

# STAGED ASSASSINATION?

What if Vice President Sara Duterte staged her own assassination attempt?

MANILA - 'Staged assassination?': Valeriano brings up worrisome scenario involving VP Duterte

Manila 2nd district Rep. Rolando Valeriano says it's

possible that a mere assassination attempt on Vice Pres-

ident Sara Duterte could put  
STAGED ASSASSINATION p15



Allysa Grace's students of her Pitch Perfect school perform at the All Stars concert. From left to right are Meighen Clarke, Chloe Tiongson, Arielle Perez, Savvy Tiaga.

## Fil-Can Community Groups Celebrate Asian Food and Cultural Festival

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

TORONTO - Two prominent Filipino-Canadian community organizations in the Greater Toronto Area have celebrated the "Asian Food and Cultural Festival" in a display of cooperation and collaboration. On November 23, 2024, the Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC) and the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF), both non-profit and volunteer-run entities, purposefully joined the special event with great enthusiasm and solid admiration.

The 2024 Asian Multi-cultural event was held at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto at

5183 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough. Presented by the Canadian Multicultural Council Asians in Ontario (CMCA-O), the celebration was well attended by the officers, members, families, and friends of the 18-member organizations in the province. The event co-chairs were Mar Mar Cho and Mali Phiphat, assisted by the CCC Production Team.

CMCA-O is a "Toronto-based non-profit, non-political organization of Asian Canadian Associations representing various Asian countries, ethnic regions, and cultures". Among the Asian nations represented in the 18-member association are: Burma, China, Indonesia, Japan, Khmer Korea, Laos,



PCCF Miss Teen Philippines Canada 1st runner up Chaileen Frances Ong

FILCAN page 14

## FILIPINO CENTRE TORONTO AWARDS TOP TEN FIL-CAN STUDENTS IN ONTARIO

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT

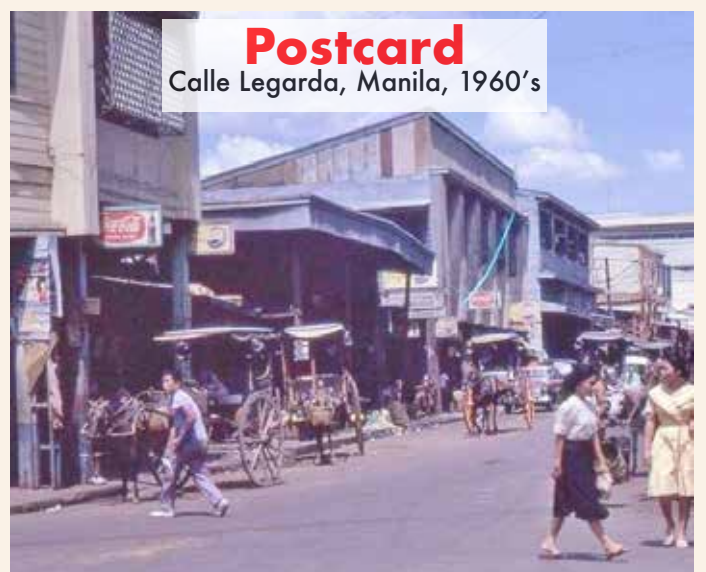
TORONTO - The Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) held its "19th Annual Rosalinda C. Javier Outstanding

Students Awards" event on November 17, 2024 (Sunday) at 2:00 pm at the FCT Social Hall, 4395 Sheppard

Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario. RCJOSA is named in honour of the late Rosalinda C. Javier  
FILIPINO page 9

## HELLO LOVE AGAIN ERA ENDS

Are you happy about love story of Ethan and Joy? PAGE 17



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Happy 23<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Kassandra Adajar



Publisher Joey Baking poses with PCCF Miss Teen Philippines Canada 1st runner up Chaileen Frances Ong



### Philippines' runner-up streak continues in global pageant scene

Samantha Viktoria Acosta extended the country's string of runner-up finishes in international competitions, earning second runner-up honors at the 7th Miss CosmoWorld 2024 finals, held recently at The St. Regis-Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.



won the Miss Popularity special award. Acosta had only a few days to prepare after winning Miss CosmoWorld Philippines 2024.

Philippines 2024.

"Dreams do come true! Thank you so much to Miss CosmoWorld for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I'm immensely grateful," said Acosta, who was a Top 15 finalist and Playtime Binibini fan vote winner in Bb. Pilipinas 2024.

The 24-year-old Acosta, an entrepreneur and financial advisor from Bulacan who advocates community involvement, also

hindi naman po lahat nabibigyan ng ganitong opportunity."

### Fyang Smith reveals what surprised her most after 'PBB' journey

Fyang Smith shared that it was during her first guest appearance in ASAP when it finally sunk in that she is the Pinoy Big Brother: Gen 11 Big Winner.

In an interview with Bianca Gonzalez in the TFC show BRGY, Fyang recalled: "[Sa] ASAP po. Dun ko lang po talaga na-realize kasi grabe po 'yung entrance."



"Sabi ko bakit may ganito akong entrance? Sabi ko Big 4 din naman ako, so bakit parang may solo akong part? Sabi ko ay Big Winner pala ako and dun nag-sink in na sa akin okay I'm the Big Winner."

When asked what became as the biggest surprise to her upon returning to the outside world, Fyang shared: "JMFyang [fandom]. Wala akong idea po talaga kasi nga nasa loob kami parang casual lang, BFF, okay clingy pero 'yung to the point na grabe 'yung fandom ng JMFyang. Sabi ko bakit may ganitong edit na? Sabi ko bakit may ganito? Sa loob po kasi casual lang talaga eh, walang ilangan, comfortable sa isa't isa."

On how she is adjusting to her schedule following her PBB journey, Fyang remarked: "Nakakapagod po siyempre pero at the same time grateful ako na meron akong busy day kasi

hindi naman po lahat nabibigyan ng ganitong opportunity."

The PBB: Gen 11 Big Winner also shared the learnings that she gained from her PBB experience. She remarked that she went through a lot of character development while inside the house.

"Siguro po the way na maging mindful na ako. Kasi before basta galaw lang po ako na kahit anong lumabas sa bibig ko, wala akong pakialam. Kinakapa ko rin po kung ano 'yung vibe, ganun na rin po ako ngayon," she said.

In October, Fyang emerged as the winner of PBB, securing the highest percentage of votes among the Big 4 at 30.66%.

She took home an impressive P1 million cash prize along with a brand-new house and lot.

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# PIDC HOSTS 2024 BEAUTY PAGEANT, KATHLEEN ORTIGUERO IS MRS. PHILIPPINES-PIDC

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.



The Mrs./Ms. PIDC contestants pose with the judges. TORONTO - November 9, 2024, was a memorable evening of Filipino beauty pageantry in Ontario. The Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC), the quintessential umbrella organization of several community associations in the province held its annual beauty competition at the Korean Canadian Cultural Centre. Leslie Street, North York, Toronto, Kathleen Mae Ranjo Ortiguera was

declared Mrs./Ms. Philippine Independence Day Council-2024. The beauty queen's entourage includes Melba Rosete -1st Runner-Up, Jody Anne Iglesias -2nd Runner-Up and Justine Eric Sacayanan -Mrs./Ms. Filipino Heritage Ambassador 2024. The other beauty candidates were: Nancy Espalrado, Arlyn Florentino, Remielyn Pascual, and Riza San Pedro. Sherry Lacson Tan made her final farewell walk and helped crown the winners.

Danny Orbillo of World Financial Group artfully serenaded the candidates. With more than 400 guests, spectators, supporters, pageant production staff and volunteers, the annual event celebrates beauty, talent and advocacy in the Filipino Canadian community. The winning candidates were selected based on such criteria as Talent, Beauty & Poise, Attire & Casual Wear, Photogenicity, Video messages, Q & A portion, and Fundrais-

ing contribution. The Board of Judges is composed of Maribeth Aguirre, Regine Alaina, Candace Mallari-David, Kate Di, Kaila Enriquez, Michael Herrera, Shaleeza Hossein, Gisele Mirasol, and Sanjaya Peiris. The official results were tabulated and compiled by designated officers of the Association of Filipino Canadian Accountants (ACFA). MRS. PIDC p23

## Anthony Jennings confirms split with longtime GF

Anthony Jennings' non-showbiz GF alludes to being heartbroken, betrayed

After months of speculations, Anthony Jennings confirmed that he and his non-showbiz girlfriend Jam Villanueva are no longer together, saying their breakup happened months ago.

The actor disclosed this after he was asked by showbiz reporter Allan Sanchon about the split, on the sidelines of the media conference for the action TV series "Incognito."

"Months ago na rin kaming hiwalay ni Jam (Jam and I broke up months ago)," Jennings said, stressing that they had "personal issues," which he opted to keep from the public.

Jennings further noted that Villanueva is not a celebrity, appealing to fans to respect her private life.

"Ako 'yung may pagkukulang do'n. Problema ko 'yon and dapat ko 'yon ayusin mag-isa," he added. (I was the one who had shortcomings. That's my problem and I should fix it on my own.)

He also addressed those "bothering" Villanueva and his love-team partner Maris Racal, whose name has been linked by some netizens to the pair's split.



Anthony Jennings (right) and his non-showbiz girlfriend Jam Villanueva.

"Magkaibigan lang po kami [ni Maris] and sana matigil na rin 'yung mga gano'ng issues," Jennings said. (Maris and I are just friends, so I hope the issues about us will already stop.)

Jennings and Villanueva, who were together for five years, were first hounded by breakup rumors in September after netizens noticed the latter's social media posts about heartbreaks and betrayal.

Earlier this month, Villanueva also intrigued netizens after she alluded to a cheater ex-boyfriend and his workmate who supposedly crossed their work boundaries.

~ Mark Ezekiel Rivera ~  
**LOVE OF MUSIC CONCERT**  
 December 7, 2024  
 Saturday, 6pm  
 P.C. Ho Theatre at the Chinese Cultural Center of Greater Toronto  
 5183 Sheppard Ave. East  
 Guest Performer:  
**BELLA MAGBAG**  
 For tickets and reservations: markriveraconcert@gmail.com

Bella Magbag, a talented 12-year-old singer and dancer, is currently part of Minipop Kids, the number one music brand for kids in Canada. She is excited to tour across Canada and the U.S. while working on new albums and music videos. Bella recorded her first original song, 'Filipino Town,' and performed at the Music Museum alongside

famous Filipino artists. She also placed second runner-up in the PIDC Little Miss Philippines pageant, solidifying her status as a 'rising star'. It is our pleasure to have Bella as part of the Love Of Music Concert on Dec 7 at P.C. Ho Theatre at the Chinese Cultural Center of Greater Toronto. See you there!!!❤

## PCCF joins CMC Asian Food & Cultural Festival

by Rosemer Enverga

TORONTO - As a newly added member of the CMC (Canadian Multicultural Council), PCCF was proud to represent the Philippines alongside PIDC. The objective of CMC is to promote Asian heritage and culture within the mosaic of Canadian multiculturalism. Among the PCCF group was Rosemer Enverga, Lita & Tony Leano, Gloria & Philip Rafanan, Mady Rivero, Nancy Caladucan, Virgie Gagne alongside her Bulaklakan dancers, Jose Banduyang, Joey Baking, Rose Tijam, Loida Cox, Rystle Enverga and the pageant entourage: Greatchen-Mrs. Philippines Canada 2024, Chaileen-Miss Teen Runner-up 2024, Athena -Miss Philippines Canada Runner-up and Ro-



wena, Mrs Philippines Canada runner up. The event featured dishes from all across Asia as well as incredible cultural performances, an ethnic fashion show and a

dance party! Special acknowledgements to CMC executives Dr Tulsi, Henry Lee, Marmar Cho and all the organizers. A big thank you to our emcees Rodney &

Chyrell Ronquillo, Lilac Cana, the PCCF Bulaklakan dancers, the Pageant entourage and of course the amazing PCCF FOOD FESTIVAL page 9



## Parang Facebook “Friends” or “allies”

### United States is Canada's ally

When the United States requested to extradite a Chinese executive to the United States, Canada immediately agreed. We arrested her and put her on trial. Gumanti ang China at may inaresto naman na dalawang Canadian sa China. Eto ang problema. When Canada was asking the help of the United States for the release of the two Canadians, did we get help from our supposed “ally”? Maybe. Maybe not. Hindi natin alam. Now, our next adversary is India naman. When India killed somebody on Canadian soil, the investigation pointed to the gobyerno ng India. Siyempre nagalit ang India. After a few days, the United States pointed to Inida also when they caught somebody planning to kill someone of US soil. India was quiet. The problem is we are just Canada. The United States is big and powerful. Now, we are not in good terms with two of the world's biggest superpowers also, China and India.

In 2019, China banned canola imports until 2022 in retaliation for arresting the Chinese executive. It cost Canada \$1.5 to \$2.5 billion.

Our problem kasi is Canada is still behaving in a world that values law and order while the rest of the world is turning a blind eye sa wrongdoing ng ibang country. it's OK. It's because of our values that we're still one of the best livable places in the world.

Naiisip mo tuloy na iyong ibang ally, parang facebook friends. It's easy to click like pero

that's about it.

### Dangerous Endorsements

“The commission said that salesmen, brokers, dealers, agents, promoters, influencers, and endorsers of Dermacare may be sued.”

Are they serious? The rules on estafa in the Philippines is a joke for foreigners. But not if you are the one being charged even if you do not own any part of the company.

Including influencers and endorsers of products is stupidity.

Being a celebrity endorser can get you in trouble. Neri Naig and Rufa Mae Quinto are being charged with estafa in the Philippines. And if it's syndicated estafa, it's a non-bailable offense. Estafa is the equivalent of fraud here in Canada or United States. But the law in the Philippines is a joke, unless you are an endorser. You get paid to endorse a skin care by company X. Then, company X is charged with defrauding investors. As an endorser, you will also be charged with estafa. It is preposterous, ridiculous, moronic and the height of stupidity. What is the logic of arresting influencers and bloggers who “endorse” or praise the product? They do not own the company. What if the influencer says the food in a restaurant is delicious and the restaurant owner is arrested the next day with defrauding the investors? Will they arrest the influencer or blogger? Don't laugh. The Securities & Exchange Commission in the Philippines says you can get arrested. Stupidity is everywhere. Even here in Toronto, people used to ask the publisher what will the publisher do because the company that advertised in the newspaper ran away with their money? These people are asking the publisher because the company was an advertiser in the newspaper and they cannot get in touch with them.

When will the stupidity end?

## Sue Ramirez mum on status with Dominic Roque, but ‘enjoying’ his company



While Sue Ramirez has yet to disclose her relationship status with Dominic Roque, it seems that the two of them are enjoying each other's company.

Ramirez briefly addressed her relationship status with Roque on the sidelines of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) 2024 entry “The Kingdom,” when asked by showbiz reporter Rose Garcia-Fabregas about the current state of their romance.

“Basta (All I can say is that) I'm happy. We're enjoying each other's company. That's all I can say for now,” she said.

Roque, too, has yet to speak about what's going on between them as well, as of press time.

The rumored pair made headlines in November 2024 after they were spotted getting intimate at a gathering in Siargao.

They were seen in multiple sightings in the Mindanao-based tourist destination, where they enjoyed night-outs, island-hopping, drinking sessions and walks in the area.

Ramirez was previously in a five-year relationship with Victoria City, Negros Occidental mayor Javi Benitez until they parted ways in July of this year. The latter confirmed their split four months later.

Roque, on the other hand, was supposed to be married to Bea Alonzo sometime this year, after he proposed to her in Bataan in 2023. They eventually parted ways although both parties didn't disclose the reason behind their split.

### Juan Karlos ‘leaves’ his audience during concert

OPM singer Juan Karlos held his first major concert last weekend, and fans were left hanging.

On Friday, Nov. 29, the 23-year-old singer celebrated his 10th year in the entertainment industry with Juan Karlos Live at the SM Mall of Asia Arena.

As expected, Juan Karlos delivered powerful performances

of his popular songs, including Buwan, Demonyo, and Limang Taon.

However, during the show's final segment, the “The Voice Kids” alumnus surprised the audience. While singing Manhid, the singer-actor left the stage and continued performing backstage before stepping outside the arena.

Juan Karlos eventually returned to the stage to perform his hit single Ere and concluded the concert. Yet, he omitted the song's final line, leaving fans anticipating more.

Special guests Moira Dela Torre, Zild, Gloc-9, Ben&Ben's Paolo Benjamin, and Kyle Echarri joined the event, sharing the stage with Juan Karlos for memorable collaborations.

### Enrique Gil on showbiz as ‘just a phase in my life’

Enrique Gil is unbothered by the possibility that his current popularity might one day fade.

“It's part of life,” he said. “It's part of growing up. Anyway, I don't plan to be an artist forever.”

Asked about his ultimate goal in life, Enrique shared a more personal aspiration.

“To be a family man! Showbiz is just a phase in my life. Being an actor is not my whole life. It's just a part of my life. For me, there's more to life than just being an actor or being in showbiz. It's just my job. I feel that my true calling is to have my own family and be a dad in the future.”

The actor reflected on what he values most.

“Perhaps, the public will remember me as an actor, but what matters to me more is to be with my loved ones. On your deathbed, your fame or money won't make you happy. It means nothing. What would matter is the presence of people you truly care for,” Enrique said.



## What Jose Mari Chan wishes for this Christmas

For many Filipinos, Jose Mari Chan's songs usher in the Christmas season, a time for being happy and hopeful. And while the people start making wishes for the holidays, the veteran singer also has his own — world peace.

“Currently, my Christmas wish is for peace in the world,” he said in Makati City where Repertory Philippines launched its new production “Going Home to Christmas,” using Chan's songs.

“When I read the papers every day and I watch CNN every day, it hurts me to see that the war in Ukraine continues. And between Israel and Iran, bombing the Gaza, it really hurts me. And I'm afraid that it could lead to a third world war. So I pray for peace, peace in the world,” he continued.

And while it seems like a tall order, Chan is hopeful it can be achieved given his track record. He shared there has never been a time when his Christmas wish was not granted. “I'm convinced that God loves me, and he has showered me with all His blessings,” he said.

“But I also know that the spirit of Christmas is giving and sharing. So the blessings that we have in life, we must learn to share them with those in need. And when you look around, there's so many of our brothers and sisters who need help,” he continued.

And to Filipinos who have become hopeless amid all the anticipation for the big celebration, Chan reminds them, “the spirit of Christmas has to come from within.” He explained: “It's not in the neon lights, it's not in the sparkling lights, the Christmas trees, it should come from within. And the sooner that we accept our limitations, the more we can imbibe the spirit of Christmas.”

Chan will not be going on stage for Rep's original musical play. But the theater company said the singer's spirit will be felt all throughout the production because of his songs that inspired the story.

“When you go home after watching ‘Going Home to Christmas,’ embrace your children, kiss them, spend more time with them,” Chan said.

“I want them to go home and embrace their family, love them more, and cherish your families. Because as parents, we don't know how much longer we have on Earth. So relish the moment. Don't waste the moment,” he added.



