

ON OUR OWN

Brawner happy about US' help in West Philippine Sea but 'we'll depend on ourselves first'

BAGUIO CITY, Phl — Washington's offer of assistance for the rotation and resupply (RORE) mission of Manila in the West Philippine Sea is welcome, but the latter should rely on itself first.

General Romeo Brawner, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), made the remark with US Indo-Pacific Command chief Adm. Samuel Paparo Jr here at the Philippine Military Academy.

"We're happy that the United States has given us a lot

of options, including that of joining or escorting us for the voyage," Brawner said.

"But as I said earlier, we are going to do the mission unilaterally," he maintained.

Brawner stressed that the AFP is "very much capable" of doing the Rore "safely and successfully."

When pressed on what incident would prompt the country from seeking US assistance in Rore, Brawner painted a grim picture.

"So when our troops are al-

ready hungry, they don't have any supplies anymore because our resupply missions have been blocked and that they're on the verge of dying, then that's the time we're going to seek the help of the United States," he said.

Joint Rore under MDT

The AFP chief made this remark as Paparo said that US ships providing escort to Philippine vessels on resupply missions in the WPS is "an

SELF RELIANCE p15

BEAUTY QUEENS at SANDBANKS



BEAUTY TITLISTS FROLIC AT OUTLET BEACH OF SANDBANKS PROVINCIAL PARK

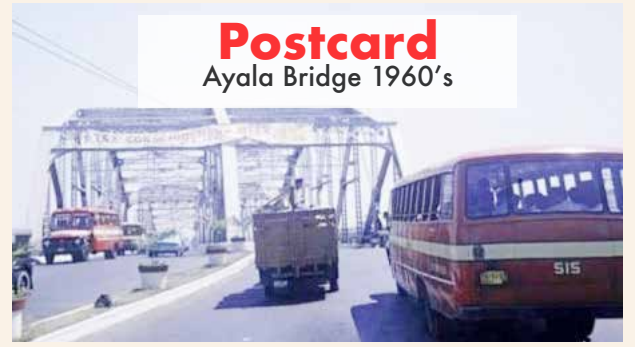
LEFT TO RIGHT, Reina Hispanoamericana 5th runner-up Katrina Llegado and Binibining Pilipinas International 2021 Hannah Arnold



LIVESTREAMING Reina Hispanoamericana 5th runner-up Katrina Llegado goes live-streaming every morning at Sandbanks.



MODELS & PHOTOGRAPHER LEFT TO RIGHT, Reina Hispanoamericana 5th runner-up Katrina Llegado, photographer & LM Confidential publisher Joey Baking, Binibining Pilipinas International 2021 Hannah Arnold pose during lunch.



Postcard Ayala Bridge 1960's

Carmi Martin bares producers' attempt to take advantage of her

MANILA - Veteran actress Carmi Martin shared that during the time she was being packaged as a sexy star in the 80s, some producers attempted to sexually exploit or "take advantage of her," but she fought back.

In an interview with Snooky Serna, which was uploaded in her

vlog, Martin was asked if there was a time that she felt or experienced being sexually exploited, and the latter revealed she received some "indecent proposals" and some people in the industry tried to exploit her.

"Yung exploitation, like what's happening right now na mga, 'Oh

CARMi MARTIN page 21



THE MODELS STAYED HERE

L-R, Hannah Arnold, Eloisa Jauod, Elaine Kay Moll, Sandbanks owner Nitz Rejdik, and Katrina Llegado pose at the entrance to the campsite.



Jose Mari Chan takes back meme spotlight from VP Sara P22

Oshawa singer, 16, wins Canadian National Exhibition Rising Star Talent competition

Oshawa singer Thea Asedillo, 16, won the Canadian National Exhibition's Rising Star Talent competition in the youth category (for those aged 13 to 21). She was among 150 competitors over the 18 days of the fair. The Rising Star competition has taken place during the past three decades at the CNE. Oshawa's Thea Asedillo shone among the brightest lights at this year's Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.



CNE's International Stage inside the Enercare Centre. She was cheered on by a full crowd as she was named tops among more than 150 contestants who battled

Star competition include Juno Award-nominated jazz singer Matt Dusk, and top choreographer and dancer Blake McGrath of "So You Think You Can Dance" fame.

And Fil-Can Acrobatic dancer Jasmin Souter Flores is "CNE 2024 Rising Star Champion" Jasmin shows her Winner's Certificate and she wins a \$3500 prize money.



The 16-year-old singer came first in the CNE's annual Rising Star Talent competition, which has been held every summer for the past three decades at the Ex.

Thea was crowned as the grand champion this past weekend on the

through 18 days of the fair. Contestants were judged on natural ability, audience appeal, stage presence and quality of their performance in the final analysis to determine a champion and two runners-up. As first-place finisher in the youth category, Thea earned a \$2,500 cash prize and bragging rights. Past notable participants in the CNE Rising

Jenn Rosa, tinuloy ang passion sa acting dahil sa mga pinagdaanan sa buhay

Para kay VivaMax star Jenn Rosa, nagsilbing daan ang mga ilang problemang pinagdaanan niya sa buhay, tulad ng pagkamatay ng kanyang ama at kapatid, para mapunta sa mundo na acting na passion na niya ngayon.

Para kay VMX Crush Jenn Rosa, ang

mga hinapang niyang mga problema sa buhay ang nagsilbing landas para i-pursue ang newly-discovered passion niya for acting.

Binalikan ng aktres ang kanyang acting beginnings sa press conference ng kanyang bagong VivaMax film na Back-

rier. "Bata pa lang, bread-winner na ako," pagbalik-tanaw ni Jenn. "Ako nag-a-asikaso ng kapatid ko and my dad. Umabot lang po ako ng first year college then nag-try mag-business, nag-networking po. Hinanap ko



Action Honda's Rafael Nebres supports Bicol Canada Community Association



BICOL PICNIC: The BCCA 2nd CHESS competition 2024 was officially opened with the exhibition game of the BCCA legends and pioneers. They remain an inspiration to all the BCCA officers, members and to all Bicolanos. The game of the masters ended in a draw, and they promised to play next year for a re-match! Congratulations Rafael Nebres and Jose Gutierrez!

po 'yong passion ko, kung saan ako magiging masaya na ginagawa ko isang bagay, na kahit pagod ako masaya ako."

Pagkatapos niyang ma-discover na hindi para sa kanya ang business, ang networking, at ang pagiging make-up artist, na-discover ni Jenn ang acting na naudyokan siyang gawin dahil sa kanyang kapatid.

Nang tanungin kasi si Jenn ng miyembro ng press tungkol sa kanyang mga tattoo, na-mention niya na ang susunod niyang ipapalagay ay ang tattoo ng kanyang kapatid na yumao noong 2022 dahil sa epilepsy.

Ayon kay Jenn, naulila na siya sa kanyang pamilya sa pagkamatay ng kanyang kapatid dahil noong 2017 naman ay yumao ang kanyang ama at ang kanyang ina ay iniwan siya noong three years old lamang siya at hindi na niya ito mahanap.

Dahil daw sa mga problema niya na 'to, na-push si Jenn para i-pursue ang acting through VivaMax.

"After mamatay ng kapatid ko, nag-apply ako sa VivaMax at tuloy-tuloy na," sabi niya.

"Talagang dinala po talaga ako ng tadhana dito talaga. May mga circumstances po kasi sa life ko na hindi ako mag-aartista kapag hindi nangyari 'yong mga 'yon, kasi kumtento na ako sa life ko pero nangyari po 'to, nangyari ito so wala po akong choice. Magvi-VivaMax ako."

At sa pag-vi-VivaMax, which she started last January 2023, doon na-realize ni Jenn na passion niya pala ang pag-a-arte, lalo na sa kanyang first acting project na Bisyo!

"Noong nag-artista ako, doon ko [na-realize na passion ko pala 'to]. Tanda ko, two days hindi po ako nag shoot noong first shooting ko pero hindi po uminit ulo ko, ang saya ko pa kahit hindi ako nashoot. Naka-make-up na ako noon buong araw tapos hindi ako nashoot pero okay lang. Bukas po ulit," sabi niya. "Iba 'yong feeling talaga."

Bibida si Jenn, Aerol Carmelo, Jonica Lazo, at Chad Alviar sa Backrider, which is directed by Bobby Bonifacio Jr.

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How Jericho helped Janine understand her role in 'Lavender Fields'

Actor Jericho Rosales, who recently admitted to dating Janine Gutierrez, revealed that he and the actress sat through a four-hour meeting in order to help Janine understand her character in "Lavender Fields" and portray it more effectively.

"I've already known Janine for quite a long period of time. She's a very sweet person. Everybody on the set loves her. She is also family-oriented and very passionate about her work. So being Iris, her character in our series, is just a monumental shift for her. One day, I told her, 'Hey! Do you want to discuss work?' She agreed and so we had a meeting with our acting coach Ana Feleo. We talked about our characters outside work. We had a four-hour meeting just to discuss Iris, my character Tyrone, their relationship as a married couple,



what they want, and where they want to bring things," he told Inquirer Entertainment in a recent interview.

Honest, open

"Towards the end, Janine said, 'Aha! I get it now!' It's like something clicked in her brain."

You see, Iris is not Janine at all. That's why it's so hard for her. She would say, 'How do you do that?' She actually had to go through her mental files to see who she knew in real life who is just like Iris, if there is one. After that session, problem solved!" Jericho recalled.

Jericho is back to acting in a teleserye after taking a break for six years. He claimed that so much has changed in him since then. "There's a huge difference. Some of the good parts, I've kept, while some of the

bad parts are filed away. The main difference is that I know what I want now. I know how to better handle my relationships. I've decided that the relationships I'm keeping now are only the ones that are helping me grow. As a result, I feel like I'm now well-equipped to follow my dreams. Of course, I'm welcoming any help, suggestions, or advice on self-improvement. My journey has been all about really getting to know myself deeper. I face you now not as an actor. I'm me—honest and open."

Why Rufa Mae Quinto didn't mind losing in 'LOL': The game got really dirty

"I'd rather lose the P1 million than lose my family," said Rufa Mae Quinto as to why she didn't feel too sad about losing the prize money of the recently concluded reality show "LOL: Last One Laughing Philippines."

Quinto was one of 10 comedians who took part in the competition where the contestants faced off in a showdown, with the goal of making others laugh without cracking up themselves. Chad Kinis eventually brought home the P1-million cash prize.

"I didn't feel bad about losing because I already knew where it was heading. The game was starting to get really dirty, so I opted out... I certainly didn't want to lock lips with Chad Kinis

or with anyone there. I have a husband and a child. I didn't want them to see me do that on TV. Besides, I can't handle spitting on another person's face, because I don't want anyone to do that to me. My brand of humor is different," she told reporters over lunch recently.

When asked what lesson she learned from the show, Quinto said: "Keeping one's self from laughing is so difficult that you would eventually cry. Also, the secret to not laughing is to keep yourself feeling hungry. You will eventually get angry at everyone around you and won't feel like laughing at all. I made the mistake of eating too much during our lunch break. That's why, in the middle of the competition, I suddenly felt like going to the toilet. That's another reason I didn't want to compete anymore. I didn't want to make a mess out there," she quipped.

Quinto said she and her family have decided to relocate to Manila from the United States now that she is starting to get offers to work on TV and the movies again. She is currently working on a comedy film by Randolph Longjas titled "Mujigae," which will be released in October. This was after her series of shows, called "Todo na Tour," in Canada with Donita Rose and Daniel Matsunaga.

The actress said it was during the press con for "LOL" that she and her husband Trevor Magallanes decided to relocate in Manila.

As for her husband, Quinto said: "He is very supportive. He has believed in me ever since. He said, 'You'll do great! I just know



Quinto said her talent management is negotiating with GMA 7 for her own talk show. She added that she would now be choosier when it comes to her projects.

Willie Revillame takes action on cash prize

Willie Revillame revokes prize from player who watches rival show

Willie Revillame withdrew a participant's chance to win a prize in "Wil to Win" after he found out that the latter was not an avid viewer of his show and instead a fan of his rival, "Family Feud."

In a recent episode of "Wil to Win,"

Revillame called a random female participant on air. During their phone conversation, the contestant appeared "cold" in responding to the host, asking who was calling and which program it was.

Revillame read the letter from the participant saying that she wants to join the game show as she hopes to secure the P50,000 cash prize for her children's school expenses and her medical bills.

The contestant confirmed she was the one who wrote the letter and then asked Revillame, "Saan po ba kayong programa?"

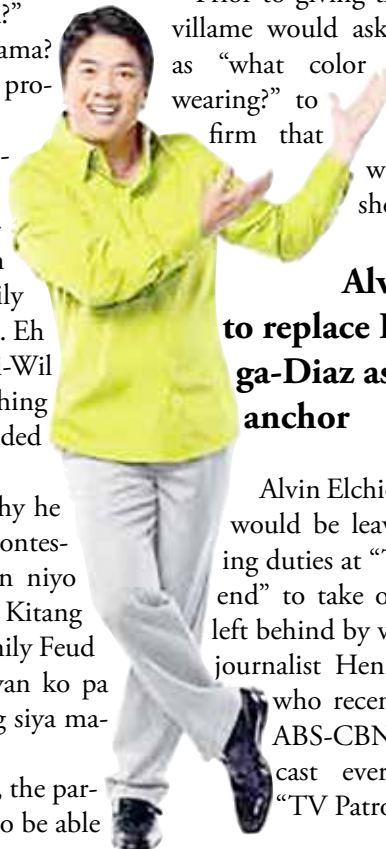
The TV host responded, "Programa? Eh, ano bang pinapanood n'yong programa?"

"Sa GMA po, Family Feud," responded the player.

Revillame appeared disappointed, but tried to laugh it off. He then went on to say, "Ay ganu'n ba? Family Feud? Eh, sayang po, Wil To Win 'to. Eh salamat po. Sayang no? Sana magwi-Wil To Win kayo. Sige po enjoy watching Family Feud, ba-bye!" then proceeded to drop the call.

The singer-host then explained why he had to revoke the chance of the contestant, "Sumulat siya sakin... Tignan niyo totoong-totoo hindi 'to scripted. Kitang kita niyo na tumatawag kami... Family Feud pala pinapanood niya, tapos bibigyan ko pa siya ng 50,000. Aba e, doon na lang siya ma-nood."

According to the game mechanics, the participant has to watch the show live to be able



to answer a question and receive the chance to spin a wheel that includes different cash prizes up to P60,000.

Prior to giving the question, Revillame would ask questions such as "what color of shirt is he wearing?" to be able to confirm that the contestant was watching the show in real-time.

Alvin Elchico to replace Henry Omega-Diaz as 'TV Patrol' anchor

Alvin Elchico announced he would be leaving his anchoring duties at "TV Patrol Weekend" to take over the position left behind by veteran broadcast journalist Henry Omega-Diaz, who recently retired from ABS-CBN's flagship newscast every week night, "TV Patrol."

The announcement was made at the close of TVP Weekend's Sept. 1 episode. Elchico, who was the pioneer host of the program, would be leaving it behind to his co-anchor, Zen Hernandez, after 13 years of service.

"Ngayon po ang huling araw ko sa 'TV Patrol Weekend.' At sa loob ng mahigit na labing-tatlong taon mula 2011, ito po ang trabaho ko kada Sabado at Linggo," he said. "Malungkot po akong [iiwanan] ang 'TV Patrol Weekend' dahil dito po ako nag-grow bilang isang news anchor. Dito po ako nahasa sa tulong ng staff at production team ng 'TV Patrol Weekend.'"



What The Fact

by Joey Baking

☹️☹️ Dont Get Your Hopes Up 😊😊

China-Philippine Deal on WPS

Am I the only one who did not believe anything good will come out of the China-Philippine deal on how to reduce "incidents" on West Philippine Sea? Kunyari lang iyan ng mga lintsik. Kung baga, saving face lang iyan. Alam naman natin babalik din sila sa dati. In fact, mas malala pa ang gagawin nila. Public relations gimmick lang iyan. They initiate the peace talks apra lumabas na they are offering an olive branch. What they are offering are roses. pero siyempre, remember, iyong stems ng roses, may mga tinik iyon. Kita niyo, after mag-usap, mas malala pa ang pagbunggo nila sa ating mga barko. We'll just have to be patient without resorting to firing the first shot.

China's Apologists within our Community

There are so-called community leaders who believe that we are fighting America's war. During world war 2, were we fighting America's war when Japan invaded us? Bakit? Gusto ba natin masakop tayo ng Japan? This time, should we allow China to tak eover our territory? If your neighbor moves their fence towards your property, are you going to allow it? Papayag ka ba? When we advocate standing up to China, these apologists in our community will dare you to go West Philippine Sea yourself. They also ask, "is our President willing to go to the WPS and fight." I do not understand them. Why don't these Filipino apologists dare the Chinese president to do that? They call us cowards for not willing to fight ourselves if we're standing up for our country. If we're cowards for standing up for our country but not willing to go to the WPS, what do we call them? They do not want to stand up for the Philippines. They also do not want to fight

for what is our territory. Aren't they called traitors? Do they expect China to reward them? Or do they expect peace if we do not fight?

Here, There, and Everywhere

Yes, it's the song of the Beatles. It's also for events in the month of August. Sus Guinoo ni Roxanne, sabay sabay po sila. Hindi na po ako magkaugaga, as they say. But it's a good thing. Sa ibang events, inuulan pa. Pero, there is another problem. Lyon pong hanging. Strong winds po. Siguro, try bringing a cast iron na weight para sa mga tent po. May isa kasi ako dito sa bahay na ginagamit sa patio umbrella na cast iron. Siguro naman, kung doon nakatali ang tent, hindi na lilipad ng hangin. Lyon kasing kasama ng mga tent na weight, hindi sapat para hindi hanginin ang mga tent. Nakakaawa namn po. Pati mga paninda liliparin.



PIDC's Agnes Miranda, Philippine star Inigo, and globe-trotting journalists BK Jimenez gets cozy at the PIDC gala-preview at City Hall. PHOTO RAYMOND SANTOS

Donnalyn Bartolome is willing to work with government for flood prevention projects

Actress and online personality Donnalyn Bartolome reveals she is donating her vlog revenue to her advocacy for flood prevention.

Known online for her creating entertaining vlogs on her YouTube channel which has now reached 9.9M followers, actress and vlogger Donnalyn Bartolome has chosen to use her platform to help Typhoon Carina victims, as indicated in her Instagram post. The 30-year-old online personality revealed that she is donating the revenue from viewing her videos to help those affected by the recent flooding brought by Typhoon Carina in the country earlier this July.

