

NO UNLI RICE

Govt declares food emergency on rice

MANILA - Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

on February 3 declared a food security emergency on rice.

“This emergency declaration allows us to release rice

buffer stocks held by the National Food Authority (NFA)

to stabilize prices and ensure RICE page 21

PORN?

Janno Gibbs defends VMX after Jinggoy Estrada calls out platform

Janno Gibbs stood up for VMX after Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada condemned the streaming platform for its alleged pornographic content and exploitation of its

actors.

VMX is a Filipino content streaming service worldwide for Filipino produced movies, TV series, concerts and

PORN page 22

Filipino migrants allegedly scammed by Fil-Canadian recruiter

The alleged scam has left some Filipinos stranded and homeless in Canada

With dreams of becoming Canadian citizens or permanent residents, a lot of Filipino workers in Canada are still falling prey to illegal recruiters.

Despite facing 35 labor violations over the past decade, Filipino Canadian recruiter Jeanett Moskito and her companies Link4Staff and Berderald Consulting have remained operational, according to an investigative report by CBC News.

Moskito, 52, has allegedly been offering the Canadian dream to Filipino migrants for over a decade.

The Fil-Canadian recruiter often portrayed success on social media, but a CBC News investigation revealed that she has been identified as one of Ontario’s labor offenders, who allegedly charged her clients illegal fees.

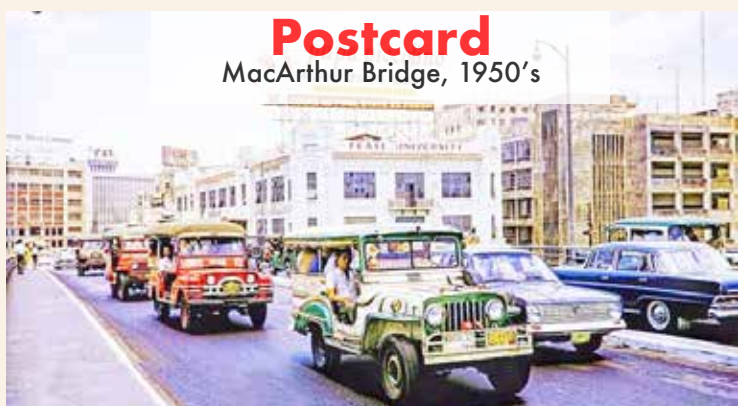
One of Moskito’s alleged victims was Filipino migrant John Gabriel Quizo.

Quizo, 36, moved to Canada in 2022 to study hotel and restaurant management in

FIL-CANADIAN page 8



United Aklanon Association of Toronto celebrates Ati-Atihan.



Postcard
MacArthur Bridge, 1950's

Darryl Yap postpones cinema release of ‘The Rapists of Pepsi Paloma’

Darryl Yap announced that his controversial film “The Rapists of Pepsi Paloma” will postpone its premiere on February 5 after his production team

failed to meet the requirements set by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) before screening.

On Facebook on Monday, February 3, the writer-director said it would be impossible for the movie to be released on

PEPSI page 19

“Anyone can catch your eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart.” -Anonymous

Vina Morales returns to GMA with new drama series

After nearly 25 years, Vina Morales is returning to GMA, the network where she began her television career.

She is set to headline the upcoming drama series *Cruz vs. Cruz*, marking her comeback to soap operas after last appearing in *Marry Me, Marry You* on ABS-CBN three years ago.

I'm really excited about this project. The title alone is very catchy and intriguing.

It's been a while since I last did a soap, so this is a great comeback for me on GMA," Vina said.

Vina expressed excitement about her return, highlighting the show's intriguing title and compelling storyline. She had received offers in the past year but was unable to commit due to her engagements in the United States, including a stint in the Broadway production *Here Lies Love* in New York. She also staged concerts alongside David Pomeranz and Jim Brickman, putting her acting career on hold temporarily.

With *Cruz vs. Cruz*, she looks forward to working with a new cast, which includes Gladys Reyes, Kristoffer Martin, Lexi Gonzales, Neil Ryan Sese, Gilbeth Sandico, Pancho Magno, Caprice Cayetano, Cassy Lavarias, and Elijah

Alejo. She acknowledged the challenge of returning to teleseryes after a long break but sees it as an opportunity to reignite her passion for acting.

"I think it's natural to feel a bit nervous. All performers—actors, singers, or dancers—experience that before starting a new project. If you don't have jitters, you're probably too comfortable.

"I still prefer feeling a little nervous because it keeps the excitement alive. Of course, preparation is key. First and foremost, I need to study my character—that's where it all begins."

The series explores themes of family, sibling relationships, and business conflicts, offering a storyline that she believes will resonate with viewers. She hopes audiences will embrace the show when it premieres.

Jennylyn Mercado eyes major projects

Jennylyn Mercado has renewed her contract with GMA, extending her 21-year tenure with the network. Known as the "Ultimate Star," she expressed gratitude for the continued trust and support from the com-



PIDC BOARD OKAYS 2025 PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

TORONTO - In its general meeting on January 12, 2025, the Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC) deliberated and approved the activities it will organize, offer, participate and pursue in 2025.

PIDC is a non-profit umbrella organization of Filipino-Canadian provincial, regional, PIDC page 22

PIDC featured a show by Fashion designer Renee Salud with beauty queens and models at the Mabuhay Festival 2024.



pany that launched her career.

As part of her renewed commitment, Jennylyn will star in the upcoming drama *Sanggang-Dikit* alongside her husband, Dennis Trillo. She is also set to appear in the film *Everything About My Wife* with Sam Milby. In addition to acting, she will be working on a new album under GMA Records, making 2025 a packed year for the actress.

Returning to GMA was a deliberate choice for Jennylyn, who emphasized her deep connection with the network. She looks forward to the projects ahead and is eager to reconnect with her Kapuso audience.

"To still be here means a lot to me. I feel nothing but gratitude. I'm happy to have signed with GMA again—not because I doubted continuing my journey with them, but because I truly wanted to come back," Jennylyn asserted.



Sheryl Dela Cruz
Financial Services Manager
sheryl@villagenissan.com
(647) 965-0906



25 South Unionville Ave, Markham ON, L3R 6B8
www.markhaminfiniti.com | www.villagenissan.com



Over 70 Brand-New INFINITI's
In-Stock & Ready For Delivery



Emmanuel Yanga
Brand Ambassador
emmanuel@villagenissan.com
(416) 858-0616

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

NO PROBLEM!

Kung good deal ang hinahanap ninyo, Sheryl at Emmanuel, ang tawagan niyo



Over 70 Brand-New Nissan's
In-Stock & Ready For Delivery



Over 30 Quality Pre-Owned Vehicles
In-Stock & Ready For Delivery

*For more information, see Sheryl & Emmanuel for full details.

4 things you really should do this year

(NC) At this time of year, many of us start compiling lists of things we resolve to tackle in the coming months. Here are four things you should consider for your list.

Get your finances in order

With high inflation and interest rates, you may be among the many Canadians struggling to make ends meet. If you are, the first step to getting your finances under control is to create a detailed budget. It should include your income and a list of all your expenses. Your expenses tally will have a mix of fixed costs, like your rent or mortgage payment and utility bills, plus discretionary spending on things like

meals out, movie tickets and other entertainment. The more detailed you are, the easier it will be to find things you can cut back on when money is tight.

Focus on your health

Few of us can say we're in perfect health. But, rather than trying to do too much at once, try focusing on one or two areas to improve upon. Things to consider include quitting smoking, cutting back on alcohol, eating a more-balanced diet and getting regular exercise.

As you get older, you should also talk to your doctor about any age-related testing you should have, including colonoscopies



and mammograms.

Write your will

No matter how young or healthy you are, it's never too early to write your will. Without one, the courts will likely step in to decide who should look after your dependents and how your estate should be divided if you unexpectedly die. The easiest way to create a will is to work with a trusted lawyer (or notary if you live in Quebec or

B.C.) or online will service.

Donate to charity

In the current economy, it's hard to make charitable donations. But there's one easy way to make a difference without impacting your current finances: leave a donation in your will.

When you're writing your will, simply name a charity or charities to include as beneficiaries, and list the specific amount or percentage you'd like them to receive. Your donation will also lower the taxes that would have to be paid on your estate, making things easier for your loved ones.

You won't be alone. More than three million Canadians have left a donation to charity in their wills, a number that is growing every year.

Learn more at willpower.ca.

Alex Calleja says stand-up comedy in Philippines still 'relatively new'

Stand-up comedian Alex Calleja is set to release a brand-new comedy special on streaming service Netflix February 7.

The much-awaited special, "Tamang Panahon," marks a significant milestone in Calleja's career that spans nearly two decades.

"Tingin ko ito na ang tamang panahon na lumabas sa Netflix para mas lumawak pa ang reach ng Pinoy stand-up comedy at mas marami pang maka-appreciate ng ganitong art form," he said.

Alex explained his humble beginnings when he started doing



stand-up back in 2007.

"Halos walang tao sa mga open mics namin noon. Minsan 'yung madadantnan mo nagmi-meeting pa," he recalled.

Today, Alex has become a top-grossing live act selling out bar shows and theater events in Metro Manila and all over the Philippines with his group, The Comedy Crew. He has also become one of the most sought-after performers at corporate events and weddings mainly because of the topics he focuses on, which are deemed very relatable. The Netflix release promises to deliver his hilarious takes on family, gossip, gender, the contrast between rich and poor, and everyday Pinoy life expe-

riences.

"Mas gusto kong mag-focus sa mga topics na hindi nangti-trigger o maghahati ng crowd," he said. Alex said stand-up comedy in the country is still relatively new, and, as such, Pinoy audiences are still getting acclimated to this form of entertainment. "Nililigawan pa din natin ang audience. Kaya ang objective talaga ay mapatawa mo sila kesa mang-shock lang o maging controversial," he said.

Aside from his humor, the demand for Alex can also be attributed to his steady presence in the entertainment industry. He has been a fixture on TV as co-host of hit shows "Tiktalks" and "Face 2 Face." On radio and podcasts, you can hear him on "Good Times with Mo," "Good Times

Radio," and his very own "Punchline with Alex Calleja."

This year, he will embark on a world tour to promote his Netflix release. This kicks off on February 16 with a post-Valentines show titled "Kuwentong Pag-Ibig: The Hilarious Side of Love" in Singapore. The show is his and The Comedy Crew's fourth in the Lion City in less than a year, including a theater show last July 2024 that was sold out.

In the following months, Alex will also perform in North America with shows in the United States from April 4 to April 13 and shows in Canada from May 23 to June 8. Planned this year are shows in the United Arab Emirates, Australia, and New Zealand.

Canadians say they now need a lot more money for retirement

TORONTO (NC) - Saving for retirement can be a daunting financial challenge, but it doesn't have to be. Many Canadians share this concern, especially with the rising cost of living. As people live longer, they feel they need more money than ever before. Fortunately, there is hope with the Canada Pension Plan (CPP).

A recent survey by CPP Investments found that Canadians have increased their retirement savings goal from \$700,000 to \$900,000 over the past year — a significant 29



per cent jump. While nearly two-thirds of Canadians aged 18 to 24 feel anxious about financial decisions, this number drops to just one-third for those aged 65 and older. Seniors are clearly less stressed about their finances compared to younger Canadians, and there's a reason for that.

Importance of CPP at age 65: Why is 65 such a pivotal age? That's when many Canadians begin receiving their benefits. Through your CPP contributions, you're investing in your financial future.

Canadian workers have a solid foundation for retirement with the fund, and seniors know this well because many of them are already receiving their benefits.

Understanding the value of the CPP can boost your confidence in having enough money for retirement. Nearly three-quarters of Canadians who are very familiar with it feel confident in their retirement savings, according to the survey. This shows how important it is to understand the benefits and to know that they are indexed to inflation and payable for as long as you live.

CPP Fund's financial strength: Man-

aged by CPP Investments, the fund has more than \$675 billion in assets, making it one of the largest pension funds in the world. It is projected to be sustainable for at least the next 75 years, providing financial support for generations of Canadians.

Building a solid understanding of your personal finances and seeking resources to improve financial literacy can help you manage money more effectively. Saving for retirement can be challenging, but having a solid plan can ease financial anxiety. Fortunately, more than 22 million Canadians have a head start on their retirement planning.

Save the dates May 16, 17, 18, 2024



2025 VICTORIA INVITATIONAL Basketball TOURNAMENT (19th YEAR)

CALL: Philip 647-267-9649
EMAIL: pmbeloso@icloud.com



VENUE:
Toronto Pan-Am Sports Centre,
875 Morningside Ave.
Scarborough



What The Fact by Joey Baking

Trump will probably try to save face by March



Trump will probably try to save face in 30 days

Trump will probably still put a tariff at the end of the month to save face. He'll probably still put 10%. Trudeau and Canada should let him save face and say in a roundabout way that we did not get the best deal, yada, yada yada...! Let's remember, as far as Canada is concerned, USA may not be our only market. But, unfortunately, for Canadian exporters, it's 90% of our market. Ironically, we ourselves cannot even sell to a different province to our fellow Canadians. Why are we pointing fingers to the USA that they are so protectionist when our provinces don't even want to trade with one another? And we're in the same country. Talk about irony.

Vivamax target ni Senator Estrada

"The Philippines is a nation deeply rooted in moral values, family traditions, and respect for human dignity. However, these principles are being challenged by platforms that prioritize profit over social responsibility," sabi ni Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada. Sus maryosep. Ano ba iyan? Ang ating mga politicians, nagtuturo na sa atin ng morality.

Kilabot to the bones yata. Tama naman si Janno Gibbs sa defense niya ng VMX, and bagong name ng Vivamax. "It is by subscription, and you need a card to watch the movies in Vivamax." Nalimutan na yata ni Jinggoy na ang uncle niya, actor George Estregan became known as the "Pene King" and starred in what can be considered x-rated movies that was shown to the public and those movies can also be rented out during the betamax rental era.

In 2014, Estrada, along with fellow senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Bong Revilla were charged with plunder, in what would be known as the pork barrel scam. In 2024, Estrada was acquitted of plunder but convicted of bribery in the pork barrel scam. He remains free as he appeals the convictions, but is not completely off the hook on the graft allegations over the same controversy.

Malay natin, baka may relatives sila na subscriber ng VMX. Nakakahiya. Pero sa Pilipinas, marunong pa ba silang mahiya? Sus Guinoo ni Roxanne, ano ba itong nasabi ko?

Tariff talk is tiring na

Hindi ba? Let's just get it over with. Pero, even if we retaliate, it will not affect the US too much. Their market and economy is 10x bigger. Walang effect sa kanila. Mas malaki effect sa atin. Oh well, in the 1920's Canada survived. I'm sure, we will survive. mahirap nga lang. Ika nga, kung maiksi kumot, mamulukot n alang tayu.

NYPAA TO CELEBRATE SILVER ANNIVERSARY



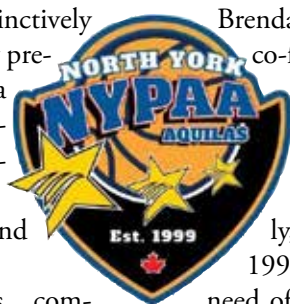
By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The North York Pinoy Athletic Association (NYPAA) a notable family-oriented sports organization also known as North York Aquilas in North York, Toronto will commemorate its 25th founding anniversary on March 1, 2025 (Saturday), from 6:00 to 12:00 PM at St. Peter and St. Paul Banquet Hall, 251 Milner Road, Scarborough, Toronto.

For their milestone celebration, the officers, members, families, friends, and supporters of

NYPAA are distinctively excited and proudly prepared to present a meaningful, memorable, and enjoyable evening of fun, food, dancing, and engaging program.

Some dignitaries, community leaders, special guests, donors, and supporters are invited to the affair. Moreover, expected to join the celebration are past and present NYPAA officers and coaches such as erstwhile presidents Alejo Belarde, Jonathan Escoto, Roger Tarca, Vilma Tahsin, Rey Merced, Jesse Pacetes, Sharone Columbano,



Brenda Agoncillo and the co-founders and directors Ed Sotto, Vilma Tahsin, Roger Tarca and Bob San Juan.

NYPAA, historically, came into fruition in 1999 as a response to the need of the growing Filipino Canadian families in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), especially in North York for "a social vehicle and sporting tool." Over the years it has significantly grown as one of the leading community-centred organizations with sports initiatives and programs, developing, offering and challenging members particularly the youth in amateur athletic competitions.

The current NYPAA Executive Directorate is composed of Board Chair Sharonne Salanguit, Board Secretary/ Treasurer Vilma Tahsin, Board Members Brenda Agoncillo, Victor Montero, Bob San Juan, Ed Sotto & Roger Tarca, Sports Commissioner Adam Davison & Rhey Ellorimo, and Youth Training &



NYPAA 2003 Officers. L-R: Bob San Juan, Roger Tarca, Marcie Rosos, Vilma Tahsin, Odessa Olinares, & Monro Dela Cruz.



NYPAA Board Members at 2024 Christmas Party. BACK L-R: Rhey Ellorimo, Ed Sotto, Victor Montero, Adam Davison, Bob San Juan; FRONT L-R, Sharonne Salanguit, Vilma Tahsin, Brenda Agoncillo, and Roger Tarca.

Development Officers Adam Davison, Mark Demusala, Rhey Ellorimo, Jessie Facun, Alvin Garsin, Jay Mallari, Marvin Montecillo, Victor Montero, and Keach Delos Trinos.

As a community-based association with members from across the province, NYPAA had built a reputation for promoting athletic events such as basketball, volleyball, fitness, and sporting clinics to ensure productive leisure time for parents, members, parents and their children. A dedicated member of the North American Basketball Association (NABA) and Ontario Basketball Association (OBA), NYPAA actively participates and supports intercity basket-

ball tournaments across North America, local intramurals and house leagues thus helping promote understanding and friendly competitions among participants and organizers including players, parents, coaches, officials, and volunteers.

For event tickets and vendor/ sponsorship opportunities, interested individuals and groups are requested to contact Sharonne Salanguit at 289-200-8653 or Vilma Tahsin at 416-697-7201. For any other inquiries, please email northyork.aquilas@gmail.com. NYPAA's social media includes: IG://northyorkaquilas, FB://NYPAA, and website at www.nypaa.ca. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT).

FILIPINO-CANADIAN LAWYER RUNS FOR ONTARIO MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Paul Saguil, an award-winning solicitor-barrister is running to be the next Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Willowdale, Toronto, Ontario. Saguil is the official Ontario Liberal Candidate for the upcoming provincial election on February 27, 2025.

An acclaimed Filipino-Canadian lawyer and regulatory compliance expert, Saguil has championed equality and human rights in cases before the Supreme Court of Canada. He is dedicated to combating corruption and enforcing economic sanctions against human rights violators and threats to international peace. Also as a committed community leader, Paul has served on various non-profit boards and advisory groups, including the Ontario Justice Education Network, the Wellesley Institute, the federal Judicial Appointments Committee



Ontario Liberal leader Bonnie Crombie with candidate Paul Saguil

for the Greater Toronto Area, the Ontario Bar Association, id8 Downsview, and The 519. His colleagues and friends noted that he has been a passionate champion for access to justice, education as a path-

way to success, and economic inclusion throughout his career.