For ticket's reservation please contact POV OIC Jocel Aquino 416.825.0511 or POV Ticket & Registration Head Zaria Popote 416.238.2872 or visit our Pinoy Ontario Vendors Facebook Page For Email Transfer: pinoyontariavendors@yahoo.com or POV Tres. Aina Quiambao 647.720.1200 use : Galanight! password for etransfer payment For POV BUSINESS DIRECTORY Please contact Francis Yedda 416.788.8996

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in Legally Blonde at Newmarket Theatre. Notably, Dana's lead roles include Charlie in Willy Wonka Jr. at Living Arts Centre, Matilda at Crunchem Hall, and Gabriella in High School Musical at City Playhouse. As a versatile artist, Dana is a singer-songwriter, musician, actress, pageant queen, and model. Her interests include drawing, gaming, playing multiple instruments, and Taekwondo, where she's achieved a black belt.

Dana is thrilled to perform in Mark's concert alongside talented young artists, fueled by her passion for the arts. Next February, she'll play Serena

Come and watch Dana on December 7, at P.C Ho Theatre at Chinese Cultural Center of Greater Toronto. Get your tickets now and see you there!

### Donny Pangilinan talks about change in new magazine cover

Actor Donny Pangilinan takes his role as a person with influence seriously as he graces the cover of a men's magazine.

The "Can't Buy Me Love" star is the cover for Vogue Man Philippines.

"I'm in a position to help improve the lives of others around me and those who don't have the same privilege and have so much potential to be so much more. I love that I can be a vessel," Donny said.

"Being part of change in general will always be something that I look for and be

hungry for when I do anything. I love seeing other people happy, especially the ones I love," he added.

The actor was seen on several occasions doing volunteer work, especially during the recent typhoons that struck the country.

Donny's latest project recently



premiered on the streaming site Viu. He is paired again with his perennial screen partner Belle Mariano in "How To Spot A Red Flag."

Meanwhile, West End and Broadway star Eva Noblezada is on the cover for the December 2024-Jan-

Save the date, See you all  
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 Saturday, December 14, 2024, @6PM  
 Venue: La Primavera Event Space  
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uary 2025 issue of Vogue Philippines.

The Filipino-American theater star was shot in Schiaparelli and Marc Jacobs in an editorial shoot by Harold Julian in New York.

Eva talked about the process of inhabiting roles. She is known for her roles in "Miss Saigon" and "Les Miserables" and has appeared in the movies "Yellow Rose" and

"Easter Sunday."

"Even if I'm feeling anxious, the second I go into my character and I begin that transformation, I use that energy and transform that into part of my character, my voice, or the way that I move. By the end of the show, my body might be exhausted, but my spirit feels refreshed, renewed," Eva said.

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## Philippine president angers China with new laws to demarcate South China Sea territories

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed two laws on Friday reaffirming the extent of his country's maritime territories and right to resources, including in the South China Sea, angering China, which claims the hotly disputed waterway almost in its entirety.

China's foreign ministry said it summoned the Philippines ambassador to China to lodge a "stern protest." The ministry condemned the move as an attempt to "solidify the illegal ruling of the South China Sea arbitration case through domestic legislation."

Confrontations between Chinese and Philippine coast guard and naval forces in the disputed sea passage have spiked alarmingly since last year. That has sparked fears that the United States — Manila's longtime treaty ally — may get drawn in a major conflict.

The laws, called the Philippine Maritime Zones act and the Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes act, were signed by Marcos in a nationally televised ceremony attended by top military and national security officials. They further cement Manila's rejection of China's claims to virtually the entire sea passage, and stipulate jail terms and stiff fines for violators.

"These signal our resolve to protect our maritime resources, preserve our rich biodiversity and ensure that our waters remain a source of life and livelihood for all

Filipinos," Marcos said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the move "seriously infringes on China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea."

"China strongly condemns and firmly opposes it," she said.

In a new national map it released last year the Chinese government demarcated its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea with vague dash lines that drew protests and rejections from rival coastal states and government, including Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The maritime zones act demarcates key parts of the Philippine archipelago's territory and outlying waters where it has full sovereignty and sovereign rights under international law and the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, Philippine officials said.

Those zones include the country's Exclusive Economic Zone, a 200-nautical-mile (370-kilometer) stretch of water, where a coastal state like the Philippines



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., center, holds document beside Senate President Francis Escudero, left, and House Speaker Martin Romualdez, right, during the ceremonial signing of the Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act.

has exclusive rights to tap energy and other resources. Foreign ships and aircraft have an internationally recognized right known as "innocent passage" to pass through such a zone, as long as the

coastal state's security would not come under threat.

The archipelagic sea lanes act allows the Philippines to designate sea lanes and air routes in the archipelago where foreign ships and aircraft could transit under its regulation and in compliance with international law.

"These legal instruments solidify our territory and enhances our ability to protect our country against any infringement," National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano said.

Marcos said the laws comply with international law and the UNCLOS, but many of their provisions stand in stark contrast to Beijing's claims in the South China Sea and would likely be rejected and defied by China.

It's unclear how the Philippines could

enforce the laws, which take effect 15 days after their publication in the government's official gazette or in a newspaper, given China's increasingly aggressive actions to push its claims.

Copies of the laws signed by Marcos were not immediately available but a final version of the maritime zones bill stated that "all artificial islands constructed within the Philippine EEZ belong to the Philippine government."

China has transformed seven disputed reefs into what are now missile-protected island bases, including the Mischief Reef, which lies within the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone.

The law based the Philippines' maritime rights on UNCLOS, Philippine laws and a 2016 international arbitration ruling that invalidated China's extensive territorial claims based on historical grounds.

China refused to participate in that arbitration, rejected the ruling and continues to defy it. Its massive coast guard, navy, air force and suspected militia fleets have used water cannons, military grade lasers and dangerous sea and air maneuvers to intimidate rival forces it accuses of straying into what Beijing calls its territory.

Washington has repeatedly warned that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, aircraft or ships come under an armed attack in the disputed waters.

## Celebrating 27th Years of Friendship and Collaboration: Twinning Anniversary Between Vaughan and Baguio

VAUGHAN - Celebrating 27 Years of Friendship and Collaboration: Twinning Anniversary The Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan (FCAV) proudly marked the 27th anniversary of the twinning agreement between the City of Vaughan, Ontario, and Baguio City, Philippines, an occasion that celebrates the longstanding friendship, cultural exchange, and shared growth between our two vibrant communities.

Since its inception in 1997, this twinning relationship has been a beacon of collaboration, bringing together residents of both cities through cultural, social, educational, and economic opportunities. From student exchanges and economic development missions to the celebration of Filipino Day and the Filipino heritage in Vaughan, this unique partnership has fostered countless memorable exchanges and life-changing experiences. It is a testament to the enduring bond between Canada and the Philippines.

This year's celebration was graced by the presence of Baguio City Mayor Benjamin



Magalong, along with other distinguished guests and delegates from the Philippines, who were warmly welcomed by Vaughan Mayor Steven Del Duca and his team. Their participation underscores the significance of this milestone and highlights the shared commitment of both cities to further strengthen this partnership.

In his congratulatory message, Mayor Del Duca expressed his gratitude to FCAV and its President, Erlinda Insigne, for their unwavering dedication and community service. "The Filipino-Canadian Association of

Vaughan has been instrumental in realizing the full benefits of this twinning agreement, including multiple official visits, exchanges, and partnerships with Baguio City," said Mayor Del Duca. "Vaughan is greatly enriched by their invaluable contributions."

Throughout the years, FCAV has spearheaded numerous initiatives to promote and celebrate this twinning partnership. Highlights include the annual Filipino Day in Vaughan, the establishment of the Twin City Monument in Baguio and the Sister City sign in Vaughan, the creation of the Philippine Canadian Friendship Parkette, and the Vaughan Fiesta Extravaganza. These efforts have fostered a greater appreciation for Filipino culture in Vaughan and strengthened the ties between our two cities.

One of the most recent milestones includes the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in February 2023 between the University of Baguio and Niagara

University in Ontario, aiming to facilitate faculty and educational exchanges. This is one of many initiatives that illustrate the potential of this twinning agreement to open new doors for academic and professional growth on both sides.

In May 2023, Vaughan embarked on an Economic and Cultural Development Mission to Baguio City, further reinforcing this partnership and positioning Baguio as a gateway to the ASEAN region. This mission exemplifies the cities' shared vision for fostering economic and cultural opportunities that benefit both communities.

As we celebrate this monumental anniversary, FCAV extends its heartfelt thanks to Mayor Del Duca, Vaughan's Council, Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, and the Philippine Consulate General of Toronto for their unwavering support. This journey would not have been possible without the dedication of FCAV's officers, advisors, and members, whose hard work continues to



ensure the success of this partnership. The 27th anniversary of Vaughan-Baguio twinning is not just a celebration of the past; it is a commitment to the future. It serves as a model for other municipalities and a symbol of unity and shared values. With gratitude and optimism, we look forward to many more years of cooperation, growth, and friendship between Vaughan and Baguio. Mabuhay!

Little Manila

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# Star-Studded Filipino Concert LIVE in Toronto!

By Rose To by OnePinoy

The recent All Star Concert in Toronto brought together 17 of the brightest talents from the Philippines, dazzling fans with a night of music, dance, and partying!

Featuring a star-studded lineup from Cornerstone Entertainment, one of the leading entertainment agencies in the Philippines, the concert was a high-energy celebration of Filipino talents. The impressive roster includes Piolo Pascual, Catriona Gray, Erik Santos, Sam Milby, Kyla, KZ Tandingan, Yeng Constantino, Zephanie, Inigo Pascual, Kyle Echarri, Jason Dy, and special guests, P-Pop group VXON. Directed by renowned actor, dancer, and director John Prats, the event was a testament to Cornerstone's commitment to showcasing Filipino talent on the international stage.

Building on the success of last year's U.S. tour, Cornerstone Entertainment set its sights on Canada, delighting fans with their all-star cast in a Toronto performance that was nothing short of electric.

The evening kicked off with an opening act by Pitch Perfect Academy, led by Alyssa Grace, setting the stage for what would be a night filled with applause and cheers.

The main event began with a bang as the stars took the moment that was both tender and powerful.



stage, filling the venue with energy. The artists couldn't hide their excitement, noting the incredible energy from the Toronto crowd that fueled their performance.

VXON, the P-Pop sensation, then took the stage with their signature moves, performing "SSP (Saksak Sa Puso)" and captivating the audience with their synchronized dance.

Zephanie, Idol Philippines 2019 Grand Champion, followed with a soulful performance of love ballads that serenaded the audience. Jason Dy, the grand winner of The Voice of the Philippines Season 2, then joined Zephanie for a heartfelt duet, creating a

One of the crowd favorites, Inigo Pascual, brought his blend of singing and dancing, even stepping down from the stage to engage with the audience. Kyle Echarri followed with a rendition of "Careless Whisper," adding his own flair that kept the energy high. KZ Tandingan returned with her signature powerhouse vocals, bringing Inigo and Kyle back on stage to join her for a group performance, turning the stage into a celebration of music and rhythm.

Zephanie, Jason Dy, VXON, and director John Prats all united on stage once again, with Prats showing his dance moves alongside the stars.

Following this, Sam Milby, the crowd's premier leading man, sang his iconic hit "Close to You," charming the audience

As the concert neared its peak, Erik Santos, the King of Philippine Opera Theme Songs, took the stage. Known

with his heartfelt delivery.

Philippine Pop Rock Royalty, Yeng Constantino, wowed the crowd with beloved hits like "Ikaw" and "Salamat," her powerful voice and raw emotion connecting deeply with the fans.

Kyla also delivered an impressive solo, showcasing her soulful vocals, followed by a show-stopping trio with Yeng, Sam, and Kyla performing together in perfect harmony.

for his unforgettable voice and victory in Star in a Million, he performed a stunning solo that echoed through the venue.

The crowd was then treated to a surprise as Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray took the stage, demonstrating her talents beyond the runway. She sang beautifully, pairing her stunning beauty with her voice.

Finally, Piolo Pascual - the ALL-STARS page 9

Chloe Tiongson, 14 year-old, is a versatile singer, dancer, and actress with multiple competition wins. These include the Long and McQuade Singing Contest with Jon Santos 2023 and The Voice of Kalayaan Singing Competition 2023, both as Grand Champion. She was also a CNE Rising Star 2023 grand finalist and member of JDL Triple Act, winners of Brampton Rising Star and South East Asia's Singing Competition. Chloe starred as Moana in JDL Production's Moana Jr.

We are so glad to have Chloe as one of our guest performers. See less

~ Mark Ezekiel Rivera ~  
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**CHLOE TIONGSON**  
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## Are More People Starting to Regret Buying Their Electric Cars?

TORONTO — A new survey finds fewer drivers intend to make their next car purchase an electric vehicle.

Intentions to buy a fully electric, plug-in hybrid or hybrid vehicle in the next two years slightly dipped to 50 per cent this year, compared with 52 per cent in 2023.

Worldwide, there is a decline in sales of EV's.

Countries like Japan and Germany — home to some of the largest automotive incumbents — have seen not just a slowdown in

the growth rate, but an outright decline in EV sales. The drop in Germany was particularly sharp in August, when sales plunged 61%.

In the Philippines, a new study shows that 29 percent of EV owners are considering going back to traditional ICEs.

But whether we like it or not, we must come to the conclusion that electric cars are the present and the future of the automotive industry. The infrastructure, as a matter of fact, has only gotten infinitely better over time. In the



Philippines, we have charging stations along national expressways and malls. On top of these, some hotels, like Seda in Taguig have one, as well. We can even have one built into our homes for an extra fee.

But as it turns out, a Mobility Consumer Pulse report shows

that even the most loyal EV owner is still worried about charging and is seriously considering going back to internal combustion engines (ICE)

Individuals specified problems like having to go to specific directions just to go to a charging station, which greatly affects their own travel time. 24 percent of the respondents also claimed that they couldn't charge at home and the act of worrying was apparently too stressful for 21 percent of the EV owners surveyed.

But perhaps one of the more troubling reasons for the trend is that the cost of ownership is just too high, it seems, with 34 per-

cent of respondents saying that the maintenance costs can be absurd.

Getting into the data, roughly 35 percent of respondents emphasized that public charging infrastructure is still not at an optimal level. Among the other reasons cited for the would-be switch include the driving experience and long-distance traveling. The latter is more of a function of anxiety, worrying if the charge is even enough to cover the distance.

As it stands, the firm's survey has confirmed that 29 percent of its respondents said that they were looking to go back to an ICE vehicle sooner rather than later.

## Neri Naig, Chito Miranda gain celebs' sympathy after controversy

Celebrities have expressed their sympathies to celebrity couple Chito Miranda and Neri Naig, who were recently thrust into the spotlight after the latter was arrested over charges of syndicated estafa and several counts of securities violations.

In the comments section of Miranda's post vouching for his wife's innocence, celebrities including actor Joross Gamboa, actress Rita Avila, content creator Donnalyn Bartolome, and actor-coach Anthony Pangilinan, Miranda's uncle, among others, extended their prayers to the couple.

"Hang in there, bro. Praying for Neri and the whole family... and the Justice system—or lack thereof—in this country," said Pangilinan.

"Malalagpasan ninyo ang pagsubok na eto (You will overcome this test), in Jesus Name," wrote Gamboa.

"Praying with you, Kuya. This is so heartbreaking," pitched in Bartolome.

"Alam naming mabuting tao si Neri (we know that Neri is a good person)," added



Donnalyn Bartolome (left), Neri Naig with Chito Miranda, and Joross Gamboa =

Avila.

Other celebrities, including Ogie Alcasid, Patrick Garcia, Sarah Lahbati, Nadine Samonte, Cristine Reyes, Loisa Andalio, Bianca Manalo, and Ara Mina, among others, expressed their support by simply leaving prayer emojis.

Naig recently made headlines after showbiz insider Ogie Diaz reported on his vlog that the actress-businesswoman was arrested by police over the weekend.

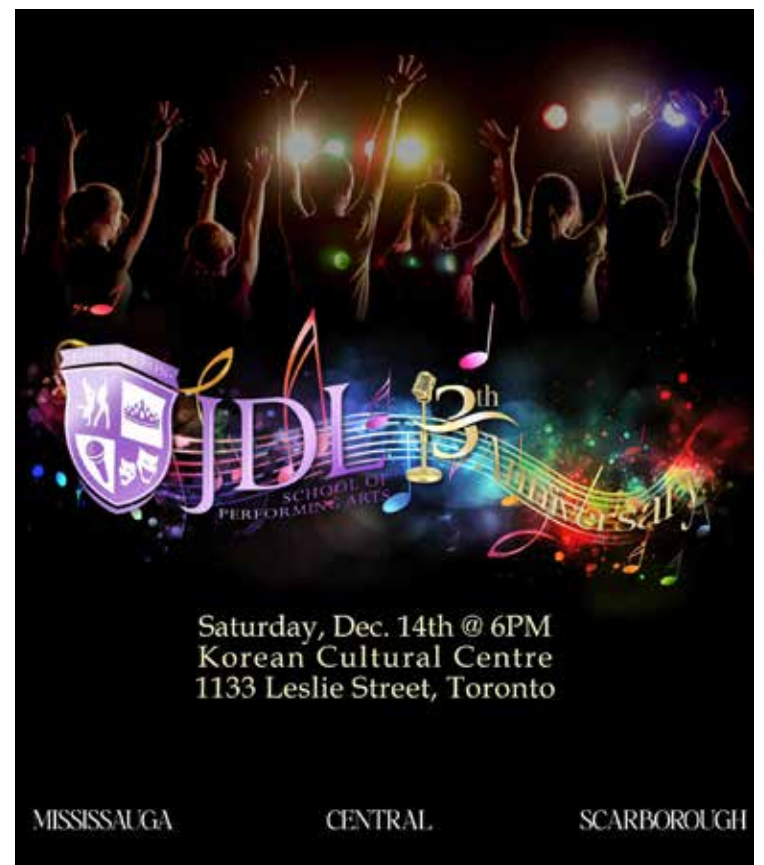
Soon after, Miranda broke his silence on social media to vouch for his wife's innocence as he detailed what happened prior and during the arrest, saying Naig was just an endorser of a dermatological clinic and

she was just used to persuade investors.

Amid their hope that the case against Naig will be dismissed, considering syndicated estafa is a criminal complaint without bail, the Parokya ni Edgar vocalist also revealed the company's incorporator to be Chanda Atienna.

Atienna was recently named by the Securities and Exchange Commission's Enforcement and Investor Protection Department in an advisory for "enticing the public to invest in the said entity under its 'Franchise Partner Agreement.'"

The National Capital Region Police Office - Southern Police District (NCRPO-SPD) previously confirmed the arrest of a 41-year-old whom they identified as "alias Neri," saying that she was arrested at the basement of a convention center in a Pasay City mall on Nov. 23 on the basis of a warrant for 14 counts of violation of Section 28 of Republic Act 8799, issued by the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 111 of Pasay City.



## Vaughan awards Order of Vaughan to Erlinda Insigne

VAUGHAN - The City of Vaughan has awarded its highest civic honor, the Order of Vaughan, to eight outstanding individuals for their extraordinary contributions to the community.

The investiture ceremony, presided over by Mayor Steven Del Duca, took place on November 13 at 7 p.m. at Vaughan City Hall.