She wrote, "Babies sorry di ako nakapagupdate ng ilang araw, madaming need gawin. Gusto ko lang kayo update na iniwan namin noon yung boats kung saan usually binabaha lagi at agad agad silang nagamit the same day the flood hit us because of bagyong Carina."

"Yung income sa pagnood niyo sa lahat ng videos simula noon til now dito sa projects na ganito napupunta kaya salamat sa inyo. Kailangan niyo malaman na bawat click niyo sa videos ko at pagsupport niyo sa kahit ano mang ginagawa ng team namin ay napupunta sa mga ganito so need niyo rin mapasalaman."

"After the flood we've also demonstrated prevention na pwedeng gawin sa bansa natin. Pero yun po yung isa sa pinakamababang views na video ko sa channel ko way way back pa 3 years ago.. sana mas maraming mainform na maraming paraan pa and PREVENTION IS THE CURE. Praying everyone is safe and is staying safe."

In an earlier post, Donnalyn could be seen planting trees in a program for flood prevention. The 30-year-old

online influencer has also been vocal about wanting to collaborate with the local government in order to help implement similar programs that can help kababayans in the future.

She added, "Hindi ko po iniinvolve masyado sarili ko sa politics pero I'm willing to work with government officials na willing to help us keep this project going dahil hindi po basta basta ako pwede gumalaw ng walang pahintulot. Planting needs permits and all."

"Salamat din sa DENR kasi isa sila sa gusto ito ituloy tong project with me years ago pa after tree planting project video was released, they contacted us agad agad. Kailangan natin ng volunteers and willing na leaders who can micro manage kasi hirap na hirap narin ako sa dami ko pong inaasikaso sa trabaho for sustainability ng lahat. Salamat po sa lahat ng gusto pang tumulong."

Through her latest advocacy, Donnalyn assured her followers that their donations are safe and she also made a call for those who are interested to volunteer and be part of the cause.

"@influence_us.ph na po maghandle sa volunteers natin in the future, charity sa volunteers natin in the future, charity po itong nabuo dahil may mga friends at supporters ako na walang charity na mapagkatiwalaan sa donations nila noon dahil gusto nilang magdagdag sa mga nadonate na natin initially. Anything more than I can give is still more so just message them if may need po kayong idonate or abutan. And looking pa rin sila sa volunteers yung may malasakit sa mga tao and for our country."

Known online as the "Social Media Sweetheart," Donnalyn recently confirmed that she and actor JM de Guzman have been exclusively dating.





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Why loss of P5 was humbling for Lovely and Benj

Lovely Abella and Benj Manalo revealed they used to earn P5 million a month through live selling and became a "little greedy" before their Facebook page got disabled. The pair told Boy Abunda in a "Fast



Talk" interview that they were able to gain their buyers' trust immediately because they are celebrities.

Abella admitted that live selling changed their lives and the sales that they got were actually "high," especially since they started during the pandemic. Given the income they got from live selling, Manalo confessed that they got to the point where they became "greedy."

"Dumating kami sa unang punto namin na medyo naging greedy kami. Nasabi namin 'di namin kailangan ng show biz kasi okay na kami from doing live selling. But then God changed us,

isang click tinanggal niya lahat," shared the actor, adding that they lost their Facebook page alongside their high number of followers and buyers. When asked to drop figures about their earnings, Manalo said they were able to make around P5 million in sales per month.

"May isang buwan doon, sabi nila ghost month that time, walang pera ang mga tao, pero we earned at least one month ng mga P4M to P5M. That's net. That time, sabi namin, 'Kaya na natin 'to.' I mean, 'di na natin kailangang magtrabaho. We were so full of ourselves," Benj said.

The couple were "scared" and did not know what to do when they lost their Facebook page, but said it was a realization for them to not be boastful. They are rebuilding their platform, with their new Facebook page having now almost 40,000 likes and

96,000 followers.

Rabiya Mateo, Jeric Gonzales unfollow each other on Instagram anew

Eagle-eyed social media users noticed that Kapuso couple Rabiya Mateo and Jeric Gonzales unfollowed each other on Instagram.

The couple have not yet released a statement on their alleged breakup again.



In June 2023, Rabiya revealed that she and Jeric broke up for a week.

"Nag-break po kami ni Jeric, siguro mga one week lang, parang wala lang. Parang nag-away lang kami na nagka-tampuhan. But because we're in showbiz, parang everything was blown out of proportion," she said in the "Royal Blood" press conference.

"So, nu'ng nagkaayos na kami, saka palang lumabas 'yung article na break na kami, this and that. So, nag-usap na kami na, 'Okay, panindigan na lang muna natin

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'to,' because we don't want to confuse the public and have them say na, 'Ano ba, gimmick ba nila 'to?!?'

"Tapos, nu'ng naging private

kami, we fixed 'yung mga bagay na kailangan naming ayusin."

Rabiya and Jeric confirmed their relationship in March 2022.

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Free internet access seen in RoRo ports

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) is spending more than P37 million to provide free access to the internet for travelers in roll-on, roll-off (RoRo) ports.

The DICT is bidding out a P37.06-million contract aimed at equipping 67 ports nationwide with internet sites for the use of travelers.

Based on the bidding documents, the winning contractor for the project has to bring WiFi access to 29 ports in Luzon, 18 in Visayas and 20 in Mindanao.

If the contractor uses satellites, the required download speed must range from

100 Mbps to 220 Mbps, and the minimum upload speed must be 10 Mbps. Latency, or the turnaround time for data transfer, has to be quicker than 100 milliseconds.

If the contractor relies on fiber, the DICT requires an average download speed of 150 Mbps. The agency also expects a faster latency of below 50 ms.

The project covers some of the most congested ports for RoRo vessels in the Philippines, such as in Manila, Batangas, Calapan and Matnog, to cater to the connectivity needs of as many travelers as possible.

The DICT will hold a pre-bid confer-

ence for the project on Sept. 10, setting the submission deadline and opening of proposals on Sept. 23.



the internet sites within 30 days, and the project will last for four months, or until Dec. 31, 2024, whichever is earlier.

The DICT will source the budget from

the special account in the general fund for the Free Public Internet Access Program (FPIAP). The agency puts up WiFi sites in public spaces and state-run schools through the FPIAP.

The program has received an annual allocation of P2.5 billion since 2022, and is set to obtain the same amount in 2025. So far, the DICT has switched on more than 12,000 sites under the FPIAP, but President Marcos wants to expand the program to connect more Filipinos to the web.

The DICT estimates that it would require as much as P9 billion every year to widen the reach of the FPIAP.

Coney Reyes celebrates 50 years in show biz with new TV series 'Shining Inheritance'

At 71 years old, veteran actress Coney Reyes feels utterly blessed and grateful to have reached 50 years in the entertainment industry. As she takes on a new starring role in the upcoming drama series "Shining Inheritance," the actress hopes to shed light in discussions pertaining to people with Alzheimer's disease and as to how the elderly should be taken care of and loved.

During the "Shining Inheritance" press conference on Friday, Aug. 30, Reyes underscored that what she considers her "shining moment" is that she is still able to do what she loves doing, which is acting, after all these years.

"Ang pinaka shining moment ko siguro na hanggang ngayon nandito pa rin ako (My most shining moment is probably that I'm still here). Naiiyak ako (I feel like crying). Alam niyo naman iyakin ako (you know I'm a crybaby) ever since. For those who are familiar with what I do, what I've done. I'm just so blessed. I feel so grateful that God has allowed me to use what He has given me, the talent He has given me until now that I'm 71 years old," she expressed.

The seasoned actress will be playing the role of Aurea De La Costa, a grandmother with Alzheimer's disease who is often neglected by her grandchildren and other family members.

"Kasi diba minsan 'yung mga matatanda binabalewala ng mga tao sa paligid nila so parang sa puso ko rin kailangan makita nila, kailangan pinapahalagahan ang mga taong 'to, inaalagaan, minamahal, lahat naman tayo

tatanda diba," she said.

(Because sometimes the elderly are ignored by the people around them, so it seems to me that they need to realize that these people need to be appreciated, taken care of and loved. We will all grow old, right?)

"We hope to be able to make people understand kung paano ba alagaan ang mga may (how to take care of those with) Alzheimer," added the actress.

Tropical Storm Enteng pounds Quirino after landfall over Aurora Tropical Storm Enteng pounds Quirino after landfall over Aurora

Despite her longevity in show biz, the "Return of the Dragon" actress declared that she still enjoys what she does and still has aspirations for what she wants to do next.

"50 years ko nang ginagawa ito pero enjoy na enjoy pa rin ako (I've been doing this for 50 years but I still enjoy it so much), but of course I have to pace myself," she said.

"Magpaparinig na naman ako sana pangarap ko balang araw magkaroon ako ng sitcom o kaya dramedy kasi kita naman ninyo marunong naman ako magpatatawa. Akala niyo lang kasi puro drama drama. Iyak dito, iyak dyan. Medyo sawa na ako kakaiyak," she stated, adding that she remains grateful to GMA for giving her



projects.

(I'm going to reiterate this again. I hope that one day I'll have a sitcom or a dramedy because you know that I know how to make people laugh also. You think it's just drama — cry here, cry there. I'm a bit tired of crying.)

Reyes made her first film appearance in "The Return of the Dragon" in 1974. She then made her maiden TV appearance on "Student Canteen," a Philippine noontime variety show on GMA-7.

In 1977, the actress got her own television series to host, titled "Coney Reyes-Mumar Studio." Reyes also joined the "Eat... Bulaga!" family in 1982.

Reyes is known for her roles in family-oriented television dramas "100 Days to Heaven," "Nathaniel" and "My Dear Heart," and the movie "Four Sisters and a Wedding," among others.

"Shining Inheritance" is the Philippine adaptation of the Korean drama "Brilliant Legacy" (2009), and is set to premiere on GMA Afternoon Prime Time on Sept. 9.

Donny Pangilinan, Belle Mariano tease new project: 'Hope you're ready'

On-screen love team Donny Pangilinan

and Belle Mariano, known as "DonBelle," recently sent their fans abuzz after they posted a new photo hinting at a new project together.

The Kapamilya stars posted a joint Instagram post with an image of them sitting at a dinner table. They teased that "vacation's over" and that they are "cookin something up."

"OKAYY vacations over... we miss ya Btw cookin something up hope ur ready ;)" the caption read. The pair also used a film slate or clapper board emoji.

The post immediately became a trending topic online, specifically on X (formerly Twitter), with fans expressing their excitement by using the hashtag #DONBELLE NEW PROJECT.

The duo last top-billed the drama romance series "Can't Buy Me Love," which concluded last May.

Aside from the two, "Can't Buy Me Love" also features actors Rowell Santiago, Agot Isidro, Ina Raymundo, Ruffa Gutierrez, Maris Racal, Anthony Jennings, Kaila Estrada, Albie Casiño and Darren Espanto, among others.

In one of their past interviews, Pan-

gilinan and Mariano underscored that whenever they start a new project, they don't always think it will be a "hit," but try their best to deliver what they can.

"When you start a project, hindi mo naman alam kung magiging hit siya (you don't know if it's going to be a hit), if people will really watch it, if they'll support it.

So, we were really nervous, a bit of pressure. We were just hoping for the best, you know. Not having all those expectations," explained Pangilinan.

"Thinking about it, we're done shooting and everything... There's this sense of fulfillment na, wow, we were able to deliver a project," added Mariano.

"Can't Buy Me Love" on its premiere garnered 454,413 concurrent live viewers on YouTube, and soared to become the No. 1 most watched series on Netflix Philippines at the time.

Kantar Media also reported that the series received television ratings of 11.6 percent, beating its rival program "Love Before Sunrise" with 9.7 percent. AGB Nielsen echoed this with its report that the pilot episode of "Can't Buy Me Love" generated 8 percent ratings as against its rival "Love Before Sunrise" with 7.1%.



Shay Mitchell says she's half Spanish, not Filipino

Shay Mitchell is catching some heat for apparently denying her Filipino heritage.

Canadian actress and entrepreneur Shay

Mitchell is catching some heat over her response to a question about her ethnicity in a recent interview.

The "Pretty Little Liars" recently made the comments on her Max show "Thirst With Shay Mitchell."

"My dad's Irish. My mom's Spanish," she said.

The internet was quick to accuse Mitchell of lying, as fans of the star know her mother, Precious Garcia, is from Pampanga, Philippines, making her half-Filipino.

Social media was even quicker to point out Mitchell's aunt is award-winning Filipino actress and singer Lea Salonga.

"Girl your mom is from pampanga. no Spanish there but slay another vanessa hudgens," one person commented.

"It's crazy because she got a job as a voice actress in a Filipino Netflix cartoon called 'Trese' because of her Filipino heritage... I guess she's only Filipino when it benefits her," another

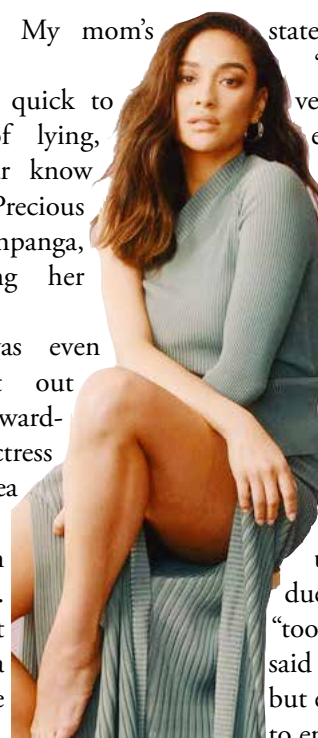
stated.

"When I grew up I found this to be very common, especially with Gen X/elder millennial. Filipinos I knew tended to downplay their 'Asian' side and claimed to be Spanish just because of their surnames. History would tell them they have next to zero Spanish blood and their last names were imposed on them for tax purposes. The post colonialism cultural shame is real," another said.

In an interview with Pop Sugar in 2016, Mitchell admitted that she used to hide her Filipino heritage due to insecurities about appearing "too Filipina" with tan skin. Mitchell said she faced bullying from classmates but eventually became confident enough to embrace her roots and identity.

"Why am I trying to change myself? I should be proud of who I am and what my heritage is," she told the publication.

Mitchell has not responded to the controversy.



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Philippine Officials Launch “Love The Philippines & Bisita, Be My Guest” Travel Program in Toronto



By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The Department of Tourism, the Department of Migrant Workers, and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, in partnership with the Tourism Promotion Board Philippines (TPBPHL) held their “Love the Philippines and Bisita, Be My Guest Program Campaign” event on August 23, 2024, at the Aria Ballroom of Four Seasons Hotel, Toronto, Ontario.

According to the Philippine Tourism Promotions Board, the

LTP-BBMG Program is “an incentivized promotional campaign to encourage Overseas Filipinos and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to invite their foreign relatives, friends and colleagues to visit the Philippines.” Event attendees were allowed to win exciting prizes and enjoy incentives through a travel passport and privilege card that offer discounts and special offers at various destinations in the country.

The launching provided a “valuable opportunity to enhance the visibility of the Love the Philippines brand and engage the Filipino community as well as our partners and supporters in Canada in promoting our country as a tourism destination.” During the presentation, Rica Bueno,



Assistant Secretary of the Philippine Department of Tourism, asked, “for support in disseminating information on the LTP-BBMG Program to encourage participation in this important national initiative.” Secretary Bueno with videos and slides, presided over the significance of the tourism drive

and the status of the 3-year promotional program that includes Raffle Draws, Travel Passport, and Privilege Cards.

Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr, Philippine Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, Department of Migrant Workers Secretary Leo J. Caccad,

Department of Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco, and Philippine Ambassador to Canada Andrelita S. Austria gave video messages. Moreover, the Philippine Consul General in Toronto Angelica C. Escalona made live remarks and introductions.

In casual modern Filipiniana, more than 200 guests, dignitaries, and community leaders were shown videos of Philippine tourist destinations and cultural festivals and entertained with live music and dance performances. Over dinner, they shared and enjoyed popular Filipino cuisines such as Adobo, Caldereta, Pinakbet, Pancit Canton, Lechon, Lumpia, Kinilaw, Kanin, Leche Flan, Buko Pandan, wine and drinks.

Indeed, the 3-hour Philippine travel-promotion gathering was a much-welcomed event and a highly interesting almost end-of-summer season activity in Canada. “Kaya mga kababayan, mga kaibigan, at mga kamag-anak, tara na sa Pilipinas. para masayang puntahan, bisitahin at ipagsaya nating lahat ang yaman at kagandahan ng ating mahal na bansa!” (Tony A. San Juan, OCT).

Albie Casiño, parehong takot at excitement ang naramdaman nang maging tatay

Albie Casiño on entering fatherhood: “At first, takot [ako] and then naging excitement din and then it turned into [the thought na] ‘Wala na. Heto na ‘yong kailangan kong gawin. This is my life now.’ It’s the best.”

Nang malaman ni Albie Casiño that he will be a dad for the first time, naramdam siya ng takot pero, as time passed by, excitement na ang kanyang nararamdaman para sa life milestone na ito.

Nagkwento kasi ang aktor sa entertainment press tungkol sa kanyang first foray into fatherhood sa press conference ng kanyang pelikula na Butas na ilalabas sa VivaMax.

“At first, takot [ako] and then naging excitement din and then it turned into [the thought na] ‘Wala na. Heto na ‘yong kailangan kong gawin. This is my life now.’ It’s the best,” sabi niya.

Dagdag pa ni Albie na, at present, lock-in tapang ngayon ang kanyang ginagawang proyekto kaya hindi muna niya nakakasama ang kanyang



anak na si Roman Andrew pero ‘pag wala daw ito sa tapang ay very hands-on daw siya na ama.

“When I’m home, super hands-on,” sabi niya. “I can see that he’s developing a personality. Nakikilala na niya kung sino kami kapag naririnig niya ‘yong boses ko, hinahanap na niya ako.”

Tanda rin ni Albie na naramdaman niyang handa na siya magka-anak nang malaman niyang tatay na siya dahil kahit papaano ay naexperience niya ito sa pag-alaga ng kanyang aso.

“Having a dog readied me a little bit,” sabi niya. “Kasi kahit pagod ako galing taping or nag-gym ako, even if I don’t want to walk the dog, I have to walk the dog ‘cause she needs to be walked. [Having a dog] taught me a little bit of responsibility for now that I really need all of the responsibility.”

Kwinento rin ni Albie ang mga pagpupuyat na ginagawa niya at ng kanyang non-showbiz girlfriend na si Michelina para lang mapatulong at mapakain ang kanilang baby Roman Andrew.

