino workers will surely find the movie relatable as it deals with the dynamics of separated families and the difficulty of adjusting to the language. It delivers an authentic experience as Japan’s somber winter scenery, exciting nightlife scenes, and the daily struggles of the protagonist Patrick (played by Vince Rillon) are captured through the lens of young filmmaker Jao Daniel Elamparo.

Vince and his fellow actors in the movie - Angela Morena, Denise Esteban, and Ali Asistio - enjoyed playing the role of tourists and discovering facets of Japanese culture when their shoot for the day was finished.



In the movie ‘Hosto,’ Thea (Angela Morena, right) offers to marry Patrick (Vince Rillon, left) so he can gain legal status in Japan and get more opportunities

The movie’s creator, award-winning director Brillante Mendoza, noted that the cast and crew were able to explore Japan in a good way. Aside from “Hosto,” they also filmed “Japino” which will be shown

at a later date.

“A lot of times we were only filming half a day. After that, they can take a rest or do whatever they like. It’s sort of an incentive for them,” Brillante said.

“This trip to Japan is for us to also explore and enjoy our work. I think the actors realized the value of the privilege given them because it showed in their great performance in this movie,” he added.

Denise narrated that it was everyone’s first time to experience snow in Sapporo and they could not get over it. “ Seeing snow falling felt surreal. We had a photo shoot outside and Ali was just in his underwear.”

Vince said he savored the “onsen” or hot

spring and tasted the local beer when he could because it’s unique to that place.

Donki or Don Quijote was everyone’s go-to shopping destination, especially for buying pasalubong. It’s a discount store chain found all over Japan offering an extensive array of products.

Angela only has the highest praise for Japanese people. “The first time, I lost my bag with my passport, wallet, and other important things but I was able to recover it. The second time, I lost my wallet again and after a few hours, I found it on the same spot where I left it. The honesty of the Japanese is just amazing. They won’t ever take something that is not theirs.”

“Hosto” - a film about a young man who tries his luck in the Land of the Rising Sun for the sake of his family back home - streams on Vivamax.



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Achievement unlocked: Lea Salonga debuts as Broadway producer for ‘Here Lies Love’

Filipino pride Lea Salonga just unlocked another achievement in her decades-long career as she announced her debut as a Broadway producer with the staging of the musical “Here Lies Love.”

Salonga made the announcement on Instagram after the first preview of the show’s revival in New York on June 17. The singer-actress, however, said that she was in Dallas, Texas for another show.

“Speaking of debuts, I’m making my own tonight



as a BROADWAY PRODUCER! I blame this squarely on the mighty shoulders of @clintramos and @jo-seiswriting. What have you gotten me into?!” Salonga said in the caption, tagging Filipino-American set designer Clint Ramos and theater producer Jose Antonio Vargas.

Salonga earlier revealed that her upcoming participation in the musical is “special” to her as a Filipina artist, since audiences will witness its importance on the stage where she made her Broadway debut as

Kim in “Miss Saigon” in 1991.

“And it’s very special to me for a few reasons. Number one: As a Filipina artist, I’m incredibly excited that audiences will finally see on Broadway this beautiful, impactful, and important musical. Two: I get to go back to Broadway theater, which is where I made my Broadway debut over 30 years ago, which is wild for me to think about,” she said.

“Here Lies Love” tells the rise and fall of former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who was once dubbed the “Iron Butterfly”. Incidentally, she is the wife of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos Sr., and the mother of the current Philippine president Ferdinand “Bongbong”

Marcos Jr.

The Broadway production has an all-Filipino cast, featuring Arielle Jacobs as Imelda Marcos, Jose Llana as Ferdinand Marcos Sr., and Conrad Ricamora as Ninoy Aquino.

Salonga will appear in the musical on a limited run, playing the role of Aurora Aquino for five weeks. Meanwhile, Grammy-winning musician H.E.R. is part of the producing team, alongside Ramos and Vargas.

Prior to this post, the Tony awardee also announced on Instagram that the Broadway Theatre sold out on its first night.

Marco Gumabao is a man in love

Marco Gumabao was a picture of a man in love as he faced members of the press during the media conference for his upcoming Viva series Deadly Love. A “happy” Marco openly answered the questions regarding his love life.

“Well, of course, yeah (I’m happy because of my love life,” he remarked.

He is now more open to talk about his relationship with girlfriend Cristine Reyes. Contrary to the title of his latest series and starrer Deadly Love, he described their relationship as “not deadly, of course.”

It was through filming the comedy movie Abay Babes (2018) that their “friendship” was formed and it continued throughout the years.

Before that, Cristine was already Marco’s “happy crush.” “She was my crush even before. Sa Tubig at Langis (2016 film) pa lang. But of course, I didn’t tell her that. It was just a happy crush.”

It was during the filming of Martyr or Murderer (2023) and while constantly working out together that their friendship blossomed into romantic love.

“It was just recently. I think nakatulong rin yung Martyr or Murderer. I think it was around December, January. But we were close (friends), I mean, years ago,” he recalled.

Prior to the filming of Martyr or Murderer, Marco and Cristine, along with their friend Jake Cuenca, had been going to the gym together to work out. “Sabay-sabay kaming nag-wo-workout nun. So that’s when (our feelings) developed (for each other),” Marco said about Cristine.

What happened was they met at a birthday of one of Nadine Samonte’s children. The husband of Nadine, businessman Richard Chua, is Marco’s cousin. “We saw each other there and we just went out with Tita Isabel



Rivas... Cristine said she want(ed) to work out, (but) wala siyang kasabay. So I told her, ‘Sabay ka sa amin ni Jake.’ I mean that’s how it started.”

When asked if he already won the heart of Amarah, Cristine’s daughter with ex-husband Ali Khatibi, “I would like to think yes,” he said.

“She’s an angel. I saw her when she was a baby during Tubig at Langis (filming). I’ve always had a soft spot for her. And suddenly, here we are. So, everything happens for a reason, really. So, nakakatwa.”

Marco would also tease Cristine about her previous comment on not falling in love with a younger guy like him. The former is 28 while the latter is 34. She then said she didn’t want to be regarded as a cougar.

“Actually, that video trended after (we became public). Of course, I would tease her about it (laughs),” he said.

