

TEMPER TANTRUM ADDS 10%

Trump adds 10% to existing tariffs to Canada, 3 Asian countries get zero tariffs, Philippines get 19%

After Trump added 10% tariffs on top of what is already in effect for Canadian imports,

the Republican-controlled Senate narrowly passed a bill to end Donald Trump's tar-

iffs on Canada, highlighting
GOP divisions over the duties.
Four Republicans joined all

Democrats to pass the legislation on a 50-46 vote.

Sen. Tim Kaine of Virgin-

ia, the Democrat pushing the resolutions, said that higher
TEMPER TANTRUMP page 20

TEMPER TANTRUMP page 20

PCCF 15th Anniversary Gala was a Resounding Success!



PCCF MRS. PHILIPPINES-CANADA - Maricar Velasco Mrs Philippines Canada Ambassador of Goodwill; Paula Palada Gunda, Mrs Philippines Canada 2025 3rd Runner-up our first ever Mrs Philippines Canada Western Region 2025 and Mrs. Philippines Canada - Tourism; Arlene Pacana Mrs Philippines 2025; Janine Fernandez 1st runner-up; Kriss Joi 2nd runner-up; Roselle Mrs Philippines Canada Luzon 2025.

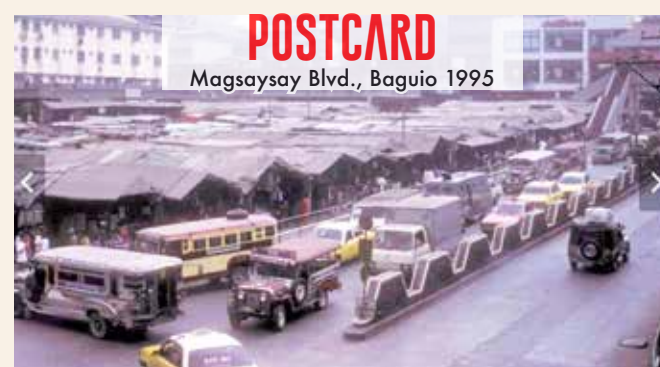
Trump's Tariffs and Policies are Killing Jobs in Canada and the Philippines

TORONTO - Canadian jobs are being “sacrificed on the Trump altar”, union leaders have warned, after the auto-

maker Stellantis announced plans to transfer production of one Jeep model to the United States.

Stellantis announced what it described as its largest US investment push in its 100-

CANADA-PHL page 8



Nova Scotia faces labor crisis over work permit rejections of Filipino employees who may be sent back to the Philippines

IRCC says applicants are responsible in making sure their work permits are complete

A construction company in Dartmouth is desperate to find help for three employ-

ees from the Philippines who may have to leave Canada because of a mistake in their applications to renew work permits.

In two cases, Brycon Construction forgot to pay a \$230 employer fee as part of the

application. In the third, it neglected to submit a labour market impact assessment.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) rejected the renewals and told the men they had to stop

WORK PERMIT page 6

Painting Instructor Celebrates Birthday with Visual Art Students

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT

October 8, 2025, was marked as a very meaningful and memorable day for a highly admirable fellow called Maestro Frank. “Opmga katoto at kaibigan”! Commencing with a wonderful greeting from Frank

Cruzet's beloved and charming spouse, Tess Lumanlan, who proudly paid a heartfelt tribute to the ecstatic celebrator with the following apt declaration:

“As you know, and ev-
PAINTING Page 2

Miss World - Canada 2026 Alexa Marie Grant support the Fight Against Breast Cancer

Our Miss World - Canada 2026 Alexa Marie Grant attended BRA Day event at Toronto Women’s College Hospital, an initiative dedicated to “closing the loop” on breast cancer through education and awareness about breast reconstruction where she had the opportunity to learn directly from doctors and women who have undergone breast reconstruction, hearing their stories of strength, healing, and empowerment.

“At this event I learned about screening options available in Canada, saw real results of reconstruction, and connected with women who’ve undergone that type of surgery. It was inspiring to hear their stories and what went into their decision to undergo reconstruction.”

The event was hosted by The Peter Gilgan Centre for Women’s Cancers at



Miss World - Canada 2026 Alexa Marie Grant with friend Margaret Rodrigo

Women’s College Hospital & The Canadian Cancer Society.

Kathryn Bernardo gets’ Wax Figure

Kathryn Bernardo is set to join the exclusive ranks of Filipinos immortalized in wax. Madame Tussauds Hong Kong confirmed that Kathryn will have her own figure, with the unveiling scheduled for 2026.

The wax museum teased her figure ahead of the announcement, highlighting her career milestones: starting acting at age seven and starring in the first



Philippine film to reach 1 billion pesos worldwide. Madame Tussauds officially welcomed Kathryn, dubbing her the “Phenomenal Box-Office Queen.”

Hong Kong holds a special place in her heart as the filming location of Hello, Love, Goodbye in 2019 opposite Alden Richards, a movie that broke box-office records. Kathryn becomes the fifth Filipino celebrity to have a wax figure in Madame Tussauds Hong Kong, joining Manny Pacquiao, Pia Wurtzbach, Catriona Gray, and Anne Curtis.

Honey Shot

Maya, 26, is a volunteer with the Police Services. She graduated BS in Biology and Psychology. She plays volleyball, basketball and pickleball. She loves watching horror movies, doing crochet, cooking and baking. She is the daughter of Carmela & Bernard.

Maya Carmen Santos

PCCF 15th Anniversary Gala was a Resounding Success!

Toronto, October 18, 2025 - Celebrating 15 Years of “Having Fun While helping others”, the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) hosted a spectacular

sold-out Gala with 500 guests in attendance. The evening was a resounding success – the energy was high and the dance floor never emptied.

The evening was highlighted by the awarding of the Senator Tobias C. Enverga Medal of Excellence where two remarkable individuals were recognized:

Award-winning journalist Marivel Taruc and Alexa Grant, PCCF GALA page 21



Arlene Pacana wins Mrs. Philippines Canada 2025



Miss World Canada 2026 Alexa Grant poses with LMC newspaper publisher Joey Baking



PCCF president Rosemer Enverga, Senator Tobias C. Enverga Medal of Excellence recipients Marivel Taruc, Alexa Grant, Senator Asha Seth, and recipient Paulo Bucud.



Ms. Phil-Canada 2025 1st runner-up Andrea Penaverde performs a dance number.



Rhett dela Cruz entertains the guests with a song.



Miss Teen Phil-Canada 2024 Kirsten Co pose with Marian and daughter Sophia.



Janine Fernandez shows her talent.



Miss and Mrs PCCF beauties huddle together for a photo.

Ms. Teen Phil-Canada 2025 Charisma Toupin shows some martial art moves.

Little Miss Philippines 2025 Krystelle Rivas

FILIPINO CANADIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE CONDUCTS 5-FLAG RAISING RITES

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

On an early Sunday afternoon, the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT), a popular not-for-profit community-based socio-cultural service centre in Toronto, Ontario, conducted a multiple-flag raising ceremony on October 19, 2025. The official flags and emblems of Canada’s Red Maple Leaf, the Watawat ng Philipinas, the Ontario’s Royal Union Flag, the City of Toronto’s blue & white twin towers symbol, and the Filipino Centre Toronto’s banner were hoisted to the delight of the approving audience.

For the first time in its 25-year history, the FCT Board of Directors and Officers significantly held the patriotic event al fresco just outside its one-storey office building at 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, Toronto. The flags were representative symbols of common values, ex-



perience, understanding, honour, and success. “Unity, Peace, and Shared Purpose” was the theme of the significant gathering. FCT Board Member Philip Beloso conceptualised the idea and helped organise the maiden rites.