“I don’t mind. Even at 3 AM, [when] he smiles when he sees me, parang nawawala na ‘yong pagod,” he said.

Nitong June, nagulat ang netizens after i-post ni Albie ang ilang larawan at videos ng unang pagkikita nila ng kanyang baby for the first time. Pinanganak si Roman Andrew noong April 28 sa United States

Bibida si Albie sa VivaMax offering na Butas alongside Angela Morena, Angelica Hart, at JD Aguas.

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Spurned national ID supplier fires back, touts 'impressive' track record

MANILA - Facing blacklisting from government procurement following the termination of its national identification card supply contract, AllCard Inc. (ACI) touted its track record of projects, highlighting its long line of success.

The company supplying national ID cards under the Philippine Identification System—recently fired by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), which cited failure to deliver obligations—described

its performance over the years as “impressive” when it comes to delivering card solutions across various sectors.

“Our record stands as a testament to our capability and reliability in the card printing industry,” ACI president Roy Eborra said in a statement.

Further, the company said it has produced Europay, Mastercard and Visa automated teller machine cards and credit cards for eight out of the top 10 banks in

the Philippines.

Central bank claims damages

The BSP, in a termination notice dated Aug. 15, ended the contract with ACI, citing a purported “failure to deliver any or all of the goods specified in the contract, amounting to more than 10 percent of the contract price.”

ACI, for its part, denied being the primary cause of delays, adding it should not

be blamed for the setbacks in the national ID project.

“Despite our efforts to coordinate and resolve the problem with the BSP to address the issue, the dispute remained unresolved for over a year and affected the overall card production schedule,” it added.

The company said it has no other recourse but to bring the dispute with BSP for arbitration.

Martin Nievera picks Jona and Darren Espanto as his favorite young singers

Kung si Darren Espanto ang choice ni Martin Nievera as his personal favorite among young singers, si Jona naman daw ang top pick niya sa mga babae. “The voice I’m loving right now is Jona’s. Jona has got the clearest high-belt [note] of all the singers.”

As an OPM icon and the Concert King, madalas matanong si Martin Nievera kung sino among the young performers ang pasado sa pamantayan niya as possibly future icons din sa larangan ng music, both recording and live performances.

In his recent press conference for his upcoming “The King4Ever” concert, which also serves as his 42nd anniversary as a performer, muling natanong si Martin nito.

“I have a long list, I just couldn’t remember all their names... But sa male would be Darren Espanto,” pahayag ni Martin. “I think he has a chance to be the new and improved version of Gary Valenciano. He sings, he dances, he can spiel, he can do Broadway, he speaks well...I think he can be a singer that could be [accepted] worldwide.”

Patuloy ng Vicor artist and concert king: “For the female [singers], right now, the voice I’m loving right now is Jona’s. Jona has got the clearest high belt [note] of all the singers,”

When some members of the entertainment press suggested other names, pinangatawanan niya ang choice n’yang si Jona, na isa ring Viva artist.

“Klarisse [de Guzman] is another one,” aniya. “Morissette is another unbelievable performer. But for singers, the clear and high notes of Jona. But don’t get me wrong, they’re all good. Morissette I think also has a chance to go worldwide. I think



she’ll go worldwide before Jona. But as far as good singers that I love, Jona.”

Sa mga grupo naman, he singled out BINI although konti palang naman daw ang personal exposure niya sa mga members nito. All he has, he says, are mere observations.

“I love BINI, you know why? ‘Cause they have not lost their humility and how they handle themselves. I could be wrong. I’ve met each of them but I’ve spent very little time with them but I can see that they’re very passionate about their craft but at the same time, they haven’t lost their humility—which they could do because they’re huge.

Naintriga kami sa sinabing ‘yon ni Martin kaya natanong din namin siya kung naka-experience na rin ba siya ng mga baguhang nag-a-attitude na.

“Alot!” pagtatapat niya. Sorry I can’t give you a name but I have a list of people who have to remember that what you’re enjoying now is not forever.”

Tama. Ang Concert King lang ang forever! His “The King 4Ever” concert, by the way, is slated on September 27 at the Smart-Araneta Coliseum. The Ogie Alcasid-Cacai Mitra-produced concert will be jointly directed by Lloyd Mamaril and Paolo Valenciano.

Kira Balingor on quitting show biz, dating LA Santos

TORONTO - “Maple Leaf Dreams” is a romance-drama movie top-billed by rumored couple Kira Balingor and LA Santos, where they play OFWs based in Toronto, Canada.

Balingor and Santos, together with the whole production team led by director Benedict Mique, shot the movie early last year.

The two stars shared why their movie took so long to get a green light to be released.



“We waited for the perfect time to show the movie. And ‘yung Sinag Maynila is a prestigious festival and we’re so thankful na nagbukas ang Sinag Maynila for our movie,” Santos said.

“Maple Leaf Dreams” is one of the entries in the sixth edition

of Sinag Maynila 2024.

According to Balingor, getting into the character of an OFW was the biggest challenge she had to face.

“Humbly, LA and I do not live the OFW life. So it was a struggle for us to immerse ourselves, although we had immersions. We did have workshops. Pero iba talaga ‘yung meron kang experience, ‘yung totoong experience. It was hard to get into the character, to show what the struggles feel like of an OFW,” she said.

On their movie’s social media page, the team has been posting on-ground interviews with Toronto-based Filipinos sharing their struggle and success stories.

Weather was also a challenge for the team. They spent more than a week in Toronto, during the tailend of winter and the start of spring.

The 24-year-old actress admitted that there were times when she

considered quitting show biz. “I love this job. I enjoy portraying different roles, but there were a lot of moments when I thought of giving up on acting. People only see the glamorous side of our work.

“What they don’t know is that this industry can be difficult and very unfair to actors. But whenever I imagine quitting and ask myself, ‘What’s next?’ it feels like finding another job doesn’t sit right with me. I love being an actress. I can’t imagine myself doing something else. Laban lang,” she said.

Admittedly, Balingor and Santos got closer and appreciated each other during filming.

“Na-appreciate ko kay Kira, grabe siyang leading lady, ‘yung pagmamahal at suportang pinakita niya sa team,” Santos said.

For Balingor, “what I appreciate about LA is his will to learn. Like he was ready to come to work, like he was a sponge. Ready to absorb what is being told to him by our director.”

At the media gathering, Kira was also asked to discuss the chemistry she has formed with LA, her leading man. They met on the set of the defunct drama series “Ang Sa’yo ay Akin,” where Kira was paired with Grae Fernandez. She denied rumors that they are already dating.

“Do you want us to become a couple? Let’s do a survey first,” said Kira, laughing. “We’ve known each other for quite a while now. I feel that we were able to portray our characters more effectively because of the friendship we’ve formed through the years. We’ve developed trust in each other. It helped that Direk Bene was there. He is the director we needed for this movie. Even though it was hard, even though there were challenges, he did it for us.”

Kira added: “There are scenes that also reveal what my relationship with LA in real life is like, how we would tease each oth-

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er, how we would throw our lines. There’s vulnerability. Add to all this what he just told us today—that he has a crush on me.”

When asked to share what she feels for LA, Kira said: “Secret! Ano siya, sinuwerte?”

Eighty percent of the film was shot on location in Toronto, Canada. The cast includes Joey Marquez and Snooky Serna, who play Molly’s parents; and Ricky Davao, who portrays Macky’s father.

“Maple Leaf Dreams” will premiere on September 25.

Matet de Leon reacts to ‘laos’ remark: ‘Paano malalaos di naman sikat?’

Matet de Leon clapped back at a netizen who called her “laos” (a has-been), saying someone can’t be “laos” if they were not popular in the first place.

De Leon’s statement came after she was dragged into the issue of Kylene Alcantara and Carmina Villarroel by a netizen who edited a “malicious” video of them three.

“Nasasabihan pa akong laos nito. Paano malalaos ‘di naman sikat? Hindi nalalaos ang hindi sikat,” said De Leon. (I was told I’m a has-been. But how can anyone be a has-been if they were not famous? No one who was never famous can be a has-been.)

Asking to be left alone, the former child star said, “Hindi ‘yun para sa iniisip niyo na tao. Huwag niyo akong idamay kasi wala akong kinalaman jan. Kung ano anong sinasabi niyo tungkol saakin nanahi-

mik ako.”

(What you say to me is not for the person you’re thinking of. Don’t drag me into the issue because I have nothing to do with it. You guys are saying things about me when I’m just here minding my own business.)

“Huwag niyo akong pagtripan kasi kapag ako nang-trip, hindi rin maganda,” added the actress. (Don’t play with me because you wouldn’t like it when I hit back.)

De Leon rose to fame as a child star in the 1980s. Her first film was “I Love You, Ma, I Love You, Pa” in 1986. But her acting skills were noticed in the movie “Bunsong Kerubin,” which earned her a FAMAS Best Child Actress nomination in 1988.

Despite being one of the adopted children of former celebrity couple Christopher de Leon and Superstar Nora Aunor, Matet caved a name for herself in show biz.

During her active years, Matet got the opportunity to act alongside the late Fernando Poe Jr. in the film “One Day Isang Araw” in 1988. She also starred in the 1997 movie “Mama Dito sa Aking Puso” with her mom Nora.

Matet is now focused on being a wife to John Michael “Mickey” Estrada and mother to her three children. She is also now an entrepreneur.



CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS: A SUMMER OF FILIPINO FESTIVALS IN ONTARIO

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Summer is a significant season for Filipinos across Canada. The period is traditionally the best time and opportunity for those on much-needed short-term visits, vacations and breaks from school, work, business, and other responsibilities to savour the outdoor weather and the company of friends, family, colleagues, and visitors.

Filipino Canadians in the Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area (GTHA) usually welcome June, July, and August as their favourite months for traditional celebrations, festivities, gatherings, and picnics. For these, organizations and groups in the Filipino diaspora planned, organized and delivered several community-wide festivals and conferences that offered cultural-centred activities, thus making Greater Metropolitan Toronto the centre of Filipino festivals in the country.

Starting in June, the Canadian House of Commons declared "Filipino Heritage Month" is celebrated from "coast to coast to coast" with programs and activities focusing on Philippine art, culture, and history and the Filipinos' contributions to Canadian society. Likewise, Filipinos commemorated the 126th Philippines Independence Day on June 12, 2024, organized by the Philippine diplomatic posts and other leading community organizations. The Knights of Rizal-Canada Region publicly remembered Dr. Jose Rizal's 163rd birth anniversary on June 19, 2024.

2024 also marked the 75th anniversary of the Philippines and Canada Bilateral Relations. Other important commemorative events participated by Filipino Canadians include National Indigenous History Month, Italian Heritage Month; Portuguese Heritage Month, St. Jean-Baptiste Day, Canadian Multiculturalism Day, and Canada Day.

Filipinos in Ontario, especially in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), have experienced and had a successful run of festival events with different proponents and themes held in cities and towns. in the

province. Among the biggest celebrations of Filipino "sights, sounds, smell, and specialties" were the following 5 popular and major festivals:

• "Pinoy Fiesta & Trade Show sa Toronto" was held on June 8 & 9 by the



Philippine Canadian Cultural Foundation (PCCF) at Albert Campbell Square, Borough Drive, Scarborough, Toronto. PCCF, founded in 2010, is headed by Rosemer Enverga. Visitors to the festival watched and enjoyed the ground activities such as a pageant with a cause, a sports fest, food stations, music, and entertainment, and Filipino cultural dances and songs. Community organizations and small-business entities promoted their products and services.

• "Canada Fiesta Extravaganza" events of the Philippine Extravaganza, Arts, Culture and Heritage (PEACH) under the leadership of Nestor Von Canton, were organized in 9 Canadian cities. With its theme: "Sining, Sayaw, Saya: Celebrating Filipino Heritage", shows were held in 5 Ontario cities such as Toronto on June 22 & 23; Vaughan

on July 2 & 3; Brampton on July 13 & 14; Niagara on Aug. 3 & 4; Hamilton on Aug. 13 & 14; and four other Canadian cities Montreal, (Quebec), Miramichi (New Brunswick), Surrey (BC.) and Lethbridge (Alberta). Known as the "Festival of Smiles", the events included a farmers' market, job fair, street food booths, and cultural presentations. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau dropped

at the Brampton Fiesta Extravaganza. Filipino film & TV actors Gabby Concepcion and Yam Concepcion and performed the celebration. • "Fun Philippines Food and Music Festival" was organized by the Legacy and Culture (PLACA), and conducted at the Toronto Harbourfront



by Renee' Salud model and Reina Hispanoamericana 5th runner-up Katrina Llegado frolics on the beach of Sandbanks after walking the runway at the Mabuhay Festival.

Orient Seas". Those who attended on the opening day were the Philippine Ambassador to Canada Andrelita Austria, Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow, Canada Filipino Senator Flordeliz Osler, Consul General Angelica Escalona and several Canadian and Filipino dignitaries. Filipino singers and actors Zsa Zsa Padilla and Ogie Alcasid performed during TFC's Happy Hour. With a "Parada ng Bayan", various cultural presentations, food booths and musical entertainment, the festival had a heritage exhibit titled "Window of Our Heritage: Bintana ng Aming Lahi" by the Philippine Artists Group (PAG).

• "Taste of Manila Street Festival". With "A Festival for Everyone" as its theme, this year's celebration was the 11th edition of one of North America's biggest Filipino street festivals. It was spearheaded by Taste of Manila, Inc. President Rolly Mangante and organized for the second time by the Society of Professional Artists, Culture and Recreation and Recreation (SPARC) led by Sani Baluyot. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited the festival with MPs

Reche Valdez, Ya'ara Saks, Ahmed Hussen, & Salma Zahid and other political leaders. The celebrity guests were former Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso Filipino movie actors Alden Richards & Ruffa Gutierrez, and Comedienne Boobay. Though it was a stormy-soaked opening day, as expected, attendance to

the 2-day festivities, estimated a crowd of thousand visitors strolling the Bathurst Road and Wilson Avenue corridors in Little Manila, North York, Toronto.

• "Mabuhay Philippines Festival" On June 1, the Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC) kicked off the "Filipino Heritage Month Celebration" at Earl Bales Park, Bathurst St., North York, FILIPINO FESTIVALS page 21

"Mabuhay! Great to be back at the Taste of Manila in Toronto. The Filipino community in Canada is nearly 1 million strong, and our country is richer and more vibrant for it." PM JUSTIN TRUDEAU

Jodi Sta. Maria says 'Lavender Fields' her 1st action drama

Jodi Sta. Maria said many might think that her show "Lavender Fields" is her usual revenge drama but the actress said it is more than that.

In fact, she found herself going home with bruises after a day's work of taping.

Jodi said that she is the type that welcomes challenges, and it was the reason she accepted the dual roles of Jasmine Flores and the titular "Lavender Fields."

"It's new. It's something I haven't done before. Ako kasi I always welcome challenges. When I begin to doubt myself whether I can do it or not, the more nanggigil ako na dapat ko siyang



gawin," Jodi said during the cinematic screening and grand media conference for the show.

"Lavender Fields" is now streaming on Netflix. It will start airing on ABS-CBN's online and free TV platforms on September 2.

Jodi did training, strength and conditioning in preparation for the role of Jasmine, who exacts revenge on her married lover's family.

The actress said that "Lavender Fields" is her first action-drama show.

The action element sets it apart from her other revenge dramas, including the 2015 remake "Pangako Sa'Yo," the 2021 series "Ang Sa Iyo Ay Akin," and the 2022 adaptation of the Korean drama "The Broken Marriage Vow." "Parang nagkapasa-pasa pa yata ako dito left and right. Every time na umuwi ako sa bahay, may bago akong baon. Baong-baong pasa. It's all part of the job," the actress shared.

The actress promises an action-packed first few weeks of "Lavender Fields."

"The second to third week, umaakitibong aksyon. Hindi lilipas ang isang linggo na walang mangyayaring umaakitibong aksyon," she said.

"Lavender Fields" marks the TV comebacks of Jericho Rosales and Jolina Magdangal. It is also Janine Gutierrez's first main antagonist role.



PICNIC: Jerome Perlata's Ariteo-Ontario association had their picnic last month.

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Ariel Abrazaldo's restaurant Lakay Kusina was invited to collaborate TD Bank's Terrace Experience.

Last August 9, Ariel Abrazaldo's Lakay Kusina had the pleasure of collaborating with the brand new TD Terrace Experience Team, to bring together an extra special surprise & delight moment for the building employees.

"It was truly amazing to see how diverse the community is and that they came to support us for firsts, seconds and third servings," said Abrazaldo.

He's hoping to bring the Lakay experience to your next event for moments that are unforgettable! Congratulations to Lakay Kusina. May you continue to grow.

Katharine Reyes had her song and dance concert last August 10.

Bicol Canada Community Association had their Kaogmah-

an picnic last August 10 at Earl Bales Park.

Pinoy Ontario vendors (POV) had their annual BBQ August 11. Just like last year, it was threatened by rain. But this year, the rains fell from time to time and stopped. So, we can call it a good day.

"There is no pressure to sell today," says POV founder and President Paulo Bucud. "Everything is free. It's about giving back," he added.

"So, you can eat at every tent that has food."

Realtor Joy and Warren D'aooust threw a surprise 5th birthday party for Atlas D'aooust at the Sky Zone joined by family and friends.

The biggest concert this year would be the Philippine-based

A very Busy Last Month of Summer



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1. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and MP Rechie Valdez braved the rain at taste of Manila.
2. Councillors Michael Thompson and James Pasternak walk and meet the vendors on Sunday morning at Taste of Manila.
3. Actor and former Manila Mayor Isko Moreno (FAR RIGHT) meets some of Canada's government officials.

Hall. It was a teaser for their Mabuhay festival. They introduced Inigo Pascual, Renee Salud and a few models gave a short show, accompanied by The Angelos.

Oceana D'aooust had her 16th yacht birthday complete with fireworks.

I was invited for a presscon of the Miss Universe Philippines at Casa Manila. They plan to pick one or two candidates from Canada to send to the miss Universe Philippines pageant. They also plan to popen Aces & Queens Canada, a Philippine beauty camp that provides training and coaching to beauty pageant contestants.

The Filipino Centre, Toronto seniors painting class took a 3-day vacation from August 28-30 at Sandbanks Cottages and Campsites in Picton. It turns out that the Renee Salud and the models that walked at Mabuhay were staying at the cottage in front of ours. Sweet.

On August 31, three events were scheduled on the same night. Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) had their Mrs. Philippines pageant, America's Got Talent semi-finals Bunot had his concert and JDL's Mika Sy had her concert. There was also Mary Hugh Productions of Tristars.

On that last day, I stayed home.

