



Ontario Filipino Canadians Celebrate Philippine HERITAGE & CULTURE

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

TORONTO - June is a very special and busy month for people of Filipino ancestry in

Canada. Officially, June has been declared “Filipino Heritage Month” across Canada.

As tradition dictates, people of Filipino descent, numbering 957,355 in Canada

(according to the Canadian Census 2021), celebrate “Ang Buwan ng Hunyo” with much

fanfare, festivities and salient Philippine history events and

FILIPINOS page 16



FILIPINO HERITAGE MONTH in Canada in June recognizes and honors the contributions of Filipino Canadians to Canadian society and celebrates the rich culture, traditions, and history of the Filipino community. Beauty pageants, cultural dances were showcased in the different celebrations around Toronto and Canada. ABOVE RIGHT, CP24 Breakfast television reporter Jee-Yun Lee interviews Lally Dividina Tidor of the Seniors Art Group during their painting class.

Canada updates travel advisory to USA

The U.S. recently updated its travel advisory for Canada, but Canada has also done the same for the United States, and the newly updated Canadian advisory contains a new warning, advising travelers to stay away

from demonstrations in the United States.

Although the travel advice, which was updated on June 11, urges people to “take normal security precautions” when traveling to the U.S., it was amended

for “Safety security – added information on demonstrations in Los Angeles and other major cities,” the government’s website says.

The same day, the U.S. updated for “Safety security – added information on demonstrations in Los Angeles and other major cities,” the government’s website says.

TRAVEL page 20

Canada warns about Border Crossings

The warning could prompt more Canadians to reconsider visiting the U.S.

The border between the U.S. and Canada has traditionally been a pretty loose

affair.

When I traveled between the two countries as a kid, on a bus for hockey exchange, you got detained

BORDER page 18

New Brunswick negotiates immigration allocation increase

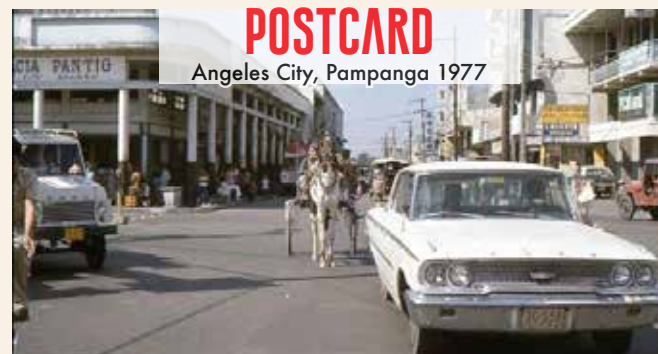
OTTAWA - New Brunswick negotiated an increased immigration allocation with the federal government, said a June 13, 2025 Friday news release.

The province will now receive 4,250 permanent resident nominations. This is an increase of 1,500 from a February announcement.

“Newcomers are critically

important to addressing New Brunswick’s workforce demands, and we have continued to make that clear with our federal counterparts,”

NEW BRUNSWICK page 8



POSTCARD

Angeles City, Pampanga 1977



Happy 13th Anniversary
Mila & Morris



Congratulations
Sophia

Sophia Daclan gets akiss from her mom Marian on her graduation.



CITY CENTRE DENTISTRY
with Singer Ylona Garcia



2

1. Rowena Ducusin, Philippine-Australian singer Ylona Garcia, Dr. Maneeb Ali, Penny Bucad-Barrete
2. DJ Ryan Orlanda with Philippine-Australian singer Ylona Garcia
3. "Prince of Teleserye theme-songs" Bryan Termulo with MH Productions Marky Hugh



3



Honey
Shot

Christabelle, 16, is into gymnastics. Someday, she wants to be a an author. She currently goes to Central Technical school. She is the daughter of Jenny and Brian. We wish her all the luck in her future.

Christabelle dos Santos



Happy birthday Nancy

Maddie Rivero (LEFT) and PCCF President Rosemer Enverga (RIGHT) join Nancy in celbrating her birthday.



Theresa Lumanlan and artist Frank Cruzet take a breather during the opening of Philippine Artists Group annual exhibit.

Jewel Mische reveals Paulo Avelino almost became her boyfriend

Paulo Avelino and Jewel Mische could have been a showbiz couple back in 2007 when they both competed in the artista reality show "StarStruck." Jewel revealed this juicy throwback to Boy Abunda when she guested in his late afternoon show "Fast Talk With Boy Abunda."

The actress answered Paulo's name when she was asked during the rap-

id-fire segment about the name of the actor who almost became her boyfriend.

During the more serious part of the show, Jewel explained how she became close to



Paulo during their "StarStruck" season, which proclaimed her as the winner alongside Aljur Abrenica, Mart Escudero, and Kris Bernal.

"Medyo ilan-ilan sa kanila 'yung nag-show ng interest, pero 'yung seryoso talaga was Paulo Avelino. Naging kami rin 'yung naging close. Siya talaga 'yung taga-pagtanggol ko that time. Siya 'yung talagang naka-close ko," Jewel recalled.

She, however, clarified that it did not develop into something more serious.

"Naging magka-love team kami sa ibang mga shows. Pero 'yung official, hindi. Hindi kami naging [together]," Jewel said.

Jewel is now married to American Alister Kurzer, with whom she has three daughters. After living in Michigan in the United States for over a decade, Mische and her family are now back in the country and are based in Davao.

Paulo, meanwhile, is romantically linked with his perennial screen partner, Kim Chiu.

CP24 Breakfast Television on Filipino Heritage at FCT



4



5



6



8



7



9

CP24 BREAKFAST TELEVISION FEATURES FILIPINO HERITAGE: The Filipino centre Toronto (FCT) was a beehive of activity one early morning as CP24 featured the FCT seniors art group, the FCT ukulele ensemble, the Fiesta Filipina dance troupe, and Casa Manila's Filipino cuisine. 4. Fashion designer Julin Maikaelo explains his design; 5. Casa Manila's Mila Cuachon explains Filipinos dishes to CP24 Breakfast television reporter Jee-Yun Lee and Cristina Carpio; 6. FCT ukulele ensemble; 7. FCT painting class poses with Fashion designer Julin Maikaelo; 8. Fiesta Filipina dance troupe; 9. FCT seniors art class poses with CP24 Breakfast Television reporter Jee-Yun Lee



Joy S. D'Aoust

REALTOR®

647-500-5397
(KEYS)

416-254-1001 / 416-391-3232

joy@joyathomerealty.com

joyathomerealty

Right At Home

MLS

REALTOR

Right At Home Realty Brokerage Inc.

www.joyathomerealty.com

Joy S. D'Aoust

REALTOR®

647-500-5397
(KEYS)

416-254-1001 / 416-391-3232

joy@joyathomerealty.com

joyathomerealty

Right At Home

MLS

REALTOR

Right At Home Realty Brokerage Inc.

www.joyathomerealty.com



PHILIPPINE CONSUL GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS ENDURING PH-CANADA FRIENDSHIP, STRENGTH OF FILIPINO DIASPORA AT 127TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS IN TORONTO

12 June 2025 — To mark this year's celebration of the 127th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence, the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto came together with the Filipino Community today for back-to-back flag raising ceremonies at the Toronto City Hall and the Ontario Legislative Assembly at Queen's Park.

In her remarks at both events, Consul General Angelica C. Escalona took the opportunity to bid farewell to the community she served for the last two years as she finishes her tour of duty by the end of the month. Reflecting on her eventful assignment in Toronto, she highlighted the enduring friendship between the Philippines and Canada manifested in the meaningful celebration of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations last year and the many initiatives towards expanding and strengthening partnerships across key sectors. She lauded the strength and resilience of the million-strong Filipino diaspora in Canada that contribute to Canada's growth and the wellbeing of its people and urged them to deepen their connection to their Filipino heritage and be leaders and trailblazers in their respective fields and communities.

On behalf of Ontario Speaker of the House Donna Skelly, MPP Andrea Hazell awarded Consul General Escalona a certificate of congratulations for the occasion. In their remarks, representatives



Will Bouma, who represented Premier Doug Ford, assured that the Filipino community will always have the support of the Province. Other politicians present during the flag raising ceremony were Solicitor General Michael Kerzner, representing the Progressive Conservative Party, MPP Tom Rakocevic of the National Democratic Party, and Ms. Bonnie Crombie, leader of the Liberal Party.

Jollibee and Pinoy Ontario Vendors' Kuya Popoy joined the celebration at City Hall, representing some of the many Filipino-owned businesses in the province that help drive the economy.

The events featured a rendi-

tion of the Philippine and Canadian national anthems by the Consulate team with multitalented musicians Chyrell Ronquillo and Danny Orbillo and sopranos Lilac Cana and Jennifer Uy. Queen's Park guests were serenaded by renowned Filipino singer Chiqui Pineda-Azimi. Guro JB Ramos of Combat Science-Warrior Arts in Asia and her students presented a demonstration of arnis, the Filipino

Because no Filipino gathering is complete without food, the Consulate arranged a simple breakfast of tuna egg pandesal (thanks to the Philippine Independence Day Council and Toronto Community Housing) and Jollibee peach mango pie at City Hall and a sumptuous lunch buffet catered by Graze Oasis and Sir Fred Cuisine/ Golden Lechon at Queen's Park.

- 1-1A. Consul General Angelica Escalona leads the flag raising ceremonies at Toronto City Hall and Queen's Park
- 2. Consul General Angelica Escalona receives a Certificate from MPP Andrea Hazell.
- 3. (L-R): Consul General Escalona poses with MPPs Will Bouma and Andrea Hazell and Soon Ok, spouse of MPP Raymond Cho, and cuts the celebratory cake with Filipino Community representative Monina Lim-Serrano
- 4. Monina Serrano gets a certificate of appreciation from MPP Michael Kerzner.
- 5. Monina Serrano, Ontario Liberal leader Bonnie Crombie and Consul General Angelica Escalona
- 6. Filipino singers Lilac Cana and Chiqui Pineda-Azimi serenades the guests
- 7. Senior Master JB Ramos, Head Instructor and Owner of Combat Science:Warrior Arts of Asia in Toronto, and their students do an arnis demonstration;

PINOY FIESTA & TRADE SHOW BIDS ADIEU TO CONGEN ANGELICA ESCALONA

Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF), headed by President Rosemer Enverga (6TH FROM LEFT) gives a certificate of Appreciation to Consul General Angelica Escalona as she wraps up her posting in Toronto. In photo are Canadian politicians, and other community leaders.





🙄😞 Using Libel Threat as Publicity 😄🙄

Carla Abellana threatens libel

Carla Abellana slams ‘reconciliation’ rumor with Tom Rodriguez, threatens libel suit. Carla Abellana fired back at a report from a gossip page that claimed she and ex-husband Tom Rodriguez were in reconciliation talks.

Mahilig ang mga artistang Pilipino na mag threaten ng libel.

Jake Ejercito threatened influencer Crist Briand of libel because the influencer took a video of 13-year old daughter Elie in public and posted it in his page. Jake accused the influencer of clout-chasing using a minor, to gain fame. I agree, only the parents can use their daughter to gain fame.

Ehe, este, ano ba itong nasabi ko? 🙄

Si Carla Abellana naman, may nagsabi or nagtanong lang kung may reconciliation talks sila ng ex-husband na si Tom, libel threat agad. Sus Guinoo ni Roxanne na over-reaction naman. 😄

First, hindi niyo sinabi reason ng split ninyo. Now, if you threaten libel for that reason, you have to reveal the reason for your divorce. Is Tom Rodriguez like Canadian rapist and murderer Paul Bernardo or American serial murderer Jeffrey Dahmer that rumors of talking with him is bad for your reputation?

Otherwise, it looks like just a publicity gimmick na parang making a mountain

out of a molehill. Or prolonging the topic just to stay in the news as long as possible until they can come up with another issue, like her dance tandem with Gabby Concepcion?

So, is the new loveteam going to be called “CarGa?”

Tom Rodriguez should sue Carla Abellana

For threatening to sue someone for libel because they hinted that she and Tom Rodriguez are in reconciliation talks, isn't she implying that there is something horrible about Tom Rodriguez? Did Tom have sex with a minor, boy or girl? Did Tom commit murder?

If Tom has nothing to hide, then, he has grounds to sue Carla for libel. If he has something to hide, then, better nga to keep quiet na lang and people will still think better of him for not talking too much.

We love it so much they gave us a month

Filipinos in Canada love independence day so much, we celebrate it for a month. So, New Democratic Party (NP) MPP Doly Begum introduced June as Philippine Heritage month and the government of Ontario of Ontario declared it. Likewise, MP

Salma Zahid - Member of Parliament in the House of Commons of Canada also introduced a bill to declare June as Philippine Heritage Month. So, now, we have the whole month of June to celebrate Independence day. And near June 12, every city in Ontario, and probably Canada and every organizations has an Independence Day flag raising, gala, and a commemoration of Jose Rizal ceremonies all happening either at the same time or one after another. It's not easy to keep up.

Think about it. To recognize and celebrate the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Indigenous peoples of Canada, they only have National Indigenous Peoples Day. One day.

In our case, out celebrations don't stop once the month of June is over. It extends up to September with Durham Filipino Festival claiming the title as the closing Filipino festival of the summer.

The governments of Ontario and Canada might as well have declared Philippine Heritage Summer. 😄

Why ask why?

Durham is a region. It is also a city. Whitby is a part of the region of Durham. Confusing, I know. I read a facebook explanation why there is another flag-raising in Whitby when Durham (the city, not the region) is already holding one. Like I said, confusing. I believe my friend Li Eron is explaining it. And I presume someone asked Li about it. To keep it

short, Li explained it well. In my own words, why make a fuss if another city holds another flag-raising. Obviously, another Filipino organization organized it. The City of Toronto has one at City Hall. Then, there's one at Queen's park organized by another group. The week before, another group held an Independence Day celebration at Queen's Park. 🙄

What's the fuss? 🙄

Democrats will lose

Zohran Mamdani claims to be Donald Trump's “worst nightmare”. He is a democratic socialist and Muslim immigrant. And now he is the Democratic Party's nominee for mayor of New York, having thrashed Andrew Cuomo in this week's primary. Progressives are delighted by his victory. But Republicans may be too.

And there lies the problems for the Democrats. The last time they paraded their progressive cred, they lost the White House. Have they forgotten? Their candidate was Kamala Harris. Voters are only looking for progressive if they are buying a new cellphone or camera.

The New York primary may be dissected nationally for what it says about the Democrats - and how it should take on Trump.

If he can solve the affordability issue in New York City, maybe the Democrats can brag they have the solution nationally and claim the White House.

But would him being a Muslim might be an image that will be difficult for voters to overlook.

Remember the Alamo was their rallying cry during the American-Mexican war.

This time, the Republicans just might use Remember 9/11 as their rallying slogan. 🙄

‘I respect family’: Ivana Alawi says she’s not a homewrecker

Actress-content creator Ivana Alawi said that she was not a homewrecker while undergoing a polygraph exam.

Ivana recently posted on her YouTube channel a new video of her, her mother Fatima, and her brother Hash do a lie detector challenge.

Each time someone is caught lying, they have to eat a chicken wing dipped in hot sauce, making it a mix of Vanity Fair's Lie Detector Series and the online show “Hot Ones.”

During Ivana's turn, she mostly answered questions fed to her by Fatima, Hash, and her younger sister Mona.

One of the questions asked by Mona was whether Ivana



became a reason a family split apart, to which Ivana answered “No.”

“Hindi ako pinalaking manira ng pamilya. I respect family kasi kami nga broken family,” Ivana said to the camera. “Ano ‘to, tapos maninira ako ng family? Siraulo ka pala eh. Okay!”

Ivana's answers that were found “true” were Mona being her favorite sibling, crying in secret because of a man, dating someone not featured on her vlog, and having a secret Instagram account.

The only question that the lie detector

deemed Ivana to be lying was when she denied about thinking of herself as the most beautiful member of their family.

Ivana defended by saying that she had considered her older sister Amira as prettier, but now she thinks she is more beautiful.

Last month, Dominique Lopez, the ex-wife of Albee Benitez, reportedly filed an affidavit against the Bacolod City mayor for alleged violation of Sections 5 e 2 Republic Act 9262 or Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act 1004.

Dominique claimed that Albee's infidelity caused her mental and emotional distress, even suspecting Albee of being unfaithful. She said she never had solid proof, though she reportedly mentioned that Albee was in an illicit relationship with Ivana.

Albee has denied last year the rumors that romantically linked him to Ivana

Willie Revillame oversees studio construction, sets TV return after elections loss

Television host Willie Revillame is set to return to the small screen after a failed Senate bid in the recent midterms elections.

Willie finished 22nd in the Senate race after receiving only just over 8.5 million votes. Pre-election polls pegged him hovering just within and outside the Magic 12. The last senatorial spot went to re-elected official Imee Marcos who received 13.3 million votes. The Facebook page of Willie's former show “Wil to Win” posted images of the television host visiting the construction of a new studio in Mandaluyong.

“Magbabalik ang WOW, para WIN ang bawat Pilipino!” the show teased. “Unti-unti na pong nabubuo ang magiging bagong tahanan ng programang minahal n’yo ng maraming taon.”

“Excited na si Kuya Willie Revillame na



ipagpatuloy ang pagbibigay saya at pag-asa sa mas marami pa nating mga Kababayan. Mula noon hanggang ngayon, kayo ang bida at panalo dito. Magkita-kita tayo ulit, soon! ABANGAN,” the teaser ended. Willie will host two shows in TV5.

One of the shows will be “Wowowin,” which initially ran from 2015 to 2023 on two different networks.

The other will be new game show “Wilyonaryo” which directly follows “Wowowin.” His program “Wowowin” will have a back-to-back show “Wilonaryo.”

What a wonderful turnout to the Filipino Carrousel for the 50th Anniversary of the Carrousel of the Nations

The Filipino community of Windsor made Filipinos proud by showcasing our culture, music and cuisine at the Carrousel of Nations festival. The Filipino Village was one of over 20 villages around Windsor, Essex and Leamington.



PERSPECTIVE AND PERCEPTION

Glimpses On Significant Developments In The Philippines



Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

THE “TALABA” AND “TAHONG” SHELLFISH INDUSTRIES

In the Philippines, Talaba (oysters) and Tahong (mussels) are two essential aquaculture fishery commodities. The slipper-shaped oyster (talabang tsinelas) and the green mussel (tahong) are “the Philippines’ most commercially cultivated mollusc species, mainly for their meat and consumption by Filipinos”, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources(BFAR). The oyster and mussel industries provide much of the income for marginal fishers in estuaries and coastal areas. For decades, the business has provided low-cost, high-quality protein to the country. However, “the industry was a backyard venture back then, and most cultural practices remained traditional. Many of the shellfish sector’s issues were identified in the past and still exist in the industry.” Among the issues are Siltation and pollution, red tide or Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB), inadequate funding infrastructure support, land reclamation and urbanization, limited market demand and low prices for shellfishes, seed supply uncertainty, and insufficient sanitary plans in densely populated ur-

ban areas, and a lack of shellfish processing program before market. Over ten years (2011-2020), the shellfish industry showed an annual production averaging 49,656.65 MT (PSA, 2020), or a 4.69% yearly average percentage increase for the last ten years. “Sana naman ay maipagpatuloy at maisakatuparan ang plano at programa ng ating gobyerno para lubos na marating at magkaroon ng pagpapalaki at pagpapalawak ng industriyang ito at makatulong sa produksiyon at seguridad sa pagkain kasabay ng pag-kakaroon ng sapat na kita, at magandang kalagayan sa lahat.”

