

'The goddess has arrived'

The Tuviera-owned artist management group, Triple A, was bubbling with excitement as primetime drama star Carla Abellana officially became a part of their prestigious roster during an elegant dinner party at Sampaguita Gardens.

Triple A, short for All Access to Artists, Inc., went all out to roll out the red carpet for Carla's arrival. "The goddess has arrived," resounded the voiceover as the porcelain-skinned beauty made her entrance, visibly surprised by the grand reception.

With her shoulder-length hair and a charming strapless summer dress, Carla appeared youthful and radiant, clearly indicating that she had moved beyond the heartaches and disappointments of her past, especially her brief marriage with Tom Rodriguez. Every inch of her personified the belief that the best is yet to come.

As always, the articulate and straightforward daughter of former matinee idol Rey PJ Abellana did not shy away from any questions. In Philippine showbiz, signing with a new management often raises questions about network transfers, and Carla knew she couldn't avoid the inquiry about leaving GMA Network for rival ABS-CBN.

Confirming that her contract with GMA had expired last May, Carla



The Faces of Happiness?



Good morning!!!♥ BFF siblings are happy that they finally have their Tuesday-Thursday uniforms almost complete, just waiting for our order of the required shoes and they'd be happyerrrr and would probably more motivated to wake up earlierrrrr Loveyou my babes🥰 - MOM JOY D'AOUST Agree na nga. Happy Faces iyan.🥰- JOEY BAKING

affirmed that discussions were ongoing between network executives and Triple A regarding future projects.

When informed about the buzz surrounding Coco Martin's "Batang Quiapo" on ABS-CBN possibly casting her in the primetime series, she sensibly stated, "For now, there's no offer for any project with ABS-CBN, but if they approach me or extend an invitation, I'll be open to it."

However, Carla reassured her loyal Kapuso fans that there was no need to worry. She emphasized in the interview that loyalty held significant importance to her. If ABS-CBN were to extend an invitation, she admitted that making a decision would be extremely challenging. She would have to balance her loyalty to GMA, where she had made a name for herself, with her career prospects and financial responsibilities. Whatever the outcome, one of

Carla's most fervent aspirations, which she had already shared with her new management, is the desire to work with a diverse range of actors, not limiting herself to those within the same network. It's on her bucket list to collaborate with different leading men, including her long-held dream of working with Piolo Pascual.

"Whether it's in a movie or a TV series, anything!" she exclaimed with a laugh.

In the days or weeks to come, Carla's fans will undoubtedly be closely watching to see whether she renews her contract with GMA or chooses the path of a freelancer, especially given Triple A's involvement in TV5 productions.

In the end, having a multitude of options is a positive development for the actress.

When asked how she felt about being referred to as a "goddess," Carla shared, "I believe it all started with GMA when they began calling me the 'Primetime Goddess.' I don't even know where it came from—maybe from the fans. But I know that since then, GMA has always mentioned it when I have a teleserye, so it stuck around, I guess."

Nonetheless, Carla doesn't take the title lightly. Rather than avoiding or denying it, she ensures that her performance aligns as closely as possible with such a grandiose reference.

For those who have missed Carla on the primetime TV block, there's good news. You can soon catch her in the upcoming TV series "Stolen Life" alongside Gabby Concepcion, set to premiere this November on GMA.



Happy Birthday Josie Rodricks 🥰🥰🥰

Josie Rodricks (3RD FROM LEFT) celebrated her fifty_something birthday last month with friends Anabella Mohan, Bonna Esporas, and Els Marikit.



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Imelda Marcos video dancing with Saudi businessman inspired “Here Lies Love”

Award-winning artist David Byrne was inspired to create his musical “Here Lies Love” after seeing a video of former First Lady Imelda Marcos dancing with late Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi.



Byrne was the guest on the October 5 episode of “Late Night with Seth Meyers.” Meyers asked the singer-songwriter about the inspiration for “Here Lies Love,” whose central character is the wife of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr. Byrne recalled in his younger years going to discos to see performing artists and wondered about telling a story on a disco floor while people were dancing. “I like the idea of, ‘What if you can have an audience that’s only half paying

attention? Somehow that appealed to me. Because I thought, ‘They’ll absorb the story. They don’t have to be paying attention every second.’” Years later, he read that the former First Lady had a mirror ball installed in her New York townhouse, quipping that not every New York resident has one. Byrne recalled coming across a video of Marcos dancing under the said mirror ball with the arms dealer and businessman Khashoggi: “She lives in this world that I’ve been thinking about if there could be a show that way. And look who she’s dancing with? There’s a story here.”



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Life’s brighter under the sun



Meyers proceeded to show the layout of the Broadway Theater where “Here Lies Love” is currently being staged. He said that most of the orchestra chairs were cleared out to form a dance floor. The talk show host noted that the musical is composed of an all-Filipino cast.

his musical once a week to be immersed in the dance floor crowd. The producers of “Here Lies Love” were recipients of The Outstanding Filipinos in America Awards last month alongside Miss Universe 2022 R’Bonney Gabriel, former Vice President

“She lives in this world that I’ve been thinking about”

“That’s very exciting. They’re kind of telling the story of their own country,” Byrne said, adding that he often attends

Leni Robredo, Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo and nurse May Parsons who administered the world’s first COVID-19 vaccine.

Actress-singer Vina Morales currently stars in the role of Aurora Aquino, taking over from theater legend Lea Salonga who played the character in a guest capacity.

Jason Hernandez malalim ang hugot sa pagiging single: Ang hirap pala magkasakit mag-isa

MALALIM ang hugot ng singer at songwriter na si Jason Hernandez ukol sa pag-iisa. Kasalukuyang may sakit ngayon ang estranged husband ni Moira dela Torre base na rin sa isa sa kanyang Instagram story.



“Ang hirap pala magkasakit mag isa. Utusan mo sarili mo tapos minsan ayaw sumunod,” saad ni Jason. Kalakip nito ang larawan ng pagkaing may sabaw na madalas kainin ng mga taong may sakit. Aware naman ang lahat na hiwalay na sila ng kapwa singer at songwriter na si Moira dela Torre. Isa ito sa mga naging kontrobersyal na paghihiwalay na talagang pinag-usapan sa social media matapos aminin ni Jason na siya ang rason kung bakit nauwi sa paghihiwalay ang kanilang masayang pagsasama. Kamakailan lang nang mag-trending ang singer-songwriter dahil sa kanyang pakulo bago ilabas ang bagong single na “Ikaw Pa

Rin”. Akala ng madlang pipol ay may bago nang minamahal si Jason dahil sa “mystery girl” na kanyang ipine-flex sa social media ngunit ang mga posts nito ay may pagkakahalintulad sa mga pictures nila noon ni Moira. Hanggang sa nagpasaring na ang kapatid ni Moira at sinabing itigil na ang paggamit sa kanyang kapatid. Sinagot naman ni Jason ito at inisa-isa ang kanyang mga ginawa para muli silang magbalikan ng estranged wife. Ngunit nitong Agosto lang nang aminin ni Moira na nagkakausap na silang muli upang isaayos ang pagpapawalang bisa ng kanilang kasal.

Daniel Padilla to star opposite John Arcilla as villain in upcoming movie

Award-winning actor John Arcilla revealed that his movie with fellow Kapamilya star Daniel Padilla “The Guest” will begin filming at the end of the year. John shared that Daniel will play the villain character to his protagonist role. “May isang movie na mag-start toward the end of the year I guess ay yung kay Daniel Padilla and me,” he said. “They called it [a] mind f’ck film.” John even teased that the film would be the first he’d be playing a full-on protagonist and Daniel as his nemesis in a project. The actor said that the film is



a psychological type of movie, however he doesn’t know yet when it will be released, “Well, ang plano niya ay toward the end of this year [ang filming]. Hindi ko alam kung ano ang target na showing.” Earlier this year, film studio Black Sheep announced that John and Daniel would be starring in “The Guest.” The film will be helmed by Jerrold Tarog – who directed John in 2015’s “Heneral Luna” – on a screenplay by “Always Be My Maybe” and “Labyu With An Accent” writer Patrick Valencia, with fellow “Hello Stranger” screenwriter Kookai Labayan serving as creative manager. “I’m a fan of thrillers, suspense, mindf*ck. Mataagal na akong fan nu’n,” Daniel said at the time.

Liza Soberano still with Careless Music

In a report by ABS-CBN, Careless Music’s James debunked rumors that Liza is now managed by her aunt. “Liza Soberano is still with Careless Music. No statement on the rumor. Thank you for clarifying,” James said. In a recent episode of the online show “Marites University,” one of the show’s hosts, DJ JhaiHo, said a reliable source claimed that Liza’s aunt is her manager now. “Ayon po sa aking very reliable source, ang chika nga raw po ay wala na nga raw po itong si Liza under the management



of Careless and also even kay James [Reid] wala na raw,” said DJ JhaiHo. “Parang ang sabi, ‘Sa Careless, hindi na siya mina-manage, kung hindi Tita niya na ulit ang nagma-manage sa kaniya,’” he added. The source also added that Liza will not accept any Filipino project as of the moment. It was last March when Liza revealed that she left Ogie Diaz management and joined James’ Careless. Ogie said Liza informed him about the latest career move of the actress.

♥ SIDEWAYS, the sequel 🤔🙄

Sideways is a 2004 American comedy-drama road film where two guys take a week-long road trip to Santa Barbara County wine country to celebrate Jack’s upcoming wedding. They visit different wineries. Now, ito po ang Filipino version ng Sideways, sequel po ito. Nowadays, you will often hear people visiting funeral homes for the viewing of a friend or a family member. This is the current version ng movie in developm,ent po. Instead na wineries ang binibisita natin, mga funeral home na sunod sunod na pinupuntahan natin. Hay naku. Old age nga naman. 🙄

Concert-going with a vengeance

Ano ba ito? Sunod sunod ang mga concerts left and right. Ang karamihan, napupuno at least ng 50-95 percent capacity. Marami ba ang tumama sa lottery during the pandemic? It’s as if feeling ng mga tao, let’s enjoy life now at baka magka-pandemic uli at hindi tayo makalabas.

Are we preparing for the next pandemic?

Well, some medical people are saying that we are not even out yet or that papataas daw uli angnumber sng positive sa covid. I guess, live and let live ang mga tao. Ingat lang

po tayo. An ounce of prevention is better than isolating. Or worse, ma-long covid tayo. 🙄

Concert Venues out of Town

Lumalayo na mga venues ng mga concert. Iyong Eraserheads, sa Hamilton. Sus maryosep, inabot kami ng siyam siyam ni Carlos Unas. Na miss namin tuloy ang bongga na kainan before the concert courtesy of producer Yana Alvaro. Sabi nga ni Onofre Quijano, kapag si Yana ang producer, may pagkain. Iyong sumunod na concert ni Yana naman na Parokya ni Edgar, sa Whitby naman. Iyong susunod na concert niya, si Jose Mari Chan with The Company, sa Whitby uli. At kahit malayo na sa Toronto, napupuno. Well, kung mura naman ang rent, you cannot blame the producers. Tapos, marami pa capacity, it’s just business. 😊

Media is welcome

Say ni Yana Alvaro, basta media, welcome sa concerts niya. Thank you. BTW, they welcome me naman ako sa concert ni Von Canton, Philip Beloso, Marky Hugh, Josie de Leon. Thank you very much. 😊

Is Shaina Magdayao pregnant? Rumored bf Piolo Pascual reacts

Award-winning actor Piolo Pascual has reacted to rumors that he got actress Shaina Magdayao pregnant.

“Buntis nga raw siya eh. Buti pa yung mga tao alam. Pinagtatawanan na lang namin. Noong isang araw nagkasama kami tapos nagpa-picture siya may kasamang bata. Sabi ko, ‘o, bata na siya! I just make fun about it. People make stories to get people’s attention,” said Piolo as he denied rumors about Shaina’s rumored pregnancy.

But Piolo admits that Shaina, his rumored girlfriend, has been one of his sources of inspiration “ever since.” His other sources of inspiration are the Lord, his family, and his career.

Piolo, 46, said that he and Shaina are working together on an upcoming soap without details.

“Let’s see, but for now, I’m really busy. It’s just something that I don’t have any time for. So I



don’t want to be unfair. But I’m not dating. What you see is how we are. I hope she’s not dating, too!”

The actor, star of the 2023 Metro Manila Film Festival entry “Mallari,” has long been rumored to have a connection with Shaina.

Asked how it happened, Piolo said: “Busy po ako eh. And there’s mutual respect. She was able to put up with me through the years, through ups and downs. We have gone through many issues but she stuck by me. She stood by me and she never wavered. That’s why we’re still around.”

Piolo said he received text messages and calls inquiring about Shaina’s rumored pregnancy.

“Ang daming tumatawag sa akin. Sabi ko pasensya na hindi ko kayo nasabihan. Secret talaga namin eh. Sabi ko sa kanila buti pa kayo alam yan,” he said.

Jerome Ponce ‘sorry’ over ‘misunderstanding’ with Aiko Melendez

“I’m sorry if that’s how she felt.”

Thus said Jerome Ponce when asked about Aiko Melendez’s Facebook post in which she criticized an actor with the initials “JP.”

Aiko’s now-deleted blind item last month read: “Dios mio, JP ... ‘wag ka masyado mayabang. Wala ka pa napapatunayan sa industriya para maging mayabang. Lord, turuan n’yo naman itong bagets na ‘to na matutong makisama. ‘Di porke’t bida ka, attitude ka. Very wrong! Seminar ka muna para maging mabait ka.”

The actress took down the post eventually but not before show biz observers connected the dots and deduced that there was a good chance that the “JP” she was referring to was Jerome Ponce. After all, Jerome and Aiko’s son, Andrei Yllana, are both part of the upcoming Viva One series, “Safe Skies, Archer.”



No beef with anyone

At a presscon for the show, Jerome surmised that it was probably a case of misunderstanding. “Baka siguro pangit talaga ugali ko ... Or maybe I’m antipatiko,” he quipped in a rather self-deprecating manner. But turning serious, he stressed he has no beef with anyone. “I don’t have a problem with anyone. I guess it’s just a misunderstanding.”

“Perhaps I can come across as a snob at first, but you know me... I mean you guys can approach me,” he added.

Nonetheless, Jerome is still apologetic. “Kung saan man nangaling, I’m sorry ... Miss Aiko knows people who know me,” he said, adding that all is well between him and Andre.

“OK na OK kami. I was just surprised where that came from. I think it was just first impression,” he said.



Francis M’s alleged love child hopes for Magalona siblings’ acceptance: ‘I don’t have any bad intentions



Gaile Francesca Rait. Screenshot from YouTube/Julius Babao UNPLUGGED, YouTube

Gaile Francesca, the alleged daughter of the late Francis Magalona with former flight attendant Abegail Rait, said she hopes the Magalona siblings will accept her as their sister, stressing that she has no “bad intentions” in revealing herself to the public.

Francesca said this in her interview with broadcast journalist Julius Babao. “Sabi ng mom mo, open naman siya in the event na i-invite ka ng iba mong sisters and brothers na magkita-kita kayo. Ikaw, anong masasabi do’n kung dumating ‘yung punto na ‘yon? [Are you] willing to meet with them?” Babao asked, to which the 15-year-old kid briefly answered, “Yes po.”

When asked to share her message to the Magalona siblings, Francesca said, “I want to tell them that—I hope that you accept me. I don’t have any bad intentions po.”

Francesca also disclosed

that going public with her identity was something she really wanted to do. She further noted that despite the “mixed emotions” after her revelation, she has been doing well and that she has been talking to Francis through prayers.

“I pray to talk to him... I do [feel his presence].. ‘Yung puso ko parang—hindi ko po ma-explain,” she said. (My heart feels like—I cannot explain it.) Francesca said she believes that the public should hear the fuller version of her “mom’s side of the story” as it might help in making them understand the mother and daughter’s situation.

“I want to tell my mom to stay strong and to [not] mind the comments, kasi po ‘di po nila alam ang buong kuwento (because they don’t know the whole story). And so, for that, ang mga tao (a lot of people) keep bashing her,” Francesca told Babao.

Francis’ wife, Pia Arroyo-Magalona, as well as their children have yet to publicly comment on the matter, although some netizens speculate that Frank and Maxene had alluded to the issue through their recent social media activities.

‘I still love you all 3x a day’:

Jimmy Santos visits ‘EAT,’ also mistakenly calls it ‘Eat Bulaga’

Veteran comedian Jimmy Santos made a surprise appearance at noontime show “E.A.T.”

Jimmy visited the noontime show to be a part of Joey de Leon’s 77th birthday.

In the “Gimme 5” segment, Wally Bayola introduced his driver named Daddy Ethan.

Jimmy then appeared onstage, surprising the hosts, including Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto, Paolo Ballesteros, Atasha Muhlach and Allak K.

“Happy birthday. Alam mo naman na hindi kita makalimutan,” Jimmy told Joey.

“Nakatambay lang ako e, tapos naimbitahan akong mag-drive. Okay din,” he added.

Vic then asked Jimmy for a birthday message for Joey.

“I’d like to greet you a happy, happy, happy birthday. Whatever happens

in this country, I still love you all three times a day,” Jimmy said.



“Especially those people surrounding the vicinity, I miss you all. Thank you very much. Still, ‘Eat Bulaga’ is here to stay,” he added.

Vic then corrected Jimmy, saying: “Mali, ‘E.A.T.’! Wala kang kupas.”

Jimmy was last seen in the “Bawal Judgemental” segment of “Eat Bulaga” last 2021.

