



LM confidential



“Hearing one say, ‘Life is hard,’ I’m always tempted to ask, ‘Compared to what?’” Sydney J. Harris

The Old Man and The West Phl Sea

Mr Atay’s concern for the crew’s safety outweighs the lure of a significant catch.

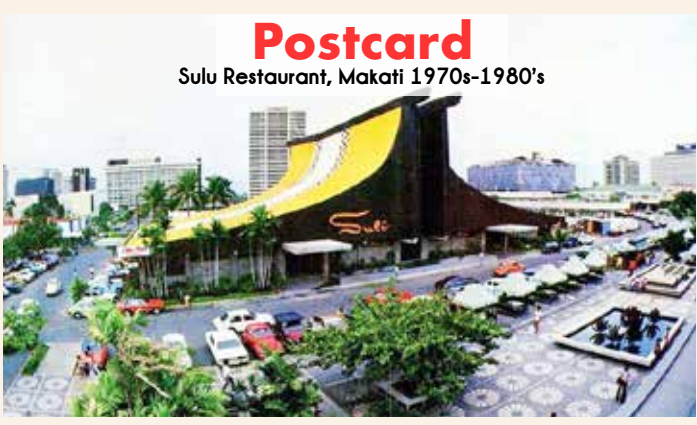
“We’re scared of China,” fisherman Benjo Atay says as wind and rain batter his small bamboo boat on the island of Palawan in the Philippines. He shouts orders at his young crew, most of them

family, as they haul on ropes to navigate out of the port. They are already bathed in salt water and sweat - but it is not the weather that frightens them. “The Chinese ships circle

us and shadow us,” he says. “When we are anchored... they would force us to leave. They would get rid of us.” The Philippines is at the centre of a tense territorial standoff with Beijing in the

South China Sea. “We are worried [about rising tensions], of course, but that doesn’t daunt us,” said Jonathan E Malaya, the assistant director general of the Philippines National Security

Council. In recent months, the Philippines has given the US access to key military bases, hosted the largest-ever joint military drills between the two coun- **FISHING page 15**



Postcard
Sulu Restaurant, Makati 1970s-1980's

Jake Ejercito twit Go Viral

Slams hypocrisy of Duterte senators wearing West Philippine Sea t-shirts during FIBA Philippine game versus China

Jake Ejercito once again proved that he is a politically-aware celebrity after he seemingly poked fun at certain politicians who were seen wearing “West Philippine Sea” shirts during the Sept. 2 FIBA World Cup game between Gilas Pilipinas and China at the Araneta Coliseum.



FIBA stands for the International Basketball Federation, in which the Philippine team ended its losing streak with a sweet 96-75 win over China. most interest by his followers was his post on X (formerly Twitter), wherein he appeared to troll some politicians who were also at the game and were seen sporting the “West Philippine Sea” shirts.

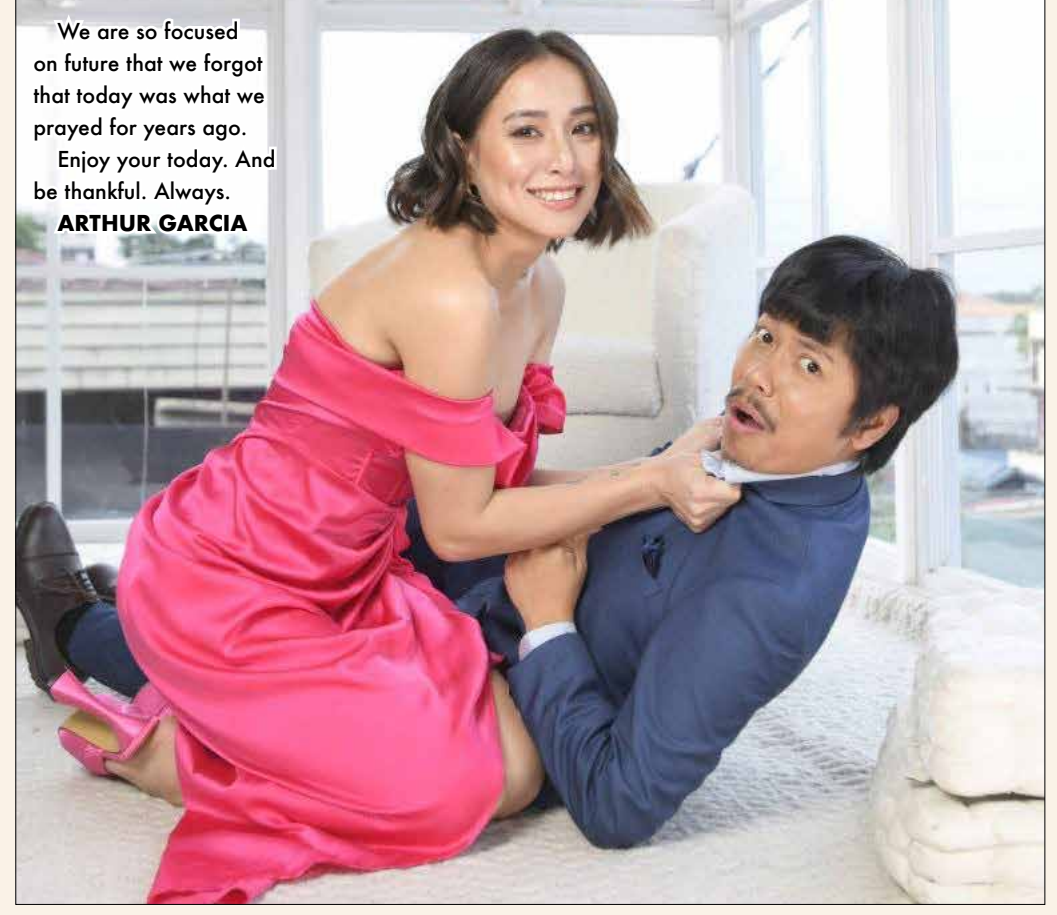
Ejercito was among those who watched the Gilas game against China, along with his daughter Elle, and posted snippets of the game on his Instagram. However, he couldn’t help but take a dig at China as he cheered on the Philippine team.

“West Philippine Sea is ours!!” he captioned his Instagram post. But what captured the

But while he did not mention any names, his followers happily supplied which politicians he could be referring to. Senators Christopher “Bong” Go, Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, and Joel Villanueva also gave clues in their **EJERCITO page 21**

CRISTINE EMPOY reyes marquez Beauty & The Funny in a Movie

We are so focused on future that we forgot that today was what we prayed for years ago. Enjoy your today. And be thankful. Always. **ARTHUR GARCIA**



Swimsuit dropped from Beauty Pageants

There are other ways to showcase a candidate’s physique

MANILA -- Miss Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach shared her thoughts about the removal of the traditional swimsuit competition in the new national pageant The Miss Philippines. Based on its social media

post, The Miss Philippines said it is “reinventing pageantry to come up with an event unlike any other.” This includes dropping the swimsuit segment. Wurtzbach said she fully understands the move to re-

move the swimsuit portion, which is one of the staples in beauty pageants. “Honestly I am only learning about this today. I still don’t fully understand the difference between The Miss **SWIMSUIT p17**

Mariah Carey shouts-out to Filipinos starting Christmas early PAGE 9

Robi Domingo, Maiqui Pineda to push wedding despite battle vs rare autoimmune disease

MANILA – Host Robi Domingo revealed that he is the “groomzilla” as he is working on the preparations of his wedding with fiancée Maiqui Pineda, who is battling a rare autoimmune disease.

In his recent interview with the media, Robi revealed that he suggested to Maiqui that they delay their wedding, but she declined.

“We talked about it. And honestly, because of her condition, I was the one who told her

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Earl Dacara, president of Bicol Canada Community Association pose beside Action Honda Manager Rafael Nebres at the Bicol picnic at Earl Bales Park.

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baka dapat i-delay natin ng konti, kasi medyo iniisip ko na ‘yung health niya. And then, siya ‘yung nagsabi na, ‘Don’t. Give me something to hope for,’” Robi said.

“And upon hearing that siyempre, iyak ako. ‘Lalaban tayo, lalaban,’” he added.

Robi also told the press that his fiancée is now getting better.



Robi Domingo proposes to his girlfriend of four years, Maiqui Pineda, during their trip to Japan in 2022.

“Long way to go pero malayo doon sa image ko na nakikita ko sa kanya nasa hospital bed. Now she can walk properly,” he said.

“Of course, ang dami kong question especially about my faith. Bakit siya? Bakit ngayon pa? Bakit sa dinamirami ng tao, bakit kami pa ‘yung naapektuhan? But you have to cling



Philip Beloso, President of Dolorosa Quezon presides over the Dolorosa Fiesta last September 2 at Our Lady of Fatima church.

talaga ako.

“Now, we have accepted the fact that we have a working prognosis, not just in terms of her health pero how we could fix our relationship, not just with us but with the Lord,” he added.

The host also said that he is the one doing the wedding preparations.

“Ako ang groomzilla ngayon. Ako ang nagha-handle ng lahat ng mga bagay kaya medyo nakaka-pressure, nakaka-stress. But it’s the details that count eh na, okay kailangan ako na bahala, relax ka na diyay,” he said.

Maqui was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease called Dermatomyositis, a condition that causes muscle weakness, inflammation and skin rash.

on to those strands of faith. And also just looking at her and her progress, ‘yun ang nagbibigay ng lakas sa akin na, ‘Ah okay lumalaban siya.’ ... Mas iyakin

JC Santos never crossed boundaries with Bela Padilla

Acclaimed actor JC Santos shared genuine friendship with on-screen partner Bela Padilla and revealed the no romantic feelings throughout their collaborative journey.

In a presscon for their reunion film, “Wish You Were The One,” JC opened up about his profound connection with Bella.

Despite their on-screen chemistry, JC said that his camaraderie with Bela has always

remained rooted in genuine friendship, devoid of romantic feelings.

“Kapag sumagad sa idea sa in real life, mawawala yung magic na nagbibigay namin sa audience. We are really good friends, so hindi namin hinayaang mawala yung ininvest natin sa isat-isa,” JC said.

On the other hand, Bela echoed JC’s sentiments, highlighting the utmost respect they hold for each other and their respective partners.



“We respect each other and our partners so much ...before JC got married, we never got to a point na we were both single,” Padilla said.

JC married Shyleena Herrera, his former schoolmate, and eventually built a family in 2020; meanwhile, Bela continues to revel in her joyous singlehood.

Their upcoming romantic comedy film, “Wish You Were The One,” also features model-actress Frankie Russell and musician-actor Kian Cipriano.

This film marks the sixth collaboration for the dynamic duo, following their successful partnership in previous films such as “100 Daang Tula Para Kay Stella” (2017), “The Day After Valentine’s” (2018), “On Vodka, Beers, and Regrets” (2020), and Padilla’s film “366” (2022).

Notably, they also shared the screen in “Miracle in Cell No. 7” (2019), although they were not paired there.

Jennica Garcia not yet ready for love and “next blow of heartbreak”

Sa kabila ng naging karanasan niya sa pag-ibig, naniniwala pa rin si Jennica Garcia sa kasal.

“I do, of course! I do believe in marriage,” bulalas nito.

May paglilinaw ng aktres, “But to be honest, it’s something that I do not see myself doing it again, sa ngayon.”

Tatlong taon na siyang hiwalay kay Alwyn, at inaayos na rin ang annulment ng kanilang kasal.

Sa pagpapatuloy ni Jennica, “Hindi po natin alam baka magbago sa susunod, pero sa ngayon, hindi ko po talaga ma-imagine.

“Kasi po pag iniisip ko ang marriage, parang magtitiwala ulit ako nang buong-buo sa isang tao, ibibigay ko uli yung sarili ko.

“Hindi ko po kasi alam kung kaya ko pa pong i-survive yung next blow of heartbreak.”

Pero hindi ba’t marami siyang natutunan mula sa failed marriage niya, at alam na rin niya ang mga weaknesses?

Sa naunang na-publish na article, binanggit ng celebrity mom na isa siyang “duwag, sobrang submissive, at minsan ay uto-uto.”

Paano i-a-apply ni Jennica ang mga natutunan kapag handa na siyang umibig muli?

“Paano ko siya ia-apply? Alam niyo po kasi, mahirap na talaga akong ma-in love ngayon, pa-tatlong taon na tayong single.

“Pero habang patagal nang patagal parang mas, kasi, siyempre, natututo ka na, marunong ka nga manood ng sine

mag-isa, kumain mag-isa, tapos you feed yourself.

“And not just that, you also feed others.”



More or less, alam na ng aktres ang mga hinahanap sa susunod na partner.

“Yung parang kaya ko na po yung...sana po hindi mayabang yung dating niya.

“So pakiramdam ko po, pag may dating na bago, I can very much differentiate a red flag from a green flag now.”

NOT IN A RUSH TO FALL IN LOVE AGAIN

Naka-move on na raw siya, at naka-adjust na rin sa buhay bilang single mom sa dalawa niyang anak—Mori and Alessi.

“Yung parang nagkakaroon ka na kasi ng kumpiyansa sa, nagkakaroon na po ako ng kumpiyansa sa sarili ko na parang, ‘Jennica in fairness sa iyo,’ yung parang ganun.

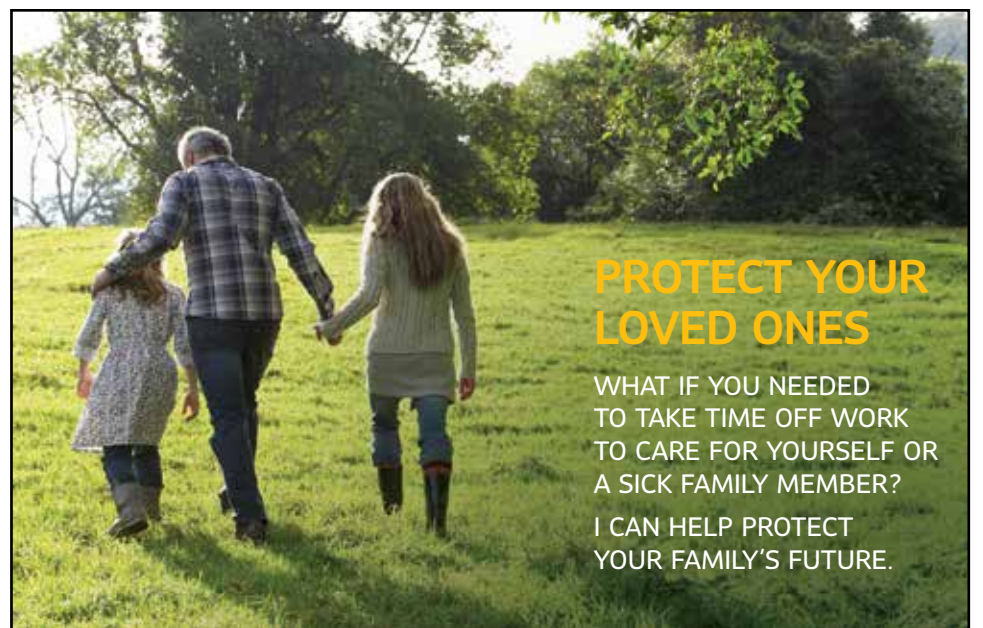
“May mga ganun na akong moments.

“So pakiramdam ko po, yung bagong pag-ibig o para mahulog yung loob ko sa iba, dapat talaga magaling po siya, kasi paano iyan, magaling na din ako,” at tumawa si Jennica.”

Hindi raw ganoon kadali ang naging healing process niya.

“...talagang ginapang ko po kasi yung healing ko, e, parang pag iniisip ko natutuwa din po ako na ang layo na po ng naitawid ko sa sarili ko, most especially with my mental battles.”

Kaya ayaw daw niyang madaliin ang mga bagay-bagay lalo pa’t may mga responsibilidad siya, at, higit sa lahat, mas



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Life’s brighter under the sun



natuto na siya.

“I don’t wanna awaken kasi love.

“When I say that I don’t want to awaken love, I don’t want to look for it, I don’t want to date anyone at the moment exclusively.

“It’s because I feel that if I’m gonna date just one person, I feel that mabilis na namang mahulog yung loob ko.

“And it’s really difficult to date right now, because I have two kids.

“And so when I’m dating, kailangan titingnan mo siya hindi lang siya parang good partner for you, but would he make a good father also to my children.

“So, sa larangan na yun, baka 2025 pa po tayo,” sabay-tawa muli ni Jennica.

Giit niya, “Pero sa ngayon parang medyo wala pa po.”

Yassi Pressman, Governor Luigi Villafuerte still in “getting to know each other more” stage

Binigyang-linaw ni Yassi Pressman ang tunay na estado ng ugnayan nila ni Camarines Sur Governor Luigi Villafuerte.

Sinabi ni Yassi na matagal na silang magkaibigan ng politiko.

Aniya, “Me and Luigi have known each other for a very long time. Parang 10 years na kaming magkakilala.

“So now, we’re just spending more time together and getting to know each other more.”

Naugnay ang pangalan ng dalawa dahil sa sunud-sunod na ang sightings sa pagitan ng aktres at ni Luigi.

Una silang namataang magkasama sa 74th Foundation Day ng Bombon, Camarines Sur, noong August 13, 2023.

Namataan ditong hinalikan ng guber-

nador si Yassi sa pisngi.

Mas lalo pa itong umingay dahil sa pag-amin ni Jon Semira, ex- fiancé ni Yassi, na hiwalay na sila ng aktres.

Sa isang Facebook post naman noong August 19, 2023, nagbahagi ang isang netizen ng larawan ni Yassi kasama ni Governor Villafuerte na tila nasa isang ATV adventure na sasakyan.

Caption ng netizen, “SALA NA NAMAN NAKAPTAN NI GOV [laughing emoji]” (Mali na naman nahawakan ni gov)”

ON BREAKUP WITH FIANCÉ JON Binasag na rin ni Yassi ang kanyang katabhimikan ukol sa breakup nila ng fiancé na si Jon.

Nais daw nilang gawing pribado ang dahilan ng kanilang paghihiwalay ng landas.

Saad niya, “Bilang tao, meron pa rin pong mga bagay na we wanted to keep private.

“Pero okay lang, me and the people involved, lahat kami maayos at nag-uusap pa rin kami hanggang ngayon.”

Inamin ni Yassi na bilang tao ay may mga pinagdadaan pa rin siya, pero tuloy pa rin daw ang buhay.

Aniya, “Kahit na you show up to work all the time, and you’re happy, and you’re ready, inside, meron pa rin pong mga pinagdadaan kasi po lahat naman tayo mga tao lang. So we try to show up every day.”

Pinag-usapan naman lalo ang hiwalayan nina Yassi at Jon dahil sa lumabas na engagement video nila ilang araw matapos maisapubliko ang kanilang hiwalayan.



♥ **Enough of these Jose Mari Chan memes** 😊🤔

My Friend Arthur Garcia posted this in facebook; IT'S THE TIME OF THE YEAR. AGAIN. I am so fed up with these Jose Mari Chan memes ushering in the BER months. Are we more excited about his songs than the birth of our Lord? Stop posting it. Please. What is important is that this season, may we never forget the love we have for Jesus. Let Him be the one to guide us as another new year starts. And may the spirit of Christmas be always in our hearts.

I commented naman.

I agree. What is important is we have A perfect Christmas in our hearts here and now in our big beautiful country constantly pagdating ng Pasko. Furthermore, Deep in my heart, Here and now, Part of your life should perhaps feel a love to last a lifetime in a whole new world. 😊

Parang safe as Singapore na ba Philippines?

There is a video circulating of ex-policeman Willie Gonzales pulling out a gun on a cyclist. Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Director Brig. Gen. Nicolas Torre III resigned from his post to give way to an impartial investigation.

Kailangan ba siya mag-resign? Puro showbiz naman ito. Police said that Gonzales immediately went to the QCPD

Headquarters in Camp Karingal after he saw the police chief's comment. The city police chief said a press conference was held on Sunday, Aug. 27, when Gonzales voluntarily presented himself to the police, following requests from the media to interview the suspect.

Gonzales, in the same press conference, said that he was able to talk to the cyclist immediately after the incident which led to an "amicable agreement" to resolve their conflict while they are in the QCPD Galas Police Station (PS 11). Earlier, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte urged the cyclist involved in the incident to come out and coordinate with the city government in filing the necessary cases.

She also ordered the QC People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB) to investigate how the Quezon City Police District handled the case, expressing her "dismay" over the PS 11 for allowing the incident to quickly end in an "amicable settlement."

Ibig po sabihin ng "amicable settlement" sa Pilipinas ay huwag magsampa ng kaso ang cyclist. Otherwise, his life and the life of his whole family ay mase-settle po.