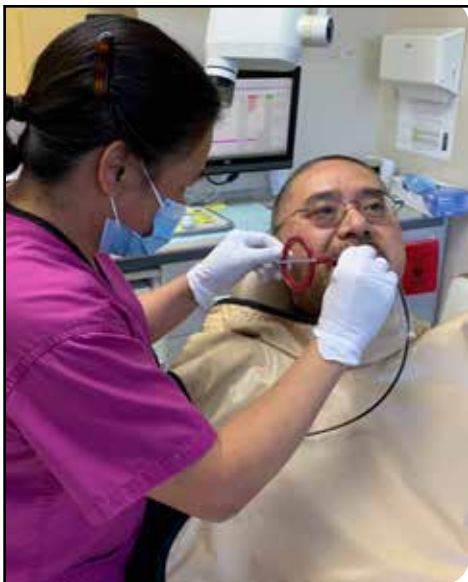
“Kumbaga joke na lang siya right now because that

interview (happened), I think, it was five, six years ago. So, it’s no longer valid. Things can change, hearts can be changed also,” Marco continued.

Meanwhile, Marco felt “very blessed” to be part of the Singaporean media conglomerate MediaCorp.’s mini-series The Girl He Never Noticed, which just wrapped up its first season. It is an adaptation of the Wattpad hit novel written by Filipina author Neilani Alejandrino (sweetdreamer33).

He was in Singapore for six weeks. “A lot has happened there. I contracted COVID there but I didn’t have symptoms or whatsoever.”

But it just goes to show that if you find the right girl fo “It’s like the person doesn’t ask you to change but you do. You will change willingly. I think that’s my biggest takeaway from the series. You can have all the money in the world, you can have everything, materialistic-wise, but love will make you change as a person and that’s the highlight of the story,” he added.



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Vice Ganda, Anne Curtis spark online debate over song royalties

The phrase "Respect Local Artists" is currently trending on social media.

This, after fans of SB19 called out "It's Showtime" hosts Vice Ganda and Anne Curtis following their comment about one of the group's songs in the "Isip Bata" segment of the show last June 10.

There, a contestant wanted to perform using SB19's song "Gento."

But someone from behind the camera informed the hosts that the said song can't be used.

Vice said in jest: "Bawal, naniningil na sila, naniningil na. Yung 'Rampa' libre, ayaw niyong itry?"

Anne added: "Talaga? Hindi ba good promo yon for the music industry? May ganon na pala, sayang."

"E may bayad na e," Vice related.

Netizens quickly shared their two cents about the exchange.

Also joining in on the ruckus is songwriter Thyro Alfaro.

"Hindi pala common knowledge na may bayad ang paggamit (at pag ere/perform to the public) ng isang kanta. Hehe. Sad. Baka naman hindi lang sila aware," Thyro said.

He also reposted it on Facebook, writing: "Wait.. Bakit issue to? Haha! Hindi pala common knowledge na usage (na official) = bayad? Hahaha! How do you

think composers make money?"

Fans expressed their point of view too.

One related: "di talaga uso mga royalties sa kanila."

Thyro replied: "Sanay kasi na pinalalagpas. Pag may pumalag, dinadaan sa shade. Hehe."

Another maintained:

"Admit it or not, pag bagong artist and producers, kailangan nila ng push nang from shows like this para mag trend... so dapat po ba bawal din un? Isnt it because of free media, nag re-emerge ang TALA ni Sarah G? Nagbayad po ba ang mga nag sayaw sa tiktok?"

The singer-songwriter responded: "May performance royalty maski promo. Basta nagamit at pumasok sa playlist, may bayad yan. Unless naka whitelist (di ako sigurado) pero up to the publisher na kung sisingil pa sila ng synchronization or kung ano pa. With regards to tiktok, it's a relatively new platform. But yes people receive money from tiktok (di lang ako sure in what way kasi honestly di naman ako nakakapagtrack down ng breakdown ng royalty reports ko). Pero definitely the users do not pay for it. Sa



madaling sabi, maski papanong paraan, naba-bayaran yan. Sentimo na nga lang minsan."

Artist Sam Concepcion also reacted to the post, saying: "They might be talking about the choreography?"

Thyro answered: "hahahahahha! Wait iba yata yan. Hahaha"

Songwriter and former Neocolours vocalist Ito Rapadas interjected: Yan

rin pumasok sa isip ko. Yung na copyright na dance steps? Cause yung pag play ng music, any song sa live broadcast will be paid through the 'performance royalties' which Abs naman is annually paying sa Filscap Thyro Alfaro."

Meanwhile, on Twitter, Sam seemingly reiterated his two cents about the issue, tweeting: "Pay artists their royalties."

Skusta Clee also made known his thoughts on the matter.

He posted on Facebook: "Kaya walang pag asenso eh! Nire-rape nyo masyado mga artist dito sa bansa kawawa yung mga walang alam sa music business kasi naa-abuso. 'Para ma-promote yung kanta?' Respect OPM!"

Liza Diño makes history as first Filipina to receive prestigious French Knight Award in cinema

Award-winning Actress Liza Diño and former Chairperson and CEO of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) was honored with one of France's most distinguished titles, the Chevalier in the French Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres).



Liza Diño is the first-ever Filipina to earn the French Knight Award with her great contribution in the Philippine cinema

The award recognizes Diño's exceptional contributions to the film industry and her unwavering dedication to fostering cultural exchanges between the Philippines, France, and the world.

The exclusive and intimate awarding ceremony hosted by French Ambassador Michele Bocoz in her honor took place on June 23 at the Ambassador's Residence in Makati City, Philippines.

Attended by esteemed colleagues in government and film and Diño's closest friends and family members, the event marked a momentous occasion in her remarkable career. Ambassador Bocoz, during her speech, praised Diño for her hard work in opening doors for Filipino filmmakers and films and bridging the Philippines and France for cultural exchange, mutual policies, and promotions.

"Liza, you are an actress by profession, but being appointed Chairperson of the Film Development Council of the Philippines seemed like you had a calling in public service to play a role in building government support for the Philippine film industry," she said in her speech.

"Your energy, talent, and intensive work have been recognized by French professionals and by all French institutions, and this is why we are here tonight," the Ambassador added before she officially conferred the medal to Diño.

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Luis Manzano pokes fun at Anne Curtis singing to his daughter: ‘Most traumatic memory’

Kapamilya TV host Luis Manzano labeled Anne Curtis serenading his daughter, Isabella Rose, as his child’s “most traumatic memory” during a reunion with celebrity friends recently.

In the video Manzano uploaded on Instagram, Curtis channeled Ariel from “The Little Mermaid” as she sang her version of “Part of Your World” to Manzano’s six-month-old daughter who they also call Rosie or Peanut.

The first-time father was quick to call out the “It’s Showtime” host’s mistake in the chorus, and later concluded how the song number just became the “most traumatic memory ng anak ko (of my child).”