A member of the Law Society of Ontario, Saguil completed a Bachelor of Arts (BA-Honours)- Philosophy degree from York University and his law education at the Osgoode Hall Law School. Proud of his Filipino heritage, Saguil and his family came to Canada from the Philippines in 1991 and earlier settled in Brampton.

In his campaign, P. Saul said "My career and community volunteerism have always focused on fighting for inclusion and advocating for those whose voices are not always present or heard in places of power. "We must bring integrity back to public office and deliver more for Ontarians, rather than insiders. In Willowdale, Saguil cited "Our schools are overcrowded, and kids are still being bussed long distances. We need to invest in better healthcare and

education for all. I will be a strong voice for our community." He looks forward to fighting for our province's brighter and more prosperous future!"

The Willowdale riding consists of the part of the City of Toronto bounded on the north by the northern city limit (Steeles Avenue), and on the east, south and west by a line drawn from the city limit south along Victoria Park Avenue, south along Highway 404, west along Finch Avenue East, south along Leslie Street, southwest along Highway 401, northeast along Bathurst Street, and north along Yonge Street to the city limit.

The Filipino-Canadian community is proud and agog of Paul Saguil's MPP candidacy. His family, friends, colleagues, and supporters are hopeful that this time a "kababayan" will get elected and represent their voice in the Ontario Parliament. So get out and vote. Your vote matters! (Tony A. San Juan, OCT.)

Vina Morales on being single again: 'i know there's a person for me out there'

Even though Valentine's Day is just around the corner, Vina Morales said that she is not bothered about not having a date yet this year. The talented actress and singer confirmed her split from her American boyfriend Andrew Kovalcin last year. The two had dated for two years.

"I'm single and I'm ready to mingle! (laughs). Wala akong bago," she admitted. "Wala, it just so happened that it wasn't really meant and actually, ewan ko ba anong nangyari. But you know that's how life is di ba? You'll never know who you end up with. So ako,



with my personal journey sa love life ko, ini-enjoy ko na lang yung journey. Hindi ko iniisip kung kelan ba darating yun, kung sino man yun. I know there's a person for me out there."

The 49-year-old performer revealed in a previous interview that she is even on speaking terms with her ex-boyfriend businessman Cedric Lee, who is the father of her daughter Ceana. "In fairness naman, naging mabuti rin naman sila sa akin. And it

juts didn't work out. Hindi lang talaga kami swak sa isa't isa. He's meant for somebody else and I'm meant for someone else I guess. That's how life is," she admitted.

After dating a foreigner, Vina said she is now opening her heart to the possibility of dating a fellow Pinoy next time around. "Huwag na mag-AFAM? For a change, Filipino na? Puwede rin naman. Oo naman. Puwede rin naman ako mag-entertain ng Filipino kasi before gusto ko nga foreigner para wala masyadong problema. But when I realized that if it's Filipino then why not di ba?" she said jokingly.

Despite her current status, Vina said there is no room for bitterness in her heart and explains why she will always be ready to welcome love back into her life. "Siyempre mas maganda yung may blessing ka from God, 'yung relationship niya. Siyempre any woman would want to get married. Pero may kanya-kanya kasi tayong journey sa buhay. Minsan, hindi talaga meant sa isang babae na mapangasawa or sa isang tao na hindi makasal or maging mother. Ako, at least na-experience ko yung motherhood. Yung kasal, hindi ko alam. May chance pa naman (laughs). I'm not closing my doors," she said.



ACTION Honda

"WHERE CAR OWNERSHIP IS MADE EASY"

Your Filipino friends, ready at your Service!

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

MABUHAY! rafael@myactionhonda.com

 Rafael Nebres General Manager	 Gani Gregorio Asst. Sales Manager	 Jose Sarte Service Manager	 Ronaldo Aquino Assistant Service Manager	 Joseph Redoblado Service Advisor	 Roland 'Regi' Giraldez Sales and Leasing Consultant	 Ramon Bayani Sales and Leasing Consultant	 Pio Regio Senior Lot Attendant			
 Honda Pilot 2025	 Don Luche Accountant	 Ramon Miranda Lot Attendant	 Marie Miranda Service Appointment Coordinator	 Jeshiela Jordan Accounts Receivable	 Terry Aquino Cleanup Associate	 Honda CR-V 2025	 Honda Accord 2025	 Honda Civic 2025	 Honda Passport 2025	 Honda Odyssey 2025

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

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

Liz Alindogan produces Arnell Ignacio concert



FROM LEFT: Atty. Melanie Honey Quiño, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) administrator Arnell Ignacio, and actress-producer Liz Alindogan.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) administrator Arnell Ignacio is set to make a comeback in the music scene as he serenades fans in a post-Valentine's show titled "Timeless," which is scheduled to take place at the Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila, on Feb. 15.

Arnell didn't expect his friend, former actress-turned-producer Liz Alindogan, to actually produce a concert for him. They became friends during the pandemic.

"I will be performing some of my favorite love songs. Maraming surprises sa aming repertoire," said Arnell, who will also be performing with The New Minstrels.

Liz, one of the favorite leading ladies of the late Action King Fernando Poe Jr and King of Comedy Dolphy, said she had been producing concerts since she retired from acting.

"I have produced many concerts, such as Jose Mari Chan, Vernie Varga, Gretchen Barretto, and Nyoy Volante. Nanalo rin ako sa Aliw Award sa Best Concert Producer. So I must say, gamay ko na talaga ang mag produce ng show."

Arnell and Liz shared their thoughts on staging a show the day after Valentine's Day. They believe people will still watch the show after Feb. 14.

"Sa real housewife na katulad ko, kahit Feb. 15 pa kami mag-date okay lang. At saka marami ang darating sa show dahil si

Arnell ang nandoon. First time uli nilang maririnig kumanta si Arnell after so many years. (For a real housewife like me, even if we date on Feb. 15, it's okay. And besides, many people will come to the show because Arnell is there. It's the first time they'll hear Arnell sing after so many years)," Liz said.

Arnell said that life is too short to spend time arguing about a date in February.

"Ang daming nangyayari ngayon. Life is too short para mamili kung kailan ang Valentine's date. Kahit Semana Santa pa yan okay lang mag-date. (There's so much going on right now. Life is too short to choose when to have a Valentine's date. Even if it's Holy Week, it's okay to date)," he said.

Ai-Ai talk about her attempt to conceive a baby

Arnell also offered advice to Ai-Ai, who is one of her closest friends in the entertainment industry.

"Huwag ka ng umiyak at matanda ka na. Global consultant ka na ng mga kinakaliwa. Magpa-workshop ka na kung paano ihandle ang mga kinakaliwa," said Arnell. "Magtayo na rin siya ng partylist. Asawang inaapi, asawang iniwan. (Stop crying and you're old. You're a global consultant for those who are being abused. Go hold a workshop on how to handle those who are being abused," said Arnell. "She should also build a party list for oppressed wives, abandoned wives.")"

Arnell added: "But seriously, ang experience ni Ai-Ai sa ganyan hindi matatawaran. Susmaryosep! I'm sure maraming makikin-

ig sa kanya. At sa pinagdaanan niya, look at her! Nakatindig pa rin! Magpa-workshop na siya. Mag-hold siya ng masterclass." (But seriously, Ai-Ai's experience in that regard is priceless. Susmaryosep! I'm sure many will listen to her. And with what she's been through, look at her! She's still standing! She should hold a workshop. She should hold a masterclass.)

He made a fresh comment about Ai-Ai, who has failed in her marriage for the third time.

On Nov. 11, 2024, Ai-Ai confirmed that she and her husband, Gerald Sibayan, had separated.

Ai-Ai revealed this during her appearance on Fast Talk with Boy Abunda on GMA Network.

"Hiwalay na kami. Last month pa.

Basta hindi ko makakalimutan. October 14, nag-chat siya, madaling araw sa Pilipinas. Yun nga. Sinabi niya na gusto niya magkaanak at hindi na siya happy. (We broke up. Last month. As long as I can't forget. On October 14, he chatted early in the morning in the Philippines.

That's it. He said he wanted to have children and he wasn't happy anymore.)

"So medyo confused ako and shocked, and bakit ngayon? Bakit ngayong oras na 'to? Sana hinintay mo man lang ako makauwi sa Amerika. (So I'm a little confused and shocked, and why now? Why at this time? I hope you at least waited for me to get back to the US)," she said.

Ai-Ai tearfully revealed that they attempted to conceive a child through in vitro fertilization (IVF). They had three embryos, but Gerald was deeply hurt after losing two of them.

"Mayroon pa kaming isang embryo eh. Sabi ko sa kanya, kapag nagkapera kami, isu-surprise ko sana siya na ilalagay ko 'yung baby para magkaroon kami ng baby. Siguro 'yun 'yung nagtrigger sa kaniya na ayaw niya ng surprise na bibigyan ko siya

ng baby. (We still have one embryo. I told him, when we had money, I was going to surprise him by implanting the baby so we could have a baby. Maybe that's what triggered him not wanting the surprise that I would give him a baby)," the actress said.

Gerald obtained his green card after being sponsored by AiAi, leading to their marriage in 2017. AiAi has held a green card since 2015, making her a lawful permanent resident of the United States.

AiAi and Gerald renewed their wedding vows in Las Vegas in 2022, celebrating their 10th anniversary in April.

Miguel Vera, a former actor, was Ai-Ai's first husband. They married in 1996 but separated a few years later.

The marriage faced significant challenges, and Ai-Ai openly discussed the emotional and physical abuse she allegedly suffered during that period.

She subsequently filed for annulment, which was granted in 2003.

In 2013, Ai-Ai garnered attention due to her relationship with businessman Jed Salang.

Their romance began with great intensity, and they married in the same year.

However, things took a turn for the worse when Ai-Ai publicly revealed that Jed had been allegedly abusive towards her.

Subsequently, she sought legal action and filed for an annulment, which she later confirmed, leading to their official separation.

Maloi immediately answered about the dating rumors between her and Rico.

She revealed that it was the first meet-up between her and Rico and that they have common friends. They were invited by the latter to his La Union hotel, where photos of them went viral. Maloi explained that the photo might have been manipulated.

"Actually, nu'ng time na po 'yon, dun lang 'yung first meet-up namin ni Rico Blanco, and 'yung friends ko are friends din niya.

"Hindi ko alam kung paano nangyari 'yon. Siguro, may videos 'yung Blooms (BINI fans) na in-upload sa X and then na-crop siya, screenshot na parang bad angle, so it just shows na parang nag-holding hands," Maloi said.

"In-upload sa Facebook, kumalat hanggang nagkaroon na ng mga headline. Nu'ng nakita ko 'yon, nag-tweet po agad ako sa stop spreading fake news, kasi ayoko nang lumaki pa 'yung gulo. Gusto ko nang linawin agad," Maloi said.

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

with the singer-songwriter last month, and she immediately addressed it via X. She again talked about it in their TV guesting on Friday.

Boy asked her about how she addresses fake news.

"Parang hindi na siya mawawala as public figure. Parang may mga tao talaga na gagawa at gagawa ng fake news about you. And feeling ko, it just shows na you are relevant."

"Parang you just go with your life, do what you do, just do what you love as long as wala kang natatakpan na tao. Yung fake

news, nandiyan na yan, e, so parang masasabi ko lang, stop spreading fake news this 2025. Stop it," she said.

The host followed up by asking what was the fake news

written about her. Maloi immediately answered about the dating rumors between her and Rico.

She revealed that it was the first meet-up between her and Rico and that they have common friends. They were invited by the latter to his La Union hotel, where photos of them went viral. Maloi explained that the photo might have been manipulated.

"Actually, nu'ng time na po 'yon, dun lang 'yung first meet-up namin ni Rico Blanco, and 'yung friends ko are friends din niya.

"Hindi ko alam kung paano nangyari 'yon. Siguro, may videos 'yung Blooms (BINI fans) na in-upload sa X and then na-crop siya, screenshot na parang bad angle, so it just shows na parang nag-holding hands," Maloi said.

"In-upload sa Facebook, kumalat hanggang nagkaroon na ng mga headline. Nu'ng nakita ko 'yon, nag-tweet po agad ako sa stop spreading fake news, kasi ayoko nang lumaki pa 'yung gulo. Gusto ko nang linawin agad," Maloi said.

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Maloi was caught up in dating rumors

Dennis no Christmas, New Year greetings from estranged children

Excited si Dennis Padilla sa Netflix limited series na Bad Boy 3, kung saan nag-reunion sila ni Robin Padilla makalipas ang dalawang dekada.

Kumusta si Robin bilang direktor ng Netflix limited series na Bad Boy 3?

"Masaya. Masarap. Masarap!"

Si Robin din ang producer?

"Meron yata siyang kasosyo. Very dedicated siya saka inspired siya nung nagsu-shoot kami," pahayag ni Dennis.

Nasa cast din ng Bad Boy 3 sina Joko Diaz, Ejay Falcon, Bembol Roco, Juancho Triviño, at Nadia Montenegro bilang nag-iisang asawa ni Dennis.

"Grabe to, drama-comedy. Pag napanood nyo ito, papaiyakin ko kayo,"

pagmamalaki ni Dennis.

"Pag napanood niyo, maiiyak kayo sa eksena ko."

DENNIS PADILLA ON HIS ESTRANGED CHILDREN

Na-enjoy niya iyong pagdadrama?

"Oo," mabilis na sagot ni Dennis.

"E, dun pa naman sa story, supposed to be marami kaming anak ni Nadia. Ganun. Parang sa totoong buhay."

OK na ba siya sa mga anak niya? Nag-abroad sila...

"Yung dalawa, yes. Pero nung... na-miss ko nung ano... na-miss ko nung... na-miss ko nung Christmas saka New Year," malumanay na pagtatapat ni Dennis.

"Kasi gumawa naman ako, di ba,



sa IG gumagawa ako ng greeting, 'Merry Christmas,' mga ganun.

"Tapos nag-record ako ng song para dun sa mga... nasa IG ko yun, e. Nag-record ako ng song para sa mga bata, di ba?"

"Wala, parang nag-e-expect... parang iniintay ko na reaction, ganun. E, parang nalungkot lang ako, kasi parang hindi na naman ako nabati ng Christmas saka New Year.

"E, pagka matagal na kasi, parang nasasanay na... nasasanay ka na pati. Parang di ka na masyadong nag-e-expect.

"Pero there are times pagka mag-isa ako, o kaya nagda-drive ako — nalungkot pa rin pala ako.

"At saka parang... pag nag-iisa ka, yung parang... sana maalala nila ako, di ba, mabati ng Christmas o New Year. O kaya pag birthday, parang ganun.

"Tapos eventually, siyempre ie-erase mo na lang. Kasi malulung-

kot ka, e. So, ie-erase mo na lang.

"Sasabihin ko na lang, 'Lord, baka siguro next year.' Parang ganun. So I just ano, lagi ko naman silang ipinagdadadal.

"Na ang pinakaimportante, gusto ko lang lagi silang ligtas.

"Number two, gusto ko, lahat ng blessings na puwedeng pumasok sa

buhay nila sa araw-araw, e, dumating.

"Lagi kong dinadasal talaga yon."

Hindi kaila sa publiko na hindi maayos ang relasyon ni Dennis sa kanyang mga anak sa dating asawa na si Marjorie Barretto — sina Julia, Claudia, at Leon.

Little Manila Confidential

LMC

Delivering Filipino Stories • SINCE 1999

WWW.LMCONFIDENTIAL.COM
EMAIL: josebaking@gmail.com

Jose "Joey"
Baking

PUBLISHER
&
EDITOR

PUBLISHED BY: Match International Group

THE MOST REQUESTED FILIPINO ARTIST IN TORONTO

THE KING OF RNB
JAY R

ALL VIP CONCERT, DINNER & PHOTO OP

Get ready for an unforgettable evening with the most requested Filipino artist in Toronto.

VIP Tickets: \$125 (Limited Seats Only!)

Secure your seats now!
(647) 203-0097
(416) 725-9045
(647) 278-4374

MARCH 14, 2025 | 7PM

REMBRANDT BANQUET HALL

VIP TICKET: \$125 (LIMITED SEATS ONLY!)

TWO FILIPINO-CANADIANS ELECTED TO CMC-AO EXECUTIVE BOARD

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.



Tony A. San Juan, OCT.



Ben Corpuz, CMC-AO Executive Vice-President.

unteer-run collective organization of Filipino-Canadian associations in Ontario which champions and organizes initiatives and activities preserving and promoting Filipino heritage and culture in Canada.

CMC-AO is a non-political umbrella organization representing more than 20 Asian Canadian associations of various Asian countries, ethnic regions, and cultures. The Council's objective is "to be a leader in promoting Asian heritage and culture within the mosaic of the Canadian multicultural society." It aims "to build a vibrant multicultural so-



Newly Elected General Secretary of CMC-AO Melinda Manlapaz



The Executive Officers and Directors of Canadian Multicultural Council-Asians in Ontario.

ciety and promote inter-cultural cooperation and racial harmony through the understanding of different cultures and heritage.

Being a proud CMC-AO Council member organization, PIDC purposefully participates and meaningfully supports the established objectives and programs

of the 27-year-old non-profit socio-cultural entity. Designated to represent PIDC to the CMC-AO directorate, the 2 community leaders were chosen at the AGM on January 11, 2025, at the Japanese Cultural Centre in North York, Toronto. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

TORONTO - Two notable Filipino Canadian community leaders were recently elected to the 2025 Executive Directorate of the Canadian Multicultural Council - Asians in Ontario (CMC-AO). Melinda Manlapaz and Ben Corpuz, both long-serving Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC) officers, were selected as General Secretary and Executive Vice-President, respectively, of the prominent multicultural organization in the province.

Active CMC-AO volunteer M. Manlapaz is currently serving also as a PIDC Auditor while B. Corpuz is one of the PIDC Vice Presidents. PIDC is a community-based, non-profit and vol-

Aegis not eager to replace Mercy Sunot

Following the all-too sudden passing of Mercy Sunot, lead singer of the iconic OPM band Aegis, there was talk that former "The Voice Kids" winner Lyca Gairanod will be joining the group as her replacement.

But this denied outright by the band during a media conference for their "Halik sa Ulan" concert at Viva Cafe in Cubao, Quezon City.

"Wala pong ipapalit kay Mercy, siguro mga guest (vocalist) lang po ang pwede, pero si Mercy po forever po siya sa Aegis. Wala pong mawawala na Mercy sa Aegis. (No one will replace Mercy, maybe we can only entertain guests, but Mercy stays forever with Aegis. Mercy will always be part of Aegis)," said band member Juliet Sunot, Mercy's sister.

It was Nov. 18 last year when Aegis officially announced Mercy's death.

Apparently, she lost her battle against Stage 4 breast cancer and lung cancer at the Stanford Hospital and Clinics in San Francisco, California.

Mercy's sisters Juliet and Ken Sunot expressed how difficult it was for them to adjust without their lead vocalist.

"Mas lalo po kaming na pressure kasi nasanay na kami na laging nandyan si Ate [Mercy] and ngayon po first time namin na magcoconcert na wala siya, kakayanin naman po namin para sa kanya. (We are under even more pressure because we are used to having Ate [Mercy] with us and now, as we embark on our first concert without her, we will try our best to make do without her)," Ken said.