Attended by prominent politicians, dignitaries, community and business leaders, staff and volunteers, the 2-hour session

was a memorable and meaningful engagement. Among the speakers and guests were Salma Zahid, Member of Parliament for Scarborough Centre-Don Valley East, Jean Yip, Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Agincourt, Hon. Raymond Cho, MPP for Scarborough North whay and Minister for Seniors & Accessibility, Doly Begum, Member of Provincial

Parliament for Scarborough Southwest, Aris Babikian, MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt, Andrea Hazell, MPP for Scarborough-Guildwood, and Ernie McCullough, Director of Sheppard East BIA.

Ably hosted by Philip Beloso, FCT Board Director and Event Committee chair, the rites started with an opening remark and prayer by FCT Board Chair Efren De Villa, followed by reading the Land Acknowledgement by Theresa Lumanlan, FCT Vice President, and the singing of the National Anthems. FCT President & CEO delivered her remarks and proudly thanked the guests, organisers, donors, volunteers, and participants of the historic milestone.

Complimenting their respective special messages, the 2 MPPs and four MPs presented

Certificates of Appreciation to FCT Board Members Efren De Villa, Mary Ann San Juan, Theresa Lumanlan, Wendy Arena, Philip Beloso, Frank Cruzet, and Joy D’Aoust. A mid-afternoon merienda of cheese, pies, cookies, suman, fruits, pastries and beverages was satisfactorily served to the guests. On the occasion, MP for Scarborough-Agincourt Jean Yip announced that the Federal Government’s International Development Department, through 3 Philippine NGOs, has recently released a total of \$ 650,000 “for humanitarian assistance to support emergency and disaster relief efforts in the country”. Thanks to MPP Doly Begum and Toronto Councillor Jamal Myers for donating the Ontario and City of Toronto flags, respectively. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT.)

Shuvee Etrata recalls growing up poor as a 4Ps beneficiary: ‘Isa ako sa mga pinapakain ng gobyerno’

Former Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Collab Edition housemate Shuvee Etrata opened up about her life growing up in a family struggling with poverty.

In her interview with Karen Davila posted on YouTube last October 30, the “Island Ate ng Cebu” shared that she was once a beneficiary of the government’s Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps, a national program that gives cash aid to poor families to help improve their health, nutrition, and education.

“Mahirap talaga [ang buhay namin noon.] Isa ako sa mga pinapakain ng gobyerno, 4Ps. As in talaga, isa ako sa mga pumupunta [sa payout]. Binabayaran kami ng gobyerno. Kasi nga walang trabaho yung parents ko tapos marami po kaming magkakapatid,” she recalled.

She spoke of the family’s struggles, including having to prioritize meals whenever there was little money to spend, often buying canned goods and groceries as soon as possible.

Shuvee described the difficult moments when her family had to borrow money just to have food on the table. She also recounted the responsibilities she carried as a child: “Siguro yung pinakamahirap sa feeling ko na naranasan ko, yung kailangan ko mangutang para makakain kami.”

“Growing up, ako yung 5 a.m. gumigising para plantsahin lahat ng damit ng kapatid ko. Tapos magluluto [para] sa kanila. Ako lahat ‘yun. Yung burden sa akin growing up ay [to] make sure na makapag-aral sila ng maayos at makakain sila,” she recalled.

According to the actress, her parents were employed in the past, however they still experienced their lowest points when they struggled to make ends meet: “They started naman na meron talaga

silang trabaho. My mother, billing sa hospital, tapos yung dad ko time by time nagkakaroon ng raket sa basketball. Malaki bigayan sa kanila. Nag-OFW pa yung daddy ko.”

While Shuvee remembered periods of instability and scarcity, but she did not want to discredit her parents’ efforts. “Ayaw ko na hindi i-credit yung pinaghirapan nila kasi growing up, kahit na mahirap, meron din kasi they were working. It’s just that hirap lang yung daddy ko sa stability.”

After growing poor, Shuvee has now found hope as she takes on her journey toward healing and financial independence. “Sabi nga

po nila, healing is not linear. Ngayon ang nangyayari saakin, nasa peak nga kami ngayon na I’m able to provide. It’s not unbearable anymore,” she said.

She recalled how, three years ago, she was already a breadwinner earning only P20,000 a month. Most of it went to support her family, leaving her with very little left. “Parang 3,500 lang naiiwan [sa’kin] pero napapadala ko pa sa kanila. Mag-cup-cup noodles na lang ako mapadala ko lang sa kanila,” she admitted.

Shuvee emphasized the gap between public perception and reality for young

actors, noting that appearances of a lavish lifestyle often mask early struggles. She recounted attending free workshops offered by GMA just to have a meal, demonstrating the sacrifices she made for her craft.

“Pero nung nagsisimula talaga, meron talagang time na hindi ako makakain. May workshop na libre sa GMA, pupuntahan ko para makakain ako. Ako matitiis ko naman yung sikmura ko, kaya ko naman tiisin [kahit] one week. May workshop naman

ako, sisipagan ko na lang sa workshop.”

Looking forward, the actress shared her dream for her family and siblings, a life free from poverty and uncertainty.

“Gusto ko po, hindi na sila lumaking mahirap. Ayoko po na gumising sila na hindi nila alam kung anong kakainin. Ayokong maranasan nilang pupunta silang school, wala silang pambayad sa exam,” she said.



Painting Instructor Celebrates Birthday with Visual Art Students

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

PAINTING from page 1

Everybody here knows, you are in your prime today! We want you to know that we truly admire and care about you. We want you to keep inspiring your painting class students with your energy and vision for their creative development. We want you to feel that the time and effort you put into guiding us proves that your kindness and gregarious persona can ripple outwards. We are hoping and praying that the celebration with us will renew your spirit and passion. May this milestone birthday bring constant joy and recognition for all the lives you have touched as a teacher and as a friend. Cheers to an amazing 80 years! Maligayang Kaarawan, Frank.....aming butihing Maestro!

Then, strumming his beloved ukulele, community paper publisher Carlos Unas led the group singing:

“Give thanks with a grateful heart; Give thanks unto the Holy One; Give thanks because He gives us Maestro Frank, His son.

Give thanks because He has giv-

en us Maestro Frank !. And now, let us sing praise to our “saint”; Let everyone say, “I can paint”;

Because of what Sir Frank has taught us all. And now let the colours fill our scenes; Let the colours fill our dreams.

Because of what Sir Frank has done for us. Give thanks, Give thanks, We give thanks.”

With the happy birthday song and beautiful prayer for him, Frank Cruzet, artistic director of the Filipino Centre Toronto’s Seniors Art Painting project, warmly welcomed and thanked his well-wishers and guests during the celebration of his 80th birthday. He said, “Nandito tayo para magsaya, magdiwang, magkaisa at magtulongan sa bawat isa.” The event, a regular weekday painting session, was held at the FCT’s Social Hall in Scarborough, Toronto.

Maestro Frank, together with members of the FCT-SAP Group such as Gloria Mandigma, Wendy Arenas, Maripi Leynes, Malou de Jesus Dizonand Gerry Santos for the month of October , have jointly celebrated their birth anniversaries. The celebrators and

PAINTING page 11

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NOTICE OF ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 23, 2025

Dear Members,

Please be advised that an election of the Board of Directors of Filipino Centre Toronto will take place as follows:

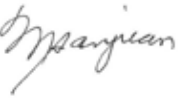
Date: November 26, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: 4395 Sheppard Ave East, Scarborough, M1S1T9

Positions to be filled: 19 positions of Board of Directors, each for a three-year term

Sincerely,



Mary Ann San Juan
President & CEO, FCT

Revised Oct. 2025



🤔😞 Blame the itcher daw ... 😄🤔



Did Blue Jays closing pitcher Jeff Hoffman lose the series for the Jays?