FIRST PRIVATE NON-SECTARIAN COEDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

National University, commonly known as NU, is a private non-sectarian university in Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines, and the current majority owner is the SM Group. The educational institution was founded by Mariano F. Jhocson Sr. on August 1, 1900, as “Colegio Filipino” in Quiapo, Manila. It is considered the first private nonsectarian and coeducational institution in the Philippines and also the first university to use English as its medium of instruction, replacing Spanish. NU received its university status from the Department of Public Instruction on June 17, 1921, changing the name from National Academy to National University(not to be



confused with the University of the Philippines.) Senator Camilo Osías, two-time Senate President of the Philippines, served as the first University President (1921-1936). With its main campus in Sampaloc, Manila, the university has been expanding by setting up 10 campuses in Laguna(Sports Academy), Fairview, Mall of Asia, Baliwag, Dasmariñas, Lipa, Clark, and Bacolod, including NU Nazareth School, NU Manila College of Business and Accountancy-Mendiola. To mark NU’s 125th anniversary this year, the SM Group is opening two new NU campuses within SM properties in Cebu and Las Piñas, bringing the total campus count to 14 by the end of the year. SM Investments Corp., the Sy family’s holding firm, said that “the expansion deepens NU’s commitment to its mission of providing accessible and quality education to more Filipinos and an integral to NU’s goal of reaching more

students across the country.” NU is expected to increase student enrollment to 85,000. “Ang pambansang pamantasang ito ay matagal na ding ipinag-mamalagi natin sa buong mundo, na kahit na pribado ay may kalidad na tinatangkilik at pina-hahalagaan ng maraming mag-aaral, magulang, guro at propesyal sa bansa,”

THE PHILIPPINE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the value of the country’s creative economy rose by nine per cent last year. It was worth P1.62 trillion in 2022, P1.78 trillion in 2023 and P1.94 trillion in 2024. The PSA data showed that “While the sector’s value went up last year, its share in the country’s gross domestic product was unchanged at 7.3 per cent from 2023. The creative economy covers the following industries: audio and au-

diovisual media activities; digital interactive goods and service activities; advertising, research and development and other artistic service activities; symbols and images and other related activities; media publishing and printing activities; music, arts and entertainment activities; visual arts activities; traditional cultural expression activities and art galleries, museums, ballrooms, conventions and trade shows and related activities. The symbols and images activities accounted for the largest share of the total creative economy last year at 33 %. Advertising, research and development and other artistic service activities placed second with a 21.4 % share, followed by digital interactive goods and service activities with a 20.6 % share. Employment in the creative industries accounted for 15.4 % of the country’s total employment last year. Filipinos are known and recognized to have some of the most creative minds in the world within various fields, from the medium of fine arts to the realm of performing. “Kailangang-kailangan talaga ng mga nag-tratrabaho at nag-nenegosyo sa mga ganitong industriya ang malaking tulong at suporta ng lahat, lalo na ang gobyerno at mga mambabatas para mabigyan ng oportunidad at pag-papahalaga sa potensiyal sa larangan ng industriyang ito.” (Tony A. San Juan, OCT.)

Marky Hugh Productions 8th Anniversary



Marky Hugh Productions celebrated their 8th anniversary with a concert featuring al the perfromers of MH headlined by “Prince of Teleserye Themesongs” Singer Bryan Termulo.



Kalayaan Gala of the Fraternal Order of Eagles



Celebrating Filipino Heritage: 4th Annual Pinoy Fiesta at Sandbanks

by Judith Gonzales

SANDBANKS, Picton – The vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors of the Philippines lit up Sandbanks Cottages and Campsites once again as the 4th Annual ****Pinoy Fiesta**** brought together families, friends, and visitors from across Ontario and beyond. This much-anticipated event continues to be a joyful celebration of Filipino heritage, culture, and the spirit of giving. What began as a simple gathering has now grown into a signature cultural event in Prince Edward County. With over ****61 trailer owners**** participating and ****350 campsites**** plus ****10 cottages**** filled with guests, the energy was palpable as the community came together for a weekend of fun, food, and festivities.

The fiesta was filled with ****free food generously provided by the trailer owners****, a gesture that perfectly reflects the Filipino



tradition of hospitality. From grilled specialties to classic Pinoy dishes, everyone was treated to a feast under the summer sun.

Live music set the mood, with performances from the dynamic ****10 Cents Millionaires**** and the ever-energetic ****X-tatic Filipino Band****—a musical pairing that had the crowd singing and dancing from day to night. Their genre, perfectly in tune with the tastes of the trailer community, resonated with an estimated 99.9% of the attendees.

This annual tradition is the brainchild of ****longtime friends Juanita Rejdik and Judith Gonzales** whose leadership and passion continue to bring this celebration to life. Supported by a hardworking and dedicated team, the fiesta is more than just a cultural showcase—it’s a force for good.

Each year, the Pinoy Fiesta also serves a charitable cause. Proceeds from the event help ****financially support the Prince Edward County Memorial Hos-**

pital Foundation******, reinforcing the organizers’ commitment to giving back to the local community that has embraced them so warmly.

Owners Stefan- Juanita Rejdik and son Steven, whose generosity and vision have been the backbone of Sandbanks Cottages and Campsites, also contributed to the excitement with ****plentiful prizes and giveaways****. Their friendliness and the inclusive atmosphere they’ve cultivated have turned Sandbanks into a

top destination, drawing ****thousands of visitors**** from towns as far as ****Quebec, Ottawa, and Toronto****.

In addition the special participation of Rhett Dela Cruz, a debonair local artist add to the entertainment as he jammed with the crowds singing OPM and his original composition . Queen V, as always delivered spectacular hosting as she relieved MissJ in the finale!

As tourism in ****Picton**** continues to grow, events like the Pinoy Fiesta highlight the power of culture to unite people and create lasting memories. With each passing year, this celebration strengthens its reputation as a must-experience event—not only for Filipinos but for anyone who values community, kindness, and a good time.

****Mabuhay ang Pinoy Fiesta sa Sandbanks!**** Here’s to many more years of celebrating culture, community, and compassion.

Maine Mendoza marks 10th anniversary of Yaya Dub’s appearance on TV



Maine Mendoza couldn’t help but feel nostalgic as she celebrated the 10th anniversary of her first appearance on television as Yaya Dub on **“Eat Bulaga.”**

Mendoza’s fellow **“Eat Bulaga”** hosts treated her to a mini tribute on Friday, July 4, as a series of pictures were shown from the time Yaya Dub had her iconic moments on the show.

“I’m happy. I had no idea I’d reached 10 years here in ‘Eat Bulaga,’” said Mendoza, who wore a polka-dot dress with the same design as Yaya Dub’s iconic apron to commemorate the character and the segment **“Kalye Serye.”**

The slideshow of photos showcased the memorable moments from **“Kalye Serye,”** a soap opera parody segment that aired live on **“Eat Bulaga”** and centered on Mendoza’s Yaya Dub and Alden Richards, collectively known as **“AIDub.”**

The slideshow featured snapshots of Mendoza and Richards’ first meeting on air,

their first photo in person doing the **“pabebe pose,”** and the iconic **“plywood”** moment that kept the lovers from meeting at the time.

Allan K mentioned that he was getting emotional looking back at those moments because he was a big fan of Mendoza’s Yaya Dub and Richards.

Mendoza then took to social media to further commemorate the moment, describing her journey as something that **“always fills her with a smile.”**

“I remember the highs and lows, wins and losses, noise and silence. Some days may have felt overwhelming, especially when I was starting, but it was fun while it lasted. I certainly tried to ride the wave to the best of my ability, and it’s amazing to think that I made it through. What a wild, wild ride,” she wrote.

The actress-host then thanked the fans who have been with her since the start of her showbiz career as well as her **“Eat Bulaga”** family.

“Thank you for sticking around even when there seemed to be no reason to, for walking with me through every season even when it was more interesting to walk away, and for simply embracing who I am and all that I have to give,” she expressed.

“And I have been blessed to have Eat Bulaga as my home. I’ll always find a home with the dabarkads, who have seen and accepted all facets of me. It’s a big blessing not everyone gets to experience. What a privilege it truly is to be part of this family. Maraming salamat, dabarkads. I will always be right here, in the place I call home,” concluded Mendoza.

In 2015, Richards and Mendoza met on **“Eat Bulaga”** and became one of the popular love teams in Philippine show business, achieving not just local recognition but also international fame.

Jennylyn Mercado not affiliated with gaming platform, says agency

Aquila Entertainment warned the public to be cautious of fake advertisements featuring their artist, Jennylyn Mercado, that promote a certain online gaming platform.

The talent agency issued a statement disavowing any connection with an online gaming platform that has been using Mercado’s image and videos without consent.

“Our artist, Jennylyn Mercado, is not endorsing nor is she affiliated in any way with the online gaming platform ‘PH Sugar,’” the statement read.

PH Sugar is an online gaming platform that advertises casino, crypto coin and other digital gambling activities.

“These ads are unauthorized and are meant to lure unknowing users by falsely claiming the endorsement of our artist,” the management said.

Aquila Entertainment noted that they are already **“talking”** to the authorities and exploring their possible next step against those responsible for the misuse.

“We remind the public to be vigilant and verify the legitimacy of any online gaming platform,” the statement concluded.

Mercado’s husband, Dennis Trillo, reposted the agency’s statement on his Instagram Story.

Meanwhile, images and names of other celebrities including Sanya Lopez, Kylene Alcantara, Lea Salonga, Sharon Cuneta and Amy Perez, among others, have previously been used in an attempt to scam people, with most utilizing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated videos.

Lopez previously announced that her name was used to ask for donations for indigenous people in Zambales. In her Instagram Stories at the time, the actress provided a screenshot showing a text conversation between the scammer and a netizen.

In 2024, Salonga and Cuneta were used in fake product endorsements manipulated by AI to promote a **“natural”** cure for diabetes. Perez, on the other hand, was used to endorse a menopausal drug.



Matet de Leon gains sympathizers after live-selling incident

Dumagsa ang suporta kay Matet de Leon matapos siyang i-bash ng ilang netizens sa kanyang TikTok live selling.

Sa kanyang explanation video na in-upload sa TikTok, June 30, 2025, bumuhos ang suporta para sa aktres.

Ayon sa isang netizen, finollow niya si Matet dahil nagpakatotoo ito sa sarili.

Pinayuhan din niya ang aktres na huwag na lang pansinin ang mga taong namba-bash.

Ayon naman sa isa, mas marangal na trabaho ang ginagawa ni Matet kumpara sa ibang pumasok sa pulitika na wala namang nalalaman sa public service.

Saad ng netizen, **“bro, that was so much better than running into politics even if you don’t have the knowledge. fighting, miss matet!! you deserve all the love”**

Hindi na inisa-isa ni Matet ang mga positibong komento sa kanya.

Mensahe niya sa lahat: **“Hindi ko kayo ma replyan isa isa pero maraming salamat sa inyong lahat”**

MATET EXPLAINS CRYING INCI-

DENT DURING LIVE SELLING

Kahapon din, ipinaliwanag ni Matet ang nangyaring biglaan niyang pag-iyak sa gitna ng kanyang live selling sa TikTok noong June 29, 2025.

Sa ilang snippets na lumabas, habang nagpapaliwanag si Matet sa presyo ng set ng corned beef, saglit siyang napatigil sa pagsasalita.

Makalipas ang ilang sandali ay napaluha ang aktres matapos mabasa ang mga komento ng ilang netizens.

Hindi binanggit ni Matet kung ano ang nilalaman ng kanyang mga nabasang komento, pero mahihinuhang na-upset siya habang patuloy sa pagbebenta ng mga produktong nasa harapan niya.

Pero, dalawang insensitive comments ang ipinunto ng netizens na maaring nakasakit ng damdamin ni Matet.

Ito ay ang, **“Wala na kayo project?”** at **“Suplada to kaya iniwan ni ate guy.”**

Bahagi ng paliwanag ni Matet, **“Kaya ako na-bad trip kahapon because of that one person na walang puso at napakalanghiya, okay.”**

“Pero yung pagla-live sell, I love it.”

“Kaya gusto kong mag-thank you doon sa mga taong maayos, pagka-live. Gusto kong mag-thank you sa inyo, yung mga sumusuporta pag may live ako, lalo na yung mga suki ko.”

“Akala ninyo, hindi ko kayo nakakalimutan, ‘no?”

“So thank you, thank you, thank you everybody for being nice to me, pagiging maayos.”

Kaya ang leksiyon daw na natutunan ni Matet sa susunod niyang live selling ay hindi na magbabasa ng mga komento.



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

Service with a Smile



MADDIE RIVERO takes a selfie with Imelda Medes-Dudley at work.

“We’re happy to serve you fresh and delicious Zenshi Sushi at Sobeys Fenelon Falls!”

These two lovely ladies are ready to serve you with a smile and prepare your favourite sushi, fresh every day. Come visit us and satisfy your cravings! addfd

York University Professor Patrick Alcedo welcome Artist from Taiwan

TORONTO - Today’s another special day. I had a great time with Dr. Yatin Lin, a dear friend who is in Toronto from Taiwan to visit York University and her family. She is now the Dean of International Affairs and a Professor of Dance at Taiwan National University for the Arts.

Yatin and I did our PhD in Dance History and Theory together at the University of California, Riverside where we studied under the guidance of dance studies luminaries: Susan Leigh Foster, Sally Ann Ness, Linda Tomko, and Marta Savigliano, among others.

York and TNUA now have a Memorandum of Understanding, so Yatin and I are looking



With Swathi Chembathi, Manager of York’s Global Partnerships in Asia Pacific-except China

forward to formally starting international exchanges and collaborations between our two institutions.

I am proud to inform you friends that Yatin’s dissertation on the Cloud Gate Theatre

through the optics of flexible citizenship has become a landmark work in our field. Moreover, she is a leading dance critic, arts educator, and cultural worker in Taiwan.

‘Ibibigay niya lahat’: Daniel Padilla impresses stunt trainer



Stunt choreographer and action director Lance Pimentel was all praises for his “Incognito” co-star Daniel Padilla especially with the actor’s action abilities.

The stunt trainer told Philstar.com in an interview that “Incognito” viewers should look out for his fight scene with Daniel during the series finale.

“Si DJ talagang ibibigay niya lahat. Lalo na yung fight namin sa Marawi. Watch out for that one. Talagang yon ang most intense fight na ginawa ko in my life,” Lance said.

“Talagang nagkakatamaan talaga kami. It’s so easy and fun to work with DJ kasi talagang binibigay talaga lahat.

Walang arte arte, aksyon talaga,” he added.

Lance plays Kenji Lee in “Incognito,” his latest project following numerous stunt endeavors behind and in front of the camera.

He dedicated several months to be a trainer for the “Incognito” cast, guiding them through the show’s physical and technical demands.

While serving as one of their mentors in action scenes, he also learned from his co-stars as they generously shared acting tips that helped him grow in his craft.

“Maraming tips akong nakuha just being on set and being off-cam. So the technicals of blocking and a bit of acting,

natutunan ko na,” Lance shared, having taken an acting workshop with Malou De Guzman and got a little help from Greg actor Ian Veneracion.

Lance trained in wushu under his father, filmmaker and businessman Lester Pimentel Ong, which led to him joining the national junior team.

After his competitive wushu career, Lance expanded his repertoire to include mixed martial arts, boxing, and Muay Thai, even teaching wushu before fully diving into the world of stunt work and choreography.

Lance discovered his love for stunts at an early age watching Lester, a former stuntman, at work. His first-ever onscreen fight scene was on “Lastikman” at 10 years old.

Since then Lance has had bit roles ni “La Luna Sangre” and “Bagani,” and served as an action choreographer and stunt director in projects like “One Good Day” and “The Iron Heart,” appearing onscreen in the latter.

His next project is the Netflix movie “The Delivery Rider” starring another “Incognito” co-star Baron Geisler, where Lance is again acting and choreographing the stunts.

Outside of entertainment, Lance is the Chief Technology Officer of his family’s Binondo Food Group.

Lara Quigaman earns diploma in early childhood education in Canada

Lara Quigaman, 42, has nothing but gratitude as she finally completed her early childhood education course in Vancouver, Canada, and even graduated with distinction.

The actress and Miss International 2005 titleholder shared her milestone by showing moments from her convocation day at Langara College, through her Instagram page on Friday, June 20.

“Graduation with Distinction, Diploma in Early Childhood Education. Thank You, Jesus,” she captioned her post.

Quigaman also regarded her achievement as the “beautiful result of every sacrifice and challenge we’ve faced and overcome,” dedicating the milestone to God.

“Our family has always prayed that God would lead us to a place where we could be closer to one another and to Him—wherever that may be, no matter how difficult the path,” she said.

“Leaving behind our careers and the life we knew in the Philippines was not easy, but we chose to follow a dream that had been in our hearts long before our boys were born. God has not only



answered that prayer—He has done far more than we could have imagined, and He continues to work in us and through us,” she added.

“Hi! I’m Teacher Lara. I remember doing an ad 20 years ago where I said, “I want to have 12 children!” Well, guess what? Now I have over 70+— and that’s not even including my own! God truly gives more than we ask for or could ever imagine. I’m so, so grateful that I get to do what I love—work with children, help shape their lives, and point them to Jesus. “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.” —Ephesians 3:20. All glory to Him!”

Ronnie Liang reveals over 100 women victimized by his fake AI videos

Ronnie Liang is urging the public to be more vigilant after he was used in manipulated Artificial Intelligence (AI) videos that have victimized over 100 women thus far.

The actor-singer narrated to select members of the press how he was exploited in fake and edited AI videos to “build romance” and



to book flights, that is not me,” he stated.

Liang recently earned his doctorate degree in Security Development Administration. The “Ngiti” singer has also addressed the accusations surrounding his studies, defending his hard work to achieve the academic milestone.

“There are those who are bashing me, saying I bought my diploma. I was hurt

solicit money from various women that possibly amounted to \$500,000.

“I was accused of asking people for money. I was accused of tricking them into meeting me in hotels, where some had already booked a flight to meet a supposed me,” he said in Filipino.

Liang, who showed the manipulated videos to the press, stated that they were edited from his live videos, and shared that the victims included both Filipinas and foreigners. He admitted that he was “frustrated” that people are getting victimized, as he keeps on reminding them not to believe anything online.

“To our Filipinas, but actually those who often send money are foreigners, please be vigilant, be observant, and be careful not to believe that Ronnie Liang will try to seduce you and arrange for you to stay in hotels and order you

because they didn’t know the pain and hardship I went through. They can verify with CHED and the university. It’s not my problem if they are not updated on every single thing I do every semester,” he said.