"Mahirap po talaga sa amin, kasi sanay na

kami magkasasama kaming pito ngayon anim na lang kami, nung before po talaga malungkot kasi wala si Mercy nandun po siya sa US nagpapagaling, naiiyak na lang po kami pero gusto namin ituloy ito kasi pangarap po ito ni Mercy. (It's really hard for us because we're

used to being together, the seven of us now, there's only six of us, even then when she was in the US recovering, it was already sad for us, because Mercy wasn't there, It's a g o n i z i n g but we want

to continue with this because it's Mercy's dream)," Juliet added.

Juliet related how they had a hard time performing in a recent gig due to sadness. Thankfully, the fans were there to push them.

Juliet and Ken shared some of the things they miss the most about their sister.

"Makulit po talaga siya, tapos kung magdamit po siya hindi katulad namin, gusto niya po talaga ilabas kung sino siya, isa pa po sa mamimiss namin is yung tawa niya kasi wagas po talaga siya tumawa, tapos magpamahal po siyang kapatid," Juliet said.

(She's naughty, even the way she dresses it's



different, she really wants to show her individuality, another thing we'll miss is her laughter because she does it heartily, and she is a loving sister)

Valentine's Day concert

Despite the loss, the remaining members pushed with "Halik sa Ulan: A Valentine Special" on February 1-2.

"Iba talaga nung kumpleto kami. Pero kailangan lang namin na mas lalo pang galingan. Gusto man naming na bumalik siya pero wala, talagang umalis na siya. Kailangan

lang namin ipagpatuloy yung nasimulan namin," Juliet said.

(It's really different when we're complete. But we need to step up our game. Much as we want her [Mercy] to come back, she's already gone. We just need to finish what we started.)

Aside from their classic hits like, "Halik", "Sayang na Sayang" and "Luha", the band also revealed that they will release a new song at the concert as a tribute to Mercy.

Part of the proceeds from these shows will now go to Mercy's family.

Canadian dreams ruined for Filipino migrants allegedly scammed by Fil-Canadian recruiter

FIL-CANADIAN from page 1

hopes of supporting his family in the Philippines.

For \$6,000, he was allegedly promised a full-time job with a legal work permit, which Moskito claimed would lead to a permanent residency.

Upon learning that his friend had secured a job through Moskito, Quizo said he thought her company was legitimate.

"I (thought) that it was legit," Quizo told CBC News.

After paying half of the recruitment fee, Quizo quit school and began working as a housekeeper at two hotels.

After working for seven months, Quizo's name was removed from the job schedule and his student visa expired, and there was no new work permit, as promised by Moskito.

Without work documents, he is now homeless and lives in a men's shelter. Borrowing money to survive, Quizo said he was "too ashamed to fly back home."

Quizo is one of "hundreds" of Filipino migrants who have fallen prey to the alleged scam, according to Migrante Ontario.

Despite orders from the Ontario Ministry of Labour to repay illegal recruitment fees — totaling \$200,000 in all 61 cases — Moskito allegedly faced minimal consequences, with fines as low as \$250.

Migrante Ontario shared in a social media post that Moskito's labor violations date back to 2018 when Filipino workers at Ravine Farms reported her alleged illegal practices.

Five more workers have filed complaints in 2023, with sup-



Jeanett Moskito in her office

port from Migrante Ontario and the Migrants Resource Center in Canada.

Many have claimed they paid fees ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000, but never obtained the valid work permits allegedly promised by Moskito.

Despite the complaints filed against her company, Moskito has reportedly continued to post ads on Canada's official job site.

In a public advisory shared by the Department of Migrant Workers Ontario, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) stated that "Canada is a 'NO PLACEMENT FEE COUNTRY.'"

The Philippine Consulate General in Calgary also issued an advisory urging migrants to avoid any transactions with Moskito and her companies that "ask for excessive fees in exchange for fraudulent job offers."

Migrante Ontario and other advocacy groups are pushing for reforms to protect migrants from exploitation and predatory practices.

CBC's Metro Morning host

David Common interviewed John No, a lawyer representing one of the migrant workers, John Gabriel Quizo.

"The current current labor program breeds exploitation of being tied to one employer," says No.

The penalty for a recruiter who extorts illegal fees is not a deterrent either.

"The penalty can be as great as \$50,000 for an individual or \$100,000 for a corporation. Or it can be as low as \$250. The problem is it's not being used as a penalty. Mostly it's 250. if the penalty of 50 thousand is imposed, the fees will just be passed on the workers."

Quizo paid 5000 recruitment fee.

Common said the \$250 fine against a \$5000 fee is "barely anything against that."

"So, if the penalty goes up, it will just be passed on to these workers."

So, what do these recruiters promise?

"The promise is hope and dreams, stable life, permanent residency, whether that promise can be achieved is another

thing," says No.

"Sometimes, they are here already illegally and are told to change jobs because another job is path to permanent residency but most of the times, that is not the case"

"There is an false assumption that if you work a certain number of hours in Canada, that is path to residency. But often most of our TFW positions, there is no path to permanent residency," No clarifies.

How did Quizo end up at the shelter.



John Gabriel Quizo

"Most of times, they go into thousands of dollars in debt just to give money to a recruiter. Mostly, these people come from a poor background, so they borrow money from family or friends. Or high interest loans from unscrupulous vendors. Just to get here. So he's in a shelter because he's not legally allowed to work in Canada."

Common points out the reason for the system.

"But the program was set up so that if the employer cannot find an employee within the Canadian population, somebody to do this job, job for a specific market, you are allowed to get from outside just for the job only in

that specific circumstance and only for this specific employer, that was why it was set up," says Common.

"Yes, but the system is made in such a way that a worker cannot leave even if they are not getting paid, working 60-80 hours a week, barely minimum wage, so we have a system that takes worker's freedom of movement away, essentially indentured servitude, so, we're putting people in a vulnerable state," says No.

Filipino Canadian lawyer Jake Aguilar told CBC News the fines issued were too small to deter Moskito and others from engaging in fraudulent recruitment.

"You get a violation, you pay, that's it. You can do it again. You can do it as often as you want — as long as you pay for the penalty, there's no limit," Aguilar said.

"There should be a punishment that if you do this after a certain number of times, you should be banned for being in this business again. That does not exist."

The fines for illegal recruitment are just like parking tickets.

"Even in criminal cases, the penalty should be enough to deter you," says Aguilar.

Meanwhile, Quizo is waiting for his day in court and hoping Moskito will be punished to the full extent of the law.

Like many, he's also angry that Moskito — who is Filipina herself — took advantage of the trust of the community.

"I hope she goes to jail," he said. "She ruined many dreams and the lives of families who believed in her false promises."

Bong Revilla Jr., the action star, takes a bow for now



Bong Revilla Jr. and leading lady Beauty Gonzalez in the recently concluded third season of 'Walang Matigas na Pulis sa Matinik na Misis.'

Senator Bong Revilla Jr.'s seven-episode long titled series "Walang Matigas na Pulis sa Matinik na Misis" on GMA culminated last Sunday, February 2.

Probably the shortest series ever on prime-time TV, Tolome has to end as the actor-politician — a re-electionist — gears up for the

gruelling campaign set to kick off next week.

On its Season 3, this is Bong's fans and supporters' last glimpse of him before — well, hopefully — he steps into another political challenge.

Consistently making it to the top list of senatorial candidates in surveys, the chinky-eyed charismatic lawmaker hopes to take farther — and further — where he left off.

If you're wondering if he purposefully didn't field an entry to last year's Metro Manila Film Festival, it was because he had bigger plans in store for slambang flick suckers out there this 2025.

True to his promise, Bong is determined to get his hands on his iconic "Alyas Pagi 3." There's also one with Megastar Sharon Cuneta.

Quite sadly though, there appears to be a remote chance to do a local version of Hollywood's "Expendables" originally intended for him et al with Coco Martin at the helm.

Chances are, this ambitious project will have to take a back-seat as this is going to be a busy month ahead for Coco.

Now on its second year,

"Batang Quiapo" is Coco's top priority. Knowing how seriously focused the actor-director on his career, Coco is not about to let any other project interfere with this FPJ classic material.

One thing's for certain, action lovers will get to see more of Bong on screen.

Will Michelle Dy join Miss Grand Philippines?

There's no telling yet whether or not Michelle Dy will make good her promise to join Miss Grand Philippines.

Having first joined Miss World Philippines and later Miss Universe Philippines, her mom 1979 Miss International Melanie Marquez apparently does not approve of her daughter's plan.

Melanie sees no need for Michelle to take her chances: "What for? Joining MWP and MPU is more than enough she doesn't have to prove anything!"

Melanie though sounds a bit too condescending on what she regards as an "inferior" beauty pageant: "It's not as prestigious as the ones Michelle had previously joined."

Aside from believing in the "Mother knows best" truism, let's face it, Michelle even winning the

MGP title won't add up. Why settle for a beauty title of lesser magnitude?

Pageant aficionados can only wish for Michelle to rethink her decision.

JDL PRESENTS
Disney
FROZEN JR.
TICKETS \$20
ENCORE PRESENTATION
MARCH 9, 2025
3:00 PM (MATINEE)
6:30 PM (EVENING)
CITY PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
#101-1000 NEW WESTMINSTER DRIVE
THORNHILL
MUSIC & LYRICS BY KRISTEN ANDERSON-LOPEZ & ROBERT LOPEZ
BOOK BY JEDDIFER LEE
BASED ON THE DISNEY FILM WRITTEN BY JEDDIFER LEE AND DIRECTED BY CHRIS BOCK AND JEDDIFER LEE
FOR BOX OFFICE AND TICKET INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
HTTPS://TICKETS.CITYPLAYHOUSE.CA
THE CITY PLAYHOUSE THEATRE IS FULLY WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. WHEN BOOKING YOUR TICKETS, PLEASE INFORM THE BOX OFFICE IF YOU REQUIRE WHEELCHAIR SEATING OR ANY OTHER SPECIAL SEATING ARRANGEMENT.
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL
Disney's Frozen Jr. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY 212-541-4664 mtshows.com

Jessy Mendiola thinks 2025 will be her busiest year after her hiatus

Comebacking actress Jessy Mendiola is counting on her skills in time management to let her cope with the triple roles demanded by her showbiz career, being a mom to two-year-old Rosie and being a supportive wife to husband Luis Manzano, who is seeking the post of Batangas vice-governor in the May 2025 mid-term elections.



na 'girl, yang buhay mo muna unahin mo.' You know, yung personal life mo muna," Jessy pointed out.

(I took a break from work. It was a good five-year break that started after the pandemic. It was God's way of telling me to take things easy and prioritize my personal life.)

"I needed that. I healed a lot. I've grown.

The actress and mom announced she will do two Kapamilya shows this year. The first one, set to start soon, will pair her with her former "Budoy" co-star Gerald Anderson.

"I'm very grateful to ABS-CBN for adjusting their schedule to suit mine. They know that I really value my time with my family, especially my daughter. They promised me that they will work out a fair schedule for my needs," she added.

Jessy pondered on her life for the past five years when work took a backseat in favor of marriage and family. It will be a stark contrast to the busy pace she will pick up later in 2025.


"Nagpahinga din talaga ako eh. Five years, ako nagpahinga. Since the pandemic, I stopped. And I think, sabi na rin ni Lord

I've grown so much," Jessy said in an interview during the opening of the Manila Diamond Studio branch in Evia Lifestyle Center in Daang-Hari Road, Las Piñas City.

The actress has been the face of Manila Diamond Studio since she was single. She admitted that jewelry and real estate were her go-to choices when it came to investing the hard-earned fruits of her labor in showbiz.

Pointing to the four-carat diamond studs on her ears, she revealed that it took her a decade to finally buy it. "I was just 21 when I dreamed of having this piece. I'm 32 now, so it took me a decade. I just kept on saving money."

"Simula nang nagsimula akong magtrabaho, sabi ko talaga... dream ko talagang



Presents

The Filipinos' Pride


Honourable Rechie Valdez

Let's get to know her and her business prowess. Learn from her expertise

A fundraising event supporting the first Filipina on the Parliament Hill

FRIDAY 2-07-25
6:00 PM TO 10PM
FILIPINO CENTRE
TORONTO
4395 SHEPPARD AVE
EAST SCARBOROUGH

Call: Judith Gonzales @ 4163170967 or Philip Beloso @ 6472679649 for confirmation of attendance



makabili ako ng stud earrings na talagang sa akin. So, pinag-ipunan ko talaga siya. And yes, Manila Diamond Studio helped me get the best deal out of it," she added.

(Ever since I started working, I told myself to work to have these diamond stud earrings for myself, so I saved up for this.)

Speaking about her husband's foray

into politics, Jessy said she supports Luis in his "one million percent candidacy."

"We are very excited and at the same time very nervous because this is a new world for us. But knowing Luis, he's very generous, and he's willing to give his heart to everyone, so I hope he will be given the chance to serve," Jessy concluded.

How to stay healthy this cold and flu season

(NC) From skating and skiing to cozy nights at home curled up on the couch, the winter season has so many activities to get excited about. To make sure colds, flu's and other respiratory illnesses don't get in the way of your winter plans, follow these tips to help you and those around you stay healthy.

1. Care for your immune system. Keep your body resilient by eating well, taking vitamins, exercising regularly, getting enough sleep and managing stress.
2. Get your flu? and COVID-19? shot??. Annual shots help your immune system fight off the current year's version of the flu. Remember, it takes about two weeks for vaccines to fully kick in.
3. Keep hydrated. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated and???? fight off germs. Get a fun, colourful glass or water bottle to keep with you and remind you to take sips throughout the day. ? ?
4. Keep your hands clean. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after

touching shared surfaces or coughing and sneezing. On the go? Keep sanitizer with at least 70 per cent ethyl alcohol handy.

5. Master the "vampire cough." Even when you're not sick, when you feel a cough or sneeze coming, cover your mouth and nose with your elbow to help keep germs from spreading.
6. Stay home. If despite your best efforts, you end up feeling unwell, it's crucial to stay home to avoid spreading what's ailing you. Rest and recover, while minimizing contact with others, before getting back to your regular activities.
7. Know when to seek help. If you're sick and your symptoms are worrying you, don't hesitate to consult a doctor. Can't get an appointment? Virtual-care platforms like Maple let you chat with a primary care provider over a secure text, audio or video call within minutes.

Learn more about virtual healthcare at get-maple.ca.



JAY R

MARCH 14, 2025 | 7PM

REMBRANDT BANQUET HALL

PEARLY ANNE ELLARDE





Love Notes:
A Night of Music
Student
Concert

FEB
15th

06
PM

FEATURING
 JDL VOICE STUDENTS
 AND SPECIAL
 GUESTS

Xinflix Auditorium
 421 Bentley Street
 Unit 9
 Markham



LMC

Little Manila Confidential

25



Joey Baking The Socialist

The first fancy event of the year is Gerald Aquintey and Yana Alvaro of Tala Entertainment's Grateful Party with a theme of white!

Fyi, Gerald and Yana are the people behind Tala entertainment, responsible for bringing the big names in Filipino and Canadian entertainment and showing them in bigger venues the community has not ventured before. Tala brought "the nation's girl group" Bini to Toronto.

While other producers have stopped welcoming the media to their shows, Yana has opened her doors.

"Kuya, the media is always welcome to my shows," she told me once, reassuring and comforting words indeed to legacy publishers like me.

The party is for all everyone who have supported them in their projects for the whole year.

Congratulations to Gerald and Yana. May you continue to thrive and prosper.

When the Lions club started appearing in my radar after the pandemic, I got confused. There were so many of them with different chapter, some within the same geographic area. All have the goal of charity, community work and helping anyone and everyone in need.

However, of all the chapters of Lions that was created, one chapter that "I noticed" is

still very active. Kapuso Lions club is till going strong going from one good deed after another. In fact, even on vacation, they try to make an outreach program. Bal Yujuico went on vacation in the Philippines and did just that. His story is in the issue. If you can make the world a better place, no matter how small, Kapuso Lions members are doing it. Good deed in action indeed.

Congratulations to Kapuso Lions. Keep up the good work. The world needs more of you.

The Sinulog Festival (as known as Sinug and Sulog) is an annual cultural and religious festival held on the third Sunday of January in Cebu, with the center of the activities being in Cebu City, and is the centre of the Santo Niño Christian celebrations in the Philippines.

The festival is widely regarded as one of the largest cultural and religious festivals in

So many events to start the Year



ABOVE, Gerald Aquintey (3RD FROM LEFT) and Yana Alvaro (4TH FROM LEFT) of Tala Entertainment pose with supporters and friends at their Grateful Party.

the Philippines, with every celebration of the festival routinely attracting estimated reach over 4 million attendees since 2025.[2] Aside from the religious aspect of the festival, Sinulog is also famous for its street parties, usually happening the night before and the night of the main festival.[3] The festival is sometimes referred to as the 'Grandest Festival in the Philippines' by some participants and locals.

Other places in the Philippines also celebrate their own version of the festival in honor of the Santo Niño, both within Cebu like Carmen, and outside Cebu, including Tondo, Kabankalan, General

Santos, Maasin, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Pagadian, Balingasag, and Don Carlos, Bukidnon.

So, the first Sinulog sa Toronto 2025 Bazaar (STB) at Korean Cultural Centre tries to replicate the atmosphere of Sinulog back home. The brainchild of Dong Sabanal, it was a day-long festival that started with the blessing of Sto. Niño statues brought by attendees.

People flocked to revel in the inaugural STB. I am sure the STB will be a must-see festival that Filipinos can enjoy. Congratulations to Dong Sabanal, who is happy with the outcome and looking

SOCIALLIST page 12

JDL 's staging of Disney's FROZEN JR. results in an Encore on March 9 by popular demand

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Following last year's back-to-back successful stagings of Disney's MOANA JR. in the Greater Toronto Area, the JDL Performing Arts presented another popular Broadway show. Last year, MOANA JR. was presented on January 20, 2024, at the Maja Prentice Theatre, in Mississauga, and the encore on March 13, 2024, at the City Playhouse Theatre in Thornhill, Ontario.

Last month, the popular performing arts outfit staged Disney's FROZEN JR. on January 25, 2025 (Saturday) at the City Playhouse Theatre in Thorn-

hill, Ontario, with 2 shows.

According to Josie De Leon, an accomplished Filipino-Canadian professional singer and actress and the founder & executive director of the JDL Performing Arts, Disney's FROZEN JR was presented through a special arrangement with Music Theatre Inter-



national, New York, USA.

The enchanting modern classic from Disney is ready for your Broadway Junior stars! Frozen JR. is based on the 2018 Broadway musical, and brings Elsa, Anna, and the magical land of Arendelle to life onstage. The show features all of the memorable songs from the animated film, with music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, plus

five new songs written for the Broadway production.

A story of true love and acceptance between sisters, Frozen JR. expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between Princesses Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood. It is based on the 2018 Broadway musical, and brings Elsa, Anna, and the magical land of Arendelle to life, onstage.

With a cast of beloved characters loaded with magic, adventure, and

JDL FORZEN JR page 11

Carmi Martin admits she can relate

Ipinagmalaki ni Carmi Martin ang Netflix original film na mag-i-streaming sa Pebrero 27, 2025 kung saan suporta siya kina...

"Maris Racal! And Anthony Jennings!"