The comedian is now based in Canada.

‘Gusto kong maging doktor’: Francine Diaz vows to finish studies

Francine Diaz revealed that she wanted to become a medical practitioner, but her showbiz commitment currently hinders her from pursuing it.



Francine said she would do everything to finish college. “Una talaga, gusto kong maging med (medicine) student. Gusto ko po kasi talagang maging doktor,” she said.

“Kasi siyempre ang hirap po nu’n kasi nga, given sa work ko, ang hirap naman nu’ng palagi akong absent at hindi ko alam kung paano ‘yung gagawin.

“Hindi naman pwedeng ulitin ko ‘yung pagkakatahi (sa pasyente). Nakakatakot naman,” she added.

Francine said that she will take Business Management course instead. “Pangalawang naisip ko is Business Management. Since nasa mundo naman na tayo ng showbiz, ‘yun na ‘yung pinaka-malapit,” she said.

JDL 3rd School Opening



Josie de Leon School of Performing Arts opens her third school at Bathrust and Wilson.

Vilma Santos appeals for ‘It’s Your Lucky Day’ return
‘Marami kayong napapaligaya’

“Star for All Season” Vilma Santos appealed for the revival of “It’s Your Lucky Day,” the show of her son, Luis Manzano.

“You know why, anak? Marami kayong napapaligaya, believe me. So, please extend,” she added.

“It’s our great honor na magpasaya sa inyong lahat nang panandalian para mapawi ang inyong problema. At sa ating ‘Showtime’ family, we welcome you back. Maraming-maraming salamat sa pagpapatuloy sa inyong tahanan at itutuloy niyo rin ang kasiyahan. Mga ka-Lucky, sabay-sabay po tayyong mag-dasal. Kapit lang. Sabi nga nilang lahat, malay naman natin this is not goodbye,” Luis said. “Magkikita-kita ulit tayo kung saan solid ang suwerte at saya.

Mga ka-Lucky, our staff, our family, we love you,” he added. which came after the game show aired its final episode last Oct. 27.

Santos, who was seen with Manzano and his wife Jessy Mendiola, appealed for the game show’s extension, as seen in a clip uploaded on the “It’s Your Lucky Day” host’s Instagram page last Oct. 29.

“Momskie, katanungan. Gusto mo bang ibalik ang ‘It’s Your Lucky Day (Mom, question. Do you want ‘It’s Your Lucky Day’ to be back on air)?” Manzano asked.

The screen veteran showed her support for the show saying, “Yes na yes, 200%. You know why, anak? Marami



kayong napapaligaya (A big yes, 200%. You know why, son? You make a lot of people happy), believe me. So please, extend.”

Santos praised the host for “unselfishly” accepting the offer to be part of its airing even if only it’s meant to be a stand-in for noontime show “It’s Showtime” which served its 12-day suspension earlier this month.

The final episode of “It’s Your Lucky Day” was broadcast last Oct. 27, where the hosts thanked their audience for their support despite its short run. Aside from Manzano, Melai Cantiveros, Robi Domingo, Jennica Garcia, Francine Diaz, Seth Fedelin, Negi, Petite, and Di-vine Tetay were also part of the hosts.

“It’s Showtime” has since returned on air last Oct. 28 after serving its suspension imposed by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).



‘Malicious & false’:
MTRCB denies summoning Vice
Ganda over fried chicken ad

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) denied allegations it had called to testify a popular television personality, believed to be Vice Ganda, in connection with his new advertisement for a fast food chain where he can be seen eating fried chicken.

Rumors of the “It’s Showtime” host being summoned by the regulatory board circulated on social media, after a satire account on X (formerly Twitter) claimed that Vice Ganda’s way of eating fried chicken in the fast food commercial was not acceptable to the government agency.

The MTRCB through chairperson Diorella “Lala” Sotto-Antonio called this “malicious and false,” claiming it had not summoned a “certain celebrity who appeared in a recent TV commercial of a fast-food chain.”

“In this digital age, it is crucial to verify the news and be mindful of sources of information before sharing. This incident underscores the importance of media literacy and critical thinking,” their statement read.

The government agency also expressed its support for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the Presidential Communications Office’s (PCOO) efforts to “combat disinformation and misinformation.”

“We believe that we must put an end to the era of fake news and let truth prevail,” MTRCB added.

The government agency’s statement comes a day after the Kapamilya noontime show “It’s Showtime” returned back on air after serving the 12-day suspension slapped by MTRCB earlier this year.

Vice Ganda has yet to issue a statement addressing the claims, as of this writing.

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Marcos pushes local products in gov't procurement

MANILA, Phl — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is pushing for the use of Filipino-made building materials in government infrastructure projects to boost local industries.

The plan was announced following a meeting with the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) Infrastructure Cluster, where Marcos welcomed the recommendation to give preference to domestically produced construction materials.

Marcos lauded the proposal presented by the PSAC, under the leadership of businessman Sabin Aboitiz, to incorporate locally-sourced materials that meet the required quality standards. To ensure the smooth implementation of the new policy, the president



directed the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to collaborate closely with the PSAC in compiling a comprehensive list of specific construction materials suitable for government infrastructure projects. Marcos also instructed the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to align their guidelines with the preference for local material. He emphasized the need to specify which materials the government will purchase and to balance supply and demand.

"We have to match the capacity and the demand. But again, that if you can say that from now on, 100% of our — comes from the Philippines, magtatayo ng planta 'yan

but we need to make everything clear, kung AO (Administrative Order) iyan or some other form," Marcos said. They also assured the president that local industries are fully capable of producing cement, steel, and other construction materials that meet the stringent Philippine national standards, ensuring resilience in the face of the country's unique climate and natural disasters.

"Our advocacy is really to promote our buy local, Filipino-made products for Filipinos. It's just fair for our government to take the lead, Sir, in also patronizing our own locally-made products," Aboitiz said.

DTI Secretary Fred Pascual said that the government has been endorsing a "buy local, go local" policy to promote local products.

Andrea Torres names Bea Alonzo her biggest idol

Count actress Andrea Torres among Bea Alonzo's many fans.

Andrea is, in fact, ready to accept a villain role if only to get to work with Bea.

This has since been granted by the powers that be, with the two now working together in "Love Before Sunrise."



"Ang saya kasi ngayon lang po ako mag-ko-kontrabida and I took it because Bea Alonzo is my idol talaga," Andrea said.

She didn't hesitate to admit the same to Bea in a recent appearance on her vlog.

When Bea asked about her "most recent answered prayer," Andrea said, "'Yung una, maka work ka, totoo 'to, answered prayer ko 'yan."

"Kasi ikaw talaga 'yung lagi kong sinasabi na gusto kong artista, as in gusto kong umiyak, lagi ako naapektuhan ako sa 'yo," she added.

LVN Pictures' first-ever film 'Giliw Ko' finally streaming for free



DeMille" Carlos Vander Tolosa, "Giliw Ko" ("My Sweetheart") is one of five surviving Philippine pre-war films still available in full. Most films from the era have either been lost or destroyed. The film premiered on July 29, 1939 at the Manila Metropolitan Theater with former President Manuel L. Quezon in attendance.

The film stars Mila del Sol as naive barrio beauty and aspiring radio singer Guia. Fernando Poe Sr. plays her earnest childhood sweetheart

Jose whose blind father can actually create orchestra instruments made of bamboo. The pair seem content enough as they sing dreamy duets in the hacienda they both work, that is until Guia becomes infatuated with their hacienda landlord's son Antonio during his short return trip from Manila.

Played by Ely Ramos, Antonio makes a promise to Guia to take her with him and make her a radio star. But living her dream isn't what Guia imagined it to be, especially after finding out that Antonio is engaged to socialite Rosie played by Mona Lisa. What will Guia do

now that she's realized how much Jose really means to her?

"The film tackles the conflict between popular American and traditional Filipino songs. Though depicted with a light touch, the dark streak of our colonial mentality is integral to the plot and the rigid feudal class structure that defined the characters' situation," says De Leon about the film.

Made in the tradition of the zarzuela, "Giliw Ko" features music by Juan Silos Jr. and Ariston Avelino. Another interesting detail is how it was filmed in part at Doña Sisang's own mansion on Broadway in New Manila, Quezon City.

One thought to have been lost to time, the film's only extant but deteriorated 16mm print was given to De Leon by its cinematographer Remigio Young. It was then restored on film by the Australian government's National Film and Sound Archive in 1997 and blown up to a new 35mm negative. The sound was lifted from existing U-matic tapes and digitally restored.

Last August at the The Metropolitan Theater, ABS-CBN Film Restoration premiered the 2K scanned and digitally enhanced version with audio restored at Narra by Wildsound Studios.

"Captain Kitten" tells the story of Kat, a high school student who volunteers to protect stray animals. She rescues and brings them to her favorite pet cafe. In the cafe, Kat meets Dr. Tom, a veterinarian who runs a nearby clinic.

Unbeknownst to Kat, Dr. Tom and her friend, Marty, are operating a secret laboratory where animals are being caged, hurt, and used for experiments.

One night, Kat searches for her beloved cat, only to find out that it was taken inside the illegal clinic. As she tries to let Mingming escape, Kat gets scratched by the cat.

Days later, Kat suddenly acquires the instincts of a cat. Will Kat be able to rescue the animals from Dr. Tom's secret laboratory?

KC must get married

GABBY Concepcion believes it's high time his daughter KC got hitched. After all, his unica hija with Sharon Cuneta is barely two years before she reaches 40.



In one of the actor's latest vlogs, Gabby had KC as his guest.

It was the 38-year-old

"semi-retired" actress' opportunity to ask her dad certain questions related to her. No holds barred.

KC inquire, "Dad, what do you think should I do more and do less?"

Gabby answered, "The truth?" to which KC assuringly said, "Yes, I want to know the truth. You have my permission to tell me anything, promise it'll be taken well."

Without mincing words, the still-dashing actor in his near 60s fired back: "I want you to do less traveling so that you can think of settling down more!"

Hardly did Gabby make KC feel he was prying into his daughter's private life. Neither did Gabby touch on KC's rumored Filipino-Swiss boyfriend.

"I get it! I think I should buy myself an engagement ring!" KC snapped.

FYI, not only can't Gabby wait to see KC get married but also Sharon who's itching to have a grandchild.

Jillian Ward on joining beauty pageants: 'Hindi po siya pumapasok sa isip ko'

Being named the Star of the New Generation, award-winning actress Jillian Ward is a woman of many talents. Starting her acting career at a young age, Jillian also became a head-turner when it came to beauty product endorsements.

During their Zoom press conference for the upcoming new season of the fantasy show "Daig Kayo Ng Lola Ko," Jillian was asked if she was open to joining a beauty pageant.

"Well hindi po kasi talaga ako passion-



ate sa mga beauty pageant, ewan ko po para sa akin baby pa lang ako buong buhay ko pag-aartista na po talaga ang gusto ko, eto po talaga yung nasa puso ko," Jillian said.

(Well, I'm really not passionate about beauty pageants. I don't know because for me, ever since I was young, acting is what I really want, this is what's in my heart)

The 18-year-old actress added that venturing into her creative side, such as acting and singing, is the primary focus.

"Siguro mas makikita niyo po ako sa

film industry, siguro po more movies, more shows and siguro po music kasi ipupursue ko na po yung talent ko when it comes to singing," she added.

(You may see me more in the film industry, maybe more movies, more shows, and maybe music because I will pursue my talent in singing.)

Although Jillian is not currently interested in joining a beauty pageant, she is open to the possibility in the future.

Playing the role of Captain Kitty on the newest season of 'Daig Kayo Ng Lola Ko,' Jillian mentioned that this is her first time doing an action project as a dalaga.

"Ngayon po being dalaga, ito po yung first ko na action role, and nakakatuwa dito kasi from previous costumes laging may purple yung damit ko, hindi ko po alam kung bakit, pero I'm super excited po ako to portray this character kasi super gaan niya lang unlike from character in 'Abot kamay ang pangarap,'" Jillian said.

Joining her on the upcoming series are Gabby Eigenmann as Dr. Tom and Sparkle stars Archie Alemania as Caloy, Angela Alarcon as Coach Abby, Kim Perez as Marty, and Shuvee Etrata as Feline.

Little Manila

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Jose "Joey" Baking

TORONTO- The Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto (PCCT), a 32- year old organization of Filipino- Canadian business professionals, executives, and entrepreneurs in Ontario has officially inducted its 2023-2024 Board Directors and Executive Officers on October 28, 2023. With its theme, “Building an Innovative and Fruitful Future for Filipino-Canadian Businesses and Entrepreneurs Towards Community Development.”, the event was held during its Gala Night & Induction Ceremony at the Rembrandt Banquet Hall in Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario.

Sworn in are Nestor Von Canton, President, Philip Beloso-VP for Government & Trade Relations, Lilac Cana-VP for Membership & Acting Secretary, Gisele Mirasol-VP for Public Relations, Steve Pagao-Treasurer, Rainier Macandog San Pascual-Auditor and the Members of the Board of Directors- Julian Baricuatro, Prescilla Cantos, Robeco Clarete, Beethoven Crasco, Cora Dela Cruz, Mark Gabriel, Bernard Garcia,



Rommel Lumbao, and Camilo Tayag, Jr. Media business entrepreneur Nestor Von Canton succeeded Steve Pagao, a professional accountant who served as President from 2015 to 2022, as PCCT head honcho. In his brief inaugural address, Prexy Von Canton expressed his appreciation to everyone, and stressed the importance of “true spirit of service ... for public & community improvement and pursuing meaningfully our mission and vision collectively for the future”.

The Honourable Angelica C. Escalona, Philippine Consul General-Toronto, was the

guest of honour and officiated the induction. Escalona warmly congratulated the new Executive Directorate and said that “the Philippine Consulate General is your steady partner and will support what will benefit everyone”. Other distinguished guests who delivered their special addresses are Hon. Minister of Education & MPP Stephen Lecce, Hon. Minister of Seniors & MPP Raymond Cho, MPP for Scarborough Southwest Doly Begum, MP for Scarborough Centre Salma Zahid, MP for Vaughan Frank Sorbara, and Hon. Minister of Small Business and on video, MP for Missis-

sauga Streetsville Rechie Valdez. Sam Ibrahim, CEO of Arrow Group of Companies and Jonathan Brindley, a CPA, CA and Alternative Funding Specialist, gave their respective inspirational messages.

The 5- hour evening program was jointly and ably hosted by Josie De Leon and Noah Aquino. Established singers Lilac Cana and Vianne Alexa rendered their much applauded ditties. Among those in enthusiastic attendance were Philippine Consul Mary Grace Villamayor, Consulate Cultural Officer Maricel Samonte, Manolo & Fe Arnaldo, Pidoy & Ting Pacis, Monina Serrano,

Michele Serrano, Rolly Mangante, Oswald Tugadi, Mila Gabor, Zaldy Cuachon, Fred Yuson, Al Tupe, Sonny Martinez, Paulo Bucud, and a host of other community and business leaders. Those who covered for the media include Joey Baking, Theresa Redula, Raymond & Christine Santos, Tess De Jesus, and Tony A. San Juan.

Formed in 1991, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto, is “a private, not-for-profit volunteer-driven business organization representing Filipino-Canadian businesses in various industries in the Greater Toronto Area and across Canada”. The newly installed Board of Directors is rightly focusing to expand its membership base by enhancing its business networking outreach. As well, they are purposefully encouraging and enlisting more FilCan small business owners, operators, and entrepreneurs in Ontario to engage strategically within the competitive realms of efficient business planning, innovation, leadership, growth, and development for productive success.

Bea Alonzo excited to have own family with Dominic Roque

Kapuso actress Bea Alonzo revealed that she and fiancé Dominic Roque are excited to get married and have a family of their own.

During her “Fast Talk With Boy Abunda” guesting, Bea said it was Dominic who got more nervous in building their own family.

“I guess doon sa whole thing, not in a sense na kabado siya magpamilya. He would always tell me he is very excited to have a family with me and have kids,” she said.

“Actually mas excited kami to have kids together. It’s just that I guess kinakabah-



an sa siya siyempre doon sunod-sunod na mga parties. He has never thrown a really big party before so I guess mas kabado siya roon,” she added.

When asked what she is praying for their upcoming wedding, Bea said: “Sana manatiling nasa center ng relationship namin si Lord to guide us.”

“And sana sa next chapter na papasukin namin mas lumalim ‘yung pagkakaintindihan namin at pagmamahalalan namin

sa isa’t isa. “I hope that I become a good example to my children one day and I hope that I get to raise God-fearing and really good kids with good values.”

Bea and Dominic announced their engagement last July. They are set to tie the knot next year.

Why Arron Villaflor & Jane de Leon broke up

Natawa nang malakas si Arron sa tanong kung may kinalaman sa pagpapaseksi niya sa mga pelikula ng Vivamax ang paghihiwalay nila ni Jane de Leon.

“Matagal na po ‘yon, 2016 to 2017 po. Personal reason po,” sagot ni Arron.

Sabi niya tungkol sa dating nobya, “Happy ako para sa kanya. Hopefully, mag-succeed siya.”

Maliit lamang ang mundo ng local showbiz, pero hindi pa nagkikita nang personal sina Arron at Jane buhat nang maghiwalay sila noong 2017.

“If I will see her, I will casually greet her pero not to the point na share stories.

TRANSFERRING TO VIVA

“So nung nag-offer sa akin ang Viva, which was Wag Mong Agawin Ang Akin ang project, sabi ko naman ang tagal kong nawalan ng trabaho sa ABS-CBN, parang two projects got cancelled, I don’t know what happened.



