

We will fail when we fail to try. - Rosa Parks

# ERASERHEADS



Together again “naturally” for “Huling El Bimbo” tour

HULING EL BIMBO

ERASERHEADS

JUNE 16

8 PM

Doors open at 6 PM

First Ontario Centre

101 York Blvd

Hamilton

TICKETMASTER.CA

For more info, please call

647-988-TALA

The Eraserheads have turned nostalgic looking back at how far they’ve come as a band and individual artists since their formation in 1989. The much-anticipated re-union event billed Huling El Bimbo, the title taken from arguably the band’s biggest hit released in 1996, encapsulates

ERASERHEADS  
online page 28



VOTE

Jose Baking

for

Toronto Mayor

## OFW lives threatened

PHL lacks contingency plans for OFW’s in Taiwan



Passengers crowd the counters as they troop early to the NAA Terminal 3 in Pasay City on April 2, 2023 to avoid the influx of passengers heading to their respective provinces for the holy week break.

MANILA, Philippines — Migrante International, a global coalition of OFW groups and their families, condemned Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian’s statement where they said Beijing “makes it appear that China is holding OFWs in Taiwan hostage.”

Last month, Huang “advised” the Philippines against supporting Taiwan’s independence if it “cares genuinely” about the 150,000 OFWs based there, instead of “stoking the fire” by giving the United States access to military bases.

The group noted that this may expose OFWs to racist violence when armed conflict begins. If China really is against having troops of the United States in the Philippines, MI said Beijing should stop its aggressive actions against Manila.

“The biggest contribution that you can give to the opposition to US military bases, troops, and exercises in the Philippines is the cessation of your aggressive assertion of your claims over territories

PORK page 15

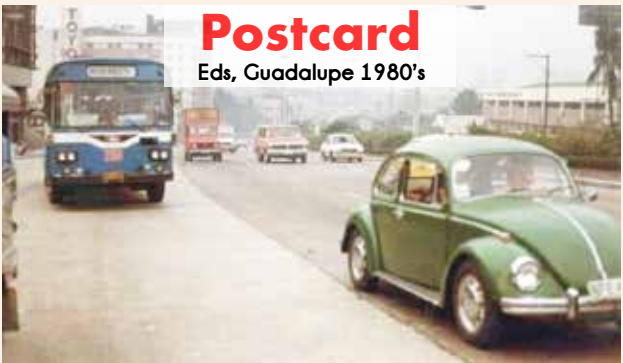
### INSIDE

Over 1 million Filipino kids missed out routine immunization in 2021

ONLINE  
Page 25

The Flourishing of Philippine Cuisine

ONLINE  
Page 27



Postcard  
Eds, Guadalupe 1980's

## Philippines, China to discuss fishing rights in South China Sea — Marcos

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos said China has agreed to discuss fishing rights in the South China Sea, as he pushed for a “direct communication line” with Beijing on maritime differences.

China has agreed to “sit down” and talk

China makes a mockery of diplomatic protests.

FISHING p19

Liza Soberano on love teams in Philippine showbiz: *'The only way to be a big star really, if you're not a singer, if you're an actor is to be in a love team'*

Filipino actress Liza Soberano got candid about her thoughts on the love team culture in the Philippines.

The former Star Magic talent revealed that being in a love team requires hiding their dating status to keep the fans hungry about their relationship.

“We’re supposed to be like a real couple on-and-off cam and only have to work with each other through our whole career,” said Liza, in her recent interview on the podcast ‘Get Real’ with Korean singers Ashley Choi and Peniel.

Liza added that some agencies did a “chemistry test” between the two actors. It involves pairing them up on a project, like a film or TV show, but not as the lead stars.

“If that really takes off, then you become a love team. You get



shipped really hard,” and then once you’re in a love team, you guys star in project after project together,” she mentioned.

During the podcast, the hosts asked Liza what if the actors on the love team don’t date in real life. She answered that they had to hide it.

“Some love teams don’t actually date in real life, but you’re not allowed to say that. The thing is, in the beginning of the love team, too, you’re not allowed to say you are dating because you want to keep the fans kind of hungry for you guys to be actually dating,” she explained.

“So it becomes this whole thing where your career and your personal life, the lines between the two, gets blurred, and people just don’t know what reality is,” Liza continued.

She also explained that this kind

Saab Magalona’s face was used on an ad in Cambodia without permission

Skin whitening continues to be a billion-dollar industry in Asia, as products from different brands line up the shelves. Yet this apparently does not explain why actress Saab Magalona’s face was reportedly ripped off and slapped onto an obscure skin-whitening product all the way in Cambodia.

True enough, the celebrity posted photos of what looked like boxes of the product stacked on top of each other, featuring Saab holding her arm over her head, and exposing her underarm.

The photo seems to have been taken from an old campaign Saab did with the brand Dove.

A Filipino fan living in Cambodia alerted the celeb to the unexpected find.

“Y naman ganorn (Why it gotta be like that?),” the



actress hilariously posted online.

“The design is very ‘this product must be high in mercury content,’” one commented.

“This is so random,” another said.

“Wow, you’re famous in Asia,” another jabbed.

While the scenario will likely have legal implications, it doesn’t seem like the actress will act on it.

Forex, sister company of UMAC starts loading the boxes



Former child actress Xyriel Manabat is all grown up.

And how.

She is actually gaining huge notice for it, with many making much ado of her ample curves.

Note that she even made it to Goggle’s Top 10 most searched female celebrities list last year.

Asked about it recently, she said, “Marami po kasi sa kanila is ang tumatak e yung batang version ko po sa mga teleserye na ‘Momay’ at ‘100 Days To Heaven.’



So hindi pa siguro sila sanay na makita akong ganito.”

As to lewd innuendos being sent her way, she said, “Actually po iniawasan ko na (bahin). Ang binabasa ko na lang yung mga comments tungkol sa mga performances ko ganyan pero about my body hindi na po. Pinoprotektahan ko po ang mental health ko.”

There are many who are expecting her to take on more daring, mature roles. Would she if ever?

“Kung necessity po siya sa story or sa role, okay lang po,” she said. “Ayoko lang yung magpapa-sexy lang na walang relevance whatsoever just for the sake of it.”

Many are commending her portrayal as Tonet in “Dirty Linen.”

She reacted, “Siyempre nakakuwa po kasi kahit kontrabida ako napapansin po ako. Gusto ko po talaga kasing makilala as someone dedicated to my craft as actress.”

“We love to deliver your Balikbayan Boxes to the Philippines

Our Company is duly accredited by the Philippine Shippers Bureau ”

**UMAC**

FORWARDERS EXPRESS INC

**(416) 298-8622**

✓ Weekly Shipment

✓ No 3<sup>rd</sup> parties involved

✓ Drop off \$10 off

HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE

**UMAC**

FORWARDERS EXPRESS INC.

A Company with a History... And a Track Record!!!

“Padalahan ng Kahon sa Pilipinas ”

☎ (416) 298-8622

✉ [umactoronto@yahoo.ca](mailto:umactoronto@yahoo.ca)

🌐 [www.umactoronto.com](http://www.umactoronto.com)

515 Milner Avenue Unit – 9

Scarborough, Ontario M1B 2K4

# Filipina beauty queen claims Singapore ‘beggar’ approached her with QR code

Anyone who’s been to Singapore can attest to the Little Red Dot’s affinity for cashless systems — which apparently does not escape even the few who choose to beg for alms.

Take the case of volleyball player and beauty queen Michele Gumabao, who shared on Twitter that she encountered a local who approached her for money while on vacation in the city-state for Holy Week.

“Someone begged for money here in SG, I said sorry no cash. He showed me a barcode,” she wrote.

“First world problems,” one user replied.

Meanwhile, others casted doubt on her claim, adding that people would not get away with begging so easily in the country, which is known for its strict measures.

“Begging is illegal in Singapore! In my 15 years of living here, I have never seen anyone beg. Next time, report it to SG



police,” one wrote. “Singapore is practically a cashless society that’s why they have codes. But there are hardly any beggars, they have pride [so they give you tissue in exchange] of what you will give. Tissue costs S\$1 but you can give more than that. Even buskers have their own code,” a Singapore-based commenter chimed in.

“I think that case is very rare in Singapore. They would sell you tissue and other stuff that you would buy even if you don’t need it, out of humanity,” another added.

If true, people wouldn’t need to go far to experience beggars with QR codes. Actress Iwa Moto also shared on TikTok about her experience with street children who begged for money and showed her their GCash account, a popular e-wallet in the Philippines, when she said she didn’t have cash on her.

## Miles Ocampo recounts undergoing thyroid surgery

Actress Miles Ocampo opened up about her recent health issues regarding her thyroid last March.

The “Batang Quiapo” actress took to her Instagram account to reflect on the surgery she had to undergo to remove her thyroid glands.

Miles began by noting she had not been feeling well since the turn of the year — waking up at night due to breathing difficulties, fatigue, frustrating weight gain, and always felt like suffocating.

Admitting to being afraid of the hospital and needles, the actress decided to have herself checked and do several tests, then ultrasound and biopsy.

The end result was discovering Miles had Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma so she had to quickly undergo a thyroidectomy.

According to The Mayo Clinic, Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma is the most common form of thyroid cancer, often small and respond well to treatment even if the cancer cells spread to the neck’s lymph nodes.

It adds that a small portion of this type of cancer is aggressive and could



grow to involve structures in the neck or spread to other areas.

Miles proceeded to thank her doctors, her family, her agency Crown Artist Management, her colleagues at “Eat Bulagal,” and her boyfriend Elijah Canlas and his parents.

“A month after my operation, here I am embracing my journey and sharing it to all of you,” said Miles, noting she’s been getting messages from people who’ve felt the same way and are inspired by them.

“You are not alone. Sending my love to everyone. Love and prioritize yourself.”

She ended her entry with a postscript reminding everyone not to body shame, regardless of a person’s current health status, “Be kind. Always. Please.”

A number of fellow celebrities showered support for Miles, including Maja Salvador, Maine Mendoza, Bela Padilla, Darren Espanto, Bianca Manalo, Charlene Gonzales-Muhlach, Kakai Bautista, Ryzza Mae Dizon, Michelle Vito, Ashley Sarmiento and Lara Quigaman.

Miles mentioned that she still has one more procedure to undergo and then she will “maintenance na lang for life.”

### PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES

WHAT IF YOU NEEDED TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK TO CARE FOR YOURSELF OR A SICK FAMILY MEMBER? I CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY’S FUTURE.

You do what’s best to protect your family. But have you thought of everything? Protect your family and your income with Sun critical illness insurance. And if you’re never diagnosed with a critical illness, you can include an option to get back the money you’ve paid in premiums if you don’t ever make a claim. It’s insurance that can pay you if you get sick — or if you stay healthy.

Let’s talk about how I can help protect your family, your income and your retirement.

**Basil Rodricks**  
Tel: 416-696-0083 ext 2240  
basil.rodricks@sunlife.com  
www.sunlife.ca/basil.rodricks  
5775 Yonge Street  
Suite 1900  
North York ON M2M 4J1

\*Mutual Funds offered by Sun Life Financial Investment Services (Canada) Inc. Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is a member of the Sun Life group of companies. © Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 2020.

Life’s brighter under the sun



## Sam Concepcion’s flawless versions of ‘Kapit’ are winning our hearts

Just in time for Christian Bautista’s celebration of his now two-decade music career, Sam Concepcion reimagines his 2017 hit song “Kapit” and did not just one, but two versions of it!

The multitalented singer recently made his return to his Universal Records family and released two brand new mixes of “Kapit” that impressively took the song to even greater heights with its infectious groove.

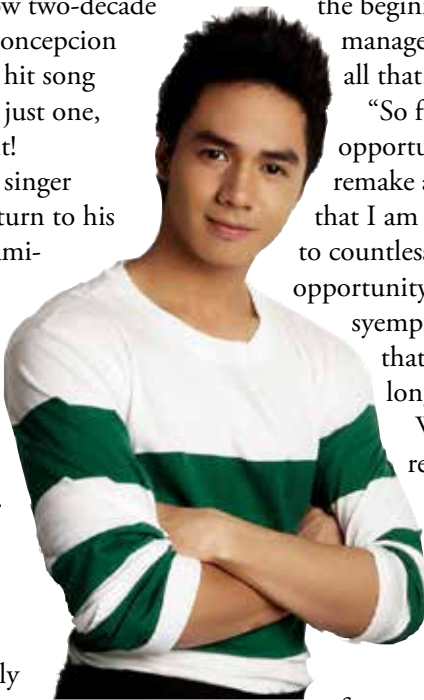
Sam’s homage to Asia’s Romantic Balladeer is indeed one-of-a-kind. Sam Concepcion flawlessly puts his own spin on the track, infusing it with his signature sound and energy.

Recalling how he accepted the offer to cover a Christian Bautista hit, he shares, “It just happened. I learned that there’s a compilation album that’s being made for Christian Bautista and as some people may already know, we spent a lot of time

together in our careers especially during the beginning. We have the same management, same network, and all that.”

“So fast forward, when the opportunity presented itself to remake a song that I really like, that I am aware of, and I’ve listened to countless times before, I took the opportunity to record and sing it, syempre,” he adds. Sam also said that he’s also happy about the longevity of Christian’s career. When asked about the reason why he worked with two producers to make two mixes of “Kapit”, the singer said that there are two effective ways of interpreting the song.

“There were two ways of approaching it and I worked with two different producers to come up with two different versions of the song. One is a bit more chill and laid back. The other has a faster tempo. So you get two, which is great because it completely changes the whole mood and it creates a different context for the song,” Sam explains.



## DOLOROSA Dinner, Fiesta & Picnic

### 28th Anniversary Celebration

September 1-2, 2023

## China’s threat to (or about) our OFW’s

What did Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Huang Xilian mean when he “advised” the Philippines to “unequivocally oppose ‘Taiwan independence’” instead of adding fuel to the flame by allowing US access to Manila’s military bases “if [the Philippines cares] genuinely about the 150,000 OFWs.”

Is China going to detain our OFW’s like Canadians Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig when Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou was arrested in Canada December 1, 2018?

Or is China referring to the economic effect if they deport all ofw’s and stop accepting Filipino ofw’s?

Filipino apologists in various media will surely downplay the “statement” as a threat and explain that China merely means that economically, that they will not renew the work visas of our ofw’s already there and stop accepting new ones.

Are they sure?

When dealing with China, everything is on the table. China uses the carrot and stick approach in negotiating. They talk sweetly (carrot) but uses force (stick) at the same time just like

what they do in our territory in the West Philippine Sea. They pointed a laser at our ships and claim that they were merely trying to measure the distance and trying to redirect our ship so as to avoid a collision. Well, if you believe that, I have a swampland to sell to you.

### Philippines, China discuss fishing rights in South China Sea

Why are we discussing fishing rights with China? This is preposterous. This is the equivalent of a home intruder and you two talk about where you can sleep in your home. There’s something wrong with this picture. China is invading us and we are going to discuss where we can fish? In our own territory. China is a bully. Former Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew wondered if a superpower will be as benign like the United States to the Southeast Asian countries. We already know the answer. NO. It’s a bully. Like an elephant in a - pardon the pun - China shop.

## Gigi de Lana reacts to “nagkasakit kasi puro sigaw” comment from bashers

Dinipensahan ng singer na si Gigi de Lana ang sarili laban sa bashers na sinisisi ang kanyang madalas na pag-birit kung kaya’t nakitaan siya ng nodules sa lalamunan.

Noong April 26, 2023, mismong si Gigi ang nag-anunsiyo sa kanyang fans na may iniinda siyang sakit na throat nodules.

Sinabi niya ito nang mag-perform siya sa SMDC Date Night, na ginanap sa SMX Convention Center.

Ayon sa healthline.com, ang throat nodules ay “noncancerous growths” sa vocal cords na tumutubo dahil sa sobrang dalas na paggamit ng boses na nagiging sanhi para mairita ang vocal cords.

Dahil dito ay tumutubo raw ang malakalyong growths sa lalamunan, na maaaring lumaki kapag hindi ito napahinga.

Ayon sa singer, pinayuhan na siya ng kanyang doktor na ipahinga muna niya ang kanyang boses.

Humingi rin ng pabor si Gigi sa kanyang mga tagahanga na isama siya ng mga ito sa kanilang mga dasal para sa mabilis niyang paggaling.

### GIGI CLAPS BACK AT BASHERS

Kahit may pinagdaraanang sa kalusugan, hindi pa rin nakaligtas si Gigi sa bashers.

Sa Twitter nitong Linggo, April 30, 2023, ibinahagi ng singer ang natatanggap niyang kritisismo sa pagkakaroon ng throat nodules.

Halatang dismayado si Gigi dahil tila hinuhugahan daw siya ng bashers na hindi naman alam kung ano talaga ang tunay na

rason ng kanyang pagkakasakit.

Mababasa sa kanyang tweet (published as is): “Yung may pinagdadaanang ka sa boses mo, dami pa nag assume at nag judge kung bakit ako nag ka sakit sa throat.

“Dahil puro sigaw [birit] daw ako? Haha kaawa kayo, mga walang alam, basta maka comment.”

Sabi pa ni Gigi, ginagawa lamang niya ang patuloy na pagkanta para sa nanay niyang may sakit

Saad niya, “Malamang kakayod ako para sa nanay ko na may cancer.

“Ako lang anak niya eh. Sino kakayod?”