Bea Borres bares she was sexually exploited by brother

Bea Borres recalls how she was sexually exploited by her own brother. Images: Screen-grabs from YouTube/ Toni Gonzaga Studio

Bea Borres. Images: Screen-grabs from YouTube/Toni Gonzaga Studio

Bea Borres was emotional as she looked back at the time when her older brother recorded a video of her while taking a bath in her teens. Despite this, she eventually chose to forgive him.

Borres recalled the incident in a sit-down interview with Toni Gonzaga last August 25, sharing that her older brother took on the role of a parental figure due to them not having a positive relationship with their now-dead parents.

She then that he recorded a video of her while taking a bath when she was "13 or 14" years old. "Ngayon talaga, sobrang love ko si Kuya... pero growing up, hindi naging okay ang relationship namin kasi paano ba sasabihin? [Sexual abuse] po ba 'yun? So, vinideohan niya ako while taking a bath, naked. I think I was 13 or 14."

Borres said she didn't know she was being recorded then, and the video was even sent to his friends. "He took the video and sent it to his friends for, I don't know, for money. Hindi ko alam, eh."

Borres shared that her parents asked her if she initially wanted to file a police blot-

ter against him, but she opted to have him treated. But before the incident, she recalled that she had been inappropriately touched by her older brother several times in the past.



Despite the "traumatizing" incident, Borres said she chose to forgive her older brother while choosing to understand where he's coming from.

"Ngayon, okay na ako. Kasi sobrang nangingibabaw yung love and forgiveness ko... Si Kuya kasi, growing up, he was lonely

din. He was depressed. Parang lalaki, eh. Nagke-crave din siya ng female validation siguro. So, parang feeling ko, nilalabas niya sa akin 'yun," she said.

The actress-internet personality then addressed her interview on Facebook last August 26, where she appealed to the public to refrain from "tormenting" her older brother.

"Maybe I did overshare, but my past experiences have shaped me into the person I am today. Everything is well and forgiven, which is why I was comfortable enough to share my story," she said. "I've faced so much backlash already... but I hope we can stop tormenting my brother."

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Relaxing at THE SANDBANKS



1. Binibining Pilipinas 2012 1st Runner-Up & 2012 Miss Supranational 3rd Runner-up Elaine Kay Mall, Jasmine Maierhofer, Lally Dividina Tidor, Eloisa Jauod, , Reina Hispanoamericana 5th runner-up Katrina Llegado, and Binibining Pilipinas International 2021 Hannah Arnold; 2. Trip to Lake on the Mountain; 3-4. Eating time; 5. Roy and Angie Berline enjoy the karaoke night.

Chie Filomeno clarifies she doesn't have eating disorder

Chie Filomeno set the record straight on speculations about her health, stressing that she does not suffer from an eating disorder amid her slim physique.

The actress seemingly could not help but respond to a netizen who asked if she was anorexic, through the comments section of Filomeno's Instagram post last Friday, Aug. 23.

The netizen's curiosity on Filomeno's health apparently stemmed from the actress' bikini photos taken in Cebu. In the photos, Filomeno flaunted her slim physique

while donning a green two-piece swimsuit.

"Genuine question, anorexic ba [siya?]" the Instagram user asked, to which Filomeno responded, "Genuine answer, nope. Tao ako," adding a smiling face and a thumbs up emoji.

This is not the first time Filomeno opened up about her health and her body. In a 2023 interview, the "A Very Good Girl" actress spoke about being body-shamed for being thin.

While she said she refuses to be bothered by tact-

less comments about her weight, Filomeno admitted that she still experiences "bad days."

"I'm like those petite girls na



sinasabihan na 'kumain ka nga, kumakain ka ba?' she said at the time. "We get hurt. We're just human. We get hurt, we cry and then we laugh."

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The Toronto Kapuso Lions Club, under the leadership of its 2024-2025 President Dr Pepito Bicular and its Service Director Judith Gonzales, recently undertook a successful Yard Sale at the Church of Holy Wisdom in Scarborough, Ontario. Proceeds from the Yard Sale will be going towards the Club's humanitarian service project of constructing two much needed toilets for the schoolchildren and teachers of the Garcia Park Elementary School in San Carlos, Talibon, Bohol in the Philippines. (***)



BICOL PICNIC



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1 This year's on-the-spot painting contest First-place and the winner for the People's Choice Award for level 2 (adults), Lally Dividina Tidor. This is her 2nd year in a row award. Congratulations! Keep it going!
 2 ANG TUNAY daa na Bicolano, KALBO! Salamat Folks Badong sa masiram na gulay na santol and for hosting the awe-

some parlor games! Until our next events!
 3. Winner (2nd place), on-the-spot painting contest Wendrian Colombo! She also bagged the "People's Choice Award" for level 1 (kids).
 4. First runner up, on-the-spot painting contest (level 2). Congratulations to our birthday celebrant, sir Cemil Demir! Great artwork!

Thank you for joining our noble cause and for donating your winnings to the BCCA!
 5. FIRST Place, on-the-spot painting contest BCCA Kaogmahon/picnic 2024! Congratulations Wayne Brian Colombo!
 6-8. CONGRATULATIONS to our winners for 2024 BCCA CHESS Competition: Level 1:

Juvy Ann Belen - Champion
 George Santullo - 1st runner up
 Level 2:
 Gerald Segovia - Champion
 Fred Pringle - 1st runner up
 Gerard Reyes
 Elvin Turiano

Pinoy Ontario Vendors Annual BBQ



POV President Paulo Bucud with OMNI Theresa Redula



MPP Michael Kerzner acknowledges POV's role in helping nurses during the pandemic and it's role in the reopening.



IBANAGS HOLD THEIR ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC

The Ibanags in Ontario, Canada have had their annual summer celebration with a potluck picnic on July 27, 2024, at Morningside Park, Scarborough, Toronto.

True to their tradition, the Ibanags and former residents of the northeast province of Isabela in the Philip-

ines got together to socialize and catch up with their fellow "kababayan".

About 200 former residents of Cabagan and neighbouring towns in Isabela, together with their family, relatives, friends, and guests joined the celebration.

Geographically, Cabagan is a land-locked municipality located on the eastern banks of the Cagayan River in Northern Luzon.

At the picnic, the ethnolinguistic group and their guests enjoyed time and camaraderie with lots of friendly "kumustahan" among townmates, especially on trending matters about family relations, social, and marital transformations and political developments.

The picknickers served and shared 4 lechons (roast porks) and brought their "pinagmamalaki at masasarap na lutong Ibanag". There were also special park games for the kids and young ones.

Before the day's end, the Ibanags decided to have another event this year, a family-focused Christmas party. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT).



BINI's agency vows to take action vs inappropriate deepfakes

Star Music, the agency of P-pop powerhouse BINI, announced that it is taking action against inappropriate deepfake videos and photos of the members, amid concerns of the girl group's safety.

In a statement on BINI's social media platforms on Monday, Sept. 2, their label said it "strongly condemns [the] harmful acts" done towards the P-pop girl group.

"It has come to our attention that there are malicious, edited deep fake photos and videos



of BINI members circulating on social media. We strongly condemn these harmful acts. Our team has already taken action to remove some of these accounts," the post read.

The label added that it was coordinating with "proper government agencies and authorities" to address the matter.

Rita Avila recalls being sexually harassed by director: 'Kadiri, nakakatakot'

Rita Avila revealed she was also sexually harassed by a director, who she said forcefully tried to kiss her when she was just about to enter show biz.

Avila began by lamenting the sexual abuse cases in show business, although she clarified that there are still those in the industry who do not tolerate such.

"Sa Seiko Films, Viva Films at iba pang movie productions o TV ay wala naman akong na-encounter na ganun," she attested, dismissing claims that female lead stars are supposedly required to do indecent acts during auditions.

Recalling her stint as a sexy star, Avila continued, "Tinutuya ako sa pagpapaxy. Excited nga ako sa sexy scenes noon kasi ganun pala ang art; ganun pala ang epekto ng ilaw at anggulo, hindi kelangang ipakita ang kaluluwa."

But despite this, Avila admitted she also has a "secret."

"Hindi pa ako artista noon ay may nakilala akong direktor na 'binebenta' ako sa producer," she recounted. "Sabay nananamantala din itong direktor na ito. Pilit humahalik. Kadiri. Nakakatakot."



Avila said she immediately told her mom about the incident but that the latter just shrugged it off.

"Nagsumbong ako sa nanay ko pero parang wala lang sa kanya. Yun pala ay naabutan siya," she lamented, noting that her mom even "pushed" her to be with her cousin-in-law but that she was able to avoid such from happening.

"Nakakapanliit. Nakakagalit. Sobrang masakit," she said.

Relating to her previous Instagram post about sexual abuse victims speaking up, she continued, "Kanya-kanyang kapalaran at paglalakbay sa buhay... Imbis na manapak, mang-akay."

Some of the celebrities who recently spoke out about the sexual abuse and misconducts they suffered were Sandro Muhlach, Gerald Santos and Ahron Villena.

Atlas D'aoust 5th Birthday Celebration



Action Honda's Rafael Nebres supports Bicol Picnic



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BICOL CANADA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (BCCA) PICNIC

1. Action Honda's Rafael Nebres with 2nd year art contest winner Lally Dividina Tidor
2. Lally, Bicol President Earl dacara, Taste of Manila Rolly Mangante, Action Honda's Rafael Nebres, Annie Costiniano
3. Philippine Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville Tate and Action Honda's Rafael Nebres
4. Action Honda's Joseph Redoblado, Rafael Nebres, BCCA President Earl Dacara
5. Cheska Dacara and Rafael Nebres
6. Folks Badong keeps the games going.
7. Bicolanos play Pinoy henyo
8. Annie dances with the Bicolanos.



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Bela Padilla responds to comment saying she's "too smart" for It's Showtime

Bela Padilla replied to a netizen who commented on her Instagram post saying she is too smart to be a part of It's Showtime.

This comes after the actress-screenwriter posted a video on the social media site about her daily routine as a guest host of the Kapamilya variety show. She has been doing hosting duties for the show since August 7.

In the comments section, a netizen told Bela that a smart actress and filmmaker like her is not a good fit in the show, especially when the hosts make



jokes at the expense of their guests.

"I saw you on that show with Vice Ganda [and] her gang. I have to say it doesn't suit you. You come across as a smarter actress and intelligent filmmaker. All [this] nonsense show with their stupid cheap jokes at the expense of their guests is not you. I'm just saying," their comment read.

Bela replied to the netizen, expressing her disagreement. She defended herself and the show by saying if one is truly smart, they can adapt to any envi-

ronment.

"I always have the best time when I'm on [It's] Showtime. I genuinely love talking to people and making them laugh and I am self-deprecating enough to be laughed at too so it goes both ways," she said.

"I've been regularly visiting [It's] Showtime since 2017 and I'm lucky that Vice and 'her gang' always make me feel welcome and never oblige me to let go of what I really am, which is a filmmaker," she added.

Bela, as mentioned, has been an occasional guest host of It's Showtime since 2017. Last 2021, she decided to relocate to London, England but, at times, comes home to the Philippines for work.

Last month, she had a special participation in the ABS-CBN series Pamilya Sagrado.



Marky Hugh poses with his talents Rosemary Alcaide, Lorenz Sabay and Jer Flow of the group Tristars after their successful concert.

On our first day, we met fashion designer Renee Salud and her models.



We invited the models entourage to join us for lunch.



The next evening, they invited us for barbecue dinner.

Relaxing at THE SANDBANKS



Our generous host, Sandbanks Cottages owner Nitz Rejdik, seen here with fashion designer Renee Salud.

Jasmine Maierhofer

MODELS AND BEAUTY TITLISTS FROLIC ON THE BEACH AT SANDBANKS

LEFT TO RIGHT, Reina Hispanoamericana 5th runner-up Katrina Llegado, Jasmine Maierhofer, Eloisa Jauod, Binibining Pilipinas 2012 1st Runner-Up & 2012 Miss Supranational 3rd Runner-up Elaine Kay Moll, and Binibining Pilipinas International 2021 Hannah Arnold



Fashion designer Renee Salud and Lally Dividina Tidor



BB Pilipinas Int'l 2021 Hannah Arnold, Lally Dividina Tidor, Cony Dangiwan, Nitz Rejdik



Sandbanks part-resident served Babes Pamulaya served as our gracious and generous host, giving personalized service.



I, the photographer, Joey Baking got "stuck" with the beautiful models on the beach. 😊



Frank Cruzet relaxes by fishing.



Carlos Unas, Theresa Lumanlan, Frank Cruzet get into the goove of things at the karaoke night.



I've been posing with Reina Hispanoamericana 5th runner-up Katrina Llegado at Sandbanks all this time. I didn't realize that I took her photo at the PIDC preview presentation of their Mabuhay festival 7 days ago.



A trip to Picton is not complete without Kawarthas ice cream from Cones & Shakes.

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Lally does her relaxing with painting.



Photographer & LM Confidential publisher Joey Baking poses with model Elaine Moll.

Markus Paterson sa kanyang gay role sa Pretty Boys:

"You can't grow as an actor if you don't challenge yourself"

Nang pag-usapan ang kanyang pagtanggap ng gay role for Pretty Boys, sinabi ng aktor na si Markus Paterson na hindi daw siya lalago bilang aktor if hindi daw siya tatanggap ng challenging roles. Sabi ni Markus sa press, "You can't grow as an actor if you don't challenge yourself, if you don't push yourself to think outside of the box. Ayoko lang ma-trap, ma-typecast or whatever. Lahat ng roles, I accept."

Hindi nagdalawang isip si Markus Paterson na tanggapin ang gay role sa Viva-

Max Plus offering na "Pretty Boys," isang one-hour episode ng anthology series na Open Secret.

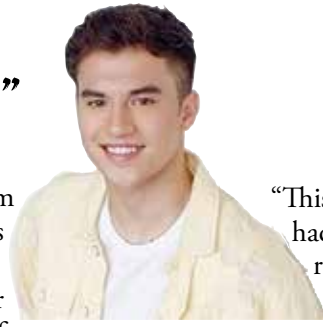
"I'd like to think of myself as an actor and I don't like to turn down roles," sabi ng aktor sa press conference ng Pretty Boys noong Huwebes, August 15 sa Viva office.

Ginampanan ni Markus si Yates, ang first crush ni Gray played by Tommy Alejandrino, sa episode. Heto ang second gay role na ginampanan ni Markus. Ang una

niya ay sa comedy-drama film na Fruitcake, where he was paired with Alex Diaz.

"You can't grow as an actor if you don't challenge yourself, if you don't push yourself to think outside of the box," sabi niya pa sa press. "Ayoko lang ma-trap, ma-typecast or whatever. Lahat ng roles, I accept."

Natuwa naman si Markus sa pagganap niya sa "Pretty Boys" dahil sa mga nakatrabaho niya sa proyektong ito.



"This was a really fun role. [It had] a great script, a great director, great actors. Sobrang nag-enjoy ako," he said.

Apart from Markus and Tommy, bibida rin sa "Pretty Boys" si Kiel Aguilar. The episode, which currently streams on VivaMax Plus, is written by Ash Malanum and directed by Ivan Andrew Payawal. The latter is best known for directing the internationally-acclaimed Boys Love (BL) series Gameboys.

Andi Eigenmann on overcoming depression:

"Setting a goal became a standard for me"

Andi Eigenmann recently talked about how setting a goal helped her in overcoming her depression in the past. The former actress said, "I know it isn't necessary but setting a goal became a standard for me, when I chose to make the effort to overcome my depression in the past. Setting a goal for anything I did helped me get up and do something."

Andi Eigenmann shared an Instagram Story about how she overcame her depression in the past, saying how setting a goal is a big help.

Last month, the former actress posted some statistics of a run she recently did. She said she has no other goal in the run but just simply getting up and doing it.

In another Instagram Story, she said how setting goals in everything she does has been a key when it comes to getting past her depression.

"I know it isn't necessary but setting a goal became a standard for me, when I chose to make the effort to overcome my depression in the past," she wrote. "Setting a goal for



anything I did helped me get up and do something."

Andi also said that her primary source of happiness are physical activities and sports. However, setting goals is not limited to that, saying "it can be anything that you can put your mind into doing that makes you feel good about yourself somehow."

However, as of the moment, she felt nice that her only goal in doing things is just doing it "out of the blue," saying she is still happy with that simple yet effective goal.

"It's nice to notice that nowadays I just do all these things 'out of the blue' and, regardless, I'm still happy," Andi said. "It used to take a lot for me to do something as simple as [getting] out of bed or [waking] up."

Andi, who is currently based in Siargao, has reportedly experienced postpartum depression in the past after giving birth to her children. She has three children, namely Ellie, who she had with actor Jake Ejercito, and Lilo and Koa, who she had with her fiancé, professional surfer Philmar Alipayo.

Rhian Ramos hops on 'shimenet' trend, gets bashed by Sara Duterte fans

Rhian Ramos drew laughs from her followers after appearing to start the "shimenet" trend on social media that referenced a terse moment when Vice President Sara Duterte tried to defend her office's requested budget for 2025 at the House of Representatives.

The latest buzzword stemmed from the remarks made by Duterte when she was arguing with solons who were questioning her 2022 spending of the P125 million confidential funds within 11 days. She said: "She may not like my answer. She may not like how I answer. She may not like the content of my answer, but I am answering."

Duterte's delivery stuck with internet users who were following the hearing, and has since spawned many funny edits as it sounded like "shimenet" or "shimenet," owing to her Visayan accent. Her voice and words eventually found its way to Black Eyed Peas' song, "Boom Boom Pow."

In a video that she posted on Instagram, Ramos lip-synched and posed on camera to her own version of the "shimenet" trend, as a remix of the song



played in the background. She captioned her post, "She may like to stay home, but sometimes, #ShimenetLike...."

Fellow celebrities Carla Abellana, Samantha Bernardo, and Katarina Rodriguez were amused by Ramos' video, as seen in the comments.

While Ramos' followers found her post to be funny, some @_heyitsrox and @tatamk2010 called the actress out for allegedly making fun of Duterte. One even warned that she might suddenly disappear, while another alluded to a past scandal involving the actress.

Aside from Ramos, Vice Ganda and Bela Padilla previously poked fun at the term "shimenet" on the August 30 episode of the noon-time show "It's Showtime."

Meanwhile, Saab Magalona also made a reference to "shimenet" as she was having a facial.

Her video caption read: "Pag di ka makasunod sa mga ganap sa government hearings."

Netizens had their own versions of the term "shimenet," with some even making remixes to famous hits on social media.