It's one of those urban legend that is believed as fact in sports. Baseball is won or loss on the pitcher. Soccer and hockey is won or loss on the goalie. Football is lost and won on the quarterback. I don't know the logic of these things. But, why is a loss on baseball blamed on the pitcher but no one credits the batter? Even if the batter was the best in the league, everyone still blames the pitcher. Why is that? It's a conundrum.

How do you make Canadians hate the PM

By this time, Canadians are now feeling that the country in our southern border is Russia or China and that we cannot expect anything benevolent from

out neighbour. We've already accepted that fact. We already feel bad for our Prime minister and his negotiators who have the thankless task of dealing with President Trump and company. And this makes Pierre Poilievre's job of demonizing Carney near impossible. Who still expects our Prime Minister to get a deal with President Trump? Who actually believe that Pierre will be able to get a deal? Probably not a lot of people believe that Pierre can do a better job. If Mother Teresa was the President of the United States and Carney cannot get a deal then, he's really bad. But with Trump, anyone on the other side will look good and helpless. And that is why Carney has Canada's sympathy. I think Canadians are already bracing for the worse. Emotionally, we've given up on expecting anything good from the United States. Brace yourselves. It's going to be a bumpy ride.



They Got a Good Trade Deal with Trump?

Thailand, Cambodia, and Malaysia got zero tariff deal from Trump. Really? Well, it's not that they got a zero tariff on all their goods going to the United States. It's more likely a select goods that get to enter the



United States with zero tariff and in exchange, those countries have to buy a minimum amount of goods from the United States. Philippines did not get a deal because the Philippines will not be able to buy the amount of American goods that the United States wants. Baka gusto pa ni Trump, ibigay sa kanya in cash. When South Korea was trying to get a good deal, Trump demanded that they pay it in cash already. Apparently, Korea promised to buy a certain amount. But Korea said that if they do that, it will destabilize their economy. Obviously, they did not agree. I do not know where they stand right now.

Japan to Import their own Cars

Ang balak ng Japan is to import some of the cars that they already manufacture in the United States back to Japan to satisfy Trump. It's going to be more expensive but they want to show they are importing from the United States. They are also going to import those huge Ford F-150 pick up trucks. Now, let's get some fact first. Those Ford pick ups are huge for Japanese roads. Sa mga tourists na nakapunta na sa Japan, there say that there are no American cars sa Japanese roads dahil American manufacturers do not make small cars. Saan gagamitin iyong mga

Ford F-150? Sa nabasa ko, it would likely be used by the Japanese transport ministry for specific tasks like inspecting roads, infrastructure, or as snow plows. As for the cars, siguro, once they arrive on Japanese soil, they will also install the right hand steering wheels. And mga 20,000 cars a year lang siguro compared to the millions that Japan send to the United States a year.

Is Anybody in Jail yet?

Ano na nagyari sa corruption investigation sa Pilipinas? May nakakulong na ba? I mean, may nakakulong na ba sa mga contractors at politicians? Wala? Are you surprised? I guess, we'll see them in the next elections, running for higher office pa nga, para mas malaki makurakot. Hay naku bayan ko. Wala mang pagasa talaga.



Ano trabaho ng presidente? 'Family Feud Philippines' clip goes viral

A young contestant's answer on game show "Family Feud Philippines" is going viral for her quiet yet blunt reaction.

The October 22 episode of "Family Feud Philippines" featured contestants of another competition show, "The Voice Kids Philippines." Both shows are currently hosted by actor Dingdong Dantes.

Competing against each other were Billy Crawford's "Team Bilib," consisting of Yana Goopio, Lovers Cabrera, Ava Towns, and Thurd Jacob Casumpang, and Zack Tabudlo's "Project Z," composed of Summer Pulido, Erallyn "Era" De Guzman, Alliyah Raylee Rodriguez,

and Sofia Mallares.

"Project Z" dominated the game by defeating "Team Bilib" by 420 points. The team qualified for the "Fast Money Round," where they were represented by Era and Sofia.

Era started well by giving the three top answers from five questions, scoring 165 points. With Era scoring top marks, Sofia only needed 35 more points for "Project Z" to win P200,000.

Sofia's three qualified answers accumulated their points at 204, but a quiet response by the young contestant is now making the rounds online.

The third survey question was: "Sa iyong palagay, ano ang trabaho ng presidente ng Pilipinas?"

Era previously answered: "Nagko-kontrol ng bansa," which scored 10 points.

"Gumagawa ng batas," Sofia answered.

She later acknowledged that it was not the correct



"Family Feud Philippines" host Dingdong Dantes with contestant Sofia Mallares

answer since lawmaking is the job of legislators, such as senators and congressman. Nevertheless, Sofia's answer garnered 14 points, higher than Era's.

Dingdong then shared the top answer was "Ayusin ang problema ng bansa," eliciting a reaction from Sofia, who bluntly murmured, "Ah, hindi niya rin ginagawa..."

The moment belatedly trended as the microphone barely picked up Sofia's response. Last Monday, "Family Feud Philippines" posted a clip highlighting the reaction, followed by numerous art cards doing the same across social media platforms.

7 Pinay Celebrities Who Are Proudly Flat-Chested

Welcome to the flat-ernity, they say.

Among Pinays, when someone has big breasts, she is regarded as "pinagpala" or "blessed" as a literal translation. So if you're flat-chested, some might see you as lacking something in terms of beauty. But Cosmo, along with several Pinay celebrities, say otherwise.

There are Pinay celebrities who have been championing being flat-chested in so many ways. And they continue to inspire others to dare say they're "flat and proud!"



1. Gretchen Ho
News anchor and athlete Gretchen Ho is also a member of the flat-chested community. In May

2019, she received a comment on Twitter. The comment read: "@gretchenho Wala ka pala boobs #UKG hahaha."

The former volleyball player remained calm and responded to the netizen saying, "Loud and proud my friend." Go, Gretchen!

2. Maureen Wroblewitz
Maureen Wroblewitz once reminded everyone that nobody's perfect, and that it will always be okay. In 2018, Maureen responded to a rude comment in the calmest and most chill way ever.

In one of her Instagram posts in 2018, a netizen asked her, "Bakit flat?" The reply was referring to her breasts. Although it was a very short comment, Maureen decided to answer back and put the netizen in their place.

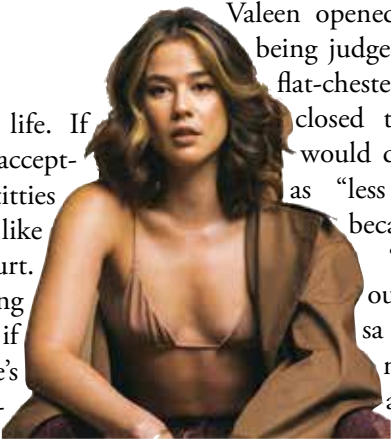
"IDK you can't

have everything in life. If I haven't already accepted my itty bitty titties then something like this would really hurt. What were you trying to achieve? Imagine if this was on someone's photo who was really insecure. we should be able to love ourselves and accept who we are. Don't make it harder for us," she replied. Such strong words, Maureen!



3. Valeen Montenegro
Actress-comedienne Valeen Montenegro once got candid about her small boobs—and it's something everyone should hear.