ON DARING ROLES

“Medyo matindi itong desisyon na ito. Unang-una sa family ko, hindi naman sila sanay sa akin na doing sex

scenes na almost naked.

“I have to decide and I think I’m old enough to decide for myself. This will somehow change my identity. Some people do it, bakit hindi ko kaya? “I am very thankful sa Viva at Vivamax dahil sila po yung sumalo sa akin nung mga panahon na hindi ako nabibigyan ng trabaho and I’m very grateful to be part of this new family.”

Toronto - Fil-Can Teacher Named High School Principal in Ontario North

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

For the first time in the Filipino diaspora in Canada, a Filipino-Canadian teacher, Richard F. Llanera was recently appointed an administrator of a high school department at the North Caribou Lake First Nation School in Weagamow Lake, Kenora District, Northwestern Ontario, Canada. Llanera becomes the 10th Principal of known Filipino heritage in Ontario’s publicly-funded schools, after Maria Angeles Patricio-Fernando, Herman Viloria, Lolita Bruneau, Fermer Santos, Alicia Corpuz, Philip Gahunia, John Pasia, Karlo Cabrera, and Lily Adams.

A teacher education graduate, Richard “Chad” Llanera, who hailed from Capiz, Philippines, started teaching in 2003. Chad

came to Canada in 2015 and worked as a bank clerk in Toronto while working towards his professional teacher accreditation with the Ontario College of Teachers- the professional licensing body in the province. He received his certification on March 30, 2017, and immediately applied and was assigned to teach the following school year up North.

The North Caribou Lake First Nation or Weagamow First Nation, is an Oji-Cree First Nations band government that inhabits the Kenora District in northern Ontario, Canada.



The road distance is 2180 km. and to drive from Toronto to North Caribou Lake takes 36 hours. As of May 2021, the North Caribou Lake First Nations had a registered population of 1,218, of which their on-Reserve population was 897.

Reporter Stuart Foxman writes: “As a new local, Llanera was open to all sorts of experiences, from moose meat to ice fishing. Llanera felt it was important to not just learn about the culture but to integrate it into his teaching. The process of using a mechanical drill and

making a hole in the ice, for example, can be a valuable science lesson, and “You need to be creative,” he says.

On World Teachers’s Day in

Llanera was open to all sorts of experiences, from moose meat to ice fishing.

October 2018, Microsoft in Education Canada’s “Because You Teach” contest, congratulated Llanera as one of “all these inspiring teachers!” when one of his students, the contest runner-up shared: “Richard is known in the North Caribou Lake region as one of the finest

and most dedicated teachers the school board has. He learned about the indigenous culture and helped students with extra-curricular activities outside the normal school tasks and many more.”

Teaching in a remote community, especially to the distance and harsh weather, is not something that many teachers would choose to do—but not for Richard Llanera, as many observers said. It means “becoming comfortable with change”. He had to get used to performing double duties, teaching a split class, being away from his family in Toronto (wife & 2 children), and living and working in a very

FIL p23

Philippines among top users of bidets — study

MANILA, Philippines — A study conducted by British bathroom supplies company QS Supplies found that rental accommodations in the Philippines have some of the highest number of bidets in the world.

QS Supplies analyzed thousands of listings on travel website Booking.com last August by using reservation filters to find the percentage of rental accommodations that have baths, showers and bidets in ev-

ery country and the world's most populous cities.

Nearly 53% of rental accommodations in the Philippines have a bidet. The Philippines ranked fourth in the list that was topped by Italy at 76.28%.

On the shower ranking, the Philippines was 37th with 70.42% though the margins are much closer. Cambodia topped the list with 89.57%.

The Philippines was much lower on

the baths list at 54th with 17.88%, though this can be attributed to rental accommodations in the country opting to have showers instead of bathtubs.

Five cities in the Philippines figured in each of the respective lists — Quezon City, Manila, Davao City, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro.

Rental accommodations in Quezon City had the most bidets in the Phil-



ippines with 60%, while rental accommodations in Cebu had the most showers at 72.40%.

The baths data was reflected in Davao City being the leader in the Philippines, despite just 17.80% of rental accommodations there having a bathtub. Cagayan de Oro ranked the least with baths in accommodations among Philippine cities at 12.81%.

Why Yeng Constantino wants to update the lyrics to her songs

Kapamilya singer Yeng Constantino shared that she wants to update the lyrics to some of her songs.

Yeng recently acquired the rights to her music catalog from Star Music. The singer plans to release new versions of her songs.

“Grabe ‘yung mga fans sobra akong natutuwa na nung nalaman nila ‘yung balita na hawak ko na ‘yung catalog, parang may personal favorites sila na ‘ate, gawan mo na ito ng bagong version, pwede po bang ire-lyric itong kantang ito.’ That’s the good thing about owning your own songs,” Yeng said in an interview with Magandang Buhay.

The singer said that she wanted to update some of her songs’ lyrics so the message will more match her age.

“Kasi may mga kanta talaga ako na nag-ki-criinge rin ako nung pinapakinggan ko. Alam mo ‘yung parang ang bata-bata mo pa nung sinulat mo ‘yon kaya parang gusto mong i-update lang ng konti kasi very childish pa ‘yung point of view mo. Mayroon akong mga ganun na gustong i-relyric para appropriate naman sa age ko kapag kinanta ko siya,” she said.

Last July, Yeng released the re-recordings of her previous singles in her EP REIMAGINED.

“Makalipas ang ilang taon, nasa pangangalaga ko na ang aking music catalog. At dahil dyan binigyan ko ng bagong bihis ang ilan sa



mga kantang minahal nyo galing sa’kin,” she posted back in July ahead of the EP’s release.

“Ito ang REIMAGINED. Unang limang kanta sa marami pang susunod. Palagi akong magpapasalamat sa lahat ng suportang binigay at binibigay nyo sakin. Alay ko lahat ng ito sa inyo Yengsters!” she added.

Yeng explained that acquiring the rights to her music catalog was a financial decision, saying that she wants to earn passive income once she retires in the future.

“Seventeen years na ako sa industry and hindi naman tayo bumabata so parang as I’m getting older —I think I’ve been like this simula pa naman nung umpisa—I always think about the future. Itong trabaho namin it’s not forever and what do I have to do in the present para masecure ko ang akin retirement pag tanda,” she shared in her past interview.

She added: “Isa lang to sa mga steps na ginagawa ko para mas ma secure ‘yung future ko. Eventually I think ‘yung songs are an investment as well.”

Gabby Concepcion and Albert Martinez are on good terms now

At the height of their respective love team careers, Gabby Concepcion (with Sharon Cuneta) and Albert Martinez (with Snooky Serna) were pitted against each other. More than 40 years later, they join forces as dear friends to give support to the annual advocacy event “Gabay Guro.”

“Bati na kami, ha?” quipped Gabby when Albert’s relationship with singer-actress Sharon Cuneta resurfaced during the press conference of the education program.

The topic turned to Albert when Gabay Guro Chairperson Chaye Cabal-Revilla started to ask him if he was the first boyfriend of the Megastar.

Gabby, who was once married to Sharon and is the father of her eldest daughter, KC Concepcion, addressed the matter while Albert responded with a smile and jokingly remarked that he might have ended up at the wrong event.

“Si Sharon, ang first boyfriend niya si Albert! Tama ba? Parang nabasa ko ‘yun

dati nu’ng bata pa ako,” asked Chaye.

“Huy, Albert, ‘di ba totoo ‘yun? Nabasa ko ‘yun dati sa magazine,” she repeated.

That’s when Gabby entered and clarified his friendship with Albert.

“Hindi. Sila ni Snooky [Serna],” replied Gabby.

The press conference aimed to promote the “Gabay Guro” educational program. The event, titled “Pagpupugay at Pasasalamat kay Ma’am at Sir,” was a tribute concert for teachers, celebrating their dedication and sacrifices for the Filipino youth.

Despite their busy schedules, both Gabby and Albert expressed their unwavering support for Gabay Guro. Albert em-



From left: Albert Martinez, Gabay Guro Chairperson Chaye Cabal-Revilla, and Gabby Concepcion

Lovi Poe on having kids:

‘We want to focus sa work and us’

Lovi shares why they decided to focus first on their careers.

Kapamilya actress Lovi Poe and her husband Monty Blencowe are currently prioritizing their individual careers and have no immediate plans for starting a family.

The Batang Quiapo actress revealed in an interview with the press that she shared this during the launch of Imono Jewelry’s holiday collection earlier this week.

Lovi and Monty tied the knot earlier this year at the Cliveden House in the United Kingdom.

“So far right now we just want to focus sa work and us being together,” she revealed.

After her wedding, she immediately returned to Batang Quiapo to resume taping where she plays Coco Martin’s love interest.

Lovi then admitted that she and Monty haven’t gone on their honeymoon yet as they don’t have a destination set as of writing.

She happily asked the media to recommend some honeymoon destinations so that she and her partner could check them out.

“Wala pa. So if you guys have any suggestions, mayroon diyan box then you can put in locations na pwede naming puntahan,” she quipped.

Despite both being career-driven, Lovi expressed



her gratitude towards Monty for being patient and understanding of her work. “Buti na lang he is taking it in

a positive way. He wants to see me shine, succeed as an individual, kaya sobrang suwerte ko na ganoon siya. I know na we’re on the next level, next stage but he still wants to see me fly,” she said.

“Sabi ko nga the fact that I was able to head back straight to work after getting married in less than a week. ... I think it’s possible as long as you are ready, you have a proper mindset. And you are doing it for the right things,” she added.

“I have my career, I want to have a proper balance for things talaga. It’s just great that I have a strong support system around me. My husband is very supportive and also [has a] great team here who’s helping me with work. So in between talaga,” she continued.

Lovi and Monty had already been engaged for several years prior to their recent wedding.

The actress only publicly announced their engagement this year, after informing their family and close friends.

phasized the importance of supporting teachers, calling them unsung heroes, and highlighted how Gabay Guro has brought them to the forefront.

“Personally, the reason I am very supportive kasi ito ‘yung area na kailangan talaga ng tulong. Sila ‘yung our heroes na medyo hindi napapansin,” explained Albert.

“And when Miss Chaye created Gabay Guro, nabigyan sila ng focus. So now, hindi lang sila on the side pero naka-front na sila. Kumbaga, sila na ‘yung top heroes natin ngayon,” he added.

Gabby shared his personal connection to the cause, mentioning that his mother-in-law was a teacher and that he readily accepted the opportunity to support the program when he first heard about it.

“Ang sa akin, simple lang. When I first heard about it, naging automatic ‘yun at magaan kong tinanggap because my mother-in-law ay teacher,” Gabby said.

Maxene reacts to dad’s mistress/love child issue

Maxene Magalona, daughter of King of Philippine rap Francis



M, broke her silence over the controversy surrounding her dad’s alleged mistress and love child.

In an episode of the YouTube series “Pinoy Pawnstars” on October 19, former flight attendant Abigail Rait claimed she had a relationship with the OPM icon. As she showed a varsity shirt owned by the celebrity and a photo of the two of them with a very personal dedication, she also revealed they share a 15-year-old love child named Gaile Francesca.

On Saturday, Maxene posted a cryptic quote from motivational speaker Laura Dawn, which read, “Shout out to everyone who’s learning how to transmute sacred rage into acts of kindness.” The Instagram story has since expired.

Meanwhile, Maxene’s brother, Frank indirectly reacted to the issue as well when he liked a tweet on X from social media user @JoseIknow. It read, “I find it weird watching the video of Pinoy Pawnstar where a homewrecker revealed his affair with Francis M., saying, ‘15 years akong nanamihik.’ Of course, you will. You’re a mistress. Duh.”

Francis M succumbed to leukemia in 2009 at the height of his career.

‘Bucket list checked’: Kim Chiu fulfills dream of *being slapped* by Maricel Soriano

Kapamilya actress Kim Chiu checked one of the things in her bucket list when she was slapped by the “Diamond Star” Maricel Soriano.



During the press-con of her new Prime Video series “Linlang” yesterday, Kim said she dreamt of being slapped by Maricel.

“Sobra po akong natigalgal,” Kim said, laughing.

“Siyempe, pangarap ng isang artista na masampal (by Maricel). Bucket list namin ‘yun. Bucket list checked. Ang lala!”

“Kaya abangan n’yo po, isa po ‘yun sa eksenang dapat panoorin kasi talagang baseball. Charot lang!” she added.

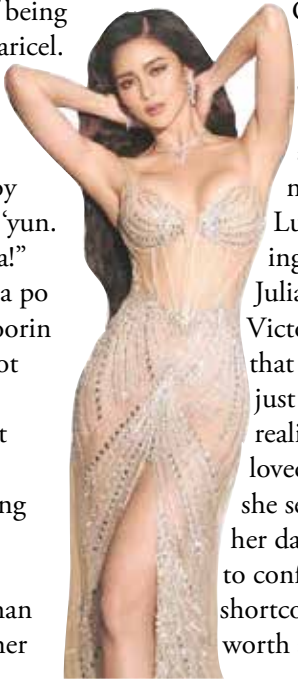
Kim admitted that she got nervous filming the scene.

“Habang ginagawa ko ‘yung eksena, kinakabahan ako. Habang pinanood ko ‘yung eksena na ‘yun, mas kinabahan ako para sa role ni Juliana (her

character),” she said. “So, ang galing lang na makatrabaho ang isang Maricel Soriano na ang tagal-tagal na sa industriya pero sobrang down to earth and very accommodating to help ‘yung mga artistang tulad namin,” she added.

Kim, Paulo Avelino, and JM de Guzman, will be leading the new suspense-thriller series “Linlang.”

The series will revolve around boxer-turned-seaman Victor “Bangis” Lualhati (Paulo) in uncovering the truth behind his wife Juliana’s (Kim) infidelity. As Victor digs deeper, he discovers that there is more at play than just a cheating spouse and he realizes that the woman he loved and married is not who she seems to be. As he uncovers her darkest secrets, he’s forced to confront his own demons and shortcomings, questioning his worth as a man and a husband.



Miles Ocampo gives health update after thyroidectomy surgery

After undergoing surgery earlier this year due to papillary thyroid carcinoma, actress Miles Ocampo gives an update about her health.

According to PUSH, Miles revealed during the ABS-CBN Ball 2023 red carpet that she is recovering greatly. Although she has to take maintenance now and then, she is doing her best to prioritize her health.

“I’m good. I’m slowly but surely yung progress pagdating sa health ko. Though for life na nga ako may maintenance. Ang agang magka-maintenance But at least naagapan and pina-priority ko yung sarili ko right now. Lalo na with my health,” Miles said

on the interview. (I’m good. I’m slowly but surely making progress when it comes to my health. However, I have maintenance for life. My maintenance came early, But at least I caught up and made myself a priority right now. Especially with my health) According to WebMD, papillary thyroid carcinoma is the most common type of cancer that can affect the thyroid. As the medical website indicates, this disease occurs more often in women under 40 years old. Miles also shared that the pandemic made her realize to help herself be better and grow every day.

“As a person I guess parang ang daming nangyari nung four years na yun na ang dami nating realizations, all of us, because of the pandemic diba? I don’t know. Siguro ang goal lang naman natin is to grow everyday and to be a better person,” she added.

(As a person, I guess it seems like a lot happened in those four years that we



have a lot of realizations, all of us, because of the pandemic, right? I don’t know. Maybe our only goal is to grow every day and to be a better person) Miles revealed the news of her surgery during her appearance in ‘Magandang Buhay’ last April 13. According to the actress, her decision to have her thyroid removed was her doctors’ discovery that she had papillary thyroid carcinoma. “I had to undergo thyroidectomy surgery to remove my thyroid glands. It all happened in an instant,” she said during the interview.



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Do you feel Ber-ry Christmas-y already?

It's beginning to feel like Christmas?
No?

By this time, we should feel the spirit of Christmas already.
But only if you are Filipino. Or maybe married to one. It's already November. You should have started feeling Christmas-y since September.
Anyway, while feeling the chill in the air, let's start with some milestones that happened in people's life last month.
Painter Frank Cruzet celebrat-

ed his birthday last October 4 at The Filipino Centre Toronto with his wife Theresa Lumanlan and the painting class that he teaches. It was a very happy affair. It might be December before we see each other in the painting class again as the centre will be undergoing some renovations. Frank received an easel, a shirt and a bottle of wine. Celebrating with him were Eva de Villa and Wendy Arena.
Can Ian Veneracion sing?
Well, for the titas, and probably a few titos, who flocked to Toronto pavilion, who cares?