"Tuturuan kami para mabuhay ang sex life!"

Pasisiglahin ang mga boring marriage, ika nga sa trailer ng MaThon movie na Sosyal Climbers.

"Actually ang ganda ng pagkagawa. At saka ang ganda rin nung trailer niya," sambit ni Carmi.

CAMI ON WORKING WITH MARIS AND ANTHONY Kumusta ang pakikipagtrabaho kina Maris at Anthony?

"Naku, siyempre, ano lang ahhh! Naaawa ako dun sa batang yun!" bulalas ni Carmi, about Maris.

"Sabagay ako rin, kasi ngarag. Kasi meron akong serye, lagare rin ako. Di siyempre bilang senior, di ba, medyo mahirap.

Maris Racal "So mahirap yung kunyari, alam mo kasi, I don't have a manager, so makikiusap ka na, 'Puwede po, ano, i-late call niyo na lang ako.'

"Kaya lang minsan, hindi talaga puwede kasi anlaki! Anlaki kasi parati ng eksena sa Sosyal Climbers.

"Naku, may isa, parang nahihirapan din ako! Pero siya, more than... kasi siyempre pag bida, di ba?"

"Even sina Sen [Ramon 'Bong' Revilla Jr.], si Sen

din nakikita ko sa mukha, talagang pagod, e. Ano talaga, sa bida, mas mahirap.

"Kasi all the dialogues, di ba, and-un sa kanila naka-focus. And you really have to deliver. Just like me, I have to deliver kahit na pagod.

"You always have to do and give your best."

Maliban sa Walang Matigas na Pulis sa Matinik na Misis at Sosyal Problems, kasama si Carmi sa pelikulang Everything About My Wife na bida sina Jennylyn Mercado at Dennis Trillo.

May tinatapos ding series si Carmi sa TV5.

Sa Marso, hopefully ay maipalabas na ang pelikulang Mudrasta kung saan ang papel niya ay best friend ng bidang si Roderick Paulate.

MATHON CHEATING ISSUE

Kinabahan ba siya nang sumambulat ang isyu ng MaThon at ng ex-girlfriend ni Anthony na si Jamela "Jam" Villanueva? Nag-worry ba siya para sa Sosyal Climbers?

"Ahhh, hindi. Ang feeling ko lang, tao lang, e. Alam mo yun," saad ni Carmi.

"Alam ko, mao-overcome yon. I'm not saying tama! Pero alam kong mapapatawad naman sila ng mga tao.



to Maris Racal's predicament

"I'm sure, andaming gumagawa nun. And once, nangyari na rin sa akin!"

n a t a t a w a n g

pagtatapat ni Carmi na napayuko habang hawak ang kanyang dibdib.

"Ha! Ha! Ha! Ang suwerte ko lang at walang social media!" Sino yun? Sino?

"Ang laking SINO YUN?!"

Artista ba yun?

"Wala, secret na. Halungkatin niyo."

Ayaw i-divulge ni Carmi kung sino yun.

"Huwag na! Nakalusot na nga, e!"

CAMI MARTIN REGRETS BEING IN A LOVE TRIANGLE

Mula nang ipakinilala si Carmi bilang isa sa leading ladies sa pelikulang Dolphy's Angels noong 1980, hindi siya nasangkot sa isyung mala-Maris Racal.

Ang na-link sa kanya noon ay si Apa Ongpin, at single ito noon.

Bilang babae, naiintindihan niya si Maris?

"Well, hindi, pero alam kong mali yun. Kasi nung nangyari sa akin... ang hirap ng pinagdaanan ko," pag-

sisiwalat ni Carmi.

"At talagang sising-sisi ako for what I did. I'm sure she felt that way also. At ang masakit kasi sa kanya, may social media.

"Pero I know, it will pass. And sana huwag naman masyadong husgahan. At sana patawarin na rin siya nung ano."

Naulit pa ba ang pagiging marupok niya?

"Naging marupok pa rin ako pero sa isang tao na lang. Hindi na ako nakipag-love triangle!" nakangiting bulalas ni Carmi.

Sa kaso ni Maris, hindi naman daw kasal sina Jam at Anthony...

"Ay! Hindi rin naman kasal yung sa akin! Ahhh! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!" paghalakhak muli ni Carmi.

Kung lalapit sa kanya si Maris at hihingi ng payo, ano ang ibabahagi niya rito?

"Sasabihin ko, 'Been there, done that.' And sasabihin ko lang na it's a big lesson, mahirap talagang umapak sa may karelasyon."

Pareho nang walang sabit sina Maris at Anthony.

"O, di puwede na!"

Gusto niyang makita together ang MaThon? Tumango si Carmi, "Oo! Sasabihin ko, 'Uy! Nagawa ko na yan dati! Hindi ko lang kayo ma-text.'"

JDL Performing Arts staging of Disney's FROZEN JR. Musical is a beautiful showcase of Filipino talent

JDL FORZEN JR from page 10

plenty of humour, Frozen JR. is sure to thaw even the coldest heart! "

Frozen opened at Broadway's St. James Theatre in March 2018 and went on to earn three Tony Award nominations: Best

Musical, Best Book for Jennifer Lee, and Best Original Score for the Oscar-winning team of Robert Lopez and Kristen

Anderson-Lopez.

At JDL, De Leon said it wasn't hard to

JDL FORZEN JR page 16



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



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



940 Ellesmere Rd. (NE Kennedy) Toronto Ontario M1P 2W8

416-291-9501

www.roadsport.com

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

NO PROBLEM!!!

Come In And See More Choices Of Vehicles



**2019 Nissan Kicks S
FROM \$ 15,986



**2021 Nissan Versa 1.6 S
FROM \$ 15,990



**2021 Hyundai Venue Preferred
FROM \$ 17,990



**2021 Hyundai Elantra Preferred
FROM \$ 18,590

Call Harold for Appointment
416-578-7351



HONDA

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

NEED A CAR? TAWAG KA LANG KABAYAN!
EMMANUEL "MANNY" YANGA 416-858-0616

SOCIALLIST from page 10

for- ward to 2026.



salamat Toron- to! There were probably close to 1,000 attendees just for one day! If you

think you have enjoyed our Sinulog 2025,



UMAC Toronto sponsored the first Sinulog sa Toronto Bazaar. Mhils Yabyabin de Chavez represented UMAC at the festival.

wait until Bazaar next year 2026." for bigger, better, and louder Sinulog Sa Toronto hand,



The Kalibo Santo Niño—Ati-Atihan Festival, also simply called Ati-Atihan Festival, is a Philippine festival held annually in January in honor of the Santo Niño (Holy Child or Infant Jesus) in several towns of the

SOCIALLIST page 13



SINULOG SA TORONTO 2024: 1. Cheska; 2. Ryan Orlanda, MP Rechie Valdez, Paulo Bucud, Kurt Bucud, Sherry Lacson tan; 3. Fr. Gerardo Bandala of Canadian Martyrs church blesses the Sto. Niño statues; 4. Mayor Chow (6th from right), Sinulog organizer Dong Sabanal (4th from left) pose with performers; 5. Paulo Bucud, FV Foods owner Mel Galeon; 6. Ron Reyes Angeles; 7. Joy Tejada; 8. Nathalie Bondoc; 9. Jeff Tan agrees with the Sto. Niño ; 10. Mhils Yabyabin de Chavez of UMAC with MP Rechie Valdez; 11. Emcees Jhang Jhang and Ryan Orlanda



Keempee de Leon on all the ladies linked with him in the past: 'Lahat 'yun totoo'

Keempee de Leon had a trip down memory lane as he recalled the past relationships he had.

On "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda," Keempee named the women who were linked with him in the past: Donna Cruz, Vina Morales, Carmina Villaroel, Ara Mina, Ina Raymundo, Jessa Zaragoza, G. Toengi, Manilyn Reynes, and

Pauleen Luna.

"Tito Boy, lahat 'yun totoo na niligawan ko talaga. Walang halong promo, walang halong showbiz. Kung sa matnik, talagang 'yun 'yung hobby ko noong araw na manligaw," he said.

Keempee admitted that back then, he was a "select and collect" type of guy.

"So 'pag meron kami bagay na hindi napagkasunduan, wala, totally iwasan nalang. Good-bye nalang, gano'n. Wala nang closure talaga," he

said.

But when Keempee realized what he had done, he apologized to his exes.

"At iisa ang sinabi nila: 'Possessive ka kasi,'" he said, also admitting that he is the jealous type.

Today, Keempee is still friends with all of them and even their husbands.

He also remains single, following his last relationship, which was in 2010 with a non-showbiz girlfriend.

"Binigay ko muna 'yung time ko sa Diyos," Keempee said, adding that he found peace and joy with God.

Keempee is starring on "Prinsesa ng City Jail," which airs weekdays at 3:20 p.m. after "Lilet Matias: Ator-



ney-At-Law."

Chloe Sabatin, Jessica Victoria Cianchino, Alexa Marie Grant, Melissa Saldua Ventocilla are featured in bizfashionmagazine as the January 2025 cover models. Congratulations ladies!



Happy 18th Birthday Arielle Perez



SOCIALLIST from page 12

province of Aklan, Panay Island.



1



2



6

The Kalibo Santo Niño—Ati-Atihan Festival,[1] also simply called Ati-Atihan Festival, is a Philippine festival held annually in January in honor of the Santo

Niño (Holy Child or Infant Jesus) in several towns of the province of Aklan, Panay Island. The biggest celebration is held during the third Sunday of January in the town of Kalibo, the province's capital. The name Ati-Atihan means "to imitate the Ati people".[2]

The festival consists of religious processions and street-parades, showcasing themed floats, dancing groups wearing colorful costumes, marching bands, and people sporting face and body paints. The street parade is known as Sadsad, which is also what the locals call their way of

SOCIALLIST page 14



3



4



5

UAAT ATI-ATIHAN: 1. PCCF Miss Teen Philippines Canada 2025 1st runner-up Chaileen Ong, Athena Basterio-Miss Philippines Canada 2024 runner up with PCCF President Rosemer Enverga; 2. PCCF officers with Congen Amgelica Escalona (6th from right); 3. Cherry di Gregorio and Jackie Cristini; 4. Ati-Atihan group; 5. Congen Escalona (centre) with UAAT officers; 6. Congen Angelica Escalona; 7. PCCF Little Miss Philippines 2019 Sophia Declan with yours truly, Joey Baking; 8. York University professor Patrick Alcedo; 9. Sophia Declan and Miss Teen Philippines Canada 2025 1st runner-up Chaileen Ong.



7



8



9

Yassi Pressman pays for schooling of child named after her

Yassi Pressman was so delighted after meeting a child from Cebu who was named after her that she offered to support the latter's schooling for a year.

Pressman documented her visit to a market in Cebu through a video on her Instagram page.

In the clip, Pressman was having a photo shoot in front of a store of dried goods when a female bystander apparently told the actress that she

named her child Yassi.

"Pinanagalan mo sa akin?" Pressman asked, to which the mother



replied, "Yes! Yassi." "Really? Naghahanap ako ng Baby Yassi!" the actress said with surprise.

The mother then went to fetch her daughter, also bringing the child's educational certificate to prove her real name. Pressman hugged the child while talking to the mother about her daughter's studies.

"Grade 1 [siya], very good!

Sige, sagot ko na 'yung Grade 2 niya," Pressman told the mom, who shouted in delight.

The three of them then took a photo before parting ways, with the actress instructing the mother to be in contact with her team.

"Unexpected special moments are simply the best. Salamat Carbon Market, kay mommy at Baby Yassi for making our Cebu trip extra memorable," Pressman captioned her post.

Pressman stated that she is looking for more babies who share the same name as hers. "My goal is to meet you all."



MARKHAM INFINITI

VILLAGE NISSAN

25 South Unionville Ave, Markham ON, L3R 6B8
www.markhaminfiniti.com | www.villagenissan.com



Sheryl Dela Cruz

Financial Services Manager
sheryl@villagenissan.com
(647) 965-0906



Emmanuel Yanga

Brand Ambassador
emmanuel@villagenissan.com
(416) 858-0616

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

NO PROBLEM!

Kung good deal ang hinahanap ninyo, Sheryl at Emmanuel, ang tawagan niyo



Over 70 Brand-New INFINITI's In-Stock & Ready For Delivery



Over 70 Brand-New Nissan's In-Stock & Ready For Delivery



Over 30 Quality Pre-Owned Vehicles In-Stock & Ready For Delivery

*For more information, see Sheryl & Emmanuel for full details.

SOCIALIST from page 13

dancing where the foot is momentarily dragged along the ground in tune to the beat played by the marching bands.

Being believed to be the oldest festival in the Philippines and having inspired other popular Philippine festivals such as Dinagyang of Iloilo and Sinulog of Cebu, it is thus known as the "Mother of All Philippine Festivals."

United Aklanon Association of Toronto (UAAT) Ati-Atihan lives up to the liveliness of its namesake festival back home. York University professor and Aklanon Patrick Alcedo told me the difference of Ati-Atihan with Sinulog told me the difference when I saw him at the UAAT Ati-Atihan celebration.

In a 2010 interview, this is what he says.

"The judges' focus will be on spontaneity," explains Alcedo. "While the dancers will have choreographed routines, we also want to see joyful improvisation. The original festival is very welcoming, allowing all sorts of performers and performances. We will judge the groups on their welcoming spirit."

This welcoming spirit is an important factor, because the people of Kalibo are

renowned for their hospitality. "The Aklanon Association is going to great lengths to invite people from other regions of the Philippines and non-Filipinos to attend," says Alcedo. "The event speaks volumes about who we are and honours our culture, and we want to welcome many guests to share with us this feeling of togetherness."

SOCIALIST page 19



Rhen Escaño takes pride in her acting projects

MANILA, Philippines – Rhen Escaño started her acting career 16 years ago when she appeared in director Soxy Topacio's "Ded na si Lolo." Since then, she has appeared in a number of challenging roles through the years.

She even bravely tried "bold" in director Roman Perez's sexy-drama, "Adan" (2019), where she engaged in GL (girl's love) scenes opposite Cindy Miranda.

Rhen was paired opposite Diego Loyzaga in EJ Salcedo's crime drama, "Bullet Day," that also topbilled Joel Torre. She played an ace assassin in Albert Langitan's "Karma," where Sid Lucero and Roi Vinzon shared stellar billing. Both films were shown in 2024.

She appeared in "My Amnesia Love" (2018), another film from direkt Albert. The young actress got to work with direkt Yam Laranas in the sexy drama, "Paraluman" (2021), with Jao Mapa and Gwen Garcia.

Rhen was reunited with direkt Yam in the horror thriller, "Rooftop" (2022), with Ryza Cenon, Marco Gumabao, and Ella Cruz.

Now 27, Rhen takes pride in the films and TV series that she has done. She is also proud about her brand endorsements.

She recently renewed her contract with CC6 Online Casino and FunBingo, two of the leading online gaming platforms in the country that not only bring entertainment but also continuously give back to the community.

With 700,000 daily active users, CC6 Online Casino has been recognized as the "Most Trusted Online Casino" and "Top Responsible Gaming Platform."

Meanwhile, FunBingo, with 40,000 daily users, was honored with the "Outstanding Community Service Award" for its strong advocacy in helping communities. Both are PAGCOR-certified and recognized by the Malta Gaming Authority and Gaming Curaçao.

Meanwhile, Rhen looks forward to Sundays, where she visits certain areas with kids on weekends. "Even if malayo, mahaba ang biyahe, nakakawala ng pagod at stress when you see the kids," Rhen shared.

Congratulations to Miss Teen Ontario 2025 Chloe Sabatin! Posing with her is Miss Supranational 2022 Alexa Grant

Memorable for her was visiting an Aeta community with children last year. They visited and provided aid to abused young women in Bulacan, where Rhen celebrated her birthday to personally show her commitment to helping those in need.

They also supported indigenous Aeta students in Bataan and contributed to their education.

Rhen saw a kid who refused to eat the spaghetti and chicken for him. Instead, the kid opted to bring home the food to his mom and sibling.

"The kid told me, 'Gusto kong matikman ng kapatid ko at nanay ko, kaya iuwi ko na lang ito,'" recalled Rhen. "That really touched me. That was really special to me. You really value your purpose being there. I'm so blessed. I witnessed the lives of the kids whom we visited."

In her one year as ambassador, Rhen had joined in the outreach and community projects of CC6, including lending extended assistance to children with disabilities. For one, she participated in tree-planting

activities in Rizal and Antipolo to promote environmental conservation.

Over the past year, CC6 Online Casino said it carried out community projects across different locations. They distributed grocery items and merchandise to landslide and flood victims in Davao del Norte and Marikina. They organized feeding programs in Makati, Cavite and Manila to support underprivileged communities. They also supported local sports activities like basketball leagues in various barangays of Cavite and Bulacan for youth development and community engagement.

They also provided financial and food assistance to tricycle drivers and supported the Balanga Lions Club in their medical mission for students in Bataan. Bicycles and school supplies were donated and feeding programs were conducted.



UMAC
Forwarder Express Inc.

LOYALTY Rewards

SEND 9 BALIKBAYAN BOXES AND THE 10TH BOX IS FREE

416-298-8622
WWW.UMACTORONTO.CA

THE FILIPINO CENTRE, TORONTO

4395 Shepard Avenue East TELEPHONE: 416-335-0485

Join our WEEKLY WEDNESDAY PAINTING CLASS • 11AM-3PM



Gela Atayde learns to trust herself despite her impostor syndrome

Gela Atayde still feels embarrassed whenever she's addressed as the "NewGen Dance Champ" due to impostor syndrome.



Atayde, who was dubbed the "NewGen Dance Champ" is part of the dance troupe Legit Status who won the 2023 World Hip Hop Dance Championship. Two years later, she was tapped as the host of the dance survival show "Time To Dance" with Robi Domingo.

Despite these milestones, the actress-dancer confessed that she has a bad case of impostor syndrome — or an inability to believe that one's achievements are well-deserved — as she comes from a prominent showbiz clan.

"Honestly, kapag sinasabing ako ang 'NewGen Dance Champ,' may sense of hiya ako. I have really bad impostor syndrome given that I'm also a nepo baby. Minsan, it's hard to believe that I deserve things because a lot of things were given to me. In my head, iniisip ko, did I work hard enough for this," Atayde said.

"I just remind myself that I'm the 'New Gen Dance Champ' because I'm indeed a champion," she said, noting that the title means a lot to her.

"I'm super grateful. Being a champion means people look up to you, you inspire people talaga, and you have to continue to inspire people. I do live by that ti-

tle now," she further added. Touching on "Time To Dance," Atayde considers the survival show as a "passion project" to showcase the on- and off-screen lives of the dance community while clarifying that certain emotional scenes are not meant to trigger a "paawa effect." Instead, it's meant to remind the public about their human sides.

"I don't make [the show] about me. Gusto kong i-front ang mga dancers. It is their show. I'm excited for people to see the lives of these dancers na makakarelate [ang mga tao]," she said. "These are lives that we showcase, not to [push the] paawa effect. It's really to inspire. It's to showcase their stories for people to relate, feel seen and heard," she said.

Dancing or acting?

Aside from dancing, Atayde dabbled into acting through the youth series "Senior High" and "High Street." Dance has always been her passion, but she considers acting as her "first love."