In a 2021 episode of her show, Mars Pa More,



Valeen opened up about being judged for being flat-chested. She disclosed that people would describe her as "less feminine" because of it.

"Shout out nga pala sa mahihilig mag-judge at sabihin na ako ay [flat-chested] or nakatalikod. Sana ay mas malaki na lang yung boobs para mas perfect, mas feminine tingnan." "Yon ang lagi nilang sinasabi," she declared.

That was the first time that Valeen publicly addressed people's judgment, saying that she's not ashamed nor insecure of her breasts and her body. She doesn't see it as a hindrance to her active lifestyle. ICYDK, she's a gym-goer.

"I'm very confident with my babies (breasts). I love them how they are. Kasi hindi siya hindrance [to my ac-

tive lifestyle]. I'm not saying naman for other people that have bigger boobies than me are nahihirapan," Valeen mentioned.

"Pero I love the way they are and I'm not at all insecure about them. As in, I'm so confident and I'm so blessed to have [these]. Kasi feeling ko, sakto siya sa lifestyle ko din," she concluded.

4. Gabbi Garcia

Gabbi Garcia has been very vocal about body positivity. She has long advocated for it and successfully uses her platform to educate a lot of people. In 2018, Gabbi made a bold statement about her ~her body~.

"Yes, I have no boobs, I'm flat-chested + I have my own fair share of stretch marks. And I don't see anything wrong with it. If your definition of being 'sexy' doesn't fit with my body type, well then sorry, but I LOVE MY BODY. And nobody deserves

PERSPECTIVE AND PERCEPTION

Glimpses On Significant Developments In The Philippines



Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Asia’s Most Bribery-Tolerant Country.

Based on the latest findings from the World Values Survey (7th Wave), “Only one-third or 3 in 10 Filipinos believe bribery is never justifiable”, making the Philippines one of the most tolerant countries toward bribery in Asia.” The World Values Survey is a long-running global research initiative aimed at understanding how people’s beliefs, values, and norms affect political, social, and economic development. The 7th Wave covered nearly 80 countries, including several in Asia. The findings come at a time when corruption scandals continue to dominate national headlines. According to the dataset analyzed by Dr. Rogelio Alicor Panoa, INQUIRER Metrics data scientist and associate professor at the University of the Philippines, “just 30.6 percent of Filipino respondents outright rejected bribery, much lower than in Indonesia (70.4%), Thailand (69.9%), Japan (81%) and Singapore (81.7%), where “outright rejection is nearly universal.” At the other extreme, 7.9 % of Filipinos said bribery is “always justifiable,” the highest share in the region. Disappointingly, nearly one in five (19.4%) chose the middle of the scale, suggesting that bribery may be acceptable in certain situations. Said Panoa, “These responses highlight a paradox and that, while Filipinos denounce corruption in public life, many also rationalise it as a practical necessity.” He further noted that in a system “marked by red tape, underfunded bureaucracies, and patronage politics,” bribery is often seen as a way to “grease the wheels.” “Ang data ay nagpapahiwatig na ang moral na mga panawagan ay maaaring hindi sapat upang masugpo ang pagtanggap na ito. Kakailanganin ang mas matatag na mga institusyon na nagbibigay ng katarungan at kahusayan nang walang shortcuts. Lumalabas sa



New Wave of Malls

Based on the LPC Research Annual Reports 2025 under its “Philippine Retail Market Overview”, “Retail development in the Philippines is accelerating in 2025, with a robust pipeline of new mall projects spread across key urban growth centres outside Metro Manila.” As “consumer activity continues to rebound and tenant performance surpasses benchmarks, developers are pivoting toward expansion, particularly in underserved and fast-growing provincial markets.” Recent industry data showed that developers have an estimated 105 new malls planned for upcoming projects. The most notable growth is occurring in regional urban hubs, where infrastructure expansion, population growth, and increasing consumer demand are creating new opportunities for retail.

Emerging Locations:

1. The Calabarzon Region, in Central Luzon, led at the forefront of mall expansion due to the “benefit from improving road networks, a rising middle-class population, and proximity to Metro Manila.” Developers are strategically positioning malls along major thoroughfares and within townships, often near residential and industrial zones.
2. In the Visayas, Cebu continues to anchor regional expansion,

supported by its status as a business and tourism hub. And, Iloilo and Bacolod offer compelling growth driven by rising urbanisation and consumer demand from neighbouring provinces.

3. In southern Mindanao, Davao is attracting retail investments with its stable economy, growing consumer base, and maturing commercial landscape. Mall Formats: Evolving preferences in consumer behaviour and retail development, Mall developers are increasingly leaning into open-air, lifestyle-centric, and mixed-use formats, rather than traditional enclosed mall designs.

Retail Spaces: Upcoming malls are expected to focus on food and beverage, health and wellness, and experience-based concepts, in line with national trends.

“Habang patuloy na nagbabago ang tanawin ng tingian at nangyayari ang ganitong pag-uunlad, tila mahusay ito sa mga kapitalista, negosyante, naghahanap ng trabaho, at mga spekulator, ngunit sa isang banda tataas naman ang mga buwis at halaga ng mga propiedad sa kapaligiran na hindi makayanan ng ibang mamayan. Isa pa , maaring mawala na ang air-conditioning sa mga malls, dahil magiging open-air na.Timbangin natin, tama o mali?”

mga ganid, at mga gahaman sa karumaldumal na suhol sa kanilang paghingi at pagtanggap ng pera para magpayaman.Talaga namang nakakahiya, nakaka-panggalit at nakakasuka. Mahirap na tanggapin na ito’y nasa masamang sistema at nasa dugo na kaya natin? Wala na kayang pag-asa para sa pagbabago at mapatawan ng parusang mabigat sa mga nagkasala?

North-South Elevated Railway Project

According to the Philippine Department of Transportation (DOTr), 28 Japanese firms, including big names in the industry, such as Mitsubishi Corp., Hitachi Ltd., Tokyo Metro, Sumitomo Corp. and Alstom Japan, have shown interest in bidding for the contract to operate and maintain (O&M) the North-South Commuter Railway System. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. gave the green light in July 2025 for a public-private partnership undertaking for the O&M of the North-South elevated railway line. In this infrastructure project, the President mandated the DOTr to pursue potential partnerships with “experienced railway” foreign firms. The NSCRS is a 147-kilometre elevated railway line, and the cost of the contract is estimated at Php 229.32 billion. The massive railway project is designed to ease travel across three regions: Central Luzon, Metro Manila, and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon). Advantageously, travel time from Clark (Pampanga) to Calamba (Laguna) would be shortened to about 3 hours via commuter service from the usual 4 hours. The trip will be faster by 2 hours using the limited express service. It will have 35 stations, including 31 elevated, three at-grade and one underground. The Philippine government hopes to make the full line operational by 2032, with preoperations slated by March 2026. It is expected to accommodate 1 million commuters daily. “Matatapos at magagamit kaya ito, pitong taon mula ngayon? Kahimanawari! Sana naman nga, dahil inaasahan ng mga Filipino ang ganitong mabilis, maginhawa at maluwalhating pag-babiyahе.”

Will Ashley calls out bashers sending him hate messages, now considering legal options

Will Ashley spoke up on the hate messages targeting him, his family, and his friends.

On X (formerly Twitter), the Sparkle star said that some bashers have gone as far as wishing his family ill.

“I’ve been getting a lot of messages saying they hope my mom dies. Bakit umabot tayo sa ganyan? Last week lang, nagkaroon ng online reflection about bullying and mental health, tapos lumala this week?” he wrote.