Among the honorees is Erlinda Insigne, recognized for her significant contributions to the Not-For-Profit sector. As a founding director and long-time president of the Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan, Erlinda has been

instrumental in fostering cultural exchange, promoting education, and enhancing community wellness. Her efforts include establishing the Friendship Agreement between the City of Vaughan and Baguio City, which has furthered cross-cultural understanding and partnership. Erlinda is deeply honored to



receive the Order of Vaughan. She sees this recognition as a reflection of the unwavering support she has received from her family, community, and colleagues, all of whom share her dedication to strengthening connections and uplifting the community.

She extends her gratitude to MPP Laura Smith for the nomination, as well as to the Mayor, Members of Council, and the Order of Vaughan Selection Committee for their support.



## Daniel embraces Padilla action star look; Richard Gutierrez fulfills dream to work with Daniel via 'Incognito'

Daniel Padilla has debuted his new look as an action star for his new ABS-CBN series "Incognito."

At the media conference in ABS-CBN last Friday, Daniel presented his new hairdo with a long back, reminiscent of '90s action stars such as his own dad, Rommel Padilla, and uncles, Robin Padilla and Rustom Padilla (now BB Gandanghari).

Richard Gutierrez's dream of working with Daniel in an action project came true via ABS-CBN's new series "Incognito."

Richard said that the series' private military contractors theme is his dream project with Daniel.

"It's been a dream project of mine, actually - this kind of concept. Matagal ko nang ni-research 'yung ganitong klaseng concept about private military contractors," he said at the presscon.

"I've been a fan of this concept. I've been reading books about it through the years and finally, isa ito sa maiko-consider kong dream projects ko. I've been wanting to do something like this for a long time," he added.

Compared to his past series "Iron Heart," Richard said "Incognito" is more intense.

"And I think we somewhat succeeded with 'Iron Heart.' But this time around,



we want to elevate even more. Kaya pa namin i-push. With the right timing, right budget, location, and creativity, kaya pa," he said.

"So, nabigyan kami ng opportunity dito sa 'Incognito.' And I think isa rin sa mga magagandang aspects itong 'Incognito' is we will be showcasing different locations. Ang gaganda ng mga location namin dito, talagang kaabang-abang," he added.

Joining Richard and Daniel in the action series are Ian Veneracion, Maris Racal, Anthony Jennings and Baron Geisler.



# FILIPINO CENTRE TORONTO AWARDS TOP TEN FIL-CAN STUDENTS IN ONTARIO

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT

FILIPINO from page 1

da Cerrudo Javier, the first FCT President & CEO, and a former Ontario schoolteacher.

The RCJOSA Awards is an annual academic recognition program of the Filipino Centre Toronto, a 25-year-old community-based, service-focused, and volunteer-run non-profit organization in Toronto, Canada. For the past 19 years, the established initiative has been in pursuance of the FCT's established mission and mandate to develop and offer programs and services impacting the community. Purposefully, the yearly competition encourages and challenges Filipino Canadian students to perform and achieve academic excellence and exemplary performance in their respective educational pursuits in Ontario.

The yearly event celebrates and recognizes honour student graduates in the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. Since 2005, 154 Filipino-Canadian Ontario student graduates have been given honours. This year, the 10 outstanding students who received the FCT Plaques of Recognition, Congratulatory Scrolls and cash prizes were:

In Postsecondary Category:

• Angelica Kaylee D. Tait is the daughter of Iean Tait and Josephine Dela Cruz. Her goal is to make a meaningful impact in the environmental field by finding innovative ways to align economic growth with sustainability, enhance social, governance, and environmental practices, and improve the quality of life for underserved communities while ensuring a better future for generations to come.



MP Ya'ara Saks for York Centre gives a speech at the Filipino Centre, Toronto.

• Andre Alampay is the son of Renato & Mae Alampay. His goal is to gain experience as a registered nurse in a hospital setting and pursue a part-time position as a lab instructor for incoming nursing students at York University; Also, to

pursue a master's degree and become a nurse practitioner.

- Roloves E. Mangante is the daughter of Rolly and Nieves Mangante. Her goal is to be an influential leader.
- Carlos Santos is the son of Gilbert and Karina Santos. His goal is to achieve financial security, pursue creative dreams like starting and finishing creative projects and give back to his family and community by making a positive impact.

The high school awardees are:

- Anzle Marc Chavez is the son of Liezl Chavez and Fernando Chavez. His goal is to show people, not just those in

STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), the future of the world through robotics.

- Aizzy Zaira De Vera is the daughter of Welma De Vera and Melvin De Vera. Her goal is to create or join a startup company that designs custom medical devices for children with physical disabilities, and to provide mentorship and support for women and people of color pursuing engineering.

- Emilio Javier Santos is the son of Karinna Santos and Gilbert Santos. His goal is to have a supporting impact on people and use concepts and skills learned from school to make that a reality and be able to design/work on a technology that can be used in the future.

The elementary graduate honourees are:

- Gloriane Neverida Baricuatro is the daughter of : Julian Baricuatro and Sheila Neverida. She aspires to become a successful biomedical engineer in the future.
- Jacob S. Lectura is the son of Pio and Nanette S. Lectura. He wants to become a professional baseball player.
- Bianca Manlapaz is the daughter of Allan and Melinda Manlapaz. She wants

FILIPINO page 12

## Mel Galeon of FV Foods welcomes Trudeau's holiday sales tax break for Canadians

by Angie Berlin

TORONTO - While there may be some grumbings about the logistics of the HST holiday from some businesses, you won't hear one from Mel Galeon, owner of FV Foods, the purveyor of Filipino baked goods in Toronto with wholesaling business that serves the rest of Canada.

"That's better for us. We have a chance against the competition who are underground businesses," says Galeon.

"We pay taxes, they don't," he added.

The Liberal's proposed tax break was voted on in the House of Commons on Nov. 28 and was approved with support from the NDP.

The legislature voted in favour of the bill on Nov. 28 in the House of Commons. The federal tax break will run from Dec. 14 to Feb. 15.

Canada's federal government has approved a two-month tax break, and the Ontario government has plans to match it.

Ontario Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy announced Nov. 27 the province would also remove the provincial sales tax (PST) from the same items the federal government is axing the tax on.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he would remove the goods and services tax (GST), or a blended harmonized sales tax (HST), from a short list of items.

Below are some of the items that would have applied on FV Foods items that they are selling.

- Cakes, muffins, pies, pastries, tarts, cookies, doughnuts, brownies and croissants with sweetened filling or coating
- Pudding, including flavoured gelatine, mousse, flavoured whipped dessert product or any other products similar to pudding
- Prepared salads, sandwiches, platters of cheese, cold cuts, fruit or vegetables and other arrangements of prepared food
- Food or beverages heated for consumption, beverages dispensed at the place where they are sold and those bought as part of a catering service
- Christmas trees

In Ontario, there is already no PST added to children's clothing and some meals.

Called an Act respecting temporary cost of living relief (affordability), it's a temporary change to the Excise Tax Act.

Federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh previously said he supports the tax break, although he'd prefer it to be permanent on other expenses



MP Salma Zahid, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and FV Foods owner Mel Galeon FILE PHOTO

such as internet, phone and home heating bills.

While the tax break may save residents money, it also leads to a government budget shortfall. Ontario reported that Ottawa's tax holiday will cost the province \$1 billion. As is, the proposal is expected to cost \$6 billion, but Singh has said he won't support that rebate, unless the handouts include seniors and people with disabilities.

In Ontario, a \$200 rebate is coming for residents in the spring of 2025. It was announced during the fall economic speech, and is for all taxpayers and children who qualify for a Canada Child Benefit.

When it comes to the Working Canadians Rebate – a federal proposal to give \$250 to all working Canadians making less than \$150,000 per year – that item is not yet getting voted on.

Even as the Liberals' "tax holiday" bill moves closer to becoming law, the deputy prime minister on November 29 lamented what appears to be a lack of support for the proposed \$250 rebate cheques that were originally part of the federal government's plan.

The \$250 cheques for Canadians who worked and earned up to \$150,000 in the past year were proposed last week alongside the two-month holiday on GST and HST on certain items as a way to ease affordability concerns. The rebate would have rolled out in spring 2025.

But on November 27, the cheques were missing from a stand-

alone bill the government put forward for the tax break, with the government citing a lack of support for the measure.

"We are in a minority in Parliament, and we sought the support of opposition parties," Freeland told reporters. "Unfortunately, we weren't able to get that support."

Leader Jagmeet Singh said his party would support the rebates if the cheques included more Canadians.

He said he initially thought the cheques would go to any Canadian who earned under the net income cap.

Under the original proposal, Canadians who had worked in 2023 and earned less than \$150,000 in net income would be eligible for the cheques. Singh says he wants to see the rebate include seniors who weren't working, students who weren't working, people on disability who weren't working and others unable to work last year.

Freeland did not say if the cheques will be expanded, noting the government will work with different parties to support work-

ing Canadians.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau did not appear willing Friday to budge on his plan to send a \$250 rebate to "hardworking Canadians," despite pressure from the opposition to give the money to seniors and people who are not able to work. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau criticized the NDP for not supporting the cheques.

"To see the NDP, which was supposedly the party of workers, turn its back on hardworking Canadians and say, no, we shouldn't be delivering this cheque unless we expand it massively, is not recognizing working Canadians for the challenges they're facing," Trudeau said.

He went on to also criticize Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre for not supporting the cheques, as well as the tax break which the NDP did vote for Thursday night which allowed it to be sent to the Senate.

Poilievre said in a post on X that Canadians "don't need a temporary two-month tax trick."

Kaitlyn, a 12-year-old musical and visual artist, is a member of the Mini Pop Kids group, the #1 music brand for kids in Canada, touring across Canada and the U.S. She shares her passion for the performing arts and is working on her new single. She is also a model for Super Chic Fashion and the titleholder of Little Miss Canada Nation Universe 2023.

I am so happy that she will be part of this concert. Watch her perform on Dec 7 at P.C Ho Theatre at Chinese Cultural Center at 6pm. See you there! See less

~ Mark Ezekiel Rivera ~  
**LOVE OF MUSIC CONCERT**  
 December 7, 2024  
 Saturday, 6pm  
 P.C. Ho Theatre at the Chinese Cultural Center of Greater Toronto  
 5183 Sheppard Ave. East  
 Guest Performer:  
**KAITLYN KWOK**  
 For tickets and reservations, markriveraconcert@gmail.com

**JDL** 13th Anniversary  
 SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS  
 Saturday, Dec. 14th @ 6PM  
 Korean Cultural Centre  
 1133 Leslie Street, Toronto  
 MISSISSAUGA CENTRAL SCARBOROUGH

# Joey Baking The Socialist



salinda Cerrudo Javier, the first FCT President & CEO, and a former Ontario schoolteacher.

As always, it is well-attended by various community leaders and politicians from different parties. This year was no different. Philippine Consul General in Toronto Angelica C. Escalona delivered the inspirational address, the Federal Members of Parliaments such as Minister of Small Business Rechie Valdez, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Ya'ara Saks, and MP for Scarborough Centre Salma Zahid, and Member of Provincial Parliament Aris Babikinan, and TCDSB Trustee Garry Tanuan. MP for Scarborough North Shaun Chen and MPP Raymond Cho were represented by their executive assistants, respectively.

Congratualtions to all the students and their parents and to The Filipino Centre, Toronto for continuing this honourable tradition for Filipino students.

Last Sunday, we congratulated students who achieved academic excellence and received the 2024 FCT Rosalinda C. Javier Outstanding Students Awards. This award is a recognition of their hard work, and dedication. Our young students are working hard and investing in their future with success. Congratulations to you and your families! I am excited to see you all succeed on your career paths and your personal journeys - MP YA'ARA SAKS

The annual outstanding students awards is still going strong.

It's formal name is RCJOSA, named in honour of the late Ro-

## Celebrating with Celebrities



Thank you for the generosity of Agnes Miranda for giving The FCT Seniors painting group free tickets.

Cornerstone Entertainment, an artist management company in the Philippines held a sold-out concert and brought almost all their artists. The impressive roster includes Piolo Pascual, Catriona Gray, Erik Santos, Sam Milby, Kyla, KZ Tandingan, Yeng Constantino, Zephanie, Inigo Pascual, Kyle Echarri, Jason Dy, and special guests, P-Pop group VXON. Directed by renowned actor, dancer, and director John Prats, the event was a testament to Cornerstone's commitment to showcasing Filipino talent on the international stage.

The venue was held at the sprawling Scarborough Convention Centre. They booked the whole venue.

I had doubts if the place would be packed. I

usually come early. If the parking lot is not nearly full, I start doubting if it was sold out. Thankfully, by the time the show started, the place was packed already and the place was jumping with enthusiastic and jubilant crowd. The excitement did not let up from one artist to the next. Of course, the number of songs an artist will sing depends on their level of fame. For Erik Santos, KZ Tandingan, Kyla, Yeng, Zephanie, they'll sing 3 or more songs every time they go out. For, Sam Milby and Piolo Pascual, they'll sing a maximum of two songs and exit.

In the end, everyone left happy.

Congratulations to producers Jannie Benico, Blue Skies Media, and Kre8 Corp.

Thank you also to Rosary Escano for giving me a media pass.

## 'Hindi kami puro bobo dun': Ex-AFP chief rejects Duterte call for military action

A former military chief of staff has spurned former President Rodrigo Duterte's call for the military to "correct" the "fractured governance" of his successor, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Retired Army general Dionisio Santiago, who also served in the Duterte Cabinet as Dangerous Drugs Board chief, said the

country will not benefit if the Armed Forces decides to break the chain of command and follow Duterte.

"Ano mapapala namin? Will it help the country kung madadamay pa kami sa gulo? Kung makikigulo ang military ay patay tayo. Sigurado ba tayo na pag military ang nag-take-over we can run the gov-

ernment better? Wala tayong assurance nun. Masyadong malaking gamble 'yun. Maghintay tayo ng eleksyon," he said in a TeleRadyo Serbisyo interview.

He rejected talk that the military should follow Duterte because he increased the salaries of military and police personnel.

"The military, just like you, we are thinking people. Hindi naman kami irrational na tao. Sinasabi in-increase 'yung salary. Thank you pero there's a limit sa pag-appreciate namin. In-increase 'yung salary namin pero...papayagin namin kung ano lang gawin 'yung gustong gawin? May limit 'yun."

Santiago said the Philippine military has learned its lesson after its leaders backed previous uprisings such as the 1986 People Power Revolution that ousted President Ferdinand Marcos and the 2001 EDSA Dos revolt that toppled President Joseph Estrada.

"Nadala na rin kami. Nakialam kami, anong nangyari sa bayan natin? May nangyari ba? Ga-



nun din," he said.

He said that while the former president will always have his supporters, active military officers will always follow the constitutional mandate.

"Pinapagulo na lang nila ang bayan. Actually nakakasama sa kanila 'yan, ini-entice mo ang military, nananahimik 'yang mga 'yan. May naka-usap akong isang high ranking military...ang sabi, basta kami sa Constitution."

"Wala kayong magagawa sa military. Kapag sinabing constitutional mandate, ang susundan niyan is the commander in chief...Kung gusto mong sundan ka, mag-presidente ka ulit."

"In the end, what prevails to the military people is the common good, the greater good. Hindi kami pumasok sa serbisyo para mag-serbisyo ng personal interest, individual interest."

He also rejected talk of a loyalty check after Duterte's call, saying the loyalties of officials such as former national police chief Ronald dela Rosa are already known.

"The military is a thinking military, hindi naman kami puro bobo dun."

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## Alex Gonzaga signs record deal, drops revival of 'Pasulyap-Sulyap'

Alex Gonzaga is taking a step further into her career as she signed a record deal with O/C Records, which is owned by celebrity couple Kian Cipriano and Chynna Ortaleza.

Gonzaga recently inked a contract with the music label to "showcase her musicality," as announced by O/C in a press statement on Friday, November 8.

To celebrate her new milestone, the "Pure Love" star dropped her new single "Pasulyap-Sulyap" on the same day, a revival of the 1997 hit by Tootsie Guevara.

Gonzaga shared that she chose to breathe new life into the track as a way of recalling a "budding romance."

"The song's melodic and heartfelt nature resonates with

anyone who has experienced the thrill and sweetness of budding romance," she said.

The label added that the actress-content creator will be releasing more revivals of classic hits in the future.

This milestone marks nine years after Gonzaga released her first EP "I Am Alex G." in 2015. Aside from solo music, she dropped the songs "Sissums" and "Please Lang," which was done with her sister Toni.

The vlogger previously made headlines after announcing that her body is in a "better condition" to conceive, after several failed pregnancies with her husband, Lipa City Councilor Mikee Morada.



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

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**ALL-STARS from page 7**

Ultimate Heartthrob, graced the stage. His charisma and genuine warmth captivated the audience as he serenaded them with his smooth vocals.

Together, Piolo and Erik

performed a medley that brought the audience to their feet, signaling a fitting finale for this star-studded evening.

As the event drew to a close, all the artists returned to the stage for a heartfelt thank-you, expressing their love and gratitude to the fans who made the

night unforgettable.

Producers Jannie Benico, Blue Skies Media, and Kre8 Corp made this grand showcase possible, delivering an evening

of pure joy and pride for the Filipino community and fans in Canada. This All Star Concert was not only a testament to Filipino talent but also a beautiful reminder of the vibrant culture that connects and inspires audiences worldwide.



**Instagram official? Heaven Peralejo, Marco Gallo exchange 'I love you's'**

"Instagram official?"

That's how social media users reacted after onscreen partners Heaven Peralejo and Marco Gallo exchanged "I love you's" on social media.

In his Instagram account, Marco posted sweet photos of him with Heaven.

"Happy 25th birthday mahal," Marco captioned the

post with a heart emoji.

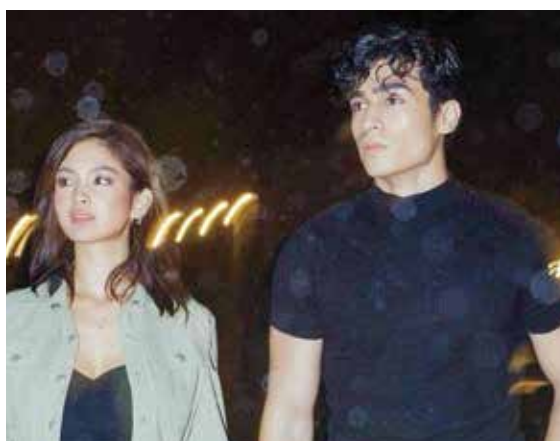
"Can't be more proud of you," he added. Heaven quickly commented on Marco's post with "I love you."

"Wish you were here," she added.

Marco replied with "I love you too."

Heaven and Marco started to be romantically linked together last year.

Heaven Peralejo on teamup with Marco Gallo: 'We talk about life. We have reflection time, we meditate together, we bring out the best in each other na pa-rang willing ka to grow as an individual and together.'



Earlier this year, Heaven said in an interview that they wanted the real score between them to stay just with them.

"Ako personally, mas gusto ko, kung meron man something sa amin, kung ano man 'yung status namin, if meron, I would prefer to keep it sa amin lang," Heaven said.