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SELF RELIANCE from page 1

entirely reasonable option within our Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT)."

The MDT is a treaty between Manila and Washington that calls for each other's defense in case of an armed attack.

Articles IV and V of the MDT state that an armed attack in the Pacific, including anywhere in the South China Sea, on either of Manila and Washington's public vessels, aircraft, or armed forces, including their coast guards, would invoke mutual defense commitments.

However, the term "armed at-

tack" was not clearly defined in the treaty.

Paparo noted that the term "armed attack" is "a diplomatic definition but not necessarily a legal definition." Nevertheless, Paparo said the US is ready to extend assistance on the Rore.

"We stand ready," he said. "It's a matter of policy post consultation, and there's a range of options that are available."

Discussions emerge as to what constitutes an armed attack under MDT whenever Beijing conducts what Manila deems as escalatory activities, like the usage of military-grade lasers,

water cannons, and even ramming which left a Navy personnel without a thumb last June, during Rore missions in the BRP Sierra Madre, a grounded ship in Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal.

So far, the Philippine side said such acts by China do not yet constitute an armed attack.

Deescalation bid, show of self-reliance

Security expert Chester Cabalza said Manila is trying to de-escalate the situation while showing a self-reliance by not acquiescing to a joint Rore with Washington.

"We are sending a message to China that the Philippines can stand on its own defense posture and our maritime entitlements and national sovereignty should be protected and safeguarded by our own navy and coast guard," said Cabalza, president and founder of Manila-based think tank International Development and Security Cooperation.

"This de-escalatory move is a primordial effort in the Philippines that support from allies and partners would be the last resort," Cabalza continued. "In a plight for fortitude and deterrence, Philippines' armed forces

can manage a hands-on to China's aggression and gray zone tactics." Beijing's actions are in line with its assertion of sovereignty in almost the entire South China Sea, including most of the West Philippine Sea, even if such a claim has been effectively invalidated by the arbitral award issued in July 2016.

This landmark ruling stemmed from a case filed by Manila in 2013, or a year after its tense standoff with Beijing over Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, whose lagoon the latter now has an effective control of.

Let's date when i'm 40 with no Gf

Paul Jake Castillo to Kaye Abad

Kaye Abad and Paul Jake Castillo are few of the showbiz best friends who ended up together in real life, and Kaye revealed a conversation that makes their love story interesting.

Kaye and Paul Jake sat with broadcast journalist Karen Davila for the latter's YouTube vlog.

The couple talked about their love story, from being best friends to lovers.

Kaye and Paul Jake met on the set of the 2010 afternoon romance drama "Alyna," starring Shaina Magdayao and Jason Abalos. The couple said they formed their friendship on set with Jason and another co-star, Beauty Gonzalez.

They were in their respective relationships when they met. As part of their barkada, they went out as a group but their friends would tease them.

"But our friends, apparently, they would tease us. Kayo may something kayo. Pero wala talaga..." said Kaye.

She added, "Aminin ko nagustuhan ko siya 2014 na when he said I think I'm starting to like you. Siya 'yung unang nagsabi. Hindi ko pa rin siya gusto.

"Pwede kong sabihin okay kami, compatible kami pero hindi ko na-imagine na hahalikan o iki-kiss 'yung kaibigan ko."

Paul Jake said that Kaye was afraid that their friendship might be affected, a sentiment he agreed with.



"Kasi we're really good friends," Kaye asserted.

It wasn't until Paul Jake went to Europe one time and Kaye realized that she missed him.

"Doon ko na-realize bakit ko siya nami-miss. Doon na nag-start," the actress shared.

Paul Jake said he does not remember when he actually started liking the former teen star, but he had a moment of clarity when he realized that he could wake up beside her every day.

It was at this point that Kaye remembered their conversation.

The actress revealed throughout their con-

versation with Davila that Paul Jake calls her by her last name.

She, in turn, calls Paul Jake, "Sir." Her pet name for her husband started when she was visiting Paul Jake in Cebu one time and he hosted her and their friends. Paul Jake's family is well-off and is behind the popular liniment oil brand "Efficascent Oil."

"Actually, Ms. Karen, mero'n na siyang before mag-kaibigan palang kami.

"Sabi niya, 'Abad, if mag-40 ako and wala kang boyfriend, wala akong girlfriend, tayo na lang.' May ganyan na siya... Planado niya 'yun," said Kaye.

Kaye Abad and Paul Jake Castillo during their December 2016 wedding

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Davila said that there must be some meaning why Paul Jake said that to Kaye.

"See? May something nga. May something ka. Bakit mo ko in-offer-an na 'pag nag-40 ka tapos pag wala akong boyfriend, wala kang girlfriend, tayo na lang?" reiterated Kaye.

Paul Jake, whose humor was shown throughout the inter-

view, threw another quip as a reply.

"Eh, kumbaga parang ano lang, Ms. Karen, 'yung donor lang ng bata ba," Paul Jake said, eliciting laughter from Davila.

The broadcast journalist noted how Kaye seemingly gets her husband's sense of humor.

"Oo. Sanay na sanay na," said Kaye.

Joel Lamangan denies he 'exploited' Ahron Villena

Joel Lamangan confirmed that he is the unnamed director whom Ahron Villena accused of exploitation, but the former denied the latter's claim and asserted he did not take advantage of the actor.

Lamangan finally spoke about this through a phone call with veteran columnist Jobert Sucaldito, who then shared their conversation via his and his co-host Chaps Manansala's online show "OOTD" on Wednesday, Aug. 28.

"I called Direk Joel Lamangan the other night. Nag-kausap kami and I asked him about this thing — kung siya ba 'yung pinapatungkulan [ni Ahron]," Sucaldito said. "At yes, umamin siyang siya 'yon. Siya 'yung pina-

patungkulan [ni Ahron]."

Sucaldito said Lamangan explained to him that the incident happened when they were filming a movie that included a love scene with Villena and lead actress Lovi Poe.

"...May cameo role nga itong si Ahron Villena. 'Yung eksena raw na 'yon ay medyo maselan... Kaya raw ang ginawa [ni Joel], 'yung makeup artist ay pinaalis niya at siya



Lamangan as saying.

plaster kay Ahron Villena," Sucaldito said.

Lamangan admitted to Sucaldito that he was the one who put the plaster on Villena, but the director clarified that he did so with good intentions.

"Nag-magandang loob lang daw siya. 'Baka kasi mamaya, ikalat pa [nung] makeup artist, kung ano pang ikwento about you'—something like that," Sucaldito quoted

"Pero sabi [ni Joel], ang ginawa niya, hinigpitan niya lang daw 'yung plaster. Kumbaga para di kumawala..." the columnist continued. "Pero wala raw intensyon [si Joel] na para chansingan... Kumbaga he just did that help, favor for him."

Nonetheless, Sucaldito as well as his co-host underscored that Villena's sentiment should not be invalidated.

"Yun ang sabi [ni Joel]. Kumbaga it's his word against Ahron's... Kanya-kanya silang may points," Sucaldito added.

Villena's revelation came amid the investigation of sexual abuse in the entertainment industry, which started after GMA actor Sandro Muhlach spoke up on the alleged abuse he suffered at the hands of GMA independent contractors Jojo Nones and Richard Cruz.

Action Honda's Rafael Nebres supports Bicol Canada Community Association

They had their annual picnic at Earl bales



Hyacinth Callado finds safe space through love team partner Gab Lagman

Hyacinth Callado what she discovered new from Gab Lagman on the set of *Chasing in the Wild*: “He’s super supportive. For example, I’ve had a couple of challenges along the way but he’s been there with me to help me, to hold my hand and help reassure me that I have the safe space that I need to get through everything.”

For Gab Lagman and Hyacinth Callado, popularly known as the HyGab love team, it still feels surreal that they get to play lead stars this time in *Chasing in the Wild*, an adaptation of the third installment of Gwy Saludes’ “University Series,” but remains grateful for the opportunity to showcase their acting talents.



“We’ve been waiting for this for a long time. We’re just happy we started shooting and we’re very excited to watch our show,” Gab, who plays Sevi on the show, told pikapika.ph in an exclusive interview.

For Hyacinth, she and Gab feel pressure about having lead roles in the “University Series” but reiterates that having gratitude helps in easing her emotions about their

portrayal in the show. “There’s some pressure that we feel din. I remember my emotions would go up and down but, overall, I’m just grateful that I’ve been able to learn a lot and everything has shown me what my capabilities are. It’s fun and a new experience for me but we’ve really been giving our best so I’m really just trying to see the positive side of things,” she said.

portrayal in the show.

“There’s some pressure that we feel din. I remember my emotions would go up and down but, overall, I’m just grateful that I’ve been able to learn a lot and everything has shown me what my capabilities are. It’s fun and a new experience for me but we’ve really been giving our best so I’m really just trying to see the positive side of things,” she said.

Gab said working with Hyacinth now as lead stars of the show is way different from their supporting roles in the first two adaptations of the “University Series,” saying they got to know each other more as they got to spend more time together.

“We didn’t really know [anything] about each other, but now na we did lots of workshop, we did a lot of relationship works, and we got to do music videos together, now we gotten closer for the past few months and I’m really thankful

for those workshops because I feel like I got to know her more and wala ng wall,” he said.

Hyacinth, on the other hand, feels more connected to her character Elyse and found it nice seeing how her bond with Gab goes beyond the set.

“With Elyse and Sevi, it’s been really nice being able to see our dynamic together on-and-off set,” she said.

When asked if they discovered anything new about each other while filming *Chasing in the Wild*, Hyacinth saw how Gab has been so supportive when it comes to helping her with challenges she faced on set.

“Maybe he gets it from basketball,” she said. “But [he’s] super supportive. For example, I’ve had a couple of challenges along the way but he’s been there with me to help me, to hold my hand and help reassure me that I have the safe space that I need to get through every-

thing.”

“Because of him, I was able to get through a lot so I’m very thankful,” she added.

For Gab, he learned how great of a dancer and cheerleader Hyacinth was. As her portrayal of Elyse required the actress to learn a lot of moves and stunts, he was amazed at how he got to pull it off.

“Has she been cheerleading for a while?” he recalled himself saying after seeing her on set. “She was that good.”

For Hyacinth and Gab, they hope fans see how they both did their best to portray Elyse and Sevi when they watch *Chasing in the Wild*.

“I hope na ma-enjoy and ma-appreciate nila ‘yong ginagawa namin,” Gab said.

Chasing in the Wild premiered its first episode last August 16. It is currently streaming on Viva One.

Troy & KC Montero talk about their teenage years and present sibling relationship

The Montero brothers, Troy and KC, open up about their childhood, their unique bond, and the lessons they’ve learned from each other.

Questions in the “Guilty or Not Guilty” segment of “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda,” my 20-minute daily showbiz-oriented show on GMA, had celebrity brothers Troy and KC Montero talking about their teenage years and their present sibling relationship.

Troy and KC are Fil-Am celebrities who began their showbiz career in the Philippines in 1995 and 1997, respectively. The former was a model first before becoming an actor while the latter made a name for himself as a radio DJ, host, and actor.

The Montero brothers were born and raised in Seattle by their US-born, of Filipino descent mom Cynthia Garabato Miller and US-born German-Irish ancestry dad, Cody Miller Jr. Their father passed away in 2018. Troy and KC have a younger brother named Colby.

Troy and KC are thankful to their mom for their good looks with the latter insisting that he’s only “pogi.” According to him, Troy has usually been referred to as the “guwapo” since they came home from the US.

“Dito sa Pilipinas, siya ‘yung ‘guwapo,’” said KC in reference to his brother Troy. “Ako ‘yung ‘pogi,’ parang cute lang, ‘guwapo’ is handsome,” he explained.

Both confessed they often engaged in fistfights when they were younger. KC revealed Troy would bully him more often than not.

“(I’m) six years older, ako ‘yung kuya, so you know,” reasoned Troy before he added, “Minsan he (KC) deserved it.”

KC, in turn, shared how bully Troy was when they were kids. He said, “Talagang bully siya, kahit isang tingin, sabay suntok. I didn’t fight back because he would say, ‘Don’t tell mom or I’ll hurt you more.’”

Although Troy was a bully, KC revealed how his brother had covered him from their mom so she wouldn’t punish him for his mischief in high school. “(There was) one time, because I was really a bad boy in high school. Sabi niya (Troy) sa ‘kin, ‘Either you tell mom or I would



tell mom.’ And I thanked him for it.”

From being teenagers until they became independent, self-sufficient adults, there was no instance where Troy and KC fought about girls.

KC amusingly declared that they have different tastes in women yet he disclosed that some of his past girlfriends admitted to having a crush on Troy “kasi nga pogi

lang ako,” he quipped.

Troy was guilty of being a playboy during his younger years. “It was fun but of course, now no more.” He is married to Aubrey Miles and they have two children – Hunter and Rocket.

I asked if they have the same style in courting women, Troy replied in the negative while KC stressed that his persistent attitude gained him a beautiful wife.

“I stalked my wife kasi ayaw niya talaga. She’s picky,” stated KC whose wife is the Filipina-Kiwi beauty queen Stephanie Dads. The couple welcomed their firstborn, Wyatt Cody Miller, named after KC’s dad, in December, 2020.

According to Troy, he only became persistent with one woman and that was none other than Aubrey whom he courted for six months.

Was there a time that they cried in front of each other?

“No,” answered Troy. “We talk to each other but we’ve never come to that point; we have not just reached that level.”

KC disclosed they also send each other text messages about the goings-on in their lives.

What do they continue to learn from each other?

“I cannot learn anything more,” replied Troy.

For his part, KC said, “I learned from my brother a lot. I learn from his mistakes.”

Troy and KC Montero are Fil-Am celebrities who began their showbiz career in the Philippines in 1995 and 1997,

respectively. The former was a model first before becoming an actor while the latter made a name for himself as a radio DJ, host, and actor. The Montero brothers are thankful to their mom for their good looks with the latter insisting that he’s only “pogi.” According to him, Troy has usually been referred to as the “guwapo” since they came home from the US.

Paolo Contis on changing ‘Dear Satan’ title: We’re being sensitive to viewers

Changing the title will not change the whole movie,” declared actor Paolo Contis on the decision of Mavx Productions, producer of the controversial film “Dear Satan,” to simply come up with a new title after the project drew negative reactions from netizens, claiming this might send a wrong message to children.

“Changing the title just means we’re being sensitive to what people are saying. We’d rather do that than not get the film shown. The movie is finished. It’s been fully edited, and it’s beautiful,” said Paolo, who also admitted that the film is actually based on his concept.

Paolo said the change in title also means that he and the production respect what the public is saying. “It’s a movie. It’s fiction. Its main concept is the battle between good and evil. It features a child, who is pure at heart, and Satan. If you want the clearest depiction of good and evil, who do you think is the best person to show evil other than Satan? That’s just my opinion. Then again, it’s fiction,” Paolo pointed out.

He added that, while filming, he and the production team made sure they were sensitive to the needs of their child actor, Sienna Stevens, both physically and emotionally. “I guess people were just reacting to the title. You cannot judge the whole film based on that. It’s the concept of the movie—the child, who was writing to Santa, made a mistake and misspelled it as ‘Satan.’”

The actor went further by sharing what he thought was the true message of the film. “We always hear people say, ‘You should have child-like faith.’ This is the literal depiction of that. No matter how bad I am—as Satan—to the kid, she is still kind to me. For me, the message is

beautiful. It’s just sad that people chose to connect it to all sorts of issues,” he said. Paolo then admitted to being surprised with the public’s reaction to the title. “I honestly thought they would see the difference between art, of a fictional movie, and [real-life issues]. The movie didn’t say we should idolize Satan. I think the trailer was very clear that I’m trying to influence her [to become bad], but it never happened because her faith is strong.”

Paolo said he personally sat down with Mavx head



Lucky Blanco to discuss the issue prior to releasing a formal statement about it during the weekend. “Lucky wanted to be sensitive to what the people were saying. I just wish they would give the movie a chance. I guess one of the things they noticed was that Satan is still too nice. This is a children’s film, obviously. I could portray Satan at his worst, but that will not look good either because we are working with children,” he explained.

“I also believe that, yes, you go to the cinemas to watch and learn from what you’ve seen. But the lesson should still be discussed at home. Again, we made sure that by watching the movie, the kids will not question their faith. It will just show that a person with strong faith in God will not be swayed to do bad things,” Paolo declared.

The movie, which also features Aya Fernandez, is scheduled for a commercial release on Sept. 18. Meanwhile, Paolo is shooting a drama-comedy titled “Con-Mom” with his long-time friends Kaye Abad and Patrick Garcia, along with Empoy Marquez and Kit Thompson, also for Mavx Productions.

PCCF DONATES OVER \$5,000 to ANCOP CANADA!!

The annual ANCOP Walk took over Centennial Park last Saturday August 17th, 2024 to raise awareness and to help raise funds to help the needy. ANCOP is one of the main beneficiaries of the PCCF and its main goal is to restore dignity and uplift the lives of poor children and families around the world through education, livelihood programs and providing them with homes.

The Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) led by President Rosemer Enverga along with



PCCF members Romy & Rebecca Rafael, Lita & Tony Leano, Elvie Ortiz, Lilac Cana, Loida Cox and Nancy Caladulcan along with the Pageant Entourage joined the thousands to walk for a cause despite the rain!

A donation of \$5,000 was handed over to ANCOP heads Gabby Consulta and Al Basilio.

Through PCCF’s activities and efforts, its motto is to “Have Fun, while Helping Others!”

So let’s build more houses for the poor!



A Bagets celebrates 40

Sharon brought Raymond to Viva. He was signed to a recording and movie contract, was sent off to the movie set to join Sharon and Rowell Santiago in "Cross My Heart" and to the recording studio to do his first album.

Thus began a career that has lasted over 40 years and that is what Raymond is celebrating with a concert titled Just Got Lucky at The Theatre in Solaire on Nov. 23. For all Bagets fans and Raymond diehards, prepare to get into a time machine to experience those heady, fun-filled bagets days of long ago with this show.

Watch Just Got Lucky and dance and sing to the sounds of "Bagets," "Bagets 2" and "Hotshots" like Standing in the Shadow of Time, I Need You Back, So It's You, Then Maybe and never, never forget the all-time favorite graduation song, Farewell. Marvel at Raymond's expressive baritone singing Saan Darating ang Umaga by George Canseco and Kapag Puso'y Sinugatan by Willy Cruz. Maybe he will also do the show's title tune.

Now Just Got Lucky was a perky tune popularized by the British band JoBoxers in 1983. It was not used in the Bagets movie soundtrack. But somebody so clever and blessed with ears that could spot a hit gave it to the bagets and it was used to promote the movie.