Liang returned to GMA as a new artist under Sparkle GMA Artist Center. He currently stars in the series “Akusada.”

Liang, who is an Army reservist and a licensed private pilot, also recently released a new single, “Sulyap Mo Lang.” The actor described it as a love song, about those who have a hard time admitting their feelings and resort to just looking at their object of affection from afar.

The proceeds from “Sulyap Mo Lang” will go to Liang’s Project Ngiti Foundation, which provides free surgery, transportation and medicine to children with cleft lip and palate.

Kim Chiu debuts bold new haircut for project with Paulo Avelino

Kapamilya actress Kim Chiu unveiled a dramatic hairstyle change, chopping off her famous long locks ahead of her newest project alongside Paulo Avelino.

In an Instagram post, the 35-year-old star showed off a sleek shoulder-length cut. It’s her first time to cut her hair short for a role, after nearly two decades of keeping it long since entering showbiz in 2006

“After 19 years, it’s time for something new,” she wrote in the caption. Chiu and Avelino are reuniting in The Alibi, a highly anticipated teleserye set to begin production soon. This new series will be Kim’s fourth project with on-screen partner Paulo Avelino.

Before this, the pair worked together on the Filipino adaptation of What’s Wrong with Secretary Kim, Linlang, and the hit movie My Love Will Make You Disappear.



FCAV celebrates Philippine Independence



Celebrating the 127th Anniversary of Philippine Independence.

On June 8, the Filipino Canadian Association (FCAV) and the Philippine Heritage Band (PHB) jointly celebrated the 127th anniversary of Philippine Independence. The celebration commenced with a solemn flag-raising ceremony by the Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan, Merly Raposas and Attila Magyar. It was followed by outstanding Stand-Up Performance of PHB, heartfelt greetings, program and vibrant cultural entertainment by the Christian Family Global Church and BIBAAK that showcased the rich heritage of the Philippines.

It was then followed by the magnificent choir performance by The Young Voices of St. Paschal Baylon Church, instructor

Leonina Magtibay; followed by a beautiful Folk Dance called "Alitaptap" by the Scarborough Ontario Seniors Association coached by Carol Banez, SOSA president. The festivities were brightened by the delightful Filipino dishes, adding delight to the occasion. Erlinda, FCAV president delivered opening remarks. The event was graced by the esteemed presence and greetings of Hon. Kerwin Tate, Deputy Consul General of the Philippines, Toronto; Hon. Steven Del Duca, Mayor of Vaughan; Anna Roberts, Member of Parliament, King-Vaughan and Shadow Minister for Seniors and Laura Smith, Member of Provincial Parliament for Thornhill and Parliamentary Assistant to the Municipal Affairs and Housing. As well, event was attended by Melissa Lantsman, Member of Parliament for Thornhill and



Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada; Michael Guglielmin, Member of Parliament for Vaughan-Woodbridge and Members of Council: Deputy Mayor Linda Jackson, RC Mario Ferri, RC Gino Rosati, RC Mario Racco, Ward 1 Councillor Marilyn Iafrate, Ward 4 Councillor Chris Ainsworth, and Ward 5 Councillor Gila Martow. Several associations attended, namely, Scarborough Federation of Filipino Canadian, president Mrs. Monina Serrano Lim; Mabuhay Lions Club, pres Bong Angeles; Association of Filipino Accountants (AFCA), Son-

ny Martinez; The Young Voices of St. Paschal Baylon Church, Leonila Magtibay Instructor; Scarborough Ontario Seniors Association, president, Carol Banez; Jesus Is Lord Church, Maple-Vaughan; BIBAAK, pres, Johnson Aben; Garnet W. Williams Seniors Club, Millie Lam; FCAV Zumba, Christian Family Global Church, pastor Marilyn Baguilod, FCAV officers and members, PHB officers and members and others.

The closing remarks was provided by Lynne Sanders, Vice- President, PHB.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who participated and contributed to the success of this memorable event. Special thanks to the incredible Masters of Ceremonies, Nestor Von Canton, MCBN Media Group/PINOY Radio Inc. and Keesh Marcial who skillfully guide the program, and to the Planning Committee and Event Volunteers of FCAV and PHB, and all volunteers and donors whose joint efforts and dedication were instrumental in organizing this celebration.

Maraming salamat po!



LEFT, UMAC door to door sponsors a game at the Toronto Fiesta Extravaganza 2025. RIGHT, Singer Ylona Garcia is the featured singer.



New Brunswick negotiates immigration allocation increase

NEW BRUNSWICK from page 1

said Jean-Claude D'Amours, acting minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, and minister responsible for immigration. "We appreciate the federal government's willingness to listen to our needs and their flexibility on this issue."

New Brunswick will focus nominations on priority sectors including health, education and construction, said the release.

The province agreed to accept 400 asylum claimants in the next two years as part of negotiations.

Download the CTV News App for breaking news alerts and video on all the top stories

"With new federal funding through the Interim Housing Assistance Program, we're also taking a more co-ordinated and sustainable approach to provide temporary housing and help asylum claimants settle and start building their lives in communi-

ties across Canada," said federal Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister Lena Metlege Diab.

During the two-year period, the federal government will spend \$14.1 million through the Interim Housing Assistance Program. They will help asylum claimants with temporary housing as they transition to the workforce, said the release.

The increase was welcomed by the Agricultural Alliance of New

Brunswick, the New Brunswick Multicultural Council and employers, including Irving, that are having trouble filling labour shortages.

"With 51 per cent of small business owners in New Brunswick reporting shortages in qualified labour as their most important issue across the first quarter of the year, every opportunity needs to be seized to match skilled workers to jobs," said Louis-Philippe Gauthier,

vice-president, Atlantic Canada, of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

Representatives from the province will meet with asylum claimants who are interested in settling in New Brunswick during the coming weeks. The ones who move will be connected to support services.

D'Amours said the government will work with employers to address labour force problems.

Baron Geisler sobers up

As his hit series, “Incognito,” comes to an end, Baron Geisler declared that it was the first time he was able to shoot without taking a shot (of his poison of choice). Just as “Incognito” has elevated the Pinoy action genre, Baron has become a better man. He is living up to the show’s anthem, Liwanag sa Dilim. Instead of drinking hard, the seasoned actor is now working harder than ever.

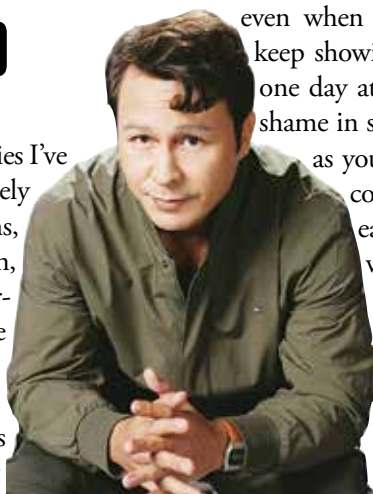
How did you manage to stay sober during the entire run of ‘Incognito’?

“By the grace of God, truly. I couldn’t have done it alone. I had an incredible support system on set — from direk Lester, who wasn’t just directing my scenes but constantly checking on my personal well-being, to the entire cast and crew who became my family. ‘Incognito’ is actually the

first long TV series I’ve done completely sober. For films, I’ve stayed clean, too, but a teleserye that runs close to a year? That’s a whole different level. It was a milestone, not just for me as an actor, but for my family. I told myself, “I cannot mess this up.” I didn’t want to let God down, nor the people who believed in me.”

What’s your advice to recovering alcoholics who are having a tough time in their sobriety journey?

“Be honest with yourself, and don’t be afraid to ask for help. Sobriety is not a solo mission. Surround yourself with people who love you enough to tell you the truth and walk with you,



even when you stumble. And keep showing up for yourself, one day at a time. There’s no shame in starting over as long as you keep choosing recovery. It’s not always easy — but it’s always worth it.”

How has ‘Incognito’ impacted you as an actor and as a person?

“‘Incognito’ changed me. It was more than just a show — it was a reflection of my own healing. Portraying Doc Miguel, a man battling his own demons while trying to hold his team together, mirrored my personal journey. I gave my heart to that role, and in return, it gave something back to me — hope, purpose and the reminder that redemption is possible. It made me sharper as a thespian, and softer as a human being.

“And you know, I’ll forever be a dreamer in this industry. I love

acting too much to ever stop. I want to keep evolving, keep telling stories that matter. I hope to continue getting good roles — whether on TV or in film. I’ve got some exciting movies coming out, and I’m praying the work keeps coming because I just truly love the process. This is what I was born to do.”

What was the turning point in the series that made you want to follow your character, Doc Miguel’s recovery process?

“There was a particular scene when Doc Miguel breaks down — not because he’s weak, but because he’s finally surrendering. That moment hit me hard. It was as if I wasn’t acting — I was confessing. That was my eureka moment. I realized I wasn’t just portraying recovery, I was living it. And it felt right. I thought, ‘If Doc Miguel can change, then so can I. And maybe, just maybe, I can inspire someone else too.’”

How’s fatherhood and your marriage these days?

“Beautifully chaotic — in the best way. Fatherhood grounds me. My wife and daughter give me strength and direction. Marriage has its challenges, but it’s full of grace. My wife is my rock, my safe place and my biggest cheerleader. She reminds me daily that I’m not just Baron the actor, I’m Baron the husband and dad. And that role, I play with all my heart.”

What’s your message to those you may have hurt unintentionally because of your drunken outbursts in the past?

“To anyone I’ve hurt, I’m truly sorry. I can’t undo the past, but I can choose to be better today. I hope they find it in their hearts to forgive me, even if we never cross paths again. Recovery has humbled me. And if my story can be a warning or a light to others walking the same dark road, then maybe the pain wasn’t wasted. I’m still learning, still healing and still hoping for a chance to make amends — not just with words, but through my actions.”

How Anne Curtis dealt with first-day jitters in TV comeback: ‘I was so nervous’

After an 11-year break, Anne Curtis is making her TV comeback in the local adaptation “It’s Okay to Not Be Okay” as Mia Hernandez, a children’s book author diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder.

Curtis currently hosts the noontime show “It’s Showtime,” but “It’s Okay to Not Be Okay” marks her return as lead star of a TV primetime show, 11 years after portraying the starry-eyed mermaid Dyesebel in the 2014 fantasy drama remake. She made brief appearances in “FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano” and “Maalaala Mo Kaya,” but the

upcoming drama is her first time to fully be in front of the camera as an actress.

This explains why the actress-host was very nervous — even reaching the point of going through jitters — on the first day of filming.

“To be honest, it took me a while to say yes to this project. As much as I was so excited to do this project, I was so nervous. Ang tagal ko nang hindi umarte (I haven’t been acting for a long time),” Curtis admitted in the drama’s media con in Quezon City. “There was a lot of jitters — lalo na sa first day. But I was supported by amazing actors,

guided by our team captain Direk Mae (Cruz Alviar).”

Filming the drama was also a journey for Curtis to conquer her “own journey of anxiety,” knowing the original K-drama is one of her favorites.

“Grabe ang kaba ko. Even today, sa pagbati pa lang (I was so nervous. Even today, as seen in how I greeted you). But you know what, I learned from this story that it’s okay to not be okay. This is one of the reasons why I super loved it from the very beginning, and why I wanted to do it,” she said.

According to Curtis, she hoped that “It’s

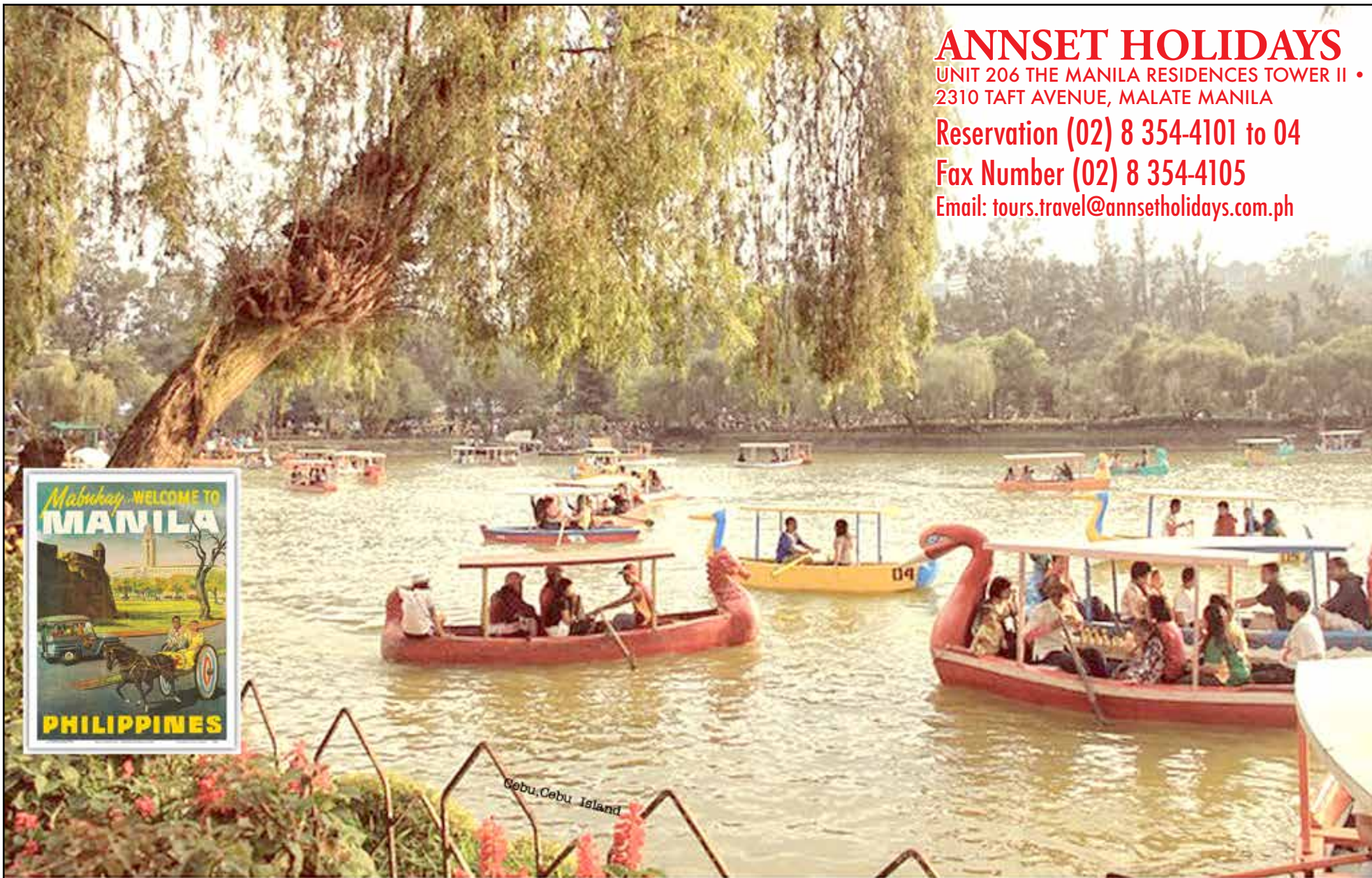
Okay to Not Be Okay” would be a drama that reminds viewers to check in with their mental health and be supportive to loved ones who are going through the same struggles.

“It’s about time we do a series that educates about mental health and how you can carry and be with someone who’s going through mental health issues. It’s a good way to reach a wider audience. It’s not just something you see on social media,” she said.

“This will help you go through the journey with them. So, if you’re someone who’s



going through it, you will be able to get help. Especially in our country, it’s not spoken of more,” she continued.




ANNSET HOLIDAYS

UNIT 206 THE MANILA RESIDENCES TOWER II •
2310 TAFT AVENUE, MALATE MANILA

Reservation (02) 8 354-4101 to 04
Fax Number (02) 8 354-4105
Email: tours.travel@annsetholidays.com.ph

Mabuhay! WELCOME TO MANILA



PHILIPPINES



Joey Baking The Sociallist

"I once wanted to become an atheist, but I gave up - they have no holidays."
HENNY YOUNGMAN



PCCF succeeds with Two-day Festival

The Filipino Centre, Toronto (FCT) started celebrating on June 1st. There were food donated by Perfect Chinese and lugaw made by Theresa Lumanlan and tiramisu by Judith Gonzales. Pink Ribbon singing group of Mika Sy and Shaine Jaramillo, the FCT ukulele ensemble and Joy Tejada and son were the performers for the festival. Quezon Apparel, Remitly and Lorna Sigua were the exclusive vendors.

One week later, Philippine independence Day Council (PIDC) held their Salo-Salo sa Earl Bales celebration.

The Toronto Kapuso Lions Club (TKLC) celebrated their charter day with a gala. It was a celebration when they launched their club with the purpose of charity and making the world a better place whenever they can in any way they can.

Congratulations to TKLC for a job well done. May you continue to prosper so you may have the resources and strength to carry on.

For the first time, in time for it's 15th year anniversary, Philippine Canadian

Charitable Foundation (PCCF) held a two-day celebration at Albert Campbell Square in Scarborough. It used to be a one-day festival. It was a jam-packed celebration of Filipino culture, music and specially, food. The two-day festival was blessed with good weather. The possibility of rain on the second day did not happen. However, it did start having a few stray drops after the festival programs ended and vendors are starting to pack but it also stopped. The two day festival was packed with people on both days. In fact, there were more people on the second day than the first day when it had an artista from the Philippines as the final act for the day.

What probably packed the crowds the next day were the singing contest and more so, the cultural dance contest. The singing contest brought their family and friends. The cultural dance group composed of 8 or more performers on stage plus the family and friends of each performer would be in attendance and you have a formula for how bring in the crowds.

In the evening, as the vendors were packing, PCCF President Rosemer

Enverga went around asking the vendors how their weekend sales went. Everyone was happy with their experience.

"We're very happy," said Fred of Sir Fred and Golden Lechon.

She then asked if they want one day or two days for next year's festival.

"Two days. In fact, we'd like it if it's three days, starting on a Friday at 4 in the afternoon," said Nina Javier of Bao Mama.

That was the unanimous response.

I googled happy mixed with trepidation but couldn't find any word. The closest was stirred.

Rosemer was visibly "stirred," to mean happy, but also includes a sense of nervousness.

"Two days is a lot of work, but I'm glad the vendors are happy," said Rosemer.

Keeping the festival for two or three days would make it better for the vendors from an economic perspective. Setting up and packing would also make it worthwhile for them.

"Two days would be better for us," says April Cabrias, co-owner of Tropang Ilonggo.

She too would like to start on a Friday.

"Ok din iyong magsimula kami ng Friday ng 4pm," Cabrias added.

As we hang sitting around a table, Arsenio of Aresenio's Kitchen drove his van very slowly beside where we were sitting.

"Are you happy Arsenio," asked Rosemer.

"Yeah," said Arsenio.