Ian's selling point is non-stop selfie with him from beginning to end.
"I like selfies with my fans. I don't mind it at all," says Ian. "Iyan nga dahilan kaya ka nag-ko-concert abroad. Para makapagbigay ng kasiyahan sa mga kababayan natin abroad."
And the the hundreds who watched happily shouted their approval. And they showed their love by going on stage one at a time to have their selfies taken with what I would call the friendliest, nicest artista I have ever seen. He can sing. He has the voice to be a singer.
He also brought pasalubong for his fans.
"May dala akong choc-nut para sa inyo," referring to the popular Philippine chocolate. I joined in



1. Ian gets the love in Toronto.
2. Theresa Sevilla (RIGHT) was there on opening night of Sabado Nights.

holding out my hand and he gave me 2. I ate it there.
Did anybody listen to his songs?
I don't think anybody did. They were all busy from beginning to end gett on stage to get their selfies. And so was the security staff who wer ekept busy making sure to limit how many goes up the stage unless they get a stampede. Producer Von Canton got lucky in booking Ian Veneracion at Toronto Pavilion where the stage is accessible on three sides and is only around 18 inches high.
Next up is the glamour couple Catriona Gray and Sam Milby having their concert produced by Marky Hugh.
Can Catriona Gray sing?
We know Sam can at least sing. He has been here a lot of times as a featured singer of community events.
Yes, Catriona can sing. Surprisingly, I just found

out that Catriona's singing voice is more "solid" than Sam. Anyway, the couple brought the kilig factor of their cupid act to the fans who eatched at Global Ministries venue. They did not disappoint.
JDL opened their 3rd branch at 3768 Bathurst, ste. 302, corner Wilson. It was attended by students from other branches and MP and Minsiter for Small Business Rechie Valdez.
The Philippine Chamber of Commerce - Toronto held their induction of officers and board of directors under the new president Von Canton. They were inducted by Consul General Angelica Escalona.
And a new gastropub has opened at Woodside mall, called Sabado Nights. I have not checked it out yet. I have to drop there one time.
With this, I bid everybody, Godspeed and good night.

Pokwang on failed relationship with ex Lee O'Brian: 'Be better, not bitter'

Years after separating from Lee O'Brian, the father of her six-year-old daughter Malia, Pokwang is blooming. Her face shows that she has healed from her emotional scars. Her manner proves that she can be, in her own words, "better, not bitter."
At the story conference of Wide International

Film Productions' second film "Slay Zone," the mom of two, who came in a one-shoulder black mini, announced, "Pag na pendeho ka, dapat magpaganda ka. Kapag makitang losyang na losyang ka, magiging masaya siya lalo. Mag-la-way ka! (If someone fools you, you should strive to look beautiful. He'll be happy if he sees you looking frumpy. Let him drool!)"
She tossed her head and added, "Be better, not bitter!"
Pokwang has reason to feel that way. She plays her dream role - that of a brave cop in the

upcoming film "Slay Zone," where she stars with Glaiza de Castro, Lou Veloso, Maui Taylor and others.
The comedian has a daily variety show, "TiktoClock," on YouTube. She just finished filming a film with fellow award-winning actress Eugene Domingo. She has a food business. She's building a house with a big kitchen that will serve as commissary for her Mama Pokwang's gourmet products.

Single and driven
Why is she that inspired?

The single mom admits she has to work thrice harder for her daughters, Mae and Malia. Like all moms, she wants the best for them. Pokwang wants to provide for Malia's needs, the way she did for her older sister, Mae. In her own words, Pokwang wants to fill up the yawning hole Lee created as a dad to Malia.
So the actress looks at the bright side, including the reason behind her failed relationship.
"God is taking me to the right way," she said in Taglish. She's even open to another relationship, because "God might have a better plan. That's why it (the failed relationship) happened."
That relationship might have produced a "parasite," she had to kick out of her house after years of ignoring red flags



out of love. But Pokwang has learned her lessons.
Someday, she vowed, when Malia is old enough to understand, Pokwang will pass on some of these hard-earned lessons. She will advise her youngest daughter, first of all, to love herself.
Because she focused so much on Lee, and put herself last, Pokwang, will tell Malia to do whatever she wants - to travel, enjoy life. Pokwang cannot even call Lee by his first name and refers to him as "chururat."
She also advised the happily married Glaiza. Address your issues at once. Reach out to each other.
Her mistake, said Pokwang, was keeping all the hurt inside, until she had to blurt out, "Get out of my house!" (She says she was paying for the power, water and other bills all by herself, and her ex was entirely dependent on her).
"I was like a volcano that had to erupt," Pokwang recalled.
That's the serious side of this comedian, which director Louie Ignacio thinks the audience will appreciate when they watch Pokwang return to drama in the suspense thriller "Slay Zone."

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Dennis Trillo on the supernatural beings who 'watch' him

Do you believe in ghosts, monsters and sinister spirits? In time for Halloween, we asked Dennis

although I have yet to see or encounter one," he told Inquirer Entertainment.

Trillo early this week if he's ever had close encounters with creatures that go bump in the night.

While Dennis has appeared in a string of horror movies, among them the ninth, 14th and 15th installments of Regal Films' crowd-drawing "Shake, Rattle & Roll" film franchise, the award-winning actor said that he has yet to cross paths with any supernatural being.
"Yes, I believe in their existence,



The actor then recounted meeting a medium who said something that spooked him. "I have yet to see ghosts," he shared. "But she told me that there are supernatural entities who actually watch or 'see' me! I didn't know what she meant by that, but when you really think about it, it's creepy! Kung totoo nga, nakakatakot isipin!"

It's a **Birthday**-full *life* at The Filipino Centre Toronto



1. Frank gets an easel; 2. Eva de Villa, Wendy Arena and Frank Cruzet celebrate their birthdays.



3. With the painting class; 4. Frank receives a shirt;



5. Frank receives a bottle of wine.

Katrina pumayat dahil sa stress, naloka nang mala-
mang sexy assassin pala ang role sa 'Black Rider':
Akala ko drug lord lang na mag-uutos-utos'

#SHOOKT ang Kapuso actress na si Katrina Halili nang malaman niyang hindi lang basta kontrabida ang magiging role niya sa latest GMA series na "Black Rider."
Ang akala kasi ng celebrity mom ay gaganap siya bilang isang drug lord sa seryeng pinagbibidahan ni Ruru Madrid na taga-utos lang sa kanyang mga tauhan at alagad.
Hindi raw niya nalaman agad na skilled sexy assassin pala ang magiging role niya sa bagong action-drama series ng GMA 7 kung saan kailangan pala niyang magpaka-action star nang bonggang-bongga.
Sey ni Katrina sa naganap na mediacon ng "Black

Rider" last Friday, October 27, talagang kinarir niya ang kanyang paghahan-
da sa kanyang role bilang si Romana.
Bugoy Cariño tinawag na 'pal-
amunin', hinamon ang basher: Bigyan po kita pa...
"Medyo nahirapan po ako kasi kailangan kong dumaan sa mga trainings, sa big bikes, mixed martial arts, kung ano-ano," simulang kuwento ng aktres.
"Noong unang tinanggap ko po ito,



wala akong idea na ganyan. Ang alam ko po, drug lord lang na mag-uutos-utos," natatawa pa niyang chika. Ngunit na-shock nga siya nang malamang kasama siya sa mga gagawa ng mga action scenes sa "Black Rider" kasama si Ruru at iba ang pang cast members.
"Super shocked po ako na ang daming trainings po tapos ako po pala 'yung gagawa ng action, akala ko taga-utos lang po," sey ng Kapuso actress.
"Una, skeptic po ako sa sarili ko kasi nasanay na po ako sa hapon na nanay, iyak-iyak. Pero noong ginagawa ko na po siya, nae-enjoy ko po siya. Happy po ako, medyo umiksi-iksi na nga po ang katawan ko," aniya pa.
Na-pressure rin daw siya sa pagpapapayat nang malaman niya kung sinu-sino ang mga artistang makakasama nila sa serye.
"Siyempre kinundisyon ko 'yung sarili ko na

pumayat ako. Noong nalaman ko na sexy assassin, na-stress na po ako lalo.
"Tapos kasama ko sina Ruru tapos Matteo, mas lalo po akong na-stress. Sobrang stressed po ako noong nalaman ko kung sino 'yung mga kasama ko," pagbabahagi pa ni Katrina.
"Pero okay lang, sa stress na 'yun, at least pumayat po ako, naging maliksi ulit po ang aking katawan.
"Ang laking tulong na ibinigay sa akin ang role na Romana para lumapit-lapit ulit ako sa timbang ko dati," sey ni Katrina.
Dagdag pa niyang chika, super na-miss din niya ang paggawa ng mga sexy roles.
Magsisimula na ang "Black Rider" sa November 6 sa GMA Telebabad. Kasama rin dito sina Gladys Reyes, Yassi Pressman, Kylie Padilla, Maureen Larrazabal, Raymart Santiago, Zoren Legaspi, Raymond Bagatsing at marami pang iba.

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‘Kami original love team’

Julia Montes says no pressure to top Kathryn Bernardo’s ‘Hello, Love, Goodbye’

Actress Julia Montes revealed that she is not pressured to top the box-office performance of “Hello, Love, Goodbye,” the movie that stars Kathryn Bernardo and Alden Richards. She and Alden are starring in the upcoming movie “Five Break-ups and a Romance.”

“Hello Love Goodbye” is the highest grossing Filipino film of all time with P880 million. Julia and Kathryn have come a long way since they starred in the 2010 remake of the 1992 series with the same name, “Mara Clara.”

Julia was a guest on “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda” last October



Scene from “Hello, Love, Goodbye” with Alden Richards with Kathryn Bernardo (left) ; Alden with Julia Montes in “Five Break-Ups and a Romance” (right).

5. Boy asked Julia, “Is that a pressure that the highest-grossing film in the Philippine cinema stars Alden Richards and Kathryn Bernardo?”

“Siguro po pressure siya in the sense of dahil ang paningin ng tao, after nila Kathryn, kami po. But ako kasi, mas proud po

ako e. Doon ako tumitingin kasi si Kathryn ‘yun,” Julia answered.

Julia said she is proud of what her friend Kathryn has achieved in her career.

“So parang imbes na tignan ko siya na parang nape-pressure lang, I’m proud na si Kathryn ‘yung nandoon. And kung ibless kami with this film, bakit hindi? We’re happy,” she said.

“After her film right now, kami ‘yung susunod. Parang natataon nga po na lagi kami ‘yung nadidikit pero happy kami kasi ang lagi naming biro sa isa’t isa, ‘Tayo ang

original love team. Nami-miss na natin ang isa’t isa. Kailan tayo gagawa (movie),” she added.

She quipped about her and Kathryn as the original pairing before they each found their own successful TV pairings. Kathryn is often paired with real-life boyfriend Daniel Padilla, while Julia is being linked to “Ang Probinsyano” co-star Coco Martin.

“Bago pa nabuo ang mga love team love team, kami na ang original love team at ‘yun ang love team na hindi matitibag sa aming dalawa,” she said.



Notable Achievements

1, Congratulations to Rianneh Greeley for getting a hospitality award rom St. Clare Catholic school; 2. Christopher Gavin finishes 3rd in cross country race; 3. Nathalie Goss finishes first in the TCSAA cross country race; 4. Nathalie Bondoc won 2nd silver medal Cross Country Meet representing Our Lady of Fatima School; 5. Congratulations Aidan for being selected as one of the recipient for MGH student scholarship awards (volunteer services). Also for attaining a scholarship from U of T;

Dingdong Dantes’ amazing bond with his kids

HOME is where Dingdong Dantes gets much of his hosting job done most especially for his weekend show Amazing Earth.

Save for a couple of episodes where GMA’s Primetime King needs to hie off to some far-away destination across the country, Dingdong does his voiceover spiels comfortably at home.

The actor admits that the best time to record his spiels is a bit late at night, “That’s when the whole place is quiet. You hear no honking of cars, such sounds that can easily be picked up while recording is in progress.”

At nightfall, Dingdong — in house clothes — sneaks out of the room with the voiceover script and locks himself up inside a separate area in the house.

Ofentimes though, he catches sight of



his kids Zia and Ziggy following him all the way to the recording room.

“I thought you were already asleep, why are you here?” Dingdong would ask. And he’d always get the same answer: “They said they couldn’t sleep so in ending, the kids will stay all throughout my recording session.”

This is the reason why Zia and Ziggy

can afford to skip most episodes of his weekend infotainment show, “Even before an episode gets aired, they already get to watch it!”

Not only has watching the show ahead of its airing date been the little ones’ habit, Zia and Ziggy are also mimicking what their father does.

“One time I caught them inside the recording room. I was surprised to hear them trying to imitate my voice. They were even holding a script!”Dingdong shares.

The TV host-actor acknowledges the fact that for all his kids’ quirky ways, watching and imitating him is one effective way of teaching them how to take care of the things around us, as featured in every episode of Amazing Earth.

“Also, I believe leadership by example

is just as important. Of course, it just doesn’t take a day or two to get it done. As a parent, I need to constantly do it,” Dingdong says of his real-life role.

Meanwhile, the A-list celebrity hardly thought Amazing Earth would notch its fifth year last July.

In celebration of another successful year, Dingdong justifies its change of time slot “to develop a weekend habit of enjoying an enriching experience.”

With a wider reach now, even the young ones in school can afford to stay awake a bit late, “You know today’s generation, most if not all of them are social media-savvy. At least, they can still allot time doing soc med after watching what other forms of life there are on our planet.”

Catriona Gray & Sam Milby Sponsor Dinner



Frank Cruzet (FAR LEFT) anbd Theresa Lumanlan (THIRD FROM LEFT) pose with Philippine stars Catriona Gray & Sam Milby at the Sponsor Dinner; 2. MH talents pose with Catrion gray & Sam Milby. 3. Concert Producer Marky Hugh pose with Catriona Gray & Sam Milby. PHOTOS BY BING MARIANO





RAFFY'S 30TH BIRTHDAY:

1. Raffy cuts his birthday cake; 2. Candace David, Jenifer Camacho, Joy D'Aoust; 2. D' Ageless Reborn dancers



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Kim Chiu extols Maricel Soriano’s generosity and talent in ‘Linlang’

Kim Chiu is full of admiration for Maricel Soriano as they collaborate on the drama series Linlang, produced by Dreamscape and ABS-CBN, currently available for streaming on Prime Video.

Kim expresses her appreciation for Maricel, also known as “Inay,” and praises her for her generosity and kind-hearted nature.

“She’s very generous. She gives us a lot of things, especially me because we have the same shoe size. I’ve received a number of expensive shoes from her. She also has lots of food in her room which she shares with us. We would just go there to have a chit-chat, and that’s it,” she says.

When it comes to their work together, Kim acknowledges Maricel’s seriousness and brilliance as an actress. She admits to feeling nervous when filming scenes with the esteemed Diamond Star, given her extensive experience in the industry.

“Whenever we have scenes together, I feel nervous. Considering her stature in the industry, she has done a lot of acting vehicles over the years.”

Kim is particularly excited about one of her dream scenes with Maricel that has already taken place.

“We just shot a scene in which she slapped me! That’s part of my bucket list, and I’m glad it already happened. Better watch out for that explosive scene.”



Kim expresses her gratitude for the opportunity to work with Maricel, highlighting her as a brilliant actress who remains down-to-earth and generous with her talent, especially to younger stars like Kim.

“She’s a brilliant actress, and yet, she’s very down-to-earth. She’s generous in sharing her talent, especially with stars like us whose stay in the industry is not even half of hers. I’m simply hats-off to her!”

In addition to Maricel, Kim shares the screen with Paulo Avelino and JM De Guzman in the series. She offers insights into her experiences working with these two actors.

“JM is not really the talkative type. He’s into gaming, and hooked on Mobile Legends. But whenever I invite him to eat, he stops playing, and it’s then that we’re able to have a conversation. As for Paulo, I haven’t worked with him yet, so I didn’t have any idea at first. Then, I discovered that he also doesn’t talk that much. I was initially scared, but as it turned out, he’s very nice. He opens up when you talk to him,” Kim concludes.

Advertisement for 'Pinoy Superstars' featuring Joel A. Seban and Roland Abante. Includes logos for Kayumanggi Entertainment, Allegro, and JDL. Text: 'Live in TORONTO', 'PATERNIO SURIGAO HOST - EMMEE', 'ROLAND ABANTE "BUNOT" AGT AMERICAS GOT TALENT SEMI FINALIST', 'KCCA 1133 Leslie St. Toronto, Canada NOVEMBER 24 | FRIDAY @7:30 VIP: \$75 Gen Adm: \$50', 'FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 647-780-5488 ONLINE: www.kayumanggi.com'.

‘Kahit sino’: Joshua Garcia, Jodi Sta. Maria not choosy with future co-stars

For young drama actor Joshua Garcia, the question he finds hard to answer is whom he would want to work with in his next projects.

“Yan ‘yung tanong na hirap na hirap akong... Ako kasi very open akong maka-trabaho lahat e kasi para sa akin, ‘pag dami ang mas nakaka-trabaho ko, growth din ‘yun sa akin e, dagdag experience. Mas gagaling ako, mas matututo ako. Kahit sino, open naman ako basta maganda ‘yung proyekto and macha-challenge ako,” explained the actor.

Joshua attended the finale press conference of his show “Unbreak My Heart.”

His co-stars in the show, Jodi Sta. Maria and Gabbi Garcia, have similar answers.

“Ako talaga wala talaga akong problema working with people in the business as long as importante lang naman sa akin ay sine-seryoso nila ‘yung trabaho and they’re professional...,” shared Jodi.

Like Joshua, she believes in the collaborative process of their profession.

“I really look forward to working with different people kasi at the end of the day, there is something to glean from the experience or from



“Unbreak My Heart” stars (from left) Jodi Sta. Maria, Joshua Garcia and Gabbi Garcia

that encounter,” she added.

Gabbi Garcia also shared that she is very open to work with anyone. The actress currently earns the ire of the show’s

viewers as the vengeful Sandra/Alex, daughter of Rose (Jodi).

She, however, revealed a name she almost worked with a couple of years ago.

“I’m very open to work with everybody pero what I always say sa interviews, meron kasi kaming project na dapat gawin ni Kuya Echo na naudlot. Parang it was two years ago, parang pandemic pa noon,” Gabbi said.