Sus Guinoo po. Feeling safe na ba kayo parang sa Singapore? 😊

Ara Mina recalls unpleasant experience with Fil-Am actress

Ibinahagi ni Ara Mina ang hindi magandang karanasan niya sa isang Filipino-American actress na naging co-star nito sa isang proyekto.

Sabi ni Ara, magkasama sila sa tent ng hindi pinanaglanang Fil-Am actress.

Habang inaayusan daw si Ara sa harap ng salamin, sa harap mismo niya dumadaan ang aktres at nahaharangan ang salamin.

Katuwiran ni Ara, kahit hindi man siya kilala ng aktres na ito ay hindi ito dahilan para hindi siya irespeto. "Sabihin na natin ano siya, Fil-Am or whatever, hindi niya ako naabutan, hindi siya nanonood ng TV, the fact na mine-makeup-an ako at kasama niya ako sa tent, siguro naman artista ako, di ba? So, huwag mo ako dadaan-daanan.

"Pero sabi ko lang sa handler ko nun, 'Sino ba itong kasama ko, dinadaan-daanan lang ako?'"

"Kasi puwede namang dumaan sa likod ko. Dito talaga sa harap ko dumadaan?! Eto yung salamin. Sabi ko, 'Hala!'"

Binanggit ni Ara ang sumunod na nangyari: "Next shoot, wala siya."

Pero nilinaw niya, "Hindi ko siya pinatanggal, ha. Tinanggal siya [ng] production."

Inusisa si Ara kung nasaan na ang naging co-star niyang ito.

Sagot niya, "Hindi na siya active sa pag-aartista, pero napunta siya sa ibang larangan. And I think may asawa na siya at may anak na siya."



CONFRONTING THE ACTRESS

Sinabi ni Ara na pinagsabihan din niya ang aktres na ito. Hindi lamang niya idinetalye kung nangyari ba ito sa mismong araw nang mangyari ang insidente o sa ibang araw.

Sabi ni Ara, "Kinonfront ko naman siya nung she asked me to talk to her, na nag-[apologize] siya sa akin. "Tapos sabi ko, 'Next time don't do this.' If you're not sure [about who the person is]—talagang nag-i-English ako, ibig sabihin may idea na kayo nag-i-English [yung co-star]..." may halong birong pakli ni Ara. Pagpapatuloy raw niyang sinabi sa aktres, "'If you're not sure, just smile or kaya say, 'Hello, good afternoon, good morning po,' like that."

Paalala ni Ara sa mga baguhang artista, "Just be respectful with your co-workers. Because you don't know the impact pag maganda ang pakikitungo mo sa production and mga co-stars..."

"Kasi pag hindi maganda ang [pakikitungo] sasabihin ng production, 'Wag na nating kunin yan kasi ang sama ng ugali niyan.'"

Paalala ni Ara sa aspiring artists, "If you want to last, kailangan marunong kang makipagkapwa dito sa trabaho.

"And you need a looooot of patience. Kailangan mo ng mahaaabang pasensiya.

"Kasi iba-iba ang mae-encounter mong tao, iba't ibang character, iba-ibang level..."

Migrant workers chief Toots Ople passes away

Down to earth. No airs, no VIP treatment.

She was our classmate way back in college. Despite being born from an illustrious family (the great ex-Labor Secretary Ka Blas Ople was her father), she had her feet firmly planted on the ground early on. No airs, no VIP treatment. And this helped her through with her advocacy as she championed the welfare of our deplorable overseas migrant workers.

Appointed by the current President as Secretary of the Department of Migrant Workers, she postponed her acceptance due to her on and off battle with breast cancer. She only accepted the position when her doctors declared, and assured, that it was in remission.

It is just unfortunate that her stint with the department was cut short as she succumbed to the same illness that made her think



twice about accepting.

You had been a good example of a public servant, always thinking of the welfare of your fellow countrymen. And I thank you for being a classmate and a friend.

Rest in peace, Susan "Toots" Ople. You, indeed, gave your best.

ARTHUR GARCIA

NOTE: Thank you for the Kind words Arthur. It is sad that the most accomplished of our batch is taken back by the Lord just as she is just starting. But, thy will be done. Amen. JOEY BAKING

The Megastar and KC Concepcion rift

Kinausap ng PEP.ph Editor-In-Chief Jo-Ann Maglipon ang isang talent manager na sa mahabang panahon ay nakilalang malapit kay Sharon at sa pamilya nito.



Nilinaw muna ng veteran talent manager na hindi ito nagsasalita sa ngalan ni Sharon, ngunit alam daw niya ang tunay na kuwento ng sigalot at, bago pa man daw dumami ang mga haka-haka, minarapat nitong magsalita.

Sabi ng talent manager na fake ang sigalot at publicity lamang para sa hiwalay na upcoming projects ng mag-ina.

"This is a family matter," pag-

susuma ng talent manager, na nakapaglabas na ng panig ni KC base sa interbyu nito kay YouTube host Ogie Diaz.

This "family matter" should be resolved by Pangilinan family, not publicly at the right time. Binigyang-diin din ng talent manager na si Sharon ay isang "mother first and last."

Higit daw sa pagiging public figure ni Sharon, higit sa obligasyon nito sa mga masugid at matagal nang mga tagahanga, at higit sa anupamang roles nitong ginagapanan sa buhay—si Sharon ay ina ng kanyang mga anak.

Heart Evangelista explains absence at Lovi Poe's wedding: 'Dad is in the hospital'

Heart Evangelista disclosed that her dad Reynaldo Ongpauco has been hospitalized, which was the reason why she was not able to attend the wedding of her friend and fellow actress Lovi Poe in England.



Evangelista said this after some netizens pointed out her absence from Poe's wedding and speculated that there was an apparent misunderstanding between the actresses.

"My dad is in the hospital," the actress-fashion personality wrote in the comments section of a TikTok video which had the caption "Lovie at Heart, hindi [na BFF]." ("Lovie and Heart, no longer friends")

In the video, a woman in voice-over stressed that fans were expecting Evangelista's presence at Poe's wedding since the "FPJ's Batang Quiapo" star was one of the fashion personality's bridesmaids in her 2015 nuptials.

Poe tied the knot with British film producer Monty Blencowe last Aug. 26. Fellow celebrities present at the event were Rhian Ramos, Max Collins, Vicki Belo, Hayden Kho and Tim Yap, among others.

Heart Evangelista admits going through a painful friendship breakup



Heart Evangelista explains how she treats her friends and the lessons she learned after a friendship breakup.

Heart Evangelista reveals how she values her friends and the sad moments that she experienced after a friendship breakup. In the recent episode of "Adulthood with Heart and Chiz" on her YouTube channel, Heart disclosed the lessons she learned when it comes to maintaining friendships especially when you're in show business.

Heart said she learned how she felt lonely despite her success.

"I used to think when you're down people who are with you when you're down are the ones that truly love you. It's actually the opposite. When you're up and you're doing very well, it's lonely kumbaga to be where you are."

Heart said, "You're busy, you're lonely."

Heart explained how she grew up being clingy towards her friends.

"Even in my past, I am very clingy to my friends because I don't have a lot of friends. I've always been an outsider in school. I've always been like misunderstood I guess so whenever I just have key people I literally tell them I couldn't live without them."

For Heart, friendship breakups are hard as she treats and confides to her friends like family. "For me, it's painful because I never treat my friends like friends, I treat them like family.

She added, "When you treat them like family, they know the good and the bad because you're confident that they saw your heart first so it's painful for me."

"For me, it's painful because it's like I wrote my thoughts into a diary and they just stole it. So for me, it's just painful."



Malaya Movement Canada Announces Human Rights Talk



The Malaya Movement Canada join the Bicol Canada Kaogmahan Picnic, inviting everyone on the upcoming North America visit of Atty. Neri Colmenares who will give talks about Human Rights and other relevant local and international issues.

'Nakakatawa': Ruffa Gutierrez denies rumored wedding with ex Yilmaz Bektas



Actress Ruffa Gutierrez denied rumors that she and ex Yilmaz Bektas have tied the knot again in a civil ceremony and will have a grand wedding in Istanbul, Turkey soon.

In a report by Abante's Jun Lalin, Ruffa said that many people called her to confirm the news.

"Ang nakakaloka, si Tita Lilibeth (Eddie Gutierrez's sister) tumawag sa akin. Pinag-uusapan daw sa Amerika na nagpakasal kami uli ni Yilmaz. Pati raw 'yung nanay ni (famous actor), tumawag doon sa isang friend niya dahil nagkabalikan nga raw kami ni Yilmaz, na nagpakasal uli kami," she said.

"Yung isang kakilala ko rin from Davao na palaging nagbibigay sa akin ng pomelo, nag-message sa akin. Naiyak daw siya dahil nagkabalikan at nagpakasal uli kami ni Yilmaz. Idol daw talaga niya kami at nakakatuwa raw. Nakakaloka lang. Limang beses na yata kaming ikinasal, pero puro imbento lang. Nakakatawa. How funny talaga!" she added.

Ruffa also denied that Yilmaz gave her a mansion in Forbes Park, Makati City.

"My gosh, sana totoo nga at lilipat na ako kaagad. Hahaha! Saan na ang keys?" she said.

"Can you ask Yilmaz? Tell him to give me na the keys," she added.

Ruffa and Yilmaz tied the knot in the Philippines in March 2003. They separated in 2007 and got annulled in 2012.

Bela Padilla on having kids: 'I'm not at that stage of my life'

Bela Padilla was candid about her thoughts on relationships and whether she's considering having a family.

At the digital media conference of her newest movie with JC Santos, "Wish You Were the One," Bela also shared that she had never entertained the idea of pursuing a real-life romantic relationship with her co-star.

"We are really good friends, so hindi namin hinayaang mawala yung in-invest namin sa isa't isa," Bela said, during a Zoom with the entertainment press on Aug. 9. (We are really good friends, so we made sure not to lose what we invested in each other)

Bela expressed that despite being surrounded by friends like JC and her close celebrity friend, Angelica Panganiban,

who are now starting their own families, she never felt compelled to do the same. On the contrary, the actress is absolutely thrilled to assume the role of a godmother for them.

"I love kids so much, but I'm not at that stage of my life," Bela said.

As their fifth movie together was about to be released, Bela found herself overwhelmed with sentimentality, reflecting on the six years of friendship she had shared with JC.

"We've been working for six years now, so we are not the same people we were in 2017...Iba na yung mga dala naming pain, iba na yung mga hugot



namin sa eksena," Bela said.

(We've been working for six years now, so we are not the same people we were in 2017. We bring different levels of pain now, we pull different heartstrings for the scenes)

"But also not just like pains, also victories like we have little achieved," she added.

The upcoming film marks their fifth movie together. Prior, they teamed up in "100 Daang Tula Para Kay Stella" (2017), "The Day After Valentine's" (2018), "On Vodka, Beers and Regrets" (2020), and "366" (2022).

In 2018, they both starred in the film "Miracle in Cell No.7," although they did not share the screen as a pair.



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Filipinos defending China are Traitors

MANILA, Philippines — Filipinos defending or “making excuses” for China’s aggressive actions in the West Philippine Sea are “unpatriotic” and “traitors,” the spokesman for the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said.

“If you are a Filipino, whether in government or private sector, regardless of your politics, defending and making excuses for China’s aggressive behavior should deem you unpatriotic, and a traitor to the Philippines and to our people,” PCG spokesman Commodore Jay Tarriela said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

“Given current developments in the West Philippine Sea, it is important to show loyalty to country because the West Philippine Sea’s resources are for Filipinos,” he said. Tarriela did not name names or cite his reason for making such pronouncement.

He also said Filipinos should not use their constitutional rights of freedom of speech

and freedom of expression to justify China’s aggression.

“While I recognize freedom of speech as an important right guaranteed by our Constitution, it should not be misused as a means to justify unpatriotic actions by acting as China’s mouthpiece,” the PCG official said.

“All Filipinos should unite in calling out China’s aggressive and unlawful actions in the West Philippine Sea. Together, we should stand united in protecting our nation’s interests and pursuing a peaceful resolution to the issues,” Tarriela maintained.

Last Aug. 5, six China Coast Guard ships and two Chinese maritime militia vessels blocked BRP Cabra, BRP Malabrigo and two other Filipino vessels that were on their way to Ayungin Shoal to deliver provisions to a small Marine outpost on the grounded BRP Sierra Madre. The Chinese used water cannons to stop the Philippines vessels from reaching the



Sierra Madre.

Only one supply boat managed to slip past the blockade to unload the provisions consisting of food, water and other essentials.

With the Armed Forces of the Philippines poised to resume its Ayungin resupply mission, the global community is expected to be more watchful of China’s next move.

Documented aggression

AFP spokesman Col. Medel Aguilar said videos and photos of the Ayungin incident have further exposed to the world China’s brazenness in asserting its invalid claims in the West Philippine Sea.

“In our next RORE (rotation and resupply), the world will be watching,” Aguilar said at a briefing.

“All eyes on us, so let the people know the disrespect, the offensive action, the unlawful

actions the Chinese coast guard is committing against our countrymen in the West Philippine Sea,” he said.

He stressed that greater planning and preparations would be done to ensure the success of future RORE missions.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro has embarked on a tour of the first five military facilities and communities where US forces would be given access under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

Department of National Defense (DND) spokesman Arsenio Andolong said Teodoro started with a visit to Cagayan where he attended a town hall meeting hosted by Calayan Mayor Joseph Llopis and the Sangguniang Bayan.

Andolong said the engagement allowed Teodoro to personally interact with local officials, and discussed matters related to security and collaboration between the local government and the defense sector.

On the same day, the DND chief visited the headquarters of the 4th Marine Brigade at Camp Cape Bojeador, Ilocos Norte.

Earlier this year, the Philippines and the US agreed to add four more sites.

Jillian Ward rewards self with house and lot, talks about secret crush

There is nothing better than a wise investment for your future. Just recently, Kapuso star Jillian Ward rewarded herself with a lot where she would build her future home.

“Lately bumili po ako ng lote para makapag-patayo ng bagong bahay. Yung mga kapatid ko tumatanda na rin kaya we need more space,” said Jillian, when asked about her rewards for herself for hard work, during the launch of the Tanglawan Festival held in San Jose Del Monte in Bulacan last Sept. 1.

When someone inquired about the size of her property, Jillian said: “Medyo malaki po. It is located somewhere in the south. This month po mag-start ang building.” Jillian added: “Speaking of cars, ang daming advice ang binigay nila sa akin on finances. Binenta ko po yung ibang cars ko para pambili ng lote. Naisip ko po kasi 13 years na akong working so gusto ko yung matatag na investment.”

“Nagbawas ako ng kotse. Five na lang ang cars ko. Dalawa yung binenta ako. Bumili ako ng van para may gagamitin ako sa tapping kasi kung puro cars lang hindi, magagamit sa tapping,” she said.

Life goals

Jillian just turned 18 last Feb. 23. On July 26, she finished senior high school with flying colors. She is currently getting ready for college.

“Sabi ng medical consultant namin sa set pwede ko raw i-pursue ang medicine kasi yung memorization skills ko raw ay fit sa industry nila. Naisip ko rin siya pero parang mas gusto kong mag-law.

“Gusto ko talaga mag-aral ng law pero dahil sobrang busy ko nga po, I’m also planning to take business. Baka digital classes na lang muna kasi kung busy ako noon mas busy ako ngayon,” she said.

Jillian said she finds time to study during a break in

her shoot.

“Grateful ako sa GMA kasi kahit dumaan na ako sa awkward stage binibigyan pa rin nila ako ng projects. Sinasabi nila role model daw nila ako dahil napagsasabay ko ang school and career.”



The stunning young star admitted that she’s a bit pressured for her next project, considering the massive success of her afternoon series.

“Mahirap din po yung mga eksena lalo na mag mga medical

terms na ginagamit. Kailangan perfect po sya pati pagbigkas po nila. So mahirap din po siya at nilalaban ko po talaga. Konting mali po talagang cut na. Noong early days ng show talagang kinakabahan ako ng sobra. Naiiyak talaga ako nun kasi 17 pa lang ako. Pero kasi yun talaga ang storya ni Analyn na isip bata siya pero matalino siyang doktor,” she added.

Secret crush

Jillian has confessed that she has a crush on Kapamilya actor Coco Martin. She admitted to having a crush on someone but refused to reveal his identity.

“Noong bata po ako sobrang strikto ni mama at ni papa sa mga nakapaligid sa akin. Pero ngayon ako naman ang strikto sa sarili ko. So sila na ang nagsasabi ngayon ok lang ang magka-crush, enjoy mo ang sarili mo pero ako na po yung umaayaw muna. Lahat naman tayo may crush pero hindi ko po ise-share sa inyo.

Jillian said she’s excited about her upcoming movie with Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla.

“Magte-taping na kami next month. This is my first movie as a grown-up. Parang reunion namin ito kasi nagwork na rin po kami sa ‘Agimat’ at ‘Enteng Kabisote.’ Mga 5 or 6 pa lamang ako nun. At saya ko nun

dahil naisip niya ako. Sobrang grateful ko na hindi niya ako makalimutan. Anak niya ako rito (sa movie). Wala pang script pero parang comedy-drama ito.”

Paul Salas says jealousy adds spice to relationship with Mikee Quintos

Inamin ni Paul Salas na kumpara sa ibang naging relasyon niya noon, higit na mas masaya ang relasyon nila ni Mikee Quintos.

Dalawang taon na rin ang binibilang ng kanilang pagiging magkasintahan.



Wala pa raw silang matinding pag-aaway simula nang maging sila, kaya laging magaan ang pakiramdam ni Paul, at walang gaanong stress sa kanyang personal na buhay.

Pahayag ng 25-year-old actor, “Oo nga, buti naman at blessing din. Swak at happy-happy lang.

“Siyempre, may worth naman talaga ang pagiging happy din minsan, pero hindi naman maiiwasan na minsan may arguments kami.

“Pero ang gusto ko naman sa amin ni Mikee, talagang napag-uusapan namin.

Ayon kay Paul, “Every day naman, may mga bago kaming nalalaman, at may mga bago kaming nari-realize sa isa’t isa.

“And expected naman namin yun dahil kapag wala, parang mas mahirap yun, kasi walang growth.

“Pero kapag nalalaman namin, halimbawa, kapag bad side ko, like mataas pala yung pagiging competitive ko sa kanya, minsan ma-pride pala ako, nakikita din naman, at nawu-work out din naman namin nang sabay.

“Same thing din with her. So, yun ang parang masaya sa relationship namin.”

“Pag nag-aaway kami, hindi naman kami nagsisigawan. Tahimik lang kami.

“Parang, ‘Ano ba talaga ang problema sa akin? Sabihin mo na.’ Ganun.

“O, heto ang problema ko sa iyo.”

Dagdag pa niya, “Minsan, kinikilig pa nga si Mikee pag nagseselos ako sa kanya, e.

“Yun talaga ang nagiging relationship namin. Dahil siguro sa ipinapakita ko lang ang love ko sa kanya. Takot akong mawala siya.

“Alam naman niya yan, kasi minsan, pinagtatawanan na lang namin yan kapag nagseselos ako.”

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MTRCB head Lala Sotto denies “Pinag-iintan” comments

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) said that chairman Diorella “Lala” Sotto-Antonio inhibited from voting on the suspension of “It’s Showtime” to ensure that board members would “exercise their independent judgment.”

“The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) reassures the public that it will continue to uphold due process and fairness in the discharge of its regulatory mandate and quasi-judicial function, as provided by law,” a statement released by the regulatory board on Tuesday, Sept. 5 read.

“This decision was made with careful consideration of prior warnings and offenses associated with the show. Chairperson Lala Sotto inhibited from voting, ensuring that members of the Board exercised their independent judgment in determining the appropriate course of action,” it further noted.

Incidentally, Sotto is the daughter of former Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III, who is one of the hosts of “EAT,” the noontime show on TV5 that directly competes with “It’s Showtime.”

Napagbalingan ng netizens si Lala. Tila tina-target umano ng MTRCB ang Kapamilya noontime show.

Sabi niya, “No, that is not true.

“Siguro, natural lang naman sa mga supporters ang maging ganun ang pakiramdam kasi, siguro, naririnig nila na parating nari-report.

“But hindi po kasalanan ng MTRCB ang violations na ginagawa nila.”



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Michelle Vito reacts to ex-boyfriend Dominic Roque's engagement to Bea Alonzo



Si Michelle Vito ang huling naging kasintahan ni Dominic Roque bago nanligaw ang aktor kay Bea Alonzo noong last quarter of 2019.

Hindi malinaw kung ano ang dahilan ng breakup nina Michelle, 25, at Dominic, 33, matapos ang matagal-tagal din nilang relasyon.

Pero parehong may kanya-kanya nang love life ang dalawa ngayon: si Dominic ay engaged na kay Bea, habang si Michelle ay matagal na ring nobyo si Enzo Pineda.