“We are just doing our job, working for our craft, our art -bakit kailangan itapon natin ang morality? O baka sadyang masama lang talaga kayong tao and can’t wait to wish ill on others.”

He also said this barrage of hate is happening not just to him, but also to his fellow housemates from “Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition.”

“We built a strong bond in the house, hindi n’yo ito masisira. Not everything we do is a calculated PR move, we are humans too,” he said.



“Four months kaming magkakasama, supporting each other every day through some of the toughest days of our lives, so obviously close talaga kami,” he added.

Will asked the fans to tone down the hate and save their outrage for “people who are doing evil.”

The Nation’s Son also said he is considering his legal options in case the hate messages do not stop.

“I don’t want to tolerate this hate anymore na ibinabato n’yo sa kahit sino. Not me, not my friends and especially not my family. This is not a good use of our limited time on earth. Sana use your time to spread love, positivity and support,” he said.

Will finished the PBB collab 1.0 as the Second Big Placer along with his Kapamilya duo, Ralph De Leon.

He recently held his debut concert at the New Frontier Theatre, which featured Bianca De Vera, Alden Richards, Jay Ronesvalles, and Eliza Maturan as guests.

The actor has two films in the upcoming Metro Manila Film Festival: “Bar Boys: After School” and “Love You So Bad.” He has also another upcoming movie, the horror flick “Poon.”

Several PBB collab 1.0 housemates, including Will, are also set to star in the upcoming collaboration project between GMA Network and ABS-CBN titled “Secrets of Hotel 88.”

Rita Daniela, aminadong siya ang nag-first move sa bf na si McLaude Guadaña

Ngayong masaya ang puso ni Rita Daniela, ibinahagi niya ang love story nila ng LPU Pirates player na si McLaude Guadaña.

Inamin ng Kapuso actress na siya ang nag-first move sa kanila ni McLaude.

“Nagsimula dahil kay Xavier Ramos na anak ni Wendell Ramos na nakita ko lang actually sa Instagram Story niya tapos sabi ko ‘luh parang cute ‘to,” ikinuwento ni Rita.

“So, ako as a fearless woman, bilang palaban, fi-nollow ko pero sa totoo lang, naglakas ako ng loob na i-follow siya kasi mukha talaga siyang suplado parang hindi naman ‘to nababakante, for sure may girlfriend ‘to. E, fi-nollow back ako, Tito Boy, syempre noong fi-nollow

back ako, gumalaw tayo agad. Ako ‘yung unang nag-message,” dagdag pa niya.

Ibinahagi naman ni McLaude na ang unang message niya sa aktres ay “Oh hi, Ms. Rita Daniela.”

Ibinuking naman ni Rita na ang kanyang unang message ay isang emoji lang, para hindi magalit ang girlfriend ni McLaude kung mayroon man itong nobya.

Sa patuloy na pagkilala nila sa isa’t isa, inamin ni McLaude na naging maganda agad ang kanilang usapan.

Makalipas ang tatlong araw, inaya ni McLaude si Rita sa isang date, hanggang sa napunta na sa tanong kung maaari ba siyang maging girlfriend ng aktres.

Dagdag pa Rita, “But ngayon po, sobrang grabe, ramdam na ramdam ko si Lord. Kaya lang po ako naiyak and naging emotional na tama po ‘yung sinabi niya na just keep [your] faith and maging mabuti ka lang during your waiting season because everything will be worth it.”



'Pinoy baiting' or bridging? Mikey Bustos on making content for Filipinos abroad and at home

MACAO, China — Growing up Filipino in Canada and spending the last 15 years living in the Philippines, Mikey Bustos has learned to speak to two worlds at once.

His YouTube career — which began nearly two decades ago with parody songs and comedy skits — has evolved into something more than just entertainment. For Bustos, it is a way of keeping Filipinos connected, no matter where they are.

"I uploaded my first video in 2006," he recalled. "I really feel like half my life I've been on the internet."

"At first, I just used YouTube to upload videos of my performances because I started in Canada as a singer," he said. "Then my comedy clicked, and by the end of that year, I was in the Philippines, signed to a TV network, and I never left."

Humor that connects

Bustos' early sketches found humor in the everyday — how Filipinos answer the phone,



our love of karaoke, or the quirks of our family dynamics.

"For my Filipino channel, my Filipino comedy videos, what I love to highlight are basically the little Filipino quirks that make Filipinos unique from other cultures," he said.

"I've created thousands of videos on Filipino culture and the cool things that are our common denominator. No matter where in the world you are, there's something that unites all Filipinos together," he added.

For Mikey, there is something inherently disarming about the way Filipinos carry themselves: gentle, welcoming, and effort-

lessly funny. Their warmth, he said, sets the tone for joy and connection.

"I feel like Filipinos were put on this earth for good vibes," he said.

Bridging, not baiting

In recent years, the term "Pinoy baiting" — used to describe creators who exploit Filipino culture for easy views — has sparked debate online. While often directed at non-Filipino creators, Bustos admits he has been caught in the crossfire.

"I've been accused of Pinoy baiting even though it's so strange because I'm Pinoy," he said with a laugh. "I'm just showing my own culture and what I've observed from growing up with my parents who are Filipino."

Having lived both in Canada and the Philippines, Bustos understands why people can be sensitive about how the culture is represented.

The heart of Bustos' work lies in connec-

tion — between Filipinos abroad and those at home.

"Bridging that has been a challenge over the years."

But after more than a decade of living in Manila, he feels he has gained perspective. "Because I've been part of both worlds, I can now understand why there's a rift," he said. "But that's why my content is out there — to bridge the two, because I have both minds now. I can resonate with both audiences."

And he sees progress. "We're starting to understand each other, which is great."

Using influence for good

Bustos was among the creators who joined the recently held Creator Week in Macao, where he and other international creators shared their insights on what it means to be a content creator in 2025.

For Bustos, those same principles also apply to Filipino creators back home. "My hope for Filipino creators is that we use it

for good," he said.

"We see a lot of hardship and a lot of struggles, there's corruption, and so as creators, I hope we realize the power we have at our fingertips now — to spread good vibes, to spread education, to spread anything through our talents in the world."

As someone who has been online for almost 20 years, his advice to young creators is simple: start. "The hardest part is starting," he said. "You don't need good equipment nowadays. Even my mom knows how to edit a video now. Just get started, it's never too late."

For Mikey Bustos, the internet is not just a stage — it's a meeting place for all kinds of Filipinos, wherever they may be.

Whether people call it Pinoy baiting or Pinoy bridging, Mikey does not mind the label. What matters to him is that Filipinos feel seen — because for him, every time Filipino culture reaches the world, that is already a win.

Barbie Forteza opens up on what makes her heart 'whole'

Dubbed GMA's "Primetime Princess," Barbie Forteza continues to prove why she more than deserves the crown.

Barbie takes her star power to the global stage as she headlines Netflix's campy comedy-drama "Kontrabida Academy," where she shares

the screen with some of the industry's most iconic villains.

Petite at just five feet tall, Barbie stands as one of the true "giants" of GMA's primetime roster.

We recently caught up with the ever-grounded star to talk about her craft, the new skill she's unlocked, her "whole" heart, and what truly keeps her going.

Does the title "Primetime Princess" come with pressure?

"Being recognized by my home network and the people I respect means the world to me. I carry that title with pride, gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility."

What was it like working alongside some of the industry's top kontrabidas?



"There was one shoot day when all the kontrabida icons were on set, and I messaged my Ate Abby saying, 'Bessy, I think I made it.' To be surrounded by artists I've looked up to — masters of their craft — and to get to know them per-

sonally was such a surreal moment. I'll never forget that day."