She is referring to actor Jericho Rosales.

“We had a bit of a problem with the producer. Sayang kasi constantly nag-uusap na kami. We were preparing for it, nagwo-workshop na kami online and then nagkaroon lang ng problem with the producer so naudlot siya. Maybe in the future if there’s an opportunity, why not? I really look up to him,” she revealed.



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AJ Raval, other Viva-max stars also *facing* ‘obscene publication’ charges

The Kapisanan ng Social Media Broadcasters ng Pilipinas Inc. (KSMBPI) has filed criminal charges against Vivamax actresses AJ Raval, Ayan-na Misola, and Azi Acosta, claiming the three have committed “cybercrime violations in relation to obscene publication.”

The association filed similar charges to another Vivamax star Angeli Khang last week, on the basis of a alleged so-media post by Khang featuring explicit scenes from past projects.



al Facebook account. Raval (real name Elizabeth Buensuceso), Misola, and Acosta were all accused of violating Article 201 of the Revised Penal Code in relation to Section 6 of R.A. 10175 (Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012), the same charge against Khang.

Last week, KSMBPI vowed to charge three other celebrities — now revealed to be Raval, Misola, and Acosta — for allegedly also posting explicit videos on their social media pages.

Vivamax and the three actresses have yet to respond to the filings as of publication.

The association previously filed cybercrime charges against “It’s Showtime” hosts and real-life couple Vice Ganda and Ion Perez, as well as online personality Toni Fowler.



Promising Vivamax star Apple Dy casts a seductive spell in ‘Tuhog’

In a bold step forward, budding actress Apple Dy has taken the lead role alongside Arron Villaflor and Joko Diaz in the latest Vivamax film, Tuhog, directed by GB San Pedro.

The film, as described by Villaflor, marks a departure from the typical Vivamax productions that often center on intimate scenes, offering a unique narrative twist.

“We took a different approach to making a Vivamax film,” Villaflor said during the press conference for the sexy drama action film.

For Dy, a model and aspiring singer, Tuhog represents a significant milestone in her career as it grants her the opportunity to shine in a leading role. She has previously been involved in various projects for Vivamax, a popular streaming platform known for its primarily adult-oriented content.

Dy expressed her gratitude towards San Pedro, Villaflor, and Diaz, emphasizing their professionalism and the comfortable working environment they provided, particularly when filming delicate scenes.

“They were very professional, and they all made me feel comfortable while doing every intimate scene in the movie. They asked for consent, and we rehearsed everything before filming the scenes,” she said.



The plot revolves around a soldier portrayed by Villaflor, who embarks on a mission and is believed to be deceased. Dy’s character finds solace in Diaz, who plays the role of Villaflor’s character’s father in the film. As they bond while mourning their perceived loss, they are confronted with the shocking revelation that Villaflor’s character is, in fact, still alive.

The film promises to be a thought-provoking exploration of love, loss, and the human spirit, with a touch of intrigue to keep viewers engaged. As Vivamax continues to diversify its content, Tuhog represents a compelling addition to the platform’s growing repertoire.

Tuhog, which also stars Dyessa Garcia, Andrea Babierra, Billy Villeta, Billy Jake Cortez, Kier Legaspi, Bon Ivann Lo, Niño Aquino Mendoza, Manu Respal, and Carlene Aguilar, is now streaming on Vivamax.

Unbothered amid latest controversy

BILLY Crawford manages to keep an unbothered stance amidst talks that he allegedly was — and still is — hooked on drugs. Well, just because he’s sporting a lean, lanky body. The 41-year-old TV host-actor admits though he was once a brew-hound. That, he says, explained

why he weighed 235 lbs. “Yes, I was an alcoholic before. But I’ve not been drinking for the past six years. It’s zero alcohol now,” Billy who’s now a 140-pounder swears. Talks about him doing drugs still hound him to this day. Believe it or now, never have I tried drugs even once,” says Billy who admits to getting annoyed.

Good thing, he doesn’t let it drag him down. He also credits his wife Coleen Garcia for knowing him full well, “She just lets those ‘tsis-mis’ pass her by.”

Billy, in fact, has become more health-conscious albeit is not into tremendous exercise, “I watch my diet, I drink plenty of water. Perhaps, what made me lose weight is because our son Amari is kinda heavy. Coleen and I take turns in taking care of him.”

Furthermore, Billy proves he was no druggie “because had I been, it’s either I would have ended in jail or I would have been dead!”

While nasty rumors about his predilection for illegal substance cream his corn, so to speak, “People can say whatever they want to say but as far as my family who knows me best is concerned, I’ll remain unbothered.”

The fact that showbiz assignments come one after another is proof enough that Billy — unlike most actors that we know — lives a completely drug-free life.



SCENE CITY

MASQUERADE GALA
1. lanezza Muñoz Greeley (2ND FROM RIGHT) enjoys the Msquerade party with husband and her mom and aunt.
2. lanezza Muñoz Greeley pose with Cecille Araneta.

YOU-NIVERSE WITH CATRIONA GRAY AND SAM MILBY
3. Marie dela Cruz and Nathalie Bondoc pose before their modelling walk at the concert.





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Pinoy ‘Buy Nothing’ group provides free pre-loved items for Filipinos in Toronto

TORONTO - Hospitality is a virtue that Filipinos bring all over the world. Whether it’s through random acts of kindness or expressions of solidarity in adverse circumstances, Filipinos welcome new members in their communities with helpful gestures that promote the betterment of their livelihoods.

For the Pinoy “Buy Nothing” group in Toronto, hospitality comes in the form of free appliances and household utilities. The growing community assists newcomers in Canada by sharing their extra clothes, appliances, and furniture instead of throwing them away.

Joe Dadural founded the “Buy Nothing” group as a way of giving back to a similar group who supported him first. The private community on Facebook currently has over two thousand members participating in these small but meaningful acts of service.

Dadural shares that “bayanihan”—the long-established concept of camaraderie among Filipinos—is the “Buy Nothing” group’s main goal. On Facebook, their group motto is “Take some and always give more.” “It’s wonderful when we, as Filipinos, come together so newcomers feel welcomed,” he adds. He aims to expand the group to the Greater Toronto Area, as well.

Besides helping fellow Filipinos live practically and building a sense of togetherness outside the Philippines, the “Buy Nothing” group members can also find new homes for their useful items and not dispose of them. Donating their reusables allows them to reduce waste and save money. International students have commended the fruitful pursuit for aiding their costs of living abroad.

In the Philippines, initiatives like “Buy Nothing” groups are evident in community pantries, the pandemic-borne barangay-wide projects where citizens can give as much food and fresh produce as they can and take as much as they need. Both endeavors are built on mutual aid among participating local and international groups.

Boy Abunda really loves to travel

NOT at all fond of throwing lavish birthday parties, Boy Abunda would rather satisfy his wanderlust around this time year-in year-out. The hodophile TV host’s international travels are not without Bong Quintana, his partner of more than half of his life.

The couple has since been used to tagging along at least ons of his long-time staffers. If any of Boy’s closest showbiz friends sends him a sweet birthday message, expect his reply of gratitude days after.

It has always been Boy’s well-deserved self-incentive to grab every chance at taking refreshing trips outside the country.

Interesting cities abroad offer Boy the opportunity to heed his hankering to do just as anything and everything people can’t imagine him doing.

Miles away off Philippine shores, an unknowing local will be surprised to see an uninhibited Boy who still keeps his unconventional fashion sense. Sorry, Boy dresses up the way he likes no matter what the weather conditions are.

The revered TV host mareds his nth birthday (October



29). Not here but somewhere out there.

This is the first time Boy is in a celebratory mood since he got offered a regular hosting job for his eponymous daily show on GMA.

Let’s give it to the guy who made possible bringing back showbiz talk on Philippine television, never mind if the entire week has already been reserved for canned episodes.

After all – barring all restrictions – he would eagerly take a much-needed break, wouldn’t he?

Boy knows full well that extending his “sabbatical” even if he so wishes is next to impossible.

In fact, he’ll come face to face with an even more toxic work schedule as Christmas season lurks around.

Known for mentoring official candidates to internation-

al beauty pageants slated around this time, Boy is widely perceived to hold the key to their guaranteed success in nerve-wracking interview portions.

I remember one of our old-time jokes should Boy serve as an interpreter for a Filipina candidate who makes it to the Top 15 in a global contest.

Boy jests, “Let’s say that the girl has a hard time expressing herself in English, I’ll just tell her one thing...listen to the host’s question, grab the mic and say to me: ‘Teh, ikaw na ang bahalang mag-translate niyan’. Ibubuka ko lang ang bibig ko na kunwari sina-sagot ko ang tanong’ [‘You can translate that. I’ll just open my mouth as if I’m answering the question’]. Of course, it’s not going to happen! But if there’s a chance, why not?”

A self-deprecating Boy has also imagined himself competing in a beauty contest if he were born a girl: “I think, I’ll beat the other girls in the Q & A portion but I won’t be able to bring home the crown!”

For all his spiffiness, a ‘Best in Runway’ award will be good enough.



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FILIPINA from page 1

“One of them had the opportunity to run away but she decided to stay with the grandmother she was looking after,” Buzgan said.

Buzgan expressed her sympathy “to all the Filipinos who stayed behind, to those brave people who went with the elderly they were keeping at, the elderly they were taking care of.”

She said Hamas militants’ acts of terror were “beyond cruelty.”

“They were targeting people that got into safe rooms and [in] some safe rooms they were able to go inside and shoot

them to death,” Buzgan said.

“And others where they couldn’t open the door they set the house on fire to get the people out to shoot them, to drag them and kidnap them to Gaza Strip.

She continued, “They didn’t even pay attention to who they were dragging. We had Israelis [abducted]. We had other citizens. We had people from Nepal, people from Thailand. We had Filipinos who were murdered.”

She said this was why Israel will not lift the blockade in Gaza to prevent Hamas “terrorists” from slipping into the Jewish state as Israel sought continued support from the Philippines.

“If we open [a humanitarian corridor and with] what’s happening currently we’re going to have more terrorists in Israel. We cannot allow that,” Buzgan said when asked whether Israel intends to lift the blockade to allow humanitarian aid to reach civilians in Gaza.

She said that this was “at the moment not an option on the table.”

“I’m very sorry that Hamas doesn’t take care of their people and doesn’t supply, and doesn’t build them infrastructure and they should do. Unfortunately, no,” she said.

Buzgan added, “We have to make sure we don’t have any more terrorists going

into my country. So, no. We’re watching the border and we will not lift [the blockade]. We will not let this happen again.”

She reiterated Israel’s need for support and said she was “very, very thankful to the Philippines for all the support you’ve been showing. I know you’re a true friend and President [Ferdinand] Marcos [Jr.] said that yesterday in his meeting with the [Israeli] Ambassador [to Manila Ilan Fluss],” she said.

“We are very thankful for your friendship and your message. We see those amazing acts of solidarity of lighting buildings and markers..lit up in blue as an act of solidarity,” Buzgan said.

Timmy Cruz opens up on surviving cancer, returning to showbiz

Matapos ang pitong taon, nagbabalik ang singer-actress na si Timmy Cruz.

Sa intimate media conference na inihanda para sa kanya ng bago niyang talent management, ang Artist Circle, (October 3), inilahad ni Timmy kung bakit bigla siyang nawala sa showbiz.

"This month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. So, what happened to me, I was in a teleserye [Once Again, 2016] with Ms. Jean Garcia and Mr. Aljur Abrenica. I was playing a mother and we were in a hospital. 'Yung

aking anak, sa role ko, mayroon siyang sakit. 'Tapos, bigla kong naisip magpa-checkup. We had long break, so nagpunta ako sa hospital.

The doctor said, 'It's cancer.'

Kuwento pa niya, "Even if the cancer was very small, I decided to remove one of my breasts. Doing that as a woman, it's really something. Super dramatic ang moment na 'yun. I had to talk to myself and say goodbye to one of my breasts. But it's okay, I have an implant just so you know.

"So, coming back to showbiz was very far away from my mind. And coming back right now... I just told the Lord five months ago, 'Lord, balik na tayo.' Siya nagsabi sa akin, 'Balik ka na.' It's only five months and here I am now.

"As I said earlier, when you make a wish and it's a good one, ibibigay talaga sa 'yo."

Fulfilling her dream

Sa kanyang pagbabalik-showbiz, isang kantang Pamasko ang handog ni Timmy, ang "All I Want is You." Isa lamang ito sa maraming

kantang kanyang naisulat habang siya ay "nagbabakasyon" mula sa showbiz.

Noong panahong ito, naging aktibo siya sa pagkanta sa Brahma Kumaris, isang spiritual movement, sa Tagaytay. Dito, nilapitan siya ng producers ng Flip Music para i-release sa mainstream ang kanyang mga bagong kanta.

"Next thing I knew, we were signing a contract and all the songs that I wrote during my vacation are really out on all the digital streaming outlet," nakangiting lahad ni Timmy.

Patuloy niya, "It's really nice that I sat back and I was able to fulfill my dream of becoming a composer. Kasi, sabi ko sa sarili ko, how can I call myself a real artist if I only interpret other people's songs.

"Parang for me, okay singer ka, meron kang mga songs, pero hindi naman ikaw ang sumulat. So parang sa akin, 'Lord, tulungan mo naman ako.'

"Ogie Alcasid, di ba, magaling na composer? So, sabi ko, 'Turuan mo naman ako magsulat.' Sabi niya sa



akin, "Basta mag-emote ka lang.' 'Ang hirap naman n'on.' 'Basta mag-emote ka lang, subukan mo nang subukan.'

"I took his advice and I started practicing. Then, there came a time na, boom! Parang ganun na lang. Now, I compose my music."

Sa ngayon, may mahigit 20 self-composed songs na si Timmy na mapakikinggan sa iba't ibang digital platforms.

Ready to act again

Bukod sa pagkanta, nais din makabalik ni Timmy sa pag-arte.

"There's a five-year observation period. Kaya rin ako hindi pa ako makabalik kasi sabi ko sa sarili ko, 'Huwag mong pilitin,' kahit na natapos na. It happened in June [2016] and then in June, natanggal na, e. Then, I didn't

have to have any kind of chemo. I have this maintenance medicine for 10 years. Pero I waited for five years and the pandemic came. So, that's why seven years.

"Hinintay ko talaga yung five years. Sinabi sa akin hintayin ang five years kasi mapupuyat like, dadalhin sa akin ang script ng 7:00, 'tapos dapat nasa set na ako ng 7:30. Nakaka-stress."

Kung siya ang tatanungin, gusto raw ni Timmy na maging bahagi ng isang serye na mala-Koreanovela.

"Ang galing kasi nila roon. Pero alam ko na napakagaling na rin natin kaya sana mabigyan ng pagkakataon na maipakita ko rin kung ano 'yung mga nakatago pa."

I decided to remove one of my breasts.

From submissive to fearless characters, Andrea Torres plays it to the hilt

It's a breath of fresh air to see Andrea Torres as the fearless and feisty kontrabida Czarina in Love Before Sunrise. This character and her meek, submissive, but loving Sisa of Maria Clara at Ibarra are poles apart.

Regardless of the nature of the role, Andrea commands attention because the Sparkle GMA Artist Center actress is playing it to the hilt.

"This one is far different from the last one I did," Andrea affirmed the difference between Czarina, the empowered woman, and Sisa, the selfless mother of Basilio and Crispin, in a recent press conference. "Gusto ko kasi laging na-challenge. Gusto ko laging nag-su-surprise ng tao (I always want to be challenged. I always want to surprise the audience by playing something new)."

This speaks about Andrea's aim to portray varied roles and step up her acting game.

"And I trust my network. When they say, 'We feel this is the next (right) project for you,' gagawin ko talaga yun (I will do it)," added she, "kasi yun din ang naisip nila sa akin (That was perhaps the same thought they had for me when they tapped me) for my last one, which is Sisa."

No matter how long actors have been doing their craft, they know that every role demands painstaking preparation to study and understand the challenges that come with it.

"It's challenging for me to have Czarina that kind of lalim (character depth), na maka-relate pa rin sa kanya ang tao (and that people can still relate to her despite



the character's quirks)," said she.

Since Love Before Sunrise is about finding true love, falling out of it and giving love a second chance, the topic on having what-ifs was brought up.

"I don't have what-ifs, feeling ko kasi lahat ay may reason talaga (I feel everything happens for a reason). Light lang akong magdala ng mga nangyayari sa buhay ko (I take things lightly in my life)," concluded she. "Hindi ko iniisip masyado yung mga ganung bagay sa buhay ko (I don't think much about them). I just go with the flow, happy lang always (I am always happy)."



Marky Hugh (MH) talents pose with Catriona Gray and Sam Milby after the concert. MH produced the concert YOU-niverse.



SHOWBITS

'I did confess':

Alden Richards admits falling in love with Maine Mendoza

Kapuso actor Alden Richards admitted that he fell in love with former love team partner Maine Mendoza.

In "Fast Talk With Boy Abunda," the host asked: "Did you fall for Maine Mendoza?"

"Yes, Tito Boy. Yes po," Alden answered.

"Hypocrite po kung hindi, and yes po, ayoko pong sabihing alam niya, pero I did confess," he added.

Alden also said that his love team with Maine, popularly known as AlDub, was his biggest romance and biggest breakup.

"Romance, yes, Tito Boy. Ang daming opportunities na dumating po sa buhay ko because of it. I'm very grateful to Maine. I'm very grateful to 'Eat Bulaga,' by all means. Sincerely," Alden said.