"I'm happy for him. Of course, nung... Paano ko ba sasabihin ito? Basta way, way back, ang gusto naman namin talaga sa isa't isa is maging masaya kami.

"Kung saan siya masaya, kung saan ako masaya.

"Ngayong ikakasal na siya, masaya ako, kasi alam ko na masaya siya, and deserve niya yun kasi napakabuti niyang

tao."

Bad breakup ba sila ni Dominic noon?

Sagot ni Michelle, "Hindi naman."

Nang usisain si Michelle kung nagkaroon sila ng closure ni Dominic, hindi tuwirang nakasagot ang aktres.

Nakilala ba niya nang personal si Bea.

Sinabi ni Michelle na nagkatrabaho sila sa teleserye ng ABS-CBN noong 2014.

"Naging ate ko siya actually sa Sana Bukas Pa Ang Kahapon," saad niya.

Nakakausap daw niya si Bea "noong mag-sister pa kami sa series."

Dagdag niya, "Kasi after ng show, hindi na kami continuous na nakapag-usap. Pero for example, sa Ball, ganyan, ate-ate ko siya talaga."

ON ENZO PINEDA

Sa ngayon ay masaya na si Michelle sa piling ng boy-

friend na si Enzo. Higit tatlong taon na silang magkarelasyon.

Pahapyaw na rin daw napag-uusapan ng couple ang pagpapakasal sa tamang panahon.

"Yes, mga 29, before ako mag-thirty, mga ganun," tukoy ni Michelle sa ideal age kung kailan gusto niyang magpakasal.

ON BEING A SOLID KAPAMILYA

Si Michelle ay sampung taon na sa ABS-CBN. Kasama siya sa artists na inilunsad sa Batch 2013 ng Star Magic, ang talent management arm ng Kapamilya Network.

Kahit nawala na ang prangkisa ng istasyon ay hindi lumipat si Michelle dahil masaya raw siya sa karera niya rito

"Nabibigyan din naman ako ng projects. Baka iniisip ng ibang tao baka hindi siya big break or, like, pambida.

Sef Cadayona engaged to non-showbiz girlfriend Nelan Vivero

Inanunsiyo ng Kapuso actor na si Sef Cadayona na engaged na sila ng kanyang non-showbiz girlfriend na si Nelan Vivero.

Miyerkules ng gabi, August 30, 2023, nang i-post ni Sef sa Instagram ang ilang mga litrato na kuha sa simple pero madamdaming proposal niya kay Nelan.

Noong Araw Ng Mga Pusong, February 14, una raw nag-propose si Sef sa kanyang nobya kahit wala pa siyang nabiling engagement ring.

Bigla na lang daw niya naisip na ialay kay Nelan ang isang papel na singsing.

Naalala pa ni Sef ang kanta ni Taylor Swift na "Paper Rings" na may lyrics na nagsasabing, "I like shiny things, but I'd marry you with paper rings."



Kuwento ni Sef (published as is) "Hindi ako makapaniwala na nakuha ko ang matamis mong OO!"

"Biruun mo.. sa hindi inaasahang pangyayari nag-propose ako gamit ang gawa kong papel na singsing.

"May iba doon eh.. lahat tama parang lahat ng nararamdaman ko eh inuudyok nako itanong sayo kung pwede ba kitang makasama habang buhay.

"Kahit hindi magarbo o engrande.. umoo ka.

"Napaka swerte at saya ko nung gabing yun..."

'The Debut: Dream Academy' hopeful Sophia Laforteza grateful for support



she captioned her post.

Sophia is the daughter of theater and TV actress Carla Guevara Laforteza.

Pinay to compete in HYBE's 'The Debut: Dream Academy'

Produced by Geffen Records and HYBE, the K-pop entertainment company that launched the supergroup BTS, "The Debut: Dream Academy" aims to look for the next global girl group.

The process of developing the group will also be chronicled in an upcoming Netflix documentary series to be directed by Emmy-nominated filmmaker Nadia Hallgren, which will air next year.

"The Debut: Dream Academy" premiered last September 1 on YouTube and Japanese streaming channel Abema.

The show's finale will be on November 17, where the final members of the group as well as the group's name will be revealed.

Fans can help select the final performers by voting via TikTok and Weverse.

Sophia Laforteza, who is one of the 20 aspiring performers who are part of the audition program "The Debut: Dream Academy," took to social media to thank everyone for the love and support she's been receiving.

In an Instagram post on Sunday night, Laforteza also expressed her excitement to represent the Philippines in the show.

"Para sa pangarap. A dream that you wish will truly come true. I am beyond grateful for all the love, support, experiences, and opportunities I am receiving. I can't wait to go on this journey with you all. Maraming salamat, po,"

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US, PH navy conduct maritime activity in Palawan

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Navy along with its counterparts in the United States conducted a sail in the western waters off Palawan on Monday, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said.

The Navy's guided-missile frigate BRP Jose Rizal and the US Navy Arleigh Burke-class guided missile-destroyer USS Ralph Johnson were used during the division tactics rehearsal, according to AFP chief of public affairs Col. Enrico Gil Iletto.

"This event aims to provide an op-

portunity for the Philippine Navy and the US Indo-Pacific Navy to test and refine existing maritime doctrine and demonstrate their defense capabilities in line with the shared commitment of upholding peace and security in the Indo-Pacific Region," Iletto said in a statement.

The activity was done relatively near the contested Spratly Islands, parts of which belonged to the country under the Kalayaan Island Group in the West Philippine Sea that China also claims un-



BRP Jose Rizal and USS Ralph Johnson conduct bilateral sail on Monday, Sept. 4, 2023.

der its sweeping ten dash-line.

Iletto said that the activity was done un-

der the Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board framework which aims to bolster the interoperability between the navies of the two countries.

"The AFP shall continue to be involved in bilateral and multilateral activities that will contribute to the AFP's capability development to perform its mission of protecting the country's national sovereignty and national territory," Iletto said.

How RK Bagatsing reacted to GF Jane Oineza's love scenes with Swiss actor



While Jane Oineza and RK Bagatsing, who have been dating for over three years now, are very open when it comes to their love for each other, the couple can be very secretive about whether or not they already have plans to settle down.

Jane is 27, while RK is 35. When reporters asked them about this during the premiere night of their erotic drama film "Swing," Jane only said: "Right now, we're trying to maximize the opportunities coming our way. I'm so proud of all of RK's accomplishments and the projects that are being offered to him."

The film's story required Jane and RK to do quite a number of steamy bed scenes together, as well as with other actors. Jane said she agreed

to do the film despite such demand because she would be working with RK. "I said that if I was going to do a project like this, I'd rather that it's with him," she stressed.

Jane said she has done love scenes in previous projects, "but I really went all out for this one." Asked whether she feels comfortable watching RK do love scenes with other women, the actress replied: "Since I was able to read the script, I already knew what to expect. I prepared myself for what we were required to do."

RK, who admitted to being more vocal about feeling jealous, added: "While watching her love scenes, I'd close my eyes sometimes, or just look through the bucket of popcorn in front of me. Seriously, I know that it's just work. But we have to give life to these characters. I can't say we don't get affected by them, we're only human, but because we're both from the same field, we are able to share with each other what we personally go through as actors."

For Jane, it was just a matter of figuring out how to best handle the situation she was in. "Personally, I had to first figure out whether I would really want to know the details of the scenes he would be doing for the film. I had to realize on my own what works better for me, both as his girlfriend and coactor," she said.

Pokwang throws shade at 'irresponsible husbands' in video

Months after taking her marital woes with estranged partner Lee O'Brian to court, Pokwang shared a video that appeared to throw shade at "irresponsible husbands."

In her Instagram, the actress-comedienne shared a video of a church pastor's sermon who was discussing "irresponsible husbands" and "spoiled men."

"Itong mga irresponsableng husbands ngayon, pinalaki ng mga nanay 'yan sa ganyan — 80%. Ang lagi nating dapat ituro sa bahay, kapag may mga batang lalaki, teach them how to be good fathers and good husbands," the pastor said.

"Kasi 'pag nakinig kayo sa lahat ng problema ng tao, sa Pilipinas halos, four yata out of five na babae, iniwan ng asawang lalaki. T'as iniwan na may mga anak na papalakin, bahala ka na sa buhay mo. Mga girlfriend na bubuntisin tapos bahala ka na sa buhay mo," he continued.

As seen in the video, the pastor then reminded his listeners to "teach men to become men," while noting that many households view fathers



as "masters," while relegating mothers to the role of "servants."

"We must teach our men to become men because forever boys... [at huwag gumawa] ng generation of spoiled men who will become irresponsible husbands," he said. "Diba nakikita ka nila sa bahay. Among-among 'yung tatay, 'yung mga nanay chimay, so uulitin lang nila kapag sila na ang may sariling asawa."

The actress-comedienne's caption was kept short and sweet in her post, where she said: "Tabi tabi po... real talk lang po... tamaan wag magagalit (Excuse me, real talk only. If anyone gets hurt, don't get mad.)"

Pokwang recently filed a visa cancellation and deportation against O'Brian at a Bureau of Immigration office, saying their legal battle is about defending her rights as a mother and woman.

O'Brian filed a counter-affidavit days later, where he appealed to the Philippine government to look at his case "fairly and with justice."

Trust: Jak Roberto's 'anti-silos' weapon

Trust. That's the main thing that keeps Jak Roberto's relationship with Barbie Forteza strong and intact, despite the latter being part of the popular "BarDa" love team with David Licauco.

"Tiwala lang sa isa't-isa. There's assurance. And we protect each other's feelings," he said at a recent press conference for the GMA 7 series "The Missing Husband."

Because of their unexpected chemistry in the hit drama fantasy series "Maria Clara at Ibarra," Barbie and David ended up attracting a huge and devoted fanbase, who can't help but feel "kilig" over their sweet online interactions and antics.

But while most fans know that Barbie is in a long-term relationship with Jak, and that the actress' partnership with David is only for reel, there are overzealous followers wishing that the two end up together in real life. At times, even the mere mention of Jak's name prompts bashing and insults.

"You can't please everyone. Every artist or team-up has its own fanbase. But I'm happy that there are still people who are concerned about me. I just let the people argue in the comments section," he said.

Kris wants to end communication lines with Mark Leviste.

Diretsahang sinabihan ni Kris Aquino ang ex-boyfriend na si Batangas Vice Governor Mark Leviste na itigil na nito ang pagpapadala ng mensahe sa kanya.

Sa kanyang Instagram Stories ngayong araw, September 1, 2023, ibinahagi ni Kris ang tatlong screenshots ng mensahe niya kay Mark.

Sa unang mensahe, may inilagay siya ritong caption na "My TRUTH."

Sinabihan niya si Mark kung hindi ba ito napapagod dahil dalawang linggo na niyang hindi sinagot ang mga mensahe nito.

Nawalan na raw ng gana si Kris na magtanong kung ano ang mga kaganapan sa buhay ni Mark, gayundin ang ibalita rito ang mga kaganapan sa kanyang buhay.

Mensahe ni Kris, "Marc, aren't you tired of the unanswered messages? It took me 2 weeks

and a half to feel that I no longer really feel the need to keep communication lines open with you.



"Whatever is going on in my life or in yours, parang nawala na the desire for me to know what's happening with you or for me to keep you informed."

Kris Aquino ending communications with Mark Leviste

Sa ikalawang screenshot, sinabi ni Kris na walang nakapag-impluwensiya sa kanya sa mga nais niyang mangyari sa kanilang dalawa. Bumalik na rin daw ang gana niya sa pagbabasa ng mga libro.

Idagdag pa raw ang pagtitiis niya sa sakit ng kanyang katawan.

Saad ni Kris, "I haven't been influenced by anyone — It's just that I've fallen back to my pattern of reading a new book every 2-3 days, reading NYT, and the magazines I like, and coping with the hardships my body must endure."

Sabi naman ni Kris sa ikatlong screenshot, nais niyang maging "polite" dahil mahirap talaga ang sitwasyon nilang milya-milya ang layo—nasa Amerika si Kris at nasa Pilipinas si Mark.

Nagpasalamat si Kris kay Mark sa pangang-

umusta nito sa kanya, pero mas gusgutu hin daw niyang huwag na nitong gawin.

Aniya, "I want to remain polite, but this is really what happens when we are so far from each other — people really do grow apart.

"Thank you for keeping in touch BUT I'd really prefer if you don't. It's really a lot more peaceful now.

"And that's always been my prayer. Serenity & peace."

Nilagyan pa niya ito ng caption na, "The End."

Hindi na-edit ni Kris ang kanyang screenshot dahil makikita rito ang sagot ni Mark ngunit putol ito.

Bahagi ng mensahe ng bise-gobernador, "I don't know exactly how to respond to your message but in my heart and in my head, I..."

June 2023 unang inamin ni Mark ang relasyon nila ni Kris.

July 10, 2023 naman isinapubliko ni Kris ang hiwalayan nila ni Mark.

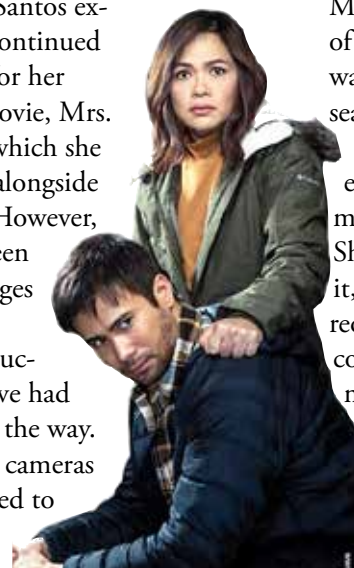
Judy Ann committed to ‘Mrs. Winters’ movie despite visa woes, other challenges

Judy Ann Santos expressed her continued enthusiasm for her upcoming movie, Mrs. Winters, in which she is set to star alongside Sam Milby. However, there have been some challenges that the stars and the production team have had to face along the way.

Originally, cameras were scheduled to start rolling for the film,

which is set in Canada, but Judy Ann encountered some visa problems, leading to a delay in production. She pointed out that shooting in May or June, as initially planned, would have missed the essence of winter in Canada, potentially warranting a change in the film’s title.

“If we persisted in the shooting last



May or June, we’ll lose the essence of the title since during that time, it was no longer winter in Canada,” the seasoned actress explained.

Despite the setback, Judy Ann emphasized her unwavering commitment to completing the project. She stated that she’s fully dedicated to it, provided they can resolve the visa requirements and find the right snowy conditions at the location. This might mean waiting for the next winter season, with the hope that her visa situation will be resolved by then.

“As long as the requirements will be settled and of course, there’s snow in the location. So, I think we’ll just have to wait for the next winter to come. By that time, I hope my visa will be okay,” she went on.

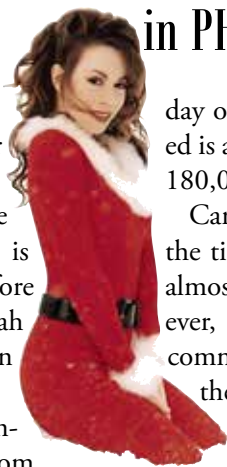
“I can’t back out from it. We’ve already announced and I gave my producers my word. If ever the project would be shelved eventually, I promise that I won’t be the reason!” she concluded.

Mariah Carey gives shoutout to ‘Filipino lambs’ as Christmas season in PH starts

The queen has spoken.

While she instructed her fans to hold off jamming to her iconic Christmas tune “All I Want for Christmas is You,” several months before the holiday season, Mariah Carey made an exemption for her “Filipino lambs.”

The Grammy Award-winning diva shared a post from a fan page, which claimed that her chart-topping hit collected a little over 316,000 streams on Spotify on the first



day of September, which the page noted is a 75-percent increase from around 180,000 streams from a year ago.

Carey told her fans that it’s “not yet” the time for them to sing along to her almost 30-year-old holiday track. However, aware of the Philippines’ early commencement of holiday festivities, the “Hero” singer excused her Filipino fans from the directive.

“I’ll allow it for my Filipino lambs though! [sheep emoji] [heart emoji],” she said, adding “I don’t make the rules! (shrugging shoulder emoji)

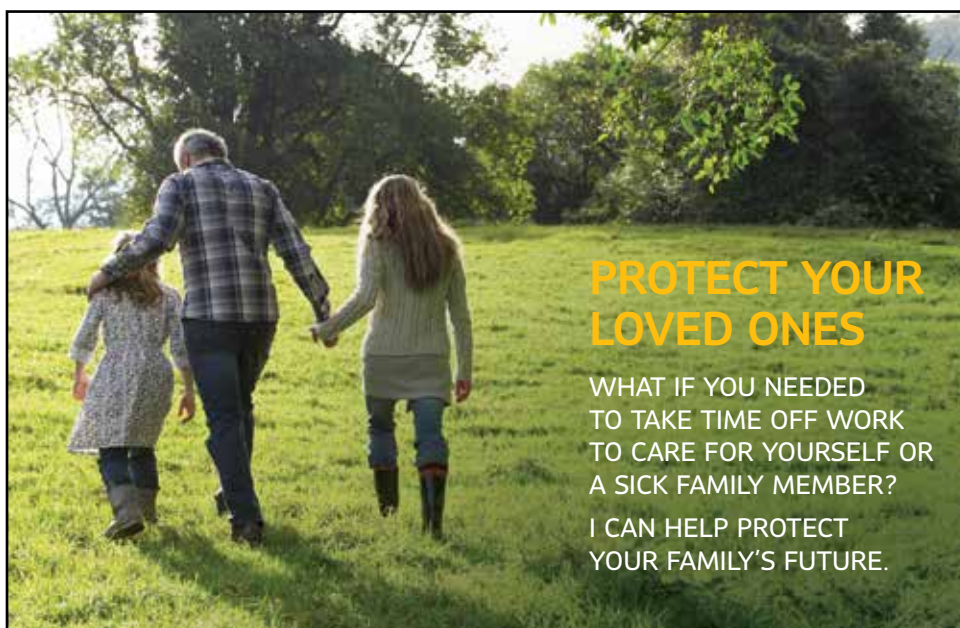
Local fans flocked to Carey’s post, and expressed their feelings about the special shout-out from the singer-songwriter.

One @mainpopgirl responded, “not Mariah being aware of September being the start of [the] Christmas season in the Philippines 🇵🇭, while some non-Filipino users expressed their curiosity on how the country celebrates the Christmas season.

Several Filipinos took the time to address questions from a user, who seemed to have genuinely enjoyed learning about local holiday traditions.

The user, who goes by @With_luv_tracy, even got to discover “Christmas in Our Hearts” singer Jose Mari Chan, whose voice they found “so soothing and happy.”

Originally released in 1994 as one of the tracks in Carey’s “Merry Christmas” album, “All I Want for Christmas is You” reached the top of the Billboard Hot 100, 25 years later, in December 2019. It became the “Glitter” star’s 19th no.1 hit on the songs chart, and her first since 2008 when “Touch My Body” ruled the Billboard Hot 100 for two consecutive weeks in April.



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Volleyball winners at Bicol Picnic

Bicol Canada Community Association held their annual picnic at Earl Bales Park on August 12. The picnic started under ominous weather as it started raining around 9 in the morning. The forecast called for rain

the whole day. However, hope springs eternal that the heavens will open up and the sun will come out. And it did at around 11:10AM and it never rained again and the picnic was held on a nice day. The weather was



Theresa Redula of OMNI interviews Pinoy Ontario Vendors President Paulo Bucud.

balmy for the rest of the day.

The Pinoy Ontario Vendors (POV) annual BBQ party was held the next day on the same location and the forecast called for rain that day too. But, unlike the day before, the day started with no rain and never rained the whole day despite the forecast of rain also.

The Taste of Manila festival has come and gone successfully.

Philippine actress Shanaia Gomez came back for the wedding of her sister Meghan. While here, she made a brief appearance at the Josie De Leon School of Performing Arts (JDL) branch in Scarborough where she answered questions from students and posed for selfies.

When Jennifer Sy said she's worried about letting her daughter Mika join Philippine showbiz because of bashers, she had a good answer.

"There's bashers everywhere. You just have to tough it out and ignore them. I get accused of being a flirt. And they based it on the character I played as Selene in Batang Quiapo. How would they know what I do when I'm not shooting a movie," said Shanaia assuredly.

Shanaia's latest role was Selene, a strip bar dancer in the TV series Batang Quiapo.

Speaking of JDL, the second year of their Center Stage singing contest seems to be gaining

recognition in the Toronto community. There were more Filipino and non-Filipino contestants this year than last year.

The Filipino Centre Toronto seniors painting class went on a 3-day, two-night trip to Picton and was invited to stay at The Sandbanks Cottages and Campsites by owner Nitz Rejdik. We painted, cooked, ate, sang, played bingo, slept, and relaxed. Frank Cruzet and Charlie spent the days fishing. Of course, a trip to Picton will not be complete if the group does not go to Cones and Shakes shop for Kawartha ice cream.