### NETIZENS REACT

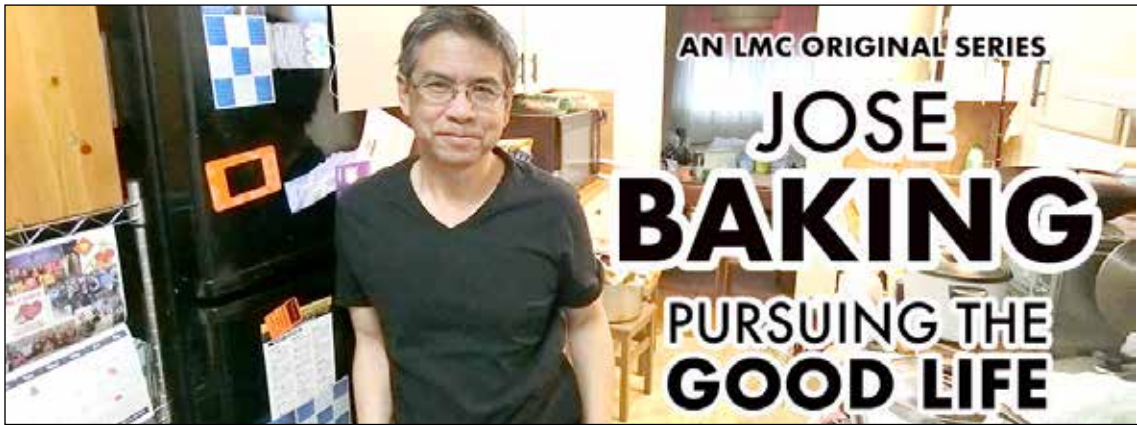
Kung may kumukwestiyon man sa pagkakaroon niya ng sakit ay mayroon din namang sumusuporta at patuloy na ipinagdarasal ang agarang paggaling ni Gigi.

Sa comments section ng kanyang post, bumuhos ang mga komento ng kanyang fans na suportado ang kanyang desisyong magpahinga muna saglit sa pagkanta.

Saad ng isang netizen, “Don’t listen to them, ms. Gigi. Khit nga si Adele pinapahinga talaga nya boses nya eh taz ilang taon sya nag come back. U knew more than them, so don’t stress. Rest well. I really love your voice. Take good care of it.”

Sabi pa ng isa, “Virtual hugs. Hopefully malampasan mo ito and your mom will go into full remission (complete cure).”

Ayon naman sa isa, “You can’t please everybody. Just ignore the haters and focus on the people who truly appreciates you. I will pray for your swift recovery and for your Mom too.”



## The Filipino Centre Toronto sets Officers’ Induction & Award Rites

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.



The Filipino Centre Toronto, a leading community-focused, volunteer-run, and not-for-profit entity formed in 2000 in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Ontario, Canada announced recently it is going to hold an “Induction of Officers and Directors” on May 12, 2023 ( Friday) at 6:00 pm. at the FCT Social Hall, in Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario. The biennial event will include in the celebration a Recognition Program to present awards to 10 Outstanding Filipino Canadian Seniors in Ontario.

Among those to be inducted to the office are the 19 members of the FCT Board of Directors for the 2022-2024 term. They include the following: Wendy Arena, Philip Beloso, Frank Cruzet, Joy Sarmiento-D’Aoust, Efren De Villa, Nenette De Villa, Alvine Marasigan Flor, Melchor Galeon, Judith Gonzales, Theresa Lumanlan, Leo Mascarinas, Jerome Peralta, Juanita Abalos-Rejdik, Faye Roncesvalles-Eduave, Jeanette Rosales, Mary Ann S. San Juan, Stefie Stephens, Pepito Torralba, and Priscilla Tumalak.

During the event, recognition awards

will be given to 10 Outstanding Filipino Canadian Seniors who were selected by the FCT-Outstanding Filipino Canadian Seniors Awards( OFCSA ) Committee after 4 months of competitive search. The OFCSA Committee is composed of Carol Banez- Clinical Nurse Specialist & SOSA President, Ted Dayno-Registered Professional Accountant & THD Consulting Co. President, Agnes P. Miranda-World Financial Group Senior Executive Vice Chairman & Founder, Nitz Abalos Rejdik-Sand Banks Cottages & Camps Operator & General Manager, Mary Ann S. San Juan-FCT President & CEO, Garry Tanuan-Project Manager & TCDSB Trustee, and Tony A. San Juan(Chairman)- Educator & Filipino Heritage Council of Canada Founder.

Aply with the theme “Parangal at Pamana” ( Honour and Heritage), the evening event will feature dignitaries, special guests, awardees, donors, speakers, and singers who will deliver messages &greetings, administer oaths, congratulate honourees, perform songs, meet & network, photo ops, and share food in the spirit of much-valued Filipino traditions and culture.(Tony A. San Juan,OCT).

## PIDC to hold Anniversary & Annural Picnic Salo-Salo at Earl Bales Park

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Summer is just around the corner. Schools are finishing classes, breezy winds are coming, temperatures are climbing, and more daylight hours are to enjoy. There are many signs of life after the winter and spring seasons, and Canadians and Filipinos alike are all starting to feel more hopeful and happier. This time of year, many of us, especially our kababayans turn our sights to celebrations here and there, and one in saying, “Now is the time to enjoy all of summer’s pleasures!”.

The Philippine Independence Day Council(PIDC), a leading non-profit, volunteer-run umbrella organization of Filipino- Canadian community associations in Ontario established

25 years ago, is conducting its “Anniversary and Annual Picnic Salo-Salo in the Park”. The whole-day affair is to be held at Earl Bales Park, Bathurst Street corner Sheppard Avenue, North York, Toronto on June 3, 2023( Saturday), starting at 9:00 am.

Traditionally, it is the kick-off day of the yearly “Filipino Heritage Month” celebration in Canada as proclaimed by the House of Parliament in October 2018. The celebrations, with its theme Salamat Canada( Thank You Canada) will focus on the vibrant heritage and culture of Filipinos and their achievements and contributions to the Canadian multicultural society.



# VOTE

Jose Baking

for

# Toronto Mayor



# HULING EL BIMBO

# ERASERHEADS

**JUNE 16**  
**8 PM**  
Doors open at 6 PM

**First Ontario Centre**  
101 York Blvd  
Hamilton

TICKETMASTER.CA  
**For more info, please call**  
**647-988-TALA**

Unbelievable, surreal: Kylie Padilla on pairing with Gerald Anderson

“Surreal” was one of the first words that crossed Kylie Padilla’s mind on her experience working with Gerald Anderson for the first time.

She couldn’t believe it. As it turned out, Kylie used to root for “Kimerald”—Gerald’s successful former love team with Kim Chiu—years back. “I’m shy to admit it, but I was a fan,” she said at a presscon for “Unravel.”

Of course, Kimerald is no more. But once the camera started rolling, Kylie promptly turned her fangirl mode off. I had to be professional.

“Unravel” was shot in Switzerland. There, the two actors got to know each other better—all while enjoying the country’s scenic lakes, mountains and villages.

‘Very open, generous’

“Masaya ka-work si Kylie. You can see how passionate she is and how much she loves her craft. When you do a shoot overseas, you usually just have a small team, so it’s important that everyone is professional. You have to be able to adjust because there are things that are out of your control,” Gerald said.

“But everything came together naturally,” the 34-year-old actor added.

In hindsight, the fact that they didn’t know each other actually helped, Kylie said, because the characters they play are just that. “The characters were strangers to each other, so I used our situation to get inspiration,” related Kylie, who found

Gerald a “very open and generous” leading man. As beautiful as the filming location is, the story—which delves into mental health and disorder—is anything but.

Switzerland is one of the few countries where physician-assisted suicide is legal, even for nonresident foreigners. Upon learning about this, Lucy (Kylie), a successful company executive dealing with clinical depression, sets off to get herself enlisted. But then she meets a fellow Filipino named Noah, (Gerald), who has her rethinking her plans.

“The subject of mental health is a good conversation starter. People go through this. I hope the movie makes the viewers feel that they’re not alone, that there are other chances in life, that we can give other people a chance to give us hope,” she said. “That’s one of the reasons I accepted the film.”

Facing your problems

It’s a situation that Kylie knows all too well. After giving birth to her second son, Axl, the 30-year-old actress was diagnosed with anxiety and

postpartum depression. She encouraged people who find themselves in a similar situation to try and seek help.

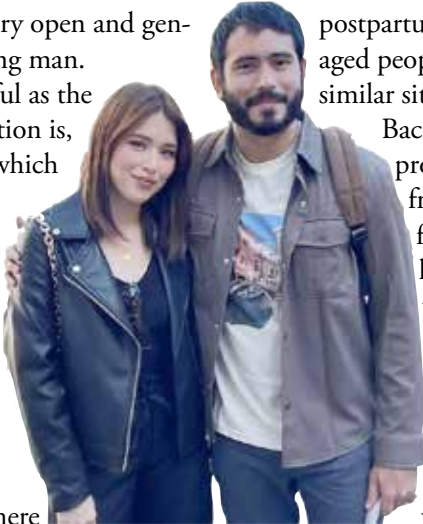
Back then, Kylie dealt with her problems by running away from them, literally and figuratively. “I used to be like that. But after doing that—trying to escape by going somewhere else—I realized that when I came back, things would still be as I left them. So I had to go deep and heal, so that I will be OK no matter where life takes me,” she said.

Gerald is the opposite. He’s the type of person who prefers to take on problems head on and resolve them as soon as possible.

“If there are problems or obstacles, I always want to get them done and over with,” Gerald said. “But the beauty of the film is that it shows that every one of us has a different way of dealing with life challenges.”

Whenever Gerald feels down, stressed or unmotivated, he redirects his attention to the things he’s grateful for. “I’m happy that I’m still here and being offered to do projects than can make an impact. I’m grateful for everything. When I’m stressed, I try to figure out why it’s happening: ‘How do I fix this? What did I do wrong?’”

“More than the success, it’s the failures that helped me grow and shaped me into who I am now,” he said.



Karla Estrada on Jolina Magdangal not sending her a message

Is Karla Estrada bothered that Jolina Magdangal didn’t send her a congratulatory message after she was tapped as new host of TV5’s “Face 2 Face?”

Melai Cantiveros, their co-host on “Magandang Buhay” did.

“Congrats sa new show mo. I-enjoy mo yung show. I’m sure marami kang ma-inspire na tao,” Melai told Karla in a video greeting played during the press conference.

Asked if she’s bothered about Jolina’s seeming silence, Karla said, “Hindi ko yan naisip.”

“Kasi kilala ko si Momshie Jols, may mga reasons tayo na dapat irespeto bilang kaibigan. Ako lang ‘to, kung paano ako magkaibigan, hindi ako judgemental sa mga kaibigan ko. Ang importante alam kong magkaibigan kami. So ayokong bigyan ng rason si Momshie Jols dahil siya yun. But I don’t think na merong problema. I don’t think may problemang personal.”

Note that “Face 2 Face” marks Karla’s return to television after she ended her five-year journey on “Magandang Buhay” late last year.

She left the show some months prior after she decided to run for public office.

Meanwhile, in a separate interview, Karla reiterated that all is well between her and her former network. “Definitely walang nasunog na tulay. In fact, sobrang happy sila. Even Tita Cory (Vidanes) sobrang happy kaya,” she shared.

“Hindi na rin kasi uso ang pagsunogan ng tulay ngay-on,” she added.

Karla believes it is a win-win situation for both parties. “Mas maganda yun sa aming mga artista, sa mga boss na nagtatrabaho sa industriya dahil mas marami kaming oportunidad na pagtatrabahuhan,” was how she put it. “Wag na tayong mag-sunog ng tulay kasi ang dami pang tulay na pwedeng gawin sa mga probinsya,” she quipped.

It’s her first time working in TV5. The 2023 reboot will present Mama Karla as host with comedian Alex Calleja as a mediator.





# ACTION Honda

"WHERE CAR OWNERSHIP IS MADE EASY"

## Your Filipino friends, ready at your Service!

To all my kababayans, Feel free to contact me "bibili ka man o hindi." It is always a pleasure to talk to a kababayan.

### MABUHAY! [rafael@myactionhonda.com](mailto:rafael@myactionhonda.com)



**Rafael Nebres**  
General Manager



Honda Pilot 2023



**Gani Gregorio**  
Asst. Sales Manager



Honda Accord 2023



**Jose Sarte**  
Service Manager



Honda Civic 2023



**Ronaldo Aquino**  
Assistant Service Manager



Honda Passport 2023



**Joseph Redoblado**  
Service Advisor



Honda CR-V 2023



**Roland 'Regi' Gernaldez**  
Sales and Leasing Consultant



Honda Odyssey 2023



**Ramon Bayani**  
Sales and Leasing Consultant



Honda CR-V 2023



**Shermann Naval**  
Sales and Leasing Consultant



Honda CR-V 2023



**Pio Regio**  
Senior Lot Attendant



Honda Accord 2023



**Ramon Miranda**  
Lot Attendant



Honda Civic 2023



**Marie Miranda**  
Service Appointment Coordinator



Honda Passport 2023



**Myla Mayo**  
Cashier / Receptionist



Honda CR-V 2023



**Terry Aquino**  
Cleanup Associate



Honda Odyssey 2023

## NEW & USED CAR SALES • CAR PARTS • BODY SHOP • CAR SERVICE

4334 Kingston Rd., Scarborough ON (south of Lawrence Ave. East) Tel. (416) 281-1234

# DOH: No need to reimpose mandatory face mask rule

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) said May 2 that reinstating the face mask mandate was unnecessary, and people should adapt to the virus without fluctuating policies.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday floated the idea that the government might bring back the mandatory face masks following the recent rise in COVID-19 cases, depending on the recommendations of the DOH and Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

DOH officer-in-charge Maria Rosario Vergeire said the health department and other members of the IATF have already submitted their recommendation not to bring back COVID-19 restrictions, including mandatory face masks.

“We already have recommended to the Office of the President, based on the agreements coming from the IATF discussions, that there is no need to return the mandate, we need to shift the mindset



Passengers donning face masks patiently wait for the train at the United Nations Avenue Station in Manila on April 24, 2023.

of our countrymen,” said Vergeire.

Viral presence and self-protection “Cases will increase and decrease in our country because the virus is here, it will not disappear, and the virus will mutate and produce variants every now and then,” she added.

Vergeire explained that what the public needs is for each individual to know how to protect themselves and their family — by choosing to wear a mask when going to high-risk places, especially if they are unvaccinated, immunocompromised, se-

nior citizens, or pregnant.

“Our policies do not need to be back and forth, we all need to help each other to overcome this situation,” said Vergeire.

Vergeire, in the same briefing, explained that the current increase in COVID-19 infections does not compare to the numbers recorded during the height of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

“We need to raise the level of our risk tolerance to COVID-19. This increase in cases did not translate to more hospital admissions, and it did not translate to more severe and critical cases and even deaths,” said Vergeire.

“Our health utilization rate remains at low risk because of the wall of immunity due to vaccination,” she added.

Based on the DOH’s COVID-19 online tracker, as of April 30, the country currently has 5,875 active COVID-19 cases.

The has so far logged a total of 4,093,421 cases, with 4,021,102 recoveries and 66,444 deaths.

## Maris Racial on her dream wedding with Rico Blanco

Singer-actress Maris Racial said she’d rather get asked by people about the career-related plans she makes with boyfriend, musician



Rico Blanco, than about getting married.

Maris is 25, while Rico is 50.

“He knows that I’m not yet ready. My career is my priority. I want to keep working. I’m not yet in the right headspace for that... maybe in 20 more years. Joke!” quipped Maris.

However, the actress already has a dream wedding. “I want to get married at San Agustin Church (in Manila). My first time there was for a shoot, and I liked it so much. I have not seen a church as beautiful as San Agustin. This was in 2015. That’s what I like at the moment. It’s not final yet, though,” she said, laughing.

Maris and Rico confirmed their relationship in May 2021.

“We click because we have a lot of things in common. We talk about many things, like music and life plans—not just about love and all that. While we do make plans for our future, these are related to my career. He supports me. He gives me insights into things and what to do,” she told Inquirer Entertainment in a recent interview.

Will she ever be emotionally ready to become a bride?

“I am ready... to work,” she insisted. “Of course, I don’t get romantically involved with someone if I’m not sure he’s the right one for me. Definitely, we talk about what we want our future together to be like, but we’re not too focused on that.”

## Filipinos Need P1.3 Million a Year to Be Happy

This just in: Money can actually buy happiness. It wasn’t the case before... but the link between money and happiness has greatly changed in recent years. And now, we know the exact amount the average Filipino needs to be fully happy.

A new study by consumer website Expensivity has revealed the price of happiness in every country. Using data based on a U.S. analysis by scientists from Purdue University, the site made its calculations to figure out the figures for different countries around the world.

So, where does the Philippines figure? At \$28,264 (approximately P1.3 million), we’re in the low end compared to the rest of the world. That’s at least P110,000 of earnings each month.

The study shows that Bermuda, Australia, and Israel had the highest price of happiness at \$143,933, \$135,321, and \$130,457, respectively. No, this doesn’t mean these countries are just more greedy than the rest of the world. A great contribution to the amount is each country’s cost of living.

On the other hand, Suriname, Argentina, and Angola have the lowest price of happiness at \$6,799, \$8,788, and \$8,921, respectively. Interestingly, the price of happiness in Asia and Oceania varied greatly more than in any other world region.

The study’s authors say that while money isn’t everything, it still provides a cushion that you need to “build a masterplan for being happy.”

### Not tropa anymore: Cristine Reyes reacts to old video saying Marco Gumabao is too young for her

Actress Cristine Reyes reacted to an old video of her being circulated again on different social media sites.

In the video, Cristine was asked by Boy Abunda on whether Marco Gumabao should be “jojowain or totropahin.”

“Totropahin,” Cristine answered.

“Sobrang bata pa ni Marco. Ano ako cougar?” she added.

Recently, Cristine posted a photo of her and Marco getting cozy on the beach in her Instagram story.

“(Definitely) Not tropa anymore,” Cristine wrote.

“Home kasi,” she added while Marco was tagged on the post.

Last Monday, Marco shared several sweet photos of him and Cristine on Instagram.

One photo showed Marco hugging Cristine and giving her a kiss on the cheek while they were seated on the sand.

Another showed the couple crossing a street while holding hands. There was also an instant film posted on a metallic board with a pink sticky note beside it. “Ha Ha Ha. Love You,” was written on the note with a big smiley face.

“You are my home and my adventure all at once,” Marco captioned the post, by which the actress was also tagged.



### Celebs congratulate Erwan Heussaff for int’l award nomination

Online content creator Erwan Heussaff was recently nominated for a James Beard Award under the social media

category.

Many of his loved ones and colleagues in showbiz including Isabelle Daza, Liz Uy, Raymond Gutierrez, and Bianca Gonzalez extended their congratulatory messages.

Erwan’s wife, actress Anne Curtis reiterated how “proud” she is over her husband’s latest milestone.

Nico Bolzico, Solenn Heussaff’s husband and Erwan’s brother-in-law, echoed the same, relating how “hard work pays off.”