"Kasi parang du'n ko po naramdaman na talagang when you work hard for something, si Lord, 'pag may hinihingi ka, hindi niya 'yan ibibigay sa panahong gusto mong makuha. He always has this magic of giving it at the right timing. But breakup, Tito Boy, yes," he added.

Alden said that the AlDub breakup is for both of them to grow as individuals.

"A breakup. But let's remove the negative context of breakup in this conversation with AlDub. It doesn't necessarily mean that when you're going through a breakup, laging masama, laging masakit, laging malungkot," he said.

"It was a breakup because both of us, Maine and I, we needed growth. We needed to venture into our individual life, you know, to learn [to] move," he added.

'We're gonna be married for the rest of our lives': Catriona Gray, Sam Milby enjoy wedding planning

Celebrity couple Sam Milby and Catriona Gray revealed that they are enjoying their wedding planning.

The couple was asked about their wedding preparation.

"We're just really taking out time on the planning and enjoying our time as engaged couple because we're gonna be married for the rest of our lives," Catriona said.

"We just want to enjoy," she added.

It was Sam and Catriona's first time to walk on the ABS-CBN Ball red carpet together. The couple seem like getting married in their outfits - Catriona in a sparkling white gown with baby blue boa, and Sam in a black-and-white suit by Edwin Tan.

The "Pinoy Big Brother" alumnus and Miss Universe 2018 announced that they are engaged last February.

In their respective Instagram accounts, the couple posted the same photos of them together.

"Living in an answered prayer with my best friend. I love you, fiancé (eaeaeae) @samuelmilby," Catriona captioned her post.

"I (FINALLY) put a ring on it! I love you my forever koala... now my fiancé," Sam wrote.



Kris Aquino, Boy Abunda meet up in ‘heartwarming reunion’

Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda finally saw each other since the former went to the United States to seek treatment for her auto-immune diseases.

Kris shared how touched she is by the gesture of her “other brother” from another mother in her Instagram post.

“ABANGAN! Seriously it was a heartwarming reunion. Boy freaked because I needed a shot while he was here. And he really hates needles. Nagkwento pa lang ako ng pinagdadaanan kong mga treatment at ‘yung at least 18 pieces of vitamins, supplements, as well as medicine to help prevent my migraines and protect my liver because of my chemotherapy and of course my antihistamines... parang the whole 3 hours Boy was here he was stopping himself from crying pero bumigay



din sya talaga,” she wrote. The post was accompanied by photos of them sitting outside, with a sweeping view of the ocean and hills dotted with houses or structures. Kris also revealed that respected broadcast journalist Jessica Soho was in town. She asked for “sincerest apology” after the latter asked to interview her.

She also revealed that the interview was “impromptu” using her smartphone. Mark Leviste, her boyfriend whom she recently got back again after a brief misunderstanding, was the cameraman while her son, Bimb, asked the questions.

Kris also talked about her and Boy Abunda’s relationship, including being her manager.

“Boy never asked for anything pero sa laki ng utang na loob namin sa kanya, (the entire time he managed me for my endorsements as long as it was with my sons his commission was only from my 50%, buong buo for my 2 yung talent fee- lugi nga ako kasi ‘yung 32-35% na tax sagot ko, bilin ‘yun ng mom) binigay ko ng buong buo ‘yung medyo naputol ng ilang beses na footage,” she said.

She also thanked Batangueños for “lending” their vice governor to her. She said Leviste will fly back to the Philippines, and that he will be visiting her with his kids this coming Christmas.

Kris ended her post by thanking Boy, who was her manager and co-host in several talk shows they did in the past decades.

She also greeted Boy an advanced birthday. The host/talent manager will celebrate his birthday tomorrow, October 29.

“Happy Birthday (Oct 29) to the keeper of all my secrets, the one who assured me that come what may he’ll be there for my sons, and the friend who until now fights my battles with me. To my other brother, I love you completely. #lovelove,” Kris wrote.

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‘Wala akong pakialam’: Albie Casiño on Andi Eigenmann’s life

Actor Albie Casiño has no plans to work again with ex-girlfriend Andi Eigenmann.

After the recent press conference of his new series “Can’t Buy Me Love,” Albie was asked by the press in an ambush interview if he’s willing to work with Andi again.

“Yon hindi. I can go the rest of my life without having to deal with that,” Albie said.

When asked if he has already forgiven Andi, Albie said: “Never kaming nag-usap.”

“I guess at this point of my life hindi ko na iniisip ‘yon e. Hindi ko na

binibigyan ng energy ‘yon,” he added.

Albie, however, said that he will say “hi” to Andi if they cross paths again.

“We’re humans right? Hindi naman sa pagiging plastic pero ganto lang (peace sign). Eeksena pa ba ko do’n? Hindi na,” he said.

When asked if he’s happy with Andi’s love life, Albie said he doesn’t care.

“I don’t need to say it like this pero wala talaga kong pakialam e. It doesn’t bother me, I don’t think about it,” he



said.

It can be recalled that Andi claimed that Albie was the father of her daughter back then.

Andi’s half-sister Max, however, revealed in “Good Times With Mo” that Jake is the real biological father of Andi’s daughter.

During the podcast with disc jockey Mo Twister, Max was asked to comment about the recent spat between her half-sister and the son of former president Joseph Estrada on Twitter.

“It doesn’t bother me, whatever. They’re always like that,” Max said. “You know he (Jake) is the father of my niece, right?”

Mo clarified with a follow-up question, “Yeah, not biological, right? But still, father figure.”

“No, he is. They did a (DNA) test... Yeah, he’s the dad,” Max replied.

“They’re co-parenting. That’s why he always posts photos of my niece,” she added.

Albie said then that he felt relieved after an alleged DNA test revealed that he’s not the father of Ellie.

It was in 2011 when Andi got pregnant. She pointed at ex-boyfriend Albie as the father of her child.

Filipino caregiver vows to stand by 95-year-old Israeli employer until the end



YOU-niverse concert producer Marky Hugh (MH PRODUCTIONS) takes a selfie with with Sam Milby and Catriona Gray with the audience after the concert.

Filipina caregiver, who saved her employer from Hamas militants, expressed her commitment to staying by her side indefinitely.

Camille Jesalva, a 31-year-old caregiver from Nueva Ecija, is devoted to looking after her 95-year-old patient, Nitza Hefetz, until the patient’s passing, even while working at the Gaza Strip-Israel border.

“Bakit ko iiwan ‘yung pinanagakuan kong ‘di ko siya iiwan? (Why would I abandon the one I’ve sworn never to leave?)” Jesalva said iOCTOBER 31. Jesalva was described by some Israelis as an “angel” because she offered her savings amounting to \$350 (equivalent to approximately P19,881.92) to the Hamas militants who had entered their home, all to save both of their lives.

She credited Nitza for shaping her into the person she is today, emphasizing that her patient has been her greatest teacher.

“Ayoko pa siyang makitang mamatay pa talaga. Siya ‘yung dahilan nasusuportahan ko ‘yung anak ko bilang single mom,” she said.



This photo shows a picture of Camille Jesalva (right) and Nitza Hefetz.

“I cannot forgive myself if namatay si Nitza dahil iniwan ko,” she added.

She shared her plans to take a fifty-day vacation in the Philippines to spend Christmas with her family and celebrate what she calls her “second life.”

Jesalva, having spent five years and four months as a caregiver in Israel, is no stranger to living in a “red alert” area, residing in Nirim Kibbutz on the Gaza-Israel border.

On October 7, when Hamas militants entered Israel, Nirim Kibbutz was among the first towns they reached due to its location on the border.

Jesalva said that the Philippine Embassy has confirmed her repatriation and return flight plans after her “vacation.”

As of October 30, Foreign Undersecretary Jose De Vega reported that there are still 115 Filipinos in Gaza awaiting repatriation.

DonBelle: Love cannot be measured by money

While filming their upcoming series *Can't Buy Me Love*, loveteam Donny Pangilinan and Belle Mariano — popularly known as DonBelle — were able to discover and see more of each other's passion and dedication to their craft.

Donny shared how good Belle is as an actress in the projects that they've done.

"(In this series), I was able to discover na kaya pa pala niyang maging mas mahusay. Ang galing. I thought that, you know, she's been in the industry for quite some time. (She's been here) ever since she was a kid, she knows her craft, yung atake niya ganun na lang. But no, she always surprises me and everyone with the performances she gives," he said.

"It's more of a surprise to me na yung mga binibigay niya sa mga scenes, she can do more, mas magaling and mas nag-exert pa ng ibang atake," added Donny. "It's always a proud moment for me when I see that." For Belle, it's Donny who inspires her to do better every time.

"For me mas nagiging evident kung gaano siya ka pursigido sa ginagawa niya. Like all the more I work with him, it actually also inspires me to work even harder, so I'm happy to go through this journey with him."

The series is about Bingo (Donny), a hard-working seller who wants to save up to P1M after his mother left him, and Caroline (Belle), the black sheep of a wealthy Filipino Chinese family. Their worlds will collide after Bingo saves Caroline from the kidnappers who left her almost drowning.

It's the first time that Belle will play a rich girl character and Donny the opposite. "There are a lot of new (stuff to see in the series)," explained Donny on how *Can't Buy Me Love* is different from their previous projects. There's so many new things in this series

you haven't seen in our past projects."

Echoing what director Ian Lorenos said, Donny said that the series is not the normal romantic-comedy fare.

"There are diverse genres, actually one show (with) rom-com, drama, action, thriller, mystery, everything that you can think of."

"You will feel varied emotions when you watch it. And you will also ask questions at the end of show like what will happen next? So, it's nice that we're able to portray challenges that are challenging to us. And we give a different flavor of kilig, chemistry (here) na hindi namin nabibigay dati."

On what makes DonBelle stay strong as a loveteam, director Mae pointed out that the onscreen partners have a "very transparent and evident chemistry."

"I mean, the audiences see their chemistry that's why kinikilig sila. When they have scenes, they work well together. It's like yin and yang. They have that kind of partnership and you see it on screen."

She reiterated DonBelle's "oozing chemistry." "That's the magic. Magic na hindi nabibili. You 'can't buy me' chemistry. Hahaha!" she said.

"Sobrang nakakataba ng puso every time we hear stuff like that," reacted Donny. "For us, the most important



thing talaga is we are here as a team and we are here to support each other, so the fact that we're given these types of blessings and the opportunity to tell stories, we really don't take it lightly.

"We really do our best to give it our all."

"So, I think we are just being ourselves. I really don't know honestly how to answer the question sometimes, but I'm just very blessed to go through this with you (Belle). And I hope you, guys, see that in this and I hope that reflects what the story is all about."

Belle added, "We are both grateful to be here. Thank you very much. And I just can't wait for you, guys, to watch *Can't Buy Me Love*."

'...audiences see their chemistry that's why kinikilig sila'

Asked if it's okay to go on a date even if you're broke, Belle simply answered, "Yeah because love cannot be measured by money, so it's OK."

Donny agreed and offered, "But I also think that you should also be aligned with your partner. So, if your goals are aligned na yung focus niyong dalawa is mag-date-date muna. Kasi ang hirap nun kung gusto niyo rin mag-settle eh, wala rin kayong parang savings and stuff. So, it depends on like what you both agree on. But Belle is right. You don't need money para magmahal (to love)."

'Showtime' returns; Kim Chiu turns emotional

"It's Showtime" returned to its roots as it debuted Monday, October 30, a new dance group competition, reminiscent of its original format as a pre-noon-time talent show in 2009.



Dubbed "It's Showdown," the segment was introduced alongside another fresh offering, the parlor game "Funanghalian," in the program's first regular episode after its two-week break.

For the dance contest, mainstay Kim Chiu sat as one of the judges, along with choreographers Mickey Perz and Vimi Rivera.

Before the announcement of the day's winner, Chiu turned emotional in response to both groups saying they are grateful that "It's Showtime" brought back the format, as it helps dance acts in general to reach more audiences and leap towards international opportunities.

Chiu, who is dubbed "Queen of the Dance Floor" of ABS-CBN's "ASAP," went on to pledge financial assistance for both competitors, who earlier shared they are off to Singapore and Australia, respectively, to represent the Philippines in competitions.

'Gusto ko private lang': Sandara Park opens up about her love life

Korean singer-actress Sandara Park has revealed a little bit more about her romantic relationships.

Sandara was back in the Philippines to perform at the concert of GOT7's BamBam last September 22. During that time, she made several appointments and events, including an appearance on host-actor Luis Manzano's YouTube vlog series "Luis Listens."

Luis and Sandara's relationship dates back to the first season of the talent competition "Star Circle Quest," which Luis hosted with Jodi Sta. Maria. Sandara finished as a runner-up to Hero Angeles in the said edition.

The journey from "Star Circle Quest" to becoming an established K-pop star were among the things Luis discussed with Sandara. Towards the end of the video, Luis brought up Sandara's love life, which many people

are curious about.

"Siyempre after almost 20 years, I never revealed about my love life. Gusto ko private lang!" Sandara said, admitting she did have

a boyfriend before but never shared it with the public.

Sandara teased that she never told Luis about that relationship because he might use it as content for his YouTube channel.

After recalling a past moment where he was supposed to meet up with Sandara, Luis brought the conversation back to her decision to maintain her privacy.

"Kasi when I reveal my love life — lahat tayo we can date, break up — kung malaman ng mga tao, they will talk about it forever," Sandara explained.

Luis expounded on the point that Korean stars' re-



lationships are discussed globally, whereas local showbiz relationships are often just kept among Filipinos.

The two artists also discussed the concept of

Filipino love teams, a concept that is foreign to the Korean entertainment industry. A majority of Sandara's first projects were opposite Hero before she decided to return to Korea.

Last year, Sandara revealed the name of her ex-boyfriend on a cooking show. The name was censored, but it still caught her fellow guests Park So-hyun, Red Velvet member Seulgi and YouTuber Soobingsoo by surprise.

"Don't reveal his name! Why did you do that?! I was so surprised!" said So-hyun, calming herself as Soobingsoo and Seulgi laughed.

'My knight in shining armor': Julia Montes didn't deny rumored wedding, engagement with Coco Martin

Kapamilya actress Julia Montes didn't admit nor deny that the ring she wore during the ABS-CBN Ball 2023 was a wedding or engagement ring from partner Coco Martin.

In her guesting in "Fast Talk With Boy Abunda" aired earlier today, Boy asked Julia if, "Talk or Dare."

"Parang nakaka-stress po yung dare. Talk na lang. Parang mas nahihiya po akong sumayaw sa harap ng mga tao," Julia answered.

Boy asked if the ring she wore during the ABS-CBN Ball was engagement or wedding ring.

"Let's cross the bridge when we get there. 'Yun lang, puwede ba 'yon? Okay na po 'yun, please?" Julia said. Boy also asked who is Coco for her.

"My knight in shining armor," Julia said.

Last May, Coco and Julia finally admitted that they are in a relationship since 2011.

In a report by TV Patrol, Coco said that they have been together for 12 years.

"Napakasarap ng pakiramdam namin dahil 12 years na kaming magkasama, pero pareho pa rin tulad ng dati," Coco said.

"Nilu-look forward namin kapag may project na magkasama kami and then kapag may pagkakataon, nakakalabas kami, nakikita kami ng mga tao pero name-maintain namin ang privacy sa buhay namin," he added.



Darren drops Espanto from showbiz name

From now on, singer Darren's move to change his name came in time with his first acting role in a series made available for online streaming. In the new ABS-CBN and Netflix series top-billed by "New Gen" love team DonBelle, Darren as Stephen Tanhucso, the best friend of Belle's character, Caroline, who hails from a wealthy Chinese family in the story.

At the series' press conference early this week, Darren said his decision to drop his surname goes with the kind of branding he is eyeing for the moment.

While he is not closing doors to use his surname again as public name in the future, he said, "for now, Darren na lang muna."

Darren's name change seems to be working well as his dance challenge for his latest single "Bibitaw Na" has already spawned over 1.3 million views on TikTok two weeks after the song's release. His rumored girlfriend and ABS-CBN Ball 2023 date Cassidy Legaspi is among the celebrities who have taken on the challenge.

Darren first rose to fame with his surname when he emerged as the youngest of the Canadian reality TV show "The Next Star." His singing career flourished winning second in "The Voice Kids."

He first debuted as an actor in the 2018 drama film "The Hows of Us," and played as himself as the wedding singer in the 2022 ABS-CBN series "Marry Me, Marry You."





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Judy Ann Santos explains new series about real 'artista' life

Judy Ann Santos has wrapped up filming her upcoming series adapted from a French show, "Call My Manager."

She also answered if she is open to handling other talents apart from herself.

"Finally we're done. After 10 months of filming," said the chef-actress at the sidelines of her recent launch as the ambassador of popular milk brand Alaska.

"Call My Manager" is adapted from the popular French series "Call My Agent." The Philippine adaptation is directed by Erik Matti and also stars Gina Alajar and Edu Manzano.

"It's a very, very, very fun project and I'm so excited for everyone to see it kasi it's different in a way na it showcases the real story in what's happening inside the industry. Hindi lang 'yung basta gumawa ka ng istorya at ginawa mong pelikula at ginawa mo siyang teleserye.

"Ito, nakakatawang makita o mapanood kung ano ba 'yung mga usapan ng mga managers, ng mga ar-

tista. But, of course, hindi ko naman pwedeng sabihin na lahat ng mapapanood ninyo dito ay actual na nangyayari sa tunay na buhay because it's quite unfair. Most of the scenes are, of course, exaggerated dahil fictional siya kasi nga it's a series. But may iba pinanggalingan talaga ng tunay na kwento na ino-OA na lang namin," she explained.