We also had time to go thrift shopping at Second Time Around where you only pay \$5.00 for everything you can fit in a bag. Angie Berlin and Nitz Rejdik scored a lot of deals. I managed to find three books.

Thank you Nitz Rejdik for the free accommodation, your hospitality and your time and energy taking care of us. Folk-
SUNSHINE page 23

Vina Morales will debut Broadway in 'Here Lies Love'

The Filipino actor will step into the part currently played by Tony winner Lea Salonga.

Filipino actor Vina Morales will join the cast of the new David Byrne-Fatboy Slim Broadway musical Here Lies Love next month for a limited engagement.

Morales will succeed Tony winner Lea Salonga in the role of Aurora Aquino September 22-October 22. Salonga, who is also one of the show's producers, will play her final performance August 19. Cast member Renanne Acasio will step back in as the full-time Aurora in the inter-

im. Here Lies Love is committed to featuring various guest stars from the Philippines in the role.

In a statement Salonga said, "I am so excited to share the news that my friend Vina Morales will be joining our fabulous all-Filipino company in Here Lies Love! So talented and lovely, but most of all, so kind. She will be a wonderful addition to our cast!"

Morales added, "To be able to perform on Broadway is a dream come true for any artist! I am grateful to 'Coach Lea' Salonga

for guiding me along the way. You're the best, Lea! =) I am excited to be part of the Here Lies Love family, and I can't wait to perform for all of you!"

Director Alex Timbers stat-

To be able to perform on Broadway is a dream come true for any artist!

ed, "David Byrne and I were first introduced to Vina's extraordinary talents over ten years ago in Manila, when we were casting Here Lies Love's Nation-



al Theatre production. It's an exciting, full-circle moment to have her join us now on Broadway; and an honor to introduce her, in this show-stopping role,

to our incredible audiences."

Here Lies Love officially opened July 20.

The immersive disco musical is based on the real story of Filipino First Lady Imelda Marcos, whose husband Ferdinand Marcos was the 10th president of the Philippines and ruled as dictator for 20 years until 1986. The musical features a score by Grammy, Tony, and Oscar winner David Byrne and Grammy winner Fatboy Slim, with music by both, and concept and lyrics by Byrne.

Bea Alonzo says dream intimate wedding with Dominic Roque hard to achieve

Bea Alonzo said she really wanted her dream wedding with fiancé, actor Dominic Roque, to be an intimate event, but she lamented that it would be hard to pull off as they're friends with many people.

Alonzo spoke about her upcoming wedding in response to a fan's question about her "preferences" for her special day, as seen on her YouTube channel last Saturday, Sept. 3, saying she always wanted to have an "intimate" ceremony since she was a "little girl."

"Sa totoo lang, I always get questions about this but we haven't started the preparations for the wedding," she said. "Gusto ko talaga intimate wedding ever since I was a little girl, gusto ko talaga intimate wedding."

(To be honest, I always get questions about this but we haven't started the preparations for the wedding. I have wanted an intimate wedding ever since I was a little girl. I really want an intimate wedding.)

Despite this, the actress admitted that having a private ceremony would be tough, as she noted that she

and Roque have a lot of friends and acquaintances.

"Nag-iisip kami ni Dom ng guest list pa lang, parang ang dami pala naming friends. Kasi si Dom extrovert siya ang dami niya talagang friends. Ang dami niyang group of friends. And ako, I have a small circle of friends, but outside of that circle, and dami ko ring mga acquaintances, ang dami kong mga nakatrabaho," she said.

(Dom and I are thinking of our guest list, and I realized that we have a lot of friends. Dom is an extrovert so he has a lot of friends. He has a lot of friend groups. While I have a small circle of friends, I have a lot of acquaintances, I'm on good terms with a lot of my colleagues.)

"I've been in this business for 22 years. Ang hirap niya talagang i-dilute into a very small number (It's hard to dilute them into a very small number). One thing I'm sure about is that it's going to be amazing cause I'm gonna be marrying the love of my life," she further added, as she was visibly excited for her special day.

The couple announced their engagement in July 2023, with Roque proposing to Alonzo in the guise of a photo shoot.

Before accepting her partner's proposal, the "One More Chance" star admitted that while she did a lot of engagement scenes throughout her acting career, she noted that "nothing beats the real thing."

James Reid breaks silence on Careless CEO Jeffrey Oh's arrest, status of Liza Soberano's career

James Reid, founder of talent management company Careless, finally addressed the controversies surrounding the arrest of its CEO, Jeffrey Oh, for violating work permit regulations.

In an exclusive interview with MJ Felipe for TV Patrol on September 1, 2023, James affirmed that although their business is running as usual, the recent issues have been "rough."

He elaborated, "This year has been one of the biggest challenges so far. "But we are learning a lot and, honestly, we just keep getting stronger."

It can be recalled that Bureau of Immigration (BI) spokesperson Dana Sandoval confirmed on August 8, 2023 that the American businessman was arrested and is facing deportation.

There were rumors saying that it was James's father, Malcolm, who reported Jeffrey's alleged illegal activities to the authorities.

James, for his part, clarified that his dad had nothing to do with the incident.

"I was shocked. Me, my family, especially my dad," James related.

"We were shocked about some of the rumors that were coming out.

"When it came out, he [Malcolm] said, 'James, what did I do?'

"So yeah, he was shocked."

Still talking about his father, the 30-year-old singer vouched, "The most simplest way to say it is that he had nothing to do with it.

"It was surprising and we can joke about it but he [Malcolm] was upset at everything that was happening and this misunderstanding."

"He was upset on my behalf."

ON LIZA SOBERANO'S FUTURE

James also touched upon concerns regarding Careless talent Liza Soberano's career.

To this, he assured, "When it comes to Liza, I would say she has some of the most amazing projects coming up. I think stuff that no one has seen before.

"And I just want to let all her fans know not to worry. There's nothing to worry about."

James continued, "She's preparing something very special for them so they have something to look forward to.

"We are a very small company, but we're very hardworking so it takes us time, so please be patient with us."



James Reid (left photo) clarifies his father has nothing to do with the recent arrest of Careless CEO Jeffrey Oh (center photo). The actor-singer also assures fans of Liza Soberano (right photo) that she has projects lined up for her.



1. Folklorico perform tinikling; 2. Folklorico perform itik-itik; 3. Folklorico director Wendy Arena invites the kids to become members of Folklorico; 4. JDL Center Stage singing contest winners; 5. JDL's Maureen Velasco and JDL founder Josie de Leon pose with JDL alumni and now Philippine actress Shanaia Gomez.

David Licauco addresses fans who want him and Barbie Forteza to become a couple

Marami pa rin sa fans nina Barbie Forteza at David Licauco ang gustong maging totooanan ang on-screen romance nila.

Ito ay sa kabila ng kaalamang matagal nang kasintahan ni Barbie ang kapwa Kapuso actor na si Jak Roberto.

“Well, of course, we have to understand na yun ang gusto nila,” bungad ni David.

“Kumbaga, yun yong nagpapasaya sa kanila. And siyempre, as an actor, kailangang maintindihan ko rin yon.

“But of course, you know that word is a such a powerful thing.”

Lubos ang pasasalamat ni David sa tagasuporta nila ni Barbie, pero pinaalalahan din niya ang iba na nagkakaroon ng kampion.

“So for them to say bad words not just towards me, not just towards Barbie or Jak but also to...

“Parang meron silang, for example, yung may mga tinatawag silang pro-David, pro-Barbie, and all that.

“Honestly, they should stop that. Kasi you know, we all just kinda get by with life,” paliwanag ni David.

Katuwiran niya, “Life is already hard. Bakit pa natin papahirapan ang sarili natin?”

NEW BARDA SERIES

Sa kabilang banda, muling mapapanood ang tambalang BarDa sa Kapuso Network.

Mula sa phenomenal success ng Maria Clara at Ibarra, sasabak ang dalawa sa isang action-drama

prime-time series na Maging Sino Ka Man.

Sa mediacon ng serye noong August 31, ibinahagi ni David na bago sa kanya ang action genre.

“But with the help of my directors, sina Direk Enzo [William], cinematographer... From the ground-up, e. Mga passionate sila sa ginagawa nila kaya nakakahawa rin.

“And I feel, like, I already got



the hang of it, kasi matagal na rin,” nakanangiting sabi ng aktor.

Ayon kay David, hindi niya akalaing darating ang panahon na mabibigyan siya ng oportunidad na gumawa ng action scenes.

Pero, mahilig na raw siyang manood ng mga action films.

Lahad niya: “Siguro growing-up, pangarap kong maging Jackie Chan or Jet Li. Kasi, pinaapanood yon ng dad ko.

“Pero, hindi ko naman siya naisip na parang magiging artista ko. Walang moment in my life

na magiging dream ko na magiging artista.”

“But I remember one time, nanonood lang ako sa bahay, parang sabi ko, ‘Bakit kaya ganito ang buhay ng mga artista?’

“Akala ko that time, nasa TV talaga sila. Buong buhay nila, nandoon sila.

“Kasi, hindi naman natin alam yung sequence guide. Hindi naman literally na nasa TV lang.”

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Judy Ann reveals desire to work with young superstars

GIVEN her absence from the TV and silver screens, people are keen to witness Judy Ann Santos, affectionately known as Juday, make a comeback.



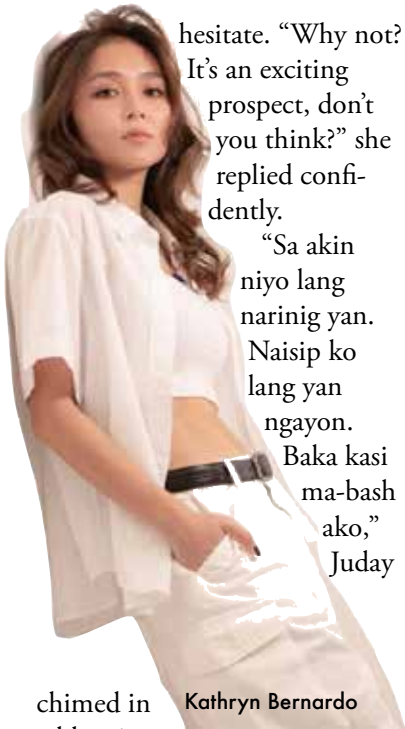
Joshua Garcia

Thus, in her recent public appearance, interview questions thrown at her were about her potential projects and her desired co-stars.

"Times have changed, and there are many new talents emerging," Juday shared with the showbiz press. "Of course, there's Kathryn Bernardo, Nadine Lustre. Although, I'm wary of pairing them up as I might inadvertently stir up controversy. You know how sensitive people are nowadays."

Judy Ann advises young actors not to overcommit and to savor the present as artists.

When probed about her intentions to collaborate with these talents, Juday didn't



Kathryn Bernardo

hesitate. "Why not? It's an exciting prospect, don't you think?" she replied confidently.

"Sa akin niyo lang narinig yan. Naisip ko lang yan ngayon. Baka kasi ma-bash ako," Juday chimed in addressing all queries with transparency and humor. Turning the conversation to the younger generation of artists, Juday expressed her admiration for Charlie Dizon, who she recently watched in a movie. "Charlie is a remarkable young talent.



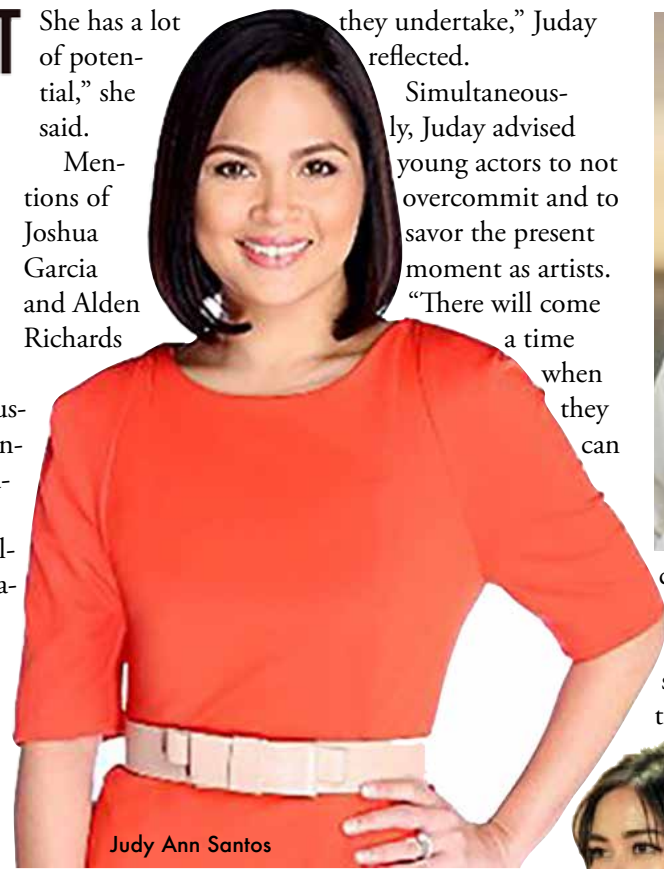
Nadine Lustre

sparked discussions of potential collaborations.

"Joshua, Alden, Pagsamahin na natin sila," Juday proposed playfully. "Why not gather them for a single film alongside Kathryn, Nadine, and Charlie? It's all in good fun, right?"

She continued, "Let's seek out a formidable producer. Since we're not frequently engaged in projects, it's the perfect opportunity to unite them all!"

"Jokes aside, it's truly heartening to witness an abundance of talented youngsters. Their dedication to their craft is intense, reflecting their investment in every project



Judy Ann Santos

She has a lot of potential," she said.

Mentions of Joshua Garcia and Alden Richards

they undertake," Juday reflected.

Simultaneously, Juday advised young actors to not overcommit and to savor the present moment as artists.

"There will come a time when they can



Alden Richards

creations.

The invited chefs found themselves in awe as they stood beside Juday, presenting their dishes prepared with Alaska milk.

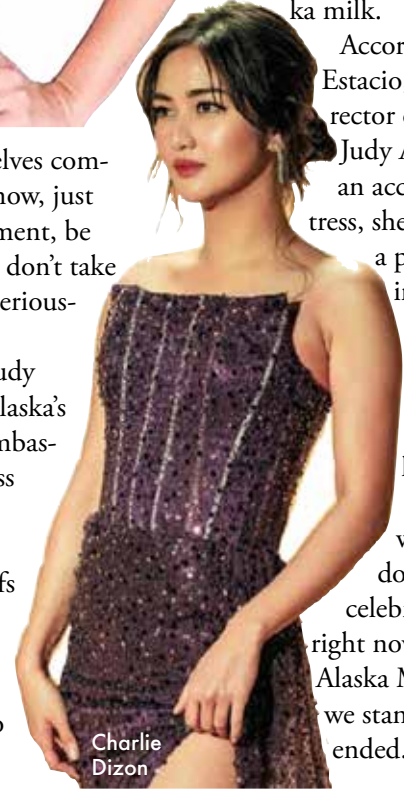
According to Star Estacio, Marketing Director of Alaska Milk, Judy Ann is not just an accomplished actress, she is a mom and

a purpose-driven influencer who sees food as a tool to help better the lives of those around her.

"She is—without a doubt—the best celebrity out there right now to represent Alaska Milk and what we stand for," Estacio ended.

immerse themselves completely, but for now, just enjoy every moment, be professional but don't take everything too seriously," she added.

Meanwhile, Judy Ann stands as Alaska's newest brand ambassador. The actress participated in a unique event where guest chefs showcased their culinary skills, incorporating Alaska milk into their delectable



Charlie Dizon

Kathryn Bernardo is 'A Very Good Girl'

For Kathryn Bernardo, being "a very good girl" or being a good person in general is very complex to explain. Taking a cue from the title of her latest film, which also stars BAFTA and Golden Globe nominee Dolly de Leon, she explained that goodness stems from honesty and extending help to others.

Yet, for her, embodying goodness involves embracing imperfections, and welcoming life's complexities, messiness, and chaotic moments. It entails acknowledging one's flaws and still desiring to be a good person despite them.

Kathryn shares that being a very good girl means embracing imperfections and welcoming life's complexities.

"Being a good girl or person means accepting your imperfections, accepting all the mess and the chaos and your flaws, and through all that, at the end of the day, you still want to be a good person, as long as you try to be a better person, then you're good," Kathryn shared during press-con for A Very Good Girl.

In the upcoming film, Kathryn takes on the role of Philo, a seeker of vengeance, while Dolly embodies the character of the affluent and enigmatic

Mother Molly. The movie, a celebration of Star Cinema's 30th anniversary, delves into the intricate plot of revenge and intrigue.

"It's such an honor because I will be working, she agreed to work with me, with the one and only Ms. Dolly de Leon. For sure marami akong matututunan sa kanya. I can't wait to meet her again... What a great honor na gumawa at nabigyan niya ako ng oras," Kathryn said.

This female-driven film marks Kathryn's highly anticipated return to the big screen following the success of her 2019 blockbuster, Hello, Love, Goodbye. Meanwhile, for internationally acclaimed actor Dolly de Leon, A Very Good Girl signifies a significant milestone as her inaugural lead role and her first collaboration with ABS-CBN.

"A Very Good Girl" lead stars Golden Globe nominee Dolly De Leon (left) and box-office queen Kathryn Bernardo

Ryan Bang reveals relationship status: "May girlfriend na ako."

Proud at masayang inanunsiyo ni Ryan Bang na "in a relationship" na siya matapos ang ilang taon niyang pagiging single.

Naganap ang rebelasyon ni Ryan sa live episode ng It's Showtime, kung saan co-host siya, nitong August 29, 2023.

Pagmamalaki niya, "Gusto kong sabihin sa aking [It's] Showtime family, sa harap ninyo, Mommy, Daddy, kay kuya ko, ate ko, Tyang, may girlfriend na ako."

Nagtalunan at agad siyang niyakap ng kanyang co-hosts na sina Vice Ganda, Kim Chiu, Vhong Navarro, Jhong Hilario, Amy Perez, Jugs Julueta, Teddy Corpuz, Ion Perez, Jackie Gonzaga, MC Muah, Lassy Marquez, at Cianne Dominguez, na indikasyon ng kanilang kasiyahan para kay Ryan.

Maging ang nanay-nanayan ni Ryan na si Vice ay hindi naitago ang tuwa.

Ibinuking pa nitong naiyak pa ang South Korean TV host-comedian nang ibalita sa kanya ang tungkol sa bago niyang natagpuang pag-ibig.

Ani Vice, "Ang saya-saya. Alam mo kahapon, ang sama-sama ng pakiramdam ko tapos nag-text siya sa akin, ang saya-saya niya.

"Sabi niya, 'Mommy, ikaw una kong sasabihan.' Tapos tinawagan ko siya, umiiyak siya."

Sagot naman ni Ryan sa kanya, "Si-yempre, gusto ko ikaw unang makakaalam, Mommy."

Kasunod nito, nagpasalamat si Ryan sa kanyang It's Showtime family sa suporta at words of encouragement na ibinigay ng mga ito.

"Sobra kong saya kasi ang tagal kong naging single tapos ngayon may girlfriend na ako.

"Thank you so much sa support niyo sa pag-ibig ko," saad ni Ryan.

Hirit naman ni Amy, "August 28 ang anniversary niyo."

Agad naman itong sinundan ni Vice. Sabi niya, "Madlang people, si Ryan Bang may dyowa na. Ang tanong, ikaw



kaya, when?"

Dagdag pa niya, "Alam mo ipagdarasal natin, na iyang pag-ibig na yan maging pag-ibig habambuhay.

"Hanggang sa kung anumang edad meron kayo, maging one hundred fifty [150] years old man kayo, magkasama pa rin kayo."

Ang OPM singer na si Yeng Constantino ang huling napabalitang niligawan ni Ryan.

Ngunit naudlot ang kanila sanang "getting-to-know-each other" stage nang bigla na lamang huminto si Ryan na suyuin si Yeng sa pag-aakalang ayaw siya ng singer sa kanya.

RYAN WANTS TO STAY IN THE PH WITH HIS FUTURE WIFE

Nagsimula ang showbiz career ni Ryan sa Pilipinas nang maging official housemate siya sa reality show ng Kapamilya Network na Pinoy Big Brother (PBB), noong 2010, kung saan itinanghal siya bilang second big placer.

Ayon kay Ryan, sa Pilipinas na rin niya balak manirahan habambuhay kasama ang kanyang magiging asawa at pamilya.

Sabi niya, "Dito ako lumaki, dito ako mamamatay. Habambuhay ako dito kasi mahal na mahal ko ang Pilipinas.

Samantala, habang isinusulat ang artikulong ito ay wala pang nababanggit si Ryan tungkol sa pagkakakilanlan ng kanyang kasintahan.