Known to be unbothered by such remarks, Curtis declared, “Pang-Disney princess ‘yung voice ko para sa mga bata.” (My voice is that of a Disney princess for kids.) Manzano reiterated his sentiment in his post’s caption. “Sa 6 months nya sa mundong to, first time ko nakita naguluhan anak ko [crying-laughing emojis].” (In her six months on earth, it’s the first time I saw my daughter confused.) Curtis commented on Manzano’s post saying, “Play mo kaya [‘yung recording] before



Anne Curtis serenades Isabella Rose Manzano as she’s held by her mother, Jessy Mendiola.

bedtime ng inaanak ko. You’ll see! Himbing sleep nya! [heart emoji]” (Why don’t you play the recording before my goddaughter’s bedtime. You’ll see! She’ll have a good sleep.) To this, Manzano replied only with emojis to depict his feelings of surprise or disbelief.

Rosie’s mother, Jessy Mendiola — who witnessed the song number as she held her daughter while Curtis sang — joined in the fun and commented, “Disney princess @anecurtissmith [heart emoji] [crying-laughing emoji].” Responding to Mendiola, Curtis said that she’s already “well-trained” because of her daughter Dahlia, adding “anytime Rosie wants to hear a Disney Princess song, Ninang (godmother) is a call away! [princess emoji]”

Manzano eventually conceded to his “All About Love” co-star, and told Curtis, “[I]n fairness talaga[,] gumaling ka (you’ve improved).”

While Curtis was singing, some other comments can be heard in the background, as Curtis and the Manzano family were also joined by their friends Iya Villania, Nikki Gil, and Shaina Magdayao.

Gil uploaded two photos on Instagram — one from their reunion and the other from when all five were still

part of the Kapamilya variety show “ASAP.” Alluding to the photos, Gil captioned her post, “Same same [emojis] The design is very 2010 sa gilid ng (by the) ASAP stage lol missed you guys! #HappyFoundationDay.” The hashtag seem to be about their make-up in the throwback photo.

Manzano also posted photos from the reunion and expressed his love for his long-time friends. “After so many years. kami kami pa rin (it’s still us)! 🥰🥰 Love this family ❤️ #inuhawakoniNikki,” wrote Manzano, whose hashtag hinted at Gil’s family hosting their reunion.

Exchanges among the friends in the comments section of Manzano’s post, as well as those on his Instagram Stories entertained netizens.

Aside from appearing together in “ASAP,” Gil, Villania, and Manzano are all former “Myx” VJs, while Curtis and Manzano have also worked together in other projects such as films “Ang Cute ng Ina Mo!” and “Who’s That Girl?” In 2007, Magdayao appeared with Manzano and Gil in the Kapamilya series “Rounin.”

James Reid focus on local skating community

Singer-actor James Reid, in partnership with Johnnie Walker and Vice Asia, collaborated with a local skating group to highlight the growing community of roller skaters in the Philippines.

At the launch of “Rhythm & Roll” — the official collaboration title of James Reid with skating group The Skatebomb Girls — last June 17, James talked about how the project also allowed him to bridge two different aspects of Filipino street culture.

“I don’t think people understand how important this kind of collaboration really is for culture,” James said. “I think artists like me should really focus on creating these kind of collaborations, giving a platform to different sub-cul-



James Reid (right) with Steffi Lucero of Skatebomb Girls

tures, highlighting unique aspects — it’s very underrepresented.”

The completed project had James performing his single “So Fire” on roller skates alongside several members of The Skatebomb Girls; however, this was not initially the plan.

James shared that during brainstorming sessions, there were jokes about having him on roller skates too. He said he was down for it because it was “too fun not to try.” The singer-actor went through two weeks of learning the skate choreography.

He also shared that “So Fire” was a fun and upbeat track that showed the talents and self-expression of The Skatebomb Girls. It was even more fortuitous as James had planned his next project would involve roller skates.

“I think roller skating might not be for everyone, like any other sport, but what got me into it was the community around it,” James continued. “It’s really fun, so carefree, and very expressive. There’s no real goal other than to have fun and express yourselves.”

James ended by calling roller skating a “good time” that does not need selling or convincing for others to try.

‘Vice’ appears on new TVJ show, hosts do ‘Iskul Bukol’ skit

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine pop culture icon Miss Tapia, or more accurately, her impersonator appeared on the premiere episode of the new TVJ show on TV5. Similarly, “Vice” with her familiar straight shoulder length blond hair was seen on the new show.

They were all part of the skit for the second part of the new TV5 show. Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon and the rest of the “Legit Dabarkads” opened the second gap with a skit that was inspired by the 1990s show “Iskul Bukol.”

Ryzza Mae went on stage wearing black-rimmed glasses and faced her class composed of the rest of her co-hosts.

She introduces herself as Miss Tapsi, a reference to Mely Tagasa’s beloved character, Miss Tapia, on the 1990s sitcom.

TVJ starred in the hit show as the Escalera brothers who were the “favorites” of the strict Miss Tapia in fictional Wanbol University.

The cast proceeded with their group skits.

Joey, Paolo and Ryan started their skit. While Joey remained himself, Ryan went as “Judy Ann.”

Among the three, Paolo drew the most interest as he is wearing a blond shoulder length wig and introduced himself as “Vice Segueria.” His appearance is not lost to most TV viewers as the look is an obvious reference to “It’s Showtime” host Vice Ganda.

Maine Mendoza and Vic Sotto also had their wacky



The hosts (from left) Ryan Agoncillo as “Judy Ann,” Paolo Ballesteros as “Vice Segueria” and Joey de Leon during the premiere telecast of the new TVJ show on TV5 on July 1, 2023.

time doing a skit that involved Maine doing a mash-up that features Britney Spears’ hit song “Oops I Did It Again.”

Tito, Wally and Jose also had their spot and sang Freddie Aguilar’s “Anak.”

In a recent presscon for TVJ, MediaQuest president Jane Basas revealed that they were hoping to revive “Iskul Bukol.”

“We’re actually re-launching ‘Wow Mali’ (another ‘90s show hosted by Joey) very soon. Nilalambing namin sila for ‘Iskul Bukol,’ so meron pong pag-uusap na ganoon. But in the context of the shared agreement today, ang pinaka-importanteng araw po was actually May 31, and this is when we received a formal letter kung open kami for discussion. And the rest is history,” Basas said.

BETTER from page 1

country’s issues.

Meanwhile, an economist said the president’s “biggest achievement” in his initial year is the opening of the economy.