"Dancing will always be closest to my heart kasi 'yun ang nagsimula sa lahat. That's the reason I am who I am. I will always give it to dance. But then, first love ko talaga is acting," she said.

"Bata pa lang ako, nanonood na ako ng mga teleserye. Lumaki po akong nagkukunwaring kaibigan ko si Santino, Agua Bendita. Tapos si Mommy, nagtatago ako sa kwarto kasi kukunin ko 'yung makapal niyang scripts. That really is my ultimate dream," she further recalled.

Did Liza Soberano unfollow James Reid, Issa Pressman on Instagram?



When Liza Soberano left the stable of James Reid's Careless Music studio in July 2024, the two actors remained civil. Now, netizens noticed Soberano unfollowed Reid and his girlfriend Issa Pressman on Instagram as of February 4 but the celebrity couple still follows the actress on their respective social media platforms.

Soberano, however, is notably still following Reid's former business partner and ex-Careless Music CEO Jeffrey Oh on Instagram. Oh made headlines after Reid revealed that the former owed him more than P100 million and had liabilities with several companies in September 2024.

Oh was terminated from the entertainment company in July of last year. Reid's legal counsel Atty. Rodel de Guzman previously revealed that it was Soberano who asked his help to do an audit of Careless Music in August 2023.

The actress left Careless Music in July 2024. Reid said, the actress decided to leave the entertainment company due to differing career trajectories.

"We have different, I guess, career paths. She's more focused on her US career and going Hollywood, all of that. And mas focused kami sa Pilipinas, music, and local [activities]," Reid said in an interview with Ogie Diaz.

"Towards the end, basically, minamanager niya ang sarili niya. And you know, now that she's in the US, it makes sense that Careless is no longer in the picture, which I'm okay with," he further explained.

Despite this, Reid said he harbors no negative feelings towards Soberano and wishes her well in Hollywood.

Soberano also expressed her gratitude to Careless Music in October 2024, as the company allowed her to "find [her] voice as a woman."

After starring as Taffy in "Lisa Frankenstein," the actress will reportedly star in the film adaptation of "Patron Saints of Nothing," although it has yet to be confirmed, as of this writing.

The pros and cons of receiving your Canada Pension Plan benefits early or late

(NC) Financial planners used to ask their clients, "What if you die? How will you look after your family?" Nowadays, with people living longer, the question is, "What if you live?" One of the key decisions that many Canadians need to make in retirement planning is when to begin receiving your Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits. It's an important decision that can have a significant impact on retirement income, but it's a decision that is different for everyone based on personal circumstances.

Understanding the impact of early and late benefits: The stan-

dard age to receive CPP benefits is 65. You can start as early as 60, but you'll receive a smaller amount; or you can delay until 70 and receive higher benefits. (The maximum monthly amount is reached at 70, except for increases due to inflation.) Here's how it works:

If you choose to start receiving benefits before age 65, payments will decrease by 0.6 per cent each month (or 7.2 per cent per year), up to a maximum reduction of 36 per cent if you start at age 60.

If you start after age 65, payments increase by 0.7 per cent each month (or 8.4 per cent per

year) up to a maximum of 42 per cent if you wait until age 70.

Based on those figures, if you were eligible to receive \$10,000 a year in CPP benefits at 65, the amount would be \$6,400 if you started taking payments at age 60 versus \$14,200 at 70.

Factors to consider before deciding: It can be daunting to make the decision, but there are several questions you can ask yourself before you decide — and

of course you can choose to begin receiving benefits any time between ages 60 and 70.

For example, you may consider taking CPP earlier if you are ill or have a family history of shorter lifespans. You may also want to pay off debts or invest the money.

On the other hand, you may consider waiting longer if you are healthy, have a family history of living longer and don't need the money for immediate needs.

Benefits assurance: Whatever

you decide, the benefits will be there for you — and you'll keep receiving payments for as long as you live. As of September 30, 2024, the Fund stands at \$675 billion. It's professionally managed by CPP Investments, the independent Crown Corporation that operates at arm's length from the federal and provincial governments. The independent Office of the Chief Actuary, which monitors the long-term health of the Fund, says in its latest review that the CPP Fund is financially sustainable for at least the next 75 years.



CELL-MASTER

SALES - REPAIR - INSTALL

IN FRONT OF FOOD COURT
1550 S. Gateway Rd.
Mississauga ON
L5W 5J1

647-469-9889

3JS.CELLMASTER@GMAIL.COM

Jolina Magdangal and Marvin Agustin are no ex-lovers

During the grand press conference for their upcoming movie *Ex Ex Lovers*, the showbiz press revisited the long-standing rumors of a romantic connection between Marvin Agustin and Jolina Magdangal. They were asked directly if they had ever been in a relationship in the past.

Marvin and Jolina's love team was one of the most popular pairings of the 1990s. Much like today's onscreen couples, fans assumed there was something romantic between the two.

"The magic and chemistry of our love team worked because, back then, MU (mutual understanding) was a thing. I think you can call us as MU," Marvin set the record straight.

"The reason we're still here is that we never officially became a couple. That's why we can still do a comeback film together. Unlike other love teams who became real-life couples and had intense breakups—making it difficult for them to work on a project again—we kept our relationship professional. We also stayed in touch despite living separate lives, and that allowed us to make this film."

Jolina agreed, saying, "You cannot call us ex-lovers because we did not become a couple. I was vocal about my feelings, but that's all in the past. My children know him as my best friend back then."

When asked how they managed to maintain

their connection despite having their own families, Jolina said, "We were out of touch for a while, but we still text occasionally. It's not something we plan."

Marvin added, "Our friendship has evolved over the years. Since we never became strangers to each other, it's easy for us to reach out anytime. That's how we've kept the connection alive."

Shot partially in Malta, *Ex Ex Lovers* explores the question: Can old love find a second chance? The story begins with SC (Loisa Andalia) asking her mother, Joy (Jolina), to bring her estranged father, Ced (Marvin), back from Europe for her wedding.

Putting aside years of anger and unresolved emotions, Joy travels to Malta, delaying the wedding and reconnecting with Ced. As they rekindle their bond, Joy unexpectedly finds herself rediscovering feelings for Ced—all while devising plans to intervene in SC and her fiancé Joey's (JK Labajo) relationship. The film delves into themes of forgiveness, rekindled romance, and the complexities of family ties.

Director JP Ha-

'Ex Ex Lovers' support cast members JK Labajo (left) and Loisa Andalia

bac, known for the Valentine's Day hit *I'm Drunk, I Love You*, shares his enthusiasm about revisiting the rom-com genre on a love-filled release date.

"As a fan of the MarJo love team, it feels surreal to see them laugh and cry in a film I directed," Habac said.

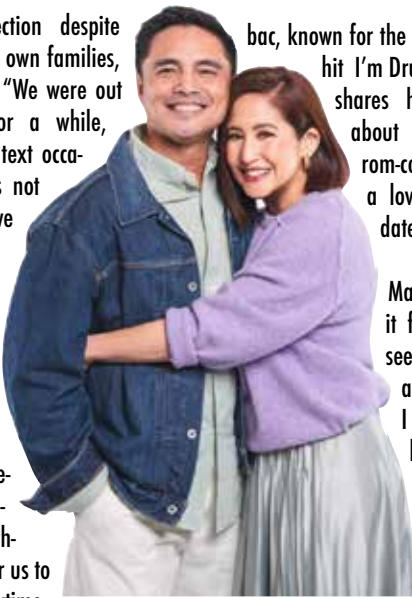
Originally planned for streaming, the film transitioned to a theatrical release after heartfelt discussions among Marvin, Jolina, and the producers.

"This reunion is a once-in-a-lifetime event that deserves to be experienced on the big screen," said the production team led by Antoinette Jadaone.

Marvin and Jolina expressed their gratitude to Project 8 Projects for entrusting them with such a meaningful project. Despite years apart, the duo found that the magic of their love team remained intact.

During the shoot in Malta, Filipinos abroad celebrated their presence with a flash mob. Back in the Philippines, their first mall show for the film attracted massive crowds, reminiscent of their glory days. A recent event in Cebu left both stars emotional as they witnessed the overwhelming support of fans, both old and new.

Ex Ex Lovers promises to bring back the charm of Filipino romantic comedies, delivering heartfelt entertainment rooted in Filipino values and the timeless appeal of love stories.



Ruru Madrid eyes challenging roles after win

After winning Best Supporting Actor in the recent Metro Manila Film Festival for his role in *Green Bones*, will Ruru Madrid would more selective when it comes to future projects.

Ruru emphasized the importance of collaboration with his team and management, Sparkle. He noted they are now more cautious and meticulous in evaluating offers.

"We can't afford to be complacent, especially with *Green Bones* being both critically acclaimed and a box office success. It's a difficult project to follow," he shared. "My next project should be equally good or, ideally, even better. As long as there's a genuine calling for the project, I think it's worth pursuing."

Now that he's an award-winning actor, does he feel his acting should level up?

"Of course! As I've said before, in



every project I've taken on—even when I was just starting in the industry—I've always wanted to improve my craft. Every single day, my goal is to push myself to the limits and eventually become the best version of myself.

That's why I don't want to be pitted against other actors. For me, my main competition is myself. I want to consistently show something new in my performances and have a fresh version of myself emerge each time."

Speaking of projects, Ruru leads the cast of GMA's offering, *Lolong: Bayani ng Bayan*, a film notable for its large scope and impressive scale.

"I'm super thankful to GMA. After *Black Rider*, which was a certified ratings hit, here comes another action series that I'm headlining. I can confidently say it's bigger than *Book One*," he said.

Regine Velasquez return to acting

Regine Velasquez revealed her plans to return to acting in 2025.



"It's been a while since I've acted on screen. It's been, what, five years? My last film was in 2019 for the Cinema One Originals entry *Yours Truly, Shirley*. Now, I'm more open. If there's an offer and the role feels right, I'll surely consider it!" she stated.

Interestingly, Asia's Songbird has an impressive string of box-office hits from her prime, including *Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw* and *Till I Met You* opposite Senator Robin Padilla; *Dahil May Isang Ikaw, Pangako... Ikaw Lang*, and *Of All the Things* with Aga Muhlach; *Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon* with Richard Gomez; and *Paano Kita Ibigin* opposite Piolo Pascual.

When she transferred to ABS-CBN, there were plans for her to star in a sitcom with her husband, Ogie Alcasid. What happened to that?

"Well, ABS-CBN lost its franchise, so there wasn't much we could do about it. Hopefully, the franchise will be restored, right? But as far as acting is concerned, like I said earlier, if the role and timing are right, I'm willing to go back to acting," Regine concluded.

A Toronto Kapuso Lions Makes a difference in the Philippines while on vacation

by Bal Yujuico



My 3 month vacation in the Philippines is filled with my outreach programs starting today with feeding impoverished children from squatter areas near Santa Clara parish Loyola Heights, QC. Through the help of my college friends, and me wearing



my Toronto Kapuso Lions vest, we gathered 40 children to a morning of math, drawing contests and badminton culminated by prize awards and distribution of Jollibee lunch boxes to excited children. We visited their living quarters, the filth and squalor pervades, and made me reduced to tears. It is a joy to see the fun loving children though, who have their parents in the midst of poverty, the hopes

and dreams of young kids still alive who mostly want to become police officers, teachers when they grow up. Joy filled their hearts when I awarded the children with pieces of Oreo cookies, drinks, and coins. They need love, and hoping my project *Aware, Share and Care* will continue to make a difference in their lives. My fellow former staffers of The Lyceum, our uni-



versity newspaper in 1971-72 made sure that they will help me with my outreach project continue to make a difference in the lives of these poor children. God bless them and my supporters: Atty Nila de Jesus, Atty Guin de Leon, Dr Violet Violet B. Valdez, Director of Human Studies, Ateneo de Manila University.

JDL FROZEN JR from page 11

find students who wanted to be included. Everyone wanted to be involved.

"Alam mo na they want to sing, dance, act, these are the kids that want to be here. So it's not hard for JDL kids that want to be here, but it's a limited cast, limited age group also. But otherwise, all of them can do all three, says De Leon.

"This was a more challenging production than *Moana Jr.*, more singing cast, more speaking aptrts, we really had to

train the kids for the first few months," she added.

"Props, costumes, was hard too."

Maria Cabillan-Marasco, JDL Program director says, "this is the second time we're doing this, a second time doing a Broadway production, we've learned a lot the first time but it doesn't make it easier."

Sophia Sambrana plays Elsa in the matinee show.

"I've been watching the Broadway and

movies and I've been trying to channel my inner Elsa. I try to be less bubbly and be more queen like," says Sambrana.

Another JDL student, Joanne Rojas who plays Elsa in the evening show echoes the sentiment.

"I try to be more serious in my character."

JDL student Amber Rinker plays Anna in evening show. I'm so excited to show people how far we've come. We've rehearsed since last August (2024) to now.

(January 2025)

Josie de Leon talks about the relationship of the talented students and the confidence that they try to nurture to be able to show those talents.

"They have a gift, those talents to share. The friendship that develops, to the confidence that develops, sometimes, parents say their children are very shy, so here at JDL, they gain the confidence."

Maria Cabillan-Marasco concurs.

JDL FROZEN JR page 19

When we reach the Age of Autumn

This beautiful text was found on the web.

"Me: It's 6:00 a.m. and with a cup of coffee in my hand I think and talk to myself. But... To you, I tell you like this:

Time has its own special way of catching us off guard as the years go by.

Seems like just yesterday I was young... But no. Somehow seems like a long time ago.

Where did the years go?

I know I lived them.

I have visions of how it was and of all my hopes and dreams. But there they are.

The fall of my life has arrived and it almost took me by surprise.

How did I get here to my 50- 60- 70- 80-90years old so fast?!

Where did the years of my youth go?

I remember thinking that fall was so far away I couldn't imagine what it would be like, but it hit me.

My friends are retired, retired and getting 'grumpy'.... like me.

They move slower. Some are in better shape some not so much but I see a change in everyone. They were young and vibrant like me...

But age is starting to feel and show. We are now those older people that we never thought we would



be someday.

Napping isn't just as pleasant as it used to be... Now it's something necessary and mandatory. Because if I don't do it of my own will, I simply fall asleep where I find myself sitting.

So I walked into this new phase of my life... Almost unprepared to suffer aches and setbacks, and the loss of strength, agility and ability to go and do the things he wants. But what I do know is that this fall will go faster.

And so another adventure begins!

Maybe there will be some regret for doing things I would have wanted not to do and for not doing things I should have done. But there are many more I'm content with.

If you haven't yet arrived, let me remind you that it will come much faster than you think.

So, anything you want to achieve in your life do it now, quickly. Don't put it off for too long. Life goes by fast.

Do the best you can today, whether you're in your fall or not. No one is sure that he will survive all seasons.

So live the today and the now and say now the things you want your loved ones to remember!

Life is a gift. Make this trip something unique, pleasant, fantastic for you and your loved ones, close ones and generally for those around you.

HE LIVES GOOD !

Enjoy Your Days !

Do nice things!

Be happy!

Remember:

"True wealth is health. And the spiritual gifts you have reaped..

NOT the pieces of gold and silver, or the money in the bank, nor the material things that when you leave this world will be worth nothing to you and will be inherited by those who least valued you."

Finally I suggest: Enjoy your life while it lasts. But first, love yourself and take care of yourself, do the part that you can, leave the rest to God, who can do everything. And remember going out is good, but coming home safe is better.

If you forget names, it doesn't matter.

Maybe those people forgot they knew you!

Keep in mind that much, MUCH of the old was good:

Old songs, classic movies and



the best of all Your SOUL FRIENDS!

Credits to whom it may concern #5MinutosdeReflexionypensamiento

Mark Herras responds to gay bar gig backlash: 'It's still work'

Mark Herras is standing by his recent viral performance at a gay bar, stressing that there was nothing wrong with what he did as it was in his line of work.

Addressing the online chatter in his recent guest appearance on "Toni Talk," Herras explained that he just danced and that people took notice of it because he did so at a gay bar, adding he sees nothing wrong with it.

"Sayaw lang? Wala naman problema. Dumating ako doon as performer talaga as guest nila, parang katulad ng ginagawa ko sa raket fiesta, pero nagkataon lang na gay bar siya," the actor-dancer said.

"Hindi naman ako naghubad.

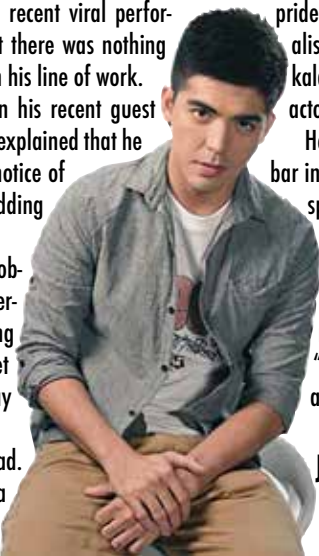
Hindi naman ako sumayaw na parang macho dancer or what. I performed, I danced to hip-hop,

ganun. Hindi naman ako nag-patable or what. Pero kasi satin diba, grabe 'yung mga Filipino mag-judge ng tao. Akala nila meron silang karapatan mag-judge sa buhay ng ibang tao," he continued.

Herras underscored that he's not selective about the work he accepts as long as it's a way for him to be able to provide for his family.

"Hindi ako namimili. Basta ako, trabaho? Still, it's work. Kaya mas lalo akong tumatanggap ng mga trabaho, para sa anak ko. Ayokong dumating yung time na manghihingi 'yun anak ko ng pera sa ibang tao dahil wala kaming maibigay," he said.

"Kaya kong gumawa ng paraan para makapag-provide, in a legal way, para sa pamilya ko. Kumbaga,



pride ko? Kaya kong lunukin yan, kaya kong alisin yun hiya ko sa katawan, 'yung pag-kalalaki ko, para sa pamilya ko," added the actor.

Herras' recent dance performance at a gay bar in Parañaque made the rounds online, with speculations that the actor-dancer did it as he doesn't have on-screen projects anymore.

Herras was last seen in GMA Network's mystery series "The Missing Husband," "Unica Hija" and "Abot Kamay na Pang-arap."

Jessy Mendiola reveals why she is a proud 'jologs'

After marrying Luis Manzano in 2021, Jessy Mendiola admits that she has chosen to prioritize her family life. For several years, her focus was on happily raising her daughter Rosie and sharing vlogs about motherhood. Last year, she finally signed a new contract with Star Magic and ABS-CBN and is excited to get back into acting again soon.

In an exclusive interview with ABS-CBN, Jessy shared that contrary to what people would think, not much has changed with her since becoming Mrs. Luis Manzano. "Oo naman, diyos ko. Parang sinasabi nila na naging iba si Jessy kasi naging mother, naging wife. But also, nag-mature din ako," she shared during the Manila Diamond Studio store opening in Evia Mall Lifestyle Center

in Las Pinas City.

Dispelling assumptions about her posh appearance, the actress and model is proud to admit she still enjoys her favorite simple food. "Jologs pa rin ako eh (laughs). I mean, talagang minsan, 'yung merienda ko gusto ko... alam niyo ba 'yung corned beef hinahalo ko sa ketchup, masaya na ako? Ganun ako. O kaya, kunwari mag-ke-crave ako ng mga tusok-tusok, nagpapahanap talaga ako ng pinakamalapit. Sa Lipa (Batangas) lagi akong nag-iisaw dun! Gusto ko 'yung turon, isaw, fish ball, squid ball, kikiam, kwek-kwek," she revealed.