"Kung ano man 'yung napu-post namin sa social media is what you see is what you get pero sa status, kung ano man kami, I'd rather keep it to ourselves," she added.

Marco then said: "You heard the boss, I can't say anything."

# FILIPINO CENTRE TORONTO AWARDS TOP TEN FIL-CAN STUDENTS IN ONTARIO

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT

FILIPINO from page 9

to be a successful nurse and successful visual artist at the same time.

Among the dignitaries and special guests were Philippine Consul General in Toronto Angelica C. Escalona who delivered the inspirational address, the Federal Members of Parliaments such as Minister of Small Business Rechie Valdez, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Ya'ara Saks, and MP for Scarborough Centre Salma Zahid, and Member of Provincial

Parliament Aris Babikian. MP for Scarborough North Shaun Chen and MPP Raymond Cho were represented by their executive assistants, respectively. The other guests included parents, relatives & friends of the honourees, TCDSB Trustee Garry Tanuan, the FCT Directors and officers like BOD Chairman Efren De Villa, FCT President Mary Ann San Juan, Treasurer Wendy Arena, Board Members Frank Cruzet, Dr. Nenette De Villa, Jeanette Rosales, Office Manager Kit Garcia,

and FCT staff & volunteers.

Able to be emceed by FCT Vice-president Theresa Lumanlan, the 2-hour programme parts included the singing of Filipino and Canadian national anthems, land acknowledgement, invocation, welcome remarks, guest speaker introduction, inspirational address, vocal rendition, and closing remarks. Photo opportunities and light refreshments followed. Filipino Bulletin publisher Carlos Unas, Little Manila Confidential publisher Joey Baking,

and Rogers Media- OMNI Filipino TV reporter & journalist Theresa Redula covered the event.

The FCT-RCJOSA Awards Committee is headed by Tony A. San Juan, founder of Filipino Heritage Council of Canada (Chairman), with Mary Ann S. San Juan-FCT President & CEO as Co-chair. Indeed the event was a memorable and meaningful gathering of exemplary Filipino Canadian student graduates, their loved ones, and special guests. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT).



FCT's Theresa Lumanlan



FCT-RCJOSA Awards Committee is headed by Tony A. San Juan FCT President Mary Ann San Juan



MPP Aris Babikian



Congen Angelica Escalona, MP Rechie Valdez, MP Salma Zahid



## Belle Mariano admits to feeling real kilig with Donny Pangilinan

Donny and Belle's co-stars attest to their chemistry on and off cam.

The media conference for How To Spot A Red Flag, Donny Pangilinan and Belle Mariano's latest Viu series, was an unforgettable event filled with heartwarming behind-the-scenes stories, playful moments, and a lot of kilig.

As the duo—known as DonBelle—delve into a romantic comedy about love, self-discovery, and navigating the red flags of relationships, they revealed that their genuine chemistry goes beyond the screen.

Donny is 26 years old, while Belle is 22.

Underlining that his connection with Belle is not a mere act, Donny explained: "Yung kilig hindi nare-rehearse yun siyempre.

"To be honest dati nung nagsa-start pa kami, hindi namin nage-gets yung emotions ng isa't isa, yung ibibigay ng isang character sa isang eksena, how will you give and take.

"But after working with each other... whatever happens na lang sa eksena yun na lang yung mangyari."

Echoing Donny's sentiment, Belle added, "You can't fake it. Hindi mo naman puwedeng ipeke yung kilig.

"Totoo, kinikilig ako sa scenes namin. We do rehearse yung mga actions, yung mga lines namin, but then I think what makes it natural is how we react."

## Kim Chiu is Tanduay calendar girl for 2025

Actress-singer Kim Chiu was unveiled as the latest calendar girl for local beverage company Tanduay.

She joins a roster of names that include Kylie Versoza, Bea Alonzo, Ivana Alawi, Ellen Adarna, Jessy Mendiola, Heart Evangelista, and Kim's predecessor Julia Barretto.

At a launch event held on November 20 in Pasay City, Kim was asked about her initial reaction to being approached by Tanduay to be their new calendar girl.

"I was shocked, I asked myself if I was empowered to do this [kind of thing]," Kim said, noting she literally grew up in the public eye. "I feel empowered doing this, a milestone I never thought I'd achieve early in my career."

Kim began her career after winning the first local teen edition of "Pinoy Big Brother" when she was 16 years old, going on to appear in several projects opposite ex-Gerald Anderson.

She went on to star in films and series as a Star Magic artist, most recently appearing in "Linlang," the Filipino adaptation of "What's Wrong With Secretary Kim," and since 2020 has been a host in "It's Showtime."

cently appearing in "Linlang," the Filipino adaptation of "What's Wrong With Secretary Kim," and since 2020 has been a host in "It's Showtime."

"We all have our explanation about what a woman is, and I want to enjoy my journey as one," Kim continued her explanation about becoming a calendar girl.

Asked about her preparations and any special moments that stood out, Kim credited her daily workouts that "make her happy and pump up her day."

When it came to mental readiness, Kim recalled the pictorial day and found herself asking thoughts like "Am I woman now?!"

The "Multimedia Idol" shared her message to fellow women, "This is a reminder there's no dream too big or milestone too far. Success isn't where you've been but where you're willing to go. Just keep going and reach your dreams kasi 'di mo lang alam, life gives you lots of surprises."

Kim had to hold back tears as she thanked her supporters for backing her as she took on a branded role as a calendar girl.

"It's more than just being a calendar girl, but break barriers... I'm celebrating my confidence and journey."



Arielle Perez wins 2nd place at the Open Mic Fall competition held at Yorkgate Mall.

# PCCF joins CMC Asian Food & Cultural Festival

by Rosemer Enverga

PINOY VIBES WORLD from page 6  
team! See all again next time!

### ABOUT PCCF

The Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) is a non-profit or-

ganization who's mission is to promote the arts, culture and heritage of Filipino culture. PCCF is the proud organizer of events like the Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show sa Toronto and Pageants with a Cause.

PCCF was founded by the late Senator Tobias C. Enverga Jr., the first Canadian of Filipino descent elected in the City of Toronto and the first Canadian of Filipino descent to be appointed the Senate.

Our motto, "Having fun, while helping

others!"

For more info, e-mail [PhilippineCanadianFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:PhilippineCanadianFoundation@gmail.com), visit: [www.philippinecanadianfoundation.com](http://www.philippinecanadianfoundation.com)



Christine Santos leads the team Epic at the United Way CN Tower Climb Up last November 9. After CN tower climb, they had lunch at Yueh Tung.



### Congratulations to Jasmine Paguio



We extend our biggest Congratulations to Miss Jasmine Paguio, on her coronation at the Hiyas ng Pilipinas 2024 pageant.



LEFT AND RIGHT, MP Shaun Chen and writer Tony San Juan sample the dishes at the "Asian Food and Cultural Festival" presented by the Canadian Multicultural Council Asians in Ontario (CMCA-O) held at the Chinese Cultural Centre.

## Rufa Mae Quinto's lawyer says she has warrant of arrest, claims she's a 'victim'

Rufa Mae Quinto's lawyer, Atty. Mary Louise Reyes, confirmed that the actress has a standing warrant of arrest.

According to a report on "24 Oras," Monday, she is facing a case in relation to the issue of Dermacare, the same company involved in the arrest of actress-entrepreneur Neri Naig.

Reyes said that Quinto is charged with 14 counts of violation of Section 8 of the Securities Regulation Code, which states that securities such as shares and investments may not be sold in the Philippines without a registration statement duly filed with and approved by the SEC.

She clarified, however, that Quinto is not facing a large-scale estafa complaint.

"She will face those charges... mag-voluntary surrender siya and magpo-post po kami ng bail for that. She's worried kasi hindi naman totoo 'yung allegations kasi my client po is just a brand ambassador, a model-endorser," Reyes said.

"Ni hindi sa kanya nakapagbayad ng downpayment, tapos 'yung mga tseke po puro tumalbog. Lahat po 'yan hawak naman po namin 'yung ebidensya, ipe-present naming sa court."

Reyes said Quinto is still considering whether she will file a case.

In September 2023, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

released an advisory about Dermacare-Beyond Skin Care Solutions, saying that the company was not authorized to solicit investments because they are not registered and have no license to sell securities.

In the same advisory, the commission said that salesmen, brokers, dealers, agents, promoters, influencers, and endorsers of Dermacare may be sued.

### BOY ABUNDA ON RUFMAE'S ESTAFA CASE

Ang malapit na kaibigan at dating manager ni Rufa Mae na si Boy Abunda ang isa sa mga tumutulong ngayon sa aktres,

Ibinahagi ni Boy ang opinyon nito tungkol sa parehong kasong kinasasangkutan nina Rufa Mae at Neri sa Fast Talk with Boy Abunda nitong Lunes ng hapon, Disyembre 2.

Kinumpirma niyang may warrant of arrest na naghahintay kay Rufa Mae.

Pahayag niya: "Kinukumpirma ko pong merong mga warrant of arrest si Rufa Mae kaya medyo nababahala po ako bilang kaibigan at manager."

"I am alarmed as a member of this industry and as a manager. Para bagang gusto kong balikan lahat ang mga kontrata dahil ang endorser ba ay salesman?"

"Kapag sinabi kong bumili ho kayo ng donut ay yung warranty ba na yon, I mean,

## FOLKLORICO 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Paul & Wendy Arena, Ed & Evelyn Birondo

ano ba ang ating responsibilidad?

"Kasi, sa aking pagkakaunawa bilang manager, ang nagwa-warrant po sa publiko, na ang produkto ay maganda, matino ang serbisyo ay ang may-ari ng kompanya."

"Ang endorser ay maniniwala lamang sa sinasabi ng may-ari."

Pagpapatuloy ni Boy: "It's a very complicated case pero palaisipan po ito. I think the industry as a whole, we should be studying our contracts more."

"Kaninong responsibilidad ba ito? Naghikayat halimbawa ako na bumili ka ng bahay. Naghikayat ako na bumili ka ng condo, saan nag-uumpisa at nagtatapos ang responsibilidad?"

"Do I own the company? Am I liable, halimbawa, e, hindi pala masyadong kagandahan? I have so many questions."



Folklorico founding director Wendy Arena poses with Certificate of Recognition awardees Lorelei Redoblado and Lee Cacalda.

"I know that the case is in court."

"Isa pang point of interest, paano kaya na konekta itong sina Neri, Rufa Mae sa kaso ng piskalya?"

"It's really interesting na dapat marami tayong matutunan bilang members of the industry, lalo na ang mga artist at ang mga manager."

"Ito po yung aking nararamdaman kaya hindi ko po mapigilang magsalita."



# Fil-Can Community Groups Celebrate Asian Food and Cultural Festival

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

FILCAN from page 1

Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tamil, Taiwan, Tibet, and Vietnam.

President Tom Tan, Vice Presidents Agnes P. Miranda & Ben Corpuz, Executive Secretary Suzy Llanera, Public Relations Officers Leonor Abad & Danny Orbillo, and Auditor Melinda Manlapaz lead the PIDC contingent. Amongst the PIDC beauties present were Mrs. Philippines-PIDC 2014 Kathleen Ortiguero, and PIDC Alumni Ma. Sherry Tan, Margie Gevevo, MaryJean Puno, and Imelda Concepcion. On the one hand, the PCCF delegation was headed by its President, Rosemer Enverga and members of the PCCF Executive Directorate.

The 5-hour successful program was jointly emceed by Rodney Ronquillo and Chyrell Samson. CMCA-O President Dr. Tulsi Dharel gave the welcome remarks while the Member of Parliament for Scarborough North Shaun Chen delivered his brief message. After Chyrell Samson sang the Canadian national anthem, the potluck dinner fol-



Joey Baking

lowed. True to their professional stature, R. Ronquillo, C. Samson, Lilac Cana, and Danny Orbillo fully entertained the guests and the multi-ethnic audience with beautiful and lively songs.

Several culture-focused performances were presented by dancers, singers, and talents from Asian groups such as the Nepalese, Taiwanese, Japanese, Filipino-PCCF, Vietnamese, Filipino-PIDC, Burmese, Indonesian, and Laotian as well as an ethnic-oriented fashion show. It was a Saturday evening of Asian Canadians signifi-



cantly showcasing their kindred cultures, and common aspiration of solidarity, peace, and harmony in the Canadian landscape. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT).

ABOVE, Grant Karwacki, Agnes Pasaporte Miranda, Tom Tan; RIGHT, Suzy Llanera, Tom Tan, nanning Tait



## ACES & QUEENS PAGEANT TRAINING



Riannah Greeley, 4th from left, gets a certificate of completion of their 2-day Toronto bootcamp from Aces & Queens, the Philippine-based premier pageant training camp.



Riannah, left end, sits with fellow students Mika Sy, Lexie Alexa and Shaine Jaramillo of the Pink Ribbon singing group.



Riannah Greeley, left, poses with Pauline Amelinckx, Mutya ng Pilipinas Global Beauty Queen 2018, Miss Supranational Philippines 2023.



## JDL all geared up to present : Disney Frozen Jr. this Winter !

The enchanting modern classic from Disney and based on the 2018 Broadway musical, brings Elsa, Anna, and the magical land of Arendelle to life, onstage. The show features all of the memorable songs from the animated film, with music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, plus five new songs written for the Broadway production.

Do you want to build a snowman? Well, you will surely love this fanciful and heartwarming stage adaptation of the top-grossing animated Disney film of all time! Join Anna, Elsa and all of your favorite characters as they embark on an epic, ice-filled journey

of self-discovery, camaraderie, and the real meaning of true love. Adapted for young performers, this musical includes favorite "Frozen" songs such as "Love is an Open Door", "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?", and "Let It Go", as well as new songs from the Broadway production. With its empowering message of love and understanding, "Frozen Jr" is sure to melt even the coldest of hearts!

Saturday, January 25  
4 pm & 730 pm  
City Playhouse Theatre  
1000 West Minster Drive  
Thornhill, Ontario  
Tickets \$20.00

## 'Focus on what's in front of you': Maris Racal's advice for breakup recovery

Actress-singer Maris Racal shared some pieces of advice for those going through or recovering from a breakup.

Maris appeared in the vlog of celebrity doctor Vicki Belo as the actress was doing a shoot for the doctor's eponymous brand, where the two sat down for a quick discussion.

In the middle of the video, Vicki asked Maris for tips on how to handle a breakup, without having to give any names.

Earlier this year, Maris revealed she and singer Rico Blanco ended their relationship which they confirmed in 2021.

The actress acknowledged that people have different ways of experiencing and dealing with breakups, and for Maris it was immersing herself with professional projects.

"Ako kasi thankful sa work, nadi-divert attention, if wala siguro akong work I don't know saan ako...

right now work makes me happy," Maris said.

Her general piece of advice for people going through tough times were to focus on things happening in front of them, "What you're feeling is very valid, it's okay to be feel sad, lost, a lot of things. 'Yung importante is positive words and people around you. Malay months later you'll be happy and normal again."

Vicki chipped in about "seeing the light" when the dust settles and to "take it day by day, one day at a time."

Maris expounded on what Vicki said, "Sometimes its one second at a time but you'll get there, to the place na okay ka na."

Earlier in the video, Maris shared she was anticipating the release of "And The Breadwinner Is" with Vice Ganda next month, and has upcoming projects with "Can't Buy Me Love" co-star Anthony Jennings.



Belle Mohan, Ryan Orlanda, Els Mariquit, Bonna Esporas, Paulo Bucud, Cesar Marquez and Josie Rodricks enjoy the All Stars concert.

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## Raymond Lauchengco reveals Sharon was his first showbiz crush

Raymond says Sharon was responsible for his showbiz career.

Isang rebelasyon ang ibinahagi ni Raymond Lauchengco tungkol kay Sharon Cuneta.

Sa kanyang post sa kanyang official Facebook, sinabi ng actor-singer na ang Megastar ang naging daan kaya siya nakapasok sa showbiz.

Ani Raymond sa kanyang post, published as is: "Not too many people know that I have the Megastar herself, Sharon Cuneta, to thank for my start in show business.

"That happened because back in the

day, Sharon was a student of my father [his favorite one], and one day, she saw my picture on his desk while she was in his office."

Nalaman na lang umano niyang nag-set up si Sharon ng meeting kay Boss Vic del Rosario ng Viva Films.

"And soon after, I was cast in her movies and given all these beautiful songs to record under Vicor Records."

Pagbibigay-diin ni Raymond, "All because of Sharon."

May isa pang isiniwalat ang singer na bahagi ng kanyang kabataan na may kaugyanan sa Megastar.



"But the bigger story is that Sharon was my first serious showbiz crush!" pagtatapat ni Raymond.

"I used to go to sleep with my Walkman headphones listening to her songs.

"So can you imagine what a thrill it was for me to finally meet her, act out scenes with her, and sing duets with her at her concerts!"

Ayon pa kay Raymond, napakaganda ng kanilang chemistry ni Sharon.

"The chemistry of... brother and sister.

"To this day, with my silver hair and all, she still calls me her baby bro."

Kuwento pa ni Raymond, "Despite the unrequited love, Sharon turned out to be the best showbiz Ate ever as she set off a wonderful chain of events that saw me through 40 years all the way to my Just Got Lucky concert last Saturday." Nang sumapit ang gabi ng concert, ayon kay Raymond, walang nakaalam sa audience na magkakaroon sila ng duet ni Sharon.

"I thanked Sharon for discovering me and said: 'So, there I was, not knowing what show business had in store for an 18-year-old kid with nothing more than a hope and a dream in a world full of stars.'

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STAGED ASSASSINATION from page 1

into motion the alleged kill order she made on President Marcos.

But the big question is, will a fake assassination attempt be carried out just to trigger such kill order?

"She is not a champion of the masses. She, like her father, has made public that she is willing to kill, kill the President, the First Lady, the Speaker of the House, and others," Valeriano said of Vice President Duterte.

"All she probably needs to do now is stage an assassination attempt on herself, so that her orders to kill the President will be carried out," Valeriano noted, as he raised a rather dreadful and worrisome scenario.

Last month, amid her apparent anger over how the House of Representatives treated her chief-of-staff Zuleika Lopez, Duterte bared in a press conference that she had tapped someone to target President Marcos, Speaker Martin Romualdez, and First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos in the event that she herself gets slain.

Several ranking House members have called on authorities to investigate Duterte's statements.



Manila 2nd district Rep. Rolando Valeriano (left), Vice President Sara Duterte

However, Valeriano would rather see law enforcers take the Vice President "into custody".

"The time for parliamentary courtesy is over. It is now time for the police to enforce the law and take her into custody for crimes against public order, the Filipino people, and the Constitution," said the member of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability.

The good government panel has been holding hearings on the alleged misuse of P612.5 million confidential and intelligence funds (CIFs) under Vice President Duterte.

The committee launched the investigation by virtue of a scathing privilege speech from Valeriano wherein he raised allegations of public funds misuse.

## Trina Candaza denies rumor she has a rich boyfriend

Super thankful si Trina Candaza sa maraming grasyang tinamasa niya ngayong 2024.

Sa kanyang Instagram kahapon, December 1, 2025, nag-post si Trina ng isang Reel kung saan ibinahagi niya ang mga collab at trabahong ginawa niya kung saan kumita siya ng malaking halaga.