“Iyon po ‘yung prinayoritize [prioritize] kasi po galing po tayong isa pinakamataagal na nag lockdown sa buong mundo, so may hesitancy. So iyon po ‘yung una,” said Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chief economist Michael Ricafort.

Ricafort said the country’s population would be a huge asset in turning the Philippines into an economic powerhouse. He said the Philippines has around 115 million people in 2023, with more than 50 million belonging to the working age.

Ricafort said the average age in the country is less than 25 years old, which makes the economy productive. Cabinet secretaries unanimously echoed the gains and substantial reforms by the Marcos administration in its first year in office.

“From Day One when President Marcos Jr. took his oath of office until today, he has made it clear to all of us in the Cabinet that we need to operate as a



Insurgency-free. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (front row, center) pays tribute in a speech to Davao del Sur province’s insurgency-free status and celebration of its 56th anniversary on July 1. The president also thanked the people of the province for the love they have given him since his election and asked for their continued support for the Marcos-Duterte administration.

team, and to support each other’s goals, projects and plans for the people,” Mi-grant Workers Secretary Susan Ople said.

Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual described the chief executive’s leadership style as “visionary” which resulted in “remarkable achievements” that are pushing the progress of the Philippine economy and fostering partnerships with both local and foreign markets.

“His strategic guidance to the Department of Trade and Industry in promoting investments and ease of doing business is our driving force to achieve shared prosperity for all. Under his direction, the DTI has been steadfast in our commitment to foster a conducive environment for businesses, enabling them to thrive, generate more jobs and increase income to our fellow Filipinos,” Pascual said.

National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said while the president was faced with macroeconomic shock in his first year in office due to the pandemic, Marcos’ assumption into office provided the “critical pivot toward the country’s full recovery” from the global health crisis.

Balisacan said that a year into the Marcos presidency, the Philippine economy

remains firmly on track as it returns to its high-growth norm, supported by a strong labor market performance and a downward-trending inflation that is on its way to reaching the government’s target.

Balisacan said the latest unemployment and underemployment rates are now even lower than the pre-pandemic rates in April 2019.

“The Marcos administration recognizes that to effect economic and social transformation for a prosperous, inclusive and resilient Philippine society, it must diversify the country’s sources of growth by expanding its markets, raising productivity, and enhancing the value added for the country’s products and services. At the same time, the country must prepare its workforce with the needed skills, build its income-earning ability, and ensure that these capabilities are protected from the adverse impact of various risks,” Balisacan said.

He said President Marcos has set a clear policy direction and conveyed signals to investors and trading partners that the Philippines is indeed “open for business.”

Love happens for Ricky Davao

Love is still possible for people who are in the sunset of their lives. And with every closed chapter, there is always a new beginning.

This seems to be the case for acclaimed actor-director Ricky Davao, who attended the early access premiere of his latest movie with fellow multi-awarded artist Gina Alajar entitled “Monday First Screening.”

MF is a touching story about



two senior citizens who meet while sharing popcorn in a movie house and get another chance to love.

Ricky brought along his non-showbiz girlfriend named Malca to the premiere.

This doused the possibility of reconciling with his estranged wife, actress Jackie Lou Blanco, who said that she regretted splitting up with her husband of more than 20 years because it affected their children. The marriage of the two has yet to be annulled.

“It happens. We all have to move on. We have regrets, and we move on,” Ricky commented.

Quizzed about the presence of his special someone,

Ricky said: “Syempre pag nagkaka-edad ka, hinahanap mo rin may kausap, companionship, may kakwentuhan, may ka-share ng something. Ang mga anak, lumalaki na rin, may kanya-kanya ng buhay. Andyan pa rin naman sila to listen, at hindi lang listen, nangingialam din.”

Jackie Lou Blanco said that she regretted splitting up with her husband

(Of course, when you age, you look for somebody to talk to, a companion, someone to share things with. The kids grow up and have their own lives to live. The kids are still there to listen, and they don't only listen, they also sometimes interfere.)

Ricky revealed that his three grown-up children with Jackie Lou have met his girlfriend, and they call her “tita.”

He noted that having a girl who was

not from showbiz wasn't his prime consideration in looking for a partner. “No matter what industry, when love hits you, it just happens.”

Gina, on the other hand, expressed her gratitude to the producers for choosing her and Ricky. Although both of them have been paired several times before, it is their first time to portray the role of an elderly lovestruck couple who keeps their hearts young.

Unlike Ricky, Gina said she is not ready to fall in love in real life. Her marriage to actor Michael de Mesa was annulled in 2006, and she has not remarried since.

“I haven't found love because I'm not praying for it. I'm not ready. I'm enjoying the life I have now. I don't have a responsibility to anyone except my grandchildren, who I love dearly,” the award-winning actress and director stressed.

Maja Salvador an excited bride-to-be in new snaps: ‘Hello, July!’

Maja Salvador is looking forward to her much-awaited wedding to fiance Rambo Nunez.

On social media, the actress — who got engaged to Rambo in April last year — marked the start of July with snaps of her dressed as a bride-to-be.

“Hello JULY!” Maja, who is seen wearing a white dress and a wedding veil, wrote in the caption.

Maja and Rambo announced their engagement in April 2022 after nearly three years of dating. The pair celebrated their fourth anniversary as a couple last March.

During her star-studded bachelorette party held last April — attended by the likes of Kathryn Bernardo and Maine Mendoza — Maja expressed her excitement to enter this new chapter in her life.

“Papunta na ako sa new chapter ng buhay ko. I am scared pero ‘yun nga yata ‘yung kagandahan, kapag may takot,” Maja was quoted as saying during the event.

“Kung [iko-compare] ko siya sa bawat role na gagawin ko, this time, nakakatakot kasi wala nang director na mag-ka-cut. Wala nang puwedeng actor's cue. Ito na ‘yung totoong buhay. Excited ako,” she added.

Maja and Rambo first dated back in 2010, when the actress was just 21 years old. In a previous interview on I Feel You, the Wildflower star — who is now 34 — said they made the right decision by giving

their relationship another shot.

“Kasi siguro hindi enough ‘yung ilang months lang kami noon. Naudlot talaga,” she said.

“Tapos iba din ‘yung love ng family niya na ibinibigay sa akin. Ilang beses kaming may random na pagkikita, may certain feeling na ‘yung naramdaman



mo dati, parang meron pa rin,” she added.

Maja, who has been incredibly private about her relationship, has

yet to give details about her much-awaited wedding with Rambo as of writing.