SB19 on the overwhelming success of 'Gento': 'It feels like a dream'

One might think that SB19 is used to the overwhelming success of their smash hit "Gento" by now. After all, the infectious track is the canvas of over 1.8 million posts on Tiktok, where many celebrities all over the world are grooving to its beat.

Despite this, the P-pop act confessed during a mediacon for a healthcare chain that the song's success is "unbelievable"—almost to the point of it feeling like a dream for Pablo, Josh, Ken, Justin, and Stell, who was absent during the press conference as he wasn't feeling at that time.

"Sobrang unbelievable. Sobrang lucky namin kasi hindi naman lahat ng artists at kanta, nagva-viral sa social media. It all feels like a dream for us and we're very, very thankful and grateful to our fans for supporting us (Of course, it's very unbelievable. We're very lucky because not all artists and songs would go viral on social media. It all feels like a dream for us and we're very, very thankful and grateful to our fans for their support)," Ken said.

"Until now, hindi sila napapagod and nagsasawa na i-support kami (Until now, they're not tired of supporting us)," the "Rocksta" singer added.

Action Honda sponsors Bicol Canada



1. Action Honda sponsors Bicol Canada Community Association picnic. Volleyball winners pose with BCCA officers. 2. Action Honda Manager Rafael Nebres receives a certificate of Appreciation from the Bicol Canada Community Association. Mr. Nebres is joined by co-sponsor Edgardo Acuna of Kapitbahay and BCCA President Earl Dacara of Northern Quest Canadian Immigration Services.



Andrea Brillantes clarifies she and Kyle Echarri are not a love team



Magkatambal man sina Andrea Brillantes at Kyle Echarri sa series na Senior High, walang balak ang dalawa na ma-identify bilang isang love team.

Sina Andrea at Kyle ay naging bahagi ng Gold Squad, kung saan unang pinareha si Kyle kay Francine Diaz, at si Andrea naman kay Seth Fedelin.

Nabuwag ang SethDrea tandem nang ipareha si Seth kay Francine sa Dirty Linen, at ngayon naman ay nabuo ang KyDrea sa pagsasama nina Kyle at Andrea sa Senior High.

"Sobrang thankful kami sa KyDrea, they've been here for so long. They waited for this project and we're super happy that we're together in this project.

"We're super happy that we have KyDrea supporting us, pero di kami nagbenta ng love team."

Dagdag ni Andrea, "Wala na kaming magagawa dun, and nakikita namin nag-

iging source din ng happiness nila yun, and di namin yun puwedeng ipagkait sa kanila.

"Ang magagawa lang namin is to clarify sa lahat ng tao na di talaga kami love team and we are really best friends. Wala naman kaming pinapaasa na tao."

Nakapanayam sina Kyle at Andrea sa nakaraang special screening at media conference ng Senior High.

BEST FRIENDS IN REAL LIFE

Matalik na magkaibigan sina Kyle at Andrea sa totoong buhay, kaya naman kita ang chemistry sa pagitan nilang dalawa.

At kahit na hindi nila binebenta ang KyDrea tandem, kung sakaling tanggapin ng publiko ang tandem nila ay bukas sina Kyle at Andrea na maging magkatambal muli sa iba pang projects.



Action Honda sponsors PIDC Golf

MR RAFAEL NEBRES, GENERAL MANAGER OF ACTION HONDA (far right) poses with officers of Philippine Independence day Council (PIDC).

"I think okay kami as love interest, pero di bilang love team na we're locked," paliwanag ng Kapamilya actress.

"Na-lock together for so many years kasi. More than anything, we're best friends talaga and doing our artistry together," singit naman ni Kyle.

Parehong masaya sina Kyle at Andrea na nanumbalik ang kanil-

ang pagkakaibigan dahil sa pagsasama nila sa Senior High.

"Ako, siyempre masaya ako, di lang makasama siya ulit sa show pero makakasama ko siya sa life," nakangiting tugon ni Andrea.

"Masaya, sobrang masaya ako. Years din namin hinintay na magkaroon kami ng project talaga together. I'm sure this is not the last, pero excited for you guys to see," pahayag naman ni Kyle.

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Kelsey Merritt purchases her first house in Los Angeles



MANILA, Philippines – Filipino-American model Kelsey Merritt is now a brand new owner of a house in Los Angeles!

The former Victoria's Secret model shared a number of photos of herself in-

side her newly-purchased home, a result of a long search.

"Did a thing... bought my first home in LA," Kelsey Merritt wrote in her post's caption. "I was searching for a while and fell in love instantly with this charming house! Can't wait to show you guys more of her."

Kelsey posed in a white maxi dress in several nooks of her new home, which include French doors, two green-colored rooms (one with a fireplace) and an out-

door garden.

The model's pictures were taken by Los Angeles-based Filipino celebrity photographer Adrian Martin – who recently shot with Hailey Bieber and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley – before officially moving in.

Among those who congratulated Kelsey on her personal milestone were host-actress Anne Curtis, former Victoria's Secret Angel Jasmine Tookes, Sports Illustrated Swimsuit model Brooks Nader, and another celebrity photographer BJ Pascual.

Kelsey is the first Filipina to walk the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show and appear on an issue of Sports Illustrated Swimsuit, having done the latter four times to date.

TASTE OF MANILA

IT WAS WORTH IT

Rianneh is happy with her halo-halo and kwek-kwek from FV Foods even if she had to fall in line for 30 minutes.



Bicol Canada Community Association holds their Picnic



1. Volleyball player
2. Action Honda Manager Rafael Nebres and company pose at the lechon table.
3. Action Honda Manager Rafael Nebres inspects the lechon.
4. The first Bicol chess tournament
5. Playing Pinoy Henyo
6. Kids join the first BCCA Art Contest
7. BCCA holds a membership drive
8. Lally Dividian Tidor wins the first Bicol Art contest in the senior division.



'Peace of mind': KC Concepcion confirms unfollowing Kiko, Frankie Pangilinan

Actress KC Concepcion confirmed that she unfollowed her stepdad Kiko Pangilinan and half-sister Frankie.

In her interview with Cristy Fermin, KC said that it's not a big deal that she unfollowed Kiko and Frankie.

"Hindi naman po masama na magkaroon ng time na meron kayong ina-unfollow, or meron kayong ipa-follow. Mahirap lang po talaga kapag showbiz po 'yung family, talagang lahat po pinupuna po," she said.

"Ako kasi, I think, 'yung sa akin is more of, like I said, may mga complicated po talaga pagdating sa blended family," she added.

KC admitted that her family is not



perfect and she just wants to be happy.

"Meron din po talagang mga times na hindi perfect, hindi po kami perpekto. And hindi po lagi kailangang perfect. So, wala naman po akong gustong ikuwento pa apart from the fact na, ako, I just want peace of mind, I want to be happy. I want my family to be happy," she said.

"Ang gusto ko lang maging light, masaya, ayoko nang maraming drama, ayoko nang maraming hindi... 'yung forgiveness kasi sa family, important din 'yun siguro para maging okay 'yung takbo ng relationship ng lahat. And sometimes, mas gusto kong piliin 'yung peace of mind ko, Tita," she added.

'Nakapagre-install na ba lahat?'

Vice Ganda asks after replacing Toni Gonzaga as endorser

It looks like Vice Ganda took a swipe at Toni Gonzaga after he was named as Shopee's new brand ambassador.

In his Twitter account, Vice asked his followers if they already reinstalled the online shopping app. "Nakapagre-install na ba lahat? Happy Sunday!" Vice wrote with three orange heart emojis.

It can be recalled that the e-commerce site received backlash after tapping Toni Gonzaga as their endorser last year.

Social media users said that they will not use the app again and that they uninstalled it in their phones.

Vice was recently introduced as the site's newest brand ambassador. The multi-talented comedy icon will serve as

the face of the brand's campaigns and community initiatives.

This 9.9 Super Shopping Day on September 9, the app's users can expect entertaining content from the "It's Showtime" host as he stars in a livestream and its new TV commercial.

During the launch of the Super Shopping Day, the e-commerce platform also announced a groundbreaking partnership with the League of Provinces of the Philippines. This strategic collaboration aims to support and accelerate

the digital transformation of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across the country, driving economic growth and inclusivity.



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Joross Gamboa shares sensible advice on avoiding scams

Joross plays a scammer in new GMA-7 teleserye, *The Missing Husband*

Sa tunay na buhay ba ay naranasan ni Joross na ma-scam? "Actually, sa buhay natin merong iba't ibang level ng scam, e.

"Ito nga yung mga example. Bibigyan ko lang kayo ng tatlong example ng scam; huwag kayo basta-basta maniniwala sa salitang 'I love you.' "Huwag kayong maniniwala

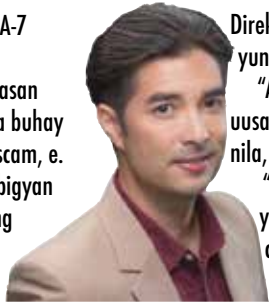
dun sa salita ng mga scammer na, 'Open-minded ka ba?' "At yung mga simpleng scam sa mga magkakaibigan, 'On the way na ako!'

"Yan yung mga bagay na medyo iingat niyo," at tumawa si Joross. "But seriously speaking, ako rin kasi meron na akong experience na na-scam and actually. even my parents. "Marami, mga kakilala, marami akong ano... so yung mga nakita ko dun, na-apply ko dito sa show na 'to.

"So sila yung ini-scam ko dito sa show, di ba?"

Ang mga ini-scam ni Joross sa *The Missing Husband* ay sina Yasmien Kurdi (bilang Millie) at Rocco Nacino bilang si Anton.

"Yung character kasi with the help of siyempre si



Direk [Mark Reyes], visually pini-feed niya e, yung situation, yung mga eksena.

"Ang mga scammer kasi, yun nga yung pinag-uusapan namin, mga flashy sila sa mga suot nila, mga gamit nila.

"Lagi rin silang, ito pa yung mahirap ha, yung minsan yung mga una nilang mga clients or mga nakukuha, hindi nila ini-scam, e.

"Sila yung parang resibo nung scammer na, 'O, kita mo?' "Hindi nila ini-scam lagi yung una nilang ano, o-offer-an nilo.

"Yung mga susunod. Or later on, after mong kumita sa kanila papa-invest-in ka nila ng mas malaki!

"So sina-size up. So yung mga scammer, yun yung, marami, building up relationship, iyon yung pinag-uusapan namin, so mahirap, mahirap.

"Kaya kailangan, katulad nga ng sinasabi ko sa kanila na kapag it's too good to be true or kapag medyo masyadong maboka yung nag-o-offer sa 'yo, medyo step back ka muna, magtanung-tanong ka, tulad ng ginawa ni Jak. "So yung mga ganung bagay."

Ivana Alawi meets 'Bawal Umihi' wall creator

MANILA, Philippines — Ivana Alawi traveled all the way to Pandi, Bulacan, to meet the man behind the viral wall.

In her latest Facebook post, the actress-vlogger met content creator Armando, the man behind the signage "Bawal Umihi Dito Pero Si Ivana Alawi Pwede."

"Ang layo ng binyaha namin pero happy ako na na-meet na kita," Ivana told Armando.

Armando explained why he wrote the text on the viral wall that jokingly warns passersby not to urinate on it unless they happen to be Ivana.

Despite several ordinances that prohibit urinating in public spaces in various cities and municipalities in the country, the "Bawal Umihi" sign is often seen on the walls of public and private spaces and serves as a warning for people not to urinate on it.

"Almost two years ago [pa naming ginawa 'yang bakod na iyan]. 'Yung attention parang mahirap ma-achieve. Maraming [nagsasabing] 'I love you' kay Ivana Alawi. Maraming nagha-hi. Ang dami,

generic na. Kaya [ginawa namin iyan kasi] 'yung



uniqueness, papansin talaga siya," he said.

At the end of the video, Ivana gave a cash gift to Armando for making her happy.

"Hindi ko alam na may paganito. Ma-meet lang si Ma'am Ivana, all good na. Binigyan pa ako ng P50,000... Kapag may pangarap kayo sa buhay, talagang matutupad. Isa ito sa masasabi nating pangarap kasi si Ma'am Ivana is isang successful na social media queen," he said.

FISHING from page 1

tries, and repeatedly called out Beijing's aggression in the South China Sea. Even as Philippine and Chinese coastguards engage in a now-familiar cat-and-mouse game on the disputed waters, Manila has announced plans to train fishermen to protect their territory out at sea.

For Manila, allied help also comes with the risk of escalating the dispute. But that is a risk Palawan's fishermen may not be willing to take. The Philippine Army Chief of Staff, Romeo Brawner, recently said they plan to recruit fishermen as reservists and train them. The regional officer for the Kalayaan Palawan Farmers and Fisherfolks Association, Larry Hugo, laughed when the BBC asked him if he knew many fishermen prepared to join such a militia. "No, no, we don't want to join," he said. "It's hard if China would detect us. Fishermen from here will be targeted. The Chinese are becoming more aggressive. They've increased in numbers too." Mr Malaya from the Philippines National Security Council says the Chinese are also using hundreds of fishing vessels near the Ayungin shoal, which are in effect militia vessels.

"They are instruments of Chinese power, they are part of the military apparatus of China. They serve to intimidate and harass our fishermen in the area," he added. Beijing, however, denies that such a militia exists. Whether it does or not, Benjo Atay says he is not prepared to even risk sailing near those waters, let alone fight. He has fished near Ayungin shoal since he was 14. It is named after the near-endangered fish endemic to the Philippines, well-known to families living off a tight budget. There was a time when,

for months, he and other fishermen from the scattered islands near Palawan sailed close to Chinese boats in the same waters.

Now in his 30s, Mr Atay's concern for the crew's safety outweighs the lure of a significant catch. "I don't think we will go back there. We are really scared. They might fire their water cannon. Of course, we just have a wooden boat. We're really afraid of going back there." The crystal-clear turquoise seas and white sands of Palawan are idyllic. But to survive here, if you do not fish, you do not eat.

For generations, the people of this island have carved out communities from rocky bays and sandy shores: single-room homes with corrugated iron roofs where babies sleep in hammocks strung across the kitchen. A storm has grounded most of the boats, so some venture out on foot into the shallows to wade with nets and buckets for shellfish. Others are using the time to repair boats and nets.

The children have a day off school and battle on a makeshift basketball court surrounded by the resting upturned boats. Some of them say they want to be professional basketball players, but when asked if they want to be fishermen, the answer is a resounding yes.

"It's getting harder each year," Mr Atay says. "How could we work properly when we're afraid? We can't focus on fishing so we just stay on the island where we Filipinos are allowed."

These communities are determined to keep their heads down during these territorial disputes. But their future may depend on any outcome.

That future was once dependant on wind and tide. Now it will depend on the resolve of world leaders.

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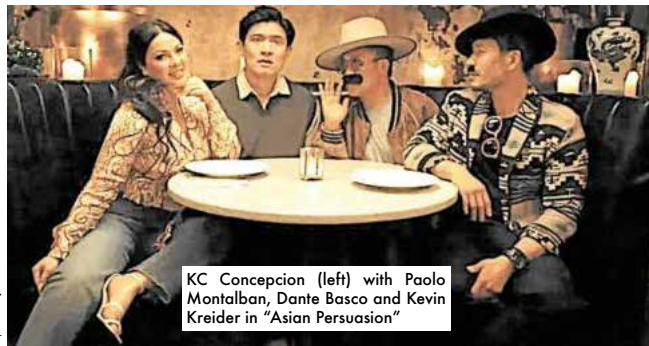
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KC Concepcion makes acting comeback via Hollywood indie ‘Asian Persuasion’



KC Concepcion (left) with Paolo Montalban, Dante Basco and Kevin Kreider in "Asian Persuasion"

Actress-turned-jeweler KC Concepcion makes acting comeback via Hollywood indie “Asian Persuasion.”

KC plays the lead in the Hollywood indie movie, “Asian Persuasion,” alongside Filipino American actors Dante Basco and Paolo Montalban, under the direction of Tony and Grammy winner Jhett Tolentino. The romantic comedy will premiere at the 2023 Soho International Film Festival in New

York later this month.

“It’s not easy for someone like me who already had a role right after she was born. My life is like a reality show. From the moment I was born, I was already the star of the show of my life,” said the daughter of Filipino celebrities Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion.

“I don’t see it in the same way as a lot of artists see it. Others chose this kind of life. For me, I didn’t really have a choice not to involve the public in my life. Admittedly, there were times when I tried to keep my life private.,” explained KC as to why she chose to stop working in the biz temporarily.

Certified jeweler

She then launched her own jewelry line in 2018 called “Avec Moi by Kristina.” In 2020, she became a certified jeweler after finishing three courses at the Gemological Institute of America.

“I never left show biz. I hope to never leave it,” KC pointed out. “I’m grateful for it because hilig ko talaga s’ya.

‘Need to evolve’

KC admitted that she didn’t expect she would “lay low” from show biz longer than she did. “It’s just that I became busy doing other things, like trying my hand at business. I needed to evolve,” she pointed out.

Starting her own jewelry business was something she has been wanting to do, KC said. “Jewelry, glamor and the mov-

ies have always been connected.

Just like Elizabeth Taylor and her jewelry, I’ve also wanted to do that. .

KC started working on “Asian Persuasion” in 2021. KC immediately liked the material. “I didn’t even ask for a talent fee. I just said, ‘I’ll do it. It’s mine!’ “I hope that people will enjoy it because it’s a fun film.

Shooting the film

KC shot the film for a month and a half in New York City, but she ended up staying there for six months. She claimed to have enjoyed working on the set, and added that all the workshops and training that her bosses in ABS-CBN made her attend have paid off.

She said, “If not for them, I would surely be lost. I felt intimidated by the other cast members in the beginning, but I later realized that they’re so humble and supportive. They made me feel like I have a place alongside them.”

KC continued: “I think that’s also the biggest advice I can give to artists who are from the Philippines: You have all the right to be on that stage or on that set because you’re an artist. Art is a universal expression. It is not bound by race. We see a lot of Korean dramas that we

think are good, even though we don’t really understand them. I had a good experience working on the film. I realized, ‘Pwede pala.’”

Aiko Melendez says no to movie with Jomari

Aiko Melendez can sound a bit too disappointing at times.

Don’t get me wrong, but this has absolutely nothing to do with how she discharges her official duties as Quezon City Fifth District Councillor. I’d like to think she’s doing her job even better than expected.

In one of her latest vlogs, Aiko swore she’d never accede to taking on a film assignment with erstwhile partner Jomari Yllana. In fact, an offer came but she had to flatly turn it down.

Her reason: had she seized the opportunity, inevitably, her past with Jomari would be dredged up.

Aiko is no showbiz upstart not to know that for any project to sell, it’s not all about the movie which the public is solely interested about.

For one, she and Jomari had something behind them. If dwelling on their ugly past would make her feel uncomfortable, then she could steer clear of that and instead talk about their only child Andrei.

Still, it’s no good dragging Andrei into the publicity blitz as she’s wary it might affect the boy’s mental health.

I thought Aiko was glad that Jomari’s trying to make up for his shortcomings toward Andrei. And that Andrei has learned to forgive his father on the condition that the latter would no longer commit the same mistakes with his other kids.

All said, Aiko wouldn’t budge. It’s still a big to working with Jomari.

Is this how flimsy Aiko can get? Sorry, Aiko, but I don’t get it.



SHOWBITS

Niya is an Ibanag recording Artist

We are thrilled to share with you the incredible talent of one of our Filipino-Canadian artists named, Niya!

Born and raised in Tuguegarao City and now based in Toronto, Niya is about to release the very first IBANAG-ITAWES song titled “MAKUWA TAM NGAMIN,” distributed under an international label, Warner Music PH, with our label manager, Ruth Lee Resuello.

“MAKUWA TAM NGAMIN” is a powerful EDM Ibanag-Itawes POP song that speaks volumes about the significance of friendship and the importance of lifting each other up. Through this beautiful piece of art, Niya & Ruth Lee reassures and comforts a friend that no matter what obstacles lie ahead, they will conquer them together. Together, they will illuminate their path, inspiring one another to achieve their dreams and reach their destiny.

As we eagerly await the release of “MAKUWA TAM NGAMIN,” let us celebrate diversity through music, showcasing the rich culture and vibrant spirit of the IBANAG community. This song is set to be a game-changer, bridging cultures and emotions, and leaving an indelible mark on the music scene.

MAKUWA TAM NGAMIN premieres 22nd of September 2023. at Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube.

Jay R lists partnership with Kyla as career highlight

Jay R names his partnership with Kyla as one of the top highlights of his 20-year music career. Together, they got dubbed as the Filipino R&B Royalty, with their tandem scoring sold-out concerts, endorsement deals and hit songs such as Let The Love Begin, Undeniable, Say That You Love Me and Back In Time.



“The partnership of Jay-R and Kyla, I would say, was a very fruitful one,” the currently US-based Jay R said.