Jessy also admits to requesting her favorite fish dish whenever she is in Batangas, where her in-laws Vilma Santos and husband Ralph Recto are based. "Magugulat talaga kayo. Alam niyo ba, kapag umiikot kami sa

Batangas, ang lagi kong hinihingi, tulingan (laughs). Sinaing na tulingan, 'yung isda lang. Niloloko ko nga sila eh. Sabi ko, 'Yan lang TF (talent fee) ko, okay na ako. Masaya na ako.' Kaya kong mabuhay na 'yun lang kinakain ko araw-araw. Ang layo 'di ba? Pero favorite ko talaga 'yun. Kahit tanungin niyo pa sila Momsy (Vilma Santos), sila Luis (Manzano), 'yun pa rin favorite ko!" she said.

While eager to get back to work, Jessy does not lose sight of what matters most to her. Last December, they celebrated Rosie's second birthday.

Jessy will soon be making her showbiz comeback and has teased several projects being in the pipeline. One of these is the upcoming action-drama series Nobody

where Jessy will reunite with Kapamilya actor Gerald Andersin. Nobody will be directed by Benedict Mique and Rae Red. Apart from Anderson and Mendiola, JC De Vera was also confirmed to join the program.

THE MOST REQUESTED FILIPINO ARTIST IN TORONTO

JAY R

THE KING OF RNB

MARCH 14, 2025 | 7PM

REMBRANDT BANQUET HALL

MARCH 14, 2025 @ 7PM

REMBRANDT BANQUET HALL

TRISTARS - ROSEMARY

The Filipino Centre Toronto 25th Anniversary

April 5, 2025 at 6:00PM

Scarborough Convention Centre

20 Torham Place (Nelson & Finch), Toronto, Ontario M1X 0B3

Attire: Strictly Formal

Long Gown or Terno for the Ladies

Black tie or Barong for the Men

Ticket price: \$100 and \$130

Filipino Centre, Toronto

577 Parliament Street

Established in 1970

THE GROUP THAT MADE IT HAPPEN!

Carla Abellana jokes about migrating after learning content creators' pay abroad

Kapuso actress Carla Abellana joked about considering migration after discovering the earnings of content creators in other countries.

The "Widow's War" star on Thursday, January 23, shared her thoughts on content creators abroad, saying that people like her are at a "disadvantage" compared to them.

"Grabe pala kinikita ng content creators sa ibang countries like the US and Canada! OMG! Even from Instagram alone or YouTube. Crazy!" she wrote on her Threads account.

"Like, luring-lugi kami dito, guys. As in, super lugi. Migrate

na kaya ako?" Carla added with a heart-eyed emoji.

Apart from her social media accounts, the actress also runs a YouTube channel, which she created before to give her fans a "closer look" at her professional and personal life behind the scenes. The channel has gained 873,000 subscribers so far.

Meanwhile, other online users agreed with Carla's sentiments



and shared their experiences.

"It's crazy! I'm a UGC creator, and some of my clients are from the US. I got a one-time deal for 1 video (40 seconds) with 6 months usage rights for \$450 — that's already 26k pesos [P26,000]. Then I saw a post from a PH agent looking for a creator with a budget of 500 pesos for 1 reel. Like, what!? It makes me feel a little sad," an online user wrote.

"Ms. Carla, kapag local companies ang nakaka-work namin, kuripot na, demanding pa! Tapos karamihan ang gusto, xdeal pa," another online user com-

mented.

An ex-deal is an agreement between two parties to collaborate in exchange for products, services or other non-cash items without any monetary exchange.

Some users also pointed out that the cost of living abroad is high.

"True, pero kasi taxable naman po 'yun and malaki taxes and other kalas, depende saang state ka, like, kunwari, kumita ako ng \$250 sa isang content. Ang akin diyari, mga \$170 lang. Minus mo na 'yung ginamit sa content if makeup vid or if food vid, bumili ka ng ingredients etc. So, kung susumahi, mga

\$50 lang talaga kinita mo, hahaha," an online user wrote.

"Pero mas mataas ang cost of living and taxes nila," another online user commented.

A 2023 report by the Washington Post said that, according to a survey, only 12% of full-time content creators earn more than \$50,000 per year.

In 2024, the Influencer Marketing Hub reported that, on average, a YouTuber earns about \$0.018 per view, which amounts to \$18 for every 1,000 views.

It added that earnings can vary depending on factors such as niche, geographical region and channel size.



The Filipino Centre, Toronto

Invites you to the Pistahan sa Toronto 2025 In Celebration of our Filipino Heritage.

Sunday, June 1, 2025 • 10:00 am - 6:00 pm • FCT 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto ON M1S 1T8

Arts & Culture. Food. Music & Dancing

Toronto Kapuso Lions Club: A Legacy of Service and Excellence by Judith Gonzales

TORONTO - The Toronto Kapuso Lions Club (TKLC) has once again set the bar high by receiving the prestigious Club Excellence Award for two consecutive years—2023 and 2024.

This remarkable achievement underscores the Club's unwavering commitment to its mission of service, community development, and making a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. Recognized as one of the most dynamic and service-loaded clubs in District A711, the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club continues to inspire with its compassion, unity, and dedication to humanity.

A Track Record of Outstanding Service

Ranked second in membership recruitment among all Lions Clubs in District A711, TKLC has demonstrated unparalleled success in fostering growth and unity within the organization. This achievement reflects the Club's strength in reaching out to new members who share its values and passion for service. By continually expanding its membership base, TKLC ensures a sustained effort in carrying out its wide-reaching humanitarian initiatives.

From supporting vital community services to raising awareness for global causes, the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club has excelled in fulfilling the core pillars of the International Lions Club. These pillars include Vision, Diabetes,



Environment, Childhood Cancer, Youth, Humanitarian Aid, and Disaster Relief. Each year, the club remains dedicated to addressing these critical areas, bringing together members and volunteers who work hand-in-hand to create a more compassionate and sustainable world.

Fulfilling the Mission: A Comprehensive Approach

Vision
TKLC's efforts in promoting eye health and providing vision care for underserved communities remain a cornerstone of its work. Whether through free eye screenings, providing eyeglasses, or supporting initiatives like the Lions Eye Bank, the Club has made significant strides in enhancing access to vision services for individuals in need.

Diabetes

Raising awareness about diabetes and providing educational resources have been central to

the Club's activities. Through seminars, screening programs, and partnerships with healthcare organizations, TKLC has played a vital role in empowering individuals with the knowledge and tools they need to prevent and manage diabetes.

Environment

Committed to environmental stewardship, the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club has actively participated in tree planting campaigns, clean-up drives, and other green initiatives. By promoting sustainability, TKLC contributes to a healthier planet for current and future generations.

Childhood Cancer

In the fight against childhood cancer, TKLC has partnered with hospitals and cancer foundations to support research, fund treatment programs, and offer assistance to families affected by the disease. The Club's efforts in rais-

ing awareness and providing financial support have been pivotal in advancing the fight against this devastating illness.

Youth

Recognizing the importance of nurturing the next generation of leaders, the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club has developed numerous programs focused on youth development. From mentorship opportunities to scholarships, TKLC has provided young people with the tools they need to thrive, excel, and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Humanitarian and Disaster Relief

The Toronto Kapuso Lions Club's humanitarian efforts extend far beyond the local community. Whether responding to natural disasters, providing relief in times of crisis, or supporting those affected by poverty, the Club is always ready to lend a helping hand to those in dire need. Its collaborative spirit allows the Club to partner with other Lions Clubs globally, ensuring that no one is left behind in times of hardship.

Cohesion, Unity, and Compassion

The secret to the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club's sustained success lies in its exceptional unity and cohesiveness. Every year, members come together with a shared sense of purpose and a deep-rooted compassion for humanity. The culture of teamwork and mutual support within the club is the foundation of its numerous accomplishments, from local community service projects to international aid initiatives. This dedication to service is at the heart of the Club's ethos, making it a shining example of what Lions Clubs are meant to embody.

Looking Ahead: Continuing the Legacy of Service

As the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club celebrates its well-deserved recognition for the Club Excellence Award in 2023 and 2024, it remains focused on its future goals. With a growing membership, an expanding reach, and a commitment to making a difference, TKLC is poised to continue its mission of service for years to come. The club's impact will be felt not only within its own community but also across the globe, as it continues to live up to its reputation as a leader in humanitarian work.

In a world that faces increasing challenges, the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us that when people come together with purpose, they can truly change the world for the better.




FAMILY DENTISTRY

DR. V. SANTIAGO & ASSOCIATES

Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic
 (Across Sherbourne TTC Station)
 600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307
 Toronto

dr.vslu@bellnet.ca

We offer complete dental care & are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

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

Registered Dental Hygienist:

- Raymond Echavez
- Gayle Baylon

Specialty Dentistry:

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

PEPSI from page 1

its target date.

“Ipinapaabot ko sa lahat ng nakasubaybay na bigo po ang panig ng inyong lingkod na agarang makumpleto ang mga dokumentong hinihingi ng mga pamunuan ng MTRCB. Kayat imposible pong maipalabas sa mga sinehan ang ating pelikula sa February 5,” he said.

(I want to inform the public that I failed to urgently complete the documents required for submission to the MTRCB. This means that it would be impossible for me to have the movie be released on February 5.)

Yap said he is thinking of whether to bring the movie to cinemas abroad, or would instead shift to releasing the movie

to streaming platforms.

“Pinag-iisipan na rin ang posibilidad na maunang maipalabas ito sa labas ng bansa o ipagpaliban muna na ang pagpapalabas sa sinehan at magpokus na lamang sa streaming platforms,” he said. “Kung anu’t anumang ay agad itong malalaman ng publiko. Maraming salamat po.”

(I’m thinking about the possibility of bringing the film to cinemas abroad or to postpone its theatrical release, and focus on making it available on streaming platforms instead. The public will be the first to know my decision. Thank you very much.)

Yap further said: “Natanggal man ang



Rhed Bustamante as Pepsi Paloma; Darryl Yap

tansan, nananatili ang iyong ispirito (The softdrinks cap may have been removed, but your spirit lives on).”

The postponement was announced on the heels of the MTRCB’s refusal to conduct a review without the submission of proof that the movie has no pending criminal, civil or administrative litigation.

It would be recalled that Yap was charged as respondent in a habeas data petition filed by Vic Sotto before the Muntinlupa regional trial court in connection with the movie’s teaser video

which showed its lead star Rhed Bustamante seemingly pointing to the veteran actor-host as one of the rapists of the late 1980s sexy star.

Sotto also filed 19 counts of cyberlibel complaint against the filmmaker before the city prosecutors for utterances and social media posts that seemed to hype the movie at his expense.

The Muntinlupa RTC subsequently partially granted Sotto’s petition, ordering Yap to take down the assailed teaser video, but stopped short at preventing the cinematic release of the movie.

JDL FROZEN JR from page 16

“We nurture them to express themselves.” JDL being a Filipino arts school, Josie is also proud of the all-Filipino cast

that was able to pull of a Disney show. and that the whole Filipino could be proud of. “This is not just JDL but the whole Filipino community should be proud because the whole cast is Filipino and we are a Fil-

ipino arts school . Nakaka-proud iyon being a Filipino to do something like this.”

In the end, it’s all about doing something the whole Filipino community can be proud of.

“It’s not cheap, or easy but as long as we have support parents, communitiy, we’ll do it.”

An encore presentation is scheduled for March 9.

SOCIALLIST from page 14

Marky Hugh of MH Productions had his black and white themed birthday celebration attended by family, friends, talents with their parents.

Marky Hugh asked the guests to wear

white or black but not both. With that theme, I guessed that most of the guest will be wearing black. It’s the easier color to wear and you don’t have to worry about getting it dirty.

As expected, celebrant Marky Hugh wore white while most of us guests wore

black.

It was a happy affair. Happy birthday Marky.

For the month of January, there seems to be a lot of events happening. This is unusual because normally, January is when

people take a breather and rest from the frenetic pace of the holidays.

Anyway, may everyone keep their new year’s resolution for the rest of the year and not just for one month.




HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE

UMAC

FORWARDERS EXPRESS INC.
A Company with a History... And a Track Record!!!

Padalalan ng kahon sa Pilipinas

416-298-8622



☎ 416-298-8622

✉ umactoronto@yahoo.ca

🌐 www.umactoronto.com

515 Milner Avenue, Unit-9
Scarborough, Ontario M1B 2K4

Jameson Blake on how to be a male beauty endorser: 'Always be in a good mood!'

Contrary to the usual reaction that men prioritizing beauty are vain, How to Spot a Red Flag actor Jameson Blake says it's more about developing good habits that



make you look and feel good everyday. "I don't think it takes effort. It's more of consistency. Just don't try to do anything that would make you look haggard, try to get sleep as much as you can,

try to eat healthy, work out, and always be in a good mood. I think it is something we can use everyday since we're busy everyday with work and everything," he told ABS-CBN.

Last month, Jameson was unveiled as the male celebrity endorser of a beauty supplement, which he considers another blessing in his career this year. "I'm just happy kasi it shows that they appreciate me not only as an artist, but they appreciate my appearance. I like how they trust me and they gave me this opportunity also to endorse their product. I've been with Premier Drip ever since so I'm pretty happy to be sharing this moment with them," he admitted.

The 27-year-old Kapamilya star admitted that he felt the difference after he started taking the health supplement. "When I wake up, I don't feel like I have such a hard time waking up. And it shows through in my skin, I would say, especial-

ly in my face. It's more of like an effect that shows more like a glowing effect and you just feel better overall," he added.

Chito Miranda loses voice during a gig: 'Sabi ko 'di ko na kaya'

As part of one of the most enduring bands in the Philippine music scene with a career that has spanned more than 30 years, the popularity of local rock band Parokya ni Edgar has never waned, as seen by the band's constant engagements in and outside the country. To start of the month of February,



frontman Chito Miranda shared an incident that happened while they were performing in La Union last February 1, Saturday.

On his Instagram account, Chito revealed that he suddenly lost his voice in the latter part of their show, which also included Kamikazee band members Jay Contreras and Bords (Allan) Bordeos.

"Sobrang saya ng gig namin kagabi sa Alpas, La Union. More than 2hrs yata 'yung set namin, tapos biglang nag-jam pa si Jay at Bords ng KMKZ. Pero nung mga last few songs, nawalan na ako ng boses, and it was obvious na hirap na ako kumanta, so I kept on apologizing to Jay and my bandmates...sabi ko di ko na kaya," he recalled.

Caught off guard by what was happening, Chito shared how he was able to continue performing.

"Tapos may sinabi sa akin si Jay na bigla akong na-



I saw this on Facebook and thought it might make a good human interest story. The page is called Becoming Filipino by a Canadian living in the Philippines.

Becoming Filipino

Yes, that is a spoon and a fork with a steak. No, this isn't for the camera, and isn't for a show... it was a photo taken two years ago.

After more than a decade of life here in the Philippines, I have seen little "unique changes" in how I act, what I use, and what I appreciate and enjoy. I remember going back to Canada

in 2016 and sitting down at the dinner table with my parents...

My Mom: "Kyle, what are you doing? Why are you using a spoon?"

Me: "Because I like it. I enjoy the spoon more now."

Of course, for some circumstances, a knife could just "make more sense". Like this moment, when I was eating a steak in Manila. But here's the thing... I've mastered the spoon now. I sort of naturally drift towards using it. The edges can work as a knife, and with the steak being so perfect... it was easy to gently use the side to cut, and then proceed with eating. There is nothing on show here. It is my life now. Things have changed, and my natural habits have progressed as I have grown here.

I always think back to a message I had once: "Dude. Stop putting on an act... there is no way you actually eat dried fish and enjoy it."

I remember reading that thinking... "Absolutely!"

Because in 2013 when I was first presented dried fish for a meal in Camotes Island Cebu, it freaking terrified me. I didn't like it. It was "weird". But as the years progressed, and as I continued to get introduced to bulad/toyo (dried fish). I began to enjoy it. My brain, body, taste buds shifted...

I now love dried fish. Seriously love it. Just like I love using a spoon.

You'd be amazed how when you don't look at things as "weird" or "scary". But be open to at least trying and learning about them... how they may eventually grow on you as a person. And even if they don't, at least you respect that maybe they are normal and enjoyed by others.

Life gets more wonderful with that attitude...

And well, my life is wonderful here in the Philippines.

Spoon... or no spoon.

But I like the spoon.

#BecomingFilipino

himasasan. Sabi nya, 'Ok lang 'yan, Chits...di naman tayo sikat dahil magaling tayo eh. Sikat tayo kasi mas-aya lang tayo' sabay tawa," he shared. "Ayun, kumanta nalang ako ulit na walang paki, and just enjoyed the last few songs hangga't matapos yung set." Minsan may sense din ka-usap 'yung ungas na yun eh."

Both successful vocalists in their own right, Chito and Jay's friendship has spanned decades, with both OPM

artists sharing the stage on several occasions. The two also used to live in the same neighborhood. Their bands have also previously collaborated on Parokya's song "The Ordertaker" in their Halina Sa Parokya album released in 2005. A live version of the single was also included in Parokya Ni Edgar's 2012 Inuman Sessions, Vol. 2 album. In 2020, they also collaborated on a cover of the APO Hiking Society classic "American Junk".



#5 N.S. Amoranto Ave.
(Formerly Retiro St.) La Loma Q.C.
Landline: 028-283-9401 • Mobile: (0916) 237-2800
FACEBOOK PAGE: Macky's Lechon House - ISLAW

Frozen Lechon Good for:
Paksiw na Lechon, Pritong Lechon, Adobong Lechon, Crispy Sisig, Singang na Lechon, Nilangang Lechon

We deliver! Right To Your Doorstep.
Order now..call us at
09162372800
or
02 8-2839401
Ask for Macky or Monica..



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



Mayor Chow's final 2025 Budget keeps 6.9% property tax hike to pay for bolstered services

TORONTO: Last January 13, the City of Toronto officially began the 2025 Budget process with a staff-prepared budget that prioritizes investments to make life more affordable, get Toronto moving, keep people safe and provide community services. Staff also introduced the largest 10-year capital budget and plan in the City's history that prioritizes state-of-good repair (SOGR) and climate action.

The Budget Committee was presented with a staff-prepared rate and tax-supported operating budget of \$18.8 billion and a 2025-2034 capital budget and plan totalling \$59.6 billion for consideration, review and recommendation.

The 2025 staff-prepared budget continues a multi-year planning approach for the City to achieve financial stability and sustainability, reflects input from the October 2024 consultations and continues to build on the City's Long-Term Financial Plan and the Ontario-Toronto New Deal Agreement.

"The 2025 Budget will mean change in Torontonians' lives today. Change means libraries open 7 days a week, transit fares frozen while TTC service increases, thousands more kids fed meals at school and summer camps, pools open sooner and longer. Renovictions prevented by taking housing off the market and more support for tenants. Traffic agents to keep Toronto moving. Emergency responders arriving sooner when you need them most," said Mayor Olivia Chow.