Entrepreneur-speaker Joana Marie Lazaro dreams of becoming Oprah of the Philippines

Joining the second season of the show “Circle of Influencers” with a new segment, “A Journey with Joana Marie,” CEO and host of the show, Joana Marie Lazaro, couldn't help to hide her excitement about taking a new adventure in her career.

Joana said it has always been her dream to become a host since she was young.

“Bata pa lang po and growing up in the slums, I already have a vision of who I want to be when I grew up, and Isa po talaga sa pinangarap na one day I'm going to see myself in television doing talks,” Joana said.

For each episode, her guests will be industry leaders sharing their “passion and fashion” to benefit their chosen charities

and foundations.

Making her debut as TV host, Joana mentioned that one of her biggest inspirations is Oprah.

“The person that I really look up to when it comes to hosting is Oprah, and the truth is when I manifested this to happen for the longest time, sinabi ko talaga I'm going to be the Oprah of the Philippines. I know that is a big goal, and I know din na marami pa akong kailangan gawin, and ayusin sa sarili ko,” she said.

Joana Marie is a speaker, fashion designer, and a serial entrepreneur with businesses related to events organizing, fashion and clothing, and health and wellness.

Joana Marie is the CEO and co-owner of Laurus Enterprises, an events company in the Philippines organizing inter-



nationally-recognized seminars and trainings related to personal growth and professional development like the Millionaire Mind Intensive, National Achievers Congress, TakeOff Summit, and Cashflow 101 Workshop.

Her “life hack” is simple: Be intentional with everything she does and show up with her best self — physically, emotionally, and mentally. This hack allowed her to land a great corporate job before building her own businesses.

For her, doing business is not just about making money: it's providing value to people through her products or services and the relationships she builds with everyone she interacts with.

Mabuhay Philippines Digital Network for Light TV produced her show as a block time program. The show is conceptualized and directed by Jag Cruz, who also dabbles as a filmmaker and content creator.

Candid SPOOF

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Philip Beloso checks his cellphone at the 15th Victoria Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023.

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KaladKaren opens up on ‘long overdue’ wedding, career

TV host-actress KaladKaren recently talked about her upcoming nuptial with her British partner of 11 years, Luke Wrightson.

At the sidelines of her contract signing with Star Magic, ABS-CBN’s talent management arm, KaladKaren admitted they are yet to finalize things but it will definitely happen and anytime soon.

She actually wants to get married here, learning that the UK also recognizes the same if done with the knowledge of the country’s embassy in the Philippines.

“Pwedeng magpakasal dito yung British nationals at tsaka yung fiancee niya. So, we were thinking of, maybe, holding a smaller, private wedding. Hindi ko pa alam kung kailan,” she said.

Once all the required documents are set, they will push through with it soon as they can.

“Kasi it has been a long overdue,” KaladKaren reiterated.

“Kahit si Luke sinasabi niya sa akin: ‘Bigyan mo naman ng time itong pag-aayos natin ng kasal.’ Parang: ‘Bigyan mo naman ng priority kasi lagi na lang siya na pu-push back.’”

Apparently, it was supposed to happen last year but she got busy.

Earlier this year, she was supposed to go back to England to arrange some things they needed for the wedding, but she wasn’t able to, as well.

“Kasi supposedly ngayong August na yun (the wedding). Hindi na naman natuloy dahil na nanalo nga ako ng MMFF, nagkaroon ako ng bagong trabaho (as entertainment news anchor for TV5’s ‘Frontline Pilipinas’)... and sayang yung opportunity.”

She noted: “Pangarap ko talaga e. And TV5 opened the door for me so ako gagawin ko talaga yun para matupad yung pangarap ko... Sinabi ko naman sa kanya na gagawin ko na muna to, pagbigyan mo na ako.”

But what if her partner eventually calls it all off?

“Wag siyang mag-back out ang dami na niyang na ipundar sa akin,” KaladKaren quipped with a laugh.

“Matatakot mag-backout yun. Siya yung nakapagpundar ng madami. At tsaka close na close na ako sa family niya. Close na close na siya ng pamilya ko,” she said.

“Actually kahit nga wala ng kasal parang for me, siya pa rin ang pipiliin ko. Parang formality na lang yun e. Pero yun nga e, gusto kong ibigay yun sa aming dalawa because we both believe in marriage. So gusto naming ma-ikasal. So pinipilit ko talaga.”

How about having a baby?
KaladKaren answered in jest: “Actually, yun nga depende kasi kung mabubuntis talaga ako this year. We’re trying our best. Charot!”

Turning serious, she revealed: “Iniisip namin mag-ka-baby pero sana pag mga 35 na ako, so mga four to five years from now. Kailangan muna nating mag-ipon at mahirap magkaroon ng anak at ang daming responsibility na kaakibat niyan.”

If ever, they’re planning to look for a surrogate mother.

KaladKaren shared how she actually learned about



the process from perfume magnate Joel Cruz who has eight kids via surrogacy.

“Naka-chika ko siya, tapos kinuwento niya sa akin kung magkano, saan

ka pwede mag-pagawa; umaabot pala yan ng 12 million

per set! Kunwari yung kambal niya ng una. 12 million pala yun. So ako nagkuenta tuloy ako. Parang in five years kikita ba ako ng 12 million? After ba nun may pampabuhay ba ako sa mga bata? Yun ang iniisip ko e, di ba. Siguro kung magiging multi-millionaire ako bakit hindi ko gawing apat na set ng kambal?”

In any case, they’re also open to the idea of adopting a child.

“Si Luke, actually, ang very open sa adoption kasi alam mo bilang open ang mga Briton sa ganyan - parang: ‘giving another home to someone na walang pamilya, giving another chance to a kid to have, you know, his or her own family,’” she said.

“Sila yung mas open sa ganyan. Ako



The ladies of FBA of Durham: Jenny Padua, Girlie Padillo, Lolit Gito, Josie Pardinas

naman kahit wala naman kaming-anak. Ang dami ko na ring anak kasi. Ang dami kong sinusuportahan. Yung kapatid ko pinag-a-aral ko, ta’s yung pamilya ko sinusuportahan ko rin. Alam mo as a breadwinner of a family para ka na ring may sarili mong pamilya.”



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Isko Moreno, Paolo Contis congratulate TVJ, Dabarkads: 'Masaya kami may bago kayong tahanan'

Isko Moreno and Paolo Contis, hosts of the revamped "Eat Bulaga" (EB), congratulated Tito and Vic Sotto, Joey de Leon, and the original Dabarkads on the airing of their pilot episode on TV5, as they spoke about the start of a new era in noontime television.