Of course, Erwan, himself, was ecstatic about his achievement.

He shared on social media last April 28: “Woke up to the exciting news yesterday and it just makes me more determined to keep going.”

According to him, to be recognized internationally by such a platform is “so motivating.”

“It all started as a food blog to help people eat healthy. After 12 years, 3 studio builds, countless cooking videos and short documentaries later, it finally feels like we are hitting our stride. Whether I make it or not, it doesn’t really matter!,” he related.



“With FEATR @featrmedia we are working towards building a proudly Filipino, digital video focused, food media outlet. Showcasing stories and voices that need to be heard from our beautiful islands through TV caliber content. I hope we can enter a bunch of our videos in next year’s awards,” he added.

Erwan declared that he basically grew professionally publicly on the Internet and he just want to say thank you to the “amazing community” who’ve been interested in what they have been doing over the last few years.

“In my ‘mature’ age of 36, I now always focus on the positive. A few articles came out about me this week and have brought out the ‘commentors’, it’s still sad to see that people who’ve made their assumptions about me a few years back, still can’t see our growth and the AMAZING work that the whole FEATR Media and The Fat Kid Inside Studios teams churn out. We are on track to document all Filipino heritage Salts this year, incredible local products and continue to shoot as many provinces as possible; giving light to the people who make all these places special and hopefully raising awareness and pride along the way. Yes, we still do branded work and that’s what helps fund everything else we do!”

He ended his post, noting: “We’re just getting started!”

It was in 2021 when Erwan rebranded his 10-year-old channel to FEATR.

Little Manila CONFIDENTIAL

LMC

Jose "Joey" Baking

Delivering Filipino stories - SINCE 1999

WWW.LMCONFIDENTIAL.COM

EMAIL: josebaking@gmail.com

PUBLISHED BY: Match International Group



# HULING EL BIMBO

## ERASERHEADS

**JUNE 16**  
**8 PM**  
Doors open at 6 PM

**First Ontario Centre**  
101 York Blvd  
Hamilton

**TICKETMASTER.CA**  
**For more info, please call**  
**647-988-TALA**

# Dolphy’s family engages in a legal battle against Banayad Whisky

The family of Dolphy will be pressing charges against the liquor company. Actor Eric Quizon revealed that his family has already filed for a case against the manufacturer of liquor brand Banayad Whisky after it failed to stop production of its products with the face of his father Dolphy on the packaging.

Eric added that the image of the King of Comedy and the name Banayad Whisky, are both patented and copyrighted by the family. Dolphy passed away back in 2012 leaving 18 children



behind. On his Instagram post, the 56-year-old Eric warned his followers about the “bootleg seller” whom they previously came in contact with but has since estopped communicating with them.

“This serves as a warning to all. This bootleg seller is using my dad’s image and banayad whisky, which are patented and with copyrights. At first they cooper-



ated with us but stopped communicating when the Quizons demanded them to stop selling. We have filed a case against [them]. Please BEWARE! #banayadwhiskey,” he wrote.

Eric clarified that the Banayad Whisky being sold is not associated with Dolphy and the Quizon family at all.

“This is to inform the public that: BANAYAD WHISKY as shown in the photograph above and/or any product or merchandise having the same brand, is NOT ASSOCIATED, AFFILIATED, OR CONNECTED with RODOLFO ‘DOLPHY’ VERA QUIZON and/or the HEIRS OF DOLPHY. Any complaint or transaction related to BANAYAD WHISKY shall not be acknowledged by the heirs of Dolphy. Please be guided accordingly,” the statement went.

Meanwhile, netizens and fans of Dolphy showed their support for the family in the comment section. Netizens shared how wrong it was for the liquor brand to use the image of the late actor without the permission of the family.

“You should send a cease and desist letter,” one netizen suggested.

“Quizon family seems to be lovely.. what is it about these cruel people tampering with your identities?..first it was your identity.. now this?? You will all be in my prayers Sir,” another netizen added.

As of this writing, the liquor company has yet to release a statement about the issue.

# Gerald Anderson reminisces ‘PBB’ stint, says luck a big part of it

Kapamilya actor Gerald Anderson happily reminisced about his experience being a housemate in the first version of Pinoy Big Brother: Teen Edition back in 2006.

In an interview with Korina Sanchez, he shared how “lucky” he got after his stint on the reality show.

Gerald was part of the Big 4 in his batch wherein he finished third overall, just behind Mikee Lee and one spot ahead of Clare Cabiguin. His former love team partner, Kim Chiu, was hailed as the Big Winner for their batch.

Gerald added how easier it was for people to become famous today because of all the platforms available on-

line such as TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram. He said that he couldn’t venture into vlogging as he still feels shy about it.

“Sabi ko nga, kung naging artista ako ngayon or nag-start ako ngayon – with how easy it is to be celebrity dahil sa YouTube, social media, mag-post ka lang, celebrity ka na – mahihirapan ako ngayon maging artista,” he said. The 34-year-old actor shared how grateful he feels for the opportunities that came his way following his stint on PBB. Gerald said that the



reality show opened the gates for him to become who he is today and what he has achieved in the showbiz industry.

Gerald instantly rose to fame right after his exit from the PBB house where he was eventually paired with Kim Chiu for several film and television projects. He and Kim were former onscreen and real-life partners. “Luck is a big part of it. Sinuwerte lang talaga ako,” he remarked.

Meanwhile, Gerald admitted that they felt overwhelmed by the multiple projects thrown at them.

“Paglabas namin, gulat kami parehas. ‘Yung impact and pagsalubong sa amin ng tao. Again, we are very lucky. You mix that with hard work,” he shared. “Ang nangyari po paglabas namin ng PBB, parang ginawa na kaming bida sa mga shows. Imagine, two months to three months prior niyan, nasa Gen San lang ako nag-ba-basketball lang. Again, parang nung galing akong States na pumunta ako sa Gen San, culture shock talaga,” he added.

Even though he and Kim have already parted ways, Gerald remains to be one of the most sought-after actors in the country.

# Miss Universe 1969 Gloria Diaz, hindi pabor sa pagsali ng mga misis sa Miss Universe

Welcome na ang mga nanay at may-asawa sa 72nd Miss Universe na gaganapin sa Disyembre sa El Salvador.

Ano ang masasabi rito ng unang Pinay Miss Universe na si Gloria Diaz?

“Di dapat, Universe na lang, huwag nang Miss. Kasi, hindi na Miss yon, di ba?” sabi ng 72-anyos na si Miss Gloria.

“Dapat ‘Universe’! Hindi, I think they even include transvestites. Siyempre, going with the times, no?”

“Pero my personal opinion — which is not to be taken in the negative way — dapat may sarili silang contest. May Mrs. Universe, may Lesbian Universe, may

Tranny Universe.

“There is room for so much. Oo, mga category na ganoon, ganyan. Tapos, kasi even sa Mrs. Universe, andaming magaganda diyan na nanganak na. OK lang yon!”

Pakiwari ni Miss Gloria, nag-umpisa ang malalaking pagbabago sa Miss Universe nang imungkahi na puwede nang maging Miss Universe ang 28-anyos.

Before 2016 ay 18-26 years old dapat ang mga kandidata.

“Kasi actually, pag 28 ka na, dapat may career ka na, hindi ba? Dapat mga... like during my time, from 17 or 18 hanggang

23, ikaw na ang pinakamatanda,” lahad ni Miss Gloria.

“In fact noon, pag may 23 years old, sasabihin nila, ‘And the oldest candidate, 23 years old...’ Ganyan, no? Bukod-tanging ikaw ang pinakamatanda.

“Pero ngayon, nakaka-28 na yata, puwede pa rin, e. It’s hard. It’s a very new idea na sa akin... not very acceptable.”

Dapat talaga, bukod ang timpalak para sa mga



misis, may-asawa, diborsyada, nanay, buntis, lesbian, bisexual, o transgender?”

“Dapat kanya-kanya! O sige, di at least it gives people more chances, di ba?” sambit ni Miss Gloria.

“Kasi, you’re representing this country. E, kung may mas magandang babae, o mas magandang tranny... mas mahirap kalaban ang tranny.

“Kasi I’ve been a judge sa Super Sireyna. Ang gaganada talaga nila! At talagang palaban! Kaya nilang mag-sirku-sirko diyan, di ba?”




## THE SANDBANKS

### Cottages and Campsites

**50 Valhalla Lane, Picton, Ontario K0K 2T0**

**NITZ REJDIK: TEL: 416-893-7467**

**info@sandbanksandcottagesandcampsites.com**

**www.sandbankscottagesandcampsites.com**

**BOOK ONLINE NOW!!!**




# Marcos, Biden affirm ‘ironclad’ alliance during meet

WASHINGTON, D.C.— As President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. sought to redefine the Philippines and United States (US) relationship amid rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific region, US President Joe Biden said the US maintains its “ironclad” commitment to the Philippines’ defense and security efforts.

Marcos and Biden met at the White House on May 1 (US time). It was the first visit of a Philippine president to the White House in many years.

Marcos has been constantly saying that the situation in the region was changing, thus, the need to evolve the current Mutual Defense Treaty between both coun-



tries.

The President was finally able to raise this, personally, to Biden.

He told Biden that the Philippines found itself in “arguably the most complicated geopolitical situation in the world right now.”

“And so it is only natural that — for

the Philippines to look to its sole treaty partner in the world, to strengthen and to redefine the relationship that we have and the roles that we play in the face of these tensions that we see now around the South China Sea and the Asia-Pacific and Indo-Pacific region,” Marcos said in his opening statement.

Marcos further told the US President that there were many new issues that need to be assessed.

“And again our role as partners in the world— in our worldview of what we are hoping for the future of peace, not only in the Asia-Pacific and Indo-Pacific region but in the whole world,” he said.

Biden, on the other hand, said Washington remains “ironclad in our commitment to the defense of the Philippines, including the South China Sea and we’re gonna continue [supporting] the Philippines’ military modernization.”

“Our countries not only share strong partnership. We share deep friendship, one that has been enriched by millions of Filipino-Americans and the communities all across the United States,” Biden added.

This was Marcos’ and Biden’s second bilateral meeting. They first met on the sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) last September 2022 in New York.



## HULING

### EL BIMBO

## ERASERHEADS

**JUNE 16**  
**8 PM**  
Doors open at 6 PM

**First Ontario Centre**  
101 York Blvd  
Hamilton

TICKETMASTER.CA  
**For more info, please call**  
**647-988-TALA**

# Did Journey’s Neal Schon Call Arnel Pineda a ‘Nobody?’

In case you’re not aware, all is not well in the rock band Journey. There has been infighting between members of the band, particularly between founding member Neal Schon and current frontman and lead vocalist Arnel Pineda and keyboardist Jonathan Cain. The drama has been playing out on social media.

The conflict between Schon and Pineda began after the band reunited with founding member Gregg Rollie recently. Schon’s wife Michaela defended the reunion and called out both Cain and Pineda saying they should “know their place” since they were both recruited by Schon. Michaela further stoked the fire when she said both band members “should learn some spirituality.”

Pineda responded with a tweet saying that if the band was tired of him, they could fire him “anytime.”

Meanwhile, Schon’s beef with Cain is related to money. After the two set up a company to handle the band’s finances, Schon accused Cain of setting up a new American Express credit card without his knowledge and demanded access to the credit card statements. But according to the website Rockcelebrities, Cain filed a counter suit, alleging that Schon wanted to increase his spending limit on the card to fund his “extravagant lifestyle.”

On Wednesday (April 12), comments made by Schon on Twitter seemed to indicate a more hostile approach toward

Pineda. When a fan advised Schon to let Pineda and Cain go and called them “nobodies,” Schon seemed to agree.

After reports of Schon’s tweet began making the rounds on news sites and social media, Pineda tweeted a reply. “He (Schon) may be right. Like I said, if they’re tired of this #nobody, I’m just a phone call away...”

But Schon quickly replied to Pineda’s tweet to clarify his earlier statement. He also apologized to Pineda.

Pineda has since expressed gratitude for the life he was able to provide his family thanks to Journey.

Pineda was handpicked by Schon as Journey’s vocalist in 2007 after seeing clips of him performing covers of the



band’s songs. The band is at the tailend of its Freedom tour in the U.S. The tour began in February in Pennsylvania and is set to finish on April 25 in Palm Springs, California.

When a fan asked what the band would do in the event both Pineda and Cain quit after the current tour, Schon’s answer was a firm, “Won’t happen.”

## MISS SUPRANATIONAL CANADA 2022

# Alexa Marie Grant

### Fundraising Dinner

**For tickets, call Tess Grant 416-875-1961**

**May 27, 2023 • 6 PM**  
Thornhill Community Centre  
7755 Bayview Ave,  
Markham ON  
L3T 4P1, Canada

**\$35**

Marie Grant half Filipino, half Canadian, WILL COMPETE FOR #misssupranational2023 THIS JULY 2023 IN POLAND.



## Elijah on his love for girlfriend Miles: She deserves it

I give her the love that she deserves,” said actor Elijah Canlas when asked how expressive he is of his love to girlfriend Miles Ocampo.

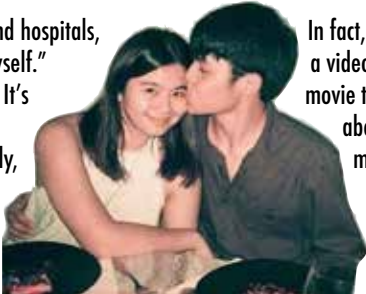
In a lengthy Instagram post uploaded over a week ago, Miles disclosed that she underwent surgery in

March after being diagnosed with papillary thyroid carcinoma. Miles claimed to have not been her “normal self” since late 2022, and would wake up in the middle of the night due to difficulty breathing. She would also get easily tired and often felt frustrated with her weight gain. She finally chose to undergo thyroidectomy.

Also in her post, she thanked Elijah, whom she called by his second name, Luiz, for “encouraging me

to face my fears with doctors and hospitals, to prioritize myself and love myself.”

“Am I a romantic boyfriend? It’s better to ask her,” Elijah told Inquirer Entertainment. “Actually, I think I am. I express my love using almost all of the love languages—quality time, touch and acts of service.



In fact, during her last birthday, I made her a video, which I arranged to be shown in a movie theater. It actually feels funny talking about it because it’s like I’m too proud of myself.”

The actor added: “She really deserves it. She deserves nothing but the best from people who love her.”



## Lea Salonga begins rehearsal for Broadway musical ‘Here Lies Love’

NEW YORK, USA — Broadway star Lea Salonga has begun rehearsing for the musical “Here Lies Love.”

In her Instagram account, Lea posted a photo of her with the cast of the Broadway musical.

“First day of @herelieslovebway rehearsals! The first ALL-FILIPINO company on Broadway! What a way to kick off #AAPIHeritageMonth2023!!” Lea wrote in the caption.

“Here Lies Love” is the first musical on Broadway about the Philippines. All of the leading roles are mostly Filipinos. Lea said joining the musical is very special to her. “Number one, as a Filipino artist, I am incredibly excited that audiences will finally get to see on Broadway this beautiful, impactful and important musical,” she said.

“Two, I get to go back to the Broadway Theatre which is where I made my own Broadway debut over 30 years ago, which is wild for me to think about. So, it’s a really sweet, full-circle moment,” she added.

The show will premiere on June 17.

### David Chua, Devon Seron unfollow each other on Instagram; David spotted with Meg Imperial

Eagle-eyed social media users noticed that rumored

couple David Chua and Devon Seron unfollowed each other on Instagram.

It can also be seen in their respective Instagram accounts that they deleted each other’s photos.

In an exclusive interview with Philstar.com via Facebook Messenger, David said there is a little bit of misunderstanding between them.

“It’s a very petty issue. Meron lang kaming konting tampuhan, which I think is very normal in any relationship, right? I think we’re both mature enough to realize our limits and know if our feelings are justified for the current state of our ‘friendship,’” David said.

David and Devon starred in the Net25 sitcom “Good Will.” He said that he’s willing to work again with Devon in time.

“In time, I’m sure we can sort things out and just laugh about how trivial our issues are and buckle down to working together again,” he said.

David, however, chose not to answer questions about Meg Imperial. The two were spotted recently getting cozy on a beach.

Last month, David is non-committal with the rumored romance between him and Devon, but admitted that they are in the “getting-to-know-each-other” stage.



## PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES

WHAT IF YOU NEEDED TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK TO CARE FOR YOURSELF OR A SICK FAMILY MEMBER? I CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY’S FUTURE.

You do what’s best to protect your family. But have you thought of everything?

Protect your family and your income with Sun critical illness insurance. And if you’re never diagnosed with a critical illness, you can include an option to get back the money you’ve paid in premiums if you don’t ever make a claim. It’s insurance that can pay you if you get sick – or if you stay healthy.

Let’s talk about how I can help protect your family, your income and your retirement.



**Basil Rodricks**  
Tel: 416-696-0083 ext 2240  
basil.rodicks@sunlife.com  
www.sunlife.ca/basil.rodicks  
5775 Yonge Street  
Suite 1900  
North York ON M2M 4J1

\*Mutual Funds offered by Sun Life Financial Investment Services (Canada) Inc.  
Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is a member of the Sun Life group of companies.  
© Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 2020.

Life’s brighter under the sun



### Ryan Bang says he turned down acting, hosting offers by Korean label SM Entertainment

Ryan Bang’s star power has caught the attention of his home country, as he received an offer to do acting and hosting projects from South Korean SM Entertainment, that managed K-pop groups and celebrities.

“Bakit hindi ka bumalik? Like Sandara [Park], you could have opted to go back to South Korea?” Dyogi asked the “It’s Showtime” host.

Bang recalled a time where he received an acting and hosting offer from South Korean music producer Lee Soo-man in the past where he would train for five

years. Soo-man was the founder of SM Entertainment until he severed ties with the label in October 2022.

“Yun ang offer naman [kasi] nila, bawal ako pumunta ng Philippines. Kailangan bawat galaw ko bawal, kaso sobrang makulit talaga ako. Sa Korea kasi grabe, mahigpit parang walang freedom. Eh grabe ang ugali ko, ang personality ko ay pang-Pilipino talaga ako, so nag-decide na ako na mag-stay dito,” he further explained.