Rosemer asked if he has any leftovers. Aresnio said he'll check and continued to his booth to pack up. Then, he came back with take-out containers with food in them and

ABOVE PHOTOS - The FCT ukulele ensemble and Pink Ribbon with Shaine Jaramillo and Mika Sy perform at the FCT Pistahan festival.

drinks. He came back and forth a few more times bringing different food and drinks for us to take home.

It was a happy and successful festival.

Congratulations to PCCF and we're looking forward to a three-day festival in 2026.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE) held their Kalayaan Gala at Peter and Paul Banquet Hall. The FOE is also involved in charitable works, helping whenever they can. The awarded certificate of Appreciation to members of the Filipino community who showed exemplary leadership in every way they can.

Congratulations to FOE.

Since June is Philippine Heritage Month in Canada, Canadian TV show CP24 Breakfast Television (BT) featured a some Philippine arts and cuisine. The Filipino Centre' Toronto was the location. So, the subjects went to the centre during the live telecast. BT featured the Filipino Centre Toronto Seniors Art Group, Filipino designer Filipino Fashion Designer Julin Maikaelo, the FCT ukulele ensemble, a cultural dance number by Fiesta Filipina and Filipino dishes from Casa Manila.

The painters had to be ready by 6:45 AM for the 7 o'clock live telecast. It was a wonderful opportunity for the centre to showcase the seniors being active members of the community.

Snooky Serna admits past infatuation with Gabby Concepcion: 'It's now or never'

Snooky Serna admitted she developed feelings for Gabby Concepcion during the time they worked together as a love team in the '80s.

Serna made the revelation in a recent guest appearance on "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda," acknowledging that she and Concepcion had a unique chemistry that she said continues to this day.

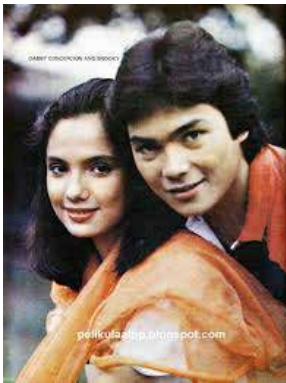
"Na-infatuate talaga ako. Sincere 'yan ah, nakakahiya sinasabi 'to pero totoo. This is not showbiz talk, pagpo-profess na ito ng pagmamahal kay Gabby," she expressed. "Kasi 'di ba 'pag bata ka, you have crushes. Ang talagang super crush ko si Gabs."

Despite her feelings, the seasoned actress shared that she did not confess this to Concepcion because that was a "conservative" time.

"Pero ngayon na para bang nagkaka-edad na, para bang 'Oh it's now or never,' you know? Joke!" she said, adding that Concepcion never courted her.

Serna then joked that "it could have been her" instead of Sharon Cuneta, who eventually became the real partner of Concepcion before they separated in 1987.

"Isa siya sa pinaka gwapong artista nung henera-



syon namin. Today, totoo nga talaga 'yung beauty ni Gabby classic. Never fading 'yung beauty niya. It's forever. Wow, I'm gushing," she said.

"Kapag kami ngayon mag-ka-eksena, talagang minsan lumilipad 'yung utak ko kasi 'yung tinitingnan ko 'yung lips ni Gabby [...] Para bang iniisip ko, 'It could have been me. Pagbigyan niyo na ako. If anything, ako ay taga-hanga ni Gabby," continued the actress.

Serna and Concepcion previously starred together in the films "Under-age," "Miracle of Love," "Story of Three Loves" and "Hello, Young Lovers," among others.

The pair recently reunited to play husband and wife in the afternoon soap opera "My Father's Wife."

Coco Martin says relationship with Julia Montes is going strong

Masaya at kuntento si Coco Martin sa relasyon nila ng

gfriend na si Julia Montes, .

Para kay Coco, ang mga intrigang pinagdaanan nila ang nagpatibay ng kanilang pagsasama.

"Siyempre, respeto, pagmamahal, pag-aalaga sa isa't isa, saka yung tahimik na buhay," paglalarawan ni Coco sa sikreto sa relasyon nila ni Julia.

"Sabi ko nga, maraming intriga noong araw, pero yun din ang nagpatibay sa amin, e.

"Kung anuman ang mayroon kami, kung anuman ang relasyon namin, sa aming dalawa na lang yun.

"Maraming, maraming salamat sa lahat ng mga taong umunawa, at sa lahat ng mga tao na nandiyan at sumusupporta."

Kung dahilan ba ng tampuhan nila ang selos, kumpiyansa ang sagot ni Coco.

"Wala, walang ganun. Di nga namin halos nadaanan," ani Coco.

Dagdag niya, "Sabi ko nga, yung respeto talaga ang pinakaunang sikreto sa isang matibay na relasyon."

Hiningan ng reaksiyon si Coco sa pasasalamat sa kanya ng co-stars niya sa defunct serye na FPJ's Ang Probinsiyano hanggang sa ongoing serye niya na FPJ's

Batang Quiapo.

Marami kasing dating artista ang nabibigyan ng tsansa na maging aktibo sa showbiz dahil sa pagpasok ni Coco sa mga ito sa cast ng pinagbibidahan nitong shows.

"Kasi lagi ko namang sinasabi, dun rin kasi ako nag-simula. Alam mo, napakaraming tao ang nagtulung-tulong, nagbigay sa akin ng opportunity.

"At ngayon kahit papaano na nandito tayo, ako naman yung nagbabalik sa mga tao na dapat tulungan, sa mga taong nagii-struggle na maghanap-buhay," paliwanag ni Coco.

Peg ni Coco ang namayapang King of Philippine Cinema na si FPJ na hindi lang nakilala bilang magaling na action star, kundi naging producer at director din ng madaming pelikula.

"Maraming salamat. Nagpasalamat ako kay FPJ, na sa pamamagitan niya hanggang ngayon nakakapagbigay tayo ng trabaho. Kami, nabibigyan kami ng trabaho.

"Napakalaki ng tulong niya sa industriya, at sa lahat ng mga Filipino na nabibigyan niya ng inspirasyon na hanggang ngayon nasa puso at isipan namin siya at buhay na buhay."



Alexandria reaches another milestone!



Congratulations to Alexandria Ojha. She graduates with Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Western Ontario.

Jodi Sta. Maria says recognition as Best TV Drama Actress ‘hits deep’

Filipina actress Jodi Sta. Maria has shared emotional reflections after being named Best Primetime TV Drama Actress at the 53rd Box Office Entertainment Awards, calling the recognition deeply meaningful. In an Instagram post following the June 28 ceremony, Sta. Maria wrote, “Being seen and honored for my role hits deep,” acknowledging the support of her team, co-actors, mentors, and fans during her acceptance remarks. The award recognized her powerful performance in Lavender.

Fields, a series where she portrays Monet, a mother navigating identity, family, and tragedy. Sta. Maria dedicated the win to “those silently carrying dreams,” urging them to persevere even when hope seems distant. She wrote that the recognition came “even in moments of self-doubt.”



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



**2018 Hyundai Tucson Premium
FROM \$13,990



**2018 Honda Civic LX
FROM \$ 18,990



**2015 BMW X5 xDrive35i
FROM \$ 19,990



**2021 Honda Civic LX
FROM \$ 21,590

Call Harold for Appointment
416-578-7351

CarProof
VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS

HONDA Certified
Used Vehicles

BEST PRICED DEALER
AWARD WINNER 2020
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.

Pinoy Fiesta & Trade Show Toronto's first 2-day festival jam-packed with people

The 15th Year Anniversary of the Pinoy Fiesta & Trade Show sa Toronto, organized by the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF), was a tremendous success, bringing together the community for a vibrant two-day celebration.

The two-day celebration began with a Holy Mass celebrated by Reverend Alarey Abella organized by the Missionary Families of Christ Canada (MFC). On day 2, a beautiful prayer service was hosted by El Shaddai. The events on Day 1 was then followed by the unfurl-

ing of one of the BIGGEST Philippine Flags by PCCF together with members of the community and dignitaries. Headlined by Kapuso star Max Collins, this year's fiesta

marked the biggest celebration yet for the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) and the Pinoy Fiesta & Trade Show sa Toronto. From the non-stop entertainment and long lineups

PINOY FIESTA page 19



Photos of beauty candidates and winners above are by Emkays Photography

The Multicultural Dancers (also the winners of the recent Kultura Dance Competition at the Pinoy Fiesta)



PHILIPPINE ARTISTS GROUP ART SHOW 2025: Dr. Eileen de Villa & Agnes Manasan cuts the ceremonial ribbon; Participating Artists; PCCF President Rosemer Enverga, artist Sabrina and mom.

Cristine Reyes dating ex-National Youth Council chairman

Actress Cristine Reyes was spotted with former National Youth Commission (NYC) Gio Tingson, sparking romance rumors between the two. According to veteran showbiz reporter Ogie Diaz, Cristine has moved on from her relationship with Marco Gumbao which is why she started seeing Gio. Ogie shared that Gio was one of Sen.

Bam Aquino's strategists during the recent 2025 elections, whereas Cristine supported the re-elected Imee Marcos. "Lagi raw sila nagkikita... feeling ko naka-move on na si Cristine," Ogie said, adding that Marco may be happy with the situation as both would moved on from their two-year relationship.

Though Cristine and Marco haven't officially confirmed their breakup, separation rumors between the two began when they unfollowed each other on Instagram last April. Some photos of Mar-



co on Cristine's Instagram account are now deleted. On Marco's account, however, Cristine's photos are still in it. As for Marco, Ogie shared that he was spotted with fellow actress Barbie Imperial in Makati, but clarified the two are close family members and Barbie is still linked to Richard Gutierrez

Congratulations Liam



THE FILIPINO CENTRE TORONTO HONORS EIGHT OUTSTANDING FILIPINO SENIORS

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT

TORONTO – Just barely two-and-a-half months after celebrating its 25th founding anniversary with a gala on April 5, 2025, the Filipino Centre Toronto(FCT) proudly honoured eight deserving Filipino-Canadian seniors in Ontario. The successful event, offered every 2 years since 2019, was held on June 21, 2025, at the Filipino Centre Toronto, Scarborough, Toronto. FCT is a prominent Filipino-focused non-profit organisation in the

OUTSTANDING page 17



1. Awardees, politicians, FCT board members pose for a photo; 2. FCT President Mary Ann San Juan, awardee Manny Yanga, WFG President Agnes Miranda and FCT Outstanding Seniors chairman Tony San Juan



MH PRODUCTIONS HOLDS A JIREH LIM CONCERT: Photos from left are front acts Ruben Pitugo, Jer Flo, Peraly Elarde, Mica Regala with producer Marky Hugh, and concert headliner Jireh Lim.



City Centre Dentistry led by Dr. Muneeb Ali (2ND FROM LEFT) pose with Philippine stars Dingdong Dantes and Charo Santos of the movie Only We Know.

Sunshine Cruz shuts down Atong Ang split rumors

Actress Sunshine Cruz debunked gossip that she and businessman Atong Ang have called it quits, labeling it as fake news.



Sunshine posted last Monday on her Facebook page the screenshots of other accounts – including some appearing as tabloids – claiming she and Atong have broken up.

The actress also slammed as fake news the posts from different pages that claimed that Atong beats her and that one of her daughters was pregnant.

“Sharing misinformation is not advisable especially if the news comes from a questionable site. Be vigilant family and friends,” Sunshine wrote in the post’s caption.

Sunshine’s post also included a checklist of how to recognize fake news and a text that reads, “Don’t believe everything you read on the Internet just because there’s a picture with a quote next to it.”

Sunshine and Ang’s relationship was confirmed following the circulation of a video of them sharing a kiss inside a cockpit arena.

Romance rumors between the two began early last year after both were spotted together in a party.

The actress, who was previously married to fellow actor Cesar Montano until their union was annulled in 2018, confirmed her breakup with Macky Mathay back in 2022.

Jewel Mische reveals gold is part of reason she’s back in Philippines

Former “StarStruck” winner Jewel Mische revealed that she wanted to “dig more” into a possible gold venture in the country.

The formerly active actress confirmed to Boy Abunda while she sat down for an episode of “Fast Talk.”

Mische was initially asked about her plans of going back to acting, which she left in 2016 to settle in the United States with her husband Alister Kurzer. They lived in Michigan and built a family with their three daughters.

They are now based in Davao City.

“I think so yes with the right material,” Jewel said.

She was asked for a possible title of her life story and Jewel settled for the title, “Jewel, gold digger.”

The actress said the title was intriguing and catchy. “Kasi nga I’m a person who is always seeks for the deeper meanings of life, the profound aspects of God. Those are my golden treasures, my encounters and my relationship with the Lord. And just learning about life,” Jewel explained.

She then revealed her plans of getting into a gold business. “Magiging negosyo ‘yan. Really, we’re into it right now. Part of the reason why we’re in the Philippines,” she said.

Jewel went into talking about the Philippines as the Land of Ophir, citing a Bible story about a vast land rich in gold.

“Did you know, Tito Boy, the Philippines is the land of Ophir [as mentioned] in the Bible? I quite strongly believe. So that’s one of the reasons why I’m back ‘cause I wanna dig more into that,” she said.



LOYALTY Rewards

SEND 9 BALIKBAYAN BOXES AND THE 10TH BOX IS FREE

416-298-8622
WWW.UMACTORONTO.CA

Filipinos get a Philippine Park in Mississauga



Mississauga Mayor Carolyn Parrish and councillor Nathalie Hart leads the unveiling of Philippine Park. Consul General Angelica Escalona and other Filipino community leaders attend the ceremony.



TORONTO FIESTA EXTRAVAGANZA 2025

TORONTO FIESTA EXTRAVAGANZA (TFE) 2025 became a street festival this year. Notable attendees were Consul General Angelica Escalona, Melissa Ventocilla, TFE Organizer Philip Belosos, MP Salma Zahid, Philippine Australian singer Ylona Garcia, Cultural dancers and Pink Ribbon amongothers.

Trans queen Fuschia Anne Ravena gets own Jojo Bragais tribute shoe

Pride Month celebrations extended beyond June with an international titleholder from the LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and others) community getting immortalized through a special footwear.

Cebuana beauty Fuschia Anne Ravena, the Philippines' third winner of the Miss International Queen crown, is the newest global beauty queen from the country to lend her name to a shoe by international Filipino shoe designer Jojo Bragais.

With the "Fuschia" shoe, Ravena has joined the ranks of 2013 Miss World Megan Young, 2016 Miss International Kylie Verzosa, 2015 Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach, and a slew of other iconic Filipino titlists who have been immortalized through their own Bragais shoes.

"I never thought in my entire life I'd have a Bragais shoe named after me! But I admire queens who did, like Pia, and thought how lucky they were. Now, having my own tribute shoes is an incredible honor," Ravena said.

The international Filipino shoe line posted a video of Ravena on social media, showing her unboxing two pairs of shoes, at first not knowing that she would be seeing her namesake design.

She said she was expecting to see an already existing model. "But when they said 'Fuschia,' I was shocked, and I cried. The realization that it was named after me was overwhelming," she shared.

TRULILI kaya ang kumakalat na chikang ang bagong karelasyon umano ngayon ngaktres na si Sarah Lahbati ay isang politiko?

"Nakakaiyak talaga (It made me cry)! Having my own Jojo Bragais tribute shoes is overwhelming with emotion. It's beyond expectations, and Sir Jojo's support warms my heart, representing not just me, but our entire trans community," she said.

The strappy, high-heeled design is the latest addition to the Bragais 6.5-inch line.

Aside from the nude model, a staple in pageants, it also comes in a unique colorway that uses the trans flag's pink, blue and white colors.



Fuschia Anne Ravena wearing 'Fuschia'/JOJO BRAGAIS PHOTO

"As a transpinay who loves pageantry, it's meaningful that Sir Jojo made these shoes official for Miss International Queen Philippines 2025. Bragais shoes are a staple for confidence and success on stage!" Ravena said.

The search for the Philippines' delegate to the 2025 Miss International Queen pageant in Thailand is now ongoing, with Jojo Bragais' "Fuschia" as the official shoe.

The public may grab their own Fuschia pair at the Jojo Bragais Anniversary Outlet Sale at the flagship store on Scout Borromeo in Quezon City from July 12 to 17.

Over 4,000 products, from pageant shoes to men's shoes and other footwear, will be available during the sale. More than a dozen national and international titleholders from pageants for both men and women are expected to drop by the sale.



Congratulations Melissa Ventocilla

MH Productions 8th Anniversary Concert



Nathalie Bondoc with Prince of Teleserye themesong Bryan Termulo.



MH Productions celebrated its 8th anniversary with a concert featuring its talents and headlined by Prince of Teleserye themesong Bryan Termulo.

THE FILIPINO CENTRE, TORONTO

4395 Shepard Avenue East TELEPHONE: 416-335-0485

Join our

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY
PAINTING CLASS • 11AM-3PM

John Prats on Heart Evangelista as loveteam partner: ‘Napakaarte’

John Prats fondly recounted being in a love team with his former girlfriend, actress-fashion influencer Heart Evangelista, admitting he initially found her “napakaarte” (excessively finicky).

The actor talked during an interview with TV host-actor Luis Manzano, as seen on the latter’s YouTube vlog on Tuesday, July 1.

“When ‘G-mik’ started, I didn’t have a love team... I enjoyed that because I didn’t have to think about anything. I didn’t want to be in a love team,” Prats said, recalling how he would see his co-stars do fan service.

However, Prats was eventually informed that he had to be in a love team. He was paired with several actresses before the management found a perfect match for him in Evangelista.

“I was surprised when Heart became my loveteam partner. I initially didn’t want to be in a team-up with her because she was so finicky when we were young,” he said, eliciting laughs from Manzano.

“Heart was very finicky when it comes to her makeup and caboodles when she was young. Our personalities were completely



opposite,” Prats continued.

Prats further revealed that there was “no attraction at all” during their first meeting.

“But it was warmly welcomed by fans,” he noted. “So our love team really worked because of their support.”

Prats added that the audience really loved them so that they had no bashers except the “reporters” who supposedly wrote false information about their love team. He also admitted that after the separation of his team-up with Evangelista, he experienced some lows in his career.

But despite the breakup of their reel and real-life partnership, Prats and Evangelista, who dated for around two years, have remained friends.

During the interview, the actor-director even revealed that Evangelista was one of the people who helped him while he was courting his now-wife Isabel Oli.

“When I was courting Liv (Isabel), I went to her filming set not knowing that Heart was her co-star. It was my first meeting with Heart after a very long time,” Prats recalled.

“In all fairness to Heart, she rooted for

me and Liv. She backed me up on courting Liv,” he added.

Cole Micek says ‘sweetest human’ Chelsea Manalo ‘a joy to work with’

Reigning Miss Universe Asia Chelsea Manalo had a blast working with Cole Micek for a recent fashion spread. But the Filipino beauty queen said she only learned that she would be working with the multi-hyphenate Filipino-American just a few hours before their shoot.

“I didn’t know I’ll work with him until hours before the shoot started. But I was just excited to meet him in person. I also didn’t expect he would know some Tagalog words,” Manalo said.