What made it special is because they learned a lot from each other. “We were elevating because we were learning from each other. Yung flavor ko na galing dito sa L.A., parang she picked it up, tapos yung mga technique niya, yung mga range niya, I picked it up naman,” he said.

“Tapos yung mga performances ko, she’s learning from that. Ako naman, yung mga harmonies and vocal exercises and being laging nag-rere-hearse, I got that from Kyla.

“So we were always learning from each other. That is a big part of my career – meeting Kyla for sure and collaborating with her.”

Jay R further teased in our interview: “For the concert, you can expect kulutan to the max and belting to the max for sure.”

Due to fans’ requests, Jay R also offering merchandise he’s been selling in tours in the US and Canada.

With the reunion show, a “reunion” song shouldn’t be far behind. Earlier, in a statement, Kyla said that after doing many shows together, she’s most excited about Back in Time because of “so much growth and maturity in terms of our musicality.”

“This show will surely give us an opportunity to reflect on where we’re at in our respective careers and personal lives, while allowing us to be more involved in terms of song selection and artistic direction,” she added.

Joey de Leon’s dream movie is not another ‘Starzan’

ONE major consideration why Joey de Leon agreed to appear opposite Toni Gonzaga in last year’s Metro Manila Film Festival entry “My Teacher” was because his long-time friend Vic Sotto was not in the race.

During Joey de Leon’s promotion for My Teacher, the entertainment press attendees distinctly remember Joey’s answer when asked what his dream movie was.

No, it wasn’t a sequel to his Starzan film. Neither was it any fictional character he wanted to reprise.

Then what? A film inspired by or based on the 44-year-old Eat Bulaga (and I mean the old one)!

Note that this was way before all the hoopla took place during the first quarter of this year.

Is Joey still dogged and determined to make a go for this dream project? The TVJ can also partner with other film companies so as not to tighten the pursestrings.

Or better yet, what is the TVJ-owned company which is at the helm of “E.A.T.” doing? Wasn’t this put up also to produce TV shows, live concerts and alike?

But what will this film version be all about? For certain, no viewer – even if loyal to Eat Bulaga (again, the old – or the legit – one) and the Dabarkads – would want to witness some bickering reminiscent of the pre-exodus between the show producer and the talents all over.

Let the TV host referred to as the ‘Master Henyo’ activate his brain cells to produce an overflow of fresh ideas which is entertaining as it is thought-provoking.



MTRCB suspends ‘It’s Showtime!’

The Movie and Television Review Classifications Board (MTRCB) has suspended “It’s Showtime” for 12 airing days.

It issued its decision to suspend the noontime show after several viewers lodged multiple complaints about its July 25 episode, where It’s Showtime hosts allegedly acted in an indecent manner in the “Isip Bata” segment. Its Hearing and Adjudication Committee heard the case, required its respondents to submit their position papers, and followed a procedural process, the MTRCB said. According to its statement, respondents may file a motion for reconsideration within 15 days after receipt of the decision. Just this year, “It’s Showtime”

received two warnings from the MTRCB: For its January 24 episode, when hosts Jhong Hilario and Vice Ganda allegedly uttered the word “G spot” inappropriately, and for its June 3 episode, when host Vhong Navarro said the word “tinggil” inappropriately.

Meanwhile, MTRCB noted that this isn’t the first time “It’s Showtime” was suspended by the MTRCB. Back in 2010, the MTRCB imposed a 20-day preventive suspension on variety program “Showtime.” On July 31, the MTRCB summoned “It’s Showtime” producers over alleged “indecent acts” of Vice Ganda and Ion Perez on the segment “Isip Bata” of its July 25 episode.

In the segment, Vice and Ion,

who wed in a non-legal ceremony in Las Vegas last year, Vice Ganda was seen taking some of the cake’s icing from Ion’s fingers before tasting it and greeting Ion a “happy monthsary.” The complaint alleged that the scene portrayed “indecent acts.”

Vice Ganda was seen taking some of the cake’s icing from Ion’s fingers

In a statement, ABS-CBN said they will file a motion for reconsideration with the MTRCB.

“We will submit a Motion for Reconsideration as we humbly maintain there was no violation of pertinent law,” the statement read.

“We are also committed to working with the MTRCB to ensure that ‘It’s Showtime’ can continue to bring joy and entertainment to our noontime viewers.”

Dolorosa Quezon Looking Forward To 2024 for their 30th Anniversary



Dolorosa Quezon introduces their Hermanos and Hermanas at the Folorosa Fiesta last September 2 at Our Lady of Fatima church. Dolorosa will celebrate their 30th year anniversary in 2024.

Who's the funniest of them all in Prime Video's Comedy Island Philippines?



The Amazon Original comedy series, Comedy Island Philippines, features a star-studded cast. Photo shows Jerald Napoles, Cai Cortez, Drew Arellano, Andrea Brillantes, Rufa Mae Quinto, Awra Briguela and Carlo Aquino. Not in the image is social media star Justin Luzares. The Filipino Original features an ambitious, hybrid format that blends elements of reality, comedy and adventure.

Prime Video has assembled a cast of top comedians with dramatic actors and a "serious" host thrown into the mix for Comedy Island Philippines, a six-part hybrid show that's both scripted and unscripted.

You have Rufa Mae Quinto, Jerald Napoles, Cai Cortez, Justin Luzares, Awra Briguela, Andrea Brillantes and Carlo Aquino, as themselves, getting trapped on an island named Tawa Tawa. They have nothing but their brand of humor and ability to do improvisational comedy to help them survive the challenges handed by game master Drew Arellano.

The story starts off with Carlo as himself trying to escape some overzealous fans. He hides at a comic book store where he gets led to a komiks titled Tawa Tawa. All of a sudden, he is transported to this mysterious island and eventually sees friends and familiar faces from the showbiz industry, including a bewildered Rufa Mae, who cries for help: "Help, help, hooray!"

It turns out they were chosen to be contestants in this comedy game show that seemingly mish-mashes Survivor and Hunger Games with a winner to be declared in the end.

"You want the chemistry to be right, you also want them to feel different. You cast someone not expected like Carlo Aquino. I'm sure he was surprised but once he committed, he really committed.

The next question was if they knew how to improv. "For some of them, we weren't sure. So, we kind of had to do an interview process and a little bit of training."

That meant they hired an improv team to do work-

shops prior to filming. The workshop was done one-on-one to keep the element of surprise about the cast members.

Who surprised them the most?

Longjas said, "To be honest, I was surprised with Carlo Aquino."

"He was super funny. He's not branded as funny, but it turned out he has that effort to interact and collaborate," he further said of the award-winning actor.

Another surprise for them on set was Drew, who is better known at hosting public affairs programs at GMA.

"He's really a revelation," began Longjas. "I had to brief him twice because when we offered him the project he was very reluctant because he hasn't done any acting job for quite a long time. And he was telling me, direk, can you convince me, why would I go there? I have four kids, a newborn baby, and I'm going to leave them for a month. Why would I do it?"

Andrea surprised them for being super game even though she was also out of her comfort zone. "It was new for her, but she's young, she's like a sponge and she wants to try different things. She got into it and became

very fearless. Literally fearless and competitive!" Yuson said.

Yuson stressed that all were committed to their roles in the series.

"They were all competitive at making each other laugh also, so competitive like who can be funnier?"

As for the ones that seriously did comedy, like Jerald and Rufa, they also made sure to provide support. "I think they know that the more support you get and can give each other, the funnier the scene can be. I think



Rufa Mae, Carlo, Andrea, Justin, Jerald and Cai in a scene from the first episode of the comedy series. - Photos courtesy of Prime Video

for the ones that never did improv before, that concept naki-crystallize," Yuson said.

Longjas related that when it came to the activities and challenges, he didn't impose on how they should approach them. At first, they would ask him if they could laugh on screen. "Of course, why not? Because they were trying to hold their laughter back at first because cameras were shooting them. But I said, the more you laugh, the more you break from your character. It adds to the reality thing na it should be kasi unscripted siya. Kaya maraming times na tatawala talaga sila on their own."

Yuson also commented, "What was really nice seeing was the camaraderie built over the time we spent there."

"It was a literal comedy island. Every day you're laughing," she said.

Comedy Island Philippines is streaming and available on Prime Video in over 240 countries and territories worldwide.

Photographer ibinuking ang ugali ni Dimples Romana: 'Hindi ko alam na ganu'n pala siya'

SOBRANG na-appreciate ng isang photographer named Bella Morcen ang kabaitan ng "The Iron Heart" star na si Dimples Romana.

Isang appreciation post ang kanyang inilagay sa kanyang Instagram account kung saan idinetalye niya ang kanyang naging magandang karanasan kay Dimples.

Isang photo ang ipinost ni Bella sa kanyang Instagram page kung saan nakaupo sa lapag ang "The Iron Heart" actress habang nakaharap sa isang malaking salamin.

"This is Dimples Romana, if you don't know her.. isa lang naman siya sa pinakamagaling na Actress sa Pilipinas," say ni Bella.

Then, itsinika niya kung paano siya nagkakilala ni Dimples.

"We met online sa isang Zoom meeting year 2021 because of Kim Molina & Jerald Napoles kasi may ipagawala si Ms. Dimps.

"Tapos naalala ko nakailang video calls na kami.. napag usapan namin yung mga gagawin namin then

may kasamang chikahan pero more of marami ako natututunan sa kanya kaya sabi ko kay Kim, sobrang thank you dahil pinakilala niya ako kay Ms. Dimps," chika pa ni Bella.

"Hindi ko alam na ganu'n pala siya katalino, kabait, full of wisdom at hindi siya madamot mag-share. Sobrang sipag din niya tulad ng ibang Celebrities na naging client ko narin kaya bilib din ako sa kanya," dagdag pa niya.

"Last Thursday, finally nagkita na kami! Pinuntahan niya ako sa @studiomorcen kahit taga South siya, before siya mag work sa ABS-CBN.

"Sabi ko, 'buti nasingit mo 'to sa sched mo Ms. Dimps, grabe di ako makapaniwala', then tumatak sakin yung sagot niya, 'no, I made time for you, willing to help!' Medyo nag-melt ako doon," say pa ni Bella na hindi makapaniwalang bibigyan siya ng time ng aktres.

"Why I uploaded this photo? Natuwa ako sa kanya kasi dumating siya sa studio mag isa, no driver, no P.A, no make up artist, siya lang mag isang buhat mga gamit niya.

"Tapos niyayaya ko siya sa labas ng changing room namin para sa table ng make up area namin siya mag ayos. Sabi ko bakit ka nasa sa-hig, pero natawa ako ng slight.

"Sabi niya, mas comfy daw siya doon. So need ko na talaga bumili ng upuan sa changing room. Walang arte itong tao na 'to and walang ka ere ere, para ka lang nakikipag usap sa tropa mo. Grateful for you Ms. Dimps and we really appreciate you!" say pa ng photographer.



Maymay Entrata featured on Times Square billboard in New York

Maymay Entrata surprised her fans after announcing that she has been featured on the iconic Times Tower billboard in New York City's Time Square.

On her Instagram account, Maymay posted a photo of the billboard.

"All Glory to God! Maraming salamat sa lahat ng suporta mula sa MAYloves ko sa journey ko dito sa musika," Maymay wrote.

"Di ko akalaing magkaka billboard ako sa NYC. Thank you @spotify @spotifyph @spotifyasia @starpopp for making this possible po," she added.

Maymay was part of the "Equal" campaign, which highlights women musicians from around the world.

She released her new song "Tsada Mahigugma" last month.



SWIMSUIT from page 1

Philippines and Miss Philippines Universe. I feel like there's a little bit of confusion there. I came from the pageant world and even I am a little bit confused," Wurtzbach started.

The beauty queen said she believes there are other ways to showcase a candidate's physique.

"But I do think that taking out the swimsuit competition round, I understand why. Miss World has been doing it already. I mean they've been doing it for a few years now. And



I can understand why it's not really necessary anymore. Perhaps there's a better, healthier way to gauge the strength of a candidate physically without having her to wear a swimsuit. Maybe they will think of a better way," she said.

"When I was competing the reason why we had a swimsuit competition was to show the judges that you take care of yourself, you are fit, you are active... because you are supposed to be a role model," Wurtzbach explained.

"Like when I was Miss Universe nga and I became really skinny, pinagsabihan din nila ako

na huwag, kasi gagayahin ka ng mga musubaybay sa iyo. So naiintindihan ko naman 'yung purpose ng swimsuit competition noon. It's because to show the physique and to show how you take care of yourself. But I've been seeing other competitions do a sports segment instead or maybe they will do sportswear instead of swimwear. Kasi may mga religion din na aren't really comfortable in wearing two-piece, or showing too much skin. So, I think it's going into the right direction where we are kind of making it less about the body but more about the women talaga," she added.

Currently, Wurtzbach is busy promoting her first book "Queen of the Universe."

For Empoy Marquez and Cristine Reyes, funny can be ‘pogi’

There’s a saying that goes, “Daig ng komedyante ang pogi.” No objection there from Empoy Marquez. “A person who can make other people laugh—madaling mahalina (easy to love). No matter what you look like, if you’re funny, you can be a magnet not only for women but for all people,” he told the Inquirer at a recent press conference for the upcoming comedy film “Kidnap for Romance,” which opens in cinemas on Sept. 6.

“As for the girls, they just gravitate toward me. ‘Di ko sinasadya!” he said, laughing. Cristine Reyes echoed her leading man’s sentiments, adding that having a partner with a sense of humor is indeed a plus, especially for emotionally drained actors like her. “We all need laughter in our lives. It’s the best medicine, as they say,” she said. “I have been hospitalized a few times before due to exhaustion or lack of sleep, so sometimes you just want something lighthearted. The nature of our job is heavy, not everyone will understand how stressful or emotionally draining it can be. So when someone makes you laugh, it feels like you’re about to have a good day. It makes you feel content.”

Marco Gumabao, doesn’t specifically seek out funny guys. “But it’s a bonus, for sure. For me, I trust who’s going to be there for me,” she said.

Empoy emerged as an unlikely leading man after starring in the 2017 box-office hit “Kita Kita” with Alessandra de Rossi. Now, he gets to act alongside Cristine.

“It feels like I’m still dreaming... parang laru-laro ng pagkakataon. I’m thankful I’m given these opportunities; that people trust someone like me. I never imagined this happening in my career... because I’m used to being a sidekick. But suddenly you think, ‘Pwede pala mag-leading man?’ A lot of things changed in my life,” Empoy said.

“The projects keep coming. Kinilig ako,” he added. “I think it’s just your time!” Cristine told him.

In “Kidnap for Romance,” which is produced by Viva Films and directed by Victor Villanueva, Cristine plays Elena, a stunt-woman forced to join a crime syndicate to earn easy money for her sick mother. She’s tasked to kidnap Fred (Empoy), heir of one of the richest men in the Philippines.

While Cristine manages to abduct Fred, a close call with the police forces them to hide in a secluded villa owned by Fred’s clan.



They’re caught wrestling with each other by Fred’s grandfather, Henry (Boboy Garovillo), who gets the wrong idea and demands they marry each other as soon as possible.

Elena’s impoverished family thinks they have hit the jackpot. But Fred, who’s afraid of commitment, threatens to tell the truth.

drama series “Kahit Isang Saglit,” where they both played supporting roles. And being friends in real life helped them build rapport for their first starring movie.

“It was fun working with him. I was very excited when I found out that he was going to be my leading man,” said Cristine, who described Empoy as “prim and proper” on the set. “Kagalang-galang siya and serious. I find that amazing!”

Natural rapport “It’s great that we’ve had natural rapport, even before we started filming. Although we don’t really see each other often, I always feel comfortable and at ease with him... He’s such a kind person. What you see is what you get. I have always admired his work ethic,” Cristine said. “If there’s good communication on and offscreen, you will be able to pull off what the project requires, whether it’s action or comedy.”

Empoy, on the other hand, felt that their chemistry was “organic.” “Cristine is the kind of leading lady that draws you in when you make eye contact. Talagang mahahawa ka,” he said.

They even prefer the same “language” when it comes to receiving love. “Time is my love language. I say that because I feel sad whenever I miss out on special occasions, because I’m often busy with work. When I see photos of loved ones together, I can’t help but have this feeling of yearning,” she said.

“She’s right,” Empoy said. “Time is really of value in this world... What good is wealth if you can’t spend time with your family and loved ones.”

Childlike quality “I love doing comedy, so I really enjoyed working even if I didn’t have much sleep. We still felt really energetic on the set, even if we finished taping in the morning,” Cristine related.

Comedy may not be her forte but Empoy noted that she has this childlike quality that lends well to the genre. “It was like being with a playful and naughty kid... You will laugh at her antics,” said Empoy, who joked that he started brushing his teeth three times a day when he learned that he would be paired with Cristine.

“She has a funny personality that’s just infectious. I told her not to watch too much comedy in preparation for the role because I felt there was no need for her to copy anyone. She has her own way of making people laugh,” he added.

Their first project together was the 2008

Time is really of value in this world

Why Andrea Brillantes seeks love advice from Carlo Aquino

Young actress Andrea Brillantes revealed that she asked her “godparent” Carlo Aquino for some love advice. The young star shared that this happened while she and Carlo were spending their free time with their co-stars from Comedy Island Philippines.

“We were inside a bahay kubo (traditional Filipino hut), and I was with my ninong, Kuya Carlo, and co-stars Ate Cai and Kuya Je. Suddenly, we had the opportunity to talk about love,” Andrea recounted.

Both of them were among the lead stars of Prime Video’s Comedy Island Philippines, along with Awra Briguela, Rufa Mae Quinto, Jerald Napoles, Cai Cortez, Justine Luzares, and Drew Arellano.

“Since I knew they had more experience in relationships, and Kuya Carlo is my ninong, I asked for some love advice, and it got emotional to the point where I started crying,” she continued.



“They gave me a lot of advice, even Sir Drew. I asked each one of them for pointers. In fact, I still have them in my notes,” she added.

Comedy actress Cai Cortez then asked Andrea if she had followed their advice, to which Andrea quickly replied, “At that time, no.”

During that period, Andrea was still in a relationship with basketball player and model Ricci Rivero until their breakup in June of the current year.

In her defense, the Senior High star stated that she has since been able to apply their advice to her current relationship status.

“But I must say, I’ve applied it now,” she added.

When asked about her current life mantra during the Comedy Island Philippines press conference, Andrea emphasized the importance of prioritizing self-love.

“You should love yourself before

loving someone else,” said the 20-year-old actress.

The six-part show is a hybrid of reality, adventure, scripted and unscripted comedy acts, and planned and improvisational scenes involving seven comedians and actors from the country.

Differing from their usual dramatic roles in television series and films, with Carlo currently starring in Kung Hindi Lang Tayo Sumuko and Andrea leading the mystery-thriller series Senior High, the two expressed their surprise when Prime Video invited them to be part of the comedy-reality show.

Prime Video executives with the director and cast of “Comedy Island Philippines”

“My question was, ‘Why did they think of me for comedy?’ Of course, I’m still thankful and excited because it involves improvisation, which I haven’t done in comedy. I was nervous, but I accepted,” Carlo said.

On the other hand, Andrea expressed her excitement about working with comedy experts.

“I thought maybe I could bring something here. They’re all good at making people laugh, so I thought I could balance it by adding some cuteness,” Andrea quipped.

‘Pakasalan mo ‘yung anak ko’

Jeric Raval revealed that he had asked Aljur Abrenica, the boyfriend of his daughter AJ Raval, to marry the actress once the younger actor has settled everything in his previous relationship with fellow actress Kylie Padilla.



Raval opened up about his relationship with Abrenica during an interview for “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda” last Aug. 23.

“‘Alam mo, tatlong bagay lang ang ipapakiusap ko sa’yo,’” he continued, recalling his plea to Abrenica. “Una, ‘yung anak ko ay bata pa. Pangalawa, ‘yung biyanan mo ay kaibigan ko. E ano kayang sasabihin ko sa biyanan mo ‘pag nagkita kami? Baka sabihin kinukunsinti ko kayo.’”

Raval was referring to actor-turned-politician Robin Padilla who is the father of Kylie, with whom Abrenica has 2 sons. He said Abrenica should first straighten out first the legalities of his first marriage

“Pangatlo, ang sabi ko sa kanya, ‘Ang anak ko, gusto ko pakasalan mo. Basta ‘pag ayos ka na, wala ka nang problema, pakasalan mo ‘yung anak ko,’” Jeric disclosed.

Jeric also admitted during the interview that he was initially against AJ taking on sexy roles, which apparently prompted the actress to keep her projects secret from her father.

The veteran action star then recounted an instance when he had to act like he was answering a phone call while watching one of his daughter’s films, just so he could go out of the theater and skip the actress’ intimate scene.