Despite rejecting SM’s offer, Bang still received opportunities to be a guest in several Korean shows including



varieties, documentaries, and travel. “Dahil doon, nag-guest ako sa iba-ibang mga show. Nag-translator ako kay Senator [Manny] Pacquiao sa ‘Infinity Challenge.’ Nag-guest ako sa mga documentary at sa mga travel shows,” he said.

The “Pinoy Big Brother” alum also shared that he received acting offers from entertainment companies in South Korea, saying that he’s open to accepting them in the future.

“Ngayon, merong nago-offer sa akin ng mga teleserye na parang sidekick,” he began. “Hindi nga ako nag-paalam sa iyo n’un, Direk [Lauren] kaya ako nag-braces. Kasi gusto ng mga director

doon ay perfect ang ngipin bago ako isalang sa mga movie nila. May kinukuha sa akin na movie, teleserye, eh nag-pandemic bigla. So, ‘yung mga ganoon, tatang-gapin,” he added.

Ryan started his entertainment career in the Philippines as a housemate of “Pinoy Big Brother” in 2010, where he emerged as the second big placer, while musician-actor James Reid eventually won the title. He is currently one of the mainstay hosts of the noontime show, “It’s Showtime.”

Meanwhile, SM Entertainment is home to popular K-pop acts Boa, Girls’ Generation, SHINee, Super Junior, Red Velvet, EXO, NCT, and aespa, among many others.



# When we can go out again, it will be on a Honda!

## Action Honda

### 416-281-1234

## Roadsport Honda

### 416-578-7351



## Lovi Poe visits fortune tellers

Taking a break from her busy schedule for the series “Batang Quiapo” on Kapamilya Network, actress Lovi Poe said she is familiar with the “old downtown of Manila,” several times she goes to its miraculous church, where the Feast of Black Nazarene is held.

“I’ve been to Quiapo, and I did go to the church. Nagpahula na rin ako doon,” Lovi laughed when asked if she was familiar with the place in Manila.

Lovi added: “Marami na akong pina-hula pero siyempre hindi naman natin alam if it’s true. Pero one time, nagpahula ako, not in Quiapo. My mom and I went to Baclaran at hinulaan ako na magiging actress daw ako. I was very young then. I remember ‘yun ang hula sa akin noong nasa Baclaran ako.”

For the first time, Lovi is working on a project related to her dad, the late King of Philippine Movies Fernando Poe Jr., who starred in the film version of “Batang Quiapo” in 1986. The movie, featuring “Da King” and Maricel Soriano, broke box office records at the time.

“I’m just very thankful that after how many years I get to do this. Ang sarap ng pakiramdam to be recognized as his



daughter,” she said. “I’m so happy that we were able to do that somehow and now it’s like going back to your roots and doing a project that my dad has done in the past.”

She believes her father would be proud of her now that she’s part of an action-comedy series.

Lovi, who portrays Mokang or Monica in the series, said that the people of Quiapo simply amaze her. “Pag makita mo kasi yung life ng iba’t ibang tapo sa Quiapo, of course these are fictional characters, but as actors we portray real life people. And what’s special about it is how they manage their daily lives.

Kung paano nila binibuhay ang famili nila on a daily basis, it’s really nice to look at.”

Lovi’s dream of working with Coco for the first time is also a reality.

“It’s a dream come true to work with Coco. The working relationship is great. He’s very hands-on, very passionate. He’s spontaneous. He keeps you on your toes. One time tumawid kami ng bridge ng Quiapo and no one was following us. I don’t know where the cameras are. Naka-plant somewhere. Ako as an actress, I’m already in character wherever I go. I don’t know where the cameras are so it’s nice kasi you’re always ready.”

Aside from her co-stars, Lovi says that she is delighted to make action scenes in her latest project. “I’m grateful for doing action scenes. As an actress, you like to complete your wish list. I’ve done drama, romantic comedy, and happy stuff. And now finally, it’s happening. Nagstart ‘yung mga actions scenes sa ‘Flower of Evil.’ And I hope the action roles get bigger here. Sa pilot episode pa lang I was blown away. Napakaganda,” Lovi said.

Love said that it was not difficult for her to shift to the action genre.

“Hindi naman ako masyado nag-adjust. Joke nga nila sa akin masyado raw akong excited kapag may action scenes. Imbes na ma-stress ako, lalo pa ako nae-excite. Hindi sya masyadong mahirap na shift for me.”

Lovi has been preparing for action scenes, training, and boxing.

“I work out. I’ve been doing a lot of

boxing. There was a time kasi I really enjoyed boxing pero now mas consistent ako. Nagshooting range na rin kami. A lot of things on the side.

“It’s time that women portray action scenes. Siguro biased ako but I’m a big fan of Gal Gadot and Scarlett Johansson. All these physically strong women get to showcase action scenes. I think it’s nice to showcase that women can also do these things. You have to admit it there’s a different flavor when women do all this stuff,” she said.

Fans, she

said, can really enjoy numerous action scenes in “Batang Quiapo.” She remarked: “Lets just say I’m training for something for my character. Hindi ko pa puwedeng sabihin. It’s a surprise. Pero bago pa kami nagstart ng taping, I started training for it kasi mahirap siyang gawin.”

It took seven years for the series “FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano” to finally bid farewell to its legions of fans. Is Lovi ready to stay longer in “Batang Quiapo”?

Lovi laughed anew. She answered: “Let’s cross the bridge when we get there. I’m not sure. I don’t know. But why not? I would be grateful. But there are so many things that I would like to do. I’m shooting a movie (now) and I’m so thankful for my ‘Batang Quiapo’ family na pinagbigyan nila ako magshoot sa isang movie.”

Imbes na ma-stress ako, lalo pa ako nae-excite.

## Saweetie opens up on her Filipino roots

Grammy-nominated rapper and global fashion icon Saweetie headlined the FIBA World Cup Draw held in the Philippines a few days ago.

And before her electrifying performance, Saweetie talked to the press about how important it is for her to “flex” Filipino culture in everything she does including her music videos.

According to her, it all boils down to her being a proud Filipino.

“The Filipino culture is in my DNA. So I’m so proud of where I came from and who I am. My mom and her brothers and sisters, my lolo, my lola - we’re all immigrants. I was raised in a real traditional, like, Filipino household and I’m proud of that because it made me the woman I am today,” she said.

Saweetie added: “It’s important for me to represent that, especially in an industry where you don’t see that many Filipino. I love showing pride in my heritage.”

Though she admitted that back when she was a little girl she was a bit “frustrated” coming from a mixed-race family. Born Diamonté Quiava Valentin Harper, Saweetie’s mother, Trinidad Valentin, is Filipino-Chinese, while her dad, Johnny Harper, is African-American. “As I got older and I reflect, it taught me that, you know, no two roots are the same. You have to respect the morals, values in both,” she related.

Saweetie declared she will definitely come back soon.



Currently, Saweetie is busy working on her new album.

“I think that Filipinos are really hard workers, and I got that from my mom. But I learn that the bigger the goal, the more I need more hands helping. So for anyone who wants to thrive in the business, getting the right team - who believe in your dream - is really important.”

Since her breakthrough in 2017, she has released numerous successful singles and albums, garnering a loyal fan base and solidifying her status as a leading force in the music industry.

**Alden Richards-Bea Alonzo movie postponed**

“A Moment To Remember,” the much awaited movie team-up of Alden Richards and Bea Alonzo, has been postponed.

According to a statement posted by GMA on social media, this is due to “scheduling conflicts within the production team.”

Not long after, reports emerged that the whole thing was called off with Bea backing out of the project.

This was confirmed by Boy Abunda on an episode of “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda.”

According to Boy, Bea is not able to push through with the project due to her “full” schedule.

He added the actress did not want to keep the cast waiting. “Ms. Bea Alonzo has contractual obligations with GMA Network to fulfill, and that shall remain as our top priority,” read a statement from Bea’s management. Boy added that Bea welcomes the idea of another actress taking on her role.

**WINNING NOTES PRODUCTION & ENTERTAINMENT**  
by: Philip Beloso

# TRIBUTE Night

with the **GOLDEN VOICES**

-Whitney Houston Celine Dion OPM Divas and more

**\$35**  
Including Dinner

Featuring **Martha Joy** **Alyssa Datu** **Maria Panaligan**

**May 7, 2023**  
**(Sunday) 6pm**

**MAHARLIKAS RESTO BAR**  
833 unit 8 Westlock Road, Mississauga, ON

**Sponsors**  
Adam & Carmella  
Pinoy Santos Vendors  
Joy Home Realty Call/Text: 647-500-5397 (KEYS)  
Musical Director : Alyssa Datu



Kuya Hermie Esquerre celebrates his 74th birthday with his family, sons-in-law and grandchildren.



## Happy 74th Birthday Kuya Hermie 🥰🥰🥰

### ChuRon no more?

Have Devon Seron and rumored beau David Chua called it quits?

Christened 'Churon' by their avid fans and social media followers, the duo seems to have unfollowed each other on their respective social media accounts.

Two weeks ago, eagle-eyed netizens noticed that David deleted Devon's pics and videos from his Instagram posts, and vice versa for the former PBB alumna.

As a result, messages of concern started pouring in, with some speculating as to the reason behind the sudden turn of events.

Since the two are also the main stars of the Net25 sitcom Good Will, a few other fans thought that they called it quits since the show ended its first season.

But there seems to be a twist to the unfolding drama.

A few days ago, David was spotted with actress Meg Imperial. The two were seen getting cozy at the beach, perhaps at some out-of-town destination during the previous long weekend.

Is this the start of another romantic escapade for



the chinito hunk? After all, this is the same guy who's earned some notoriety for constantly being 'spotted' with

showbiz and non-showbiz femme fatales, right?

After all, for the record, he never actually admitted that he and Devon formalized their relationship. In a recent online interview, David was quoted as saying that their alleged relationship was just at the "getting-to-know-each-other" stage.

The plot thickens.

But wait, isn't there supposed to be a 2nd season for Good Will?

Looking back at their last season-capping promo vid featuring seasoned broadcaster Korina Sanchez-Roxas, things are bound for a major shake-up since the resort was gutted by a fire. Will the madcap cast of comedians change their shooting location? Will there also be some new interesting faces in the cast?

Amid the brewing breakup, Devon maintains her silence and composure, oblivious to the mounting concern and incessant pleas of Churon fans for them to get back together.

In the meantime, all eyes are on David and his rumored 'flavor of the season.'

### Alexa Ilacad, KD Estrada, Elisse Joson to star in first ABS-CBN, TV5 drama

After its collaboration with GMA-7 in the upcoming drama "Unbreak My Heart," ABS-CBN teased that it will produce a show with TV5 starring some of its promising young stars that include the love teams of Ronnie Alonte and Loisa Andalio and KD Estrada and Alexa Ilacad.

In the short teaser, the cast of the upcoming first co-produced show "Pira-pirasong Paraiso" was revealed in a clip that showed the lead cast in glamor shots and sexy garbs. Elisse, Alexa, Loisa together with Charlie Dizon were seen holding a piece of cloth over their chest, with only their bare shoulders and legs visible. KD had a sleeveless top, while Ronnie and Joseph Marco were shirtless.

"Ngayong 2023, isang palaisipan ang aming bubuksan kung saan talo ang mabilis na magtiwala. Talo ang mga naniniwala sa laro ng mga kasinungalingan," said the familiar voice over ABS-CBN uses in many of its plugs.

It pans to the female cast in their power



outfits. The female stars were introduced as the "Next Generation Dramatic Actresses," while the male leads were called "This Generation's Leading Men."

"Once you play the game of lies, makakadiskarte ba ang puso? O ang tuso ang laging panalo," the voice over continued.

The drama will be handled by ABS-CBN's Dreamscape Entertainment, the same outfit that did the shows "Love Thy Woman" and "Kadenang Ginto."

ABS-CBN did not disclose the release date of "Pira-pirasong Paraiso."

*Kung good deal ang hinahanap ninyo, Harold Guarin ang tawagan n'yo...*



**HAROLD GUARIN**  
Fleet & Leasing Manager  
New & Used Sales  
haroldg@roadsport.com

**ROADSPORT LTD.**  
940 Ellesmere Rd. (NE Kennedy) Toronto Ontario M1P 2W8  
**416-291-9501**  
**www.roadsport.com**

**Bad Credit? New Credit?  
Bankruptcy? Divorced?  
Credit Counseling?**

**NO PROBLEM!!!**

**Come In And See More  
Choices Of Vehicles**



**\*\*2015 Honda Civic 4dr Auto LX Sedan  
FROM \$17,987**



**\*\* 2019 Honda Civic LX Manual Sedan  
FROM \$22,899**



**\*\*2019 Honda Civic LX CVT Sedan  
FROM \$24,197**



**\*\*2019 Honda Civic LX CVT Sedan  
FROM \$26,697**

**Call Harold for Appointment  
416-578-7351**

**CarProof**  
VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS

**HONDA Certified**  
Used Vehicles

**NACADA BEST PRICED DEALER  
AWARD WINNER 2020**  
**NACADA BEST PRICED DEALER  
AWARD WINNER 2021**



**HONDA**

See Harold for details \*\*All vehicles are plus \$10.00 omvic fee and HST, Licensing and \$40.00 gas extra. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.



**LM confidential**



Proud na ibinahagi ni Beauty Gonzalez ang pagiging supportive ng kanyang husband na si Norman Crisologo.

Nag-viral at pinag-usapan ang Instagram post ni Beuty Gonzalez kung saan makikita siyang naka-two piece bikini na kulay pink habang may hawak na mga bulaklak.

Nakalagay ang isang bungkos ng pink roses sa kanang bahagi ng mukha ni Beauty at ang isang bungkos naman ay nasa ibaba ng kanyang katawan na tumatakip sa kanyang private area.

Ani Beauty, may go signal naman daw ang ginawa niyang pictorial mula sa asawa niyang art curator na si Norman Crisologo kaya wala silang naging

## ‘Flowers’ of Beauty Gonzalez in photo,’ may go signal ng asawa

problema rito.

Siya rin daw mismo ang nag-suggest ng naturang concept sa photoshoot at natutuwang naman siya dahil maraming netizens ang pumuri rito kasama na rin ang mga kaibigan niya sa showbiz.

“It was my idea. I was like, ‘What am I gonna do with these flowers? Okay, I’ll put a flower here (sa ulo at mukha) and a flower there (private part).’ I don’t know. Natawa ako doon,” humahalakhak na kuwento ni Beauty sa mediacon ng bago niyang product endorsement, ang Hey Pretty Skin.

Si Beauty ang kauna-unahang celebrity endorser ng nasabing beauty brand na pag-aari ni Anne Barretto

na siyang nagpakilala sa aktres sa naganap na media launch kamakailan lang.

Ikinuwento rin ng former Pinoy Big Brother (PBB) housemate ang naging reaksyon ng asawa sa kanyang sexy photo shoot at sa “flower” na naging hot topic sa social media ng ilang araw.

“Well, sabi ko, ‘Baby, my flower went viral.’ Sabi niya, ‘What do you mean? What flower are you talking about?’ Sabi ko, ‘Not my flower, flower, hello! I’m talking about the flower photo!’” ang natatawang dialogue ng aktres.

Sey ni Beauty, napakaswerte talaga niya sa kanyang mister dahil bukod sa mabait at responsable, napaka-supportive rin nito sa lahat ng kanyang mga ginagawa.



“My husband is very funny at the same time hindi naman siya yung tipo ng lalaki na seryoso. He’s very open and kind. Actually, he was the one who insisted me to post that photo because he really likes it,” aniya.

“Ako nahiya ako mag-post ng sexy photos pero kapag sinabi na ng asawa ko mag-post, siyempre, post naman ako kasi mas naniniwala naman ako sa kanya,” dagdag pa niya.

Saad pa ni Beauty, si Norman din ang kumukuha ng kanyang mga litrato kapag nagbabakasyon sila sa iba’t ibang lugar.

“It’s the greatest gift a husband can give you, to get a photo of you at your most beautiful moment in your life. So when I’m 50, I could look back at it. Wala pa akong nahanap na lalaki na ganun, so sobrang thankful po ako sa kanya,” sey ni Beauty.

## KaladKaren natupad ang pangarap na maging newscaster ng ‘TV Patrol’

Masaya si KaladKaren dahil nabigyan siya ng pagkakataon na maging Star Patroller hindi bilang impersonator ni Karen Davila kundi kung sino siya bilang si Jervi Li.

Natupad na rin sa wakas ang matagal nang pangarap ni KaladKaren o Jervi Li sa totoong buhay na maging isang newscaster.

Noong nakaraang Lunes, April 17, 2023 ay nabigyan ng pagkakataon si KaladKaren na naging Celebrity Star Patroller sa flagship newscast program ng ABS-CBN na TV Patrol.

“Bata pa lang tayo gusto na natin na maging newscaster. Pero dahil transgender tayo, sabi ko sa sarili ko mukhang imposible na makakatapak tayo sa isang news room,” ang tila hindi makapaniwalang pahayag ni KaladKaren.

“Lumaki kasi ako na walang nakikitang transgender sa



1. JDL students Mika Sy and Oceana D’aoust; 2. Jarius Monzon, Mika Sy, Oceana D’aoust rehearse their number; 3. JDL students perform at Woodside mall.



TV. Or kung meron man, hindi sa paraang gusto ko at gusto kong gayahin,” dagdag pa niya.

Pagpapatuloy pa ni KaladKaren: “Kaya naman kagabi, noong magkaroon po tayo ng pagkakataong makapagbalita sa longest-running tagalog news program sa primetime television, ipinagdasal ko rin na sana mapanood ito ng mga batang katulad ko. Mga LGBTQIA+ kids na nangagrap na may abutin sa buhay.”

Umaasa si KaladKaren na sana ay magsilbing inspirasyon sa mga kagaya niyang transwoman o miyembro ng LGBTQ ang nangyari.

Aniya: “Sana naging inspirasyon tayo kahit papaano. Sana mas marami pang kagaya ko ang mabigyan ng oportunidad gaya nito.”

“At sana... sa pagbukas ng pintuan, lahat tayo makapasok,” ani pa nito.

Higit sa lahat, malaki ang kanyang pasasalamat dahil hindi nagawa niya ito hindi bilang impersonator ni Karen Davila kundi kung sino siya bilang isang indibidwal.