May mga nakasulat din sa video na "What I am GRATEFUL for this year" at "My work that sustains our lifestyle and needs." Nakatanggap umano siya ng bayad mula PHP150K hanggang PHP400K.

Pero hindi binanggit ni Trina kung anong brand o kumpanya na kumuha ng kanyang serbisyo.

Meron din daw siyang VIP clients na bumili sa kanya ng mga gold at diamond jewelry, at kaibigang nilibre ang kanyang hotel room sa Greece trip nila.

Nagpasalamat din si Trina sa mga kaibigan at kamag-anak na laging sumasaklolo sa kanya.

Mensahe niya, "There might be struggles, meeting wrong people, unexpected problems, expensive lessons, wrong decisions, and a lot more.

Sa comments section, nagkomento ang isang netizen na tulad ni Trina ay isa rin umanong single mom.

Ayon dito, tama lang ang ginawa ni Trina na pag-post sa kanyang mga trabaho para panganganga sa mga bulung-bulungan tungkol sa kanya — na kesyo may rumored boyfriend itong nagsusustento sa kanya.

Wala raw siyang magagawa kung may masasabi ang ilang tao tungkol sa kanya, pero siya lamang daw ang makapagsasabi ng katotohanan.

Buong tugon ni Trina: "I've heard the rumors about me nga. Pero no, I'm not dating anyone right now. And I work very hard to provide a good life for me and my daughter.

"I fully understand that there will always be assumptions



from other people—and that's okay. But I am the best person to tell my story because I live it."

Samantala, wala namang narinig na mula kay Trina mula nang ikasal ang ex-boyfriend nitong si Carlo Aquino kay Charlie Dizon.

**Vina Morales on network collaboration: 'The war has long ended'**

Vina Morales expressed her belief that the network rivalry between ABS-CBN and GMA has softened over the years.

"Actually, even before, the two top TV stations of the land, GMA and ABS-CBN, have been borrowing and lending their talents to each other. Perhaps, it was just stricter before. Now, they even collaborate to produce quality shows where Kapamilya stars can be seen on Kapuso ground. They're just more open now," she said.

The singer-actress considers herself fortunate to work with both networks.

"That's true! I've worked with both ABS-CBN and GMA. Hopefully, I get to do shows again for GMA."

Vina's career began with GMA with That's Entertainment and the variety program SOP.

Asked if she would consider performing on All Out Sundays (AOS), she replied enthusiastically.

"Why not? Yes, that would be nice. I will make myself available. Depend on the project."

Fans have expressed interest in seeing Vina in a grand production number in AOS alongside Julie Anne San Jose, who is also an all-around performer. Does she know Julie Anne, dubbed Asia's Limitless Star?

"Not personally. But I've seen her performances on television. She's very good. She always shines, whether it's singing, dancing, or acting. But I've worked with her boyfriend, Rayver [Cruz], many times," Vina concluded.



## Scandal nearly killed Gary V's career early

To celebrate his 40-year journey as Mr. Pure Energy, Gary Valenciano will hold his two-night concert 'One More Time' on Dec. 20 and 22 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum. Four decades ago, on April 13, 1984, his first major concert 'A-Live' was held at the Big Dome and directed by fellow singer Jet Montelibano of the Music and Magic.



"In many ways, it really was. I was only 19 years old at that time, almost 20, I was not married yet and I was about to become an unwed father.

"I'll never forget the late Ricky Lo. When it came to journalism, he was the guy you didn't want to cross paths with. You don't want to catch him on the wrong side. So, I remember sitting down in the press conference two weeks before my first-ever major concert.

"Ricky looked at me and asked, 'What we want to know is if it is true.' I even teased, 'Yeah, it's true. I have a concert on April 13 (1984), Friday at the Araneta Coliseum.' But Ricky countered that. 'What we want to know is if you were the unwed father that other writers were speculating about.'"

Gary was left with no choice but to honestly answer the question.

"We had a meeting prior to the press conference," he further shared. "What do we do? Do we bring Angeli to the States? Does she stay with my family? Does she go to Australia?"

His eldest sister, Diane, butted in and said, "Why don't we ask Gary what he thinks?" Apparently, he could not decide at 19. "I just told them, 'Look, if people come to the concert, then that's a good sign.'"

"But if our tickets don't sell and there was nobody who came, then, that was the sign that my career was good while it lasted."

"It was tough, at that time," he recalled. "The moment before I opened the show at

Araneta — I opened from the bleachers and there was a ramp that went down attached to the stage."

"Before I went up onstage, we had a short prayer. I had no relationship with the Lord yet at that time. My sister, Gina, entered the dressing room crying. I asked her why she was crying? She told us, 'We're sold out.'"

"That was when I started to feel nervous. There were people out there. So, people who watched me then, were probably thinking and had this mindset, 'Who is this Gary Valenciano who was so controversial?' But people came.

"So, I went up the bleachers and I couldn't hear the audience at all. The National Anthem was played and the opening song started. Ironically, it called Brand New Day. My two guests Sharon Cuneta and Zsa Zsa Padilla — already came out.

"They performed with me. That was it. If I tell you the story again today, my hair stands. I guess that was the sign. I told them, I guess we have to stay. It was a good thing I did."

From that time on, there was no stopping Gary V from conquering the music world. Even his records soared to the top of the mu-

## Interestingly, that was the time when Gary was in the middle of controversy

sic charts. He entered TV and had his career performing on "ASAP" every Sunday for the past two decades.

He was never out of the music scene. He became synonymous with musical excellence and high-energy performances over the last four decades.

His wife, Angeli, remains the wind beneath his wings all the 40 years they are together. She never left his side.

Last year, Gary marked his 100th solo show at the Music Museum with

his wildly successful sold-out, 10-night concert series, "Gary V: Back at the Museum." From an initial run of four shows in August 2023, it was extended twice, underscoring Gary's enduring popularity and the impact of his music and performances.

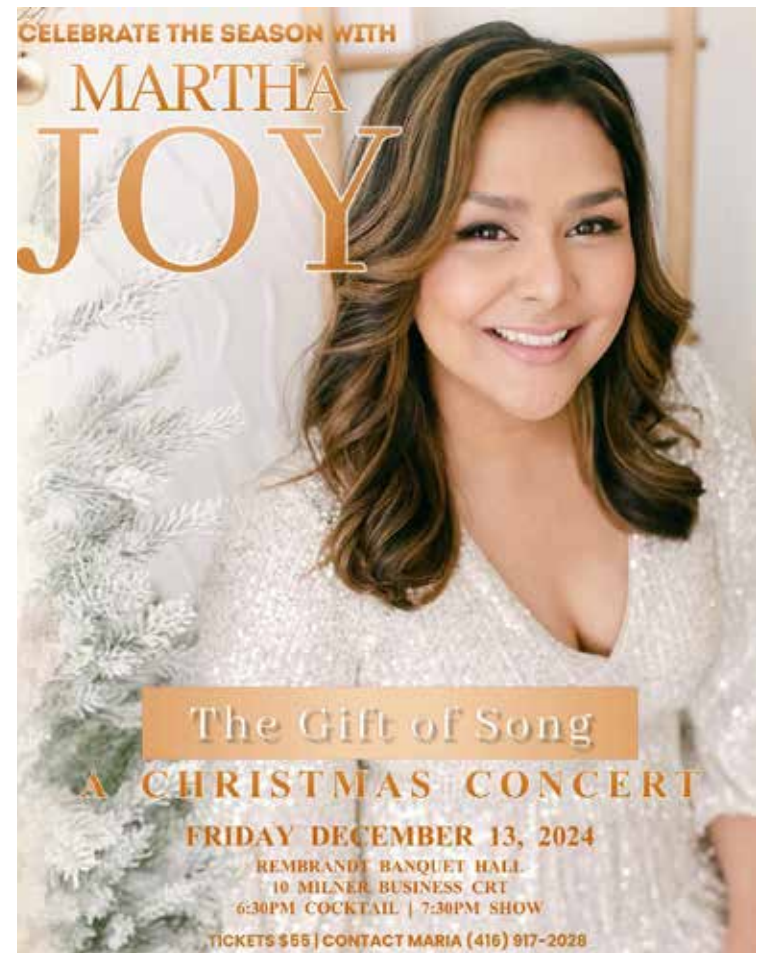
He also received multiple standing ovations from jam-packed audiences during his US-Canada tour. Gary's original announcement for "Pure Energy: One Last Time" initially led many to assume that he would officially retire from performing.

However, he has since clarified that while he's stepping back from headlining solo shows in large venues like arenas and domes, his

passion for music and performing remains as strong as ever.

Gary's career has been marked by passion, resilience and a strong connection with his audience — qualities that have only deepened through personal health battles. That unbelievably includes a 45-year struggle with Type 1 diabetes, hepatitis, tuberculosis, arthroscopic surgeries on his right knee, a heart bypass surgery, kidney cancer, dengue fever, COVID-19, pneumonia and an angioplasty this 2024.

But despite such medical challenges, Gary's commitment to his craft is as strong as ever, as is his desire to uplift and inspire through his music.



## Canada orders shutdown of TikTok's Canadian business, app access to continue

TORONTO - I can still see my friend Jun Alapan in TikTok in Canada.

Canada on November 6 ordered Chinese-owned TikTok's business in the country to be dissolved, citing national-security risks, but added the government was not blocking Canadians' access to the short-video app or their ability to create content.

"The government is taking action to address the specific national security risks related to ByteDance

Ltd's operations in Canada through the establishment of TikTok Technology Canada Inc," Innovation Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said in a statement.

Ottawa last year began reviewing TikTok's plan to invest and expand its business in Canada. ByteDance is TikTok's Chinese parent company.



Under Canadian law, the government can assess potential risks to national security from foreign investments, such as the TikTok proposal. The law prevents the government from revealing the details of such investments.

"The decision was

based on the information and evidence collected over the course of the review and on the advice of Canada's security and intelligence community and other government partners," Champagne added.

TikTok said it will challenge the order in court.

"Shutting down TikTok's Canadian offices and destroying hundreds of well-paying local jobs is not in anyone's best interest, and today's shutdown

order will do just that," a TikTok spokesperson said in a statement.

Canada has banned the TikTok app from government-issued devices, saying it presents an unacceptable level of risk to privacy and security.

TikTok and ByteDance sued in U.S. federal court in May, seeking to block a law signed by President Joe Biden.

The law, signed by Biden on April 24, gives ByteDance until Jan. 19 to sell TikTok or face a ban. The White House has said it wants to see Chinese-based ownership ended on national-security grounds but not a ban on TikTok.

## Bicol Canada Continues Relief Effort for victims of Typhoon Kristine

by BCCA President Francis Oriño Dacara

TORONTO - The Bicol Canada Community Association through its "T A B A N G B i c o l" initiative, our flagship outreach and charitable activity in Canada is proud to have responded in so many forms of initiatives - e.g., Bangon Bicolandia, Bangon Masbate, Tabang Catanduanes, Bangon Naga, etc.

It is with pleasure that we inform everyone that we have transmitted PHP 100,000.00 to the victims of tropical storm KristinePH as its first wave of disaster relief response to our fellow Bicolanos to the Kaya Natin Movement for Good Governance and Ethical Leadership Inc.

The officers, directors and members of the BCCA shall continue efforts to sustain the fund drive and as instruments of soliciting donations from Bicolano-Canadians and friends. We have activities lined up for this purpose, including our annual



Salamat Vhic Rastrullo sa suporta! Dikit na tabang, dakulang kapakinabangan. Donate and help our kababayans ang you will get a TABANG Bicol shirt and BCCA mug. Christmas/year-end celebration, our tradition Christmas caroling where we will be serenading donors with Christmas songs and the popular "Sarong Banggi" in collaboration with the Bicol Canada Heritage Choir. By the first quarter of 2025, we are gearing up for our Dance Showdown and Palarong Bicol (Sports-fest) 2025.



The BCCA is proud to help/support our kababayans in the Bicol Region, Philippines in trying times and disaster/calamities. The BCCA in line with its mandate, shall continue to provide relief for the poor and distressed, promote social justice, foster civic-mindedness and eliminate prejudice and discrimination. BCCA aims to create unity, love, respect, develop and promote camaraderie and fellowship among the members.

NOTE: We are still accepting monetary donations for our Tabang Bicol initiative as our continuing fund drive efforts to help our kababayans. You can send your monetary donations to the Treasurer of Bicol Canada Community Association, Manoy Toti - Mr. Jose Gutierrez thru e-transfer josegutierrez0125@gmail.com

Please connect with any BCCA - Bicol Canada Community Association members for information:

Jose Gutierrez - 647-6068437

Bryan Colombo - 647-5615334

Joseph Redoblado - 416-728-1964

Dikit na tabang, mapapakinabangan! Mabuhay kita gabos! Thank you very much for your generosity, support, and compassion for our fellow Bicolanos in need.

Padagos lang po kita. Salamat po. Diyos Mabalos!



## Nadine Lustre, Christophe Bariou clarify they're not engaged yet

Responding to speculations among fans, Nadine Lustre and Christophe Bariou set the record straight, stressing that they have yet to be engaged.

Engagement speculations earlier hounded the couple after Lustre shared a note from Bariou about discovering and conquering the world together.

“Man, oh man, you’re my best friend. I scream it to the nothingness,” the actress addressed Bariou at the time, which apparently made netizens more curious.

Lustre and Bariou went live on Instagram on Wednesday, Nov. 13, showing themselves making a sandwich. The couple talked about several topics during the livestream, including their take on announcing



At the latter part of the livestream, Bariou made an outright clarification on the rumors.

engagement.

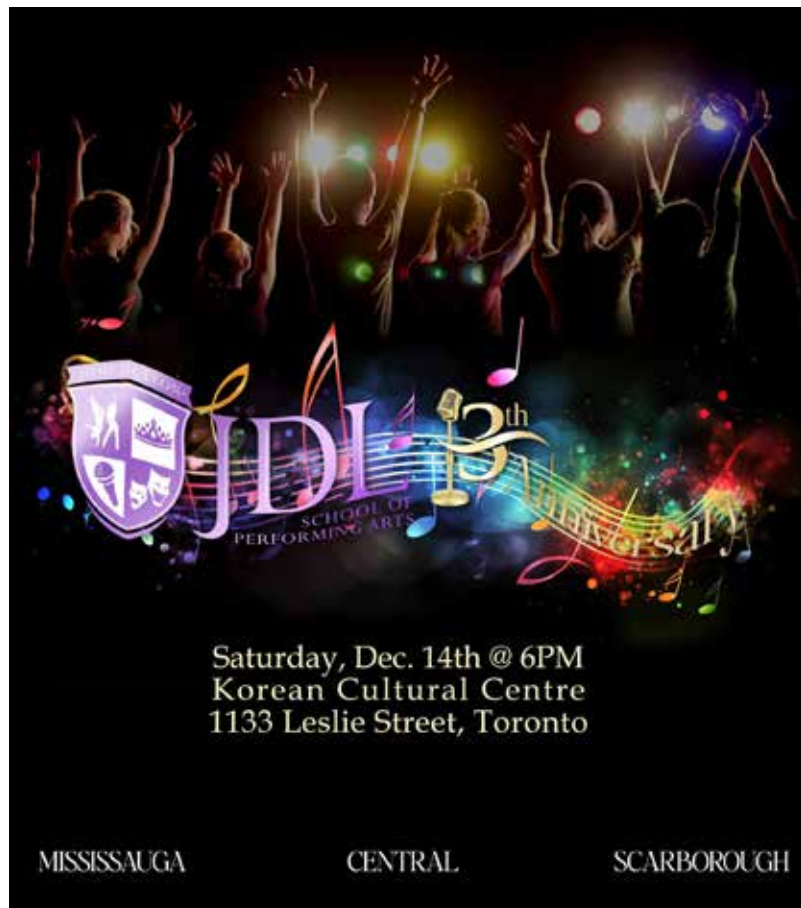
“If you would propose to me, would we announce it or we’re gonna keep it private—I said, honestly, it doesn’t really matter,” Lustre said. “Because I feel like if we have our friends around, I feel like they’re gonna be the first ones to post.”

“Let’s leave it at that. I just clarified that because I don’t want people, like, assuming,” she added.

“Before we leave, one last thing—” Lustre said, to which Bariou continued, “We’re not engaged.”

“That’s not what I’m gonna say,” Lustre replied, then went on to reveal that she is set to launch a project that she has been working on for three years.

Lustre and Bariou’s relationship was confirmed to the public in January 2022.



## ‘Hello, Love, Again’ Review: Sequel to Beloved Filipino Romance Reunites Two Ex-Lovers in Post-COVID Calgary

When Hello, Love, Goodbye (HLG) was released into theaters in 2019, it became an unparalleled box-office success, becoming highest-grossing Philippine film of all time. HLG, with Kathryn Bernardo and Alden Richards made director Cathy Garcia-Sampana as the modern day director for commercial romance films. (It was surpassed by the time-traveling romance “Rewind” earlier this year.)

Set in Hong Kong, Hello, Love, Goodbye captured the hearts of Filipinos locally and abroad in its depictions of the struggles of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) Joy (Bernardo) and Ethan (Richards) and the persistent tensions between fulfilling familial responsibilities and chasing personal aspirations.

Part of the appeal of the original film’s ambiguous ending was the promise of a possibility.

I was hoping they would shoot in Toronto. I know the last shot in Hello Love Goodbye showed Bernardo going to Vancouver. However, I remember that Vancouver was the point of entry when I immigrated to Canada.

What made people want to watch this is the hope that they would end up together. Of course, as all Filipino movies with two people in a relationship, you know that they will end up together. We just want to see how they get back. A Filipino romantic movie is like a Disney movie in the 70’s and 80’s. A that time, Disney movies always end up “Happily ever after.” And Filipino movies will never shy away from that formula unless you want to lose money.

After 5 years, how will they complete the story was the question in everyone’s mind. They compress the 5 years from HongKong to Calgary, including the pandemic into their love story. And their economic situations have been reversed.

Primarily set in 2024, “Hello, Love, Again” Joy is now a successful caretaker living in Calgary. In between studying to become a nurse, and debating a move to the United States, she helps secure domestic cash jobs for other members of the Filipino community who attempt to transition from tem-



porary to permanent Canadian residents.

It does show her hard work in the “gig” economy by sleeping in her car to get to the next job. Joy’s relatively comfortable status quo becomes disrupted when Ethan reenters her life after their relationship fell apart a few years prior.

ing their status. As it was written before in an article, Filipinos in Canada do not rise up economically. And with this hardship, is the difficulty of finding love and connection.

“Hello, Love, Again” offers cheesy romance, heavy drama, and shots of Calgary that is tailor made for tourism. It is a bit jarring watching the light-hearted moments

mixed with drama showing a portrait of the different problems confronting foreign workers. There are scenes dedicated to discussing the pathways to become a permanent resident in Canada, how to work under the table even on a tourist visa, how to get permanent status. It did not shy away from showing the

courier in an unfamiliar city, being accidentally pricked by a syringe while cleaning the trash. Doing these lowly jobs puts a strain in any relationship. Ethan become disappointed with Canada and Joy’s determination to survive her and build a better life are both reasonable responses to their environment. They argue in their small basement apartment that can only fit a double bed is authentic. There are big differences between the HLG and Hello, Love, Again. Hello, Love, Goodbye showed a beautiful portrait of Hong Kong’s vibrant life and community that doesn’t shy away from being an equally damning portrait of the suffering and political underbelly that often subjects our OFWs to abuse. It also showed the pedestrian bridge where Filipinos converge. If this was shot in Toronto, they could have shot it at Earl Bales Park on a summer weekend. You can walk the whole park and you can probably count in your hands who are not Filipino in that park.