Last two questions. What's the status of your heart these days? Are you dating or entertaining suitors?

"My heart has always been whole. I've always been in love with my job, inspired by my family, and I make sure to spoil myself. I honestly can't ask for more."

Work Permit Mistake worries three Filipinos

WORK PERMIT from page 1

working immediately, leaving them with the option to either re-start their entire application from scratch or depart the country in 90 days.

"I thought, 'oh my God, is this really happening?'" said Dave Hiscock, the operations manager at Brycon Construction. He said he can't understand why the department didn't flag that a small detail of the application was missing.

"It's an awful penalty for whether a fee wasn't paid or a piece of paper wasn't put in. You're uprooting three-plus lives," said Hiscock.

"These people have done nothing wrong while they've been in Canada. They've paid their taxes. They're good working staff."

In a statement, IRCC told CBC that the onus is on the workers to make sure their applications are complete. If they believe there was an error made in the decision, they can appeal. Otherwise, they

have to reapply.

On average, it takes about 180 days, or six months, to consider a new application. During that time, the men cannot work and their provincial health card is made invalid.

Brycon Construction just began work on the Highway 103 twinning project between Hubbards and Chester on the province's South Shore.

The men — Jafferson Palabasan, Raddy Adams Manicadao and Rene Logrinio — are vital to the project, said Hiscock, who called his local member of Parliament but was told nothing could be done to expedite the process.

The rejections came as a shock for the three men, who arrived at the same time in 2022. All have applied to become permanent residents, hoping to stay here and bring their families to Halifax. Now, they don't know how they'll afford food.

"It's a dream city to me. It's a better future to my daughter," said Palabasan, who has been waiting for approval to move his



wife and six-year-old daughter out of the Philippines.

"Seeing them struggling, it's doubling the hardship I'm experiencing now."

Logrinio sends money home to support his wife and three daughters. He doesn't know if he can afford to wait out the new six-month process.

"Without a job or income, I cannot survive here," he said.

Adams Manicadao said his savings are almost gone and he can no longer pay for his wife's insulin to manage her diabetes.

The situation is becoming more and more common, said Elizabeth Wozniak, an immigration lawyer based in Halifax.

She said years ago, immigration officers could use their discretion to flag a missing piece of an application that could be fixed within minutes. Now, she said, the work permits are rejected outright.

"When it doesn't work, it goes really, really badly really fast, and the consequences are huge," she said. "It's a bit of a minefield when you're applying for extension applica-

tions."

In the meantime, it's next to impossible for Brycon to hire local staff or contract out the work, Hiscock said. When he books six job interviews, he's lucky if one applicant shows up, he said.

"There's a lot of days of pulling hair and wondering where are we going to find people to get the work done," he said.

Brycon now employs 18 international workers among a staff of 120. All of them are hoping to stay with the company long term and become permanent residents in Canada, Hiscock said.

The operations manager said he's learned a terrible lesson, and is advising other companies to learn from the mistake.

In the future, Brycon will use immigration consultants to make sure the applications for his international employees are done correctly, he said.

"This will never happen again under my watch, never. Lesson learned."

'Not a huge deal': Xyriel Manabat proud of her nose job

Actress Xyriel Manabat believes that undergoing surgical procedures to enhance oneself is no longer an issue.

The former child star and recent "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Collab Edition" housemate proudly talked about her nose job.

"It's not an issue. I'm proud of it. And I'm happy to advocate about it kasi empowering din siya sa mga tao na may insecurities. There is nothing wrong naman with making yourself more attractive," she told ABS-CBN News.

"If it's not a huge deal to me, I don't

mind what it is to them," she added.

The former child star said that she is happy that young women admire her for what she believes in.

"Hangga't kaya kong maging boses ng mga voiceless, I'll speak up for them. At 'wag silang mahihiya to stand up for what's right," she said.

"At huwag nilang kalilimutan na ipaglaban kung ano 'yung napi-feel nilang dapat nilang bosesan," she added.

'Not a huge deal': Xyriel Manabat proud of her nose job



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NOTABLE MULTICULTURAL SERVICE CENTRE CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.



Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The Kababayan Multicultural Centre (KMC), one of the longest-serving Filipino Canadian hubs in the Greater Toronto Area, held its 48th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on September 20, 2025. It was a meaningful gathering of officers, members, community partners, supporters, friends and volunteers in celebration of the quintessential service organization’s purpose of pursuing the essence of community spirit and community building.

The event, according to its website, was an opportunity to reflect on the achievements made in 2024-2025. These include, more than ever, “strengthening partnerships, growing our presence and finding new ways to connect with more newcomers and immigrants.” Those who celebrated with them in person and online caught a brief view of what the future holds for KMC and how it will continue to support its clients and the community, as well.

KMC, officially known as Kababayan Community Service Centre, Inc.(KCSC), is a not-for-profit organisation and is funded by federal, provincial, and municipal governments. It is “dedicated to helping newcomers and immigrants in Toronto successfully integrate into Canadian



society.” As a non-partisan and non-political entity, KMC “ offers a wide range of settlement and employment services to aid individuals, especially the youth, women and seniors, as they navigate and build their lives in Canada.

The prominent multicultural centre has thrived over the past four-and-a-half decades, since it began in 1977, initially as a resource for Filipino immigrants. Presently, it supports newcomers and immigrants from all over the world to succeed and has assisted over 70,000 clients. Operationally, KMC supports and services its clients in-house

in 3 community spaces in Toronto and connects them with settlement partners, community resources and employment/ career guidance information. The services it delivers are available in English, Farsi, Hindi, Nepali, Spanish and Filipino(Tagalog) languages.

On its 2024-2025 annual report: “ The Year of Transformations”, among other items, KMC highlighted the following accomplishments: 1) 11,049 types of services were delivered, 2) 4,178 individual clients served, 3) 136 sessions conducted, and 4) 3070 group session participants. Proudly, under the leadership of Chairman of the Board, Ben S. Corpuz and Executive Director Rizza Solis, together with their professional staff, KMC received the Golden Balangay Award(GBA) for “Most Influential Community Organization” in 2024, a recognition and reflection of the “more than 45-year journey of building a welcoming and inclusive environment, to serve newcomers and immigrants from all nationalities across Canada.” (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

Jak Roberto not courting Kylie Padilla, happy for ex Barbie Forteza

Kapuso actor Jak Roberto is not closing the door on being friends with ex-girlfriend and fellow actor Barbie Forteza, whom he dated for seven years.



Jak talked with Boy Abunda where the host surprised him by asking if he was courting his “My Father’s Wife” co-star Kylie Padilla. The actor said he was not courting Kylie, stressing they are only comfortable with each other after having worked together on “Bolera” three years ago. He went on to praise Kylie’s openness in scenes, her acting talent, and how easy she is to talk to. “Hindi siya mahirap mahalin. Napaka-open at genuine, napakatalinong kausap. For me, wala sigurong guy na hindi mai-in love sa kanya dahil ganun siya ka-genuine na tao,” Jak said. The actor added he would not consider courting Kylie at the moment, as he wants to cherish the friendship they have built.

The episode also saw Jak address his seven-year relationship with Barbie, who announced their breakup just as 2025 began. Boy asked Jak what he learned from the relationship, to which the actor replied that Barbie molded him into the man he is today.