“I’m so happy I delivered the news as Jervi,” saad niya.

Pinasalamatan din niya ang TV Patrol sa pagtiiti-

wala.

“Salamat @tvpatrolph for making my dream come true! First transgender woman ‘Celebrity Star Patroller’ on TV Patrol and first trans woman to present segments in a Philippine primetime newscast,” wika pa ng kilalang impersonator ni Karen Davila.

Kamakailan ay nanalo si KaladKaren ng Best Supporting Actress sa 2023 Summer MMFF para sa pelikulang Here Comes The Groom. Siya ang kauna-unahang transgender na nanalo ng acting award sa naturang kategorya.



## 40 Days

1. Vernon Pingol; 2. Philip Beloso; 3. The priest officiates the 40 days; 4. Maria Panaligan poses with family; 5. Skyea D’aoust sings at the 40 days.





1. Action Honda’s Radael Nebres, Mskim Vi celebrates Von Canton’s birthdya t Rembrandt; 2. Philip Beloso, Jen, Raymond, Marites Beloso, Action Honda’s Rafael Nebres and wife Sylvia attend Gawad Kalinga Foundation’s fundrasing dinner at the Markham Hilton.



MAN ABOUT TOWN: Rafael Nebres



VOTE

Jose Baking

for

Toronto Mayor



Ellen Adarna wants another baby

Ellen Adarna wants another baby now that his son with former partner John Lloyd Cruz is already four years old.

And soon. How soon? Well, within the year, she said.

“Yeah, this year, (and) sana girl,” she related. “I always wanted a girl.”

Another reason for Ellen not wanting another boy is husband Derek Ramsay already having a 19-year old son with his ex wife.

She explained, “We both have boys na and we only want one (child) na lang. So, sana girl. Para tapos na ang boxing.”

Ellen Adarna 2.jpg



But what if it’s another boy? She answered, “Whatever, basta healthy.” “I always wanted a girl. But Elias is growing up into such a very sweet boy...yeah, I don’t mind. I don’t mind kung another boy.” Ellen is happy with the way Elias is developing physically and mentally. “Very active and super mature, very well exposed kasi,” she said rather proudly, acknowledging John Lloyd’s help in the matter. “Kahit hindi pa siya nag-start mag-school he is very well exposed kasi John Lloyd and I have very different lives. He’s exposed to my life, he’s exposed to John Lloyd’s world, so it merges. It’s very good for him.”





Lizzy Trovato (17) poses with her volleyball team Synergy.

Ellen Adarna wishes John Lloyd Cruz and gf well

A far cry from her wild and carefree party girl days, hibernating actress Ellen Adarna is now a picture of domesticated bliss in her life as Mrs. Derek Ramsay. But she also couldn't help but comment that she wishes for her former flame, actor John Lloyd Cruz, to have a "harmonious relationship" with his current girlfriend, artist Isabel Santos, so it can be a good example to their son Elias.

"Sana naman magiging happy and harmonious rin ang relationship nila kasi makikita yan ni Elias. Magiging standard yan na this is what a loving family or a loving couple or mother and father should be like," Ellen stressed when interviewed during the opening of Shinagawa Diagnostic and Preventive Care Center where she is an ambassador.

She stated that she gives John Lloyd 12 days in a month to be with their son which she thinks is a "fair" set-up. "I make sure (Elias) has a good relationship with John Lloyd. He needs John Lloyd as much as he needs me. Our co-parenting is okay."

Ellen revealed that she met Isabel several times



on the days when John Lloyd fetches Elias and their relations are very civil. "Pag sinusundo ni John Lloyd, I bring him (Elias) to the car and we just say hi, hello. I acknowledge lang."

The actress added that "hopefully that day will come" when Elias can celebrate a birthday in the presence of her and Derek as well as John Lloyd and his partner. For now, she's happy that Elias - who is turning five years old in June - is growing up to be more mature than his age.

"Very well exposed kasi eh, kahit hindi pa sya nag-start ng school, John Lloyd and I have very different lives. So he's exposed to my life and he's exposed to John Lloyd's world, it merges and I think it's good for him. That's what the kid needs. A lot of exposure," she noted.

Ellen also spilled the secret of her relationship with Derek which remains "strong and happy" after a whirlwind courtship and two years of being married.

"Of course, we had conflicts to get to know each other, tininitimpla nyo pa. But the boundaries were already set like, no, you cannot do that...no, you cannot say that to me. You do this and this will be the downfall of the marriage. So the boundaries were set and it is



being respected and honored by both parties. We have arguments but it's very chill," she bared.

Ellen acknowledged that it is her and Derek's choice not to be active in showbiz to give priority to their marriage and raising Elias. "Let's give it to Derek. He's been working so long in the industry, he's 47. He definitely deserves to take a break and just enjoy it."

In her case, Ellen said she will just maintain her commercial endorsements but returning to TV and the movies will not happen in a long time. Previously, Ellen said she will try to conceive this year in order to give birth in 2024, which is the lucky Year of the Dragon. If that happens, it means another seven years of giving her full focus on her family.

"I just want to be there for my kids during their formative years," she remarked.

The 35-year old Ellen further disclosed that travelling and keeping healthy are her priorities now, which is what the public also sees on the Ramsays' social media.



Toronto Lions Kapuso do their part for Earth Day by picking trash at Morningside Park.



Cecilla Araneta (2ND FROM RIGHT) has lunch at Salusalo with Mitzi Faigal, Jose Baking (LM Confidential), Joy D'aoust (Pinoy News), Honeylen Tan, Ian Santillan, Laila Elcano, Cecille, Tess Cusipag (Balita) and Theresa Torralba (Pinoy Waves).



RJ Greeley (4TH FROM RIGHT) celebrates his 13th birthday with family & friends.



# THE FILIPINO CENTRE, TORONTO

4395 Shepard Avenue East    TELEPHONE: 416-335-0485

## Join our

### WEEKLY WEDNESDAY

### PAINTING CLASS • 11AM-3PM

## Alisah Bonaobra dreams of Broadway, covers Angeline Quinto song

“The X Factor UK” finalist Alisah Bonaobra said she wants to try her luck on Broadway.

In an interview with the press, Alisah said she’s looking for auditions in the famed American theater scene.



to promote her song “Hanggang Kailan,” a composer cut of Angeline Quinto’s hit song.

Creator Joel Mendoza said it is a “Composer’s Cut” because it means the listener is encouraged to listen to it to find out why it was labeled as such and to discover its merit as a song.

“We recorded the track for six hours, with Joel Mendoza as my vocal coach. Sir Joel’s intense body language while we were in the studio all pointed to achieving what’s best for our version,” said Alisah, adding that she is a fan of Angeline Quinto.

It was recorded at Wild Grass Studio in Quezon City and is produced by the San Francisco-based RJA Productions and distributed by mainstream label Star Music PH.

The song originally came out as a breakthrough composition for Joel during the Himig Handog P-Pop Love Songs songfest in 2014, with its interpretation by Angeline becoming among the notable hits in that edition of the contest.

## AJ Raval clarifies baby photo

Social media users were shocked after sexy actress AJ Raval posted an image of a baby in her social media account.

“Our baby Dio,” she wrote in an Instagram story with the photo of the baby.

AJ, however, quickly clarified in another IG story that the baby is her nephew from her brother Ace.

“Welcome to the world baby Dio,” AJ captioned the photo showing the baby with Ace.

It can be recalled that Ogie Diaz revealed last November that AJ allegedly gave

birth to her baby with Aljur Abrenica.

Ogie said that a reliable source claimed that AJ gave birth to her child in a simple hospital in Pasig City last November 18 or 19.

“Nanganak na si AJ Raval noong November 18 or 19 diyan sa isang payak na hospital sa Pasig,” Ogie said.

The veteran showbiz reporter added that Aljur was waiting outside while AJ was giving birth to their child in her own

hospital room.



Liza Soberano named one of Hollywood’s ‘exciting young actors’ by US magazine

Even if Liza Soberano has yet to make her Hollywood debut, it seemed that she already caught the attention of the global press as she was named one of the most exciting young actors to watch out for.

Soberano, along with five up-and-coming stars, was named one of Hollywood’s “exciting young actors” by the U.S.-based lifestyle

magazine “Town and Country.”

“How can you spot this year’s hottest new talent? Just follow the jewels... we highlight six exciting young actors to keep an eye on. Starting with Liza Soberano,” the feature began.

The magazine also took note of the “Forevermore” star’s shining career in the Philippines, where she was described as a “veteran model and actress” who is set to debut as a Hollywood star in “Lisa Frankenstein.”

“But success hasn’t made her afraid of starting over. ‘I began my career here as a nobody,’ she says, ‘which means I’m discovering things about myself that I never knew,’” the feature read.



### PORK from page 1

that are also being claimed by the Philippines,” the coalition said in a statement.

“With its actions, China has presented itself as a convenient bogeyman that requires US presence and intervention in the region – a notion that is incorrect, even as it is influential.” Washington has continuously expressed its commitment to its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines. At a recent dialogue with Manila’s top foreign and defense officials, both countries called on China to comply with the 2016 Arbitral Award on the South China Sea, which held that some areas China is claiming is already under the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone.

Beijing has continuously called the award “illegal, null, and void” and has harassed Filipino fishermen and Philippine vessels while in Philippine waters. Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo in a forum last week said the “repeated infringements” on the Philippines’ sovereignty “necessitates the enhancement of our defense capabilities.”

### Labor export program

However, Migrante International also noted that the Philippines’ labor export

program and the non-inclusion of OFW concerns in crafting international policy also put the OFWs in Taiwan at risk. It called the Philippines out for its supposed “puppetry to the US” and opposed the US military presence in the Philippines

“Faced with China’s aggressive assertion of its claims on Philippine territory, the Philippine government should exhaust all peaceful means of asserting Philippine sovereignty, and not look for militarist solutions which only lead to de-

pending on the US,” it said in a separate statement.

Beyond the US, the Philippines has sought to expand defense ties with “like-minded” nations such as Japan and India.

## MISS SUPRANATIONAL CANADA 2022

# Alexa Marie Grant

### Fundraising Dinner

Marie Grant half Filipino, half Canadian, WILL COMPETE FOR #misssupranational2023 THIS JULY 2023 IN POLAND.

**For tickets, call Tess Grant 416-875-1961**

**\$35**

**May 27, 2023 • 6 PM**  
**Thornhill Community Centre**  
**7755 Bayview Ave,**  
**Markham ON**  
**L3T 4P1, Canada**

# JhasDrick topbills ‘Home I Found In You’

Although both of them do not belong to the major networks, the love team of award-winning young actress Jhassy Bus-ran and John Heidrick Sitjar is steadily gaining a following among fans. Proof of this is the screening last March of their first movie “Home I Found In You” which was filled to capacity with fans shrieking at every “kilig” scene of “Jhasdrick.”

“Kinakabahan ako, baka di kayo tumawa, hindi kayo kiligin at baka mag-cellphone lang kayo sa loob ng sinehan; much worst, tulugan nyo ang pelikula ko. Pero ang narinig ko ay hiyawan at halakhakan. Naka-hinga ako ng maluwag. Salamat po,” the movie’s director Gabby Ramos told the fans over Facebook where he also shows another serye of the Jhasdrick loveteam called “Roommates.”

The director said they still don’t have a release date for “Home I Found in You” in theaters but hopefully it will happen this summer.

With his mestizo looks, John is perfect for rich kid or celebrity roles which he portrays in the movie. Jhassy, on the other hand, is more of the girl next door, down to earth and very relatable. There are no kissing scenes (Jhassy being only 17) but the chemistry between the two is undeniable.

They do support each other in real life which makes their atmosphere on the set a very good one.

“John is passionate about his craft. Am amazed at how he internalized his character in the movie. He stayed up late into the night for that,” Jhassy said in the vernacular.

John, on the other hand, says of his screen partner: “It’s very easy for Jhassy to cry. There were times when I couldn’t easily memorize the script, but she made sure to cover for me.”

Both of them are proud of their hard work in their first movie and thanked their followers for the support. John and Jhassy are now working on the second series of “Roommates” and are getting busy with brand collaborations as well.

They are not closed to the idea of being paired with others in the future. Jhassy herself is graduating from junior high and wants to pursue higher studies in law. John said he wants to be a musician someday.



# Arjo on Maine, Ria on Zanjoe: ‘It just fits’

IT’S super official: Arjo Atayde is marrying Maine Mendoza. Sister Ria Atayde is happily in love with actor Zanjoe Marudo.

“They’re both so obviously so in love, hayyyy, nakakahawa,” says host and producer Korina Sanchez-Roxas on her interview with the Atayde siblings on the latest Korina Interviews episode.

It’s a “Sunday Love Day” with Arjo and Ria Atayde in their home in White Plains — complete with Mom Sylvia Sanchez’s recipe for tacos and bonding with pet dogs and a cat while talking about love!

Korina (left) with Ria and Arjo

Arjo Atayde, award-winning character actor and now QC District 1 congressman, talks about dreaming about being a public servant since he was a child; about learning to take the cue from the heart when acting as advised by Mom Sylvia; about his love for dogs; and about how he knows Maine Mendoza is the one for him.

Actress Ria Atayde admits to being an alpha woman like her Mom Sylvia. She talks about deciding to leave home and live apart as a responsible adult; about how she lost her dogs so now has turned to loving cats; about being the organizer and planner for family trips; about her advocacy for self love and body-love vs body shaming; and about why she and actor Zanjoe Marudo “feels right.”



# Battle of the Banners



TASTE OF MANILA BATTLE OF THE BANNERS: Banners from two different organizations are now in the area of Bathurst and Wilson promoting taste of Manila festival.

# Jasmine Curtis-Smith learns ‘art of dedma’ from sister Anne

It’s been nearly three years since we have seen many of our friends in the flesh. Now that we are back to socializing, it’s heartening to sit down and talk with well-meaning friends once again.

One dear friend of mine is Jasmine Curtis-Smith, who was my recent guest on Fast Talk with Boy Abunda. It was our first time to see each other in person after the global health scare prevented us from doing so.

I loved how Jasmine described her overall well-being: Just vibing.

She exuded an aura of peace and contentment in the midst of the noise created by people who are having a field day throwing hurting words on social media.

Jasmine admitted that sometimes it’s difficult for her to simply ignore people who spit out negativity. “I think it’s tough to say that I don’t care or I don’t give it a notice, pero dahil ‘yung panahon, itong evolution ng social media, especially we’re using it for our work, it’s hard to avoid reading hate comments. But you just have to understand that these are personal opinions. I also have my personal opinions about people. You just have to learn how to brush them off,” Jasmine said.

“Ate (Anne Curtis) would always tell me to learn the Art of Dedma (read: Dedma is a shortened version commonly used by Filipino to refer to patay malisya or to ignore), which is not very easy to learn, especially if you are a sensitive person. It’s like a muscle — you need



to exercise every day, especially when you get to read those that you don’t want to read, you get rattled and it’s hard to convince yourself that you’re not hurt or affected,” she added.

Jasmine truly appreciates her sister’s pieces of advice, especially when she feels to be in a quandary. Aside from the Art of Dedma, Anne would always remind her not to commit to something that she cannot put her heart into. “Kapag kasi hindi buong puso, huwag mo ng gawin kasi mahahalata at makikita ng tao ‘yun. And that goes for work, relationship, friendship, anything kapag hindi buong puso huwag na.”

Jasmine began her acting career in 2010. Her role in the indie film Transit earned her critical praise from both local and international critics, and won her the Best Supporting Actress award at the Ninth Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival.

Other award-giving bodies recognized her acting talent as well. She received the Best Actress trophy for her acting performance in the 2016 Cinema One Originals Filmfest entry, Baka Bukas. She was named Best Supporting Actress in the 2017 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) and 36th FAP Luna Awards for her character portrayal in Siargao.

The Fil-Aussie actress remains one of the most visible celebrities today not just in acting but also in hosting shows and promoting products as a brand endorser.

# PHILIPPINES

## DOH: 54 Omicron XBB.1.9.1 cases detected in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines — Fifty-four cases of the Omicron subvariant XBB.1.9.1 have been detected in the country, the Department of Health (DOH) said before the weekend.



Some commuters at the EDSA Carousel Napa Q-Mart Station are seen wearing their face masks on March 29, 2023.

The latest COVID-19 Biosurveillance Report of the DOH showed the XBB.1.9.1, a XBB sublineage, was recently added to the list of variants under monitoring by the World Health Organization (WHO) last March 30.

“The variant was initially flagged due to its increasing global prevalence and higher growth advantage,” the report noted. “However, currently available evidence for XBB.1.9.1 does not suggest any differences in disease severity and/or clinical manifestations compared to the original Omicron variant.”

The report added that limited information is available for the variant and researchers are currently characterizing the variant in terms of transmissibility, immune evasion and ability to cause more severe disease.

The Philippines is on the right track as far as COVID-19 response and measures are concerned, an official of the WHO said.

## US nuclear power firm wants to invest in PH

WASHINGTON D.C., United States — A US-based nuclear power firm has expressed interest to invest in the Philippines after its officials met with President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. .

According to the Presidential Communications Office (PCO), Oregon-based NuScale Power Corp is planning to conduct a study to pinpoint a site in the Philippines.

The firm is known for developing a small nuclear power system, described as safe, modular, and scalable.

Clayton Scott, NuScale executive vice president for business, said the company has “very high confidence that our technology will perform as expected,”



NuScale’s small modular reactor (SMR) nuclear technology—Lifted from NuScale website

referring to its small modular reactor technology (SMR).

He said SMR technology is the first and only one of its kind to receive design approval from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

NuScale has existing projects in Utah, Romania, Indonesia, and Poland providing safe, reliable and cost competitive clean energy to consumers.

According to the PCO, NuScale is expected to invest \$6.5 billion to \$7.5 billion in the Philippines to provide 430 megawatts of power by 2031.

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said in his meeting with NuScale that the Philippines “essentially has a shortfall in power supply, and the support of the Oregon-based firm would help address the issue.

This is the second time Marcos met with officials of NuScale, the first of which was held in New York in September last year on the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly.



## Dolly de Leon will be busy this year

There was hardly any triangle of sadness seen on the forehead of award-winning international actress Dolly de Leon before the Gabi ng Parangal awards night of the first Summer Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF).