However, I still feel that Hello Love Again resorts to melodrama that was not as obvious with Hello Love Goodbye. But the acting is top-notch. Bernardo is convincing as she shifts between assured yet cold present-day Marie and the emotionally vulnerable Joy, while Richards relies on his eyes to express his emotions.

Joross Gamboa and Jennica Garcia provide good comic relief in an otherwise dramatic film.

However, despite the return to form of a stereotype Filipino movie of melodrama, it is still worth watching it.

They had a one day meet and greet in Toronto and in other cities. The meet and greet showings were sold out. The movie was in theaters for two week in Toronto.

Hello, Love, Again has made history as the first Filipino film to surpass P1 billion in global box office earnings, reaching P1.06 billion as of Nov. 23.



# Bugoy Autumn Canada Tour entertains Toronto

by Rose To of One Pinoy

TORONTO - Bugoy Drilon, an undeniable force in Original Pilipino Music (OPM), made his Canadian solo concert debut with the "Bugoy Autumn Canada Tour." Known for his soulful R&B ballads and captivating reggae-infused performances, Bugoy treated his audience to an unforgettable evening in the Toronto Pavilion, showcasing not only his musical talents but also his cheerful personality to his fans.

The evening opened with a lively showcase of local GTA talent. From powerful vocals to lively dance performances, the performers set an electric tone, capturing the attention and admiration of the audience.

Local talents including "The Champions," a group composed of talented singers: Dong D., Bevs, and Marlon. Each has a distinct background, with some having participated in major singing competitions in the Philippines, highlighting their impressive vocal skills.

Bugoy Drilon then appeared on stage all smiles and was visibly moved by the warm reception from his kababayans in Canada. Expressing his joy and appreciation, he humbly shared that he was so nervous doing this first solo concert but he stated, "I know I have love from my kababayans here, so I will do my best in return." With that, he launched into his famous hit, "Paa-no Na Kaya."

His voice was soulful and smooth as he sang a series of love songs and heartfelt ballads, taking his audience on a journey through his music. The concert was filled with memorable moments, especially when Bugoy opened up about his



life story. "Dahil sa inyo—always grateful for the love and support," he said, dedicating his success to the fans who have been with him every step of the way.

The singer took time to reflect on his journey, sharing how far he has come. From humble beginnings, his voice has taken him across the world, a journey he described as "from kalabaw to airplane ang sinasakyan ko." Bugoy's words rang true as he offered some advice to his fans: "Never compare yourself to everyone kasi you have your own journey. Ang buhay ay hindi payamanan, kundi pasayahan."

In an exciting teaser, Bugoy hinted at the upcoming release of his new album called Anthem, expected to drop late this year or early next year. As a special treat, he performed a few unreleased tracks from the album, giving fans a taste of what's to come. Amidst the cheers and laughter, he shared selfies and handed out roses, further endearing himself to

his fans. A highlight of the night was Bugoy's lighthearted sharing about his first experience in Canada. "Dati, nakikita ko lang sa libro yung Canada. Ngayon, nandito na ako," he said. His words reflected his sense of pride as an OPM artist, achieving global recognition.

Bugoy wrapped up the night with a high-energy party, inviting the audience to come closer to the stage to sing and dance with him.

The Bugoy Autumn Canada Tour would not have been possible without the efforts of Powerhouse Dreams Entertainment, led by Ms. Peggy Chua. Her team's dedication not only brought Bugoy's talents to Canada but also served a deeper purpose, as 30% of the concert's proceeds will be donated to underprivileged children in Ifugao—reflecting the production team's commitment to giving back to the Philippines.

## Prioritize eye care in 2025

TORONTO : 3 things to know about geographic atrophy

(NC) This is the time of year when people think about positive changes they'd like to make in their lives. But some changes, like vision loss, happen against our will. For seniors, vision loss can be caused by an eye disease called geographic atrophy. Here are three things you should know about it.

It's an age-related disease. GA is a type of advanced dry macular degeneration – let's break that down.

The macula is the part of the retina at the back of your eye that lets you see directly ahead, and it can deteriorate with age. GA causes the cells of the macula to die off slowly, causing loss of central vision. The damage and vision loss build slowly, often over years, and can make things like driving, reading and even recognizing faces difficult.

It's more common than you'd think. GA affects an estimated five million people worldwide, most of them seniors. The slow, irreversible vision loss that it causes can catch patients off-guard – after all, it's easy to think "I'm just getting older" when it becomes harder to read. But it's serious: GA can take away a person's ability to live independently, especially if it isn't caught early enough.



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**MARK RIVERA'S FIRST CONCERT**

December 7, 2024  
Saturday, 6pm

P.C. Ho Theatre at the Chinese Cultural Center of Greater Toronto  
5183 Sheppard Avenue East

Tickets:  
VIP: \$40  
Regular: \$25

## MARK RIVERA'S FIRST CONCERT

Mark Ezekiel Rivera is a multi-talented 16-year-old Filipino-Canadian known for his work as an actor, singer-songwriter, and musician, hailing from Scarborough, Ontario. His acting career includes playing Ritche Perez in CBC's original comedy series "Son Of A Critch" for its first four seasons, based on the book by Mark Critch of "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" fame. He was nominated for Outstanding Ensemble Cast for Son Of A Critch in the 44th Young Artist Academy Awards.

In addition to acting, Mark Ezekiel has been a part of "HEY MEISHA!" Season 2, a YESTV, Castle TV, and YouTube-based biblical teaching variety show called "Good New Kids." Here, he combines his love for music and entertainment with sharing spiritual messages.

In 2022, he won the Grand Prize for songwriting competition held by Knights of Rizal Central Canada Region for his song "We Will Rise" which was featured on OMNI TV.

Don't miss his first solo concert entitled "Love Of Music" on Dec 7, Saturday at P.C. Ho Theatre at Chinese Cultural Center of GTA. See you there!!!

It's detectable. Research into the cause of GA is still ongoing, but there have been strides made in detection and diagnosis. New imaging techniques are helping health-care professionals better track retina health and catch the signs sooner. If you detect any blind spots in the middle of your field of vision, reach out to your eye-care professional – don't wait for the problem to get worse. Learn more at living-withga.ca.

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THEME: HOLLYWOOD GLAM

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Tayo ay isga!

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## Paolo Contis says he's single, confirming split with Yen Santos

Actor-host Paolo Contis admitted he's currently single, ending months of speculation about his relationship with fellow actor Yen Santos.

Paolo and his "Bubble Gang" co-star Kokoy De Santos were guests on the November 14 episode of "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda" where toward the end of the show both played by the titular quickfire game.

Boy asked both actors questions they'd answer together, such as if they used dating apps, have pictures of their exes on their phones, been blocked by an ex on social media, cheated, been courted or slapped by a woman, and received an indecent proposal.

When Boy asked Paolo and Kokoy about their respective relationship statuses, both said they were single.

This marked the first time Paolo publicly addressed if he was now single, months after rumors spread he and Yen had split when the latter deleted her birthday greeting for and unfollowed Paolo on Instagram.

Soon after fans noticed that Paolo was also no longer following Yen on Instagram and turned his account private. Yen has yet to address the situation.

The actor confirmed his relationship with Yen in January 2023 though he clarified she wasn't the reason for his separa-

tion with ex LJ Reyes.

### Gerald Anderson keeps distance from Julia Barretto, Dennis Padilla rift

Gerald Anderson revealed that he does not want to get involved in the rift between his girlfriend Julia Barretto's family and her estranged father, actor Dennis Padilla.

In his guesting with One News PH's "The Men's Room," host Janno Gibbs asked Gerald if Dennis called him.

"Oo, before," Gerald said.

"Kaso siyempre, more than me - kumbaga hindi naman ako kasama sa kung ano man 'yung as a family, 'di ba? I think kay Tito Dennis dapat - I mean, ayaw ko naman magano, pero mas importante kung 'yung as a family," he added.

Gerald also said that he's not taking any sides on the issue.

"Ako naman, outside ano ako but I support both sides, kasi siyempre pamilya 'yan. Again, hindi tayo pwedeng makisali diyan," he said.

"Ako, just hoping because ako naman galing din ako sa - I mean, hindi naman sa broken family pero lahat ng pamilya may problema. Siyempre, nakikita ko naman... you just pray and hope na maayos 'yan behind the scenes.

"So 'yun 'yung pinagdadasal natin lagi, pero dadating din tayo doon."



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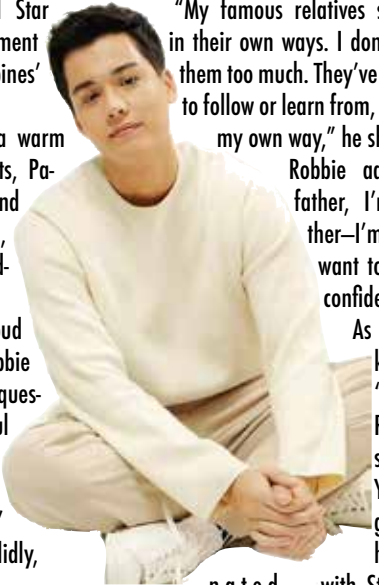
## Showbiz newbie Robbie Jaworski forges own path

Robbie Jaworski officially joined Star Magic, ABS-CBN's talent management arm behind many of the Philippines' most celebrated stars.

The announcement witnessed a warm family gathering, with his parents, Pasig Vice Mayor Dodot Jaworski and actress Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, alongside his brother Rafael, lending their full support.

At the event, Mikee was a proud parent, capturing moments as Robbie walked the red carpet and fielded questions from the media. Her playful side surfaced during a Q&A session when she jokingly pointed to herself as Robbie's "showbiz crush." Robbie, however, answered candidly, revealing that it's actress Kim Chiu.

Questions about managing expectations as part of a famous family naturally arose. Robbie addressed them with maturity and honesty by expressing his desire to carve out his own path and establish his own name.



"My famous relatives set themselves apart in their own ways. I don't compare myself to them too much. They've given me an example to follow or learn from, but I also want to find my own way," he shared.

Robbie added, "I'm not my father, I'm not my grandfather—I'm me. That's what I want to figure out, and I'm confident I will."

As the grandson of basketball icon Robert "Big J" Jaworski, Robbie carries a name steeped in legacy. Yet his humility and grounded nature have already resonated with Star Magic executives. He's also quickly gaining traction, appearing as a Bench endorser and joining MYX as a video jockey.

The contract signing brought together ABS-CBN's broadcast COO Cory Vidanes, his managers

Girlie Rodis and Star Magic's Monch Novales, and TV Production and Star Magic Head Lauren Dyogi. Each spoke of their confidence in Robbie's future.

"In the VTR, what attracted me most was when you said 'masipag at mapagmahal,'" Vidanes said. "Those are the values we hope for in our artists. I hope you enjoy the journey and that you'll inspire and bring happiness to others."

Rodis echoed the sentiment, highlighting Robbie's growth potential. "They're not rushing him. They're really allowing him to grow organically, and his family is very supportive."

Dyogi also praised Robbie's character. "He's very humble. With all the occasions we've been together, you don't feel any arrogance from him. He connects with people easily."

The event opened with messages from his parents. Vice Mayor Dodot shared a heartfelt video message: "We're so proud of you. I know you'll go places and share your talent with the world."

Mikee added her encouragement, assuring Robbie of their unwavering support, "Throughout everything you do, nandito kami para sa'yo. We love you."

~ Mark Ezekiel Rivera ~

### LOVE OF MUSIC CONCERT

December 7, 2024  
Saturday, 6pm

P.C. Ho Theatre at the Chinese Cultural Center of Greater Toronto  
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Guest Performer:

## THEA ASEDILLO

For tickets and reservations: [markriveraconcert@gmail.com](mailto:markriveraconcert@gmail.com)

## THEA ASEDILLO JOINS MARK EZEKIEL

Thea Asedillo is a multifaceted artist who brings joy and entertainment to audiences across the GTA through singing, dancing, and acting. She has won numerous accolades, including the CNE Rising Star Grand Champion 2023 and a silver medal at the World Championships of Performing Arts. Her stage roles include Moana and Princess Jasmine, and she sang the national anthem at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Canadian National Exhibition.

Watch her perform on December 7 at P.C. Ho Theatre of Chinese Cultural Center for Love Of Music Concert featuring Mark Ezekiel Rivera. See you there!

## Kristel Fulgar makes relationship with Korean suitor official

Kristel Fulgar revealed that she and her Korean suitor Ha Su Hyuk are officially in a relationship, after the latter became a member of Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) like the actress.

Fulgar documented Ha's baptism through a vlog entitled "Finally, my first boyfriend" on her YouTube channel on Friday, Nov. 29.

The actress' mom even flew to Korea to be with the pair for the event. The three of them also celebrated over a meal.

After the celebration, the couple had a conversation inside the car where Ha asked Fulgar if she's ready to be in an official relationship. Fulgar first gave her baptism gift to Ha then agreed

to making their romance official.

Fulgar first introduced Ha as her suitor through a vlog shared in February this year.

Fulgar then disclosed in a later interview that she met Ha after a mutual friend introduced them to each other. The pair went on a date and instantly clicked, which led



them to going on more dates.

Fulgar, a former "Goin' Bulilit" cast member, moved to South Korea to study and pursue an acting career.

Fulgar, who speaks fluent Korean, also won awards in the said country, namely the 2023 Global Influencers Award and the Global Creator of the Year accolade at the 2023 APAN Star Awards.



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## When in Metro Manila, this is the lechon to get!



## Filipino Centre Toronto Opens Search for Outstanding Filipino Canadian Seniors in Ontario by Tony A. San Juan, OCT



TORONTO - The Filipino Centre Toronto - FCT, a prominent Filipino Canadian community service hub in the Greater Toronto Area, proudly announces its search for Outstanding Filipino-Canadian Seniors for 2024-2025 commencing on December 15, 2024. The community-based entity is engaging purposefully to present a public tribute of recognizing, honouring, and appreciating Senior Citizen Achievers in the Filipino Canadian community in Ontario.

Specifically, the awards project is being initiated by the FCT -Filipino Centre Toronto to encourage, identify and reward seniors who have made outstanding service and valuable contributions to the life and well-being of the community by helping build a better community through their personal or professional endeavours. With their different backgrounds as community leaders, business & management executives, social-cause advocates & volunteers, public & non-governmental officials, service-oriented & faith-focused people, and art, health, sports & media practitioners, these still active individuals are serving or have served as role models and inspirations to students, youth & young adults and their fellow senior citizens.

The "Outstanding Filipino Canadian Seniors of the Year Awardees" will be selected from any of the following areas of the profession, discipline, service or community, namely: 1) Business and Entrepreneurship, 2) Certified Profession / Trade, 3) Public, Non-government, & Community Service, 4) Education, Health, Wellness, and Sports, 5) Arts,

Media, and Public Relations. Every awardee or winner will be given a prize in the form of a "Plaque of Recognition", "Congratulatory Certificate", and "Cash Award"(the amount of which is to be determined by the FCT Board of Directors). Officers and directors of FCT and their immediate family members are ineligible to apply for the award. The search process is by invitation, nomination or self-application

General Requirements for Candidates. The Candidate must meet the following Requirements 1) Must complete and submit an Application or Nomination Form, with 2-coloured headshot photos. 2) Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Ontario and Filipino heritage. 3) Must be at least 65 years or older, at the time of application (photocopy of a government-issued Senior Citizen Card is required).4) May be nominated by a recognized professional / community-based organization or may directly apply on his / her own accord. 5) Must submit at least two (2) Recommendation / Reference Letters from a current or previous employer or a senior officer of a professional /religious/ community organization. 6) Must write in no more than 100 words the rationale or reason(s) for his/her application/ nomination. Completed applications and requirements should be submitted in hard or photocopies to the Filipino Centre Toronto, c/o Tony A. San Juan( OFCSA Chair)

Selection Process. The selection of awardees will be based on the following Evaluation Criteria with the suggested weight of 100 %: 1) Demonstrated Skill

or Performance in the area of Expertise or Professional Practice or Discipline (Licensure /Practitioner/ Career Position) =20%; 2) Community Engagement and

FCT Outstanding Seniors Award Committee is final and binding.

The FCT Outstanding Seniors Awards Committee is composed of: Agnes P. Mi-



Seniors attend a painting class by Painter Frank Cruzet every Wednesday at The Filipino Centre Toronto.

Involvement ( participation in community projects and initiatives on a responsible capacity or position) = 30%; 3) Awards and Honours Received from an Organization or Recognized / Reputable award-giving bodies( professional / community award of distinction) = 20%; 4) Affiliation and Achievement as an Officer, Director or Member of a Recognized Organization ( membership with known community organizations) = 15%; 5) Assessed rating on the Candidate's reference or testimonial, i.e. credible community standing, and individual attributes, application rationale and personal current plan = 15%. There are no personal interviews for candidates, unless extremely necessary. The decision of the

randa-WFG Senior Executive Vice Chair, Carol Banez- Clinical nurse specialist & SOSA president, Garry Tanuan- TCDSB Ward 8 trustee; Antonio Villarin, Ontario solicitor-barrister; Mary Ann San Juan, FCT President & CEO, Nitz Rejdik, SandBanks Cottages and Camp Rentals proprietor, and Tony A. San Juan, founder of the Filipino Heritage Council of Canada, as Chairman.

The winners will be presented and honoured at the FCT-OCSA event tentatively set for April 2025. Application / Nomination Forms are now available at the Filipino Toronto Centre, 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, Toronto, ON M1S 1T9 or by phone: 416- 335- 0485 or email at filipinocentreinfo@gmail.com. The Deadline for submission of the completed application/nomination and requirements by hand or mail, is February 28, 2025, Friday. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

## The annual Santa Claus parade takes over Toronto but future events in doubt by Angie Berlin

TORONTO: The Philippine Heritage band joined the Toronto Santa Claus Parade. Thousands of people lined the street to see the iconic floats, marching bands and Santa Claus himself. But while the festive spirit shines bright, the parade has faced some challenges with funding.

This may be the last year the Philippine Heritage band will be marching at the Santa Claus Parade as questions about the budget of the parade itself is in question.

The holiday spirit officially arrived in Toronto Sunday with the 120th Santa Claus parade taking over the downtown core as thousands turned out to see the iconic floats, marching bands and of course Santa Claus himself. But has the beloved tradition marched through the city streets for the last time?

Toronto's Santa Claus parade is believed to be one of the largest parade productions in North America and the oldest Santa Claus parade in the world, running uninterrupted since 1905.



But ahead of this year's edition of the parade, organizers indicated the event's future might be in doubt due to growing inflationary and operational costs.