Just Got Lucky proved to be so successful as a promo tool that one of the most enduring memories of the Bagets era is that of the boys and girls from the movie dancing to the tune while making circles with their fists. Maybe Raymond will sing and dance to that one, too.

And all that happened 40 years ago. Who would have thought that a baget or a bagets will have a 40th anniversary. Well, time passes but let us all be thankful we are able to celebrate and remember.

Dimples Romana savors 'happy pressure' in 'High Street' stint

The role of Tori in "High Street" was not the first time for Dimples Romana to be the series antagonist. But what made this character different from Romana's previous antagonist roles was how she made sure that it would make a mark on Gen-Z viewers.

While Romana wasn't included in "Senior High," the first part of the youth series, her character is connected to the drama's original villain, William Acosta (Mon Confiado), as his half-sister. This, in return, gives

her the drive to exact revenge on Sky Love Cruz (Andrea Brillantes) as well.

Despite this, the actress said one of her priorities with her character is how her Gen-Z daughter Callie would respond to it.

"I wanted it to be textured... familyado akong tao and very precious sa'kin ang time ko with my family. To choose to be outside of that has to be something of value to other people. May Gen-Z akong anak (I have a daughter who is Gen-Z) And when I do 'High Street,' I think of Callie," she said during a presscon for the series.

Romana hoped that her stint as Tori would make Callie proud of her work as an actress, despite her dark nature.

"Would [Callie] appreciate this work? Magiging proud ba ang anak ko sa trabaho kong 'to (Will my daughter be proud of my work)? My character has to mean something... You can't compete with anyone but yourself," she said.

When asked if she still felt the pressure to do her character justice, the actress said she doesn't concern herself much with pressure whenever she takes on a role.

"We don't operate on pressure anymore, more of happy pressure. We like the inspiration and the drive. If there's pressure, it's more within ourselves," she said.

Earlier this month, Brillantes said having the opportunity to slap Romana was an "honor," as she used to be on the receiving end of the older actress' painful slaps in "Kadenang Ginto."

"High Street" follows five years after "Senior High," telling the story of Sky Love Cruz (Brillantes) moving forward with her career as an investigative journalist. She crosses paths with Tori (Romana) who turns out to be a half-sister of the now-dead William Acosta (Confiado), but with darker intentions.

The series also stars Juan Karlos Labajo, Xyriel Manabat, Elijah Canlas, Zaijian Jaraniela, Miggy Jimenez, Tommy Alejandrino, Angel Aquino, Romnick Sarmenta, and Gela Atayde.



Carlos Yulo open to join 'Batang Quiapo'

Two-time Olympic gold medalist Carlos Yulo is game to do a cameo role in the hit series "Batang Quiapo."

In an interview with the media after he received the P5 million from the ArenaPlus, Carlos said he is open to be a guest in the series if Coco Martin will ask him even though he has no experience in acting.

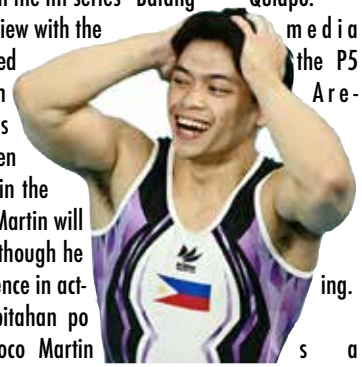
"Kung iimitahan po ako ni Sir Coco Martin sa 'Batang Quiapo' kahit isang shooting day lang, papayag ako," Carlos said.

"Game na game po ako. Bahala na po si Direk Coco kung ano 'yong magiging role ko," he added.

Carlos also renewed his endorsement as the brand ambassador of DigiPlus and ArenaPlus.

"Nakatulong po sila sa akin before Olympics, especially in training. I'm deeply grateful to DigiPlus and Arena Plus for their unwavering support," Carlos said.

"DigiPlus is immensely proud to support champions like Carlos, whose relentless pursuit of excellence embodies the spirit of the Filipino people," said DigiPlus chairman Eusebio Tanco.



Chloe San Jose returns to 'ASAP Natin 'To' stage

Olympic gold medalist Carlos Yulo's girlfriend Chloe San Jose made her comeback to "ASAP Natin 'To" stage yesterday.

The content creator performed Camila Cabello's hit song "Havana" being the show's "Woman of the Hour."

After her performance, Chloe was joined by hosts Robi Domingo, Edward Barber and Maymay Entrata, for a quick interview.

"Kinakabahan po ako," Chloe said.

When asked for her career plans, Chloe said: "I'm just so excited and happy to be here po."

"Let's see what the future holds," she added.

Chloe first performed on "ASAP" in 2019 where she sang Jireh Lim's "Dahan."



Filipino-Canadians launch search for Miss Universe Philippines delegate

TORONTO - The Miss Universe Philippines pageant will have a delegate from the Filipino community in Canada next year, with Filipino-Canadians launching in August their own search for their bet to the 2025 national competition.

Former advertising executive Michiko Unso, who is heading the Miss Universe Philippines Canada as its global director, shared the development with Manila-based journalists and online content

creators through a virtual press conference conducted on Aug. 30 (Aug. 31 in Manila). She was joined by the organization's Business Development Engagement Director Aaron Mariano.

The Miss Universe Philippines Organization (MUPH) is running an accredited partnership (AP) program that taps individuals and groups to conduct their own search for a delegate from their respective town, city, province, or overseas Filipino

community.

In the recent edition of the Miss Universe Philippines pageant that culminated in May, nine candidates were fielded by the overseas Filipino communities in Australia and Sydney from the "Land Down Under," Florida, Hawaii, Miami, Northern California, Southern California, and Virginia in the United States, and the United Kingdom. There was originally a delegate



from Washington, but she withdrew from the competition.

Unso said mounting the search started as a dream. "I felt there is a need to have representation from Canada to the Philippines. [There was still no] Miss Universe Philippines [AP] here," she said during the virtual conference.

PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY COUNCIL (PIDC)

Officers and members of PIDC pose for a group picture with fashion designer Renee' Salud at the Toronto City Hall foyer where they held their preview of the upcoming Mabuhay Festival.

PHOTO: RAYMOND SANTOS





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Angel Aquino, daughter Iana Bernardez reveal dream co-stars, director

Angel Aquino's daughter, Iana Bernardez, is carving a name for herself as a producer, but Iana also hopes to follow in her mother's footsteps as an actress.

Philstar.com is doing a series of mini-stories featuring the talented mother-daughter tandem of Angel and Iana.

They sat down for an interview before they were photographed for a fashion editorial featuring sustainable clothing and accessories.

Angel and Iana shared their respective showbiz journeys and their hopes and dreams for each other's careers.

"It relies heavily on who wrote it and also who is directing it, 'cause we work with people very closely for how many years. It's important now that you have a good relationship with your director or whoever owns the film or the story because it will take years to develop," Iana said.

"I heavily consider projects based on the person I'm working with," she added.

The producer and aspiring actress also shared her dream co-workers and co-stars.



Mother and daughter Angel Aquino and Iana Bernardez does a sustainable fashion editorial for Philstar.com at Novotel Suites Manila at Acqua in Mandaluyong City.

"I enjoyed working with Janine Gutierrez. And then I wanna work with [Irish actor and star of 'Normal People'] Paul Mescal," she said.

Angel, meanwhile, has established herself as a reliable character actor. In her years in notable performances, she has worked with some of the best both here in the Philippines and abroad, including the late, great Cherie

Gil and French actress Isabelle Hupert.

For the "High Street" star, she still has names on her showbiz wish list.

"Yorgos Lanthimos, the director of 'Poor Things' with Emma Stone. I wanna be able to work with a foreign director. I wanna be able to work in a foreign production to see how they do it out there?" Angel said.

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Piolo Pascual, Jasmine Curtis-Smith on message of Real Life Fiction:

“It’s not abnormal to be talking to yourself”

Real Life Fiction lead stars Piolo Pascual and Jasmine Curtis-Smith explained how talking to yourself is one healthy way of battling your personal demons in your head. It is their personal takeaway for moviegoers when they watch the movie after it premieres in SM Cinemas this coming August 28. Piolo said “It’s not abnormal to talk to yourself. It’s not abnormal to acknowledge and question your thoughts, the things that run in your head, but we also have to have a grasp of reality.”

Piolo Pascual and Jasmine Curtis-Smith are hopeful that moviegoers can normalize self-talk upon watching their new film *Real Life Fiction*.

The movie is centered around Paco (Piolo), an actor with a decorated career who struggles with distinguishing reality from fiction after many years in the limelight. He decides to act in, write, and direct a film that will inevitably bring him closer to his own demise before revealing that his truth may be far from what he has become.

“It’s not abnormal to talk to yourself. It’s not abnormal to acknowledge and question your thoughts, the things that run in your head, but we also have to have a grasp of reality,” the actor said during the press conference and advanced screening of *Real Life Fiction* last August 21. “Kasi, sometimes, if wala kang nakakausap, you tend to believe your own thoughts and kailangan meron kang nasasabihan.”

Piolo added that his character led a complicated



life by choice and the movie poses a question of how one deals with themselves having their own personal demons in their head.

“For me, reflective siya. You have to dig deep into yourself,” he said. “It’s a personal experience, for me, I think.”

For Jasmine, who plays Paco’s on-and-off-screen muse Paula, she believes the movie showcases how one should know the fine line between their commitment with their life, their work, and their relationships.

“Just knowing yourself is important. And sometimes you can know yourself so much that you feel like kaya mo ‘to, you can push yourself, you can handle this but, at the same time, when you’re tackling new waters that you’re not aware of the geography, you can easily drown and not have the help,” she said.

The actress also agreed with Piolo’s sentiments that talking to yourself can be a big help, but added

that having a support system can also be of aid to facing your inner demons.

“So, talk to yourself, self-talk. Also, look for the people who can support you. If it’s texting yourself, if it’s texting your friend, if it’s looking at yourself in the mirror and literally saying to yourself what you want to hear, then say it, do it. It might sound crazy, it might sound weird but, honestly, it does help,” she said.

Jasmine has personally experienced having troubles crossing the line between fiction and reality during one of her tapings, just as her and Piolo’s character in *Real Life Fiction*. She recalled bringing the heavy emotions her character felt when she got home.

“Hanggang work lang ‘to, tapos na, pack-up na, uwi ka na. You are not this character, you do not carry her burdens, you are not in her mind, this is you now,” she recounted telling herself before. “I have to set that boundary here. It’s as easy as that but it’s very important so that you don’t get lost in your work, in your career.”

Real Life Fiction, which was shot during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, is a collaboration between Viva Films, Spring Films, and TEN17P. Directed by Paul Soriano, the psychological thriller, which also stars Epy Quizon and Victor Silayan, sheds light on the psyche and limits to which actors push themselves and the people around them to find brilliance in madness.



National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) operatives raid a massage clinic offering Lingam massage as “freebies” to clients, rescuing three therapists and arresting its manager (covered by green towel). Photos taken on July 30, 2024 in Pagadian City.

NBI raids massage clinic offering ‘lingam’ as freebie

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines – The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) here raided a massage clinic that offered “Lingam” massage as freebie to clients, rescuing three therapists and arresting its manager for violations of the anti-trafficking law.

NBI Pagadian district office chief Joey Moran said the massage clinic Vitalidad at Rizal Avenue, Gatas district here appeared to operate a “clean” business at first glance except for the unusual freebie it was offering to customers.

“Being a massage clinic, they offer a massage. But the twist is, they offer freebies like massage on private parts,” Moran said. “The bottomline is they arouse the customer by touching his private parts.”

Lingam is a type of tantric massage that focuses on the male organ. According to one of the rescued therapists, some customers sought the massage because of its claim as a cure for prostate cancer.

Moran said they received a report on July 22 about the massage clinic’s unusual freebies, prompting them to conduct an operation in the evening of Tuesday, July 30, with a poseur customer who tested the service using marked money and signaled to authorities to start the operation and rescue.

Among the three women therapists rescued by personnel of the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), a 25-year old woman from Guipos town said they were giving the Lingam massage because of its claim to “prevent prostate cancer.”

All three rescued therapists denied they were giving “extra services to clients,” but confirmed that Lingam massage was part of the package of services they offered. At a price range of P700 to P2,000, customers can avail of a full body scrub inside the shower and Lingam massage.

“Even if they are massage workers accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), offering Lingam services is not part of their job,” said Joefel Daquiag, CSWD sectoral division head. “They have no idea that the offered packages harass them as women. All they knew was it’s part of the package and it’s part of their job. It degrades them as women and they were unaware of it,” Daquiag said.

Only three therapists and the manager were around during the raid.

Moran said they arrested the massage clinic’s manager, identified as Nenita Batelo, since the owner was not in the area. Batelo and the owner—who is still at large—will be charged with violation of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

Moran said the NBI would also be looking into the operations of two other massage clinics in Zamboanga del Sur offering similar services.

The raided massage clinic, which opened in November last year, has around 20 branches all over Mindanao, according to Batelo.

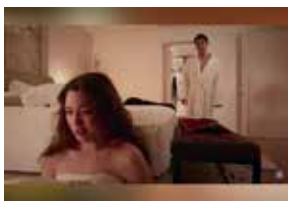


Viewers decry portrayal, abuse of women in ‘Batang Quiapo’

Viewers and social media users raised concern regarding the plight of a number of female characters in the nightly action show “FPJ’s *Batang Quiapo*.”

On X, formerly Twitter, many shared their observation on how the show, starring and directed by Coco Martin, wrote the characters of the young Marites (Miles Ocampo), Bubbles (Ivana Alawi), Camille (Yuuki Takahashi) and Katherine (Ara Davao).

The portrayal and abuse of these female characters did not sit well for many viewers, prompting



them to air their frustration and critiques of the show on social media, notably X.

“Me lang ba nakakapansin na halos pare-parehas lang nangyayari sa mga babaeng characters sa ‘Batang Quiapo.’ Nakakadiri kasi ganon na lang nang ganon ‘yung ginagawa sa kanila. Rape=Patay. I mean it’s only a show but??????? Ganon na lang ba role ng mga babae sa ‘Batang Quiapo,’” one online user lamented.

Another one wrote, “Too much na ‘yung r@pe scene sa ‘Batang Quiapo.’ Halos lahat na lang ng

babaeng character nar@pe. Si Marites, si Mokang, si Camille, si Bubbles tas ngayon si Katherine. Sino susunod? Si Madonna at Tisay? Jusko. Lubayan nyo na ‘yan.”

Some called on the creatives of ABS-CBN, where the show currently airs on its online platform and affiliate free TV channels, to “go back to the drawing board” for better plot and treatment of the show.

“I hope that ‘Batang Quiapo’ would go back to the drawing board and start recalibrating itself because all of these abuse, rape, and sex scenes are starting to become very gratuitous. It’s getting a little too heavy handed, to be honest,” an X user tweeted.

Maja Salvador back to working out three months after childbirth

Three months after she gave birth to her first child Maria, Maja Salvador is already back in the gym to get her pre-pregnancy figure back.

The actress gave a glimpse of her workout session with her sister-in-law Yane Alvarez, whom she called her “workout buddy” and regards as her inspiration.

“Love you ate! You’re such an inspiration to me!” she addressed Alvarez. “Grabe ka after [four] kids oh!”

“Kaya naman lezzgow, Mama Maj!” Salvador cheered for herself.

Alvarez then expressed her love and support for Salvador via the comments section, along with the latter’s fellow actresses and mothers Iza Calzado and Ria Atayde.

Salvador and her husband, Rambo



Nuñez, tied the knot twice in 2023 — the first time in a civil ceremony in February and the second in Bali, Indonesia, in July.

The couple revealed last December that they would be welcoming their first child. Salvador then gave birth to Maria in May.

Days after announcing their daughter’s birth, Salvador revealed that she almost had to undergo surgery due to a complication that caused severe blood loss.

“Sinabihan na lang ako ng Doula ko na anytime I would have to go to the operating room for surgery. That time sabi ko na lang sa sarili ko na I can’t do anything anymore. Ubos na ubos na lakas ko,” she recalled.

“I started praying Hail Mary, paulit-ulit kahit wala na akong lakas. And miraculously, after their last attempt, one of the OB GYN succeeded in repositioning my uterus. AMEN!” she added.

Denise Esteban, mas malapit sa puso ang acting kesa performing

Ayon kay Denise Esteban, mas malapit sa puso niya ang acting kesa performing dahil ito daw ay pang-arap niya kahit noong bata pa siya.

Para kay Denise Esteban, mas pipiliin niya ngayon ang pag-arte sa pagiging on-stage performer.

Natanong ito sa aktres at dating miyembro ng PPop Generation sa press conference ng kanyang bagong pelikula na F-Buddies, which is one of VivaMax's latest offerings.

"[Mas malapit sa puso ko] ang acting po talaga pero, siguro, nag-stay na 'yong performing sa puso ko because nag-start din po talaga as a performer, sa PPop Generation," sabi ni Denise sa press.

Dagdag pa niya, sobrang saya ang ramdam niya sa pag-a-arte dahil ito daw ang pangarap niya ever since bata pa siya.

"Iba pa rin po 'yong nararamdaman ko sa acting

since 'yon po 'yong pangarap ko [noong] bata pa," say niya.

Nang tanungin naman siya kung paano tumutulong ang pagbibida sa VivaMax films sa kanyang artistry bilang aktres, sabi ni Denise na sa bawat appearance niya sa mga pelikula, she believes she is one step closer to her dreams.

"Every time na may movie akong ginagawa, feeling ko nandoon na ko sa pangarap ko, parang nakuha ko na siya," sabi niya. "Pero hindi po 'yon nagsa-stop sa akin para mangarap pa. So, 'pag nakuha ko na 'tong pangarap na 'to, mangangarap ulit ako ng isa pa."

"Libre lang naman po talaga mangarap, wala namang bayad so walang pumipigil sa akin para mangarap tsaka 'pag umaarte ako, iba 'yong nafeel ko sa puso ko, na parang feeling ko kumpleto ako 'pag umaarte," dagdag pa niya.



Bago maging aktres, naging performer muna si Denise nang maging miyembro siya ng PPop Generation. Recently, bumalik siya sa kanyang girl group roots by being a member of SNTA, Viva's newest girl group, kasama sina Ataska, Christy Imperial, Angela Muji, at Sara Joe.

Ngayon, bibida siya sa pelikulang F-Buddies kasama sina Candy Veloso, Mon Mendoza, at Calvin Reyes.