Inspired by Barbie, Jak said he ventured into business and began building his own house. “Malaking parte siya ng pitong taon na ‘yun. Siyempre malaking

parte siya ng puso ko, kasi hindi naman biro ang seven years,” Jak said, expressing gratitude for what they shared. Asked if he and Barbie were on friendly terms, Jak said he has remained friends with past partners, so he sees no issue doing the same with Barbie. Boy later mentioned rumors that Jameson Blake, Barbie’s “Kontrabida Academy” co-star, was courting the actress and that Jak had said “it’s about time” Barbie met someone new.

Jak shared that he and Jameson had met while modeling for a clothing line, and during their last conversation, they discussed Barbie and how great a person she is.

“You have to be happy na lang sa tao, kaibigan mo man o ka-relasyon na naghiwalay or nagtatampuhan, magwi-wish ka na lang lagi ng maganda para sa kanila,” Jak said.

The actor ended by saying he had no regrets from his seven years with Barbie and reiterated what he previously told Boy – that the secret to a long relationship is pure commitment.

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PCCF 15th Anniversary Gala was a Resounding Success!

PCCF GALA from page 2

an accomplished young professional. The awards were presented by Senator Asha Seth and Rosemer Enverga, PCCF President.

The event also featured the much anticipated crowning of the Mrs. Philippines Canada 2025, ‘Pageant with a Cause’ where 6 gorgeous ladies competed at the pre-pageant earlier that day. The ladies were serenaded by Toronto’s own Haranista Heartthrob, Rhett Dela Cruz, the ladies were radiant in grace and poise. Performers were Lilac Cana, Tracy Mai, Paul Arena, Krystelle Rivas- Little Miss Philippines Canada 2025, Charisma Toupin- Miss Teen Philippines Canada 2025, Hannah Lopes-Miss Teen Philippines Canada RU, Andrea Penaverde- Miss Philippines Canada RU kept the audience engaged and entertained throughout. Congratulations to all our candidates: Maricar Velasco, Roselle Natividad, Paula Gunda, Kriss Joie Miranda, Janine Fernandez and Arlene Pacana! One candidate, Paula flew in all the way from Winnipeg with her husband to compete.

A beautiful farewell walk took place as Greatchen Griffiths - Mrs. Philippines Canada 2024 made her final walk. The crown went to Arlene Pacana, Mrs. Philippines Canada 2025, Janine Fernandez - Mrs. Philippines Canada 2025 1st runner-up and Kriss Miranda - Mrs. Philippines Canada 2025 2nd runner-up. We are proud of



you!

The event was emceed by Kirsten Co-Miss Teen Philippines Canada 2024 and Chaileen Ong-Miss Teen Philippines Canada RU. They were joined Princess Saladino-Miss Philippines Canada 2025. The pageant was tabulated by AFCA. More photos from the pageant can be found on Miss Philippines Canada

The celebration was further elevated by an exciting line-up of performances from groups like the Multicultural Dancers, BFNE, LDLEL, Favoloso, Just for Fun Dance, Good Life Dancers and DMD. As well as multi-tal-

ented singer Lilac Cana performed traditional and operatic song numbers much to the delight of the crowd.

In the spirit of charity, a raffle draw was held where part of the proceeds will be donated to the victims of the recent earthquakes in the Philippines.

It was a truly memorable night and a fitting tribute to mark this milestone celebration. Congratulations to the officers, members and supporters of the PCCF on achieving this milestone!

THANK YOU all for your support! We look forward to celebrating with you all again next year! Mabuhay!

ABOUT PCCF

The Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to have fun, while helping others.

For over a decade, PCCF has supported and spearheaded various charitable projects. Most notably, the building of the the ANCOPTALA Village in Caloocan, Philippines which is home to over 30 families impacted by Leprosy; relief efforts cause by natural disasters such as earthquakes and Typhoon Yolanda plus so much more.

Rica Peralejo on reuniting with Piolo Pascual in ‘Manila’s Finest’

One of the reasons Rica Peralejo-Bonifacio accepted the offer to be part of the 2025 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) official entry “Manila’s Finest” was because of Piolo Pascual.

Helmed by Raymond Red, Rica and Piolo portray a couple in the movie produced by MQuest Ventures and Cignal.

Set in 1969, the crime drama film follows the story of a band of Manila policemen struggling to preserve their integrity and loyalties as creeping state control signals a nation about to change. Piolo plays a seasoned cop named Lt. Homer Magtibay.

During the look test and table reading held at the Meralco Lighthouse in Ortigas, Rica and Piolo were seated next to each other.

She said that Piolo is one of the factors why she considered “Manila’s Finest,” which also marks her comeback acting project after years of showbiz hiatus.

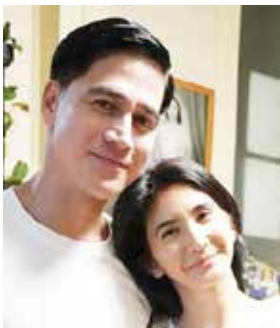
“Yeah, one, is that my husband (Pastor Joseph Bonifacio) was right in saying that Piolo never makes poor-quality films. It’s like, ‘Oo nga no.’ If you check his record in the past few films that he’s been in, these are really high-caliber films. And yun yung isa sa mga... OK, one box ticked na yun for me. And this must be a good project for him to consider it.”

That said, Rica is relying on Piolo to guide her in her return to the set.

“I’m just banking on our relationship because we’ve known each other for... My gosh, teens pa lang yata kami, I already know him. Pager pa lang po ang meron tayo, we’re already friends,” she recalled.

“So, I’m really banking on... nasasandalan ko siya. Because it’s hard to return from a very long break, and it helps to have somebody familiar who is there, whom you know would support you.”

The filming of “Manila’s Finest” has already begun, and they’ve already shot their scenes together.



To this day, the two have remained friends. “We don’t talk naman every day, we don’t text. We don’t really keep in touch that way. But I feel like we’ve been so close in the past. It’s just like when you see each other again, parang kapatid, alam mo yun? You’ve known somebody all your life. That’s the feeling or relationship that I have with him. Hindi ako naiilang because this is the person I know.”

The actress previously admitted that she had a “no-label” relationship with Piolo.

“I didn’t have regrets because you always take life as ito lang. I mean, there’s only a part of it you can control and there’s a large part of it you cannot. So, I just take it as ganun lang talaga yung meron kaming dapat. That life moves on, life goes on,” she told this paper.

Piolo, on the other hand, said that working with Rica in the film was “super nostalgic.” In his words, “We always go back to how we were during our time. And now we’re back, we’re still here. It’s just to be able to talk and reconnect. I’m just excited not just to reminisce but also to learn something from each other and share about our lives, what we’ve been through the past few years.”

Their last project together was the 2006 TV drama series “Sa Piling Mo,” starring Piolo and Judy Ann Santos, and they also did a couple of concert tours with Sam Milby.

On his reaction about their past “no-label relationship,” Piolo just smiled and said, “It’s between us. OK naman. You know there was something mutual, yeah, you can say that there was no label, but amin yun eh. Amin yun? Haha! We had an understanding. It’s hard to put into words, OK

yun. OK yun? Haha! Yun na yun.”

Rica is now happily married to Pastor Joseph and they have two sons.

Rita Daniela celebrates court victory in case against Archie Alemania

Kapuso actress and singer Rita Daniela expressed gratitude after winning her legal battle against actor Archie Alemania, who was found guilty of acts of lasciviousness by a Bacoor court.

In a heartfelt Instagram post, Rita thanked God and everyone who supported her through the case.

“Thank you God for everything. Thank you for blessing me with people who have great hearts who have been helping me and still believing in me no matter what,” she wrote.