Judy Ann was asked if she had personal inputs in writing the story for the series since the show's plot is quite similar to her own story — that of a popular star in the glittering world of the entertainment industry.

"Ah wala, wala, wala," Judy Ann said, laughing and drawing laughter from the press.

It is not a secret that Judy Ann, who is also fondly called Juday, was



Judy Ann Santos (right in red) with event host DJ Cha Cha at her launch as the newest ambassador of milk brand Alaska.

a ward of the late talent manager, Alfie Lorenzo. She was among his stable of talents that included Gretchen Barretto, Karla Estrada and Sunshine Cruz. He died in August 2017.

Lorenzo is known for his colorful personality, often attributed as an upfront and strict talent manager.

"Baka sa susunod. Actually ito, mga nangyari na matagal na matagal na kasi ito 'yung mas masarap pag-usapan kasi 'yung mga taong involved, hindi naman dahil sa sumakabilang buhay na 'yung iba, pero dahil napagtatawanan na 'yung sitwasyon. It is a situation that everybody learned a lot from and, at the same time, 'pag pinagkwe-kwentuhan, nakakatawa na lang talaga siya," she said.

Does she have plans to manage other talents?

"Parang okay na ako i-manage ang sarili ko," Judy Ann replied.

Mark Leviste declares love anew for Kris Aquino: 'I left my heart in America'

Amid Kris Aquino's recent remarks against him, Mark Leviste once again expressed his admiration for Kris Aquino.

"The last time I checked, I left my heart in America... Sa aking pagkaalala, ibinigay at ipinaubaya ko ang aking puso sa taong mahal ko," the Batangas vice governor told entertainment writer Aster Amoyo who asked him about the current situation of his heart.

While Leviste did not immediately mention Aquino's name, it can be noted that the actress-TV host has been staying in California for her medical treatments for her autoimmune illnesses.

Amoyo went on to ask the politician if he had plans of proposing marriage to "that person," to which Leviste quipped, "Tita Aster, I'll tell you off-air. You're gonna get me into trouble."

Leviste then opted to keep private how much he loves "this person in America" but he underscored, "I think I cannot deny that my expression and even my joy says it all."

"As far as I'm concerned, walang nagbago sa akin. Mahal ko siya," he added.

Leviste finally named Aquino after he was asked about the showbiz personalities he looks up to.

"With all honesty, walang biro, walang bola—I'm a super admirer of Kris Aquino. She knows that and I'm very proud of it," he told Amoyo. "Kris is an amazing, amazing person, beautiful inside and out—super beautiful."

"I'm lucky; I'm very fortunate that she's part of my life. I've seen a different kind of Kris and I feel very blessed to be given the opportunity to witness all of this," he continued.

The politician admitted that he's not perfect and still has a lot to learn, but he noted that Aquino is one of the people who "make [him] want to be a better public servant and leader." He also showed the ring Aquino gave him, saying he always wears it as it symbolizes his "love, value for friendship and fidelity."

"Sa totoo lang, talagang ipinagmamalaki ko ang pagkatao at ang paghanga ko kay Kris Aquino. Oftentimes, she is misunderstood by some, if not many, pero once na makilala mo si Kris Aquino... She's one of the most beautiful beings I've ever met. I'm very, very proud of it," he said.





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Dear Heart, songs define Sha-Gab magic

do not know if he was aware of how far the team-up would go then. Maybe it was just another job he had to do. But composer George Canseco was one of those who planted the seeds of love in Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion and got the tandem off to a romantic start.

How did he do it? By writing a song. Come to think of it, it was not just the love team he got going, it was also Sharon herself to big time stardom.

Way back in the late '70s, George was the go-to guy for movie theme songs. Think Kapantay ay Langit, Kastilyong Buhangin, Dito Ba? and others. He had already given the young Sharon of Mr. DJ fame, a movie theme to sing, High School. It sold very well.

Then he wrote another one he wanted her to do. Langis at Tubig. He knew that her vocals could pull it off but it was for a movie about bigamy, which might not suit her teeny bopper image.

Thankfully, Vic del Rosario Jr. of Vicor, with whom Sharon was under con-



tract allowed her to do it. The movie starred Vilma Santos, Dindo Fernando and Amy Austria and was shown during the annual Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF). It was a success. So was the theme song. Sharon had another hit.

Not only that, Sharon impressed the film's director Danny Zialcita so he made a movie about young romance with her as the star. He had a strong feeling that the 16-year-old would make a good actress. Besides given the crowds of fans following her around, the picture would surely kill at the box office.

With Vicor's and that of Sharon's father Mayor Pablo Cuneta of Pasay in the bag, Danny came up with title, Dear Heart. Also very much inspired George wrote his prettiest melody. There was just one problem, they had no leading man.

The hot young heartthrobs of the time — Alfie Anido, William Martinez and Albert Martinez — had their own love teams. To solve the problem, a radio contest was held wherein fans voted for who should be Sharon's leading man. And the winner was Gabby Concepcion.

Despite her earlier pronouncement of "Not Gabby Concepcion," the Sharon-Gabby pairing on screen was electric. Dear Heart opened on July 24, 1981 and killed at the box office. The song became a huge hit and so did their version of Come What May, which was recorded to help promote the movie. Apologies to original artists Herb Alpert and Lani Hall, but here abouts Come What May is ever and always the Sharon-Gabby duet.

Dear Heart was followed by P.S. I Love

You and My Only Love and Dapat Ka Bang Mahalin, also with George theme songs performed by Sharon. The pairing had also turned real. It was a dream come true for their fans, although tumultuous in real life with break-ups, reconciliations, recriminations, tears on Sharon's part and hopefully happy moments with all the other accoutrements of difficult relationships.

George composed a promise of forever love in Sa Hirap at Gin-hawa, but not that nor the media-frenzied wedding in 1984 that made it to the foreign papers or the birth of daughter Kristina Cassandra or KC could hold the marriage together.

So much has already happened since then. George and Danny have long ago departed for the great beyond. Sharon and Gabby are married to others. But the magic remains strong. Fans hearing the old songs rekindle in their hearts how they felt about Sharon and Gabby 42 years ago.

There was just one problem, they had no leading man.

Sarah, Matteo G's couple

Showbiz power couple Sarah Geronimo and Matteo Guidicelli have unveiled their latest entrepreneurial endeavor, known as the G Studios, a dream brought to fruition that fills Sarah with gratitude.

"I'm grateful that our dream and vision have come to life, thanks to my husband's strong determination. It all stemmed from the shoots we organized during the lockdown," Sarah notes.

Curiously, the origin of the studio idea is a tale of jest

turned reality. Sarah explains, "Initially, it all started as a joke. But I told Matteo that he possesses great potential." Matteo echoes her sentiments, affirming, "Yes, it began as a lighthearted joke during the lockdown. Subsequently, we initiated G Productions, collaborating on Sarah's centers with Viva."

"Our range of services includes produc-



goal realized

ing TV commercials, capturing stunning photographs, hosting parties, dinners, anniversaries, energetic Zumba sessions, and engaging dance classes. I personally conduct dance classes here every week."

Meanwhile, the question of Matteo transitioning into a di-

rectorial role in the future is pondered. He underscores their expanded ambitions to support fellow artists at G Studios, highlighting his role in managing camera work and lighting, while also emphasizing the studio's well-equipped facilities for various creative endeavors.

Given their busy careers, many inquire about their plans for starting a family. "Hopefully, in accordance with God's perfect timing. We kindly request your prayers for this chapter in our lives," concludes Sarah.

Judy Ann Santos praises young stars as 'mahuhusay,' cites Charlie Dizon, Kathryn Bernardo, Nadine Lustre

Judy Ann Santos believes in the young crop of artistas today and revealed she would like to work with several of them.

"Nakakatuwa na ang dami talagang mahuhusay na bata. Nararamdaman mo 'yung depth ng pag-arte nila, nararamdaman mo kung gaano sila ka-involved sa projects nila," Judy Ann said. Judy Ann said she would like to work with Kathryn Bernardo, Nadine Lustre and Joshua Garcia. The actress also praised Charlie Dizon, who currently stars in the drama "Pira-pirasong Paraiso." "Si Charlie Dizon. Narinig ko siya and I saw a trailer of her movie. Sabi ko, 'Mahusay na bata ito.' Magabayan lang ng tama at mabigyan ng tamang projects. Malayo mararating niyan," she said.

While she is happy to note how involved these young stars are in their respective projects, Judy Ann has pieces



Charlie Dizon & Judy Ann Santos

of advice for them.

"At some point, gusto mo ring sabihing, 'Wag masyadong involved. Enjoyin n'yo muna itong, artista kayo.' Kasi darating naman talaga 'yung punto ng karera ninyo na pwede kayong maging super involved pero ngayon, namnamin muna nila 'yung bawat proyekto na du-

marating kasi ang daming magagaling na writers, batang directors," she explained.

She also is hopeful and happy that the local entertainment industry is slowly picking up its pace especially after the pandemic.

"It's slowly coming back and I'm happy that the movie industry is actually thriving. Kumbaga, nagsu-survive na siya. Humihinga na siya uli. Hindi na siya 50-50. So it's something to really look forward to," the actress said.

Candid SPOOF

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



Emcee Domz Kylie does double duty as crowd control at the Ian Veneracion concert.

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JDL'S 3RD SCHOOL REOPENS
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BELOW, Josie de Leon cuts the ribbon to her new JDL branch.



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'Truth will prevail':

Leren Bautista hurt by criticism over romance with Ricci Rivero

It seems that Leren Bautista is not yet done dealing

US-based motivational speaker Case Kenny which talks about certain people trying to "dim [their] light."

"A beautiful truth about life is that for every person trying to dim your light, there's another drawn to your glow," read Kenny's post, which the Los Baños councilor reposted on her Facebook page.

Meanwhile, Bautista admitted in her caption that dealing with "hurtful words scarred [her] deeply" while reminding that

rising is about "lifting others."

"Damage has been done and hurtful words have been said that scarred me deeply, but it won't stop me from doing what right. We rise by lifting others. Not the other way around," she wrote.

Bautista's post comes days after declaring that she has "no energy for hate" on social media, although she limited the people who can comment on her Facebook posts, as of this writing.

The Miss Globe 2019 second runner-up's romance with Rivero is marred with controversy, as Bautista was accused as the third party behind the baller's split with

ex-girlfriend Andrea Brillantes — to which both parties firmly denied on multiple occasions.

Bautista and Rivero's relationship, however, earned the support of the athlete's parents on social media, with the latter's father Paolo reminded about the importance of dating someone with "respect."



FV Foods owner Mel Galeon poses with Catriona Gray and Sam Milby at Sponsor's Night dinner.

Jodi Sta. Maria mas pinili noon ang love kesa showbiz career:

'Nagba-bye ako sa Pilipinas at nagpakasal ako sa Amerika'

"SINGLE mother po ako. I need it to survive!" Yan ang hugot ni Jodi Sta. Maria tungkol sa mga pinagdaanang hirap at sakripisyo bilang isang nanay.

Never naisip ng Kapamilya actress na sumuko sa lahat ng mga pagsubok na dumating sa kanyang buhay lalo na nang isilang niya ang panganay na anak nila ni Pampi Lacson na si Thirdy.

She recalled her decision to leave the Philippines to live in the United States and start a new life. Aminado si Jodi na mas pinili niyang makasama ang dati niyang asawang si Pampi at ang anak nilang si Thirdy at iwan muna ang kanyang buhay at showbiz career sa Pilipinas.

Sa panayam ng "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda", hindi naging madali para sa kanya ang makabalik sa showbiz mula nang umuwi siya ng Pilipinas noong 2007. Matagal-tagal din siyang naghintay bago ang kanyang "re-establishment" bilang aktres. Sey ni Jodi, bilang isa nang single mom that time (matapos silang maghiwalay ni Pampi), kinailangan niyang magtiis para sa kanyang anak.

Pag-alala ni Jodi, ni-launch siya ng ABS-CBN at Star Magic sa isang variety show noong 1998, "Masaya na ako na nakita ako sa TV. Kasi 'di ba kapag bata ka, 'yun lang naman ang gusto mo, makita ka sa TV, makita ka ng mga kaklase mo, makita

ka ng mga kapitbahay.

"Yun lang talaga ang goal. Pero habang tumatagal siguro mas lumalaki 'yung pangarap,' kuwento ng aktres.

"Siyempre pinangarap ko rin naman talaga na sumikat," sey ni Jodi na noong 2005 ay bini-build up na siya ng Kapamilya network bilang isang leading lady.

"But then during that time, I chose love. So nagba-bye po ako sa Pilipinas at nagpakasal po ako sa Amerika.

"A year later bumalik po ako ng Philippines, and then I told one of the BUH (business unit head) na, 'Puwede ko bang mabalikan kung ano 'yung mga proyekto na nakalaan na naiwanan ko?'

"And then I remembered this person telling me, 'Jodi it doesn't work that way. You have to re-establish yourself,'" aniya pa.

Kinailangan daw niyang maghintay ng halos anim na taon para makabalik sa dating estado ng kanyang career, "I'd say na masaya po ako kasi may work. But then I was also waiting kung kailan darating 'yung time ko, gaano ba katagal 'yung re-establishing ng sarili?'"

"Wala po akong choice kundi magpatuloy. Because during that time, single mother po ako. I need it to survive. Kailangan po para sa amin ng anak ko,"

FIL from p7

different community from the Philippines and then in Northern Ontario, Canada. Now, fresh challenges and responsibilities are upon Richard Farillon Llanera as an educational leader, that of being a Principal aka. "school prince". A great inspiration, indeed! Good luck and God bless, Chad! (Tony A. San Juan, OCT).

Richard Llanera's First Day High for the school year 2023- 2024 from his facebook page



paliwanag ni Jodi.

Jodi at Pampi married in March, 2005 in Nevada, USA which was followed by a civil wedding in the Philippines in June, 2005.

They separated in 2011.



IAN Veneracion thrills T.O.



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2. BK Jimenez reunites with Ian
3. Philip and Marites beloso meet Ian
4. Von Canton and group tours Ian in Toronto
5. Ryza Quijano performs at Ian's concert
6. JDL students performs at Ian's concert.
7. Lorna and friends gets a selfie with Ian.



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What Ricky Davao and Krystal Brimner consider their silver lining

Ricky Davao, who plays lead in the musical "Silver Lining," which aims to take its audience back to the most challenging times of the '70s, said a workshop had to be conducted first to orient the younger cast members on what happened during the martial law period.

"This is so that the young ones will be able to relate. There were a lot of things they had to absorb first, like the terminologies used during that era, as well as the way of thinking of those who lived then," Ricky told Inquirer Entertainment in an interview after a special preview of the show prior to its public screening that started on Oct. 22.

"Silver Lining" is a journey of rediscovery in two timelines—the 1970s and today. It is about understanding the struggles and conflicts of both periods through mirthful moments and potent drama.

The movie follows three friends Leo (Ricky), Anton (Joel Nuñez) and Raul (Raul Montesa), now in their senior years, who have gotten together to form a band for their golden anniversary homecoming. They've pulled together their wives and teenage kids to help them. But

conflict arises when Leo suggests that they create a musical about their lives instead.

"The story is very positive,

What stood out for me was how the characters overcame their problems. When it came to dealing with mental health, they all



What Ricky Davao and Krystal Brimner consider their silver lining.

that's what I liked most about it," admitted Ricky. "Although we had to tackle politics-related issues, this couldn't be avoided because people really experienced this during the so-called First Quarter Storm. I actually met some of the people that the characters in the story are based on."

Meanwhile, Krystal Brimner plays young Julia, a character who Leo falls in love with in college. Krystal, 16, said she auditioned for the project because both the story and the cast are "multigenerational."

'Not the usual'

She added: "It's not the usual musical that you see nowadays.

understood where each of them was coming from in the end."

In trying to find where she and Julia are similar in terms of personality, Krystal said: "Julia is very persistent. She fights for what she wants. I relate to her in that way. To all the Julias of today, keep fighting for what you want and for the people you care for."

She added that becoming a part of the musical was actually her silver lining. "I'm happy that I got to go back to theater. It's been a long time. This is like my comeback," she said. Prior to "Silver Lining," Krystal was seen in "Annie" in 2016, "Sound of Music" in 2017, and "A Christmas Carol" in 2018.

"I wish people would come and see theater more. I'm so

passionate when it comes to theater. It's everything I love in one production—dancing, singing and acting. It means so much to me when people come and see theater shows because they're so much different from movies and TV. I hope to audition for 'Miss Saigon' soon. To do that is really my dream, as well as to be part of 'Hamilton,'" said Krystal.

Meanwhile, Ricky also considers the show his silver lining.

"When this was offered to me, I immediately read the script and found it cute. I agreed to do it, even though I was part of a teleserye at the time and was still waiting for some directorial jobs. I said, 'When will I ever get to play a lead role in a musical again at my age?' I love to sing and act, and here, I get paid to do both," he explained.

The first two weeks of a two-month-long rehearsal were stressful for him, said Ricky. "I had to learn a lot of songs. I'm now too lazy to learn new songs. In fact, if you ask me to sing, I can confidently sing only the

standards, the classics. For this, I had to study almost all of the songs because, while I may not be part of all of them, I'm also in the chorus," he said. "I couldn't get all the songs into my head... even up to now. I hope people don't notice. After all, a play is live, it's very organic. A mistake becomes part of the scene. Doing live theater gives you a different high," he said.