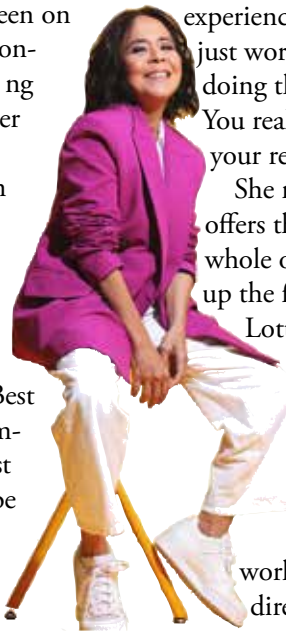
Dolly became the first Filipino actor to win at the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards and Sweden's Goldbaggage Awards, their equivalent of the Oscars, for her role in Triangle of Sadness.

The Cannes Palme d'Or-winning film also earned Oscar nominations for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Screenplay for Swedish filmmaker Ruben Ostlund. Dolly became the first Filipino to be nominated at the Golden Globe and BAFTA (British Academy Film Awards).

The fact that she announced she will be busy the entire 2023, projects apparently kept coming one after another.

She admitted she learned a lot from her experience being on the international spotlight with Triangle of Sadness.

"That experience was valuable to me, I felt that I grew



as a person and as an artist."

"The secret is not to wait for things to happen," emphasized Dolly about her Triangle of Sadness experience. "I guess it's all about just working and working and doing the best that we can do. You really need to work to widen your reach."

She refused to quantify the offers that will keep her busy the whole of 2023. She just wrapped up the filming of Grand Death Lotto in the US (California) last March, with director Paul Feig at the helm and John Cena and Awkwafina as stars.

"The more memorable experience for me was working with Paul Feig, our director. He directed Bridesmaids (2011). He is a very good director. That was a wonderful experience working with him and the whole crew. That was fun," she added.

She also finished Between Temples with Jason Schwartzman.

On the local front, Dolly is expected to work with Kathryn Bernardo in Star Cinema's forthcoming offering, A Very Good Girl.

"I'm very, very excited about that," Dolly said. "I'm a huge Kathryn Bernardo fan and she's a lovely person, as well, although we have not met yet. I'm excited with the project. Petersen Vargas will be our director."

"The project is not the usual story. It's very unique and exciting to do. That will be my chance to really sink my teeth into a character, together with a great actress like Kathryn," she shared.

They previously worked together in a teleserye. "She was still very young then," Dolly recalled. "I was a teacher and she was my student. She played a young Marian Rivera. Kathryn was still with the other network then. I couldn't forget working with Kathryn because that early, she

was already very professional, very sweet and kind."

Dolly refused to label herself as a Hollywood star, despite the projects and offers that she has been getting lately.

"I'm not very comfortable with that term," she admitted. "I am an actor. I don't consider myself a star. I'm just a working actor. I'm an actor who works everywhere. I'd like to think that way."

Already, Dolly has started using her fame to drum up interest and support for her chosen advocacies. Apart from the UN Refugee Agency, she recently supported Project Hulmahan to help the Marikina shoemakers and other communities nationwide.

Over 700 artists from all over the country produced 1,500 wooden shoes and turned them in creative and beautiful artworks for auction. The display even included a pair created by noted visual artist Toym Imao.

## 'Why not?' Paolo Contis on working with Yen Santos again

It is a great time for Paolo Contis in terms of his career in show business.

"I'm just very thankful with MavX Productions. Si Lucky (Blanco) yung nagsugal sa 'Through Night and Day' at saka yung 'Ang Pangarap Kong Holdap' at ako yung kinuha niya. Nagtuloy tuloy na. I'm so thankful na ako ang kinuha nila regardless of the issues that I go through. Masarap isipin na isa sila sa mga taong hindi nag-judge at tinitignan yung personal na buhay but more on the professional side," the actor said.

Paolo, 39, is not ready to reveal details about the project in which he will play Satan. But he is especially looking forward to his reunion with Kaye Abad and Patrick Garcia, who were his co-stars in "Tabing Ilog" on ABS-CBN from 1999 to 2003.

### Another film with Yen Santos

When the right offer comes along, Paolo would love to do another movie with Yen Santos. "If there's a project, why not? Work is work. If there's a project that we want to do, why not?" he said. In 2021, Paolo and Yen starred in the movie entitled "A Faraway Land" which was shot in the Faroe Islands, an autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark. The film was meant for cinemas. But due to COVID-19, it was shown on Netflix.

Their tandem in the project clicked and critics raved about them. At the 45th Gawad Urian, Yen was named best actress while Paolo received a



nomination for best actor.

**Moving on**

The recent controversies led Paolo to admit that he doesn't like social media and avoids it altogether. "Sabi ko nga I know the things that I did. Nagsorry na ako. Again, I'm working on changing myself which I don't post and I don't need to inform everyone what I'm doing."

"Yes, of course, you get reprimanded at napagsasabihan ka. But at the end of the day, alam naman nila na I deliver."

"I don't get bothered by bashings especially if these people don't really matter to me. Minsan yung criticism sa akin offensive na but it's their prerogative," Paolo said.

### Future goals

Paolo said he's grateful to the industry that fed and clothed him as a child. Now he wants to share his talent with the younger generation. Hopefully, Paolo will have the opportunity to direct these rising stars in the future.

In describing the status of his life now, Paolo remarked: "I'm quiet now. Para sa akin ang social media is to promote lamang ng mga gagawin mo and not to promote your personal life. Eventually, it will bite you. I'm quiet. Happy? I am okay. Para totally maging masaya ka, dapat lahat ng problema mo naayos na. And that's my goal. I'm determined to fix everything that I need to fix. Then I could say I'm contented and happy."

## Gretchen Ho, others react to losing twitter checkmark

The purge has begun.

Elon Musk's Twitter started removing the blue verification check marks from users who have not signed up for its subscription service.

Among those affected were several celebrities including Lea Salonga, who was quick to issue a reaction.

She tweeted, "Awww, my blue checkmark is gone. Oh well, it was fun while it lasted!"

When Girlie Rodis asked her, "Oh cause now one has to pay to get the blue check mark?"

Lea replied, "Yup."

She added, "The discounted rate is \$114/year, I think. I can live without the checkmark, but I do agree that if you did get it previously, you should be able to keep it or some form of it to prevent impersonation."

Karen Davila, meanwhile, asked Twitter: "I just lost my blue verification badge. What now Twitter? Are we supposed to pay for it?"

A fan answered on the platform's behalf, saying, "You have to subscribe to Twitter Blue, there's no other way. But the good news is, you can be able to monetize your account thru subscription..."

Alex Gonzaga decided to simply roll with it, allowing for a bit of a witty "hugot" in her post.

She wrote, "Kahit mawala man ang blue

check ang importante alam mo na meron parin mga red flags na dapat mong iwasan. Ay San galeng?"

Gretchen Ho is seemingly mad, though. "The blue (check mark) has lost its meaning. The point of that anyway was to verify identity & it actually helped earmark notable people in diff industries. Now it just means Twitter got paid. Lemme guess how it goes? Elon experimenting only to find out it was working in the first place."

Darren Espanto is on the fence about it. He asked fans, "I lost my verification badge due to the new rules Elon Musk made. Should I pay for Twitter Blue or nah?"

One answered, "Haha you don't even use it that much what's the point of paying for something you don't need. Dun na lang tayo sa IG hehe..."

Janice de Belen seems worried that fans might think she is a poseur. She wrote, "Oh my! I'm not verified na here on Twitter hehehe!!! Basta guys THIS IS ME!"

Chito Miranda feels the same way. He said, "Nawala yung blue check ko. Di tuloy ako sure kung ako ba 'to talaga."

Prior, Musk already made clear the impetus behind the changes to Twitter's verification system, noting it is a way of "treating everyone equally."

"There shouldn't be a different standard for celebrities," he said in a tweet.





### CANADA CENTER STAGE Singing Competition 2023



**Ryza - Prime Division Contestant**

To Register:  
(647) 996-7755 Or (647) 403-8887  
email: canadacenterstage@gmail.com

We are accepting contestants for Canada Center Stage Singing Competition 2023. Registration is \$25.

Age Categories:  
Youth Division 9 to 15 Years Old  
Prime Division 16 to 25 Years Old  
Seniors Division 26 Years Old and Older

Grand Final will be on August 26, 2023, 7pm at Stage Magna Event Center, Scarborough.

Contact: Josie De Leon (647) 996-7755 or Jennifer Sy (647) 403-8887.  
Email: canadacenterstage@gmail.com



### CANADA CENTER STAGE Singing Competition 2023



**Alexanna - Youth Division Contestant**

To Register:  
(647) 996-7755 Or (647) 403-8887  
email: canadacenterstage@gmail.com



# FAMILY DENTISTRY

## DR. V. SANTIAGO & ASSOCIATES

Call us to book your appointment

**416-967-9272**

Rosedale Medical Clinic  
(Across Sherbourne TTC Station)  
600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307  
Toronto  
dr.vslu@bellnet.ca

We offer complete dental care  
& are accepting new patients.

**General Dentistry:**

Dr. Victoria Santiago  
Dr. Joy Y. Ho  
Dr. Amy Fan  
Dr. Jennifer Chen  
Dr. Damian Yung  
Dr. Myra Caballero

**Registered Dental Hygienist:**

Raymond Echavez  
Gayle Baylon

**Specialty Dentistry:**

Dr. Ali Adibfar  
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon  
Dr. Abbasali Hassanali  
Periodontist

**FISHING from p1**

about Filipinos' fishing rights in the South China Sea, Marcos said, adding he has told the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) "to put together... a map of these fishing grounds" that will be presented to Beijing. In remarks made to reporters Sunday while enroute to Washington, Marcos also said a Philippines-China "direct communication line" must be finally adopted. "The overall priority is to safeguard our maritime terri-

tory," he said in remarks issued by his office. The Chinese embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Coast guard team There have been numerous reports about Chinese ships preventing Filipino fishermen from fishing in the West Philippine Sea. PCG spokesman Rear Admiral Armand Balilo said, "I know that a team from the Philippine Coast Guard is being organized and we are very much

willing to cooperate in the regional fishing agreement" and that they have received "guidance" from Marcos. Balilo also believed that under the planned regional fishing agreement, Filipinos would be free to engage in fishing activities in the West Philippine Sea, but admitted that there are sometimes reports reaching their office about alleged attempts to stop Filipino fishermen from fishing. "And that is why our presence is there to protect our fishermen

and show our presence to them (China) and also to our country," he added. Mockery "China has repeatedly made a mockery of its diplomatic talks and avowed commitments with the Philippines on pursuing a peaceful settlement of the conflict," Camarines Sur Rep. LRay Villafuerte said. According to the Marcos ally, "formal engagements" between Beijing and Manila this year "have only become a prelude to

more, instead of less, Chinese intrusions into our territorial waters and EEZ (200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone)." "The asymmetry between Beijing's rhetoric and action on this thorny territorial issue is as clear as day," he said, pointing out that the trio of Manila-Beijing diplomatic engagements had been followed by "even more intense bullying tactics by China" in the West Philippine Sea. Manila has so far lodged more than 200 diplomatic protests against Beijing in recent years.

## Chito Miranda opens up why he is 'inlab na inlab' with wife Neri

Celebrity couple Chito Miranda and Neri Naig continue to prove that their union is stronger than ever as seen in their regular updates on their family life on social media. As they gear for their ninth wedding anniversary coming up at the end of the year, In his post last April 22, Chito said he couldn't help but share why he's still very much head over heels in love with his wife. In his post, Chito wrote: "Minsan napapatitig nalang ako sa asawa ko while she's busy doing something, tapos sasabihin ko "ang ganda naman ng asawa ko!" "Tapos sasabihin nya 'nye... inlab ka lang talaga sa akin."

Totoo din naman...inlab na inlab din naman talaga ako sa kanya at gandang ganda talaga ako sa kanya kahit nakapambahay lang sya at di naka-ayos," he added. He continued: "Kahit nga tulog sya't nakanganga, gandang ganda pa rin ako sa kanya eh (well...hindi siguro "gandang-ganda", pero nagagandahan pa rin ako sa kanya kahit wa-poise sya matulog minsan)." Chito admitted that even if he weren't married to Neri, he would still find her very attractive until now. The 47-year-old OPM artist



also revealed why he thinks it's a good thing that Neri is not aware of just how beautiful she is, saying he himself often forgets the woman who once joined ABS-CBN's reality talent search Star Circle Quest. "Pero sa totoo, gandang ganda talaga ako sa kanya kahit di ko sya mahal or kahit di ko sya asawa. Minsan nga, nasa mall

or grocery kami, napapatingin talaga ako kasi may magandang babae...yun pala si Neri Naig from Star Circle Quest (at mas maganda pa sya ngayon kesa dati) Chito went on to say that he finds it weird that his wife sometimes think that she's not beautiful even if she is. "Ewan ko ba dito sa babaeng 'to kung bakit hindi sya nagagandahan sa sarili nya eh ang ganda ganda nya. Pero palagi kong sinasabi na mas gusto ko nang di nya alam na maganda sya tapos ang ganda ganda nya (kesa naman sa gandang ganda sya sa sarili nya tapos hindi naman pala masyado)," he said. The Idol Philippines judge also said that Neri's belief that she is

not beautiful enough is the reason why the actress-turned-entrepreneur always wants to improve herself. But for Chito, it is the exact reason why he fell in love with her. "Yun yung naging dahilan why she has this constant urge to learn and improve herself... to compensate for her "lack of looks" ...and dun ako pinaka na-attract sa kanya: yung fact na hindi sya na-kuntento with simply having a pretty face," he remarked. After getting married in 2014, the couple now have two sons, Miguel "Miggy" Alfonso and Manuel "Cash" Alfonso. They also have an older daughter who they admitted they were in the process of legally adopting last November.



# HULING EL BIMBO

# ERASERHEADS

**JUNE 16**  
**8 PM**  
Doors open at 6 PM

**First Ontario Centre**  
101 York Blvd  
Hamilton

**TICKETMASTER.CA**  
**For more info, please call**  
**647-988-TALA**



ERASERHEADS

HULING EL BIMBO

LIVE IN CONCERT

JUNE 16

8 PM

Doors open at 6 PM

First Ontario Centre

101 York Blvd

Hamilton

ELY BUENDIA

RAYMS MARASIGAN

BUDDY ZABALA

MARCUS ADORO

Buy your tickets now! TICKETMASTER.CA

For more info, please call 647-988-TALA

tala entertainment

PRESS RELEASE # 1:

On June 16, all roads lead to the largest Filipino concert ever in Canada! What is dubbed to be the final concert of ERASERHEADS, these musical icons will also be the first ever Filipino performers at the First Ontario Centre in Hamilton, ON. It joins a stellar list of international acts like Elton John, Paul McCartney, Maroon 5, BTS, Backstreet Boys, Selena Gomez, among many others.

Coming from the massively successful December final reunion concert in Manila, “Huling El Bimbo” the final reunion concert will tour North America. In Ontario, Canada, the highly anticipated rock concert will perform before a crowd of over 10,000 fans.

Perfectly timed during Philippine Independence Week and Filipino Heritage Month in Canada, fans from as far as the Maritimes and Quebec have committed to travel in bus loads, eager that they do not miss out on this one final opportunity to watch their most beloved band perform together.

Eraserheads is considered the most

iconic, influential, and successful alternative rock bands in the history of Filipino music. Frequently dubbed as the “Beatles of the Philippines”, their career spanned more than twenty years, with multiple platinum-awarded albums and quintessential songs under their belt. Formed in 1989 while students at the University of the Philippines, Raimund Marasigan, Ely Buendia, Buddy Zabala, and Marcus Adoro, collectively built a very colourful history, from disbandment and controversies to reunions and new songs. This is one epic Filipino rock party that Filipinos cutting through generations in Eastern Canada won’t want to miss.

Eraserheads Huling El Bimbo concert in Eastern Canada is produced by TALA Entertainment.

ABOUT TALA ENTERTAINMENT: Tala Entertainment is a talent and events management company specializing in creating experiential live music, concerts, and events that cater to different genres and customer demographic. Formed in 2019, TALA is committed to providing exceptional and unique live events serving not just Ontario but across provinces of Canada.

19  
20  
21

MAY 2023

Save the Date

VICTORIA INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

15th Year

The Filipino Centre

Toronto

SINCE 2007

DIVISION

2012

2011

2010

2009

2008

2007

2006

2005

2003

OPEN

For more information call :

PHILIP

647.267.9649

pmbelaso@icloud.com

PAN AM SPORTS CENTER

SCARBOROUGH

Please send your interest of participation no later than May 1, 2023 Minimum of 4 teams per division , without the minimum number of teams, division will be cancel to accommodate more team from other division !!! Let’s Play Ball.

2013 division may be added if we get at least 4 team by May 1st.

Kim Chiu updates

Kim Chiu shared some good news to fans via social media. Her sister Lakam is now recovering. In a post, Kim updated, “Thank you for all your prayers for my ate Lakam. Sorry I wasn’t able to reply to each one of you. She is out of ICU last night. She is transferred to a normal room. We are waiting for her consciousness to regain. Maraming salamat po for praying. Tuloy lang sana po tayo sa pagdadasal. Thank you po sa inyong lahat.”

On Tuesday, Kim shared how she finally had “the best sleep after a week of sleepless nights.”



fans on sisters’ condition

Apparently, after spending much of her day praying, her sister called her, asking “what happened.” Kim could only be too happy to hear her sister’s voice again.

“Truly faith is the most powerful weapon we all have,” she said. “Thank you Lord. My ate is slowly recovering day by day.”

According to Kim, her sister’s doctors were surprised how quickly she recovered, deeming it a “miracle.”

She didn’t disclose the cause of her sister’s hospitalization.

Ara Mina happy for Cristine Reyes, Marco Gumabao

Ara Mina is among those supportive of sister Cristine Reyes and Marco Gumabao’s blooming romance. Marco made huge ado about it recently, posting on Instagram photos of them together. “You are my home and my adventure all at once,” he wrote as caption. Reacting to Marco’s post, Ara said, “That’s good to know. It means serious siya sa relasyon nila and in love and happy siya sa sister ko. Kasi proud siya.”