"We've been very honest in the last week about our funding shortfall and how difficult it is. We're a year-round endeavour to plan and organize and ultimately pay for this parade as a not-for-profit," said parade CEO Clay Charters.

Charters said last weekend



that corporate sponsors have traditionally provided the bulk of funding for the parade in previous years. However, due to corporate budget constraints and the growing costs associated with the operation and production of the event, they needed to raise \$250,000 to fill the current deficit. As of Sunday, they were more than 55 per cent towards their goal with more than \$136,000 raised through a go-fundme campaign.

Mayor Olivia Chow says the city has committed money through its Special Events Stabilization Initiative (SESI) fund to keep the event going, calling the parade an essential part of

Toronto's history.

"If you think about even just the kind of magic and the economic benefits because people are going into the coffee shop, shopping and all of that.. so we hope that both from private donors and the federal government coming in, right now the city is in for \$100,000, the province is in, we just need the feds to step up."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pledged his support last week, calling it a great tradition that they "want to keep it going for years to come." However, the specifics of the federal government's support have yet to be revealed.

This year's parade featured 18 marching bands and 26 floats and with over 700,000 spectators in attendance, organizers are optimistic that the parade will be able to continue next year.

Philippine Heritage Band is a marching band of volunteer members engaged in entertaining communities everywhere. Based in the City of Vaughan, Ontario Canada, our mission is to enrich community social and artistic life while developing our youth and adult members in a variety of ways.

Founded in 1980, we are today one of Canada's premier marching bands, garnering numerous "Best Band" awards for our performances, both in Canada and in the United States. PHB has been featured on TV networks across North America and in many parts of the World. As an ethnic group, we are honoured to contribute to the enrichment of Canada's multicultural mosaic and to be the centrepiece of Filipino cultural pride in North America.

# Lovi Poe pays tribute to talent managers

With her royal lineage in showbiz, it's easier for Lovi Poe to jumpstart a career, but she wanted to carve a name for herself on her own. Now, she is an accomplished artist and a Hollywood actor with film credits such as 'Bad Man,' 'My Sister's Bones,' and 'The Chelsea Cowboy.' She knows that a career here and abroad wouldn't be possible without the help of people like talent managers. "You, guys, opened doors for us. We always have to show respect and pay tribute to our managers because, without that one person who believed in you, we won't be here," she says.



Toronto-based writer BK Jimenez pose with Lovi Poe and her husband Monty during the Mabuhay festival in Toronto.

Lovi Poe exuded beauty, grace, and confidence during her recent guesting on "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda." It also helps that Lovi is now happily married to British movie producer and scientist Monty Blencowe because she glows from within. "I really admire him because he's such an intelligent guy," she said.



Lovi with her talent manager Leo Dominguez, who passed away in May of this year.

Lovi shared, "I would like to consider myself an alpha female. But with Monty, 'pag kasma ko siya, I still am but I know how to be more of like a woman. He brings out that side of me which I never thought I had."

Monty knows that Lovi is the daughter of Fernando Poe Jr., the King of Philippine Movies. She was acknowledged publicly by Tito Ron in 2004 when he ran for the presidency. Lovi admitted that she always misses her father.

"Sometimes you don't move on from things. You just get on with your life. You get used to certain feelings but the scar will always be there. You move on. You carry on because that's what life is all about."

It is easier for Lovi to enter showbiz because of her royal lineage but she wanted to carve a name for herself on her own. She is now a Hollywood actor and has starred in films such as "Bad Man," "My Sister's Bones," and "The Chelsea Cowboy."

Lovi was overwhelmed with the warm welcome she received when she visited the Kapuso Network during our interview. She suddenly felt a rush of emotions and happy memories flooded in. She acted on several GMA television series including "Beautiful Strangers," "Bakekang," "The One That Got Away," "Ang Dalawang Mrs. Real," "Little Star," "Mistaken Identity," "Legacy," "Yesterday's Bride," "Akin Pa Rin ang Bukas," "Someone to Watch Over Me," and "Owe My Love."

Her recent movie, "Guilty Pleasure," was bittersweet for Lovi who played a lawyer torn between the responsibility of her profession and her integrity as a human being. Her manager, Leo Dominguez, is no longer around to see the film. She remembered how Leo asked her to return to the Philippines from abroad for the movie. "I'm so

happy I flew back home because I got to see him. I didn't know that this was gonna be the last project I had with him. You just don't know talaga. Life is just fleeting. And my last message pa sa kanya was that I'm so happy I did this film and I worked with direk Connie (Macatuno)." "Guilty Pleasure" is also one of the last movies that Mother Lily Monteverde greenlit.

Lovi is now an accomplished artist yet she knows how to pay tribute to talent managers. "You, guys, opened doors for us. We always have to show respect and pay tribute to our managers because, without that one person who believed in you, we won't be here."

# Is Nadine Lustre the new 'Horror Queen'?

At the special screening of Mikhael Red's *Nokturno*, Nadine Lustre, who stars in the lead role, was asked to comment on fans calling her the new "Horror Queen" of local cinema. This comes after her starring role in *Deleter*, which earned her the Best Actress award at the 2022 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), as well as her current roles in *Nokturno* and *Uninvited*, another MMFF entry where she shares the screen with no less than Vilma Santos and Aga Muhlach.



From left: Wilbert Ross, Nadine Lustre, and Mikhael Red during the special screening of 'Nokturno'

"I'm happy, I'm very honored. But it feels like it's only been two films so far. So, I feel like it's too early. I don't know. But if you want to call me 'Horror Queen,' then okay. Thank you!" Nadine said.

The actress also talked on how much she enjoys doing genre films and watching horror movies, saying that she particularly like Japanese films like *Imprint*.

"So aside from, you know, watching horror movies, getting scared by them, at least this time around, I'm part of that story," she added.

*Nokturno* reimagines Filipino folklore with a haunting twist. It combines supernatural horror with the deep-root-

ed complexities of generational trauma. It is now streaming on Prime Video.

In the movie, Nadine is Jamie, an overseas worker who returns to the Philippines from Dubai after the sudden and violent death of her sister, Joana (Bea Binene), the story delves into family secrets and eerie folklore. Despite her estrangement from her mother, Lilet (Eula Valdez), Jamie is compelled to return home to protect her traumatized younger brother, Julius (JJ Quilantang).

What begins as a homecoming quickly turns into a fight for survival when Jamie uncovers a curse tied to the "Kumakatok," mysterious figures who knock on doors at night. Anyone who answers is doomed to die within three days, or lose a loved one in their place—a fate that Joana could not escape.

As Jamie uncovers her family's dark history, she must confront not only the supernatural curse but also her mother's declining mental state, which hides long-buried secrets. With the "Kumakatok" closing in, Jamie must find a way to heal and protect her fractured family or risk losing them all.

*Nokturno* has been praised by critics and audiences for its "eerie, immersive experience" and Nadine's standout performance, with some calling her acting talent "undiminished."

# What if Canada copy Australia's under-16 Socmed ban?

TORONTO: Last year, I asked 13-year old Nathalie of Toronto if the facebook page Natz Memoir is hers or her mom.



Nathalie runs her page Natz Memoir with her mom and dad.

"Both of us," she says. "We run it." Good for her that she can have a social media page in Canada.

In Australia, a legislation approved by parliament on November 28, orders social media firms to take 'reasonable steps' to prevent young teens from having accounts. Social media giants hit out at a landmark Australian law banning them from signing up under-16s, describing it as a rush job littered with "many unanswered questions."

The UN children's charity UNICEF Australia warned the law was no "silver bullet" against online harm and could push kids into "covert and unregulated" spaces online.

It is due to come into effect after a year. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the age limit may not be implemented perfectly — much like existing restrictions on alcohol — but it was "the right thing to do."

The crackdown on sites like Facebook, Instagram and X would lead to "better outcomes and less harm for young Australians," he said, speaking to reporters.

'Traumatic' Tech companies said that despite the law's perceived shortcomings, they would engage with the government in shaping how it could be implemented in the next 12 months.

The legislation offers almost no details on how the rules will be enforced — prompting concern among ex-

perts that it will be largely symbolic.

Members of the public appeared doubtful. "I don't think it will actually change a lot because I don't see that there's really a strong way to police it," 41-year-old Emily Beall said in Melbourne.

A Snapchat spokesperson had raised "serious concerns" about the law and that "many unanswered questions" remained about how it would work.

But the company said it would engage closely with the government to develop an approach balancing "privacy, safety and practicality."

UNICEF Australia policy chief Katie Maskiell said young people need to be protected online but also included in the digital world. "This ban risks pushing children into increasingly covert and unregulated online spaces as well as preventing them from accessing aspects of the online world essential to their wellbeing," she said.

Leo Puglisi, a 17-year-old online journalist based in Melbourne, was critical of the legislation.

He founded streaming channel 6 News, which provides hourly news bulletins on national and international issues, in 2019 at the age of 11.

Global Attention "We've been built up by having 13 to 15-year-olds see 6 News online and then join the team," Puglisi said in a statement. "We have said that this ban seriously risks restricting creativity from our young people, no matter what passion or future career they want to explore," he added. Exemptions will likely be granted to some companies, such as WhatsApp and YouTube, which teenagers may need to use for recreation, school work or other reasons. The legislation will be closely monitored by other countries, with many weighing whether to implement similar bans.

Lawmakers from Spain to Florida have proposed social media bans for young teens, although none of the measures have been implemented yet.

China has restricted access for minors since 2021, with under-14s not allowed to spend more than 40 minutes a day on Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok.

# ALLISON WALSH ADDED TO LOM CONCERT

I am happy to announce one of our guest performers, Allison Walsh!

Allison, born and raised in St. John's, Newfoundland, has a natural love of music and is a member of the internationally recognized Shallaway Youth Choir and Newfoundland Folk Arts Society. As a member of the Newfoundland girl's acapella folk quartet 'The Brunettes' and as a solo performer, she is one of St. John's favorite youth performers. Can't wait to see her



perform at Love Of Music Concert featuring Mark Ezekiel Rivera

# Candid CAMERA



Imelda Concepcion walks during the fashion show portion "Asian Food and Cultural Festival" by the Canadian Multicultural Council Asians in Ontario (CMCA-O) at the Chinese Cultural Centre.

# Mika launches her first single

TORONTO - Mikayla Chloe Sy who goes by her screen name Mika Sy, a Canadian Born artist started performing when she was 6 years old. She took various lessons in singing dancing and performing. Mika used to be very shy but with the help of constant performances in different community events, shows & concerts, Mika found the joy in performing. Mika also loves drawing & writing.

Mika wrote & directed the playwright called Love Me Love

Me Not in 2023. It's a musical play about love. It was successful that it was followed by Love Me Love Me Not Season 2 last August 2024. She is now working on the writing Season 3 which is going to be played on October 18th, 2025 at Xinflix Media Auditorium in Markham.

Mika's has a single entitled "This Heart Of Mine" which will be released on December 1st, 2024 in all major music platforms like Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, Amazon, Pandora,

YouTube, TikTok, iHeartRadio, and many more! "This Heart of Mine" is written by Mika's mom Jennifer Sy. Jennifer wrote this song when Mika had a crush at a boy in her class when she was in grade school and she hope that her crush likes her too. Mika is now in university and doesn't like the boy anymore but this song will relate to those who have a crush.

Mika hopes for your support for her single "This Heart Of Mine".



# PIDC HOSTS 2024 BEAUTY PAGEANT, KATHLEEN ORTIGUERO IS MRS. PHILIPPINES-PIDC

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

MRS. PIDC from page 3

Jointly emceed by Scott Dion Brown and Stephanie Artuz, the

5-hour evening program started with a land acknowledgement, national anthems singing, wel-

come remarks by Ophelia Santiago-Event Chair, and invocation by Aurora Elefano-PIDC Officer. Special greetings were given by Tom Tan- PIDC President, and Agnes P. Miranda -PIDC Pageant Adviser & World Financial Group Senior Executive Vice Chair & Co-Founder. The Inspirational Message was delivered by Gene Pardo- Elamparo-Pag- eant Overall Chair with closing remarks by Leonor Abad- Event Co-chair. Proceeds of the fund- raiser were presented to Gawad Kalinga(GK), a community charitable organization based in the Philippines.

LEFT TO RIGHT, Melba Rosete -1st Runner-Up, Katleen Mae Ranjo Ortiguera - Mrs./Ms. Philippine Independence Day Council-2024, Jody Anne Iglesias -2nd Runner-Up

Musical entertainment and special numbers were superbly performed by Fil-Canadian singers and talents such as Elle Lum- bao, The Titas, Chelsea Starr, Pink Ribbon, GAF- FA Cultural Dance Group, Unstoppable Dancers, and Dance Life Social- DLS. It was distinctive- ly a successful and lively time of collaboration, coordination, and



LEFT TO RIGHT, Sofya Jordan, 1st Runner Up, Miss Philippines PIDC 2024; Justine Hailee Mrs./Ms. Philippines Canada PIDC 2024; Aiyannah Bernard 2nd Runner Up, Miss Philippines PIDC 2024

cooperation showcasing Filipino beauty, creativity and culture in the Ontario landscape. ( Tony A. San Juan, OCT)



### Beauty with a purpose...

The Rotary Club of Panglao Island with its President Dr. Rhine Pamaong welcomed the Pidc Miss Philippines of Toronto Chelsea Cortez and facilitated the distribution of food packs, school materials, health and hygiene supplies as well as pre-loved clothing to the or-

phan residents of Sunshine Home in Cabawan together with Mister Bohol James Howard Saldia, Aaron Yance de Castro, and Ghil Sammuri.

This was made possible through the sponsorship of Rotary Club of Manila 101 President Agnes Pasaporte Miranda through her LCHS Foundation.

### THEA TOLentino ON BEING HER FAMILY'S BREADWINNER

Simula noong manalo si Thea sa GMA-7 reality competition show na Protege: The Battle For The Big Artista Break noong 2012, nagsimula na siyang maging breadwinner ng kanilang pamilya.

Aminado si Thea na minsan ay na-overwhelm siya.

Kuwento ni Thea, "Pinakamahirap for me is yung kayanin mo na suportahan yung sarili mo emotionally and physically.

"Pag breadwinner, siyempre monetary help sa family. So bukod dun, sa akin hindi naman kasi ako maluho kaya parang okay lang sa akin. Parang kinaya ko na lang din.

"Parang magkukusa ka na rin, e, kasi family. Nag-aabot ako, hindi fully. Kasi ang hirap din, nag-i-invest din tayo sa sarili natin.

Nakadagdag daw sa pressure na naramdaman noon ni Thea nung nagkasakit ang pareho niyang

magulang. Inatake sa puso ang kanyang ama at na-stroke naman ang ina niya.

"Parang dun lang ako na-pressure na parang kapag wala akong sapat na kita...Anytime kasi, yung health, dun lang ako nape-pressure."

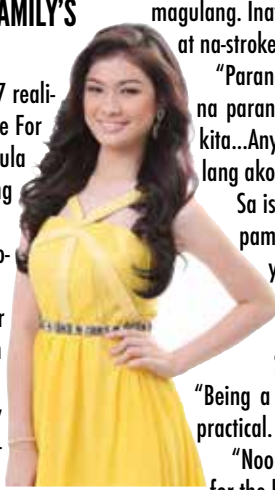
Sa isang post ni Thea sa Instagram, paminsan-minsan daw ay binibigyan niya ang sarili ng reward dahil sa pagiging masipag niya sa trabaho.

Sabi niya sa kanyang post, "Being a breadwinner taught me to be practical. Pero minsan nasosobrahan.

"Noong una, I don't reward myself for the hard work I've been doing.

"I would watch concerts, get lost, meet new people... and those one to two weeks of traveling was enough reward for me for the whole year.

"May this post remind you to reward yourself from time to time. Deserve natin to from all the hard work at hindi naman kailangan expensive."



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### Sam Verzosa on girlfriend Rhian Ramos: She's my lucky charm

Sam Verzosa described girlfriend Rhian Ramos as his "lucky charm" after receiving back-to-back awards.

Along with the Department of Health Sec. Ted Herbosa, the 42-year-old TV host, businessman and politico was one of the two Filipinos who received the Gusi Peace Prize international award during a ceremony held last week at the Metropolitan Theater.

He was cited, among other things, for his philanthropic activities through Frontrow Cares, the corporate social responsibility arm of the health and wellness company he co-founded, Frontrow International, which made "significant contributions to disaster relief, education and healthcare for underserved communities" for over a decade now.

"I'm just a kid who grew up in Sampaloc, Manila. I

came from nothing and worked my way up, and now I'm one of the youngest recipients of the Gusi Peace Prize. To be recognized for doing something that I love is really overwhelming," Sam, who joined the likes of Broadway icon Lea Salonga, National Artist Nora Aunor, the late action king Fernando Poe Jr. as recipients, said in his speech. He hopes it helps promote "a culture of giving, a movement of helping."

Besides the Gusi Peace Prize, he was also honored last week with the Humanitarian Excellence Award, Outstanding Achievement Award for Public Service Program Excellence for his GMA Network show "Dear SV" and



Sam Verzosa is joined by girlfriend, Kapuso star Rhian Ramos, as he receives his Asia Leaders (Manila) awards, including for his public service-oriented program on GMA 'Dear SV,' at a ceremony held at the Residence of the Indonesia Ambassador in Forbes Park.

Outstanding Achievement Award for Public Service Program Host at the Asia Leaders Awards - Manila. Other honorees were eventologist Tim Yap and Gymnastics Association of the Philippines (GAP) president Cynthia Carrion.

The Kapuso star was present to support Sam, happily staying in the sidelines and taking her boyfriend's pictures, when he received the awards at the residence of the Indonesia Ambassador Agus Widjojo in Forbes Park.

"Simula ng sinasamahan ako ni Rhian, sunod-sunod yung award ko — dahil ata sayo," he teased Rhian during an interview afterwards.

"He's my award," Rhian also quipped.

Sam, turning more serious, said, "She's really my lucky charm. But not only her charm, but her brains, her heart are also what's really helping me do what I do. Nabibigyan ako ng peace of mind every night. Nabibigyan ako ng magandang payo and yun nga, kahit may mga bashers, nakakalma niya ako."

"Pag nakikita ko siya nagsisipag — kasi alam mo, mukha akong masipag pero siempre alam mo naman yung buhay artista, madaling araw palang hanggang madaling araw the next day, nagtatrabaho — kung kaya niya gawin yun, kaya ko rin gawin yung ginagawa ko. We both motivate each other, we inspire each other.

"She gives me inspiration every day. We're partners in life. Whatever things we do in life, we always consult each other."

He continued, "Every day, nag-uusap kami (we'd talk) about the future of our country, like things that are happening now. Ang daming problema, daming awayan. Sabi namin kung gusto namin ng pagbabago, sana simulan natin sa sarili natin.

"With us, nag-uusap kami kung paano kami makakatulong, paano namin mai-improve yung mga nakikita naming mali. 'Di naman pwede salita ka ng salita, reklamo ka ng reklamo tapos wala kang ginagawa."

"Tayo yung binigyan ng gift, ng blessing ni God — talino, puso and resources na pwede kang tumulong sa ibang tao. So yun ang ginagamit namin, yung impluwensiya namin. Especially (Rhian), kilala siyang personalidad."