Micek, on the other hand, said he got “super excited” when he learned about the collaboration. “I had been following her on social media for some time, so I was excited to get the opportunity to meet her and work with her,” the actor, model and professional 3×3 basketball player said.

The two had their first collaborative feature for the maiden issue of Glen magazine, shot in Los

Angeles, California, in the United States. And Manalo said she really made sure to do really well because it was her first-ever international work.

“I was told I’ll do a shoot a day before because of the limited time I had in LA, and I was looking forward to working with a Filipino team in LA,” she shared.

Micek confessed that he got “kind of nervous” upon meeting Manalo. “Siya ang crush ko (she is my crush). We just shared some small conversations of getting to know each other during the shoot and talked about her upcoming work and travel,” he said. “It was amazing! She is the sweetest human and a joy to work with. I remember her being a bundle of energy on set, talking, laughing with everyone,” he continued.

“I know how hard she works and how tiring it might be for someone like her. So I was very impressed with how she maintained such a positive vibe and great energy throughout the whole day,” Micek added.

Manalo returned the compliment and said, “He was such a professional model and so easy to talk to. We did shoot a lot as a pair. I can tell he was also ex-

cited during the time, and him being so kind to everyone and just having the best energy during the shoot.” She said they both found it “funny” how they finally got to connect in person after following each other online. “I remember that he was still with a love team that time and I was fangirling about them. We also talked about the work we both do as a model. Cole was so nice and light to work with,” she continued.

Glen’s maiden release also features another international beauty queen, Texas-based Filipino-American sustainable fashion designer and advocate and 2022 Miss Universe R’Bonney Gabriel, who serves as the cover girl.

Manalo, meanwhile, teased more travels with the Miss Universe Organization in the future as the reigning Miss Universe Asia. “I’m excited for myself on what the future could hold for me,” she said.

Micek’s first movie “Above the Clouds,” is now streaming on Amazon Prime. Written and directed by Jon Hill, it also features another Filipino-American, Chris Labadie, in the lead.

“I’m just excited to keep moving forward with my different passions and hopefully continue to represent as a Filipino-American working in both in LA and Asia,” Micek said.



Philippine Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Geese Project Inc. Forge Strategic Partnership



TORONTO- The Philippine Canadian Chamber of Commerce (PCCC) has entered into a significant partnership with Geese Project Inc. (GPI), marking a new chapter for leadership development and workforce upskilling within the Filipino-Canadian community. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed on June 12, 2025, in Toronto, is designed to enhance the leadership capabilities and professional skills of Filipino-Canadian professionals and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).



PCCC Prexy Steve Pagao and GPI Founder Richard Caballero shake hands.

This collaboration will see PCCC and GPI working together to introduce innovative leadership development programs to PCCC’s growing membership. These offerings include the Geese Mentality Leadership Workshops and Webinars, the GP Leadership Assessment Test, and the GP Leadership Insti-

tute’s e-learning courses. The GP Leadership Institute, a Canadian-developed platform, provides over 120 curated courses covering human resources, sales, marketing, operations, customer support, management, and leadership. Its subscription-based model offers unlimited, on-demand access, making continuous professional development more accessible and affordable

for Filipino SMEs.

The partnership is anchored in the Geese Project’s culturally grounded “Geese Mentality” leadership model, which emphasizes teamwork, mutual support, and shared leadership - a philosophy aimed at empowering Filipino-Canadian entrepreneurs, community leaders, and emerging professionals to thrive in Canada’s competitive business environment.

Steve Pagao, President of the Philippine Canadian Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the broader impact of this initiative: “This partnership with the Geese Project will empower Filipino professionals and entrepreneurs across Canada. It’s more than just access to training - it’s access to a future where Filipino pro-

fessionals and Filipino-Canadian SMEs can build stronger teams, close skill gaps, and lead confidently in a competitive global economy”.

Richard Caballero, Founder of Geese Project Inc., added, “This MOU is just the beginning of a movement to build the next generation of global Filipino leaders, starting here in Canada with a community that reflects the values of resilience, integrity, and collective growth”.

This agreement represents a noteworthy development for the Filipino-Canadian business community, positioning both organizations as leaders in advancing professional excellence and leadership capacity nationwide. (Julian Baricuatro/ TSJ)

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

China asked New Zealand film festival not to screen West PH Sea documentary

MANILA, Philippines – The Consulate-General of the People’s Republic of China in Auckland had requested the removal of the documentary Food Delivery: Fresh from the West Philippine Seas from the Doc Edge Festival in New Zealand, the festival organizers confirmed on Saturday, July 5.

In a statement on Saturday, Doc Edge Festival confirmed it had received a formal request from the Chinese consulate, which claimed the film was “rife with disinformation and false propaganda” and served as “a political tool for the Philippines.”



The Chinese government urged the festival not to screen the film “in the interest of public accountability and China-New Zealand relations,” citing New Zealand Prime

Minister Luxon’s recent visit to China.

Doc Edge Festival rejected China’s request and stood by its “independence and curatorial freedom.”

“Doc Edge stands by our kaupapa (principles) and the festival’s independence and curatorial freedom,” the organizers said.

“We are, however, happy to present the perspective of the Chinese Consulate-General in the interest of transparency and fairness. We encourage audiences to seek out their own sources, view the film, and engage in open conversation and dialogue,”

it added.

On Thursday, July 3, the Filipino documentary bagged the Tides of Change award in the Doc Edge Festival.

Earlier, the Doc Edge Festival had referred to the documentary as “a banned film that must be seen.”

Just two days before the Puregold Cinepanalo 2025 film festival was set to open on March 14, the documentary was pulled from the lineup. It was originally slated to be one of the festival’s eight featured films.

Filipinos Celebrate Heritage and Culture

FILIPINOS from page 1

commemorations from coast to coast.

In Ontario, 363,655 Filipinos per Census 2021, have been celebrating June with a tri-focus on the June 12th Philippine Independence Day, Dr. Jose Rizal’s June 19th birth anniversary,



and the end-of-school-year and summer break for school children. These traditional activities, since the Filipino diaspora in the 1950s, have been organised, expanded and delivered in different modes of celebration. Remarkably, the events have evolved from a “past single,coordinated and big tent gathering” to numerous independent but focused and related public celebrations in various cities and towns in the province.

Consequently, upon the several official proclamations of Filipino Heritage Month in the City of Toronto in November 2017(via Councillor Neethan Shan and community leader Paulina Corpuz’ proposals), across the country in October 2018(through Motion 155 by MP Salma Zahid), and the province of Ontario in May 2021(Bill 217 by MPP Doly Begum), June became a month-long celebration involving multi-events and festivities engaging Filipinos and Non-Filipinos by highlighting the vibrant Filipino culture,heritage and history including Filipino contribution and achievements in the socio-economic

landscape of Canada.

In the Greater Toronto Area(GTA), several high-profile community organisations and entities celebrated June 2025 in various historic, purposeful and meaningful activities. These events include:

- The Filipino Centre Toronto(FCT), on June 1, 2025, held its “Pistahan Sa Toronto” at the FCT site with FCT President & CEO MaryAnn S. San Juan, Board Chair Efren de Villa and Board Director Philip Beloso leading the festivities. Minister and MPP Raymond Cho, MPP Aris Babikian, MP for Agincourt Jean Yip graced the day-long celebration,together with other Fil-Can community members and their families.
- PIDC kicked off on June 7, 2025, with a Salo-Salo morning picnic at Earl Bales Park, North York and wreath-laying at the statue of the Philippine National Hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, in celebration of his 166th birth anniversary. Those who attended were MP and Minister Rechie Valdez, Philippine Consul General in Toronto Angelica Escalona, MP Roman Baber, MPP and Solicitor General Michael Kerzner, Philippine Consul Rodney Sumague and CMC-AO President Tulsi Dharel. The event’s lead organisers were Tom Tan, Agnes Miranda, Ben Corpuz, Karen Binaday, and Melinda Manlapaz, assisted by other PIDC officers and volunteers..
- On June 7th and 8th, PCCF hosted its “Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show” in celebration of its 15th anniversary at Albert Campbell Square, 150

Borough Drive, Scarborough.

With numerous business & media partners, community sponsors and vendors. PCCF and its President Rosemer Enverga proudly delivered its theme of “Maki-Saya, Maki-Fiesta at Maki-Tulong! “. Philippine Kapuso Star Max Collins was featured artist, as well as some local talents and performers, including the JDL Performing School alumni & students.

- In the City of Mississauga, members of the Fil-Can community celebrated a historic milestone with the official renaming of “Max Ward Park to Philippine Park” on June 11, 2025. The Philippine Park, located near the Kalayaan Centre, is a community-led initiative which received support from Mississauga Mayor Carolyn Parish and key City Councillors
- Members of the Federation of Filipino Canadians-Ontario(FFCO), led by the mother-and-daughter tandem of Monina Lim Serrano and Michele Serrano, organised the annual Flag-raising and 127th Philippine Independence Day commemoration at Queen’s Park, Ontario Legislative Building on June 12, 2025. The 3-hour ceremony was attended by the Philippine Consul General in Toronto, Angelica Escalona, Ontario politicians and Fil-Can community and business leaders. Earlier in the day, the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto, together with the Consulate staff and members

of the Philippine Independence Day Council, held the Flag-raising at City Hall.

- The Member of Parliament for Scarborough Centre, Salma Zahid, the major proponent of “June as Filipino Heritage Month in Canada”, hosted a “Filipino Heritage Month and Community Forum” on June 13, 2025, at Victoria Park Hub, Scarborough. Among the attendees were MaryAnn S. San Juan, Rolly Mangante, Philip Beloso, Tony A. San Juan, and other community leaders. 3 members of the Toronto Police Services participated in the Public Safety topic of the forum.
- In commemoration of the 164th birth anniversary of the Philippine national Hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, on June 19 2025, the officers and members of the Order of the Knights of Rizal-Canada Region laid wreaths at Rizal’s statue at Earl Bales Park, North York. The Knights of Rizal also held a tribute ceremony and dinner at the Park’s community Centre in the early evening.



- Filipino-Canadian visual artists and other members of the Philippine Artists Group(PAG) held their Annual Arts Exhibit with the theme: “Bintana ng Nakaraan, Pintuan ng Bukas”(Window of the Past, Door of the Future) in celebration of the 127th Philippine Independence Day Anniversary and June Filipino Heritage Month on June 21, 2025, at the Neilson Park Creative Centre, Etobicoke, Toronto. In late afternoon, the Filipino Centre Toronto(FCT), hosted

the “3rd Biennial Outstanding Filipino Canadian Seniors Awards”.

- In Niagara Falls, Ontario, the seventh Rizal Monument and its historical marker were unveiled on June 21, 2025. The unveiling was attended by officials from the Canadian government, the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto, the Philippine National Historical Commission and members of the Niagara Fil-Can Community. Also on the same day, the Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians, led by sculptor Mogi Mogado, MFFC officers, and City officials, commemorated and paid homage to Dr. Jose Rizal with mid-morning ceremonies in Markham.
- On June 28, 2025, the Toronto Fiesta Extravaganza celebrated a 2-day “Festival of Smiles” with Sining, Sayaw at Saya at Wilson Avenue and Bathurst Street, North York. Thousands of revellers joined the street festival.
- Migrante Ontario, a progressive and social advocacy organization hosted a Salu-Salo Heritage Month Gathering at Thompson Memorial Park in Scarborough on June 29, 2025.
- Other significant Filipino heritage and cultural celebrations were conducted by Filipino-Canadian associations in the Greater Toronto Area and neighbouring cities like

Barrie, Brampton, Hamilton, London, Markham, Mississauga, Pickering, Vaughan, and Windsor.

Indeed, the Filipinos and Filipino-Canadians continuously experience and productively share, promote and propagate their proud heritage through their well-admired and recognised warmth, hospitality, and “Bayanihan” spirit not only during the month of June but within the four seasons of their adopted homeland.(Tony San Juan, OCT)

Jayda signs with Viva

Jayda, the unica hija of my good friends, Dingdong Avanzado and Jessa Zaragoza, is coming into her own. Although having famous parents has its perks, there are also challenges. I should know because I’m a true child of showbiz. Growing up as the daughter of Inday Badiday was not exactly easy. It was quite an adventure. Jayda and I ought to compare notes.

As the new “IT Girl” of Viva, Jayda signed a recording and publishing contract with Viva Records and a co-management deal with Viva Artists Agency in collaboration with Universal Music Group Philippines. Boss Vic del Rosario hardly attends mediacons but he was around during Jayda’s official launch. His presence speaks volumes. Ready, Slay, Go,



Jayda. Superstardom beckons.

As the new ‘IT Girl’ of Viva, Jayda has recently signed a recording and publishing contract with Viva Records and a co-management deal with Viva Artists Agency in collaboration with Universal Music Group Philippines

Here are quotes from Jayda:

“I know some perceive me to be a nepo baby. But I will strive to be known on my own merits. Although I honor the

legacy of my parents in the industry, I want to carve a path of my own. I want to grow non-stop as an artist. As my Dad told me, I must always have a teachable spirit. So, I’m open to learning new stuff and I will see to it that I have something different to offer.”

“My mom and dad are not stage parents. They just guide me, but they let me explore and make my own decisions.”

“The best part of being Dingdong and Jessa’s daughter is that they know the ins

and outs of the industry. So, they impart their wisdom to me. The tough part is to correct some people’s preconceived notions about me just because I’m their daughter.”

“I don’t really think in terms of stepping out of my parents’ shadow because we don’t have the same music genre.”

“I’m open to any actor that Viva will pair me with. As for music projects, I hope to collaborate with Cup of Joe because I admire their songwriting.”

THE FILIPINO CENTRE TORONTO HONORS EIGHT OUTSTANDING FILIPINO SENIORS

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT

OUTSTANDING from page 13

Greater Toronto Area(GTA), Ontario, Canada.

The recognition program was conducted to give tribute to selected seniors who have significantly shared and contributed their skills, experience and expertise to the cultural life and social development of the Fil-Can community in the province, including their respective community organisations for many years. The awardees were determined based on established and rated criteria such as community & volunteer service, profession/ career, education/ training, professional certification, awards & distinctions, and overall assessment.

Those who received the prestigious awards were Rosario “Rose” Apilado, Flordeliz Dandal, Oscar Farinas, Romeo “Romi” Mananquil, Agnes L. Manasan, Felisa “Baby” M. Pulumbarit, Teresa “Tess” M. Torralba, and Emmanuel “Manny” Yanga. The 8 honorees were presented Statuettes by Agnes P. Miranda, Immediate Past President of the Philippine Independence Day Council(PIDC) and Mary Ann S. San Juan. They also received Congratulatory Certificates from MP for Scarborough North Shaun Chen; MP for Scarborough Centre Salma Zahid; Ontario Minister and MPP for Scarborough North Raymond Cho, Minister and MPP for Scarborough-Rouge Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP for Scarborough Southwest Doly Begum, and MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt Aris Babikian.

Jointly and ably hosted by Theresa Lumanlan, FCT Vice President, and 2013 OFCSA honoree Mogi Mogado, the afternoon ceremonies started with the national anthems singing, Land Acknowledgement by FCT Treasurer Wendy Arema and Invocation by Clinical Nurse Specialist & SOSA President Carol Banez. FCT President & CEO Mary Ann S. San Juan gave the welcome remarks. TCDSB Ward 8 Trustee Garry Tanuan introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Eileen de Villa, retired Toronto Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Devilla congratulated the Senior awardees and urged them to “purposefully continue their dedicated service and exemplary performance as role models to their fellow “kababayans” and faithful engagements for community, God and country”.

The awardees were introduced by members of the OFCSA Committee, citing their achievements and main contributions. The OFCSA Committee is comprised of Carol Banez-Clinical Nurse Specialist and SOSA President; Mogi Mogado, Sculptor and Artist; Agnes P. Miranda, WFG Co-founder and Past Senior Executive Vice-Chair; Steve Pagao, PCCC President; Nitz Rejdik, FCT Board Director; Mary Ann S. San Juan, FCT President & CEO(Vice-chair); Garry Tanuan, TCDSB Ward 8 Trustee; and Tony A. San Juan, FHCC Founding Chairman(Chair), Danny Orbillo, WFG Senior Exec-

utive Director, performed a medley of heartwarming nationalistic and romantic songs. Together with Dr. E. de Villa and Ms. Agnes Miranda, they were presented with Certificates of Appreciation. Honoree Agnes Manasan delivered the acknowledgement while FCT Chairman of the Board Efren De Villa delivered the closing remarks.

Among the notable guests present were Joey Baking, Marissa Ciacico, Cielito Drapeza, Ed Joaquin, Grant Kerwacki, Suzy Llanera, Terry Olayta, Matt & Eva San Andres, Monina Serrano, Tom Tan, Carlos Unas and FCT officers, board members, volunteers and supporters. FCT Board Director Philip Beloso emceed the socialisation and networking parts of the 4-hour gathering. Sumptuous “Pinoy” food was served by Mel Galeon and FV Foods, and Paul Arena provided the DJ music as well. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT).

Toronto Kapuso Lions Club holds their Charter Gala



With Grateful Hearts, We Celebrate a Night to Remember .

On behalf of all the officers and members of Toronto Kapuso Lions Club, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who joined us for the TKLC Charter Gala Night last June 6!

It was a spectacular eve-

ning filled with elegance, unity, and purpose as we officially launched our club with a shared commitment to service, compassion, and community impact.

To our distinguished guests, generous sponsors, fellow Lions, performers, and volunteers—thank you for making this milestone truly unforgettable.

Your presence and support are the building blocks of what we envision as a legacy of service in the heart of Toronto and beyond.

Here’s to a bright future ahead for the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club! Together, let’s continue to ignite hope and make a difference, one act of kindness at a time. BY CHINKY DEL MAR

DATE : SATURDAY , JULY 26

VENUE : CITY PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

102-1000 NEW WESTMINSTER DRIVE , THORNHILL

AFTERNOON SHOW : 1 PM

EVENING SHOW : 630 PM

Filipinos get a park in Mississauga

by Jose Baking

TORONTO - The Filipinos in Mississauga get their own park. And it's close to the Kalayaan Centre at 5225 Orbitor Drive.

"It's actually just around 7- minute walk if you just walk through the park," said Resty del Rosario.

So, in getting a park for Filipinos, two east-end parks in Mississauga were officially introduced – or reintroduced – last Friday, June 20, bearing their new names.

To honour the city's growing Filipino community, Philippine Park was officially unveiled to the public at a ceremony attended by City of Mississauga officials and members of the community.

Located steps south of Toronto Pearson Airport on Matheson Boulevard East, the newly named green space was previously known as Max Ward Park.

Earl Dacara, Bicol Canada President, and one of the leaders involved in getting a park for Filipinos talked about naming the Park after a country.

"The council said it would set a precedent. It would be the first time," he said.

"But we were able to justify it. We presented them our strength, our achievements in healthcare and other professions, wherein the Filipino community is really striving. So, it was approved," he added.

The safety and security of the park was also addressed by Dr. Solon Guzman.

"We also have to safeguard this park, the safety, keep it a clean safe environment, for people to come here, without any fear, so people will come here and not worry that something bad will happen to them,"said Dr. Solon.