Cindy Miranda and Kiko Estrada share greatest realizations on love

Lead stars Cindy Miranda and Kiko Estrada shared the greatest lesson they have learned when it comes to love as their upcoming film 40 is a movie that celebrates life and love.

With the film 40 being a movie that celebrates life and love, lead stars Cindy Miranda and Kiko Estrada were asked about the greatest lesson they have learned when it comes to love.

"Huwag po madiliin. Huwag ma-inlove, magka-boyfriend just for the sake na may kasama ka," Cindy said in the movie's press conference last Saturday, August 17. "Natutunan ko pong maging masaya muna sa sarili ko."

The actress, who has been single for two years, said she's been happy with her life lately without a significant other.

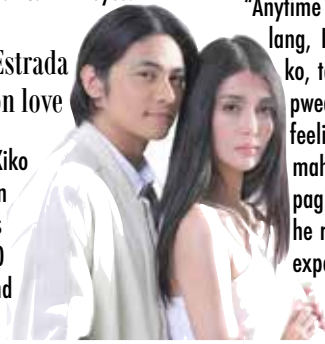
"Kaya 'pag tinatanong ako kung bakit wala pa kong boyfriend, kasi feeling ko dahil na-busy din po ako sa work ko, tapos masaya naman po ako. Marami po akong friends. Nandiyan lahat ng friends ko," she said. However, when the time comes that a partner will come into her life, Cindy said she is ready because, at least, she learned how to love herself first.

"Anytime na dumating po kung sino man 'yon, okay lang, I'm ready. At least, mahal ko 'yong sarili ko, tanggap ko 'yong sarili ko and, from there, pwede na ko magmahal kasi parang before, feeling ko hindi ko mahal 'yong sarili ko, mas mahal ko 'yong partner ko. I think 'yon 'yong pagkakamali ko dati," she explained. For Kiko, he realized that when you love, you should not expect anything in return.

"When you love, you love without return. 'Yon 'yong pinakanatutunan ko sa pagmamahal. That's selflessness," the actor said.

Apart from Cindy and Kiko, 40, which is a collaboration between Viva Films and Happy Infinite Productions, also stars Phoebe Walker, Ronnie Lazaro, Yayo Aguila, Irma Adlawan, Ruby Ruiz, JC Tiuseco, Karla Alejo, Erlinda Villalobos, and Lawrence Cruz, with a special participation of Diego Loyzaga.

The film, written and directed by Dado Lumibao, is set to premiere in cinemas nationwide this coming September 4.



CARMi MARTIN from page 1

kailangan mong maki-affair kay ganito para magbigyan ka ng favor. Meron akong mga invitation na ganiyan during that time kasi nga ang sexy ko diba. May mga producers din nag-try mag take advantage sakin to the point na tinulak ko talaga at sinabi ko, hindi dahil ganito ako na sexy or pinapackage niyo as a sexy star eh pwede niyo na akong ieexploit. So meron," she detailed.

The actress-comedian did not identify the producers involved.

Martin, who rose to fame as an endorser of an alcoholic drink popularized by a commercial ad that had her riding a white horse on the beach, acknowledged that many women in showbiz during the 80s have experienced being sexually exploit-

ed.

"Sinabi ko nga nu'ng 80s mas madaming babae ang naexploit, na mabibigyan ka ng popularity if for example, papayag ka na magkaroon ng sexual relationship with a producer," she said.

Martin also revealed that many production staff had asked her to do full frontal nudity for her projects but she was always saved by her loved ones.

"Maraming times na gusto akong magkaroon ng full frontal nudity tapos mabuti na lang may makulit akong kasamang



boyfriend, may hawak na baril. Alam mo 'yung parating nagkakaroon ng mga ganong instances na buti na lang merong kontrabida," she

stated.

"It's either my family, na sinasabi, 'Ano ba yan binabastos na kami sa ano, meron daw kaming bomba star, alam mo naman 'yung mga tao, bold star na kapatid, ganun ganon, so sa sobrang ayoko na pati pamilya ko nasasaktan ginawa ko ngang mas focused sa television," continued the

actress, adding that in television there's some sort of censorship.

Filipino celebrities are recently coming forward with their stories of sexual harassment and unwanted attention from their superiors in the industry, including Rita Avila, who recently revealed she was sexually harassed by a director who forcefully tried to kiss her when she was just about to enter the entertainment industry.

The attention on sexual abuse in the industry stemmed from the revelation of Sandro Muhlach that he was raped by two TV consultants last July. This was followed by the Gerald Santos, who bared in a Senate hearing that he too was raped when he was 15 years old by a musical director in a singing contest that he joined on TV.

FILIPINO FESTIVALS from page 9

Toronto. PIDC, headed by Tom Tan, also held an evening Gala on August 22 at the Toronto City Hall Foyer with Philippine Consul General Angelica Escalona, MP Rechie Valdez & MP Marco Mendicino. Fil-Can lawyer Paul Saguil and community leaders are in attendance. The 25-year-old festival presented a basketball challenge game, and enjoyable programs consisting of a musical concert, fashion show, Santa Cruzan and Parade of PIDC beauty titleholders on August 24 & 25. Filipino movie & TV personalities who performed were singer & actor Inigo Pascual, film & TV actor Lovi Poe, and The Angelos singing quartet, Vocal Groove Collective, and A+ Dance Team. The Mindanao Tapestry Fashion Show of Ambassador of Philippine Fashion Renee Salud and his top models showcased recent creations and selections. Popular Pinoy food booths, small business entrepreneurs, property development companies, and other Fil-Can vendors displayed and offered their great products and services to thousands of visitors and frolickers.

Other important events during the tri-summer months celebrations include 1) June 1- "Filipino Heritage Month Celebration by PIDC at Earl Bales Park, Toronto; 2) June 4- "Thanksgiving Mass" by the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, Toronto; 3) June 9- "Flag Raising: 126th Philippine Independence Day Celebration", by Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan, at Civic Centre; 4) June 11- "Proudly Pinoy Adobo Festival", by the TCDSB at St. Marga-

ret Catholic School, North York; 5) June 12- "Philippine Independence Day Flag Raising" by the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto, at Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto, and "Philippine Independence Day Celebration" by the Federation of Filipino Canadians- Ontario with Filipino Heritage Council of Canada at Queen's Park, Toronto; 6) June 14-16- "Taste of Philippines Food and Music Festival-Hamilton" by MyHip. at Gage Park, Hamilton, Ontario; 7) June 15 & 16- "Tayo, An Immersive Filipino Cultural Experience", by KRE8 Corp. at Mel Lastman Square, North York Civic Centre; 8) June 17- "Filipino Heritage Month Reception on Parliament Hill, by Members of Parliament at Sir John A. MacDonald, Ottawa with the theme "Kapit Bisig: Building Bridges Across Generations, Honoring Heritage and Stories"; 9) June 19- "Dr. Jose Rizal Birth Anniversary: Wreath Laying", by Knights of Rizal Canada Region, at Earl Bales Park, North York; 10) June 22.- "Wreath Laying at the Rizal Monument", by Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians, Markham; 11) June 29- "Filipino Heritage Month Celebration", by the National Filipino Heritage Canada, at Albert Campbell Square, Scarborough.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wrote in his post on X(formerly Twitter), "Mabuhay! Great to be back at the Taste of Manila in Toronto. The Filipino community in Canada is nearly 1 million strong, and our country is richer and more vibrant for it." Indeed, it was a summer of festivals replete with successful events and enjoyable experiences that

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Gerald Anderson says no to politics, vows to use influence for greater good

Gerald Anderson might've won the hearts of the public after his heroic deeds during disasters operations, but he insisted he doesn't see it as a stepping stone to joining politics in the future.

Anderson caught the attention of netizens after rescuing several stranded individuals at the height of the onslaught of Typhoon Carina, with many thanking him for making a consistent effort to help others.

But when asked if he considered it as an opportunity to enter politics, the actor maintained that that wasn't his intention, saying he wanted to use his influence to do good.

"Sa comments may nakikita ako [na pumasok sa pulitika], pero nakakatulong naman tayo eh. And I'm so blessed. Okay na ako sa ganito because I still have the opportunity na makatulong sa iba," Anderson told reporters on the sidelines of a media launch for his upcoming series "Nobody."

"Isa [ito] sa mga motivations ko to work harder to maintain my celebrity status kasi ang laki ng tulong niya talaga. As much as possible, ginagamit ko [siya] sa tama," he continued.

(I see comments asking me to enter politics. But I'm already helping people in this way. And I'm so blessed. I'm okay with this because I still have the opportunity to help others. This is one of my motivations to work harder to maintain my celebrity status because it's a huge help. As much as possible, I want to use it for good.)

Anderson pointed out that his "power and op-



portunity" as a celebrity is enough to influence his supporters in the right way. "Aaminin ko, may mga kaibigan akong pulitiko. May mga nakakausap ako dahil sa mga projects na ginagawa ko. The power is there."

"If gusto mo talagang tumulong, ang power and opportunities," he continued. "Ang swerte ko lang na dahil celebrity din ako, nand'un 'yung power and influence — and ginagamit ko sa tama."

(I admit that I have friends who are politicians. I am also in talks with them due to my projects. The power is there. If you really want to help, the impact, power, and opportunities are there. I'm just lucky that because I'm a celebrity, the power and influence are there. And I'm using it for good.)

Inspiring others

Touching on his viral video, Anderson stressed that helping the victims of the typhoon wouldn't gain traction if he's not a celebrity. "Sa tingin mo, kung hindi ako artista, magte-trend ba 'yun? Hindi, diba? Nagkataon lang na artista ako, na-videohan, but that also inspired many other people. Gan'un ang tinitignan kong influence."

(If I'm not a celebrity, do you think the video would trend? No, right? It just so happened that I'm because I'm a celebrity and I was recorded. But that also inspired other people. That's how I see this particular influence.)

"Noong nag-trending ang video na 'yun, sabi ko,

I don't want to inspire other people na lumangoy sa baha kasi napakadelikado n'un. Hindi ko 'yan ineencourage. Matagal na akong [nagsi-swimming], I've done search and rescue training. But I want to inspire people to give a helping hand in different ways," he further added, in response to INQUIRER.net's question on what gives him the courage to keep helping people.

(When that video trended, I said that I didn't want to inspire other people to swim in floodwater. It's very dangerous. I don't encourage it. I've been swimming for a long time. I've done search and rescue training. But I want to inspire people to give a helping hand in different ways.)

The actor nevertheless thanked those who expressed their concern, saying being an inspiration to do good is enough for him.

"Pwede kayong mag-donate, pumunta sa mga shelters — ang daming paraan na tumulong. Ang dami naming sugat na nakuha but I'm so touched with everybody that messaged me na uminom ng gamot, may nagpadala sa'kin ng gamot kasi nabusan lahat ng gamot sa drug store, it makes eve-

Kyline Alcantara moving on from breakup with Mavy Legaspi

For the first time, Kyline Alcantara addressed her "breakup" with rumored boyfriend and former on-screen love-team partner Mavy Legaspi as she emphasized that while she treasures their moments, she wants to move on from that experience.

In a guest appearance on "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda" 9, Alcantara remarked that she tries to learn from

her experiences, whether good or bad.

"In every relationship naman po that I have or had, whether it's professionally or friendly man or romantic, I always try to learn something from it, both the good and the bad experiences," she said.

"Right now, I think we should all move on from that experience, and I will treasure that moment po kasi siyempre it made me who I am today with all that happened," continued the actress, adding that she's grateful for that experience.

Despite not officially confirming their relationship, Alcantara and Legaspi were rumored to being in a relationship given their past romantic interactions and sightings starting in 2021.

However, in 2023, the pair became the center of controversies after netizens noticed that the two stopped engaging and posting each other on social media and seemingly dropped cryptic posts about each other.

At the time, Legaspi's mother, actress Carmina Villarroel, also posted cryptic messages.

Meanwhile, Alcantara is now rumored to be in a relationship with basketball player Kobe Paras. The "Kambal Karibal" star refused to answer what's the real score between her and Paras but affirmed, "He makes her happy."

Alcantara shared that Paras always assured her that "she's more than the issues being thrown at her" and that "she's more than her love life."

"Lagi niya sinasabi dito lang ako [he always says I'm just here], ikaw na muna (you first), I'll let you shine," added the actress.



Jose Mari Chan takes back meme spotlight from VP Sara

Like clockwork, the country's de facto herald of the Christmas season is back on everyone's timelines.

And Jose Mari Chan is back with a vengeance, taking over popular social media platforms in the Philippines in time with the start of the "ber months" — that is, the beginning of what many dub as the longest Christmas season in the world.

For many years now, Chan, known for his signature classic "Christmas in Our Hearts," has become the face of the Yuletide season in this largely Catholic nation.

His songs are on the loop at malls and other establishments, and he is once again a sought-after guest in television and online shows.

"He's back," several posts read, accompanied by the timeless "peeking" photo of the 79-year-old crooner.

One edited photo showed wanted pastor Apollo Quiboloy trying to push Chan

out of the image, with the text "hindi pa nga ako lumalabas, lalabas ka na naman (*I haven't even come out yet, and you're here again.*)"

One photo showed Chan going out of a manhole, in reference to ongoing police operations at Quiboloy's properties in Davao City.

Police alleged that the wanted religious leader is hiding in a bunker, prompting them to search for possible secret entrances, including manholes. A number of posts also referenced Vice President Sara Duterte, who became meme fodder over the past week following her standoff with lawmakers during the budget hearings.

"Move over shiminet," one post read, in reference to the way Duterte repeatedly pronounced "she may not" during the Aug. 27 hearing.

Technology is also at play, with one



A TikTok meme shows Kingdom of Jesus Christ leader Apollo Quiboloy preventing Jose Mari Chan from coming out, in reference to the police search for the fugitive pastor.

meme showing an AI-edited video of Chan and American singer Mariah Carey dancing to holiday tunes.

Like Chan, Carey also became a face of the season with her 1994 classic "All I Want For Christmas Is You."

Time Magazine even described Chan as the "Mariah Carey of the Philippines' Christmas Season."

Not everyone, however, is happy with Chan being the face of the Christmas season. Several posts noted his business interests, including his family's sugar milling and trading companies.

Some are simply just tired of the recurring memes.

Still, in an interview on One News in 2022, Chan said he feels complimented with the recognition he receives every

year.

He brushed off criticisms and maintained that "the real message of Christmas is there" in his song.

But he described some memes as "a little bit irreverent" and expressed hope that these are taken out.

"I feel complimented that my Christmas songs are now relevant, not only to people of our age, but also to the younger people, to the young kids," he said in the interview.

"It's like a crowning glory that after 55 years, God has given me this blessing of writing a song that delivers the real message of Christmas to our countrymen," he added.

This year, Repertory Philippines will bring his music to the stage with "Going Home To Christmas: A Jose Mari Chan Musical" on Nov. 29.

"Thank you, Repertory Philippines, for honoring me with this project," Chan said.

Alden Richards talks closer bond with Kathryn Bernardo after 'Hello, Love, Again' shoot

Kapuso actor Alden Richards felt that his friendship with Kapamilya actress Kathryn Bernardo grew stronger after they worked together on their upcoming movie, "Hello, Love, Again."

In an interview with "24 Oras," Alden said he experienced separation anxiety after spending a month filming the movie in Canada.

"I felt a little bit sentimental, of course, with the place and the length of time we spent together there, so I was surprised that it was over so quickly," Alden said.

He added, "Mas naging solid, mas naging closer, mas nakilala namin 'yung isa't isa and at the same



time parang, you know, you really get to know the person once you get to work with her in a setup na matagal magkasama."

"Hello, Love, Again" is the sequel to the 2019 blockbuster film "Hello, Love, Goodbye."

In May, Alden and Kathryn, along with their director Cathy Garcia-Sampana, announced the sequel at a special event held at ABS-CBN, attended by executives from both ABS-CBN and GMA.

The film will mark the first-ever collaboration between ABS-CBN's Star Cinema and GMA's GMA Pictures.

Candid CAMERA



Binibining Pilipinas 2012 1st Runner-Up & 2012 Miss Supranational 3rd Runner-up Elaine Kay Moll, Jasmine Maierhofer, photographer Joey Baking, Eloisa Jaoud, Reina Hispanoamericana 5th runner-up Katrina Llegado, and Binibining Pilipinas International 2021 Hannah Arnold;

OCEANA'S 16TH BIRTHDAY YACHT PARTY



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7

OCEANA D'AOUST HAD A 16TH BIRTHDAY YACHT PARTY

1. Oceana D'aoust; 2. Skyea D'aoust; 3. Oceana with friends; 4. Oceana with fireworks; 5. Oceana and her birthday cake; 6. Bini fever takes over Toronto. Fans joined G-Force dance lessons to be the front act. Sisters Skyea and Oceana (STANDING 2ND & 3RD FROM LEFT), and sister Winterra (SEATED) pose with Bini members after the show; 7. Oceana walks the runway at the Mabuhay Festival the day after her birthday.



Jeff Mesina and Tony San Juan at the "Bisita, Be My Guest Philippines" Travel Launch on August 23, 2024, at Four Seasons Hotel, Toronto.



Neil McNeil High School Senior Brandon San Juan MacLean with mom, Jennifer.



JDL Performing Arts Presents Love me, love me not 2

Congratulations to the JDL and whole cast of their musical.

Maria Ozawa on her fame in PH

Maria Ozawa admits she used to wonder why she's famous in the Philippines

Maria Ozawa in "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda" | Image: Screenshot from YouTube/@GMA Network

Maria Ozawa recalled the first time she found out that she was famous in the Philippines, wondering why, as she had never even been in the country at the time.

"This is my 10th year here in the Philippines. Maybe at the end of 2014, I had Filipino friends visiting Japan and then they were saying, 'Why don't you visit the Philippines? Have you been there?' I've only been to Cebu once, and Manila I haven't and they were like, 'Oh, you're famous there' and I was like, 'Really? I've never been to the Philippines and I'm famous?' she shared during a "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda" interview.

Ozawa recalled that she proceeded to visit the Philippines the following year and emphasized that she ended up loving the hospitality, the Filipino food, and the weather.

Rising to fame from her adult movies, Ozawa is now playing David Licaucó's mother in the GMA series "Pulang Araw." The former adult film star revealed she had "mixed feelings" about accepting the role.

"It was very hard, actually, because when I first read the script and my role, I had mixed feelings, of course, because when it comes to history, it's really hard to repeat that because nobody wants to, you know, remember the bad things that they had to go through in every country, which doesn't mean only in Japan or in the Philippines," she explained.

Ozawa also shared the reason she quit the adult movie industry.

"I wanted to quit the industry while they still know about me or when they're still talking about me. 'Cause how am I supposed to prove anything if I'm not famous anymore?" she said.