The first day of July was a historic time in noontime TV as the comedy trio, also known as TVJ, premiered their new show "Eat" on TV5. Meanwhile, ABS-CBN's "It's Showtime" broadcast its first episode on GMA Network's GTV as it witnessed Kapamilya and Kapuso stars performing together on one stage.

Contis spoke about this during EB's episode, which took place on the same day, saying July 1 was a "special" day as it marked a "new noontime habit" on TV.

"Alam ko updated kayo sa mga nangyayari at nag-aabang kayo. Gaya ninyo, excited din po kami. Para sa karamihan, isa itong malaking kumpetisyon. Pero para sa programa gaya ng 'Eat Bulaga' na 44 years na po na nagpapasaya, hindi po ito kumpetisyon, pero ito po ay aming inspirasyon," he said.

(I know that you're all updated and are looking forward to today's events. Likewise, we're also excited. To those who are unaware, this is a big com-



(From left) Paolo Contis, Isko Moreno. Image: Screengrab from YouTube/Isko Moreno Domagoso

petition. But for a show like "Eat Bulaga" that made people happy for 44 years, this is not a competition. This is our inspiration.)

For his part, Moreno extended his warm regards to TVJ and original Dabarkads, as he likened all the noontime shows to a "buffer" spread where viewers get to choose what they want to watch on TV.

"Tama si Paolo [Contis]. Bago tayo magsimula, to Tito Sen, Vic, and Joey, and their Dabarkads, congratulations sa inyo. Masaya kami may bago na kayong tahanan," he said. "Masaya kami na marami nang pagpipilian ang tao. At least, ang noontime show ngayon para nang buffet, marami ka nang choices."

"Taos-puso, ang aming mga kasama, staff, production, the management TAPE Inc., we

warmly welcome and congratulate Tito, Vic, and Joey. Congratulations po sa inyo," he continued.

(Paolo Contis is right. Before we start, to Tito Sen, Vic, Joey, and their Dabarkads, congratulations to you. We're happy that you have a new home. We're happy that people now have a lot of choices. At least, the noontime show scene is like a buffet with a lot of choices... With all our hearts, our mates, staff, production crew, our management TAPE Inc., we warmly welcome and congratulate Tito, Vic, and Joey. Congratulations to you.)

Following this, the former Manila Mayor vowed that he and his fellow "Eat Bulaga" hosts will do their best to turn the noontime show as an "afternoon full of joy and hope."

"Ngayon naman, kami dito

ni Paolo at sampu ng aming mga kasama, sa mga viewers natin, in our own little way [and] in a different manner, we will try to make your afternoon full of joy and hope. Dahil ang gusto namin, araw-araw sa tanghalian, kasama niyo kami, ang 'Eat Bulaga,' tulong at saya ang handog namin sa inyo," he said.

(Right now, Paolo, me, and our 10 fellow hosts, we will do our best for our viewers — in our own lit-

tle way and in a different manner, we will try to make your afternoon full of joy and hope. Because we want you to be with us during lunch time everyday. "Eat Bulaga" we'll provide help and happiness to all of you.)

On 'It's Showtime'

As "It's Showtime" premiered its first episode on GTV, Contis welcomed the ABS-CBN noontime show as their "neighbors," saying he's glad to call the hosts as fellow Kapuso stars.

"Iwe-welcome ko na rin ang isa pang nagbibigay-saya [sa'tin]. Mas nauna 'to sa amin pagdating sa mga hosting, pero ngayon kapitbahay na natin sila. [Kaya] sa 'It's Showtime,' welcome! Dahil ngayon kapitbahay na namin kayo, masaya kami na matatawag na namin kayong Kapuso," he said.

"Kaya kung ano ka man, parte ka man ng Madlang People,

Dabarkads, or kung Kapuso ka man, maraming salamat. Masaya kami na na dito kayo. Ang importante, tuluy-tuloy lang po ang pagbibigay namin ng saya dahil ang importante naman ay yung mga viewers natin. Welcome to your new home, 'It's Showtime,'" he continued.

(I will also welcome our new mates. They first started hosting before us, but now they're our neighbors. So to "It's Showtime," welcome! Now that we're neighbors, we're happy that we can call you as Kapuso... So whether you're part of the Madlang People, Dabarkads, or Kapuso, thank you. We're happy that you're here. What is important is that we'll keep on bringing joy since it's important for our viewers. Welcome to your new home, "It's Showtime.")

The Kapamilya noontime show previously broadcast under TV5's noontime slot, before "EAT" took over starting July 1. Despite this, executives of its parent company Mediaquest earlier denied claims that it removed "It's Showtime" in favor of TVJ's new show.

The media conglomerate also hinted that the return of the now-defunct comedy shows "Wow Mali" and "Iskul Bukol" were apparently among its plans following the signing of TVJ.

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Kapuso-Kapamilya vs Kapatid vs TAPE: The new war of noontime shows

This is a win-win situation for the Kapuso, Kapatid, and Kapamilya organizations – with the Jalosjos family’s TAPE as the likely loser in this stiff battle

MANILA, Philippines – Starting July 1, a new noon variety show war is going to begin in Philippine television.

It’ll be TAPE’s Eat Bulaga! on GMA 7 vs TVJ’s still-to-be-named noon show on TV5 vs ABS-CBN’s It’s Showtime on GTV (Channel 11) and A2Z – all fighting for viewership, ratings, and advertising revenues.

The noontime slot is considered also prime time by many advertisers as this is when many Filipinos – housewives, drivers, kasambahay, Overseas Filipino Workers, young kids – are glued to their TV sets to get entertained while having lunch.

The new war is a win-win situation for the Kapuso, Kapatid, and Kapamilya organizations. But the Jalosjos family’s Television and Exponents Production Inc. (TAPE) is the likely loser in this stiff

competition.

Recall that the Romeo Jalosjos-led production company has a blocktime agreement with GMA Network Incorporated until end of 2024 for the noon to 2:30 time slot on GMA-7. This means TAPE has to pay GMA for the two-and-a-half-hour air-time regardless of whether it gets enough ad revenues. Thus, GMA has nothing to lose in this arrangement.

Despite this, however, GMA CEO Felipe Gozon still agreed to house ABS-CBN’s It’s Showtime on GMA-7’s sister channel on free tv, Good Television or GTV (formerly GMA News TV).

Those who’ve worked with Gozon isn’t surprised by this move. He takes his job as head of the publicly-listed company seriously, and he hates to see the network’s ratings take a hit.

After Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto, Joey de Leon and the Dabarkads’ (Eat Bulaga! mainstays) falling out with TAPE, Eat Bulaga! (EB) on GMA-7, as well as its

new hosts, got a severe beating on social media. TVJ loyalists called the show various names like “Fake Bulaga” or “Eat Bulagta (Eat Fall Flat).” Social media influencer Maine Mendoza labelled those who left TAPE the “Legit Dabarkads (Legitimate Friends),” implying that those who stayed with TAPE were like eskirolos (workers who cross a picket line during a strike).

Not only did Eat Bulaga’s ratings decline after TVJ left TAPE on May 31, EB on GMA-7 also saw a significant drop in commercial advertisements for TAPE. Tito Sotto and Joey de Leon earlier claimed that a number of advertisers, including supermarket chain Puregold’s Susan Co, had expressed their support to their transfer.

As entertainment website pep.ph’s editor-in-chief JoAnn Maglipon predicted last week, the falling out between TVJ and the Jalosjos family “might just make TAPE lose millions before they can gain some.”

One analyst told Rappler that Gozon’s move to take in It’s Showtime is the CEO’s way of telling the Jalosjos family to shape up and get better ratings. And if EB’s ratings continue to fall, the question will be how long it can survive the competition, and how long the Jalosjos family is willing to lose money as a blocktimer.

For the Kapamilya organization, It’s Showtime’s new channel, GTV (Channel 11 on free tv), means wider reach compared to what it had before on TV5 plus A2Z. GTV is currently the second leading channel on free tv next to GMA-7, with better signals on analog tv in remote areas compared to TV5 and A2Z.

This could mean higher advertising revenues that the Lopez-led company needs as it struggles to cut its losses and repay its debts after it lost its franchise and free tv frequencies three years ago, courtesy of former president Rodrigo Duterte and the House of Representatives.

ABS-CBN now has the best of both worlds since the Kapamilya-Kapatid partnership will still continue despite the loss of It’s Showtime on TV5.

As Jane Basas, MediaQuest CEO, said on Tuesday, June 20, the Kapatid organization remains to be the biggest distributor of Kapamilya shows. TV5’s prime time block has three ABS-CBN teleseryes, including the highly popular, FPJ’s Batang Quiapo. The Coco Martin-Lovi Poe teleserye is the second

leading program in the country despite ABS-CBN not having a free tv channel. Aside from TV5, it also airs on Eddie Villanueva’s A2Z channel, digital tv channels, and online platforms.

For Manny Pangilinan’s TV5, the entry of TVJ Productions Incorporated, chaired by Tito Sotto, will mean a rich source of content creators it needs as the network tries again to be sustainable with entertainment, sports, and news programs. Its previous strategy of sports-heavy and news programming under former TV5 president, basketball coach Chot Reyes, was a big disaster for the company.

As TV5 executives said in the “mediacon” on Tuesday, June 20, the addition of TVJ and the Dabarkads significantly boosts their content offerings not only on TV5 but also its other media assets such as Signal TV, the country’s leading Direct-To-Home satellite tv provider with at least 4 million subscribers.

Aside from TVJ’s new noon show, MediaQuest is discussing with comedian Joey de Leon reviving his former long-running gag show, Wow Mali, which used to air on TV5. De Leon has also suggested a cooking show on the Kapatid network with his wife, Eileen. Another possible revival is the variety show, Student Canteen, the precursor of Eat Bulaga. A movie collaboration with TVJ Productions has also been raised.

Surprisingly, therefore, in this post-ABS-CBN franchise era three years on, the ultimate winner is the Filipino viewer. Those still watching on free tv, estimated at around 50-70% of the population, now have more choices for entertainment.

As TV5 president Guido Zaballero said on Tuesday, when asked about It’s Showtime leaving their channel, “We respect the decision that they [ABS-CBN] made. Ang pinakaimportante kasi (What’s important) is at the end of the day, panalo ‘yung (the winners are the) Filipino viewers. This is a good day for TV. It proves that TV is really alive.”

On the same question, Tito Sotto noted that when they started Eat Bulaga in 1979, the Philippines’ population was only 47 million, and now, it’s 110 million, so “there’s room for everyone.”

“Ang pinakamaganda ay mapasaya natin ang ating mga kababayan (The most beautiful thing is we’re able to make our countrymen happy),” he said. –

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Sheryn Regis on life after coming out as a lesbian: My heart is happy

At first listen, the hit ballad “Gusto Ko Nang Bumitaw” registers as a torch song about a tormented person on the verge of leaving a love gone cold.

It’s a valid, if obvious, interpretation. But the song, cowritten and originally recorded by Sheryn Regis, was actually inspired by an entirely different subject: the singer’s relationship with herself and her inner struggles with her sexual identity.

“The song goes, ‘Umiiyak gabi-gabi / Walang tinig na naririnig / Nakikipaglaban sa digmaan na talunan / Hanggang Kailan / Talo na, pagod na.’ I was compelled to write that down on my journal because I was really tired. It was a battle within myself,” she said at a recent press conference for her upcoming 20th anniversary concert, “All Out.”

For years, Sheryn, who came out as a lesbian two years ago, would find herself questioning who she truly was behind the name she had established in the music industry.

“Sino ka ba? Why are you denying yourself? I just wanted to let go. Sometimes, I look at myself in the mirror. What I see is Sheryn Regis. But what if I strip that off? Who am I?” the 43-year-old singer said. “It was really tough.”

Sheryn realized that she was attracted to women when she was 14. She always wanted to be around the pretty girls in school, she recalled, laughing.

But she had to suppress that, mostly because of her Catholic upbringing. She was afraid that her family and the people around her wouldn’t accept her. And when she entered show biz in 2003, after finishing first runner-up in “Star In a Million,” Sheryn further retreated into herself for fear of being found out.

“If you notice, I used to be timid at events and press conferences. I rarely talked. That’s because I was hiding something. I hid a lot of things and I was worried I might slip. I was worried I would give a look or do something that might give off a different meaning. It was hard hiding something inside you. It affects your whole being,” she said.

So while she knew that coming out could potentially harm her career, Sheryn mustered up the courage to finally do it.

“I wished and prayed that by the time I reach 40, I would have already emerged from my cocoon like a butterfly,” she



said. “But of course, I did have some doubts—that my career would suffer, that my family and relatives would disown me. But I knew I had to face my fears and stand by my decision,” she said, adding that her cancer scare in 2016 also played a role in her coming out. “That part of my life

inspired me to cherish life and the people around me more,” added the singer, who was diagnosed with stage 2 thyroid cancer and underwent complete thyroidectomy.