After over a year of being hounded by dating speculations, AJ and Abrenica made their relationship public last Feb. 14. Days later, AJ reiterated that she and the actor only became romantically involved after he separated from Kylie.



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‘Walang hidwaan’: Yeng Constantino confirms owning her whole music catalog

Yeng considers her songs a source of investment.

MANILA, Philippines — In a move almost similar to fellow singer-songwriter Taylor Swift, Yeng Constantino has confirmed she completely owns all her songs following her departure from Star Music earlier this year.

Yeng departed Star Music after 17 years and signed with Republic Records Philippines, under which she released her latest extended play “Re-imagined” containing five re-recordings of past songs.

In an interview with several members of the media as reported by entertainment outlet Push, Yeng expressed her gratitude to Star Music and the acquisition of her music catalog would be beneficial for her future.

“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,” Yeng said. “Itong trabaho namin it’s not forever and what do I have to do in the present para masecure ko ang akin retirement pag



Yeng Constantino is grateful for her 17 years in the music industry. The message that she would like to tell her younger self is ‘just relax.’

tanda.”

Officially acquiring her songs is one of the many steps to securing her future, and Yeng considers her songs a source of investment.

With her music catalog under her name, Yeng is considering re-releasing some past songs, possibly with new lyrics, “The good thing about owning my songs na ngayon, pwede kong i-rewrite yung lyrics kasi syempre na-

go-grow din ako bilang songwriter. May mga songs dun na natatawa ako. I think I’m evolving as a songwriter as well.”

Yeng confirmed her 100% ownership of her past songs on the August 29 episode of “It’s Showtime,” and again reiterated kind words for her former label.

“Walang hidwaan, gusto ko magpasalamat sa Star Music dahil 17 years nilang inalagaan mga kanta ko and now umuwi na sa’kin,” Yeng said as one of her songs “Chinito” played.

One of the noontime variety show’s hosts Vice Ganda even jokingly wondered out loud when would he completely own the song “Boom Panes,” also hilariously mentioning “Gwi-yomi” and “Gangnam Style.”

Yeng rose to fame as the first-ever winner of the competition show “Pinoy Dream Academy,” and churned out hits like “Hawal Kamay,” “Salamat,” “Jeepney Love Story,” and “Ikaw.”

Browner: No Pinoy cadets being sent to China

MANILA — Armed Forces chief Gen. Romeo Browner Jr. has shot down reports about Filipino cadets being sent to Chinese military schools, saying there is no truth to these reports.



“It’s not totally accurate. The basis of this is that in 2004, we signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on defense cooperation with China,” Browner explained on CNN Philippines’ Politics As Usual.

He said the MOU allowed the Philippines to send officers to study in Chinese military schools or to train and partake in military exercises.


“As to the cadets, there are no cadets being sent to China and we never sent any cadets to train in China, except for some instances when the Chinese government invited several cadets for an exchange for a few days, for just one week,” he added.

Lawmakers expressed alarm over reports of Filipino cadets being sent to a Chinese military academy following the latest incident in the West Philippine Sea. Last week, the China Coast Guard blocked and fired water cannons at Philippine vessels on the way to Ayungin Shoal for a resupply mission.

Defense Senior Undersecretary Irineo Espino, the highest defense official present during the Senate hearing, said he “has heard about it” but he has yet to “find out the reason why they are sending cadets to China.”

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With no more baby plans, Beauty Gonzalez hopes to work with 'baby boy' Donny Pangilinan

Now that Beauty Gonzalez's only child is 7 years old, some of her followers have been asking if she still has plans of having another baby.

Beauty, however, has already made up her mind: She's happy and content with one kid. "I don't feel bad at all... Sorry, hindi na talaga," Beauty said to people urging her to give her daughter, Olivia, a sibling. "I feel like I'm already happy with one kid."

"And I'm also a baby," she added, laughing. "Gusto ko rin magpa-baby."

Needless to say, her husband of six years, art curator Norman Crisologo, has been treating her like one. What piece of

advice can she give to married couples?

"You do crazy things for each other. You won't always agree with some of the things he wants, but you do it anyway," she told reporters at her "Walang Matigas na Pulis sa Matinik na Misis" costar Angel Leighton's recent birthday party.

"Just be happy and take it easy," the 32-year-old actress added.

Multifaceted

It has been two years since Beauty transferred to GMA 7 and she couldn't be more thankful for the variety of roles and



projects being given to her.

"I became multifaceted here; I'm being given different kinds of roles. In my very first project for the network, 'Loving Miss Bridgette,' I got paired with a younger guy, Kelvin Miranda, who, interestingly, now plays my brother in 'Walang Matigas na Pulis.'

I'm so glad that fans get to see different sides of me here in GMA," Beauty said.

She also welcomes the string of collaborations and crossovers among different television networks.

"I'm very happy because we all have one goal. So it's nice that we're able to

collaborate with everyone. There are lots of talented people, but not everyone gets opportunities... But now that collaborations are happening, there will be more opportunities for talented people," she said.

Asked which actors she would like to work with in the future, Joshua Garcia, Alden Richards and Donny Pangilinan top her list. "Joshua is hot right now. I would like to work with Alden. He's very busy, but I hope I can squeeze [into his schedule]," she said.

"And why not Donny? He's handsome and tall. It's not every day you see someone tall, handsome, but also talented. So that's a plus, plus, plus! Hi, baby boy!" Beauty quipped.

Jose Mari Chan offered Lea Salonga and Monique Wilson the song 'Christmas In Our Hearts': 'I guess the Holy Spirit was leading me towards my daughter'



(From left) Lea Salonga, Jose Mari Chan, Monique Wilson.

Jose Mari Chan — who's known as one of the "symbols of Philippine Christmas" — revealed that theater actresses Lea Salonga and Monique Wilson almost became his duet partners in the song "Christmas In Our Hearts."

During an episode of "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda" last Sept. 1, Chan said that he first approached Salonga to sing the female lines of the song that he composed for Christmas almost 33 years ago, but which eventually went to his daughter Liza.

"At that time, Lea Salonga was a hit because of 'Miss Saigon.' So I approached her and asked her if she would do a duet with me. And sabi nya, 'Yes, I'd be glad to.'" he said.

Despite the Broadway liking the "melody and words," their collaboration didn't push through since her recording company

at that time "didn't allow her to record for a competing label."

"My next choice was Monique Wilson who was an understudy for 'Miss Saigon.' And I like her, she's a very nice person with a beautiful voice," Chan continued. "Unfortunately, that [same] weekend, she went to Tagaytay, and you know the story — she lost her voice."

Even if the collaboration with the theater actresses didn't push through, the "Beautiful Girl" singer believed that it's the "Holy Spirit" telling him that his daughter was meant to be his duet partner.

"I guess the Holy Spirit was leading me towards my daughter [Liza]. And so, I went to my daughter's bedroom. So I asked her, 'Can you learn this song quickly? 'Cause I'd like to record this with you?' And the rest is history," he said.

The song was such a hit up to this time that American a capella group Pentatotix recorded the song in October 2022 for

their album "Holidays Around The World," with no less than Salonga.

'Too Christian'

During the interview, Chan said that the melody of "Christmas In Our Hearts" was written in 1988 to accompany the poem written by a friend. However, he's still surprised with the song's success since it was said to be "too Christian" at the time.

"I never thought that two years later, I'd use that melody for a Christmas song," he said. "As a matter of fact, the producers of Universal Records said 'masyadong Christian tong kantang 'to (this song is too Christian).' Why don't you come up with a romantic Christ-

mas song?"

"So I wrote 'A Perfect Christmas' and they were so sure that it would be a success. But they didn't expect 'Christmas In Our Hearts' will become a big hit," he further added.

In a separate interview, Chan said he is thankful to those who consider him to be a "symbol of Philippine Christmas" while expressing his joy to his memes that usually re-emerge during the Christmas season.

Apart from "Christmas In Our Hearts," and "Beautiful Girl," Chan's hit songs include "A Love to Last a Lifetime," and "Please Be Careful with my Heart."

Candid SPOOF

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



Theresa Lumanlan and Frank Cruzet makes a lovely couple over Kawartha ice cream at Cones & Shakes in Picton.

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Jake Ejercito shades Duterte senators wearing West Philippine Sea t-shirts

EJERCITO from page 1

own social media pages.

The years 2016 up to 2022 was the term of former President Rodrigo Duterte wherein the Philippines' pivot to China was observed worldwide, especially on the heels of the victory of the

Philippine in its petition before the arbitral tribunal on July 12, 2016 against China's nine-dash line. Ejercito's dig on X has since garnered 765,000 views; 2,483 shares; and, 15,700 likes, as of writing.

Ejercito is the son of former



actress Laarni Enriquez and ex-President Joseph Estrada, who incidentally is an ally of Duterte.

Jake Ejercito, (left); Senators Bong Go, Bato dela Rosa, Joel Villanueva, Migz Zubiri and Sonny Angara (right) during the Gilas' game vs China at Fiba.

Nadine Lustre hesitant on 'horror queen' title: 'I don't want to be boxed'

Winning the Best Actress award at the 2022 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) is a clear sign that Nadine Lustre is on her way to becoming the so-called "horror queen" — but it's a title that she doesn't see herself as.



Lustre said

this during the story conference for her upcoming film "Nokturno," which will be her second project with filmmaker Mikhail Red.

"Parang hindi ko pa po ma-claim ang 'horror queen' kasi this is [just] my second [horror project]. Kasi meron pa po akong isang film na horror pero supporting character lang po ako d'un. As in sobrang bilis [ng appearance] ko d'un," she said, referring to the 2015 film "Chain Mail" where she was a supporting character.

"Ang first [horror project] ko is 'Deleter' then second is 'Nokturno.' I don't think I can claim it pero I'm really happy na naka-receive ako ng maraming awards because of 'Deleter,'" she further added.

The title "Horror Queen of Philippine Cinema" was previously bestowed on Kris Aquino, owing to the box office success of her numerous films in the horror genre, among them, "Shake, Rattle and Roll," "Feng Shui" series, "Sukob," and more.

"I don't want to be boxed. Hopefully, after 'Nokturno,' magkaroon ako ng variation sa projects. But ako talaga, biased kasi ako sa horror, thriller, and crime. But with 'Nokturno,' excited ako kung paano ko ititwist 'yung character this time around and paano siya magiging iba sa 'Deleter,'" she said.

Despite her knack for dark roles, Lustre stressed that her "Nokturno" character Jamie would face different challenges as her fate would affect those around her—while noting that she doesn't want to reveal any spoilers at the moment.

"Yung challenges ni Jamie ay sobrang iba from Kichi and Lyra. Mas rural kasi ang 'Nokturno' and 'yung mga kabatuhan ko rito — especially with Eula Valdez — maki-kita niyo 'yung interactions ng character ko with Eula, with a mom, with a brother, with a family member," she said.

"Sa 'Deleter' wala, halos computer lang kabatuhan ko d'un. And for 'Greed,' tatlo lang kami lagi sa eksena. But this time, meron nang family involved, may grieving. Tina-try ko kasing wag mag-share at ayokong mag-kwento kasi baka ma-spoil ko na naman," she continued while laughing.

Filming for "Nokturno" kicked off earlier this month, although a premiere date for the film is yet to be announced, as of this writing.

Celebrity stylist Kat Cruz reveals breast cancer diagnosis: 'I thought I was too young for this'

Celebrity stylist Kat Cruz, 41, disclosed that she has been diagnosed with breast cancer and that she already underwent her first session of chemotherapy.

Cruz, the former stylist of actress-fashion personality Heart Evangelista, "embraced courage" and spoke about her health through her Instagram page.

"For those who know me, you'll know I usually keep my personal life off social media," she began. "But today, I step out of my comfort zone because this journey is bigger than just me and I hope sharing my story will help



open the conversation among the young."

"At 41, I'm facing a diagnosis of triple positive breast cancer, and here I stand on the first day of chemo and targeted therapy," she revealed.

Cruz underscored the importance of mindfully looking after one's health, and admitted that she herself had "kept pushing off check-ups due to a

busy life."


"I felt invincible, keeping up with healthy habits—eating clean, working out, and prioritizing sleep. Besides, I thought I was too young for this," she said.

"I'm not naive about the rough road ahead—the treatments, the side effects, and the possibility of a major surgery. But through all this, one thing has hit home hard: cancer doesn't give a damn about who you are, how old you are, or how healthy

your lifestyle is."

Cruz then urged the public to prioritize their health as she stressed, "That monthly self-check is way quicker than hitting pause on life when things get serious."

The comments section was filled with prayers and well-wishes for Cruz from celebrities Jolina Magdangal, Gabbi Garcia, Carla Abellana and Iza Calzado, among many others.



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**Jose Manalo, Wally Bayola proud of
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Nagsimula na noong Sabado ng gabi, August 26, 2023, ang pagbabalik ng isa sa mga kauna-unahang prank show sa bansa.

Hindi pa man lagang ang mga prank video content ng iba't ibang on-line creators, nauna nang namayagpag ang Wow Mali, ang longest-running at multi-awarded prank show sa bansa.

Una itong kinagiliwan ng mga Filipino simula nang umere ito noong 1996.

Ngayon, mas doble ang katatanaan at kalokohan sa Wow Mali: Doble Tama.

Kung dati ay si Joey de Leon ang nagsilbing host ng programa sa mahabang panahon, ngayon ay ang kilalang comic duo na sina Jose Manalo at Wally Bayola.

Sinagot naman nina Jose at Wally ang mga pinad-

ala naming mga katanungan sa kanilang dalawa.

Inilarawan niya ang magiging kaibahan na mapapanood sa Wow Mali: Doble Tama.

Ayon kay Jose, "Yung natutunan namin sa Henyo Master Joey de Leon ay dala-dala namin sa programa kasama ng kanyang basbas.

"Kaya ngayon naman na napagkatiwala sa amin para magbigay ng kabaliwan at kasiyahan sa manonood, kaya ito, doble."

Pero may inspirational aspect din ang show.

"May portion dito na may pararangalan kami sa mga taong gumagawa ng kabutihan sa kapwa.

"Sila yung mga tinatawag na unsung heroes na hindi napapansin, pero kahan-ga-hanga ang dedikasyon sa pamilya at lipunan."

Dagdag ni Jose, "May katatanaan at kurot ang Wow Mali: Doble Tama."

Sa totoong buhay, naranasan na nila ang ma-wow mali, pareho ang naging sagot nina Jose at Wally na hindi pa.

Basta ang sabi nila, "Ang alam lang namin, paghahandaan namin yan."

Sina Jose at Wally ay nasa pangangalaga na pareho ng kanilang bagong manager

na si Joel Roslin.

Nakikita ba nila na hinding-hindi mabubuwal ang comic tandem nila?

Positibo ang ang naging tugon ni Wally rito.

Sabi ni Wally: "Kami ay tinadhana na mananatiling magkasama na magbibigay saya at katatanaan. Eto yung forever hangga't may sigla ang aming isip at katawan.

"May kanya-kanya kaming style at lakas as an artist. Ginagamit namin yon sa pagkakataon na isa sa amin ay may project, at yung isa naman, mayroon din sa ibang programa.

"At masaya kami for each other kapag nabibigyan kami ng pagkakataon na mag-shine as individual.

"Pero at the end of the day, magkadugtong ang tabas ng aming dila sa pagpapatawa."

OFWs to continue protest vs new travel requirements

MANILA, Philippines – Until the revised rules are finally shelved, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) will continue to protest against new travel requirements proposed by the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), the labor group Migrante International vowed.

The group, while welcoming the Department of Justice decision to suspend the IACAT policy which increases the documentary requirements for Filipino travelers, said OFWs must stay vigilant to stop its revival.

"This suspension is a temporary victory of OFWs," it said as it called on all OFWs to be on the lookout for efforts to revive the much-hated policy.

The critics said the list of documentary requirements was too long.

Lawmakers argued that the guidelines, which includes financial capacity, violate the constitutional right to travel.

Senators said the guidelines are unreasonable and put an additional burden on Filipino travelers.

Onion farmers weep over imports, low prices

MANILA, Philippines – Onion farmers from Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan and Mindoro held protests at the Department of Agriculture (DA)'s headquarters in Quezon City yesterday amid the flood of imported onions in the market.

The farmers urged President Marcos, concurrently agriculture secretary, to direct the Bureau of Plant Industry to halt the issuance of import permits as the price of local onions in cold storage facilities dropped to P70 per kilo from the previous P130 per kilo.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Rex Estoperez told the protesting farmers they are willing to delay the release of imported onions to allow local farmers to release their stocks.

"The onions can be stored for four months, and we will consult with our importers to delay the release (of imported onions) so that local farmers can release their stocks," Estoperez said.

Local farmers should give assurance that the onion supply will be available in the market, he added.

The farmers present during the dialogue assured consumers of a steady supply.

Bongabon, Nueva Ecija onion farmer Efrén Alvares said that farmers are discouraged from planting amid the flooding of imported onions in the market.

Elena Santos, another farmer from Nueva Ecija, called on the DA to ensure that no imported onions will be sold in the market while local stocks are still available in cold storage facilities.

After denying rumors, Ivana Alawi joins 'Batang Quiapo'

Sexy actress Ivana Alawi has joined ABS-CBN hit teleserye "FPJ's Ang Batang Quiapo" as it enters a new chapter.

In the teaser video, Ivana was seen comforting injured Coco Martin's character Tanggol outside the correctional facility.

Apart from Ivana, other celebrities who entered the show were Vandolph Quizon, Soliman Cruz, Julio Diaz, Robert Sena and Jaclyn Jose.

Last July, Ivana denied rumors that she was joining the cast of "FPJ's Batang Quiapo."

The actress addressed the rumor at her contract renewal with ABS-CBN. She said she will have a teleserye and movies, but the nightly



"Parang hindi 'yan na-mention sa akin. Iba po 'yung nakalatag for me," she said.

"We are doing teleserye this year and mayroon ding mga movies. So 'yung maraming exciting na projects na parating," she added.

When asked if she would oblige should she get an offer to do the teleserye, Ivana said she was more than willing to accept it.

"Of course. I watch it," she said.

Dolorosa Quezon Fiesta Mutya Beauties



Mutya ng Dolores Chiara Silo and Melissa Ventocilla present the flowers to the Birhen ng Dolorosa. At right, Dolorosa President, Philip Beloso poses with Melissa Ventocilla.



Sistahs Picasso Summer Day



Dr. Vicky Santiago (LEFT) and her sisters don a Picasso-theme tops on a warm summer day.

Faith da Silva prefers older men; clarifies rumored relationship with Albert Martinez

Muling naungkat ang pagkaka-link ng 22-year-old Kapuso actress na si Faith da Silva sa veteran actor na si Albert Martinez, 62.

Nang nakapanayam si Faith sa mediacon ng prime-time series na Maging Sino Ka Man, binanggit niyang madalas ay matured guys ang nagkakagusto sa kanya.

"Medyo lapitin ako ng mga ganyan. Medyo lapitin ako ng mga may relationship na mga tao, kahit hindi asawa. Kahit may mga dyowa-dyowa lang.

"Siguro kasi akala nila makukuha nila ako, di ba? Pero mataas yung respeto ko sa sarili ko, e," pahayag ni Faith.

Matagal na raw siyang single. Pero kung sakaling pumasok siya sa panibagong relasyon, mas gusto niyang mas matanda sa kanya.

"Mas prefer ko pa rin yung mature na guys. Mas tinututukan ako, mas nasusuportahan ako, at saka feeling ko, mag-a-align kami," paliwanag ng Kapuso actress.

Naniniwala si Faith na mas maggu-grow siya kung lalaking mas matanda sa kanya ang makakarelasyon

niya. "Kasi ang feeling ko, merong magga-guide and mag-protect sa akin bilang isang babae, di ba?"

"Ako kasi, pag relationship ang pinag-uusapan, kailangan mag-benefit ako from you. Hindi lang material things. Kailangan yung growth ko bilang isang tao, nandodoon din. "Siyempre yung suportahan natin. Siyempre ngayon, mostly career talaga yung pina-prioritize ko. "And I could see, magtu-two years na ako walang ka-text, walang ka-chat, walang anything," nakangiti niyang pahayag.

Umiiwas lang daw si Faith sa lalaking may sabit. Kadalasan kapag nasa matured men, may asawa o merong ibang karelasyon, di ba?

"Hindi ako makipag-relationship with someone na alam ko hanggang dito lang," diin ni Faith.

"Kailangan, kahit in the future, kahit na... kasi parang, since ang tagal ko na nga po na naging single, tumaas na yung self-respect ko. So, hindi ko hahayaan na mapunta ako sa ganung sitwasyon.

"Siguro, kahit man lang ano sana, annulled or divorced, di ba? O kahit mag break muna kayo saka mo ako kausapin."