Rhian, for her part, expressed her pride as his significant other. "I'm proud of every recognition he's getting and I feel naman that he truly deserves it. I know that he doesn't do it for that. But of course, for a partner, it's nice for me to see when he gets recognized for the work that he does," she said.

Whenever her schedule permits, she tries to be physically there for Sam. "I'm very lucky that we have that kind of culture in our relationship where we really try



The celebrity couple at the New York Marathon under Team Empower of Smile Train for the benefit of more than 100 kids with cleft palates.— Photo from Rhian Ramos' Facebook page

to be there for each other. It may be physically I'm here, or it could also be he's there for me emotionally and for our mental state," she added.

"Of course, when Sam has his events, especially the charity events, I always like to help out and be present in any way I can help. But he's the most supportive also towards me... like andun din sya sa premiere ng mga

movies ko.

"As much as possible I try to be around also, especially at a moment like this. I'm so proud of him! I just want to take his photos on the sidelines. I'm like a stage mom."

Sam, who's also serving as party-list representative, said that the "Huwag Mo Kong Iwan" lead star has given him valuable advice on dealing with critics or criticisms that came with his decision to run for the Manila mayoralty seat in the 2025 midterm elections.

"You know naman I'm very used to it," said Rhian. "I've seen it at a very young age. I know what trolls and bashers can do to your truth and self-esteem. Most of the time, the advice is 'wag pansinin. 'Pag medyo foul though, if you need an example of what not to do, then you have to do it."

Meanwhile, the celeb couple couldn't avoid questions about whether they've already talked about the "future" of their three-year relationship.

Sam admitted, "Of course, we've talked about it because we're both of the age na talagang mature na. Kung naisip mo yung future ng bansa mo, siempre naisip mo rin yung future ng relationship niyo, that's part of the growth. Kelangan nonstop yung improvement and yung pagpapalano. And malapit na yung mga pina-plano namin."

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## 'Hello, Love, Again' crosses P1-billion mark

The Kathryn Bernardo and Alden Richards starrer "Hello, Love, Again" has cemented its place in Philippine cinema history after it crossed the P1-billion mark at the global box office and became the first Filipino movie to



reach the milestone.

Ten days after it opened in theaters, ABS-CBN Films announced that the romantic drama film had earned P1.06 billion at the worldwide box office, as of November 23.

"Thank you for the love, and we love you a billion more," read the caption to the announcement posted on the Instagram accounts of Star Cinema and GMA Pictures.

The sequel has been breaking records at the box office since its release. On Nov. 13, it earned the biggest first-day ticket sales of P85 million and achieved the highest single-day gross of P131 million last Nov. 16.

It also broke its way into the US Top 10 box office at No. 8 and has become the highest-grossing Filipino movie of all time as of Nov. 22, dethroning the 2023 Metro

Manila Film Festival (MMFF) entry, "Rewind," starring Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera, which earned P924 million in its theatrical run.

"Hello, Love, Again" is the continuation of the 2019 blockbuster hit "Hello, Love, Goodbye." Directed by Cathy Garcia-Sampana, the sequel picks up Joy's (Bernardo) and Ethan's (Richards) story five years after the events of the first film.

"Hello, Love, Again" also served as the closing film this year's Asian World Film Festival. In the same festival, Bernardo bagged the Snow Leopard Rising Star Award.

## Miss Universe PH defends Chelsea Manalo from 'unfair' comments

The Miss Universe Philippines organization (MUPH) has come to the defense of its reigning queen Chelsea Manalo amid attacks on her made by Adam Genato, a Filipino content creator.

"[MUPH] condemns the recent video commentary of Mr. Adam Genato regarding [Manalo]. His comments are unfair, insensitive, hurtful, and dismissive of her accomplishments. We do not tolerate bullying and irresponsible vlogging, especially from an accredited MUPH media partner whom we have welcomed to our events," the organization posted last November 22.

The statement stems from a video commentary Genato uploaded on his platform, criticizing Manalo and her Miss Universe performance. She advanced to the Top 30 of the 73rd Miss Universe pageant in Mexico City last Nov. 16, and was later proclaimed Miss Universe Asia.

"Kung si Ahtisa Manalo ang pinadala natin dito sa Mexico, or even si Christi McGarry, Diyos ko, siguro Lord, buong tatlong linggo nitong mula Oct. 29 to Nov. 18, siguro hindi na tayo matutulog. Gano'n kaingay iyong dalawang iyon," Genato said.

"Kasi tignan mo, sino ang pinanalo nila? Si Denmark, 'di ba Barbie-looking? Eh sino ba ang closest Barbie-looking natin ngayon dito noong nakaraang MUPH? 'Di ba si Ahtisa?" he added.

Ahtisa was second runner-up to Manalo in the 2024 Miss Universe Philippines pageant, who then competed in the first Miss Cosmo contest where she finished in the Top 10. McGarry was fourth runner-up in the national competition.

The MUPH said: "For too long, we have allowed such behavior to be tolerated because bashers and haters

have been an accepted part of social media. But in reality, we still have a choice to normalize it or speak up against it."

"We believe that content creators, bloggers, and vloggers, should be guided by respect, responsibility, and decency. In particular, we believe pageant vloggers should exercise greater care in expressing opinions about our delegates, and refrain from making demeaning statements," it added. "Making potentially or intentionally controversial statements for clout and engagement, but at the expense of delegates, is detestable."

McGarry also took to social media to share her thoughts.

"[L]et's please not continue to talk about the 'would've' and 'could've's - it's not what my page is for! [praying hands emoji]

Look forward. Miss Universe is granted by destiny. Chelsea is my sis, and my history-making queen, and she should be yours too! [Philippine flag emoji][red heart emoji]" she said.

A member of Manalo's team, celebrity photographer Seven Barretto, was the first to call out Genato, saying the

latter invalidated her merits.

Genato has already issued an apology to Manalo and her team in an emotional outburst released on his platform.

## Nadia Montenegro healing after 'near-death' experience

Nadia Montenegro is on the road to recovery after a "near-death experience" during a recent procedure due to her Wolff-Parkinson-White (WPW) Syndrome, which she said she was diagnosed with when she was 17.

Montenegro updated her followers about her condi-

tion in a video on her Facebook page last November 23, reiterating that she just needs to heal after her procedure. "I just want everyone to know, I'm back home. I just need to heal a little," she began.

Montenegro then shared that she had a heart ablation procedure, which restores one's heartbeat by making a small cut in the groin before inserting catheters in the veins or arteries. This would then lead to freezing cells or using small burns to create scars on the heart.

The procedure came after her blood pressure went down, which led to her being rushed to the St. Luke's Medical Center in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

"Ablation procedure po ang ginawa sa puso ko. I'm healing medyo bruised up lang po," she said. "Ang procedure po na ginawa ay hindi po stent, hindi rin po ako na angioplasty, hindi rin po ako na open heart surgery dahil sobra po ang aking nerve. Kinailangan pong i-cut 'yun."

"Ang nangyari lang po noong Friday ay tinakbo ko ang aking sarili... ang aking BP po ay bumaba na ng 60/49 kaya hindi po naging maganda. Ako po ay inilipat ng SL [St. Luke's] QC muna and then nilipat sa SL [St. Luke's] BGC," she added.

At some point after the surgery, the screen veteran went through a "near-death experience" which was witnessed by her family. "Ako po ay nasa kwarto na and may nangyari pong isang emergency na ang sabi po ay ako'y nawala nang apat na minuto, nangitim nalang po ako, nawala ang aking heartbeat," she said.

"Hindi ko po alam kung ano ang nangyari, basta paggising ko ay andoon po ang aking nanay at ang aking mga anak at nakita po nila 'yung nangyari," she added.

Montenegro then revealed that she recovered from WPW Syndrome, but still needs to undergo "breathing exercises" to help regulate her heartbeat.

"Ako'y masaya na nalampasan ko 'to dahil po sa inyong mga dasal at dahil sa napakafaitful nating Diyos. And marami pa po akong gagawin sa buhay... I'll be back soon. I'll be working soon. Papalakas lang po.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat, God bless us all and ingatan ang health," she said.

The actress' heart procedure was first disclosed by her daughter Ynna Asistio on Facebook. In her post, she expressed her fears after "almost losing" the actress.



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## A spaghetti and 'gulaman' Christmas

'Christmas dinners are now more filling, but nothing lavish or grand . . . It's not the essence of Christmas for me,' says chef/TV host JR Royol

Growing up, chef JR Royol's Christmas family dinners looked like any other dinner.

There was no feast to partake of—no ham, queso de bola, or leche flan. A Noche Buena spread? He didn't even realize back then that the occasion called for special holiday recipes. They made do with whatever they had, bought whatever they could afford, and gave thanks that they had anything on the table at all.

"I came from a humble background. Payak. We didn't have the means to celebrate it the way others did. I wasn't conditioned that there were certain standards. There was no custom of us serving certain dishes. For us, it was just about going to church, reflecting on the things we're grateful for.

"And that was pretty much how I understood Christmas," Royol told Lifestyle at a recent gathering for the upcoming 25th year celebration of the GMA 7 morning show "Unang Hirit," where he's a resident host and chef.

It also didn't help that his family led a life that could be loosely described as nomadic.

Royol was born to an Igorot mother and Bicolano father in Benguet, where his early years were spent. But in 1989, when he was 5, their house burned down, forcing the family to relocate to Batangas. Some time after, they found themselves in Oriental Mindoro, and then in Las Piñas, and much later, in La Union.

While his cultural heritage and exposure to such places in the Philippines would eventually lay the foundation for his culinary career, his family's constantly changing zip codes didn't allow for a defined holiday food tradition to take root.

Of the childhood Christmases he could remember, there were only two or three instances, he related, when they had anything remotely close to traditional holiday fare.

### Innocent days

In Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro—one of the many places Royol once called home—they had Filipino-style spaghetti, served with a fair bit of ground meat; sweetened and reddened by dollops of banana ketchup. And for a spark of sweetness, they had gulaman—freshly made from agar seaweeds gathered from the nearby waters.

"This I will never forget because we did the picking ourselves. We lived some 50 feet from the aplaya, the shore. And during low tide, there we would find seaweeds. We would leave them under the sun for days. Once they're hard and dry, we boil them and turn them into gulaman," he said. "We didn't have the money so we had to turn to our surroundings."

The variety of seaweeds he used, he recalled, were pale green in color and had stiff branchlets. And looking back, it dawned on him—and this may be a bit of a stretch, he laughed—that the seaweeds actually looked like leaves of a Christmas tree.

"If you ask me what my idea of a Christmas delicacy is, that's what comes to mind," he said. "And that already made me very happy."

But a lot of things have changed since those innocent seaweed-hunting days.

In 2013, Royol won the first Philippine edition of the reality cooking competition "MasterChef." With the title, he gradually built up his résumé, landing jobs and eventually taking top positions at restaurants



Chef JR Royol cooks a budget friendly "lechon" belly for Christmas.

JR Royol (center) with cohosts Jenzel Angeles and Anjay Anson in a past Christmas-themed "Unang Hirit" episode

and hotels. He served as executive chef at Hotel Kimberly and Hotel Monticello, both in Tagaytay City; and at the Golden Phoenix Hotel in Pasay City.

With his "Bigorot" cooking style, which explores the interplay of smoky Igorot and spicy, coconut-y Bicolano flavors, Royol's creations have delighted many celebrities and even foreign dignitaries. But while his creations draw heavily from his heritage, the chef, through the years, has broadened his horizon to include influences from other regional cuisines, like that of the Tausug, one of his favorites.

### Building Christmas tradition

Last February, he opened his restaurant, Anihan Sustainable Gastronomy, in Laguna. On television he hosts the GTV cooking show "Farm to Table," which has him sourcing locally produced ingredients from different farms and rural communities. In "Unang Hirit," which he said gave his craft a bigger exposure, he features small food businesses and whips up easy-to-cook meals.

Now, he can finally work on building the Christmas food tradition he didn't have.

"It was when I started to earn my own money that our Noche Buena started to look a bit more festive," said Royol, who used to front the underground rock band Israfel before professional cooking beckoned.

These days, the spread usually features roasted pork belly, his wife's baked macaroni, or a nice seafood dish if he could find a



good deal on them. Once in a while, trays of cheese or cold cuts would make their way to the table. And in the rare, more special celebrations, the sizzling

sound of Tomahawk steaks being seared fills his home.

Still, he prefers to keep things simple as much as possible. Three dishes are more than enough to make his family of four happy and keep their bellies full. Anything more than that is a chore. Perhaps it's the carefree former rock singer in him doing the talking, but no dinner, Royol said, is worth ruining your day over.

"Don't make it too complicated. Don't stress yourself out. Cook with the resources you have, with the skills you have. But just make sure you do it from the heart," he said.

But more than the workload, the idea of excesses makes Royol a bit wary, uneasy even, perhaps because he feels like it goes against the meaning of Christmas that he has always known.

"Christmas dinners are now more filling, but nothing lavish or grand. It feels off to me... It's not the essence of Christmas for me," he pointed out, adding that he hopes to introduce Christmas to his young son as a time of giving, and more importantly, a time for family.

"We didn't have the ability to give as much as we wanted back in the day. But now that I'm working, I would like to think that God courses through me gifts and blessings that are meant to be shared with others."

After all, he said, in the presence of people you cherish—once laughter is shared and memories created over dinner—the food, no matter how fancy or delicious, becomes secondary.

"Christmas is all about spending time with the people we love, regardless of what you have on the table—lechon man 'yan o tuyo," Royol said.



Royol with daughter MJ, son Matteo, and wife Ma-ann

## Elijah Alejo falls victim to robbery near her school

Laking pasasalamat ng Sparkle young actress na si Elijah Alejo, 20, na ligtas siya matapos niyang maholdap.

Sa video na in-upload ni Elijah sa TikTok nitong Huwebes, November 28, 2024, idinetalye niya ang nakakatakot na karanasan habang siya'y papasok sa eskuwelahan.

Si Elijah ay kasalukuyang first year college sa kursong Medical Technology sa Manila Central University (MCU) sa Caloocan City.

Ayon sa dalaga, papunta siya noon sa eskuwelahan upang dumalo sa kanilang tree planting activity.

Dahil maaga ang kanilang call time, bumiyahang nang maaga si Elijah sa pamamagitan ng pagbu-book ng mototaxi, sa takot na baka siya'y ma-late.

Nang makababa na sa motor na kanyang na-book ay naglakad daw si Elijah papasok sa kanilang campus.

Dito na raw siya nilapitan ng isang lalaki.

### ELIJAH ALEJO'S TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE

Pagbabahagi ni Elijah sa video: "Story time, na-holdap ako kaninang madaling-araw. 5:30 A.M. ang call time namin sa campus since may tree planting kami ngayon.

"Late ako nagising tapos masama pa ang pakiramdam ni Mommy so nag-mototaxi na lang ako.

"So, supposedly, pagkarating namin doon sa campus, doon dapat ako magpapababa sa loob. Pero nagpapadagdag si Kuya rider [ng bayad] kaya hindi na ako pumayag.

"So, doon na lang niya ako binaba sa may sidewalk. Hindi siya sa tapat ng gate ng campus namin nor sa gate ng hospital namin.

"Siyempre nagbayad ako and then pagkabayad ko,

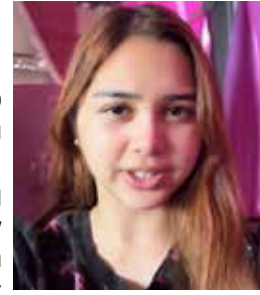
umalis na siya and ako naglakad na ako papunta doon sa gate."

Sa kalagitnaan ng kanyang paglalakad ay bigla raw nakaramdam si Elijah na may tumutok ng matulis na bagay sa kanyang tagiliran.

Pasimple raw siyang binulungan ng holdaper na ibigay nito ang dala niyang wallet.

Ani Elijah: "Biglang may tumutok sa tagiliran ko and it's something matulis. Sinabihan ako ibigay ko yung wallet ko."

Sa sobrang gulat at takot ni Elijah ay bigla raw siyang



nablanko na wari'y hindi alam ang gagawin.

Pagbabalik-tanaw ng Kapuso young actress, "That time nag-freeze yung utak ko.

"Lahat ng alam kong self-defense, lahat, as in nawala na parang bula. As in natakot ako.

"Binigay ko na lang yung wallet ko."

### ELIJAH GRATEFUL THAT SHE'S SAFE

Bagamat natangay ng holdaper ang kanyang wallet, laking pasasalamat daw ni Elijah na wala itong ibang ginawa sa kanya.

Isa lang daw ang pinoproblema niya ngayon.

Nang i-report daw niya sa mga kinauukulan ang insidente ay napag-alaman nilang walang CCTV (closed-circuit television) sa lugar kung saan siya hiholdap.

Sabi ng dalaga, "Thank, God, I'm safe. Ang problem lang is walang CCTV doon sa area."

Sa huli, pinaalalahanan ni Elijah ang publiko na maging alerto tuwing naglalakad sa mga pampublikong lugar at nagko-commute.

Aniya, "To everyone na naglalakad o hindi kaya'y nagko-commute, stay safe."

### Why Kazel Kinouchi was once linked to Richard Gutierrez

Pinabulaanang muli ni Kazel Kinouchi ang mga usap-usapan na siya ang dahilan ng hiwalayan nina Richard Gutierrez at Sarah Lahbati.



Isa ito sa naging topics sa latest episode ng GTV show na Lutong Bahay noong Biyernes, November 29, 2024.

Hinanggi ng Filipino-Japanese actress na naging magkarelasyon sila ng Kapamilya actor, at sinabi na rin kung bakit siya na-link sa aktor.

### KAZEL EXPLAINS HOW THE RUMORS STARTED

Sa naturang show ay ikinuwento ni Kazel sa host na si Mikee Quintos kung paano nagsimula ang tsismis.

Aniya, nakita raw siyang kasama ni Richard noong Halloween sa village kung saan pareho silang nakatira.

"Last year, nadikit yung name ko sa kanya. Parang nakita kami together sa breakup," bungad ng Abot-Kamay na Pangarap actress.

Noong dulo ng November 2023 nagsimula ang suspetsa na hiwalay na sina Richard at Sarah.

Pagpapatuloy ni Kazel, "So we had common friends. Actually, di nga kami friends ni Chard.

"Sakto, nandito lang siya, same street. Tapos, napicture-an kami. May picture, umupo ako sa isang bahay tapos siya nandun din sa kabilang bahay."

Pinalaki lang raw ng mga nakakita ng picture ang isyung ito.

"Kasi nga, naghahanap yung mga tao ng reason kung bakit," sabi niya.

### KAZEL SQUELCHES RUMORS AS EARLY AS JANUARY 2024

Hindi ito ang unang beses na nagsalita ang former Pinoy Big Brother housemate tungkol sa isyu.

Noong January, sinabi niyang natawa siya the first time na narinig ang rumor.

"Nung una nakakatawa kasi wala talagang katotohanan kasi may explanation kung bakit ganun yung situation.

"Nakakatawa pero siyempre nung medyo tumatagal-tagal na, andami na ng nagbubulabog sakin, wala naman akong kasalanan," kuwento niya sa isang episode ng Sarap 'Di Ba.

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