I wondered about the politics of naming and renaming parks. Wouldn't the family of the Max Ward be offended?



Dr. Solon Guzman gives the thumbs up to the new Philippine Park.

Councillor Nathalie Hart answered my curiosity.

"We are not only creating this amazing opportunity by creating this Philippine Park but also continuing Max Ward's heritage here by renaming Danville Park in his honour, which is an aviation-themed park, which is suitable for him and his family."

And what about Danville?

"Oh, it's just the name of the street," said Councillor Hart.

On the same day, the new Max Ward Memorial Park was officially unveiled on the grounds that used to be called Danville Park, located to the slight northwest of Philippine Park and just west of Canada's biggest and busiest airport.

If it seems a bit confusing, it shouldn't be. Simply put, city officials – the idea was initially floated early last month by Mayor Carolyn Parrish – wanted to honour the Filipino community with a dedicated park.

Mississauga officials and members of the community gathered on Friday for the

official renaming of Philippine Park.

The mayor suggested at the time the park-name switcheroo would work out well since it would appropriately attach the Max Ward name – he was an aviation entrepreneur who founded Wardair Ltd. airlines in 1952 – to

a park in Mississauga known for its airplane viewing platform.

Aviation enthusiasts and others have regularly gathered at the old Danville Park (now Max Ward Memorial Park), located on Danville Road a few blocks from Pearson, to watch planes take off and land.

Wardair Ltd., later Wardair Canada, was founded in 1952 and at one point was the third-largest airline in Canada. It ceased operations in 1989, when it became part of the new Canadian Airlines at the time. Canadian Airlines then merged with Air Canada in 2001.

In authorizing the new park names, city officials noted the moves recognize "Mississauga's diversity and history."

They added the two parks "are more than just green spaces; they're places for families, friends and the community to come together and enjoy activities like softball and tennis (Philippine Park) or cricket, tobogganing and plane spotting (Max Ward

Memorial Park).

Consul General Angelica Escalona talks about the significance of having a park honoring Filipinos.

"Actually, we already have, soon to be 7 Rizal monuments in Canada. Actually, pareho lang ito, in a sense that it celebrates the deep friendship that Canada and Philippines have. Hindi lang iyon, this is a way to recognize contributions of Filipinos in Canada."

"In a way, having this park means mas makakatulong sa visibility to our Filipino community, mas makikilala ang Filipinos dito sa Mississauga, ang kanilang achievements and contributions. In the future, I hope magkaroon na rin ng Rizal monument dito," she added.

Mayor Parrish has this to say about the Philippine Park.

"This is just one way we're honouring and celebrating the stories and people that make Mississauga such a great place to live, work and play."

Lindsay Custodio files VAWC vs estranged husband

MANILA, Philippines – Actress Lindsay Custodio filed a formal complaint against her estranged husband for alleged violation of the Violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004.

In a report by ABS-CBN News, Lindsay said she began experiencing abuse after getting married in 2022.

"I'm really having a hard time, a difficult time, nitong sobrang trauma, sobrang depression. Some abuses hindi ko na-realize na abuse na pala," Lindsay said.

"Then nu'ng na-explain na sa akin ni attorney, sobra talaga 'yung ginawa niya sa akin," she added.



Her legal counsel, Heyz Meking, added that Lindsay has a trauma.

"Grabe ang dinadaing niyang trauma ngayon, at hindi na niya kaya. Verbal abuse, emotional abuse, psychological abuse, economic abuse and sexual abuse," the lawyer said.

Lindsay thanked her family and friends for the support.

"I have complete trust in the Lord, 'coz I know naman po na itong pinaglalaban ko, I have the truth in this. Wala po akong sinasabing hindi totoo dito," she said.

Last year, Lindsay filed the same complaint against her husband but was dismissed.

SWEETNOTES

VIP TICKETS

SOLD OUT

SEP 12, 2025 / FRI / 6PM
TORONTO PAVILION
GEN \$85 / VIP \$120

Canada gives warning for Canadians on crossing the border to the US

BORDER from page 1

only if some kid made a dumb comment to an immigration officer.

Even then the adults on board might simply be required to show identification before everyone is sent on their way.

When we as adults were crossing the border to attend a number of hockey games, a border patrol officer asked us why we had a rather obscure hockey card on our dash. I explained that we

were headed to Toronto, then Ottawa, and finally Montreal for games, and we were waved through without the need to even show our licenses.

It was a border designed to let people in because the U.S. and Canada were friends — two countries that got along really well and essentially operated as partners.

That's no longer the case. President Donald Trump has stopped treating Canada as a special friend and has started

to make Canadians feel unwelcome. Border crossings are no longer routine and Canada has shared a dire warning for its citizens who plan to visit the U.S.

Canadians wary of travel to the U.S.

Earlier this year Canada issued a warning to all Canadian citizens seeking to enter the U.S. That warning was revised and updated this June.

At its core, the update makes clear that crossing the border into the U.S. now comes with

risk.

"Every country or territory decides who can enter or exit through its borders and the Government of Canada cannot intervene on your behalf if you do not meet entry or exit requirements for the United States," the Canadian government posted.

It then provided the more ominous parts of its warning.

"Individual border agents often have significant discretion in making those determinations," it

added. "U.S. authorities strictly enforce entry requirements. Expect scrutiny at ports of entry, including of electronic devices. Comply and be forthcoming in all interactions with border authorities. If you are denied entry, you could be detained while awaiting deportation."

Canada also made clear that U.S. authorities could demand Canadians' electronic devices and that the country's citizens risk having them confiscated.

How The Cleaning Lady made room for Filipino immigrant realities in America

The latest season of *The Cleaning Lady* deepens its exploration of the American dream, identity, and sacrifice—but it also does something more quietly radical. In its fourth season, the show brings three Filipino performers to the center of its narrative gravity: Alain Uy, Martha Millan, and newcomer Khalen Roman Sanchez. Their portrayals, rooted in lived experience, elevate the show's emotional core beyond crime-drama conventions, giving it cultural resonance that feels both intentional and earned.

Alain Uy, who joined the cast this season as Feng, understands what it means to arrive late to a party that's already in full swing. "It's always difficult to sort of parachute into a show when the rhythm is already established," he admits. "You feel like the new kid in school." Still, Uy quickly found his footing in the role of Feng, a character whose motives are as layered as the circumstances surrounding him.

"What's really interesting about Feng is that he's got this want to protect everything around him. But also there's this want to get further ahead with his dream," says Uy, who was born in Dagupan City, Pangasinan.



Khaleen Roman Sanchez and Elodie Yung in a scene in *The Cleaning Lady* | Courtesy: Fox "The Cleaning Lady"

"This whole season is about the American dream and figuring out what you need to do to achieve those dreams."

For Uy, that dream isn't abstract—it's deeply personal. Recalling his own father's immigrant sacrifices, Uy's voice catches with emotion. "He was so busy, really just being a father, just trying to provide for us," he says. "There's a lot of sacrifices he's made for us as a family." That lived memory informs his performance, a quiet tribute to the countless Asian talents who, for a long time,

weren't seen on American primetime TV. "You also want to keep your heritage, but without ostracizing yourself."

Fiona's narrative arc as loyal sister to main character Thony (played by Elodie Yung) may be grounded in high-stakes plotlines, but Millan brings to it an authenticity born of her own family's journey from the Philippines to Australia. She channels the Filipino mother energy—a blend of fire, warmth, and rhythm. Even Fiona's signature lightness amid crisis feels drawn from



Alain Uy in a scene in *The Cleaning Lady* | Courtesy: Fox "The Cleaning Lady"

something deeply cultural. "I think just seeing, especially Filipino women, we all have this musical, vibrant energy... there's always some kind of laughter that's involved," she says. It's part of the immigrant resilience kit.

And then there's Khaleen Roman Sanchez, the youngest of the trio and arguably the most composed. At just eight years old, the second-grader plays Luca with a candor and poise that belies his age. "I didn't expect to get into this show," he says with the kind of wide-eyed sincerity that makes his presence on set—and in interviews—irresistible. When asked how he prepares, he beams: "My mom or my dad and I rehearse my lines multiple times, like how I rehearsed the questions for this interview."

Sanchez brings the kind of unfiltered energy that quietly lifts *The Cleaning Lady* from procedural grit into something more human. His Luca isn't just a plot device; he's the emotional heartbeat of a family under siege, and his performance stands as a reminder that the stakes of immigration stories are generational.

At a time when Filipino American narratives remain scarce in mainstream media,



Martha Millan in a scene in *The Cleaning Lady* | Courtesy: Fox "The Cleaning Lady"

The Cleaning Lady does something rare: it not only includes them, it centers them with respect. It's the kind of grounded storytelling that resonates because it's drawn from truth—a feat also achieved by having Filipino creatives behind the scenes, including writer Joelle Luman.



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.vslui@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

PINOY FIESTA from page 12

at our delicious food stalls, to the highly anticipated Kultural Dance Showdown and the exciting BOSES ng Fiesta singing competition, the energy and positive vibes



spread throughout the weekend.

A major highlight of the event was the unfurling of one of the largest Philippine flags ever displayed in the

city. Crowds also enjoyed the traditional Santacruzán, a vibrant fashion show, and so much more! Some of the major highlights included:

- The awarding of the King Charles II Medal to PCCF President Rosemer Enverga in recognition of her outstanding work in the community by MPP Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP Aris Babikian and MPP Logan Kanapathi.

- Special Certificate of Appreciation presented to Consul General Angelica Escalano as she concludes her tour of duty here in Toronto; - Lastly, the Senator Tobias C. Enverga Jr Medal of Excellence was awarded by community leader and entrepreneur Paulo Bucud by Senator Victor Oh

Congratulations to our award recipients! Thank you all of our dignitaries for making time out of their busy schedules to grace our event!

Among the attendees also included Senator Asha Seth, MP Michael Ma, MP Salma Zahid, MPP Andrea Hazell, Councillor Michael Thompson, local & Regional Councillor Mario Racco, former city Councillor San-Racco and CMC President Tulsi Dharel.

From the non-stop entertainment and long lineups our delicious food stalls, to the highly anticipated Kultural Dance



Showdown and the exciting BOSES ng Fiesta singing competition, the energy and positive vibes spread throughout the weekend. Crowds also enjoyed the traditional Santacruzán, a vibrant fashion show, and so much more!

Our heartfelt thanks to our amazing volunteers, performers, vendors, and of course, YOU—our community—for making this celebration so unforgettable.

We can't wait to do it all again next year! Kita-kits ulit sa sunund!

For info email pinoyfiestatoronto@gmail.com
Like Pinoy Fiesta & Trade Show Toronto
Visit www.PinoyFiesta.ca

HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE

UMAC

FORWARDERS EXPRESS INC.

A Company with a History... And a Track Record!!!

Padalahan ng kahon sa Pilipinas

416-298-8622



UMAC
FORWARDERS EXPRESS INC.
(416) 298-8622

✓ Weekly shipment
✓ No 3rd parties involved
✓ Drop off \$10 off

☎ 416-298-8622

✉ umactoronto@yahoo.ca

🌐 www.umactoronto.com

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

Sassa Gurl drops trailer for self-produced queer film ‘Multwoh’

Content creator and actress Sassa Gurl has unveiled the trailer for “Multwoh,” a queer film she produced independently.

“Eto na yung prinoduce kong pelikula.

Since walang pomopondo, tayo nalang mag produce ng sarili nating kwento,” she wrote in a post on X. Directed by “Mamu; And a Mother Too” filmmaker Rod Singh, “Mult-

woh” stars Sassa Gurl opposite Martin del Rosario. The film follows the story of a budding romance between their char-



acters, which takes an unexpected twist when Sassa’s character transforms into a mythical “multwoh” (ghost). The trailer quickly gained traction online, with fans expressing excitement. But it also drew playful reactions after viewers spotted

a “CapCut” title left at the end of the clip. “Inedit ko lang po sa capcut kasi ayaw mag upload sa phone ko ang laki ng file tas phone ko parang china phone na sobrang bagal,” she commented in the reply section. The film has yet to announce an official release date.

Maris Racal admits regrets about past relationship

Actress Maris Racal admitted that she had regrets in her past relationship and that she is choosing to remain single for now to give herself time to grow as a person.



In her interview with Karen Davila, Maris said she is not yet ready for a new relationship. “I feel like I need to give myself some space to grow and to really process everything. I don’t know, but that’s what I’m saying now, but I don’t know about tomorrow,” she said. Maris was previously in a relationship with Rico Blanco. She confirmed their breakup in June 2024. Months after, she and her perennial screen partner Anthony Jennings were the

talk of the town after the actor’s ex-girlfriend, Jamella “Jam” Villanueva, claimed cheating allegations between the two co-actors. Looking back at her regrets, Maris said she chooses to move forward and learn from them. “They may be painful for me, but nilalagay ko na lang siya sa moral compass ko so that wherever I go, I know what to do,” Maris said. Maris admitted that there came a point in her life that she wanted to give up on her entertainment career. “I really wanted to give up because I was asking myself, ‘What are all these for? Was it worth it? Is this worth my peace?’ But they lasted for only two hours, because you

don’t really have a choice but to conquer these challenges,” she said. “I love my dreams, I love my job. Everything about this, I will do anything to make my dreams come true. This is why I’m thankful to all my supporters, to all the production houses that gave me a job, to my directors, and my colleagues,” she added.

‘Batang Quiapo’ farewell after character’s death

Kapamilya actor McCoy de Leon is going to miss “FPJ’s Batang Quiapo” as he departs from the series. McCoy’s character David Dimaguiba died



in the June 24 episode of the show at the hands of Jake Cuenca’s Miguelito Montenegro after joining forces with stepbrother Tanggol played by Coco Martin. In an interview with ABS-CBN News

during the filming of his death scene, McCoy called it a big opportunity to be a part of “Batang Quiapo” and to shoot his final scene with Jake. “Mami-miss ko ‘to!” McCoy said. “Malaking oportunidad po sa akin na magawa namin ito ng maayos kasama ko pa si Jake Cuenca. Grabe!” David has been part of the show since the pilot episode in 2023 and was initially going to only have a short character arc. “Ang sa akin talaga, malaking blessing ito. Sabi nga sa akin ni Kuya [Coco], niloloko niya ako ‘Miss you McCoy,’ ako din mami-miss ko ‘to,” McCoy continued. The actor ended by calling David’s end a bittersweet one as “Batang Quiapo” became a home for him beloved by many people. “Ang priority naman namin dito ay ‘yung manonood,” he finished.

TRAVEL from page 1

dated its advisory for Canada with minor edits, suggesting that people use normal precautions when traveling there. Canada’s advisory for the U.S. warned that travelers should “stay away from demonstrations,” and “follow the instructions of local authorities, including curfew orders.” It adds this advice: “Monitor local media for the latest information.”

“Demonstrations in Los Angeles and other major cities,” the header says. “Since June 6, 2025, large demonstrations have been taking place in Los Angeles. Demonstrations are also occurring in other major cities. Additional security forces have been deployed and a curfew is in effect for most of downtown Los Angeles from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Additional curfew orders may be imposed on short notice.”

“Curfew guidance – City of Los Angeles,” the advisory lists. Canada’s advisory also notes, “Criminal incidents associated with drug trafficking are more frequent at the border with Mexico, in the following states: • California • Arizona • New Mexico • Texas. If crossing the U.S.– Mexico border by car, the order suggests that

people “remain extremely vigilant,” and “only use officially recognized border crossings” and “avoid traveling at night.” The Canadian warning also warns about crime in the U.S., both petty and violent. “Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and purse snatching, occurs, particularly in urban centres and tourist locations,” it says. The advisory says violent crime rarely affects tourists and explains,

“Within large urban areas, violent crime more commonly occurs in poor neighbourhoods, particularly from dusk to dawn. It often involves intoxication. Incidents of violent crime are mainly carried out by gangs or members of organized crime groups but may also be perpetrated by lone individuals.” There is also advice about terrorism, hiking, and air travel.

MACKY'S
LECHON HOUSE
ISLAW

#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,
Sinigang na Lechon, Nilagang 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!

MACKY'S LECHON



Joy S. D'Aoust

REALTOR®

647-500-5397
(KEYS)

416-254-1001 / 416-391-3232

joy@joyathomerealty.com

joyathomerealty

Right At Home Realty Brokerage Inc.

www.joyathomerealty.com



Joy S. D'Aoust

REALTOR®

647-500-5397
(KEYS)

416-254-1001 / 416-391-3232

joy@joyathomerealty.com

joyathomerealty

Right At Home Realty Brokerage Inc.

www.joyathomerealty.com

Joel Torre's recipe for an enduring career

NOTHING much is known about Joel Torre having begun his acting career at the age of 7.

Born Jose Rizalino, Joel is a proud native of Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. In exactly two days, the Ilonggo actor-entrepreneur turns 64.

Without much mental calculation, Joel takes pride in spending the most part of his blessed life in acting.

Care to know his secret to staying this long in this dog-eat-dog world? "I don't look at it as a job," he shares.

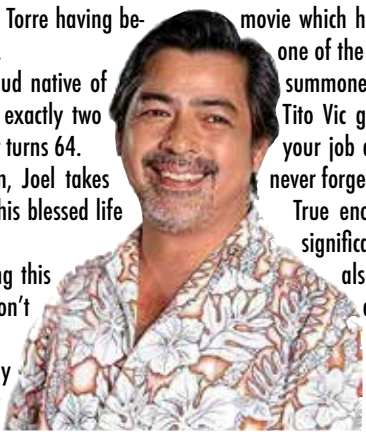
In this profession he has tightly embraced, Joel says: "Of course, it can get a bit too tiring. But even if I come home tired, I thank God for putting me in this 'office'."

For the most part spanning his career, Joel remains deeply indebted to the late Vic Silayan for ingraining in his psyche the value of work.

It was in the film Karnal — an entry to the 9th Metro Manila Film Festival in 1983 — where Joel had the privilege to share the screen with whom he respectfully addresses as "Tito Vic."

"Imagine, it's been 41 years since then. But my fond memory of Tito Vic still lingers to this day," the actor beams.

Joel cites one particular instance on the set of the



movie which he can't keep off his mind. During one of the shooting breaks, the veteran actor summoned him: "'Joel, Joel, come here,' Tito Vic goes, then he tells me, 'Hijo, love your job and it will love you back!' I could never forget his piece of advice!"

True enough, never does Joel run out of significant acting assignments, he has also reaped recognitions — here and abroad — for his gravitas-marked performances.

Among many others, who'd ever forget Joel in the 2013 film "On The Job" by fellow Bacolod native director Erik Matti? Ah, the list can be endless.

Just this April, Joel had two films shown days apart. You bet, these are not the run-off-the-mill.

At one point in his acting career though, Joel — like most entrepreneurial celebrities — has dipped his finger into setting up his own business.

Joel admittedly says he couldn't have done it all by himself without his wife Cristy.

Back in 2003, Joel and the love of his life cashed in on the native popular dish that his hometown is truly proudest of — the chicken inasal Bacolod style.