Family’s acceptance

Thankfully, things turned out better than she expected. She’s now cancer-free. Yes, there were some who turned their back on her, and bashers on social media condemned her. But for Sheryn, all that mattered was her family’s acceptance. “Even if other people don’t support me, I’m good as long as my family is there for me,” she said.

Sheryn is currently in a romantic relationship with entrepreneur Mel de Guia. And it’s liberating, she said, that she can now freely talk about her love life. “I’m now flaunting it because I know my family’s support is there. I have a happy

heart. Expressing myself is expressing my truth, heart and purpose in life,” she said.

It was her courage that ultimately inspired Sweetie, Sheryn’s 20-year-old daughter with ex-husband Earl Echiverri, to come out as bisexual. “There was a time when she cut her hair, dressed like a boy and had a girlfriend. After that, she wanted to be a girly girl and she had a boyfriend. And we just let her be,” she related. After all, Sweetie’s struggle was Sheryn’s struggle, too. What advice can she give to parents who have a queer kid? “It can take time to understand or accept your child, because you might feel like it has something to do with your parenting. But it doesn’t,” she pointed out.

“You may have a hard time at first but accept your child. Because you don’t know how your child is struggling,” she said. “Just like me. My parents didn’t know how much I struggled.”

Intimate show

But if there is anything positive she can glean from her experience, it’s that suppressing her identity, somehow, forced her to channel her energy into her singing.

“While I couldn’t address what was bugging me emotionally, I got to focus on my craft. And I’m happy there were

opportunities for me to prosper through shows and recording theme songs for teleseryes,” said Sheryn, who lent her voice to such soap operas as “Marina,” “Krystala” and “Kampanerang Kuba.”

In “All Out,” which will be held July 8 at Music Museum (visit www.ticketworld.com.ph), Sheryn is expected to perform songs that will showcase her vocal power and range, like her hit cover of Wendy Moten’s “Come In Out of the Rain.” She wants to prove that she can still hit the high notes.

“Hindi mawawala ang birit. I thought I would never be able to sing again. Doctors say my voice could change. But it’s a miracle. I think my vocal range became even wider. And I can access different placements easily. I want to show that I can still do it. Kayang-kaya pa,” said Sheryn.

Sheryn also plans to share with her fans some “untold stories” about her life and career. “It’s going to be an intimate show where I can talk and connect with people,” she said.

Twenty years in the industry is no small feat. That she’s still here singing, she said, is something to be grateful for. “I didn’t really pray for fame or wealth. I just prayed for a lasting career. I just wanted to sing for the love of singing.”

Rhian Ramos teases Michelle Dee for being ‘babaera’

After Miss Universe Philippines 2023 Michelle Dee recently came out as bisexual, some fans on social media started linking her to other female celebrities. One of them is Dee’s housemate, Rhian Ramos.

Their closeness has been steadily attracting shippers, some of whom have created lighthearted fan edits and videos to express their fascination and fantasies about the two ending up together in real life. And the fact that the two GMA 7 stars live under one roof and playfully call each other “wife” and “honey” only fuels the fans’ hopes.

While Rhian finds the situation amusing and cute, she stressed that she and Michelle really are just good friends. “I told Michelle, ‘Girl, babaera ka ba (Are you a woman-

izer)? Bakit ang daming nali-link sa ‘yo?’ We joke about it,” she said, laughing, in an interview with the Inquirer and select reporters, at a recent press conference for the new primetime series, “Royal Blood.”

And sorry to burst people’s bubbles, but the rumors linking the two—or Michelle with other girls, for that matter—are just that, Rhian said. “None of those are true. I would know,” stressed Rhian, who’s actually in a romantic relationship with businessman and party list Rep. Sam Verzosa. Rhian has always wanted



to experience living with a friend but has never had the chance. But when acting projects started to gradually return two years ago with the easing of COVID-19-related protocols, Rhian figured that it was more convenient and safer to move out of the family home.

Accepting each other
That was when Rhian floated the idea of sharing an apartment with Michelle, who happened to be thinking of doing something similar. “As the moving-in day approached, I said, ‘My God, wala na bang atrasan ‘to?’ We had already made a downpayment. A lot of people were telling us that



this would ruin our friendship and we would just end up fighting,” Rhian related. “But that hasn’t happened to us. It’s not that we don’t do anything wrong. Sometimes, I leave things where they aren’t supposed to be and other quirks. But we’ve never fought because we don’t expect perfection from each other in the first place,” she said.

“We love each other as friends just to be clear to the internet people,” Rhian quipped. “We accept each other.”

Rhian has always known about Michelle’s sexual identity and her worries about coming out. “We had this talk lots of times in the past. She said, ‘Do I just tell people? Because I feel like they already know anyway.’ And I would tell her that she should do what feels right to her; it can’t come from me,” she related. “One day, she said, ‘Guess what’s happening? I’m coming out!’”

Authentic self
Rhian couldn’t be prouder.

“I’m just so happy that she has taken control of her own story. Sometimes, if you’re a celebrity or a beauty queen, you feel like you have to present the most sellable version of yourself. But here she is now, showing her authentic self. She’s so mature,” Rhian said. “She didn’t allow herself to get bullied into coming out. Sexuality is something personal—it’s not for other people to out you.”

Directed by Dominic Zapata, “Royal Blood” is a murder-mystery series that revolves around Napoy (Dingdong Dantes), a loving single father who works as a motorcycle rider to provide for his young daughter’s needs. Despite mounting financial problems, he makes ends meet, thanks to his caring friends and neighbors.

But as it turns out, Napoy is the bastard son of business tycoon Gustavo Royales (Tirso Cruz III). To make amends for his past mistakes, Gustavo brings Napoy into his family. But as Napoy tries to get to know his half-siblings, their partners and other family members, Gustavo gets murdered.

Napoy becomes the obvious primary suspect. But as the case progresses, the situation gets more complicated: No one is who they seem to be.

“We were initially given two to three scripts. But after that, we got the new scripts on a weekly basis. No one knows who the real killer is. Even we keep on guessing. They told us that the final script will still not name the suspect ... I love the story. It’s different from what I have done in the past,” said Rhian, who plays Margaret, Napoy’s conservative, mysterious half-sister.

“If Dingdong is in it, you know that the rest of the team is the best of the best, too. Dingdong is easy to work with and an amazing actor. He throws his lines in a natural way and it can take you by surprise, which, in turn, gives you something to react to,” she said. Margaret is an antiheroine of sorts. And Rhian relishes playing that type of character. “I absolutely love doing gray characters ... Because I think all people in real life are that way. I love that my character is feisty. She keeps me on my toes. There’s always something new to explore and learn,” she said.



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