Ricky's last stage play was



Ricky Davao (L) and Krystal Brimner

"Baka Naman Hindi" in 2018. He was also part of the musical "Contra Mundum: Ang All-Star Concert ng 'Ang Larawan'" early this year.

"I keep going back to theater because I consider it food for my soul. It's not all about money, fame or popularity. This one is a gamble. I really hope it will be a hit. That would be a silver lining, too," he declared.

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‘Don’t read the comments’: Pia Wurtzbach supports, advises Philippines’ Miss Universe bet Michelle Dee

Miss Universe 2015, Pia Wurtzbach, has complete confidence in Michelle Dee as she represents the Philippines in this year’s Miss Universe pageant.

The 72nd Miss Universe coronation event will take place in El Salvador on Nov. 19.

When asked what she thought about Michelle’s chances to become the fifth Filipino to win the Miss Universe title, Pia said, “We’re ready.”

“We’ve produced winners. We have that advantage. And what I love about Michelle, she’s very clear about her vision, she knows what she wants, and she also says it.

“She’s firm about it but in a very sweet and gentle way. It’s very queenly. You really need somebody who’s firm in her stance. She knows na gusto niya yung hair niya na ganun. She knows her advocacy. She knows what she wants to talk about. She knows what kind of styling to go for. And I appreciate that in a winner. So, I’m very excited to see what she has in store for us.”

Pia shared that she had a brief conversation with Michelle during the recent Avon fun run in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month and had a sneak peek at her gown. She said, “I loved it!”

She’s going to have a longer chat with Michelle this

week before the latter leaves for abroad.

“I’m actually gonna have a moment to speak to her, mas private and mas matagal this week. And I’m already preparing little notes that she must remember, just to make her experience a little easier. Trivial things nalang ‘to like ‘wag mong kalimutan i-pack ganito, ganyan, just so she can get into a nice routine every day. I think they will be there for three weeks. So medyo mahaba yung competition nila,” she said.

Former Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach is joined by Miss Universe Philippines Michelle Dee during the Fun Run to Boob Love event to promote awareness against breast cancer.

As for her advice to Michelle, she just wants her to embrace the whole Miss Universe experience.

“I have a lot of advice, haha, but one thing that comes to mind right now is to simply savor the experience, have a strategy, stick to the plan, and when it comes to social media, people will be waiting for updates, and they will rely on her postings for her activities,” Pia said.

“I mean, people are going to be looking at pageant pages for updates but people also want to see what she will be posting. So plan that, but don’t read the comments. Don’t read the comments, girl! It’s tempting but

it’s time to focus on the bigger thing, which is the goal and that’s the crown.”

Meanwhile, Pia welcomed the recent developments within the Miss Universe competition. Over the past year, the Miss Universe Organization has been introducing significant changes to the eligibility criteria, permitting mothers, married women, pregnant contestants and women of all ages to participate in the pageant. These new rules are expected to be in place for this year’s edition.

“I’m very open to the changes happening now, in-expect naman natin na magiging mas inclusive na ang Miss Universe. I think it’s going in the right direction because isipin mo nga naman, ano ba ang Miss Universe? Like, what are her roles? She’s a spokesperson, she’s an inspiration, she will be using the platform to push for her advocacies and her causes as well,” she said.

“Kung iisipin mo, may age limit ba yun? ‘Di ba wala naman talaga? Parang these are things that should be pushed by women, regardless of their age, regardless if they’re married or not, regardless if they’re 5’3” or 6’2”.

“Like, bakit nga ba may restrictions? Parang I sometimes go back to that question, bakit nga ba may age limit? Bakit nga ba may height requirement? Bakit nga ba women lang or exclusive lang sa women before? And we always have to go back to what our definition of Miss Universe is, and if it’s still the same as my time where she’s a spokesperson, she has to inspire, she has to push for her causes, why can’t it be anyone?

“And this opens the doors to so many more women who, in a way, missed out on the chance because they reached the age limit or because they had already decided to start a family and couldn’t compete again. So now, our wishlist is getting longer because we have former candidates who are considering a comeback, and that makes it even more interesting.”

Pia has her own list of women she hopes will grace the Miss Universe Philippines stage again.

One beauty queen she is keen on seeing return is Christi McGarry, who was crowned Bb. Pilipinas Intercontinental when Pia finally won the Miss Universe Philippines title.

“Christi McGarry is also a really good friend of mine,” she noted.

“She kinda pivoted her career into hosting, DJ-ing and modeling now. She also has a few businesses. And she’s very tall and very morena, Pinay, ang ganda din.

“I think it will be so interesting to see somebody who decided to let go of pageants, but now that the

restrictions are off, decide to try again,” said Pia, who famously made three attempts before securing the spot to represent the country at Miss Universe.

“Ang ganda din ng kwento na ganun na nagbalik loob. So, sila yung mga naisip ko. Marami sa mga mothers eh. Mga kasabayan ko rin sila kaya.”

Also on her wishlist is Alaiza Malinao, a beauty queen and model from Davao City, who became a Miss Universe Philippines 2020 finalist.

“I’ve been seeing her posts. She’s very open (about her life), she shares about motherhood, she’s a working mother now. I can envision it. I don’t

know if it’s her goal. Sorry Alaiza if I’m putting you on the spot, but I’m sure I’m not the only one,” observed Pia.

On the topic of family and motherhood, she opened up about her own aspirations now that she is Mrs. Jauncey.

“Definitely, one day, we want to have a family, we want to have kids. Jeremy loves the idea of a big family. Then that means, I’m gonna take a break haha! But, you know, he’s also very supportive of my career. We’ve agreed that we take this time to focus on our careers now and work towards our goal. We’re not in a hurry naman. I’m just glad I have somebody who’s very supportive in all of the decisions I make.”

Pia tied the knot with Scottish businessman Jeremy Jauncey in Seychelles last March 24, with the announcement following almost two months after on May 5.

When asked about her married life, she said, “I don’t feel much of a difference from when we were engaged. Except that now I’m getting used to being called Mrs. Jauncey already. Nung una parang ‘di pa ako sanay. I’m excited because I feel very safe in the relationship.”

Pia also shared how big of an influence Jeremy is in her life, not just personally but professionally as well.

“Jeremy has really been a big guiding light for me when it comes to all aspects of my life. Even my career. Like he gives good business advice, he pushes me to try things that I wanna do, he pushes me to go for my book. I mean the book was already finished bago ko pa siya nakilala. But he just pushes me to go for the things that I want and that’s a really nice feeling.”

Pia is National Book Store’s bestselling author for her first novel, Queen of the Universe. It’s now available in Singapore and set to launch in the US, Australia, Canada, UAE, and the UK later this year. The e-book version will be accessible worldwide starting on Nov. 7.

Queen of the Universe is published by Tuttle Publishing, one of the oldest American publishing houses, and the world’s largest publisher of books about Asia. ABS-CBN Books represents Pia in this literary venture. The book can be found at National Book Store and Fully Booked branches in the Philippines, as well as at Kinokuniya and Times Bookstores in Singapore. For US-based readers, pre-orders are available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.



Pia finally reunited with her first runner-up Ariadna Gutierrez of Colombia eight years after the controversial coronation moment. The two met in Paris, France during the Paris Fashion Week just last month.



Pia on building a family with Scottish husband Jeremy Jauncey: ‘Definitely, one day, we want to have a family, we want to have kids. Jeremy loves the idea of a big family.’

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Angel Locsin proves one can live without social media

One might expect celebrities to be active on social media 24/7. It's widely perceived, if not outright believed, that social media helps celebs maintain their visibility, relevance and engagement with fans. They leverage their social media presence to promote projects, endorsements and personal brand, among other things.

That's why it's puzzling to many of her followers, even the showbiz press, why Angel Locsin has been M.I.A. or missing in action on her online platforms for over a year now.

During the pandemic, the Kapamilya star was one of the most active and outspoken figures on social media. As an activist, she frequently utilized her platforms to generate awareness for advocacies and causes. She wasn't spared from online criticism and controversies, largely stemming from her strong stance on socio-political matters. But the actress also didn't shy away from addressing issues on her social media.

However, her last post on Instagram, where she has 9.3 million followers and which has since been set to private, was in August 2022. Her YouTube

channel, which offered a fun and intimate look into her marriage with businessman and film producer Neil Arce, last uploaded a video in August 2022 as well.

Speculations about her sudden and unexplained "disconnection" from the online world range from pregnancy, being abroad to marital issues, health-related reasons, and so on. But it appears now that she simply wanted a more peaceful life.



Angel with Dimples and Bea Alonzo.

According to her close friend Dimples Romana, Angel may have withdrawn from the public eye, but she hasn't disappeared from life altogether. She further shared

that Angel is happier minus the constant social media activity. She's enjoying married life with husband Neil.

Dimples got asked for updates on Angel upon briefly mentioning the latter as one of her showbiz friends who expressed support for the launch of her own skincare brand, Dreamcake.

Asked by The STAR if the former Darna star was aware that people have been "looking for her," Dimples replied, "She's very much aware, haha. And

she's very much happier you're all looking for her. It's touching her heart haha. Yun lang. Kasi ang saya 'di ba? Don't we all love that? Na parang wala muna akong social media, dito muna ako, 'di ba ang saya?"

"If I had that luxury, why not? But hindi pwede, mahal ang paglipad ni Ate sa Australia," she added, referring to her daughter Callie who's taking up aviation studies abroad.

Dimples, nevertheless, emphasized that Angel's indefinite so-called hiatus doesn't mean she's not busy.

"Alam niyo, hindi porke't hindi niyo siya nakikita online... she's busy. Especially in my life, she is ever-present. In fact, 'pag tinatanong niyo nga ako, 'dun ko lang naiisip ay oo nga pala hindi siya nagpapakita sa lahat. But kasi, I'm happy and fortunately able to see her."

Dimples continued, "I just have to visit her because she is there at home. I will tell you she's so happy, she's very light, she's so giddy when I talk to her, I love the sight of her. If you miss her, please know that she's doing well, she's happy living her married life with Neil."

She indicated that Angel has even reduced phone usage that they connect through in-person visits instead.

"She's been asking about things

that are happening in my life now kasi 'di siya sumasagot sa phone, by the way. It's an old school kind of visiting. Yung tipong hindi pa uso yung mga telegrama. Pupunta ka lang sa bahay. Ganun yung relasyon namin ngayon."

Dimples recalled her recent visit to Angel's home. "Nakakatawa kasi 'pag dating ko sa bahay nila... si Gel kasi, kilala niyo sya, 'pag nagbabanyo ang tagal haha! Alam niyo that of her kasi talagang matagal, talagang hours siya naliligo.

"So kami muna ni Neil, nag-bonding hanggang sa kailangan ko na umalis and sabi ko sa kanya, 'Mars, ano na, lalabas ka ba or aalis na ako?' 'Hindi lalabas na ako.' Usap lang kami sa pintuan. So she came out and you know, I'm always so happy to see her.

"Because isn't that a dream of ours when you just stop with social media and live a life that is simple, comfortable and happy, or somewhat detached muna from the world? Sometimes kasi, the way we consume social media gets to us eh. Minsan nga nagkakaroon tayo ng anxiety because we consume so much, we're unable to control ourselves.



Dimples Romana on Angel Locsin's long absence from the public eye: She's so happy and she's currently living a contented life with her businessman-husband Neil Arce.

"And I'm so happy with Gel, it came to a point, of course, with the help of Neil, to just detach a little bit. It has done her very, very well."

While her "comeback" on social media and showbiz in general remains uncertain, Angel is also proving that it's possible to live without social media.

When asked when Angel might reappear in public or return to the screens, Dimples admitted, "No, I don't know, and it's not something that I want to ask of her also because I see that she's so happy eh."

"Di ba pag-kaibigan ka and you see your friend happy, ba't ko siya idadamay, halika dito, damay-damay tayo dito, ayoko 'di ba? Gusto ko nga ako idamay niya dun eh. Gusto ko nga sabihin niya sa akin, 'Dimples, dito ka muna.' Hindi niya gagawin yun kasi ang daldal ko. Siempre, ayaw niya ng makulit dun. Gusto niya ako dun in small doses," she concluded.

Singer Krisssha Viaje on unexpected shift to acting

All Krisssha Viaje wanted was to become a recording artist. She first tried her luck in show biz at the age of 12, entering the singing contest “Little Big Star” Season 2, where she finished second. In 2017, she was launched as part of the pop group GirlTrends. In the same year, she represented the Philippines and Asia in Nippon TV’s “I Can Sing in Japanese,” a contest for non-Japanese singers held in Tokyo.

Krisssha was also part of Team Philippine All-Stars, which won the top prize at the 2018 “Nodojiman: The World” competition in Japan.

Needless to say, Krisssha thought she would continue down that same path when she signed with Viva Artists

Agency two years ago. But the company’s big boss Vic del Rosario Jr. had other plans.

“I wanted to pursue singing or performing, but Boss Vic had a different vision. He gave me acting projects and roles. So, I couldn’t help but ask, ‘Why?’ But the people around me said, ‘Because Boss Vic sees something in you. I’m so thankful for that. Now I have to take acting more seriously,” she told the Inquirer at a press conference for “Safe Skies, Archer.”

The series, which streams soon on Viva One, is Krisssha’s first lead role and her biggest break yet as an actress.

“I’m giving acting my all now, so that I don’t get

boxed in as just a singer and dancer. I’m a singer who can act. Or you can say an actress who can sing,” said Krisssha, who also joined contests like “Tawag ng Tanghalan” and “Idol Philippines.”

For Krisssha, who has played minor roles in past Viva shows and films, like Nadine Lustre’s “Greed,” acting is as challenging as it is fulfilling.

“It’s super challenging. I find crying scenes challeng-



ing, because I’m used to crying alone. It’s hard for me to shed tears and express sadness in front of others. But obviously, you can’t just keep your emotions to yourself in acting. You have to show them ... That’s what I have been learning from workshops,” she said.

Challenge accepted

“But I also enjoy it... I have realized that, in life, you’re presented with things that you don’t notice because you’re looking or are focused elsewhere. But Boss Vic made me realize that I can act as well,” she added. “And I accepted that challenge.”

“Safe Skies, Archer” is the second installment of writer Gwy Saludes’ popular “University Series,” which has 610 million reads on the fiction writing and reading platform Wattpad.

The story follows Yanna (Krisssha), a “sexually empowered tourism student,” and Hiro (Jerome Ponce), a dashing young pilot and mechanical engineering student. Their relationship starts off with no strings attached, but things eventually become complicated as Yanna starts to develop feelings for Hiro—this despite her knowing that he will leave her anyway to pursue his dreams abroad. Five years later, they meet again and realize that they’re not yet over each other. “I didn’t have a hard time working with Jerome; he was very generous as an actor. He helped me with some of our scenes, too,” Krisssha said.

‘A little bit nervous’

While the series—directed by Gino Santos— is mostly youth-oriented, there will be a smattering of mature, more intimate scenes. “I was able to prepare myself ahead; I knew that there would be scenes like that. But Jerome had no idea, so he was a little bit nervous in one of our early takes. We did it on our second taping day and he was still shy to hold me,” Krisssha related. But the more time they spent together, the more comfortable they became with each other. “We’re just starting out, so we’re trying to enjoy each other’s company. We hang out so we can strengthen our connection. We’re not rushing anything,” she said. In the books, Yanna’s character is half-American, fair-skinned and brown-eyed. That’s why Krisssha who is a morena beauty ended up receiving online hate from some fans.

“I got bashed ... I didn’t think I could play Yanna at first. I’m an anime fan myself and I watch live-action adaptations. I also express things I don’t like, so I do understand them,” she pointed out.

But thanks to the trust of her management and people who believe in her, Krisssha was able to imbibe her character. “They made sure to tell me that I could do this. ‘Ikaw na ‘yan,’ they reassured me,” she said, adding that, with the help of Direk Gino and Gwy, she was able to stick to the essence of Yanna’s character. “I asked about my character’s background, where she’s coming from.”

Besides, it’s about time she started taking risks in her career. “This project made me realize that I have to start a new chapter ... My choices in the past were mostly safe. I was afraid to take risks. But now, I finally did,” she said.



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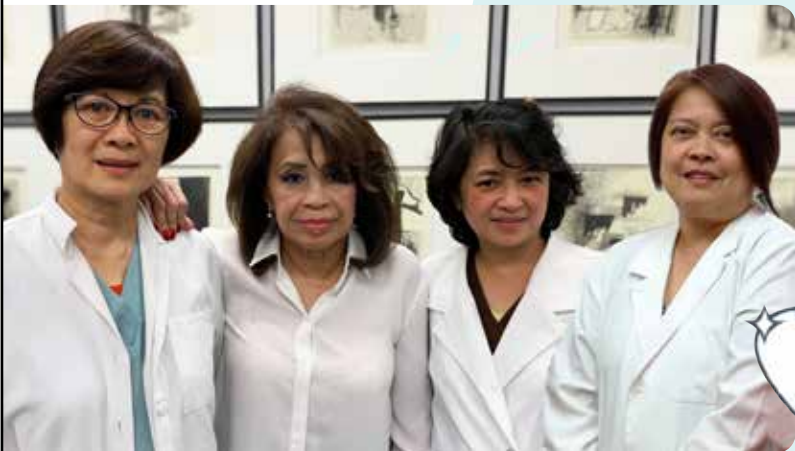
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