Investing in what matters to Torontonians

The 2025 operating budget of \$18.8 billion (tax supported: \$16.6 billion; rate supported: \$2.2 billion) includes new and enhanced investments of \$94 million to reflect the input from Toronto residents during the October consultations. These investments will:

- Make life more affordable
- Feed 8,000 more students through school food pro-

grams

- Feed youth through CampTO food programs
- Support 300 more households through the Rent Bank program

According to a budget presentation from the city manager and chief financial officer, the two biggest areas of spending from property taxes are public transit and policing, representing about \$810 and \$708 from the average annual bill.

Get Toronto moving

- Increase transit service hours by 5.8 per cent (approximately half a million hours)
- Add more Traffic Agents to address blocked intersections, improve travel times in key corridors and decrease collision

Keep people safe

- Add 276 more Emergency Services positions (fire, police and paramedics)
- Invest in youth violence prevention programs
- Expand road safety programs

Provide community services

- Extend Sunday service hours at 67 Toronto Public Libraries
- Enhance cleaning at recreational facilities
- Expand hours for outdoor pools by two hours daily
- Increase access to cultural initiatives including local arts, festivals and events.

The staff-prepared operating budget is supported by a prop-



MAYOR CHOW AT SINULOG SA TORONTO 2024: Nicole Maniquiz, Mayor Olivia Chow, Nathalie Bondoc, Rem Pascual

erty tax increase of 5.4 per cent for residential properties, aligning Toronto with other Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area municipalities. This results in an increase of \$210 annually for the average assessed value of a Toronto home (\$692,031) or approximately \$17.50 per month.

The City offers property tax increase relief programs for eligible low-income seniors and people with disabilities. More details about these programs are available on the City's Tax and Utility Relief website.

The budget also includes base property tax increases of 2.7 per cent for multi-residential properties, 2.7 per cent for commercial properties and 5.4 per cent for industrial properties while continuing to provide a 15 per cent reduction in property tax rates to benefit over 28,000 small businesses.

"This budget is a commitment to building a stronger,

more liveable Toronto – one that balances fiscal responsibility with real investments in affordable living, safer streets and better transit, reflecting the priorities of the residents we serve," said Councillor Shelley Carroll (Don Valley North), Budget Committee Chair. Unsurprisingly, the idea of raising property taxes again received some pushback Monday.

Coun. Brad Bradford was critical of the proposal, given that many Torontonians continue to struggle with the cost of living. In a post on X, formerly Twitter, he questioned what an increase would actually accomplish.

"What are Torontonians getting in return? Rising costs, stagnating services, and a city government that has been overrun with bureaucracy," he posted Monday afternoon. "If the city's budget isn't focused on affordability and real change that will benefit residents, what are we actually paying for?"

Historic capital investment

The staff-prepared 2025-2034 capital budget and plan makes a historic investment of \$59.6 billion (tax supported: \$40.2 billion; rate supported: \$19.4 billion), a \$9.8 billion increase compared to the previous budget and plan. It prioritizes SOGR, dedicating 54 per cent (\$32.4 billion) to maintain critical city infrastructure and makes investments to reduce approximately 160,725 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

The capital budget and plan invests:

- \$4.9 billion in transit and mobility
- \$2 billion in key projects for community services
- \$2.9 billion in other investments, including Flood Protection and Net Zero initiatives.

A 1.5 per cent increase in the City Building Fund levy – dedicated to transit and housing – supports these investments. This levy

increase will result in an additional \$58.37 for the average assessed value of a Toronto home, or \$4.86 more per month.

Public participation in the 2025 Budget process

In October 2024, Toronto residents had the opportunity to provide their input on the City's 2025 Budget. Six sessions were held – four in-person and two virtual – across the city, with participation from 763 individuals. An online survey received 12,001 responses including 9,165 ideas submitted in 12 languages. Additionally, 331 participants joined 13 local discussions facilitated by Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving community organizations to date.

Toronto residents are encouraged to remain engaged and continue to share their feedback on the 2025 Budget through the following opportunities.

Written comments can be submitted to the Budget Committee by email: buc@toronto.ca or by mail: Attention Budget Committee, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W., 10th floor, West Tower, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2.

Comments can also be provided to Members of Council. Contact information is available from 311 and on the City's Members of Council webpage.

Provincial legislation requires Mayor Olivia Chow present a budget by Saturday, February 1, for City Council's consideration during a special meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, February 11.

The presentation from today's 2025 Budget launch by City Manager Paul Johnson and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer Stephen Conforti is available on the City's website PDF.

Additional information is available on the City's 2025 Budget webpage: www.toronto.ca/budget.

Toronto is home to more than three million people whose diversity and experiences make this great city Canada's leading economic engine and one of the world's most diverse and livable cities.

RICE page 21

that rice, a staple food for millions of Filipinos, remains accessible to consumers," Tiu Laurel said in Department Circular 3.

The declaration was based on the recommendations of the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC), prompted by its observation of persistently high prices of rice despite lower global market costs and the reduction of rice tariffs from 35 percent to 15 percent in July last year.

The NPCC cited data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showing a 17.9 percent rice inflation in September 2023, way higher than the 4 percent food inflation target of the government.

Regular and well-milled rice also remained high, rising by 19 percent and 20 percent, respectively, from the previous year.

While the government has reduced tar-



iffs to liberalize rice imports, retail prices continued to increase.

Republic Act 12078 or the amended Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) authorizes the secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to declare a food security emergency in case of extraordinary price increases.

While the NFA is restricted from selling rice directly to the public, the amended RTL allows the DA chief to release the agency's buffer stocks to government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and the Kadiwa ng Pangulo program.

Currently, the NFA has about 300,000 metric tons (MT) of buffer stocks, and

the agency plans to release half of these over the next six months. The agency said it may increase this volume if necessary.

Senate President Francis Escudero said he supports the declaration of a food emergency and urged the government to do everything to lower the price of rice.

The senator's statement came amid the concerns raised by the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF), which said it could disadvantage farmers as traders, who need to remain competitive, would have to buy dry palay from farmers at P19 per kilo if NFA rice is sold at P38 a kilo.

At that price, the FFF said, most rice farmers will either break even or have very little left after paying debts and other expenses.

But Escudero emphasized the importance of bringing rice prices down.

"We must do everything we can to lower the price of rice, which, to a large

extent, is responsible for a big chunk of our inflation numbers," he said. "If the concerns of the FFF are indeed proven correct, I am sure the DA (Department of Agriculture) can make the corresponding adjustments to rectify its unintended ill-effects, if any."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel III said it would be "better that the people benefit from the rice in NFA (National Food Authority) warehouses rather than have these expire and rot away."

He said the NFA "is there to buy rice" from local farmers.

The NFA "should make sure to buy at a reasonable, fair and profitable price for the Filipino farmers," he said.

"Quality price over quantity of rice. That is the rule that NFA should follow in its rice acquisition program," Pimentel said in a text message.

PORN?

Janno Gibbs defends VMX after Jinggoy Estrada calls out platform

PORN from page 1

special interest titles. VMX is previously known as Vivamax, which boasts of over 12 million subscribers as of December 2024.

In December 2024, Estrada condemned the subscription-based streaming service in a privilege speech for “normalizing” porn and explicit content citing its vulgar content while sharing that he received reports of alleged abuse among artists.

“Are we normalizing porn on streaming platforms now?”

Ang mga ganitong klaseng pelikula ba ang magsasalba sa industriya (Will these films save the industry),” he said. “The Philippines is a nation deeply rooted in moral values, family traditions, and respect for human dignity. However, these principles are being challenged by platforms that prioritize profit over social responsibility.”

At a recent press conference for his upcoming VMX gag show, “Wow Mani,” Gibbs was asked about Estrada’s remarks against the platform. Gibbs is the host of the sexy gag show where he will moderate a series of games and

gags with actresses.

“Senator Jinggoy is doing his job. He is doing it very well. He has all the right sa opinions [niya]. Ako, personally, opinion ko VMX is not a public viewing venue. It is a private venue. Magbabayad ka. ‘Di public eh. Naka-child lock eh, you need a card [para magbayad],” he said.

The “Fallin” singer reiterated that the local platform’s content is also included in another streaming service while pointing out that it became a stepping stone for its stars to gain opportunities.

“There is nothing on VMX you cannot see on Netflix. Se-censor din ba nila? Sometimes more [vulgar pa ang content] sa Netflix,” he said. “VMX gave these girls what they don’t get in other fields, mainstream. For a lot of them, this is a great stepping stone.

“Dami binibigay na trabahong VMX. Most of the movies are directed and written by well-regarded directors and writers... quality-wise maganda siya,” Gibbs continued.

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) earlier admitted it has no power to limit content on streaming platforms,” where its chairperson and CEO Diorella “Lala” Sotto-Antonio said online curated content doesn’t “fall under its mandate.”

Nonetheless, the MTRCB called the platform’s attention due to complaints about its “explicit content,” which ended with the latter saying that it would “self-regulate,” Estrada said.



Angeli Khang of Vivamax

“Sometimes more [vulgar pa ang content] sa Netflix”

“The Philippines is a nation deeply rooted in moral values, family traditions, and respect for human dignity. However, these principles are being challenged by platforms that prioritize profit over social responsibility,” he said. “However, it seems that Vivamax is not complying with this agreement because a monitoring conducted by the MTRCB revealed that the company’s streaming platform movies are only suitable for porn sites.”

PIDC BOARD OKAYS 2025 PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

PIDC from page 2

professional, cultural and social organizations based in Ontario. It was established in 1988 to organize, promote and preserve Filipino arts, culture, history and heritage in Canada.

Presided by Tom Tan, PIDC President, the virtual meeting was conducted from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. Among those in attendance were Leonor Abad, Stephanie Artuz, Sonia Balinas, Karen Binaday, Norma Carpio, Joel Divino, B.K. Jimenez, Rommel Lumbao, Jeff Mesina, Agnes Miranda, and Jean Pardo including Grant as a special meeting guest. After a call to order, the attendees adopted the meeting agenda, the September 22, 2024, general meeting minutes and the 2024 PIDC Financial Statement.

At the lively Zoom meeting, after serious debate and discussion, the PIDC officers and directors tentatively approved the following activities for 2025:

- *Sine Film Festival on April 11-13, 2025
- *Filipino Heritage Month Celebration in June 2025
- June 1st(Sunday) - Salo Salo Picnic and Dr Jose Rizal’s Birth Anniversary at Earl Bales Park, North York.
- June 7th(Saturday) - George Brown College Filipino BBQ
- June 12th(Thursday) -Philippine Independence Day Flag Raising at Toronto City Hall in partnership with Philippine Consul-

ate General Toronto.

*Miss PIDC and Little Miss PIDC Pageant at the Korean Cultural Centre, North York, Toronto on July 26, 2025.

*Mabuhay Golf Tournament in July 2025

*Mabuhay Arts & Culture Festival from August 18-24, 2025

Mabuhay Basketball Cup - Mabuhay Art Exhibit – OCAD University and Philippine Artist Group (PAG) partnership

Mabuhay Leadership Forum in partnership with Pwr Forward/Filipinos in the 6ix Mabuhay Gala – August 21, 2025

Mabuhay Philippines Festival – August 23-24, 2025

*2nd Mabuhay Songwriting Contest, tentatively set in October 2025.

*Halo-Halo sa George Brown College -a Networking Event and GBC Open House

*PIDC Family Christmas Party on December 6, 2025 (Saturday)

Prexy T. Tan, “to kick the ball rolling”, has already designated some event chairpersons while other PIDC members volunteered to lead and guide specific activities. However, the PIDC Executive Board expresses that the venues and schedules for some of the planned events and activities may change or adjust to meet some expectations or any unforeseeable circumstances. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)



Candid CAMERA



Yours truly, Joey Baking was invited at the 1st birthday of Mirelle Chanele Panganiban.

Maymay Entrata featured in US-based magazine

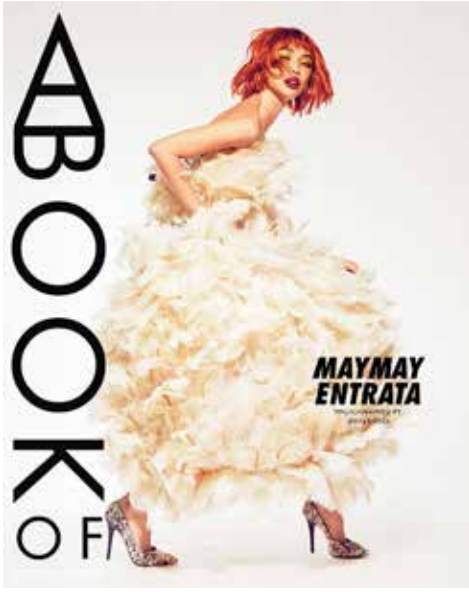
Maymay Entrata was elated after she was featured in the United States-based magazine A BOOK OF, which described her as a "dream in motion."

The Filipino actress showed photos of herself from the magazine shoot, through a series of posts on her Instagram page on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Entrata served looks in several sets of ensembles including a strapless feather dress, a black deep V dress, and statement pieces.

"This has honestly been the most fun and fulfilling shoot I've had in such a long time!" she said in the caption. "I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this magazine."

"It's truly an honor to work with a talented and creative production team po talaga. This is my very first magazine feature in the USA, so I will never forget how special this experience has been po," she added.



"To everyone who made it possible, thank you so much!"

In the magazine's feature entitled "Maymay is a dream in motion," the actress spoke about her career as an actress, model and a singer-songwriter, as well as her international



fame.

This is not the first time Entrata was featured in an international platform. She also graced the cover of a Dubai-based luxury fashion magazine

in 2019, walked the runway of fashion shows at Paris Fashion Week in 2014, and was featured in Grammy's "It Goes to 11" series in the same year.





FAMILY DENTISTRY

DR. V. SANTIAGO & ASSOCIATES



We offer complete dental care
& are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

Dr. Victoria Santiago

Dr. Joy Y. Ho

Dr. Amy Fan

Dr. Jennifer Chen

Dr. Damian Yung

Dr. Myra Caballero



Specialty Dentistry:

Dr. Ali Adibfar

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr. Abbasali Hassanali

Periodontist

Registered Dental Hygienist:

Raymond Echavez

Gayle Baylon

Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic

(Across Sherbourne TTC Station)

600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307

Toronto

dr.vslu@bellnet.ca



Website now live
thefamilydentistry.ca





ACTION Honda

"WHERE CAR OWNERSHIP IS MADE EASY"

Your Filipino friends, ready at your Service!

To all my kababayans, Feel free to contact me "bibili ka man o hindi." It is always a pleasure to talk to a kababayan. **MABUHAY!** raphael@myactionhonda.com



Rafael Nebres
General Manager



Gani Gregorio
Asst. Sales Manager



Jose Sarte
Service Manager



Ronaldo Aquino
Assistant Service Manager



Joseph Redoblado
Service Advisor



Roland "Regi" Giraldez
Sales and Leasing Consultant



Ramon Bayani
Sales and Leasing Consultant



Pio Regio
Senior Lot Attendant



Don Luche
Accountant



Ramon Miranda
Lot Attendant



Marie Miranda
Service Appointment Coordinator



Cherie Viernes
Accounting Assistant



Terry Aquino
Cleanup Associate



Honda CR-V 2024



Honda Pilot 2024



Honda Accord 2024



Honda Civic 2024



Honda Passport 2024



Honda Odyssey 2024

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

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

Jamela Villanueva shuts down showbiz rumors: 'Fame isn't for me'

Content creator Jamela Villanueva is no stranger to public attention, especially after last year's headline-making controversy involving her ex-boyfriend, actor Anthony Jennings and actress Maris Racal.

The unexpected drama thrust her into the spotlight, making her personal life a topic of intense speculation.

Just as the buzz around her name was starting to settle, her recent launch as the new ambassador of Ampong Dental Essentials reignited the conversation surrounding her—but this time, for a different reason.

"Is she joining showbiz?" The public and industry insiders alike began questioning whether the 26-year-old was taking her first step toward an entertainment career.

However, Jamela is quick to shut down the rumors, insisting that showbusiness isn't part of her plans.

"It's still not something I see myself doing," she admitted. "I don't think my mental health can handle being in that kind of industry."

Having seen the inner workings of the entertainment world firsthand, the content creator knows it's not the life she wants.

"I was exposed to it. I saw it with my own eyes," she reflected, alluding to the controversy that unexpectedly placed her



Jamela is named as the new ambassador of Ampong Dental Essentials

under the public's microscope.

Part of that scrutiny stemmed from her decision to release the alleged messages between Anthony and Maris, a move that sparked mixed reactions online. Addressing the issue during a group interview, Jamela explained why she felt compelled to do what she did.

"I was just pushed to do it because so much was happening. I'm just a normal person. I didn't have anyone to defend me. It's really difficult when you're constantly being judged by people," admitted Jamela.

Rather than chasing fame, she is now focusing on rebuilding herself and prioritizing her well-being.

"Moving on isn't just about forgetting the past. It's also about choosing yourself in the present—about how you rebuild yourself despite everything that has happened to you," she explained.

A crucial part of her healing process, she shared, has been surrounding herself with the right people.

"I'm careful about who I allow in my circle. I choose people who truly support me, who will lead me in the right direction and call me out when I'm wrong," Jamela added.

Above all, she refuses to compromise her self-worth, stating, "My self-worth is non-negotiable."

Still, Jamela acknowledged that healing isn't a straight path, and forgiveness doesn't happen overnight.

"I'm still in the process," she admitted when asked if she has completely moved on.

But she also understands that healing looks different for everyone.

"Behind every smile, there's a story. Just because I haven't completely forgiven doesn't mean I can't smile," said Jamela, emphasizing that moving on isn't about stepping into the limelight—it's about reclaiming her peace.

Jamie Rivera delivers message of hope in PH's 2025 jubilee song 'Ningas ng Pag-Asa'

To release entrance song for Jubilee celebration

After 25 years, Jamie Rivera returns as the voice of the 2025 Philippine Jubilee hymn "Ningas ng Pag-asa" featuring the group 92AD.

The OPM icon, together with 92AD, also served as the voice behind the "Jubilee Song (The Great Jubilee)" composed by Fr. Carlo Magno Marcelo which served as the theme song of the 2000 Jubilee celebration.

"I'm very grateful that I'm still given trust by the Catholic Church and yung faith nila is not fading, and I'm also blessed that 92AD is still there to help and willing to join me," she said.

When asked what "Ningas ng Pag-asa" means to her, the Inspirational

Diva highlighted its message of hope.

"This is a message of hope. Flame of hope. Tayo yun, we have to tell the people that there is hope in mankind," she said. "Yun ang responsibility natin as Christians, as Catholics, as followers of Christ to send this message because it is our mission."