PIDC MABUHAY 2024



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8. Kim Mahistrado and his models (Raymond Santos photo); 9. Renee Salud's models (photo by Raymond Santos); 10. Inigo and Karen Binaday (Raymond Santos photo); 11. PIDC Beauty Chelsea Cortez and Inigo (Raymond Santos photo); 12. Philippine star Lovi Poe with PIDC's Agnes Miranda; 13. TD Bank's Lorraine Magtalas (on the right) poses with friends.



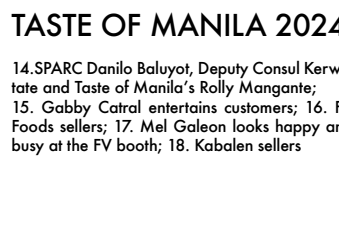
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TASTE OF MANILA 2024

14. SPARC Danilo Baluyot, Deputy Consul Kerwin Tate and Taste of Manila's Rolly Mangante; 15. Gabby Catral entertains customers; 16. FV Foods sellers; 17. Mel Galeon looks happy and busy at the FV booth; 18. Kabalen sellers



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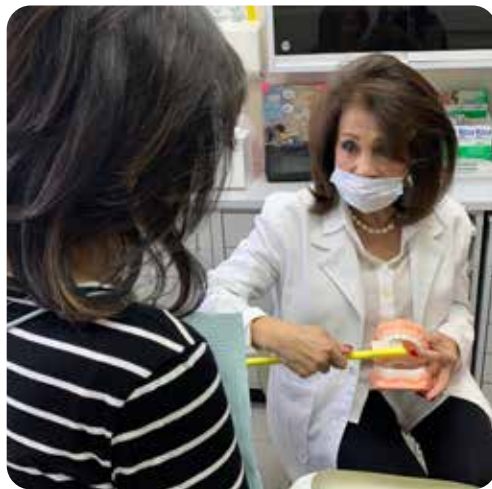
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Gerald Anderson happy for Julia Barretto, tackles politics in new show

Let's admit it: just hearing the name of your current special someone's ex is tough, let alone knowing that they have a box-office film worth more than P300M.

It's hard to imagine, but that's Gerald Anderson's reality with his girlfriend Julia Barretto, whose film "Un/Happy For You" with her former beau Joshua Garcia is already up in the charts.

Why did I open with this, right? Well, after two chats with Gerald and posting his support for JoshLia, netizens commended his attitude towards the whole scenario. Gerald explained to us the situation with the wisdom, "Awkward talaga trabaho namin. Ganon talaga I've been in that situation before that's why I tried to be as supportive as possible."

"I don't want to steal the spotlight. Pinaghirapan nila iyan, eh and they know how hard it is to make a movie that you want many people to watch," he added.

It just goes to show how stable and mature he is in his relationship. Although, Gerald was so real when he said that he had not yet seen the film and he did support Julia in his own ways.

"Yeah, it is awkward talaga. I am not going to lie, ganon talaga but ganoon talaga trabaho namin," he shared. "You just try to be as professional as possible. You know how much this means to a lot of people in the industry. So, sino ba naman ako diba? Good energy iyan eh. So, I'm just always here to support her."



Gerald Anderson supports his girlfriend Julia Barretto working with her former beau Joshua Garcia in the box-office film 'Un/Happy For You.' He is also happy to share that Julia will have another project with Jake Cuenca. Gerald's fans will soon see him in the action-drama series 'Nobody,' which centers on loyalty, integrity, and morality.

We heard that Julia is returning to ABS-CBN via a TV show and we asked Gerald if his upcoming project under JRB Creative Production is the one that she's going to be appearing in.

Gerald teased, "Hindi ito iyon, but she has another project with Jake Cuenca. Ayan, ah sinabi ko na nag-uusap-usap kami. It's something that I want her to do na napakaganda pero may mangyayari sa show na ito na hindi niyo aasahan!"

Exciting indeed! Speaking of the show, it's called "Nobody" and it's Gerald's

much anticipated acting comeback after two years. "Nobody" is going to be an action-drama series.

The intriguing series will center around one's loyalty, integrity, and morality based on the teaser that features a montage of Gerald's real-life advocacy and good deeds but also leaves an intriguing statement that "it is not a story about a hero... Gerald Anderson is a nobody."

During our chat with Gerald, he said that the show won't be afraid to be political. "Iyon ang challenge sa side namin. But we have to be real na ito ang pinagdadaan ng mga Pilipino because of the bad decisions of people in power," he said.

"Nangyayari talaga ito kaya ikwento naman natin. So, kung pulis yan, there is good pulis, but may masasama."

Just two weeks ago, we also had another interview with Gerald and during that time, the timeline was not yet clear for his ABS-CBN primetime show. But he said though that the timeline became earlier and he is ready to take on the challenge.

"It's the perfect comeback show because it's very challenging. This is a journey ng isang tao na hindi mo alam kung ano ba talaga siya," he said. "Is he a hero? Vigilante ba siya? Does he have integrity?"

The Kapamilya actor also revealed that he is set to undergo physical training for



TV5 interview with Gerald at the 'Nobody' project announcement.

his character as a law enforcement officer. It is on top of what he professionally knows in rescue.

"May martial arts and firing training because law enforcement ako rito. So there's special training. May konting knowledge ako from the coast guard and I'll try to share it with the cast members," he shared.

Besides ABS-CBN's JRB Creative Production is producing the series, Benedict Mique has been tapped as the director, with Dindo Perez and Cenon Palomares as the creative manager and head writer, respectively.

The show is the follow-up to Gerald's last series "A Family Affair," which aired on primetime TV in 2022. You can also catch the series on TV5 soon.

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Work keeps Piolo Pascual 'eternally' young

For others, working nonstop can be a source of stress and signs of aging, but for Piolo Pascual, it seems to be the secret to maintaining his youthful appearance at 47.

"I work every day. It's become routine for me to look presentable because of the work that I do, especially for this one ('Pamilya Sagrado'), with 'The Kingdom' with Bossing Vic Sotto," Piolo told broadsheet press during the recent media junket for the Book 2 of his ongoing primetime drama "Pamilya Sagrado."

"My director asked me about that, plus with my endorsements, that's why I always stay fit. It comes with the territory. I feel good; I'm in good shape. I don't get sick because, as my director told me, 'Wag daw ako magkakasakit.' So I just try to take care of myself."

Piolo believes that peace of mind, a positive outlook on life and self-care contribute to his overall health status.

"When you have peace and your outlook in life is positive, it follows. I sleep a lot. I drink a lot of water. And (I practice) self-love ba. I want to maximize my potential in whatever field and business I am in. I take care of myself."

When it comes to his diet, Piolo doesn't limit his food choices. "Hindi ako nagda-diet. I do OMAD (one meal a day) on some days. One big



meal. I don't eat in the morning. I just eat late. I don't cut down or limit myself. When I eat, I just eat," he said.

In terms of his career, Piolo is experiencing a renewed sense of energy and excitement.

"When I was turning 40, I wanted to quit. I wanted to leave while I was still on top of my game. I was humbled by the Lord — ang dami pang projects — how can I dare refuse or resist work that comes my way? You can be a conduit or a vessel of some projects that can help people," he shared.

"Nagkaroon ako ng renewed excitement because during the pandemic, ang boring pala nung wala kang ginagawa. 'Di ko pala kaya walang ginagawa sa buhay. I don't want to be unproductive, and since the start of the pandemic, nung nag-loosen na siya (restrictions), 'di na talaga ako tumigil.

"I did four movies during the pandemic and kept doing stuff left and

right. And work hasn't stopped since then. It's really about trying to bring my A-game every time so I don't compromise or feel regret after."

Piolo is already looking forward to what's next after "Pamilya Sagrado," where he plays the morally questionable politician Rafael Sagrado who rises to become president of the country.

"In all honesty, I've never been this invested in a show. When I said I was done with soaps, (the late) Deo (En-drinal, Dreamscape boss) pitched this to me last year and said, it's a good project to have. You know, you're a voice in society, and you get to play a character that you can say is not just challenging but a milestone for my career.

"I watched it from Day 1," he said. "I'm just really proud that I became part of the show."

He continued, "I don't think I'm gonna stop after 'Flower of Evil,' after 'Pamilya Sagrado,' or anything with Dreamscape or ABS for that matter. I'm already excited for another one.

"I've found renewed excitement for content and giving life to diverse characters. We have more choices and access to different platforms now, so I'll never stop creating content that makes me feel productive while offering something new. I always try to think of new concepts that can serve our audiences and that they can be

proud of."

Aside from "Pamilya Sagrado," which now has a new timeslot at 9:30 p.m. on the Kapamilya Channel, Kapamilya Online Live, A2Z and TV5, Piolo is filming his Metro Manila Film Festival 2024 entry "The Kingdom" with Vic Sotto. His film "Real Life Fiction," which delves into the psyche of an actor, blurring lines between fiction and reality, is still showing in cinemas.

Asked about the extent he could relate to his character in the Paul Soriano-directed movie, Piolo said, "It was haunting, to a certain extent, because it really delves into the psyche of a person so close to me — me mirroring myself. It was so close to home that I really had to shake it off, more than with 'Mallari,'" referring to his MMFF 2023 horror thriller that won him acting awards.

"In 'Mallari,' I had an acting coach for three roles at the same time, but with 'Real Life Fiction,' it was so close to home that I really had to detach myself right away after. It was like dealing with your demons; those things haunt you and leave a mark. They're just there in the back."

The perennial leading man added with a laugh, "I get scared when I watch it. That's not something I want to do anytime soon again."

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Gerald Santos reveals alleged rapist's identity

Gerald Santos finally named veteran musical director Danny Tan as the person who allegedly raped him when he was just a 15-year-old contestant in a singing contest on GMA.

For the first time since he attended the hearings of the Senate committee on public information and mass media, Santos identified the person who sexually abused him nine years ago, but also whom he accused of causing him to lose what he thought could have been a lucrative career in the music industry.

"Ngayon po ay handa na po akong harapin ang tunay kong kalaban: ang nanghalay at umabuso sa akin noong ako po ay 15 years old. Si Mr. Danny Tan," he said at the continuation of the hearing



last Aug. 27.

Santos also emotionally recounted how his career was jeopardized when he decided to inform his management of the abuse that he suffered.

"Yung psychiatric at psychological support po sa biktima ay napakalaking bagay lalo po kung bata ang biktima para magkaroon ng safeguards para kahit inalis na po yung sex offenders ay hindi na mababalikan o magagantihan ng mga kaibigan

ng nasa posisyon at may loyalty doon sa taong tinanggal," Santos said.

"Ito po ang personal kong naranasan at matatawag ko po itong jeopardy. Ako na po ang naabuso, ako pa po ang nawalan ng trabaho," he added.

Santos said in the previous hearing that he was a contestant in a TV singing contest where Tan was musical director when the alleged rape happened. After the revelation, Senate Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada asked Santos if he would file charges against Tan, but the singer said they're still studying the appropriate charges they will file.

While Santos expressed relief at the action made by the GMA towards Tan, he hopes to have a copy of the investigation

done by the network so they can advance with their filing of charges.

"Nagpapasalamat po ako sa GMA sa pag-aksyong kanilang ginawa sa complaint na idinulog ko: ang tanggalin sa network ang taong aking inakusahan. Yung resulta pa rin po ng imbestigasyon 19 years ago ang aming hihilingin na magkaroon kami ng kopya para magamit namin sa pagbuild up ng case," he said.

Santos, in the hearing, said that it was not his intention to stain the image of his former television network amid the reports surrounding the alleged crime committed by the network's former musical director. "Hindi ko po ito laban against GMA, kung hindi sa mga taong gumagawa ng kahalayan at kasamaan."

Enchong Dee learns how to manage his emotions

The biggest life goal for Enchong Dee this year is learning how to handle his emotions.

"To be fair this is something very personal. But I have this personal goal to manage my emotions," declared Enchong at a presscon.

It is something that the actor had been working on. He added, "There are so many instances na parang feeling ko hindi kailangan ng reaction yung isang bagay. If I let you see my phone, there's a constant reminder there that not everything needs a reaction to it."

Controlling his emotions is among the things that he considered as his achievement. "Because feeling ko from 100 percent every time I get a news, somehow I get to pacify myself, like (I'll myself), 'Let's handle it strategically...' Let's not get ahead of the problem. Kasi hindi naman siya kailangan parati ng 'TV Patrol' acting."

He makes sure to deal with such things in a calm and cool manner. The "GomBurZa" thespian hoped that he would be able to attain it.

"My goal is like Direk Lauren (Dyogi) like if there's a problem, 'OK, ano ba yung panibagong problema today? Just chill. It's a good example.'" Enchong is also glad that he is surrounded by "very relaxed people" at Star Magic who influenced him.

Enchong debuted in showbiz in 2006. He took on roles in several film projects, namely, Jojo Wenceslao in "Katorse" (2009), Caloy Javier in "Magkaribal" (2010), Ethan Castillo in "Ina, Kapatid, Anak" (2012), and the iconic only son CJ in "Four Sisters and a Wedding" (2013).

His portrayal of Padre Jacinto Zamora in "GomBur-



Za" (2023) earned him a Best Supporting Actor nomination at the 2024 FAMAS Awards and secured him the Best Supporting Actor award at the 7th Eddys Entertainment Editor's Choice Awards.

He also dropped two albums under Star Music, such as his self-titled album "Enchong Dee" in 2014 and "EDM (Enchong Dee Moves)/Hanggang Dito Nalang" in 2016.

In his 18 years in the showbiz industry, Enchong learned how to deal with privacy issues and bashing that come with being a public figure.

"I think you need to have a mindset like if you're going to a public event, you will be swarmed by a public audience," pointed out Enchong.

"So, of course, when you're in public, let's say for example, I'm in my condo, naka-pang workout lang ako, sometimes I can say like, 'Sorry po ate ha. Pawis

na pawis ako. But later.' Things like that. And there's always a proper way of saying things."

Asked if he would rant on social media if he encountered situations involving privacy issues, he said with a laugh, "I've learned my lesson. Like what I said earlier, if you have the chance to learn, you have to embrace it."

But he admitted that he still gets heartbroken whenever he reads negative comments or write-ups about him. "I get heartbreaks that I don't show to a lot of people," he confessed.

"I get heartbroken and then I rant to my family and then just you know tell it to them. But you always have two paths to take – either be bitter about it, be bitter about the situation that happened or realize that everything is temporary."

Nonetheless, Enchong felt "very fortunate" that he was able to reach 18 years in showbiz. "Because somehow I was able to prove that, 'OK, hindi naman pala totoo na maldita or maldito yung isang artista."

Things come in seasons for Sam Concepcion

After wrapping up the musical, “One More Chance,” where he played the iconic role of Popoy, the love of Basha, singer-actor-dancer Sam Concepcion was immediately called on to audition for “Once On This Island,” to be staged by 9Works Theatrical.

“I didn’t even know I would be called on until the first day of rehearsals (July 8) for ‘Once On This Island,’” shared Sam. “They hired me on the day of the first rehearsals.”

His inclusion in the musical has been floating around towards the end of the run of “One More Chance” and because of theater actor Floyd Tena.

“It was the idea of Floyd to make me do Daniel (Beauxhomme,) in ‘Once On This Island,’” shared Sam. “He said, ‘You know, the role of Daniel fits you. Let me call up some people.’”

Sam has been familiar with “Once On This Island” in the past, although he didn’t know it by heart, like a lot of other shows.

“I’ve been doing ‘One More Chance’ for three months every day (Wednesdays to Sundays) and that was heavy drama,” said Sam. “That ran from April to June this year with a total of 80 shows. After that, I thought maybe I should do something like classical theater like ‘Once On This

Island.”

“One More Chance is pop, Filipino OPM (Original Pilipino Music). It’s nice to go back to doing classical theater,” added Sam.

Sam admitted to being a “theater baby” way before he went to ABS-CBN and joined the Big Division of the first season of “Little Big Star” in 2006, when he bagged the trophy.

At five, he made his first public performance in a worship cantata that landed him a role in the stage play, “Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?,” back in 1997.

Sam has no particular expectations doing

“Once On This Island” right after his pop musical. “But going into music rehearsals of ‘Once On This Island’ and I saw the cast, heard everybody and I thought they sounded amazing.”

“I was convinced this ‘Once On This Island’ was great. I’m glad that I am around. Out theater vets who are here — Manong (Raul Montesa), Ate Sheila (Valderrama), Kuya Loy (Martinez) — to the newer ones who are our leads — Ange-la, Thea — I feel we are such a good mix of old and new, plus somewhere in between,” shared he.

It wasn’t hard for Sam to adjust after doing “One More Chance” to “Once On This Island.” He initially thought it was going to be hard for him.

“One, ‘Once On This Island’ is a completely different language after doing Tagalog songs and dialogue,” he reasoned out. “Tagalog and English. They are two different things. Different ways of acting also.”

“Music is very different, from pop to more traditional theater. But I think it helps that the two productions are very different. I think it’s easier to switch that way, because if they were similar, some of the things may seep into the other role if it was too similar,” added he.

“But these are two different things, two different productions, so I can just switch on and off and change. I’m juggling between the two roles at the moment, with ‘One More Chance’ and ‘Once On This Island’ at the same time.”

“Some days, I’m at RCBC for ‘Once On This Island,’ some days I’m at PETA for ‘One More Chance.’”

Sam recently signed up with his new label, Universal Records. “So, we’ve been releasing songs,” he granted. “I just haven’t done it since I started ‘One More Chance’ and ‘Once On This Island.’ Hopefully, afterwards, I can go back to releasing music.”

Sam insisted the way things happen for him, things come in seasons. “I obviously cannot do all things at the same time,” he explained. “That’s physically impossible for me.”

“There are times when I’m just doing series, so when I do music or theater, I think it’s essential for me. I don’t feel completely satisfied or fulfilled just doing one thing.”

“I have to be always kind of circling around different mediums to feel like I’m exercising everything,” added he.

Sam expressed his desire to do a straight play, his dream production for theater. “If there is a good material that I will be interested in, I will have to do a straight play,” he said. “It can be an original production also.”

“Once On This Island” is a tale of love, loss and resilience. It follows the story of a young peasant girl, Ti Moune, who defies the gods to try and save the life of a young, wealthy boy, Daniel Beauxhomme, whom Sam will play.

The musical explores the themes of class, community and the power of the human spirit. For familiarity reasons, “Once On This Island” is also inspired by Hans Christian Andersen’s *The Little Mermaid*.

“Once On This Island” will run on all weekends of September.



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