Hence, the couple built what now boasts of 35 branches nationwide — the JT's Native Grille which trac-

es its roots to Quezon City.

Call it a purposeful, mission-oriented business as Joel selects particular communities giving away food packs — with grilled chicken in them — for free.

I wonder how "chicken inasal-ish" Joel's 64th birthday celebration would be with peers and pals!

Maine Mendoza, Miles Ocampo interact on-air amid feud rumors

Miles to Maine: "Happy Anniversary, Ate!"

Just days after fans speculated a possible rift between Eat Bulaga! co-hosts Maine Mendoza and Miles Ocampo, the two Dabarkads shared a brief interaction on air.



Maine Mendoza (left screen) and Miles Ocampo (right-most) share a brief on-air moment amid feud rumors, as Maine marks her 10th year in showbiz.

During the Sugod Bahay segment of Eat Bulaga! on Friday, July 4, Miles warmly greeted Maine on her 10th anniversary in showbiz and on the iconic noontime show.

Miles: "Happy Anniversary, Ate!"

Wally Bayola: "Menggay, congrats, Maine!"

Maine: "Thank you! Salamat mga friends, salamat! Thank you Kuya, Miles, Kuya Jose."

Maine's casual response—mentioning Miles by name—did not escape the notice of some fans who had closely followed the rumored tension between the two.

Last month, eagle-eyed netizens noticed that Maine had unfollowed Miles on Instagram, even as the latter continued to follow her.

The lack of social media interaction, minimal airtime together, and visibly separate taping assignments had sparked rumors of a falling-out.

Supporters pointed to their long history as close friends and colleagues, from their on-cam banter on Eat Bulaga! to Miles attending Maine's wedding to Arjo Atayde in 2023.

Their group trip to Bangkok with fellow Dabarkads in May 2025 only added to the confusion when the alleged distance between them began surfacing shortly after.

Friday's brief exchange doesn't necessarily confirm that all is well between the two, but it's the first direct interaction from either side since the issue surfaced online.

For fans who've long rooted for the friendship of these two Dabarkads, even a short greeting may be a step toward reassurance.

But it still did not explain why Maine has unfollowed Miles on IG.

As of this writing, neither Maine nor Miles has directly addressed the rumors.



At "Kainan at Kultura", it was a great time celebrating Filipino food, culture, and community. It's extra special because a portion of the proceeds will go towards supporting victims of the Lapu Lapu Festival tragedy. Thank you to Kainan Na Inc. for organizing!

Sunset @ Sta. Fe Beach

Chocolate Hills

Balicasag Resort & Diving Spot

Clown Fish, Flowers & Loboc River

When in the Philippines, call

ANNSET

Holidays, Inc.

ANNSET HOLIDAYS

UNIT 206 THE MANILA RESIDENCES TOWER II •

2310 TAFT AVENUE, MALATE MANILA

Reservation (02) 8 354-4101 to 04

Fax Number (02) 8 354-4105

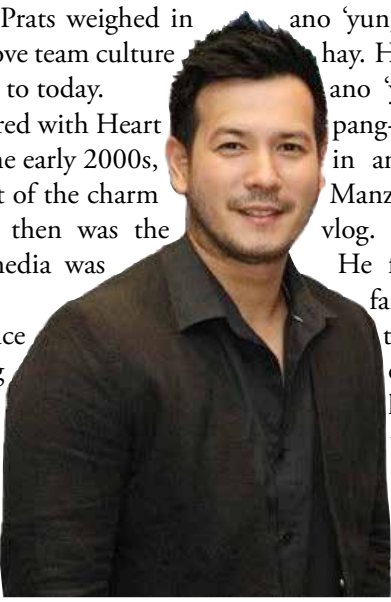
Email: tours.travel@annsetholidays.com.ph

John Prats reflects on the shift in love team culture then and now

Actor-director John Prats weighed in on the evolution of love team culture from the early 2000s to today.

John, who was paired with Heart Evangelista during the early 2000s, pointed out that part of the charm of love teams back then was the mystery, as social media was still non-existent.

“Yung difference lang noon ‘yung mystery ng love team at ng artista, iba. Kasi ikaw kung fan ka, may artista kang gusto, hindi mo nakikita kung



ano ‘yung ginagawa niya sa bahay. Hindi mo nakikita kung ano ‘yung ginagawa niya sa pang-araw-araw,” he shared in an interview with Luis Manzano for his YouTube vlog.

He further explained how fans used to only know the characters portrayed on television. “Ang nakikita mo lang sa kanya siya ‘yung character na napanonood ko sa telebisyon. ‘yun lang. So ‘yung mystery lag-ing nandun so ang

kilala lang nila sa amin is like Yuan, the character in G-mik, John as the drummer, ‘yun lang so hindi namin talaga napapakita kung sino talaga kami and okay din siya in a way na may mystery sa fans,” the actor pointed out.

John also emphasized how much things have changed, especially with social media giving fans direct access to celebrities’ lives nowadays. “Ngayon kasi may access na sila eh like when we post on social media, na-on mo lang ‘yung kumbaga ‘yung comment section, lahat ‘yan, pati sa comment section mo may sasabihin na silang hindi nila gusto or ano, may karapatan na sila. And hindi naman nila fault ‘yun kasi tayo rin we allow them to do that, kung

ayaw natin eh di huwag nating gawin,” he said.

In the same interview, John looked back on his former love team with Heart. “Kami initial meeting namin hindi ko siya talaga gusto, wala talagang attraction at all pero kinakagat ng tao ng malala,” he recalled.

Through the support of their fans, John recounted how their love team thrived. “So ‘yung pagiging love team namin ni Heart, talagang taong bayan ‘yung nag-dictate kung paano, as in talagang dati through email, letters, papadala sa ABS-CBN box-box ng letters ‘yun para sa mga artista. Dun nagsimula ‘yung John and Heart,” John shared.

Barbie Forteza admits breakup with Jak Roberto was ‘not as painful’



Barbie Forteza confessed that moving on from her breakup with Jak Roberto was “not as painful” as she expected it to be, saying it was proof of how “healthy” their seven-year relationship was.

In a sit-down interview with Toni Gonzaga on her YouTube channel on

Sunday, July 6, Forteza said being a single woman after coming out of a long-term relationship was a “smooth transition” for her.

“I’m happy, the transition was smooth. It wasn’t as painful as some people painted it to be. Breakups are painful, right? I don’t know why it’s not painful for me,” she said. “But it just goes to show how healthy the relationship was. We viewed it as a form of growth, and it was a good run, definitely.”

The actress also shared that prioritizing herself is one of the lessons she

learned after being single for the first time in seven years.

“Even if you’re in a relationship with someone, always make time for yourself. Always make time to spend it with yourself so you can have your own identity and know yourself outside the relationship. So that even if you’re in a relationship, you’re still growing,” she said.

When asked how she entertains suitors as a single woman, the “Beauty Empire” said being single after a long-term relationship made her quite confused in determining if someone is genuinely interested in her or not.

“Nahihirapan ako kasi for the longest time, I was in a relationship. So now that

I’m single, I don’t know when someone is trying to show interest, or is genuinely being caring, or just after friendship with me,” she said, adding that she no longer subscribe to the “talking stage” of courtship anymore.

“Is that flirting? Please excuse me, but I cannot tell. They should be direct, otherwise I would not be able to understand those subtleties.”

Forteza and Roberto recently made headlines after they were spotted interacting at GMA’s 75th anniversary last June. In the same month, the Kapuso actress said she doesn’t want to publicly talk about their relationship out of respect for both parties.

Jameson Blake clarifies viral holding hands photo with Barbie Forteza

Jameson Blake set the record straight regarding the viral holding hands photo of him and Barbie Forteza.

Jameson clarified the issue through online showbiz vlogger Ogie Diaz, who asked the actor for clarification regarding the issue.

“Honestly, we are not together. The reason why nahuli kami holding hands kasi andaming tao nung nagpa-picture sa kaniya,” Jameson was quoted by Ogie in the latter’s July 4 vlog.

“I was just assisting her palabas. Gets ko naman people will think different. Haha,” the bedimpled actor quipped.

“Kumbaga, crowd control ako that time. Inaa-



layan ko lang si Barbie,” Jameson added.

Barbie and Jameson were spotted a couple of times joining fun runs.

This is not the first time Barbie and Jameson participated in a race together as both were seen running in Pasay’s “Lights Camera Run” last May.

The most recent one where their viral holding hands photo was captured was in Pampanga last month.

Barbie and Jameson are set to appear together in the upcoming Netflix movie “Kontrabida Academy” with Eugene Domingo, Michael De Mesa, Ysabel Ortega, Xyriel Manabat and Carmina Villaroel.

Camille Prats on turning 40: ‘Feels like a mix of fierceness and softness’

Actress Camille Prats took to social media to celebrate a major milestone she turned 40, June 20.

On her Instagram page, Camille reflected on the significance of the day and her journey so far.

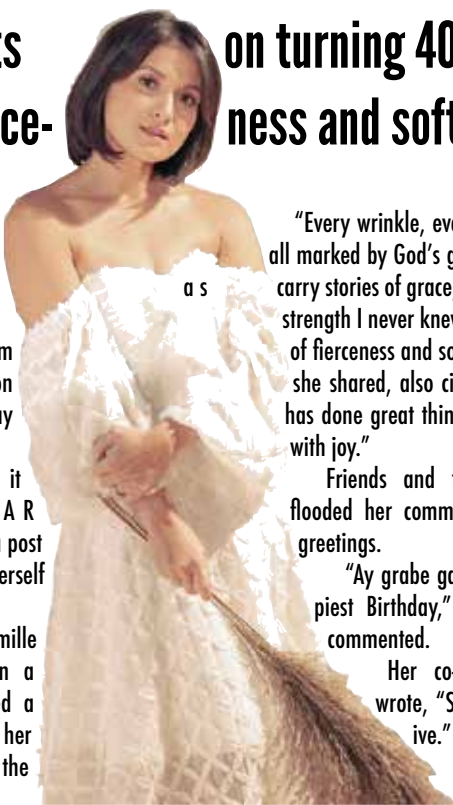
“Still can’t believe it but here we are.... K W A R E N T A !,” she wrote in a post alongside a photo of herself with her birthday cake.

In another post, Camille wowed her followers in a red dress as she shared a heartfelt message about her faith and growth through the years.

“Stepping into 40 with a grateful heart and eyes fixed on the One who’s been faithful through every season. These ruby years are not just a milestone — they’re a testimony. A story of grace, surrender, and growth that only God could write,” Camille said.

She also quoted Proverbs 31:25: “She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.”

In another birthday photoset, this time in a sleek black outfit, Camille celebrated her life with a message of reflection and strength.



“Every wrinkle, every lesson, every victory — all marked by God’s goodness. These ruby years carry stories of grace, seasons of stretching, and strength I never knew I had. 40 feels like a mix of fierceness and softness, rooted in His love,” she shared, also citing Luke 1:49, “The Lord has done great things for me, and I am filled with joy.”

Friends and fellow celebrities quickly flooded her comment section with birthday greetings.

“Ay grabe ganda naman this girl. Happiest Birthday,” actress Nadine Samonte commented.

Her co-star Katrina Halili also wrote, “Super ganda, Love you olive.”

John Prats also greeted his sister on Instagram, sharing a throwback photo of the two of them together. “Happy Birthday, Cams! Congrats, 40 ka na rin Pero still, forever young ka sa puso namin. Enjoy your day! We love you Roni @camilleprats!” he said. Camille responded sweetly, “Awww love you kuya! .”

A few days ahead of her birthday, Camille posted a photo of herself in a yellow top and reflected on how she still feels youthful.

“4 days away from 40... carrying wisdom, walking in grace, and still dancing through life feeling like I’m 14,” she penned in a post.

Candid CAMERA



Painter Frank Cruzet shows the student seniors at the Filipino Centre Toronto how to improve their technique.



Luna Vince, Teresa Sevilla, Paulo Bucud, Joy D'aoust meet at the Fiesta Extravaganza presscon.



Toronto Consul General Angelica Escalona says au revoir to Len and Joy D'aoust as she leaves Toronto.

Viva warns of legal action over attacks on Ashtine Olviga

Viva Artists Agency (VAA) has issued a public warning against the spread of defamatory content online, warning it will pursue legal action against individuals who post false or damaging claims about actress Ashtine Olviga.

In a statement released June 28 via social media, VAA emphasized that online libel is a criminal offense under Philippine law and vowed to hold violators accountable.

"Online libel is a serious crime and punishable by law. We as the management of Ashtine will take the necessary legal action for any statements, narratives, or allegations that might tarnish her reputation," the agency said.

VAA made it clear that it would not tolerate defamatory posts, especially those lacking factual basis.

"We do not condone these acts, specially without any evidence. We will hold those accountable liable to the maximum extent possible under the law," it added.

The statement follows a recent wave of online rumors and allegations targeting 25-year-old Olviga, who stars in the hit series "Ang Mutya ng Section E."

Her fans, both local and international,

have rallied behind her online with the call to "Protect Ashtine at all cost," urging her management to step in.

Olviga has also reminded the public to use caution when speaking online, stressing the real-world consequences of harmful digital behavior.

The actress rose to fame this year after her breakout performance alongside Andres Muhlach in "Ang Mutya ng Section E," which aired on Viva One before expanding to TV5. Their on-screen pairing sparked the formation of the "Ash-Dres" fandom.

Maris Racal admits wanting to give up at one point: 'Is this worth my peace?'

Kapamilya star Maris Racal expressed that she wanted to give up at one point in her career. In a recent vlog of veteran broadcaster Karen Davila, the Sunshine actress got candid about her emotions and shared how she bounced back from the challenges that she faced.

When asked by the veteran broadcaster

about the instance she felt like giving up in her career, the Incognito actress didn't disclose the particular incident but hinted that Karen should already have an idea.

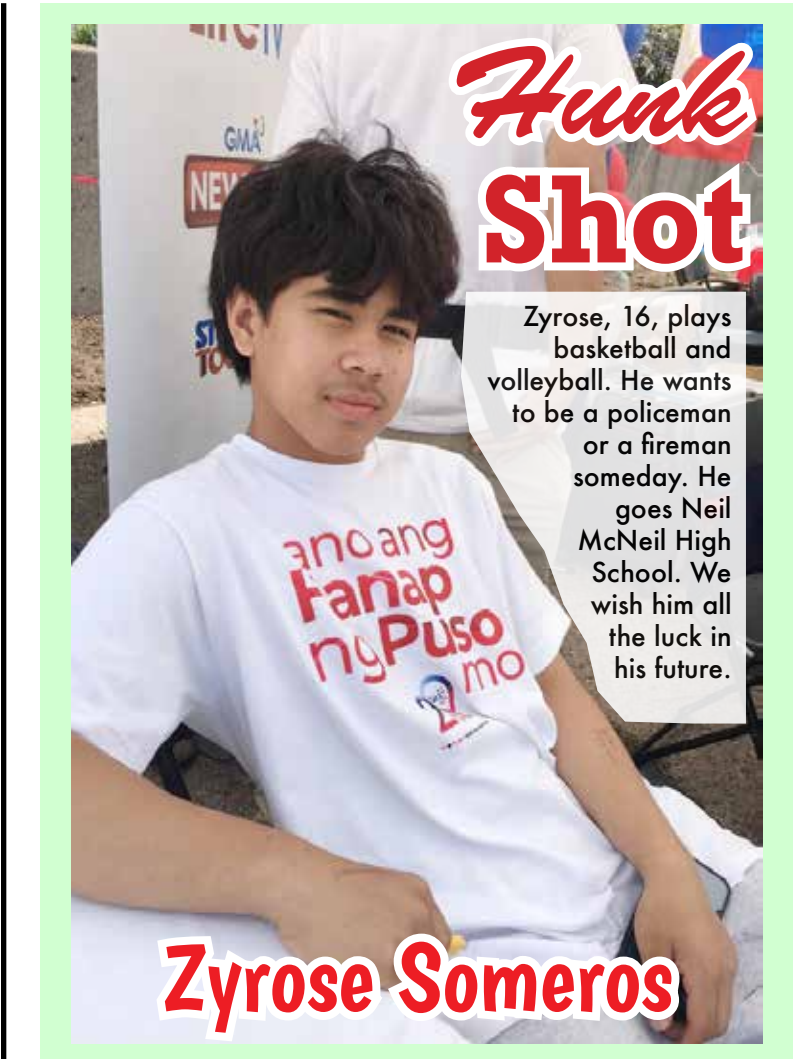
"Yes. Well, I think you know. I really wanted to give up because I was asking myself na para saan 'to lahat? Is it all worth it? Is this worth my peace?" she shared.

Despite having the idea of giving up, the Kapamilya actress maintained that it only lasted for two hours and she decided she would continue fighting for her dreams.

"Pero mga two hours lang yun. Tapos laban lang ganun kasi wala ka naman ibang choice kung hindi labanan lahat ng pagsubok," she added.

Maris maintained how much she loves her job so much that she's willing to do anything just to be able to continue doing it. She then expressed her gratitude towards the people that showed their support no matter what challenges she had to face.

"I love my dream so much na kahit among problema kahit among pag subok, gagawin ko siya. I love my dreams, I love my job, I love everything about this. Kaya parang gagawin ko lahat para matupad yung



Zyrose Someros

pangarap na to," she shared. "At one point I thought I was gonna lose it but here I am. I'm thankful for my supporters, for the production houses that gave me a job, for my directors, and for all of my colleagues who empower me," she continued.

When asked if she's single, Maris confidently said yes and shared how much she learned from her past relationships that she'll keep to herself. For her, she will continue being single but isn't closing the doors if fate leads her to someone.

"They may be painful but nilalagay ko na siya sa moral compass ko so that wherever I go I know what to do... I feel like I need to give myself some space to grow and really process everything... That's what I'm saying now but I don't know about tomorrow," she said.

2025 has been a busy year for Maris as she stars in the hit show Incognito where she plays the role of Gab Rivera. Her film, Sunshine, has been making it big as well in the international scene-- winning several awards and earning praise for her acting prowess.



TORONTO KAPUSO LIONS CLUB CHARTER GALA: 1. Manny Yanga & Chinky del Mar; 2. Fe Paca Taduran and Juliet Cayetano; 3. Wendy and Paul Arena of FCT Ukulele ensemble; 4. President Nudge Bicular; 5. Joe Nolasco, Manny Yanga, Daisy Famadico

Celebrating Philippine Independence Day on June 12, 2025 at Parliament Hill in Ottawa together with government officials. My late husband Senator Tobias Enverga Jr initiated the very first Philippine flag-raising and unfurling of the flag in 2012. We are grateful to continue his legacy. Special thanks to the Philippine Embassy, Senator Gigi Osler and the Philippine-Canadian Parliamentary Group for hosting this event.



PCCF PAGEANT CONTESTANTS ARE READY FOR THEIR CLOSEUP: Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundations is busy rehearsing for their Miss, Miss Teen, and Little Miss Philippine Canada pageants...