ON BEING LINKED TO ALBERT MARTINEZ

Ano talaga ang namagitan sa kanila ni Albert Martinez, na nakasama niya sa Kapuso afternoon drama series na Las Hermanas. Totoo bang na-in love siya sa beteranong aktor?

"Siyempre yung kay Direk Albert, I can only answer for myself, di ba?" pasakalye ni Faith.

"Kung ma-fall, siguro masyado pang malalim para sabihin kung ma-fall ako. Pero yung appreciation ko sa kanya, at siguro sa pagkagusto ko sa kanya nung mga time na yun, it was really there.

"It was apparent naman sa akin. "Pero mahirap yung sitwasyon kasi siyempre biyudo



po siya. At saka mahal na mahal niya po talaga yung wife niya. Na kapag nag-uusap po kaming dalawa, siya po lagi niyang kinukuwento."

Iginiit ni Faith na hindi talaga sila umabot sa sinasabing "dating" o nagkaroon man lang ng mutual understanding.

"Yung sa amin po, hindi ko masasabi na MU po. "Napakalalim po ng character niya at napakamabuti niya pong tao," sabi ni Faith.

Wala raw munang panahon si Faith na makipagrelasyon dahil mas nakatutok siya sa trabaho.

Bukod sa regular taping niya sa Maging Sino Ka Man, meron din siyang daily show na TiktoClock.

Naka-focus din daw siya sa kanyang pag-aaral online. Nasa Grade 12 na siya sa Jesus dela Peña National High School sa Marikina City.

Aniya, "After ko sana mag-senior high school, meron sana akong mga plano na gusto kong i-try gawin.

"Ayoko lang po muna siyempre magsalita ng tapos, di ba?"

SUNSHINE from page 10
lorico had a graduation of their six-week summer dance program for children and youth aged 6-13.
"We're hoping that some of these

young ones will be interested in joining Folklorico dance company. We have an invitation to perform in Europe next year," says Folklorico's Wendy Arena, advisor and Director of Folklorico Filipino

Canada, Participants showcased two full dances at the end of the program.
Dolorosa Quezon held their fiesta last September 2 at Our lady of Fatima church. It was a fun-filled affair. They

are already looking forward to their 30th anniversary next year. We look forward to celebrating with them in 2024.
With his, I bid everybody Godspeed and good night.



Relaxing at Sandbanks Cottages & Campgrounds

The Filipino Centre Toronto Painting class goes on a two-night trip

MAIN PHOTO: Roy and Frank relaxes by fishing; 1. What's in those ice cream? Theresa Lumanlan and Frank Cruzet get cozy like it's valentine; 2. We all go for Kawartha ice cream at Cones & Shakes shop; 3. Sandbank Cottages and Campsites owner Nitz Rejdkik, Mercedes, Tessie, Angie, Auring, Trini and Annie pose at the entrance after a walk; 4. Angie cooks breakfast; 5. Charlie catches a fish; 6. We're having breakfast; 7. Lally Dividina Tidor bundles up like a Yeti while painting even though it's not cold; 8. The "Bagnets" try to recreate a scene from the movie Bagets.





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Leah Navarro: OPM is timeless

'Like being in a musical wonderland' is how Leah Navarro describes OPM's golden years. Photo from Leah Navarro's Facebook

In 1977, Leah Navarro was barely out of her teens when she debuted as a performing artist in the rock musical "Tales of the Manuvu" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Though singing was in her DNA, being the daughter of jazz artist Nelda Lopez Navarro, Leah said she had no previous professional experience. But watching her mom's contemporaries — including Pilita Corrales — was enough inspiration. By 1980, Leah ascended as a pop star after interpreting Nonong Pedero's "Isang Mundo, Isang Awit" at the Metro Manila Pop Music Festival.

In this Q&A, Leah recounts the first golden age of Original Pilipino Music (OPM), as she gears up to join 12 other performers in "Tugtugan Sitenta 2" on Sept. 15 at the Newport Performing Arts Theater.

Recall the year and circumstances that led you to a



singing career.

In 1977, Nonong Pedero and Alice Reyes asked me to be part of the rock musical ballet "Tales of the Manuvu" that was to be staged at the CCP. Apart from figuring in a milk commercial as a little girl, I had no previous singing experience.

What really motivated you to become a performing artist?

I was primarily inspired by my mother, jazz singer and television host Nelda Navarro. My sister and I grew up watching her and her friends like Pilita Corrales, The Gentle Rain, Tiongco Brothers, the Minstrels, and many others. They were always happy making music. They were inspiring.

You were part of the first

golden age of OPM in the '70s and '80s. Tell us what it's like to be in the middle of a local music revolution.

It was like being in a musical wonderland! Imagine working with some of the best composers and singers of the time — Nonong Pedero, George Canseco, Ryan Cayabyab, Celeste Legaspi, Apo Hiking Society, Basil Valdez, Hajji Alejandro, Rico Puno, Jaqui Magno, Mitch Valdes. I could go on and on!

You became a pop star in the time of the Metro Pop Festivals. How did you end up singing "Isang Mundo, Isang Awit"? Did Nonong Pedero offer it to you?

Yes, he did. I was surprised, but his belief in me was enough to fuel my confidence. There were a lot of rehearsals and I had great

coaches in Nonong, Leo Valdez and Ding Mercado. I will always be grateful to Nonong for this wonderful song, and to all Filipinos who continue to sing it.

Which among your other hit songs mean a lot to you? "Ang Pag-ibig Kong Ito" was radio staple. Did you appreciate "Ligaw Tingin" even if it was obviously written to ride on the disco trend?

All the songs I have had the privilege to record and call my own are my favorites. I can't thank the composers enough. "Ang Pag-ibig Kong Ito" by Carlos Agawa was a surprise hit. I suppose the lyrics about heartbreak resonate with many people. "Ligaw Tingin" did have that disco beat, but it has stood the test of time because it's a fun song.

Tell us about "Tugtugan Sitenta," what do you look forward to at the concert?

I look forward to performing together with legendary performers like Sampaguita, Mike Hanopol and the whole cast. There will be a lot of reminiscing!

"I think they will have a wonderful time listening to songs that hopefully bring

back happy memories of their youth," Leah Navarro says of fans who will watch "Tugtugan Sitenta 2."

What is the relevance of '70s OPM to present times?

Danny Javier coined the term "Original Pilipino Music" and that phrase continues to describe music created by Filipinos for Filipinos. OPM is timeless.

What do you think is the greatest song of that era, and why?

Honestly, there are too many great OPM songs from that period, it would be difficult to name only one. Each one is a standout.

What do you like most about the '70s, and why?


The music scene was vibrant and pulsing with creativity. This is why retro is still so "in".

What can you say to fans who might want to watch "Tugtugan Sitenta"?

I think they will have a wonderful time listening to songs that hopefully bring back happy memories of their youth.

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Pro-China ‘political elite’ in the Philippines enables Chinese aggression in WPS — expert

MANILA, Philippines — Efforts of the “political elite” in the Philippines to gain greater influence with the Chinese government have contributed to the apparent failure of bilateral talks to deter Chinese aggression in the West Philippine Sea, a political analyst said.

Political scientist Cleve Arguelles said this is most recently illustrated in China’s water cannon attack on members of the Philippine Coast Guard less than a month after former President Rodrigo Duterte visited Chinese President Xi Jin Ping — a meeting which current President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said he was aware of.

Duterte’s fly-by-night visit to the Chinese leader “is just the latest among a series of actions that he took that continues to undermine our national interests in securing our territories and EEZ in the West Philippine Sea,” Arguelles said.

“I see it as a continuation of Duter-

te’s pivot to China policy in which we heed the call of Xi and the Chinese government to engage in more bilateral talks directly with them rather than bring in the rest of the international community in the conversation,” Arguelles said.

Since taking office in 2022, Marcos has strayed from the China-friendly foreign policy pursued by his predecessor and insisted on strengthening ties with the United States.

Marcos, however, has also said that Duterte’s unannounced visit to the Chinese president did not and should not require his permission.

The Senate, which is dominated by Marcos’ allies, has filed several measures seeking to condemn and end Chinese harassment of Filipino fisher-



In 2020, Duterte insisted on keeping business ties with Chinese firms that Washington had blacklisted, asserting through his spokesperson that pursuing projects with Chinese firms is in the country’s “national interest.”

Shrinking diplomatic ties

Meanwhile, Rep.

Rufus Rodriguez (Cagayan de Oro, 2nd District) said that the continued harassment of Filipino vessels in the West Philippine Sea should lead to the “shrinking” of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Rodriguez called on Marcos to “downgrade” the Philippine embassy in Beijing to signal the country’s protest and condemnation of incidents of Chinese harassment of Filipinos.

Downgrading an embassy in a country means that the office would have reduced functions and also send a message of less-than-friendly diplomatic relations.

Marcos “should now firmly address these continuous violations of our sovereignty rights over the West Philippine Sea,” Rodriguez said.

Without naming names, the lawmaker also took a jab at the Philippines’ ambassador to China, Jaime FlorCruz, who he implied was not acting on the issue.

“The President should also order our unusually quiet and inactive ambassador there to return to Manila and to replace him with a lower-level diplomatic officer,” he said.

After Manila accused Beijing’s coast guard of firing water cannon at its vessels in the disputed sea, China said on Sunday it had taken “necessary controls” against Philippines boats that had “illegally” entered its waters.

The Philippines’ allies such as the US, Britain, Canada, Japan and Australia have also issued statements condemning the use of water cannons on the Philippine Coast Guard.

men in the disputed waters.

One Senate resolution (PSR 707) authored by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri seeks to cut bilateral talks between Manila and Beijing.

“As a middle power, the Philippines is not well-placed to benefit from bilateral talks with an aggressive superpower like China. It means we’re unlikely to get favorable responses and our claims will remain underrecognized,” Arguelles said.

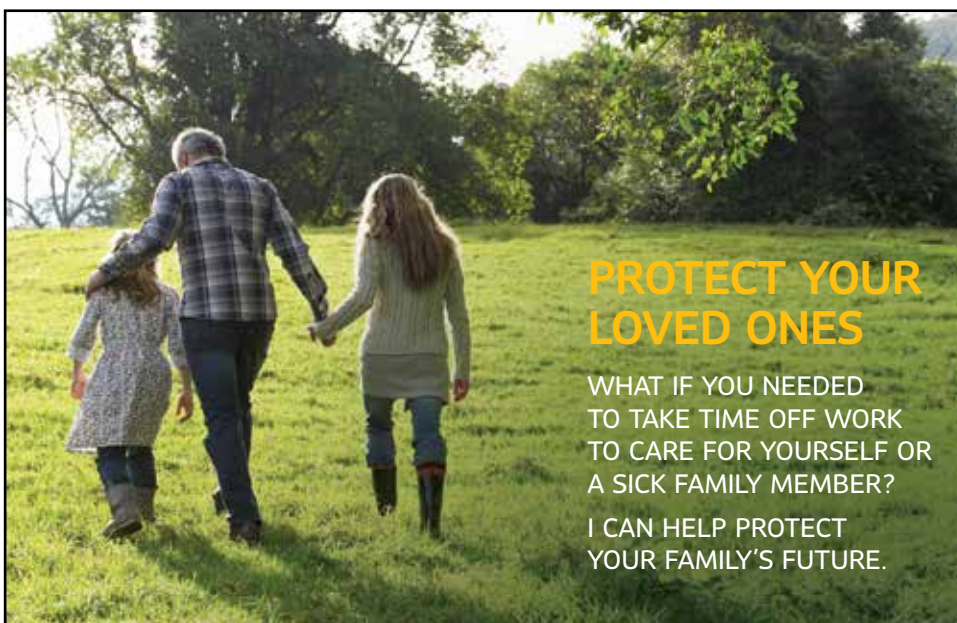
Bilateral talks between the Philippines and China would also mostly consist of Beijing insisting on “their economic and military might than submit to international norms and law in resolving issues,” the political science expert said, making country-to-country negotiations more favorable to the Chinese government.

‘Bigger threat’ posted by PH elite

Actions by members of the political elite like Duterte who continue to weaken the country’s territorial claims in its maritime row with China “is a far bigger threat to our national security than China itself,” Arguelles said.

“Duterte’s and his allies’ attempts to appease Xi by setting aside the landmark Arbitral Ruling and withdrawing from international efforts to strengthen rules-based international order didn’t make the challenge to secure our waters easier,” Arguelles added.

Ongoing reclamation projects in Manila Bay also have project ties with a Chinese company blacklisted for helping Beijing build infrastructure and militarize artificial islands in the South China Sea.



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Miguel Tanfelix, Ysabel Ortega grilled about real score between them

Matagal nang napapabalitang higit sa pagiging magka-love-team ang ugnayan ng Kapuso stars na sina Miguel Tanfelix at Ysabel Ortega.

Pareho silang 24 years old.

Sa mediacon ng Voltes V: Legacy, ilang beses na nabanggit ang salitang "relationship" sa paglalarawan ng dalawa tungkol sa kanilang closeness.

Kaya diretsahang tinanong ng PEP.ph (Philippine Entertainment Portal) sina Miguel at Ysabel kung may "label" sila sa kung ano ang meron sa pagitan nilang dalawa.

Sinubukang umiwas ni Miguel, na nagkuwento tungkol sa food trip nila ni Ysabel pagkatapos ng isang event kamakailan.

"Nagkukuwentuhan kami ni Ysabel kung ano ang favorite namin na routine sa relationship namin.

"Ito ba yung games or video call? Then, napaisip lang ako, if mawala itong routine na 'to, sobrang hirap.

"Kapag ang isang tao, naging routine mo na, kapag meron na kayong nakasanayan na ginagawa araw-araw, once na mawala yong taong yon, mahirap na. Ang hirap maka-recover. Parang ganon."

Pero hindi nagpaligaw ang PEP.ph.

Parehong natatawa sina Mi-

guel at Ysabel nang usisain muli ng awtor na ito kung ano ang label ng kanilang relasyon.

"Ano... routine," natakawang hirit ni Miguel.

Sabay sabi rin ng binata, "Hindi... katulad pa rin po siguro ng dati. Malalaman niyo naman yon kung ano...

"I-a-announce rin naman siguro ni Tita yon."

Ang "Tita" na tinutukoy ni Miguel ay ang ina ni Ysabel, ang former actress na si Michelle Ortega.

Sabay hirit ni Ysabel, "Si Mama talaga ang mag-aannounce, e, ano."

Paliwanag naman ni Ysabel, "We're taking our time po, and talagang ine-enjoy lang din po namin ang growth ng isa't isa. So yun po ang priority."

Sa mas depinidong tanong, "magdyowa" o "magkaibigan" sila?

"Yan ang mas simpleng tanong," sagot ni Miguel.

"Definitely, hindi pa po kami magdyowa."

ON GROWING TOGETHER

Sa isang banda, dapat abangan ang pagtatapos ng journey nina Ysabel at Miguel bilang sina Jamie Robinson at Steve



Armstrong sa Voltes V: Legacy ng GMA-7.

Sa mahigit na apat na taon nilang pagsasama serye, aminado sina Miguel at Ysabel na nag-level-up na ang ano mang relasyon na meron sila.

Dito nabuo ang love team nilang YsaGuel.

"Actually, ang masasabi ko lang diyan, we're both growing together," simulang pahayag ni Miguel.

"Lalo na ngayon, si Ysabel, may tinatayo siyang business. Ako, nag-aaral ako ng film. So, I'm happy na nakikita namin ang isa't isa na mag-grow.

"Yung relationship namin, hindi siya magiging hindrance para pigilan ang isa't isa."

Paano naging hindrance ang relasyon?

Paliwanag ni Miguel, "May mga relationship kasi na mai-stop ang growth mo as a person.

Dahil kunwari, kung clingy ang isang tao at nagre-require siya ng so much attention,

so much time, parang mawawalan ka ng time na mag-build ng career mo and kung ano man ang gusto mong gawin sa buhay," dagdag ni Miguel.

Masaya raw si Miguel na hindi sila katulad ng inilalarawan niya.

"I'm very happy na sa relationship namin ni Ysabel, we're pushing each other na mas gumanda ang buhay, mas mag-grow ang career.

"Ngayon, hindi lang showbiz ang pinu-push namin, pati personal lives namin."

Katulad ni Miguel, positibo rin daw ang naging epekto kay Ysabel ng relasyon nilang dalawa.

"In a span of four years, sobrang nagbago po ang relation-

ship namin ni Miguel.

"We went from being strangers tapos, naging super close kami sa Voltes V.

"And yun nga, like what Miguel said, sobrang naging support system namin ang isa't isa personally."

"And yun nga po, meron din pong ibang types of relationship with two people na depende rin siguro sa set-up or sa environment," paliwanag ni Ysabel.

NOT JUST TAPING FRIENDS

Siniguro rin ng aktres na patuloy ang magandang relasyon nila ni Miguel kahit na nalalapit na ang pagtatapos ng Kapuso prime-time series.

"Pero even after Voltes V, alam naman namin ni Miguel na it won't end there. Kasi, hindi naman naka-depende sa palagi kami dapat na nagkikita sa taping kung bakit kami okay. "It's exciting kasi, nasa bagong chapter na kami and we'll see ourselves grow outside Voltes V. Kung ano ang mangyayari sa careers namin, sa personal lives namin.

"It's so exciting to see, kasi yun nga po, just like Miguel said, we're really rooting for each other and yun po ang priority namin ngayon, yung growth ng isa't isa."

Ina Raymundo reacts to Andrea Brillantes' wanting to date son Jakob or daughter Erika

Actress Andrea Brillantes' vlog is up and trending with her comments on wanting to date Ina Raymundo's son Jakob Poturnak or her daughter Erika. "Gwapong-gwapo ako sa kanya dati pa....Hi Jakob,if you're watching I'm single now....pero if hindi ka single, baka pwede 'yung sister mo na lang, I would date Erika." These comments were said in jest. So, we are wondering if she was serious or just joking with her friends.

Last Friday, I had dinner at Blackbird with Ina, and I asked her reaction. "I like

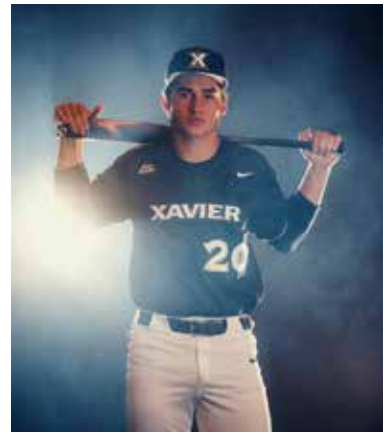
Andrea, and I find her comments flattering and amusing. It's raw and unfiltered. I am also not sure if she was serious or just kidding around. Unfortunately, I cannot decide for my kids Jakob and Erika on their choices and love life. It's really up to them. Also, the two are too busy in school abroad to comment on this," says the sexy image model of Bench Body, who is a mother of five.

Because Jakob's name has gone viral courtesy of Andrea, and practically every girl is swooning over him, I would like to share

some Jakob "deets" so everyone can find out who Jakob Poturnak is.

This handsome half-Pinoy, half-Ukrainian six-footer has a college scholarship grant in the U.S. to play baseball for the Xavier Musketeers at Xavier University. Every serious high school baseball player wants to play Division 1 (D1) baseball, and Xavier University competes at the NCAA Division 1 level.

Xavier has players drafted by a major league baseball team almost every year.



Jakob Poturnak

The most notable player is Zac Lowther. He is currently pitching for the Baltimore Orioles, as of the moment. Major League Baseball players earn from US\$37 million to US\$500,000 annually. That's P1.8 billion in Philippine peso. Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels holds the record for being the highest-paid baseball player in 2021.

I asked my nineteen-year-old godson Jakob, since he has been getting a lot of attention recently in the baseball scouting arena, if he was offered 2 million dollars, would he say yes to being drafted to a major league baseball team? "Honestly, it's too early to say. To be drafted into major league baseball is an honor. Still, I want to gain more training first with Xavier University, win games for them, and play baseball with my new team, the Xavier Musketeers. It was Coach Bill O'Conner who was the first to take notice of my talent and offered me a college scholarship and professional baseball training, I owe it to him to be able to train and play D1 baseball with such a prestigious team. I also have to check with my parents regarding all offers. My dad Brian trained me since I was five years old. What I am right now, I owe everything to him. He even rented an open lot near our place and built an enclosed bullpen so I could practice my pitches and gain strength and speed, rain or shine. He believes that it's 90 percent training and 10 percent games. My mom is my greatest baseball fan. She has taken me to all my baseball games since I was five. I owe a lot to them for all the support they gave me," the future Major League star tells Gossip Girl.

So, Andrea, Jakob is an excellent choice for a future boyfriend. Given these stats above, you can retire from show business if you get to date Jakob and get lucky and marry him, and he gets into the U.S. Major League Baseball. hehe



Gossip Girl author Giselle Sanchez (left) and Ina Raymundo

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