She has this to say to Marco: “Please take care and love my sister, okay? Make her happy. Please love also her daughter kasi siyempre may plus one na agad yan.”

Cristine has a daughter with estranged husband Ali Khatibi. Marco is a certified bachelor. Never been married. He was reticent prior when asked about the real score between him and Cristine.

He told us he wants to keep it “private” as it is “special.”



Julie Anne San Jose says keeping in touch with an ex counts as cheating: ‘Kapag kasi ex, ex na’

While Julie Anne San Jose acknowledged that exes can be civil to one another, constantly keeping in touch with a former partner while in a relationship can still be counted as cheating.

San Jose didn’t hesitate to share her thoughts on what counts as cheating, along with her boyfriend, actor-dancer Rayver Cruz, at a vlog uploaded on Bea Alonzo’s YouTube channel on Saturday,

April 29.

In the vlog, Alonzo asked the celebrity couple to share their thoughts on what counts as cheating in relationships, as soon as she touched on the topic of their upcoming movie “The Cheating Game.”

“Does it count as cheating if your partner is still in touch with their exes?” Alonzo asked



the couple.

“I think it’s just weird,” San Jose answered. “Kapag kasi ex, ex na. Pwedeng maging casual [or] civil, pero kung close [kayo], that’s just weird. It’s just not me.”

Cruz echoed the singer-actress’ response, adding that it’s okay to keep in touch with an ex, as long as the approval

of the current partner was sought before doing so.

“Sa ibang tao, kung may abiso ng partner, wife, or girlfriend, pero kapag maki-kita mo sa itsura ng babae na parang, ‘Ang weird. Ba’t kayo friends?’ Itigil mo na yan,” he said. “Mas matimbang pa rin sa akin ‘yung respeto sa [present partner],” he added, when asked about being friends with an ex prior to their relationship.

# Barbie Forteza, David Licauco thankful for each other

Barbie Forteza and David Licauco have so many things to be thankful for because of their popular loveteam, also known as BarDa and Maria Clara at Ibarra's FiLay.

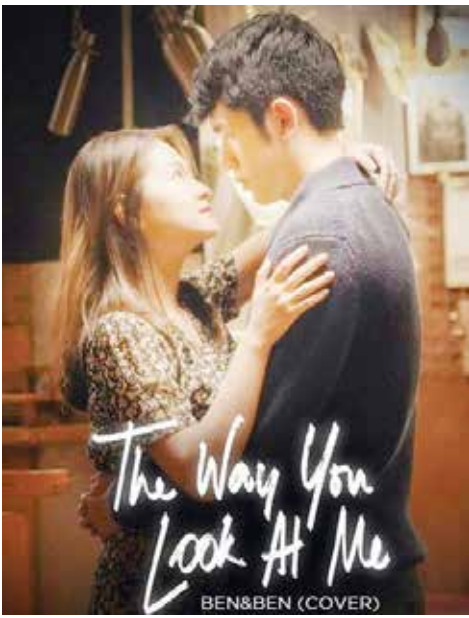
"One of the reasons I'm thankful for because of BarDa is I gained a friend (in David)," declared Barbie during a recent thanksgiving dinner with fans. The STAR had a quick chat with Barbie and David at the event hosted by Universal Records Philippines to celebrate the success of the official music video for Ben&Ben's cover of The Way You Look at Me featuring the Kapuso love team.

The music video, which now has over 1.4 million views on YouTube, also had the special participation of Shuvee Etrata and Christian Bautista, the original singer of the song. To recall, it was Christian's first single and hit song that enjoyed airplay in other Southeast Asian countries.

"I can really say that David is really a true friend and we helped each other. And parehas kaming nagiging 'power back' ng isa't isa. Kapag medyo pagod na yung isa di ba. Nakakatuwa lang to work someone like David. He understands his co-actor. Most of all, maalaga siya sa leading lady niya," continued Barbie.

David, who could be seen hugging Barbie from behind, shared that he is also "thankful for Barbie." He echoed what Barbie said and added, "Siyempre with the personality of Barbie, parang aalagan mo talaga."

Barbie asked, "Why?" The actor, who's been dubbed Pambansang Ginoo, responded, "It just comes natural, I guess. Again, I wan-



Barbie Forteza and David Licauco are featured in the music video of Ben&Ben's cover of the Christian Bautista hit song The Way You Look at Me under Universal Records Philippines.

na thank all our supporters." He mentioned the BarDa, FiLay and their respective fan bases.

"Lahat sila nandiyan. Every single day, (they are) like tweeting us (and) creating TikTok videos for us. I'm just really, really thankful for that. So don't worry, gagalingan pa namin to serve as an inspiration, hopefully to everybody," he added.

Regarding their summer plans, both stated that they

will just be busy working. The onscreen partners will soon release their first movie together, That Kind of Love, which they are currently filming, and an upcoming GMA 7 teleserye titled Pulang Araw.

David confirmed that their trip to Vienna in Austria will push through, although he didn't give clear details on what project they will have that trip for.

"You know what, they (fans) thought that trip to Vienna did not push through because of me," Barbie told David. "Nagagalit sila kasi ako daw dahilan kung bakit hindi natuloy yung Vienna."

David came to Barbie's defense, saying, "Tuloy yung Vienna. Actually, mauuna kami dun ni Barbie. Joke lang. Tuloy na tuloy yung Vienna."

The happy fans at the event teased them. Barbie confirmed, "Yes and please watch out for other details."

The Kapuso actress offered Yeng Constantino's track Chinito as her theme song for David, while the latter dedicated Bakit Hindi Ka Crush Ng Crush Mo by Zia Quizon to Barbie.

"Joke lang," David was quick to add and the two broke into laughter.

Barbie gamely remarked, "May kanta bang ganun? Yun po ang first single ni David Licauco under Universal Records."

David recently signed a contract with Universal Records as their newest artist. Does Barbie also have plans of further exploring her musical side and be a recording artist as well? "I think for now full support muna ako kay David because (I'm) so proud of him as a recording



The BarDa/FiLay love team offers an alternate and more kilig ending to the music video at the event with fans.

artist," she said.

In 2013, Barbie released a self-titled album under MCA Records with Meron Ba as carrier single.

During the program, the fans were thrilled as they got to interact and play games with their favorite stars. The pair also reenacted some scenes from The Way You Look at Me music video. But the highlight of the event was when they acted out a marriage proposal as their alternate ending to the music video.

David got down on one knee, brought out a ring and asked, "Binibining Klay (Barbie's character in Maria Clara at Ibarra), maari mo ba akong pakasalan?"

Barbie whispered something to David before she said yes. They hugged with David giving Barbie a forehead kiss, an act that brought so much more kilig to the giggling audience in the already romantic evening.

## Are Marco Gallo and Heaven Perelajo in a relationship?

Si Theodore Boborol ang direktor ng university series na "The Rain in España" na pagbibidahan nina Marco Gallo at Heaven Perelajo.

Napansin ni Direk Ted Boborol na may something umano kina Marco Gallo at Heaven Perelajo ngunit walang binigay na kumpirmasyon ang dalawa.

Bida ang dating Pinoy Big Brother (PBB) teen housemates na sina Marco Gallo at Heaven Perelajo sa university series na The Rain in España na mapapanood sa Viva One simula sa May 1, 2023.

Direktor naman ng series si Theodore Boborol na forte ang pagdidirek ng romcom movie sa Star Cinema tulad na lang ng Vice, Kath & James, Just The Way You Are, Finally Found Someone at James and Pat & Dave.

Sa mediacon ng The Rain in España, ibinuking ng direktor na may nakikita siyang kakaiba sa ikinikilos ng kanyang mga bida sa series.

"Tinutukso ko na sila before the start of the shoot kasi nung in-announce na sila 'yung cast, lumalabas 'yung mga PBB video clip nila nung teenager pa sila.

"Si Marco pala, iniyakan si Heaven tapos may halikan na naganap, first kiss. So, nung first few days ng taping sobrang tuksuhan 'yung dalawa. Tinutukso namin sila sa isa't isa. Pero after the shoot, napapansin ko sa social media, may something," kuwento ni Direk Ted sa press.

Napansin din ng social media followers nina Marco at Heaven ang kakaibang closeness ng dalawa sa isa't isa mula nang magtambal sila sa The Rain in España.

Wala namang naging reaksiyon dito ang binata at pangiti-ngiti lang during the presscon. At dahil mas nag-mature na silang dalawa, nakita raw ni Marco kung gaano rin kalaki ang ipinagbago ni Heaven.

"Working with her was probably the best work I have



ever done. It didn't even feel like work really. I love the professionalism because we're really rehearsing. We really wanted to give the best that we could," wika ni Marco.

"We're not just playing around on set, we really worked hard for it. I'm really really happy that I got to work with her," dagdag pa niya.

Ibinahagi rin ng binata na noon pa mang pareho silang nasa Pinoy Big Brother house ay attracted na siya kay Heaven.

Ani Marco: "If people watched PBB, like our batch, I did like her at the time [but] we lost track of each other. I did recognize her at the same time but it was like a mature version of her," ani Marco.

"While working, I just saw different sides of her that I never knew about and I liked it. I did. And while working with her, I saw how supportive she was which is to me the most important thing," dagdag pa niya.

Pagpapatuloy pa niya: "I don't like having drama on set, I don't like that stuff, and just the fact that she gives me what I need... the only thing I can do is just make her happy on set as well. I did enjoy my time with her. I did."

Ayon naman kay Heaven, hindi siya magiging kumport-

able kung hindi si Marco ang ka-partner niya sa The Rain in España dahil sa pag-aalagang ginawa nito sa kanya.

"Kung iba po ang ka-partner ko, siguro may kulang. Siya kasi talagang inaalaan niya rin ako at saka yung show po so I'm really happy to work with Marco," pahayag ni Heaven.

"Si Marco, kapag hindi niyo pa kilala, sobrang serious niya as a person. 'Yun ang aura na ibinibigay

niya pero once na makuha mo na 'yung kiliti niya, 'yung humor niya. May times na nasa set kami, hindi maka-take kasi tawa kami nang tawa sa isa't isa. 'Yung mga inside joke lang naman," dagdag pa niya.

Samanala, hanggang matapos ang mediacon ay wala namang inamin sina Marco at Heaven kung may relasyon na ba talaga silang dalawa. Mahirap nga naman kasing mag-insinuate na intimate na sila para lang sa promo ng kanilang TV project.

## Candid SPOOF

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



Emely and Shaun Gavin remove the thorns from the roses at daughter Samantha's debut celebration.

**MACKY'S**  
**LECHON HOUSE**  
**ISLAW**

#5 N.S. Amoranto Ave. (formerly Retiro St.) La Joma Q.C.  
Landline: 02 8-283-9401 | Mobile: (0916) 237-2800  
Visit our facebook page: Macky's Lechon House - ISLAW

**Frozen Lechon**  
Special for:  
Palatante na Lechon, Pinyang Lechon,  
Adukang Lechon, Crispy Lechon,  
Giligang na Lechon, Bihagang Lechon



## When in the Philippines (NCR), this is the lechon to get!

**We deliver! Right To Your Doorstep. Order now..call us at**

**09162372800 or 02 8-2839401**

**Look for Macky or Monica..**





# Elisse Joson on status of relationship with McCoy de Leon: ‘We’re very happy right now’

Everything is going well between Elisse Joson and McCoy de Leon. Despite getting into a feud for quite some time, the couple put things behind them and moved on.

During the Starmagic “Save The Date” media conference last April 26, Elisse openly shared with the media how things were going on between her and McCoy.

“We’re very happy right now, kasi I think in every kind of relationship you’re gonna have to stomp on a few roadblocks, and I know mas marami pa

kaming madadaan na challenges, but for now we’re happy,” Elisse mentioned.

Elisse also added that McCoy has been trying to be present with her and Felize.

The couple started as former Pinoy Big Brother housemates in 2016. From then on, they kept their relationship out of the limelight and surprised their fans by welcoming their first child Felize in October 2021.



Joining as one of the hosts on the upcoming Mother’s Day special event under Starmagic, Elisse shared the joys of becoming a mother to her two-year-old daughter Felize.

“What’s good about it is that I get to learn something new every day, kung ano yung magwework sa akin pati sa anak ko, and I also learn never be hard on myself, kasi motherhood is different for everybody. But right now, I’m enjoying it especially that she’s two, nasa mommy phase siya,” Elisse said.



The Canadian Multicultural Council Asians in Ontario selected FV Foods owner Mel Galeon is a 2023 Outstanding Asian Canadian Awardee.

Filipino Centre Toronto officers pose with Mayoral candidate Ana Bailao (4TH FROM LEFT) who dropped by to present her platform. MP Salma Zahid (3RD FROM LEFT) was also there.



Thinking about real estate? Buying... Selling... Investing...  
**USAP TAYO!** Call for a free and confidential discussion.

**Joy S. D'Aoust**  
 REALTOR®

**647-500-5397**  
 (500 - K•E•Y•S)

**www.joyathomerealty.com**

**MLS**  
 MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE®

**JOY AT HOME**  
 REALTY

**R**  
 REALTOR®

Right At Home  
 Realty Brokerage, Inc.



We offer complete dental care  
& are accepting new patients.

### General Dentistry:

Dr. Victoria Santiago

Dr. Joy Y. Ho

Dr. Amy Fan

Dr. Jennifer Chen

Dr. Damian Yung

Dr. Myra Caballero



### Specialty Dentistry:

Dr. Ali Adibfar

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr. Abbasali Hassanali

Periodontist

### Registered Dental Hygienist:

Raymond Echavez

Gayle Baylon

Call us to book your appointment

**416-967-9272**

Rosedale Medical Clinic

(Across Sherbourne TTC Station)

600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307

Toronto

[dr.vslu@bellnet.ca](mailto:dr.vslu@bellnet.ca)



Website now live  
[thefamilydentistry.ca](http://thefamilydentistry.ca)





# ACTION Honda

"WHERE CAR OWNERSHIP IS MADE EASY"

## Your Filipino friends, ready at your Service!

To all my kababayans, Feel free to contact me "bibili ka man o hindi." It is always a pleasure to talk to a kababayan.

**MABUHAY!** [rafael@myactionhonda.com](mailto:rafael@myactionhonda.com)



**Rafael Nebres**  
General Manager



**Gani Gregorio**  
Asst. Sales Manager



**Jose Sarte**  
Service Manager



**Ronaldo Aquino**  
Assistant Service Manager



**Joseph Redoblado**  
Service Advisor



**Roland 'Regi' Galdez**  
Sales and Leasing Consultant



**Ramon Bayani**  
Sales and Leasing Consultant



**Shermann Naval**  
Sales and Leasing Consultant



**Pio Regio**  
Senior Lot Attendant



**Ramon Miranda**  
Lot Attendant



**Marie Miranda**  
Service Appointment  
Coordinator



**Myla Mayo**  
Cashier / Receptionist



**Terry Aquino**  
Cleanup Associate



**Honda Civic 2022**



**Honda Odyssey 2022**



**Honda Accord 2022**



**Honda CR-V 2022**



**Honda HR-V 2022**



**Honda Pilot 2022**

**NEW & USED CAR SALES • CAR PARTS  
CAR SERVICE • BODY SHOP**

**4334 Kingston Rd., Scarborough ON (south of Lawrence Ave. East) Tel. (416) 281-1234**

## UNICEF: Over 1 million Filipino kids missed out routine immunization in 2021

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) expressed its concern as over one million children in the Philippines missed out their routine vaccine shots in 2021.

UNICEF estimates that globally, 67 million children "missed out entirely or partially on routine immunization" between 2019 and 2021. These are vaccines against polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, among others, said UNICEF Philippines Immunization Specialist Dr. Carla Orozco in a media forum on Tuesday, April 25.

In 2021 alone, at least 18 million children globally have not received a single dose of routine vaccines or the so-called "zero-dose children" and the Philippines ranked fifth globally with regards to this matter, said Orozco. "What are zero-dose children? These are children that have not received a single dose of vaccine by the time the child reaches one year old," she said.

India registered the highest number of zero-dose children with 2,711,000 followed by Nigeria with 2,247,000; Indonesia with 1,150,000; Ethiopia with 1,134,000 and the Philippines with 1,048,000.

"In the East Asia and Pacific region where the Philippines belong, for 2021, Indonesia and Philippines are the major

contributors to the high number of zero-dose children," said Orozco.

The top five regions in the country with the most zero-dose children are Calabarzon (146,160), Central Luzon (99,541), Western Visayas (96,774), Bicol (80,905) and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (75,671), UNICEF data showed.

"The alarming number may result in possible outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, disabilities, and even deaths of children," said Orozco.

"There was a measles risk assessment done by the WHO (World Health Organization) and DOH (Department of Health) as well with support from UNICEF, in the 2022 measles risk assessment has shown that the whole country is really ripe for an outbreak. That was last year. So, we really advocated---WHO, UNICEF, DOH to really implement immediately supplemental immunization activity or immunization campaign for measles," she added.

Orozco also noted that most of the zero-dose children live in marginalized communities or in communities considered "vulnerable to outbreaks," and often have no access to regular health services.



"Vaccine-preventable diseases affect children's physical and cognitive development and prevent them from becoming healthy, productive citizens," she said.

### Factors

There are a lot of factors that contributed "to this high number of zero-dose children or under-vaccinated children," said Orozco.

"Some LGUs would only have once a month vaccination sessions. And also, there is inadequate tracking of defaulters. Defaulters are those children that have not completed their immunization schedule but they have actually started it--and that is a usual scenario in the Philippines, they don't complete their vaccination schedule in time. There is lack of regular outreach immunization services, inadequate human resource," said Orozco.

Another is vaccine hesitancy. "Like religious beliefs, perceptions that vaccines are not important, misinformation--possible side effects, etc. These have contributed really to the low trust in vaccine's safety and efficacy," she

said.

Covid-19 pandemic also disrupted the routine immunization services, said Orozco.

"Because of the urgent need to end the pandemic, the government and all sectors --- the priority, focus is really on the Covid-19 response, which overwhelmed the health system, especially human resources and funding as well. It affected the delivery of essential health services like immunization," she said.

### Government should do more

Orozco said that the government should exert further efforts to address this problem.