1. PCCF President Rosemer Enverga (LEFT END) poses with the contestants; 2. Little Miss contestants pose for a group photo after their rehearsal.





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



“Marami talagang unhappy marriages ngayon. So, I think it’s someone that you can grow old with. I know I’m not gonna grow old alone. Yes, I have my dogs. I have my kids. But I know I’m gonna be holding somebody’s hand when I’m old and gray. Whether it’s Herbert or whether it’s another man, I’m sure meron ‘yan.”

[illegible]

Little Manila

LM confidential

Benjamin Alves on why acting hits different now

Benjamin Alves can attest to that usual small-screen road trodden by an actor. It starts from apprentice, where one learns the ins and outs of the trade, to emergence, where the thespian finally finds his or her foothold in it. There's a time for doing teeny-bopper roles and also for mature ones. However, the time of progress and transition may vary.

"Honestly, I've only really felt like an actor the last five years, perhaps," said Benjamin, one of GMA's reliable and versatile actors, in a chat, acknowledging the patience and trust of his home network for him to flourish in the profession.

He has been tapped to be part of GMA Prime and Afternoon Prime shows that have made him more equipped and see further the importance of collaboration.

His portrayal of Basil, one of the Palacios' heirs in the successful mystery crime drama, "Widows' War," was remarkable.

"I knew it was gonna three weeks only," he looked back on the character's short yet somehow ubiquitous presence. "Parang kang guest sa isang party, tapos alis ka na bago siya matapos (you were like a guest in a party, who would then leave ahead of everybody)."

Even if Basil's French exit was already predetermined, Benjamin came inspired and delivered in every frame.

"I only found out that he had that bale (interesting twist in his persona) on the story con," recalled he. "I've only gotten the script only before the story conference). I only got two weeks of script, wala siya dun. The revelation would have happened when he passed away. It was a very useful (piece of) information and I just went with it."

"What I didn't want to happen was that masabi lang siyang revelation for the sake of revelation that he is a rainbow basically," added he. The "Widows' War" character may be viewed as bisexual or gay.

A well-crafted character like Basil makes the work of actors like Benjamin enriching, with a creative space for collaboration.

Aside from approaching it with freedom, he also gave his two cents on the character's physical appearance, such as the hairstyle the latter would sport. Benjamin had fun, considering it one of the best scripts (and roles) he has done, but couldn't hide the bittersweet feeling of playing Basil.

"The thing that's bittersweet about it is the person (the character) is dead," said he. "You can't go back to it."

There was a part of Benjamin, the actor, who wanted Basil to be alive in the end as a big revelation, "but I know where the story needs to go," shared he.

After the character's inevitable ending, Basil re-



mained present in the recollections of the living characters in "Widows' War." Doing the flashback scenes allowed Benjamin to go to work and collaborate with fellow actors.

"It was like the character is not technically dead, but knowing your character is dead is like you've written the arc already and you're just filling in the gaps. So, the character development won't really go anywhere because finite na yung ginawa niya," shared he. "I can't insert something hoping he'll go somewhere else, sara-do na siya, eh. So, that was the bittersweet part cuz you're doing scenes knowing the end. Everyone knows the end."

Benjamin's character Wilfred, on the other hand, leads a totally different life and scenario in the intense drama, "Aku-sada," which airs weekdays at 4 p.m. Benjamin described the character as "passionate" and "a father figure" in a brief online interview by GMA.

"It's very fast," said he of the narrative pace and the character development. "This one, paangat pa lang siya (everything is about to take off and unfold), I'm not even in the climax yet, (but) it feels like the end already. So, parang nanduon na siya sa resolution, but week one pa lang 'to (it's like the story is already in the resolution part, but it's only in the first week)."

This is a new experience that, again, actors like Benjamin look forward to and enjoy.

"The writing is to be sensitive to the new generation," added Benjamin. "If you let it drag too long, it's not that their attention span is short, I think you have to keep them engaged. So, one of the ways is just to make sure that your stories engaging, and if you lull or there's any point na bumaba siya, you have to keep the dial up at 11 all the time."

The challenge for him and co-artists, as actors, is filling in the gaps since a time jump seems to be a norm.

"From one scene to the next, five years (na) siya (you know, five years have already passed)," said he. "But it's great.... if I was doing the same thing every soap, I would be very boring."

Taking on the challenge, too, in telling a teleserye in this seemingly new trend are director Dominic Zapata and the ensemble cast, along with the writers and production team.

"I really think we have great material," said Benjamin, whose English Literature education comes in handy, and it complements acting.

"Especially knowing what the writer's intent is, what is the tone of the scene," said he. "You can visualize it. You appreciate that when someone is writing, 'Ah, OK.

I know where they're coming from."

Benjamin added that he also appreciates when there's alliteration in the Tagalog dialogues because "it sounds better. I like that writers keep a lot of the subtexts up to the actors."

There's room for creativity and collaboration in that case, as one may put it.

Catriona Gray shows acting mettle at 'Jurassic World Rebirth Activation' in Thailand

Catriona Gray had the opportunity to be an actress for a time as she joined the promotional event "Jurassic World Rebirth Activation" in Thailand.

Gray shared a clip of what she filmed at the exact shooting locations from the film in Krabi, Thailand. The beauty queen was captured screaming as she ran away from deadly dinosaurs.

In a separate post, Gray described her time on set as "one of the coolest experiences she has ever had" while sharing behind-the-scenes photos.

"I had so much fun—although I feel like I give off the energy of the characters who get eaten by the dinosaurs first," she said.

In the comments section of her posts, fans and fellow celebrities commended the Miss Universe 2018 titleholder for what was considered to be her "first acting stint."

"I think you should rethink what you said about just doing hosting. This is stellar," said broadcast journalist MJ Marfori.

"Can I just say that in a span of seconds, I could already tell you're going to make such a good actress? Please consider pursuing it," said one netizen.

"Jurassic World Rebirth" is the latest installment of the franchise. Set five years after the events of "Jurassic World Dominion," the new film follows covert operative Zora Bennett (Scarlett Johansson) as she leads a mission to a remote island.

Johansson is joined by Jonathan Bailey and Mahershala Ali in the film. "Jurassic World Rebirth" is directed



by Gareth Edwards, known for his work on "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" and "Godzilla." It is written by David Koepp, the original writer of the 1993 "Jurassic Park."

Fifth Solomon declares 'I deserve to live' after hospitalization due to online bullying

Fifth Solomon affirmed that he "deserves to live and heal" after being hospitalized due to the effects of online bullying.

Solomon took to Instagram on Wednesday, July 2, to share a photo of himself lying in a hospital bed. His statement comes as he continues to recover after suffering a mental breakdown that led to hospitalization.

"This was me just weeks ago. Rushed to the emergency room because of a mental breakdown and a full-blown panic attack. This photo was taken by my sister — after I finally calmed down," he captioned the photo.

The actor-director remarked that the image shows a version of him that's "far from what most people are used to seeing." "No suit, no makeup, no signature winged eyeliner. Just me, stripped down and barely holding on," he said.

Solomon, who was recently diagnosed with bipolar disorder "on top of ongoing battles with depression, Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) and anxiety," stated that bashers wanted him dead.

"During that time, it truly felt like the world was against me. I was bullied, dragged, and attacked personally. People who didn't even know me said the meanest things, as if they did. And honestly, some didn't just want me to fail—they wanted me DEAD," he said.

Despite the hardships, the 33-year-old actor expressed that he chooses "to keep going and to be loyal to himself."

"When you're no longer valuable to what they need, they'll throw you away like you're nothing. It's true—when you have nothing, that's when you find out who truly values you, who genuinely loves you, and who was never real in the first place. So now, I choose to be loyal to myself. I trust no one blindly. And I keep going—because I deserve to live, to heal, and to rise again," he concluded the post.

Last month, Solomon was rushed to the emergency room after a meltdown. Following the hospitalization, he shared that he has started taking medication that has helped him feel "present and in control" again.



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.

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



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

Call Harold for Appointment
416-578-7351

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**



****2018 Hyundai Tucson Premium**
FROM \$13,990



****2018 Honda Civic LX**
FROM \$ 18,990



****2015 BMW X5 xDrive35i**
FROM \$ 19,990



****2021 Honda Civic LX**
FROM \$ 21,590



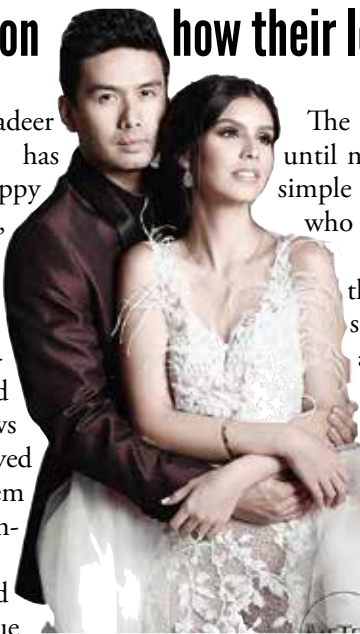
HONDA

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.

Christian and Kat on how their love story began and what keeps it going

Asia's Romantic Balladeer Christian Bautista has been singing a happy tune with his wife, Kat, since they got married in Bali, Indonesia in 2018. The couple's love story is an exciting narrative that continues to unfold as their relationship grows stronger over time. I enjoyed my conversation with them on "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda."

They first met at an award show, but Kat had no clue who Christian was. She explained, "I had just moved to the Philippines. I had just moved back, too. I've been living in the US for 10 years. I was seated next to him at an award show. I had no idea who he was. I thought he was an indie singer."



It took five years before they saw each other again. But this time, it was Christian who didn't recognize Kat because she had lost a significant body weight. Kat still had no idea who he was. Christian asked Kat on a date when he found out she was single.

Unlike other guys who want to impress the girls they are courting while they are on a date by putting their best foot forward, the balladeer did the opposite. "He picked me up in a Starex that was broken. Walang aircon. Naka-duct tape iyong mirror. Tapos sira iyong door. Eh ako feeling cute, naka-leather skirt ako, Tito Boy. No aircon, sira ang bintana. Nagka-climbing climbing ako in the car," Kat shared.

The Starex is still with them until now. They had a date in a simple restaurant, but it was Kat who paid for their meal.

On their second date, they split the bill. Kat searched for information about Christian on Google. She later sent him a text message, "I'm no longer paying for our dates," after finding out who he was.

The power couple now only laughs as they look back to how their relationship started. Kat is now managing Christian's career through their NYMA (Now You Must Aspire) agency.

He said, "It's more of a partnership. She is amazing in what she does. Ako ang bago dito. I've just been an artist for 20 plus years but the goal, my goal, is how to really share all my experiences and how to motivate all the artists to be the best that they can be."

Christian has been able to retain his

They had a date in a simple restaurant, but it was Kat who paid for their meal.

keep me grounded." Christian recently renewed his contract as a Kapuso. Kat and her team collabo-

rated with GMA for the event. The balladeer is reprising his role as one of the judges of "The Clash 2025" together with Ai-Ai delas Alas and Lani Misalucha. This reality talent show airs every Sunday on GMA 7.

I asked the couple what they would tell each other if they were to renew their vows after six years of marriage. Christian shared, "I hope that I have been a good and loving partner for the last few years. I will continue my mission and my purpose, which is to love you completely."

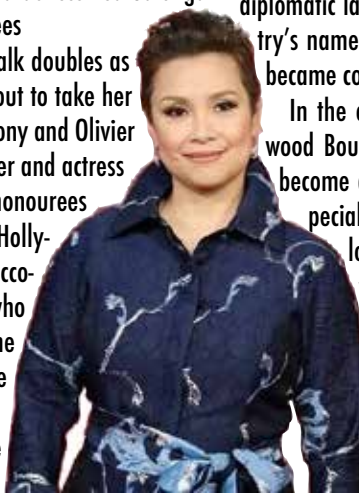
Meanwhile, Kat said, "Thank you. I love you. Thank you for bringing color everywhere into my life. You make me believe that there is nothing in this world I can't be so true. I'm so honored to be your wife, partner and best friend. Thank you for choosing me, and I love you so much."

Lea Salonga to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

Recognised for her contributions to live theatre and performance, singer and actress Lea Salonga joins a new class of honourees

In a city where the sidewalk doubles as a shrine, Lea Salonga is about to take her place among legends. The Tony and Olivier Award-winning Filipina singer and actress has been named one of 35 honourees in the 2025 class of the Hollywood Walk of Fame—an accolade reserved for those who have, in the language of the selection committee, "made history."

Salonga joins an elite circle that includes the likes



of Emily Blunt, Rachel McAdams, Miley Cyrus, Timothée Chalamet and Air Supply, spanning the fields of motion pictures, music, television and live theatre. She is the first Filipina and only the fourth Filipino overall to receive the honour, after Rob Schneider and Bruno Mars—while Apl.de.Ap is slated to receive his star alongside the Black Eyed Peas once a ceremony is scheduled.

The nomination was submitted by the Manila International Film Festival (MIFF), a gesture that added symbolic heft to what is already a rare feat. In a statement, MIFF called Salonga "the one and only," as if echoing what many Filipinos and the wider musical theatre world have long believed: that her voice is singular.

"Just now woke up to this bit of amazing news!!!" Salonga wrote on Instagram, circling her name in a screenshot of the honoree list. "To the Manila International Filmfest, many thanks for nominating me to be part of the class of 2025-26!"

In an industry that still struggles with representation, Salonga's success has long been freighted with significance. She was a breakthrough before that word became a catchall. The accolades she has received speak of artistic excellence and a kind of diplomatic labour: an artist who carried her country's name on international marquees before it became commonplace to do so.

In the coming months, the stretch of Hollywood Boulevard that will bear her name may become a kind of secular pilgrimage site—especially for Southeast Asians, for theatre lovers, for young girls who learned what a belt could sound like because of a VHS copy of Miss Saigon. But even amid those, the gesture affirms that discipline and craft still matter in an age increasingly defined by virality.

Anjo Yllana broke off Sheryl Cruz engagement fearing FPJ

Host-comedian Anjo Yllana revealed more details about why he broke off his engagement to former partner and fellow actor Sheryl Cruz.

Anjo appeared on the July 4 episode of “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda” where he told the host that, despite being friends for year, it was his first time being interviewed by Boy.

The episode began with Anjo admitting being surprised and fell out of his chair after watching Sheryl’s episode on the same show last year.

Sheryl had appeared on the show last May 23, 2024 where she publicly revealed being engaged to Anjo before she left for the United States.

Boy brought up Sheryl again toward the end of Anjo’s episode, asking if Anjo and Sheryl indeed got back together after he broke up with ex-wife Jacqui Manzano.

“Sandali lang ‘yun but we were serious kasi baby ko yan si She noon,” Anjo confirmed.

Anjo said he broke off his engagment to Sheryl because her uncle, the late National Artist Fernando Poe Jr., wanted to speak with him before any

wedding plans happened.

The host-comedian got scared and cold feet, ended their relationship, and even assumed that Sheryl might be outraged as he further confirmed what she told Boy last year.

Sheryl’s mother Rosemarie Sonora is the sister of Fernando Poe Jr.’s wife Susan Rocas.

Anjo did funnily share an encounter he had with Sheryl years after their first split where she had to him in a scene and Sheryl did not hold back, making Anjo realize that he had really hurt her back then.

Boy then asked why things didn’t work out with Anjo and Sheryl the second time around, and Anjo said it was because Sheryl learned Anjo was still living with his kids’ and their mother.

“Naintindihan ko naman ‘yun, sinabi ko naman sa kanya we’re not talking and... ayokong iwanan ang mga bata, gusto ko pa sila makasama,” Anjo said, quipping there might be a “Part Three” for him and Sheryl.



Anjo did say that he’d heard Sheryl was possibly seeing someone at the moment and if that were the case, Anjo wouldn’t put any cards on a trilogy happening.

“Lahat ng minahal ko, ‘pag nalaman kong masaya sila sa sitwasyon nila, masaya ako para sa kanila,” Anjo said as he confirmed he hasn’t dated anyone since Sheryl.

The host-comedian closed the episode with a message for Sheryl, reiterating his happiness for her.

“She, kung nanonood ka, unang-una bwisit ka!” Anjo laughed. “Seriously, if you are happy right now, I’m very happy for you.”

‘Nabaliw ako no’n’: Anjo Yllana reveals past relationship with Kris Aquino

Actor Anjo Yllana revealed that he briefly dated Kris Aquino.

In his interview with Snooky Serna for the actress’ YouTube vlog, Anjo said that their relationship only lasted for three weeks.

“Nag-break kami ni Kris kasi minsan dumalaw ako sa kanya, nag-dala ako ng flowers. ‘Yung flowers ko parang galing Baguio, may matataas na stem na roses na alam mong galing sa ibang bansa.

“Sabi ko, ‘Kanino galing ‘yang roses na ‘yan?’ [Sabi niya,] ‘Oh, it came from Robin.’ Sabi ko, ‘Naniligaw ba sa ‘yo si Robin?’ [Sabi niya,] ‘Oh, he’s my boyfriend.’ Sabi ko, ‘Huh, boyfriend mo si Robin [Padilla]? Boyfriend mo rin ako?’ [Sabi niya,] ‘Yeah, including Aga [Muhlach],” Anjo revealed.

“So, nabaliw ako no’n. Sabi ko sa kanya, ‘Ikaw baliw ka.’ Ano, maging mag-kaibigan na lang tayo kasi walang mangyayari sa ‘tin nito,” he added.

Despite the breakup, Anjo said that they remained friends and was supportive of Kris while she was pregnant with Josh, her son with Philip Salvador.

Anjo said he even became one of Josh’s god-fathers.



“Naging best friend ko ‘yang si Kris. No’ng panahon ni Kuya Ipe [Philip’s nickname], ando’n ako para sa kanya. ‘Yung pagbubuntis n’ya kay Josh, nando’n ako para sa kanya. I was there. I was telling her, ‘Alam mo si Kuya Ipe, ‘di na ‘yan tatanggapin ng pamilya mo kasi nagkaroon ng asawa at pamila ‘yan, hiwalay,’” Anjo said.

“But sabi ko, ‘Your child, imposibleng ‘di tanggapin ni mommy mo si Cory, imposibleng ‘di tanggapin ng mga kapatid mo kasi dugo nila ‘yan, e. Si Kuya Ipe, ‘di naman nila ka-dugo ‘yan kaya ‘wag mo na isipin ‘yan kasi nakakaapekto lang ‘yan sa pagdadalang-tao mo. Basta I promise you, your family will accept your child,” he added.

Anjo also had a message for Kris, who is battling multiple autoimmune diseases.

“Yung mga pinagdadaanan niya ngayon, kahit ‘yung mga ilang tao na tinitira s’ya sa pinagdadaanan n’ya, I think more than 90% ng showbiz, mahal ka sa industriya kaya ‘wag mo isipin na lahat ng taga-showbiz ‘di ka gusto,” he said.

“Mahal ka ng mga taga-showbiz at naintindihan nila ‘yung kalagayan mo. Kasi minsan may bira diyan kay Kris na umaarte lang. Kaya keep strong, keep fighting,” he added.



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