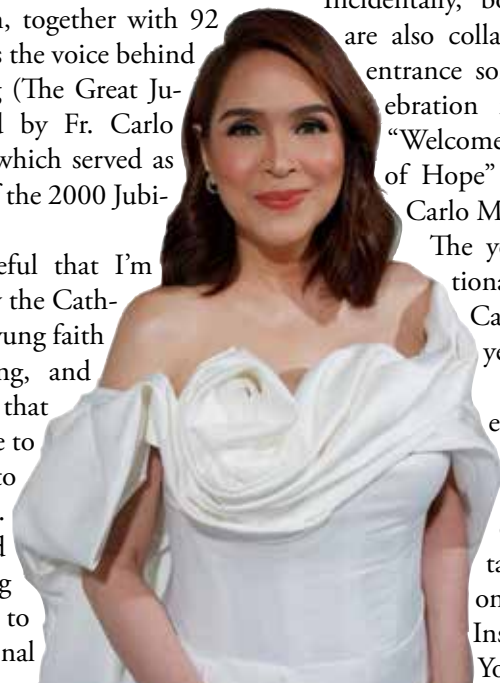
92AD also stressed the valuable message of the song. The group said, "The song is really a message of hope for everyone. Sa kabila ng lahat ng nangyayari sa mundo atin, hindi tayo dapat mawalan ng pag-asa. Magtiwala lang tayo sa Diyos. At yun ang mensahe na gusto nating iparating sa lahat."

"Ningas ng Pag-asa" was adapted into Filipino by Jamie based on the official 2025 Jubilee theme "Pilgrims of Hope." The Filipino version was released under ABS-CBN's Inspire Music label.

Incidentally, both Jamie and 92AD are also collaborating anew for the entrance song for the Jubilee celebration in the country titled "Welcome! Mabuhay! O Pilgrims of Hope" also composed by Fr. Carlo Magno Marcelo.

The year of Jubilee is traditionally celebrated by the Catholic Church every 25 years.


The official music video of "Ningas ng Pag-asa" is now available on Star Music YouTube channel. For more details, follow Star Music on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube.



Little Manila Lm confidential

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

Joy S. D'Aoust
REALTOR®

647-500-5397 
(500 - K•E•Y•S)

www.joyathomerealty.com

MLS
MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE®

JOY AT HOME
REALTY

R
REALTOR®

Right At Home
Realty Brokerage, Inc.

Barbie Forteza in her self-love era

Sought-after actress Barbie Forteza, dubbed the "Kapuso Primetime Princess," has captivated audiences' hearts with her performances since entering showbiz at just 12 years old. Over the years, she has headlined various top-rated Kapuso shows, including Tween Hearts, The Half Sisters, Meant to Be, Kara Mia, Maria Clara at Ibarra, Maging Sino Ka Man, and most recently, the highly successful Pulang Araw.

Now, with news about her personal and love life circulating on social media and news outlets, Forteza is officially marking a new chapter in her life — one focused on self-discovery and self-love.

"I think this is my self-discovery era and self-love era. I'm all about exploring the world. I would love to travel more this year. I'm also in my café era now," she happily shared during the launch of BW Women's latest fragrance line, the Whimsy Collection.

As the 27-year-old navigates her self-love journey, she defines her best self as starting each day with positivity.

"I think I achieve my best self every day when I wake up in the morning with a positive aura. You invite good vibes, and then I go downstairs, have lunch with my parents, and chat with them. Surrounding yourself with good people is important," she shared.

Her self-care routine is also an essential part of her daily life.

"I'm meticulous about my body, so I use a lot of products. It's important because your scent is what makes you memorable—it leaves a lasting impression," she explained.

Meanwhile, amid her personal journey, Forteza is also embracing new opportunities, including her partnership with BW Women's Whimsy Collection.

"I'm very thankful that I've started 2025 on a productive note because I'm currently working on a film that I'm very excited to share with you soon. I'm also

about to start a new primetime TV show in March," she revealed.

Aside from work, she is prioritizing her fitness journey, sharing, "I'm now in my fitness era with my team. I jog — I call it 'Takbong Barbie' (Barbie's version of running). If you know me, you'd know this is a big achievement because on my rest days, I usually just lie in bed all day. So for me to be doing this in 2025, it means I'm really committed."

"I'm also slowly building a rest-day routine. I usually wake up around noon since I finish work late at night. Then I have a late lunch at a café I found on TikTok.

After that, I go for a jog or a walk. I also got back into reading, but I'm sticking to meet-cute novels for now," Forteza continued.

She added, "The TV show I'm working on for March is very women-centered. We'll be talking about fashion, women empowerment, and sophistication. It's going to be a different Barbie — more fashionable and sophisticated. I'm really excited

because Pulang Araw was a huge success. Thank you so much to everyone who watched! But this year, we're leveling up, and we're going to serve looks!"

Embracing the journey

For those just starting their self-empowerment journey, Barbie's advice is simple yet profound: "Listen to yourself. If you need time alone or time with friends, go do that. There's no wrong step — you just have to start. Whether it's fitness, studies, or exploring a new career, why not? There's no big or small step, as long as you start doing what you want to do."

She also acknowledges the role of scent in her self-love journey.

"It plays a big role because I'm a very sentimental person, and scents hold memories for me. I have friends and even my parents who have distinct scents, and when I smell them somewhere, I immediately remem-

ber them. That's why scent is so important to me — I always wear the best, and that is BW Women's Whimsy Collection," she noted.

Denice Sy of BW Women agrees that Barbie is the perfect representation of their brand.

"BW Women is about being your best self every day, and I think Barbie really embodies that. She's fun, girly, cute, but at the same time, very whimsical as well," Sy pointed out.

For young women looking to find their signature scent, Forteza has this tip: "Always listen to yourself. Find a scent that suits you because some fragrances may work for others but not for you. Some are too strong, while others are floral. See what fits your personality. Personally, I love vanilla scents."

Albie Casiño opens up about changing priorities as a father

Albie Casiño, who introduced his son Roman Andrew to the public in June 2024, opened up about how fatherhood changed his life, saying that being a dad is his "best role."

The actor was smiling from ear-to-ear as he spoke about his son during an interview with reporters on the sidelines of the "Mga Sampung Utos Kay Josh" premiere night in Quezon City, saying Roman is celebrating his first birthday this year.

"I never thought that I was capable of this kind of love," he said when asked what he realized about himself as soon as he became a father.

Casiño admitted that he thought he "would never have children," but being a father brought him an unexplainable joy. "It's the best feeling."

"It's something that I can't explain, and this comes from someone who thought he would never have kids," he continued. "But ohmigod, it's so different. You're shaping another human and how he's going to grow up as is going to be because of me. If he's a bad person, it's my fault."

Casiño said that being a father prompted him to turn down certain roles out of respect for his son while citing an unnamed project with filmmaker Gino Santos. He also shared that while he has always been a hard worker, he has to be more mindful of his spending.

"I had to turn down roles that I wanted to do. Inisip ko na kung makikita niya 'to (I think of how would he react when he sees this). There was a project with [director] Gino Santos, but then, I had to turn down the role," he said.

"I feel like I always had that hustle drive. But I have to be mindful of my spending habits. It's so overwhelming. I have so many fears now that I never thought I would be thinking about before," he further added.

Balancing act

In the Marius Talampas-helmed film, Casiño stars as one of the onscreen best friends of its lead character Jerald Napoles, to which the former said that it is his first time to dabble in comedy.

"I was shooting this in the middle of 'Can't Buy Me Love' so it's [moving between] serious and comedic. It was my first to do comedy. I knew I was going to do it right away but when I read the script, tawang-tawa ako (I kept on laughing)," he said.

The actor also disclosed that aside from shooting "Can't Buy Me Love" and the comedy film at the same time, he was in the middle of balancing his responsibilities as a father.

"I was doing 'Can't Buy Me Love' and 'Sampung Utos ni Josh' [at the same time], and after the last day of shooting for this movie, I flew out to the States. It's just so crazy," he said. "Now, I'm teaching him to go down from the bed. He likes to crawl around and stuff. He has teeth na. I'm seeing him grow and it's just so fast."

Aside from Napoles and Casiño, "Mga Sampung Utos Kay Josh" also stars Pepe Herrera, Irma Adlawan, James Caraan, and GB Labrador. The film's storyline was written by Sherwin Buenvendida, although he died before it premiered in theaters.

Casiño's son was first reported by entertainment insider Ogie Diaz in May 2024, when the actor reportedly flew to the US to be with his non-showbiz girlfriend. The actor introduced his son to the public a month later.



NEED A CAR?

TAWAG KA LANG KABAYAN!



EMMANUEL "MANNY" YANGA



416-858-0616

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



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

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

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

NO PROBLEM!!!

Come In And See More
Choices Of Vehicles



**2019 Nissan Kicks S
FROM \$ 15,986



**2021 Nissan Versa 1.6 S
FROM \$ 15,990



**2021 Hyundai Venue Preferred
FROM \$ 17,990



**2021 Hyundai Elantra Preferred
FROM \$ 18,590

Call Harold for Appointment
416-578-7351

CarProof
VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS

HONDA
Certified
Used Vehicles

NBC
BEST PRICED DEALER
AWARD WINNER
2020

NBC
BEST PRICED DEALER
AWARD WINNER
2021



HONDA

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

Nikki Valdez on how to cope with mental health: 'Family talaga is important in the healing'



After making her official comeback to theater last February 1 in the opening day of Next to Normal, which is The Sandbox Collective's first offering this year, actress Nikki Valdez says it feels good to be back performing live on stage again after 15 years. In the Tony award-winning rock musical, she plays the role of grieving housewife Diana Goodman, who has a worsening bipolar disorder that has devastating effects on her entire family.

In real life, Nikki is a doting mom to her daughter Olivia, which is why this role is also very close to Nikki's heart. "As a mom of a 16-year-old, I really can connect the songs with my daughter. This could be a song I could speak about with my daughter when we make amends kapag nagkapatuhan kami. Out of all the songs, it really hits me when I get to that part. Medyo personal siya sa akin," she said.

With a role that goes through deep mental issues in the more than two hour play, Nikki says her acting process does not involve using any personal grief.

"I think it's impossible to use my own grief. I have to feel what Diana Goodman is feeling kasi I don't know the feeling of going through a mental health condition and 'yung ganung kalamang depression," she explained. "I think it's really more on living in the moment, being alive while I'm doing the scene, and making my own research about putting my own history about how Diana is or was before she had that condition. That's the difference for me about being an actor on stage."

With the main theme of mental health and depression being given the spotlight in her show, the Next to Normal star hopes it puts a spotlight on the issue and normalizes

conversation about it, especially within the family.

"Noon kasi it was taboo. Sinasabi nila, 'Huwag mo kausapin yan kasi medyo may deperensiya.' Ngayon, it's nice that we can talk about it kasi hindi natin alam na someone's going through something na beyond our understanding. And based on personal experience, family talaga is important in the healing and coping of anybody going through a mental health problem," she said. "The family unit, 'pag maganda ang basic foundation ng family, maganda rin 'yung magiging healing process. That's based on my experience with someone I know. May mga pamilya rin naman na hindi talaga accepting but it's nice if you belong to a family na susupportahan ka in your journey of coping."

Gary V., James Reid open to collaborating again after ASAP duet

Gary Valenciano shared Sunday the stage on ASAP with James Reid and performed a mash up of their songs with almost the same title, Gary's "Di Bale na lang" and James' "Di Bale."



never got to do a collab together [before this]," Reid told ABS-CBN News.

Valenciano also agreed that they have been onstage together for numerous times but haven't collaborated yet.

"We've stepped onstage together for certain numbers but we've never really had a production number together, just James and myself. If he was really excited, I was actually quite pressured because this guy is good

when it comes to coming up with ideas and I like working with people like that," Valenciano said.

The veteran singer also thanked music director Mon Faustino "for making it (collaboration) happen."

Reid then revealed that when he made the song "Di Bale," the first thought he had was "a mash up with 'Di Bale Na Lang' would be perfect."

With his "manifestation" of a collaboration working, Reid said he "wants more" projects with Valenciano in the future.

When asked if they are both open to collaborating again maybe on a bigger stage or possible recording a track, Valenciano said, "You know, I'm open to that but I'm also someone who's ready to record some new stuff, and you know when he's got something that will cross way, I'm good."

To which Reid replied, "I got you! Mag-usap muna kami!"

What would impress 'It's Showtime' Sexy Babe judge Chelsea Manalo?

Miss Universe Asia 2024 Chelsea Manalo has come full circle, transitioning from a beauty pageant contestant to one of the judges for It's Showtime's Sexy Babe segment.

During an interview at the recently concluded Miss Universe Philippines - Quezon City pageant at SM North Sky Dome, the beauty queen shared how much she enjoys being a judge.

"In (It's) Showtime, kasi it's really different from what it usually is in national pageants or other pageants. It's all about the personality, and I'm enjoying that so much. We're always told naman na these are all walks of life. Also, there are girls there who are 18 years old, who are breadwinners," Chelsea shared.

The beauty queen said that more than winning, it's more important

for the girls to share their journey.

"Of course, since I've already been there, you know how beauty pageants are. I already know what they really want. It's not just about winning Sexy Babe or winning a title; it's about really saying their story to the people there," she explained.

For Chelsea, it's important to embrace your truth and understand that making mistakes during the competition is okay.

"It's already enough for me to know na totoo naman sila sa sinasabi nila, sa gusto nila. They have what it is that they really want to fight for. That's already enough for the judges to really impress us. It's not just you standing on the stage na kailangan perfect ka, because that's really hard to always look like you're perfect on stage. Sometimes there can be a downfall, but you just have to enjoy it," Chelsea added.

She also shared that aside from judging, she enjoys getting along with the hosts and the contestants.

"So I've been a hurado for It's Showtime for a while, and I laugh at it because I'm enjoying the stories. Nakakatuwa yung mga hosts there; I get along with them. Sometimes, if we have some free time, I can go backstage and talk to the girls," she shared.

She went on to say that she always makes time to give them advice: "I give them a little tip to always smile, to enjoy, and to always look at the hosts. It's important that you're looking around and not appearing too stiff. But yeah, it's fun."

Now that she's regularly seen on television, the beauty queen shared that she's open to taking on more projects, especially those that can positively influence women.

"I think I really love also being in the public eye as long as I can influence women who look just like me, hindi lang in pageantry. You know, if they can make it to do acting or singing, then these are the qualities that I want to do. I'm open naman to all kinds of projects," Chelsea shared.



Michele Gumabao on returning to beauty pageants: 'I'm just a spectator now'

Pageant fans may have to accept that they might not see Michele Gumabao grace the pageant stage again.

Although she didn't directly say whether she's open to returning to pageantry, the beauty queen and volleyball star shared that she feels she has already exhausted her years in the pageant scene.

"Yes, I think I have exhausted the years. I invested everything I could in beauty pageants when I joined back in 2018 and 2020. I've already achieved what I wanted back then, and I've learned a lot throughout," Michele shared.

She added that she now sees herself more as a viewer and supporter than a contender.

"I'm just a spectator now, who really enjoys watching," the beauty queen noted.

Michele was present at the recently concluded Miss Universe Philippines - Quezon City event held at the SM North Sky Dome.

At the event, the beauty queen offered some valuable advice to the competing contestants.

"I wish I could tell each and every girl competing tonight to just enjoy the moment, because it's the last (part of the pageant journey). You can't take back every moment you've spent with the girls. It's an experience of a lifetime," Michele said.

As someone who has been in their shoes and as a pageant veteran, she also tried to boost the girls' self-esteem.

"Just really enjoy it, knowing you did your best. Whatever happens, you should be proud of yourself and everything

you've achieved so far," she said.

Zoe Honeyman of Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City was crowned the newest Miss Universe Philippines - Quezon City.

Michele, herself, was a former representative of Quezon City in the Miss Universe Philippines national pageant in 2020.

During the Miss Universe coronation night, she finished as second runner-up, behind titleholder Rabiya Mateo of Il-oilo City and first runner-up Ysabella Ysmael of Parañaque.

Still, that wasn't Michele's first foray into the pageant scene.

In 2018, Michele competed in Binibining Pilipinas 2018, the 55th edition of the pageant, held at the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.



During the pageant, the volleyball star-turned-beauty queen went head-to-head against some of the strongest contenders in the pageant scene, including Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray, Miss International 2018 1st runner-up Ahtisa Manalo, Miss Intercontinental 2018 Karen Gallman, and Miss Grand International 2020 1st runner-up Samantha Bernardo.

The beauty queen went on to bring home the Binibining Pilipinas - Globe 2018 crown. In October of the same year, she went on to represent the Philippines at the Miss Globe 2018 pageant held in Albania.

At Miss Globe pageant, Michele earned a top 15 finish and won special awards, including Miss Social Media and the Dream Girl Award.

Angel Aquino's confessions about diet, humor and 'jitters' make her so relatable

If you take a quick scroll through Angel Aquino's social media feed, you'd think she has life all figured out. She just looks so 'zen,' light, and perfectly put-together. But in this exclusive video, where she reveals fun trivia bits about herself, we get a refreshing peek into her real world and learn that she is just like us in many ways!

First, about that very serene vibe she (or her Instagram grid) gives off, like she's permanently in a state of yoga bliss, Angel confessed that she actually worries, too. And just like us, she feels anxious sometimes. Probably the reason why she doesn't look like it is because she's gotten better at handling it over time.

On that note, a lot of people assume she's a vegetarian. Well, she used to be, but now she's back to eating meat. Angel shared that she had to tweak her diet accordingly as her body has been going through hormonal changes like many women her age.



And if you've ever felt frustrated because you think you're bad at telling jokes, Angel might just be your soul sister. She confessed that she doesn't have a funny bone in her body either. She admits she lacks the timing to deliver a solid 'havey' punchline, but that doesn't mean she doesn't appreciate humor. In fact, she loves to laugh and is super easy to make laugh. She'll gladly listen to your jokes because that's just who she is—a great listener.

Here's a bonus fun fact we dug up from the internet—Angel is a huge coffee lover! No wonder she's enjoying every sip, we mean, every bit, of her latest series "How To Spot A Red Flag," which features coffee-making as one of its elements. If love her a latte, catch Angel as she portrays Marian in this rom-com series, starring Donny Pangilinan and Belle Mariano aka DonBelle. "How To Spot A Red Flag" airs weeknights on Kapamilya Channel, TV5, and A2Z.



FAMILY DENTISTRY

DR. V. SANTIAGO & ASSOCIATES



We offer complete dental care & are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

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

Specialty Dentistry:

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

Registered Dental Hygienist:

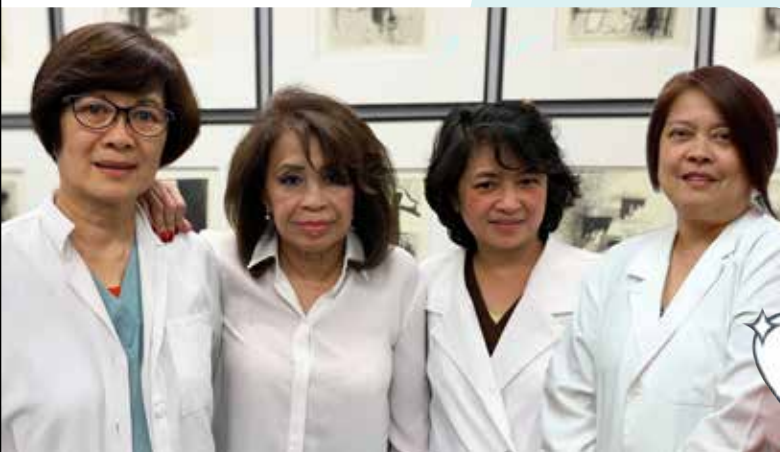
- Raymond Echavez
- Gayle Baylon



Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

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



Website now live
thefamilydentistry.ca