"We know that the government is doing something of course but I think the government should do more. One, I think, the first step or major step is really on the human resources---to increase the

number not only the number but also the capacity of human resources for health services," she said.

"Also, additional funds for the conduct of vaccination: that would include outreach immunization services, to track defaulters as well, and increase in vaccination services to improve immunization coverage," she added.

It is also important to conduct "coaching" or "mentoring" sessions for health workers. "That would boost confidence and add on their knowledge and skills on vaccination," said Orozco.

In a separate press briefing on Tuesday, DOH Officer-in-Charge Maria Rosario Vergeire said the government will conduct a supplemental immunization activity starting May 2 to 31.

"Kailangan mabakunahan at mahanap natin ang mga kabataan na na-miss nga nating bakunahan (We need to vaccinate and find those children who we missed to vaccinate) during the times of the pandemic and even prior to that. And yung mga batang hindi pa kumpleto ang bakuna ay makumpleto na natin. Para maiwasan ang mga outbreaks na ating pwedeng mapigilan naman katulad ng polio at tigdas (And the children who have not yet completed their vaccination. This is to prevent possible outbreaks like polio and measles)," she said.

Thinking about real estate? Buying . . . Selling . . . Investing . . .  
**USAP TAYO!** Call for a free and confidential discussion.

Joy S. D'Aoust

REALTOR®

647-500-5397  
(500 - K•E•Y•S)

www.joyathomerealty.com

MLS  
MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE

JOY AT HOME  
Real Estate Group

R

REALTOR®

Right At Home  
Realty Brokerage, Inc.

Bullet Jalosjos on ‘Eat Bulaga!’ : ‘The only thing constant in the world is change’

Television and Production Exponents Inc. (TAPE Inc.) Chief Finance Officer Bullet Jalosjos has finally broken his silence regarding “Eat Bulaga!” In “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda,” the Dapitan City Mayor set things straight concerning rumors that the 43-year-old show will undergo drastic changes. Bullet admitted there will be changes but this does not include replacing the show’s hosts as led by Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto, and Joey De Leon.

He noted the three, whom he described as “pillars” of the noontime show, have accepted the upcoming changes and are “very cooperative about it.” Bullet also noted how everyone is in the loop and that they communicate, share ideas. “I was given the green light by the board to talk openly kasi I think we have the responsibility sa taong bayan as well. Ang damping speculations and I don’t think it will ever stop unless someone addresses this concern. So now we just want to assure the public and everyone else that we’re coming up with a more

improved ‘Eat Bulaga!’ Think bigger prizes, more exciting segments.” Bullet also talked about the meeting the executives had with show employees months ago.



According to him, it was requested by his dad, Romeo Jalosjos, who is TAPE, Inc. chairman. Bullet related that Tito, Vic, and Joey, were present at the meeting along with Tony Tuviera, among others. “Even the security guard,” Bullet reiterated. “We had a meeting on the studio sa APT. And du’n napag-usapan na it’s about time na maging involved yung

mga board sa decisions sa loob ng kumpanya. And it was also said there publicly that Tito Tony Tuviera would retire already. So parang tinanggap lang ng pamilya yung retirement; ni dad. And that’s one way of confirming to everyone that my brother, Jon-Jon Jalosjos will now take over the daily operations of the show,” he said, relating that his congressman brother is now the president of TAPE Inc, while his dad would still be the chairman. “So dinadaan pa rin sa kanya - back then up to now - ang mga decisions,

whatever pagbabago, new portions, new segments - ganun ka detalyado.” He shared that after the meeting Tito, Vic, and Joey did ask to clarify things with his dad. So what did his dad told them? “Well, they’ve (TVJ) always been a part and they will always be a part of ‘Eat Bulaga.’ So kahit baligtarin natin hindi talaga sila pwedeng mawala sa ‘Eat Bulaga.’ And ‘Eat Bulaga!’ cannot live without TVJ. And I think, personally, in my opinion also, that TVJ also cannot live without ‘Eat Bulaga.’

“And just to be fair sa kumpanya at sa pamilya, It’s also fair to know that even my father, or our family, has also sacrificed even before when the show was not doing well. Nag re-invest na naman si dad to ensure na maswelduhan yung mga talents. Nag-pick up naman. That’s why we believe talagang it’s a collective effort; ang success ng ‘Eat Bulaga.’” Bullet also tackled their relationship with GMA, relating they still have a two-year contract with the network. Bullet also maintained that they’re financially stable contrary to rumors. “The company is okay. We’re doing good. We can pay our talents. We can pay GMA. So wala po talagang problema when it comes to money.”

He could only hope that the show’s hosts will also be given the chance to be interviewed “to assure everyone that we’re in good relation.” On the other hand, he teased about welcoming new celebrities to the show. And there would be improvements in terms of content. Asked about the speculations that circulated, Bullet thinks it boils down to fear of change. “The only thing constant in the world is change. With the change, as with life and everything in it, there’s always some sort of transformation - we have to accept that. We also need to understand that we have to adapt. We always have to adapt. And people who don’t adapt,

who don’t understand, sometimes sila yung naiwan e,” he said. “I really think the fear, it’s all about fear of change. Pagbabago. Almost 43 years, it’s so hard to see something different after 40 years being relevant.”

Tito Sotto breaks silence on ‘Eat Bulaga’ issue: ‘I am disappointed’

Not so fast. Just when everyone thought everything is now okay regarding the country’s longest-running noontime show, “Eat Bulaga,” one of its original hosts, Tito Sotto, has come out to express his disappointment over what’s happening with the show.

In an interview on “Updated with Nelson Canlas,” Tito zeroed in on an interview relating “one member of the corporation, an officer of the corporation,” noting it wasn’t “accurate.” “As a matter of fact, there were false statements that were made,” he added. Although he didn’t name names, the only one interviewed about the show prior was Bullet Jalosjos, chief finance officer of Television and Production Exponent (TAPE) Inc.

According to Bullet, everything is well with the show, their production company, and their finances. “I want to assure everyone that we are financially stable,” he said on “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda.” “The company is okay. We’re doing good. We can pay our talents. We can pay GMA so wala po tayong talagang problema when it comes to money.” He also insisted talk about them owing show host Vic Sotto 2 billion pesos is untrue.

“That’s why maganda po talaga kung sana pwede rin makausap all the talents, maimbita natin sa show din to assure everyone that we are in good relations,” he said. But Tito seemingly belied this. According to him, TAPE Inc. not only owed Vic but co-host Joey de Leon as well. “Ang laki ng utang kay Vic at kay Joey. Mahigit tig-30 million pesos ang utang sa kanila, for 2022 alone,” he said. Tito maintained, “Okay na sana except lately, biglang a member of the board tells media something else.” “I am disappointed, at the very least. I am disappointed at what’s happening,” he ended. Bullet is yet to address the issue.

PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES

WHAT IF YOU NEEDED TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK TO CARE FOR YOURSELF OR A SICK FAMILY MEMBER? I CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY’S FUTURE.

You do what’s best to protect your family. But have you thought of everything?

Protect your family and your income with Sun critical illness insurance. And if you’re never diagnosed with a critical illness, you can include an option to get back the money you’ve paid in premiums if you don’t ever make a claim. It’s insurance that can pay you if you get sick – or if you stay healthy.

Let’s talk about how I can help protect your family, your income and your retirement.

Basil Rodricks

Tel: 416-696-0083 ext 2240  
basil.rodricks@sunlife.com  
www.sunlife.ca/basil.rodricks  
Suite 1500, 150 Ferrand Drive  
Toronto, ON M3C 3E5

Mutual funds offered by Sun Life Financial Investment Services (Canada) Inc.  
Sun Life Insurance Company of Canada is a member of the Sun Life group of companies.  
© Sun Life Insurance Company of Canada, 2021.

Life’s brighter under the sun

26

LM confidential

26

Kung good deal ang  
hinahanap ninyo,  
Harold Guarin  
ang tawagan n'yo...



**HAROLD GUARIN**  
Fleet & Leasing Manager  
New & Used Sales  
haroldg@roadsport.com

**Call Harold for Appointment**  
**416-578-7351**

**ROADSPORT LTD.**  
940 Ellesmere Rd. (NE Kennedy) Toronto Ontario M1P 2W8  
**416-291-9501**  
**www.roadsport.com**

**Bad Credit? New Credit?**  
**Bankruptcy? Divorced?**  
**Credit Counseling?**  
**NO PROBLEM!!!**  
**Come In And See More**  
**Choices Of Vehicles**



**HONDA**

See Harold for details \*\*All vehicles are plus \$10.00 omvic fee and HST, Licensing and \$40.00 gas extra. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.



**\*\*2015 Honda Civic 4dr Auto LX Sedan**  
**FROM \$17,987**



**\*\* 2019 Honda Civic LX Manual Sedan**  
**FROM \$22,899**



**\*\*2019 Honda Civic LX CVT Sedan**  
**FROM \$24,197**



**\*\*2019 Honda Civic LX CVT Sedan**  
**FROM \$26,697**

## The flourishing of Filipino cuisine

The distinction between an American party and a Filipino party, according to friends and relatives who have been at both types of parties, is that in Filipino celebrations, the center is the food offerings. Guests are encouraged to eat more and are even offered to take home some of the food that is served. According to the doyenne of Philippine cuisine, the late Doreen Gamboa Fernandez, in Metro Manila and large urban centers, parties serve traditional Filipino offerings and other cuisine like Chinese style noodles, Spanish paella, American burgers and steaks, Japanese sushi and sashimi, Korean barbecue, British fish and chips and other cuisines native to Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Italy, Middle East, Mexico and other nationalities.

The food selections in the upper class Metro Manila household may be considered as eclectic. But Fernandez has observed



that even decades ago, away from major urban centers, it is still mostly native cuisine in all its regional variations that are the daily fare. However, in the last decade or so, it has been observed that Filipino cuisine has increased in stature and has even begun to be internationally recognized.

Several decades ago, Filipino cuisine was considered as food for daily consumption. Today, we have television shows that



focus on Filipino cuisine with its different variations.

My favorite show is "Chasing Flavors" hosted by Claude Tayag, the well-known Filipino and Kapampangan food gourmet. His show centers on his travels to various regions where he goes out of his way to look for distinctive regional variations. There are now more authors that have written about our native cuisine. There are even authors that have explained and written narratives on Philippine culture as defined by the food that is indigenous to the culture. Some of these authors are Felice P. Sta. Maria and Fernando N. Zialcita.

However, the pioneer in Filipino culinary history is Doreen Gamboa Fernandez. Among her books are Tikim (Taste), a collection of essays on Filipino book and culture written before her death on June 24, 2002. This was revised and updated in 2020. It is amazing that the essays in the book have remained relevant to the Filipino culinary scene as of this date.

Alfred Yuson wrote in the introduction to the book: "Throughout this collection

of food essays, features and formal papers culled from a quarter century of authoritative writing, the author repeatedly stresses that what we eat has history behind it, is premised on setting and has a meaning beyond its taste and flavor."

Fernandez, in her book, also quoted from cultural icons like E. Aguilar Cruz and Martin Tinio. Among her most quotable quotes are from her co-author for several books, cultural researcher and food expert, the late Edilberto Alegre, who said, "... that if Ilocanos favor the bitter (as in pinakbet and the famous pinapaitan, a goat dish with the bile sauce), the Tagalogs the sour (katamtamang asim in sinigang) and many Bicolanos the hot (Bicol express is a dish of sautéed chili peppers), the Ilonggos have their own predilection. For them, no large dominant flavor but layers and nuances

prized over predominance of flavor."

In this collection of essays, Fernandez dedicates it to her parents, Dr. Alicia Lucero Gamboa of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija and Aginaldo S. Gamboa of Silay, Negros Occidental. The essays are divided into four categories, namely Food and Flavors; People and



time of the day. It begins with breakfast, then are replaced by snacks and then lunchtime fare, primarily noodles, fish and meat dishes. It ends with snack foods.

The next are School Street Food, which are found outside every elementary, high school and college. Their offerings range from boiled corn, "dirty" ice cream, fish balls and cheap lunches with plenty of rice.

The next category is Food at Office and Factory sites. These are jeepneys or small vans from the back of which one can buy a variety of fare, ranging from sandwiches to lunch dishes.

Today, office workers refer to these as Jolliejeeps.

Among the other interesting essays are the Flavors of Negros, the Filipino Kitchen, the Restaurant of Yesteryears and Mother Cuisine.

From a historical point of view, Fernandez also wrote a lengthy essay on Philippine foodways answering the question, what is Filipino food? Among the most typical and widespread examples of Filipino cuisine, she cites two. The first is the sinigang, which is meat, fish or seafood stewed in sour broth with vegetables. The second is kinilaw which has uncooked fish marinated in vinegar or lime juice.

At the end, Fernandez states that Filipino cuisine persists despite efforts by colonization and neo-colonization, unchanged in its traditional ways or slightly changed with its contact with other cultures. She says: "Its vigor augurs well and offers much hope for the folklore, the folkways, the folk art and the folk culture which many have feared are too fragile to survive modernity and global tides."



convenience for those without time to cook or an economic phenomenon that flourishes during hard times. It is a convenience."

She categorizes Philippine street food from the points of view from place and manner of vending. The first category is the Walking Street Food. Among the examples she gives are the peanut vendors selling in street corners, the taho vendors who sell in residential areas and the vendor on a bicycle moving from place to place.

The second category includes the Sitting Vendors offering baskets or trays of products like rice cakes, syrup-coated bananas or banana cues, pork barbecue and quail eggs.

Next are the Market and Church Yard Food whose food wares depend on the

Eraserheads together again “naturally” for reunion concert “Huling El Bimbo”

ERASERHEADS from page 1 the Eraserheads’ journey to becoming one of OPM’s biggest acts.

The magnitude of the reunion’s production was not lost on drummer Raymund Marasigan as he recalled renting a studio for “probably 80 pesos per hour” during the band’s formative years and as college students at the University of the Philippines.

He marveled, “But now we’re playing with real sound systems, a real crew, a really good theater [for rehearsals], nice equipment, nice guitars.

“It sounds great and we’re working with really professional people.”

GETTING BACK TOGETHER  
In light of speculations about the frayed relationship among its members since their breakup in 2002, the band reuniting on stage, 13 years after their last reunion concert dubbed The Final Set surprised many.

Looking at the group from the outside, the four seemingly have a volatile, love-hate relationship, dashing any hopes of their fans for a comeback whether through a concert or new music.

The band refrained from romanticizing the reasons behind their reunion concert, insisting that sudden negotiations just fell into place and everyone simply agreed to do the project.

Said frontman and chief songwriter, Ely Buendia at the mediacon, “I didn’t find it difficult

naman [to reunite and revisit the songs].

“My only problem was what to do with all the toys, the new toys... of course, we bought new gear.”

Ely was referring to the gadgets and equipment (e.g. guitar pedals, amplifiers, additional instruments, gears, etc.) that the band and production team will be using to ensure a good audio experience.

He assured, “But as far as playing again, I guess it comes naturally.”

Bassist Buddy Zabala likened the process of getting back together and playing to riding a bicycle.

He said, “You just get on the bike and then you pedal and if you get enough momentum, I think

you’re okay.

“So, right now, I think we’re finding our momentum. We’ve gotten on the bike, we removed the training wheels.

“We hope to go faster, we have to go in one direction all the way to December 22, 2022.”

Raymund expressed that playing Eraserheads songs with Ely, Marcus, and Buddy have ushered feelings that were beyond sentimental.

He said, pertaining to the band’s practice that day with an orchestra led by musical director, Mel Villena, “We feel a lot of things playing the old songs.

“We play a little different, we move a little different, we sing a little different.

“And then when it comes together, it took us five, six rehearsals, and today we were getting goosebumps.

“It’s more than sentimental, I don’t even know to describe it. But when it comes together, it’s that good.”

GRATEFUL TO FANS

It’s rare to see a disbanded local band enjoy great loyalty from its fans across generations.

They’ve been binge-listening to the band’s songs on modern platforms like Spotify and watching a stage musical inspired by their songs.

And the Eraserheads, to be sure, have left mementos for their fans to remember them by—vinyl records (Ultraelectromagneticpop! and the EP “1995”/ “Sabado”), a book documenting their successful reunion concert in 2009, and merchandised items bearing the band’s name and image.

Ely himself, through his own record label, Offshore Music, had overseen various Eraserheads-related projects designed to preserve the band’s legacy.

Now 52 and grateful, he has gained a deeper appreciation of the band’s music and its continuing influence on Filipino listeners.

“So I’m grateful that, for the first time, I can start enjoying the music and be a fan of our music.”

To this, Marcus joked, “Ang suwerte nung audience na mapapanood nila kami live, kasi kami hindi pa namin napapanood sarili namin ng live.”

Buddy thanked the fans for keeping the band’s songs relevant, never mind if the Eraserheads is no longer an active group for two decades now.

Some of the songs that the Eraserheads popularized during their reign include “Ligaya,” “Pare Ko,” “Alapa-ap,” “Magasin,” “Torpedo,” “Huwag Mo Nang Itanong,” “Spoliarium,” to name only a few.

Reflecting, Buddy continued, “It’s not every day that a lot of people enjoy the music that a band makes, much less this band. It makes it all the more special,”

“We have music appreciators who’ve grown with us. Some have grown up, some have grown older, some have families.

“Their kids are listening to our music and some kids’ grandkids are listening to our music. We’re really grateful.

“Ako, I’m happy kasi I have kids who’d come up to me and say, ‘Hey, I like this song, I like the bass line you did on that, I like the guitar part on this song.’

“So if that means that our music creates more Filipino fans for OPM, then I’m really happy.”



FAMILY DENTISTRY  
DR. V. SANTIAGO & ASSOCIATES



We offer complete dental care  
& are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

Dr. Victoria Santiago

Dr. Joy Y. Ho

Dr. Amy Fan

Dr. Jennifer Chen

Dr. Damian Yung

Dr. Myra Caballero

Specialty Dentistry:

Dr. Ali Adibfar

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr. Abbasali Hassanali

Periodontist

Registered Dental Hygienist:

Raymond Echavez

Gayle Baylon

Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic

(Across Sherbourne TTC Station)

600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307

Toronto

dr.vslu@bellnet.ca

Website now live  
thefamilydentistry.ca