The ruling sentenced Archie to up to one year in jail and ordered him to pay P20,000 in civil indemnity and P20,000 in moral damages. The case stemmed from a 2024 incident in which Rita accused the actor of sexual misconduct.

“The justice I received today is not only for me but for all the women and men who were abused, harassed, and molested who didn’t have the voice and platform to fight for their own rights,”

she added.

Celebrities and fans filled Rita’s comments section with words of support, praising her for her courage and resilience.

“Today, we all won. We won. God loves us,” she wrote, closing her post with a message of hope.

Ogie Diaz is coming to Toronto!

Join us for the premiere night of How to Get Away from Toxic Family, starring Zanjoe Marudo, Susan Africa and more, on Saturday, Nov 9 at 6 PM at Xinflix Media.

After the showing, meet & greet Ogie Diaz with the lovely Mama Loi ~ a perfect photo-op and VIP moment!

Ogie Diaz is a veteran

TV personality, celebrity blogger, entertainment reporter and talent manager from the Philippines. He boasts a strong social-media presence with millions of followers!

We hope to see you at the Premiere Night!

For tickets & sponsorship opportunities, please text 647-278-4374.

Don’t miss this exciting night—see you there!



Trump’s Tariffs and Policies are Killing Jobs in Canada and the Philippines

CANADA-PHL page 8

year history, saying the \$13bn cash injection would create 5,000 jobs across the midwestern United States.

Stellantis said that “as part of this announcement, we will move one model from Canada to the US.”

Unifor, Canada’s largest private-sector union representing thousands of autoworkers, said the model in question was the Jeep Compass, which will shift from a plant in Brampton, Ontario, to Illinois.

Unifor leaders said the jobs were yet more casualties of Donald Trump’s trade war.

“Canadian auto jobs are being sacrificed on the Trump altar,” Lana Payne, Unifor’s national president, said in a statement, calling on Mark Carney’s government “to use Canada’s leverage now to fight for our auto jobs”.

Doug Ford, Ontario’s premier, called the announcement “painful” for workers.

“I have spoken with Stellantis to stress my disappointment with their decision to prioritize investment in the US,” Ford said, also urging Carney “to stand up for the 157,000 workers in Ontario’s auto sector”.

Reshoring auto jobs has been a central plank of Trump’s trade policy.

Crown Royal Leaves Canada

Crown Royal Bottling Plant Closure Sets Off Political Firestorm in Ontario

Ontario Premier Doug Ford is calling on Canadians to boycott Crown Royal, after the parent company that owns the whisky brand announced plans to close a bottling plant in Ontario and move the facility’s operations to the U.S.

During a September 2 press conference reported on by CTV News, Ford poured a bottle of Crown Royal out in front of reporters, declaring that “everyone else should do the same thing,” and calling Crown Royal’s parent company Diageo “about as dumb as a bag of hammers” for



Food courts that are open late or 24/7 are an appealing, convenient option for meals, breaks, or after-work gatherings for call centre employees. A massive unemployment in the call center industry will adversely affect the earnings of the food court business and malls in general.

its decision to close its Ontario plant.

Crown Royal was first introduced in Canada in 1939 to commemorate a visit to the country by Britain’s King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The whisky is made with Canadian grains and water from Lake Winnipeg, and was first made available outside of Canada in 1964. Not long after that, it became the top-selling Canadian whisky in the United States.

Although Crown Royal has been produced exclusively in Canada for decades, Diageo announced on August 28 that its Ontario plant would be shutting down by February 2026, as part of a strategy to move it’s U.S. bottling operations closer to American customers. However, bottling for the Canadian market and the rest of the world will continue to come out of the company’s Quebec facility.

Proposed US laws could threaten BPO jobs in PH

If enacted, the two pending measures in Congress could also raise costs for American consumers

The Philippines’ booming business process outsourcing (BPO) sector – a key pillar of the country’s economy – faces renewed uncertainty as US lawmakers push measures to restrict the offshoring of customer service jobs.

If enacted, the proposals could threaten millions of Filipino jobs and raise costs for American consumers.

Two pending measures in Congress – the Keep Call Centers in America Act of 2025 and the Halting International Relocation of Employment (HIRE) Act of 2025 – aim to encourage companies to keep customer service operations within the United States.

Analysts warn the bills could make outsourcing less attractive for firms that have long relied on the Philippines for cost-efficient, English-speaking talent.

Keep Call Centers in America Act

Introduced in July 2025 by Senators Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) and Jim Justice (R-W.Va.), the Keep Call Centers

in America Act would require the US Department of Labor to identify companies that offshore at least 30% of their call center jobs. Companies on the list would lose access to federal grants and guaranteed loans for five years.

The bill also mandates that agents outside the US disclose their location and the use of artificial intelligence (AI), while allowing customers to request a US-based representative.

According to the senators’ offices, call centers employ about 3 million customer service representatives nationwide, citing Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.

The BLS projects a loss of 150,000 US call center jobs by 2033 as companies continue to move operations offshore or automate customer interactions.

A Data for Progress survey found that 70% of Americans find automated phone systems more frustrating than speaking with live representatives.

“This bill will encourage companies to keep their call centers in the US and require that they tell you up front if you’re talking to an AI bot — protecting American jobs and making your day easier,” Sen. Gallego said. “If you’re calling customer service, chances are your day isn’t going great. On those frustrating days, you should be able to talk to a real human being right here in the US.”

Sen. Justice added, “West Virginians and all Americans deserve good service. When folks pick up the phone and ask for help, they shouldn’t have to deal with AI robots or be routed to someone across the world. This bill puts American workers first and ensures people can talk to a real person who understands them when they need help.”

The Communications Workers of America (CWA), representing thousands of call center workers, has en-

Filipino Ontarians lead the 2025 Golden Balangay Awards and Nominations

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.



Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The Golden Balangay Foundation(GBF) presented distinguished Golden Balangay Awards during its “7th Awards Night and Gala”, held at Sir John A. Macdonald Building, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Ontario, on September 20, 2025. This year’s theme was “Bangkang Papel”.

The Philippine Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Jose Victor Chan-Gonzaga, was the guest of honour and keynote speaker. Ambassador Chan-Gonzaga praised the “contributions of Filipino Canadians from healthcare and business to public service and the arts, and highlighted their impact on Canadian society and encouraged their continued con-



nection to the Philippines.” He also called on the community “to continue pursuing excellence and integrity, and to remain active partners in nation-building both in Canada and in the Philippines.”

The 12 Ontario “kakumprob-insya” who received recognition awards in 13 categories were: Abby Albino -”Excellence Award in Sports and Fitness; Jennilee Austria-”Excellence Award in Arts and Culture”; Dr. Edward Cruz-”Pinoy of the Year”, Mark

Anthony Gravoso -”Manggagawang Pilipino Award”; Jeffrey Ko-”Educator of the Year”; Architect Rommel Lumbao- “Entrepreneur of the Year”; Cherie Lei Mercado -”Excellence Awards in Media; Larnes Joy Nabarreti-”Educational Excellence (Post-Secondary)”; Monina Lim Serrano and Resty Del Rosario--”Lifetime Achievement”; Tomas Tan-”Community Service”; and Philippine Centre Canada-”Most Influential Community Organization of the

Year”. The other 3 winners, Young Leader of the Year Regine Lura, and Senior Achievement Award-ee Bella Cenezero, are from New Brunswick and British Columbia, respectively.

Among known Ontarians, presented with “Certificates of Nominations” were Clinical Nurse Specialist Caroline Banez, Social Worker Veronica Javier, University Professor Dr Marissa Largo, Broadcast Journalist Theresa Redula, and the Scarborough On-

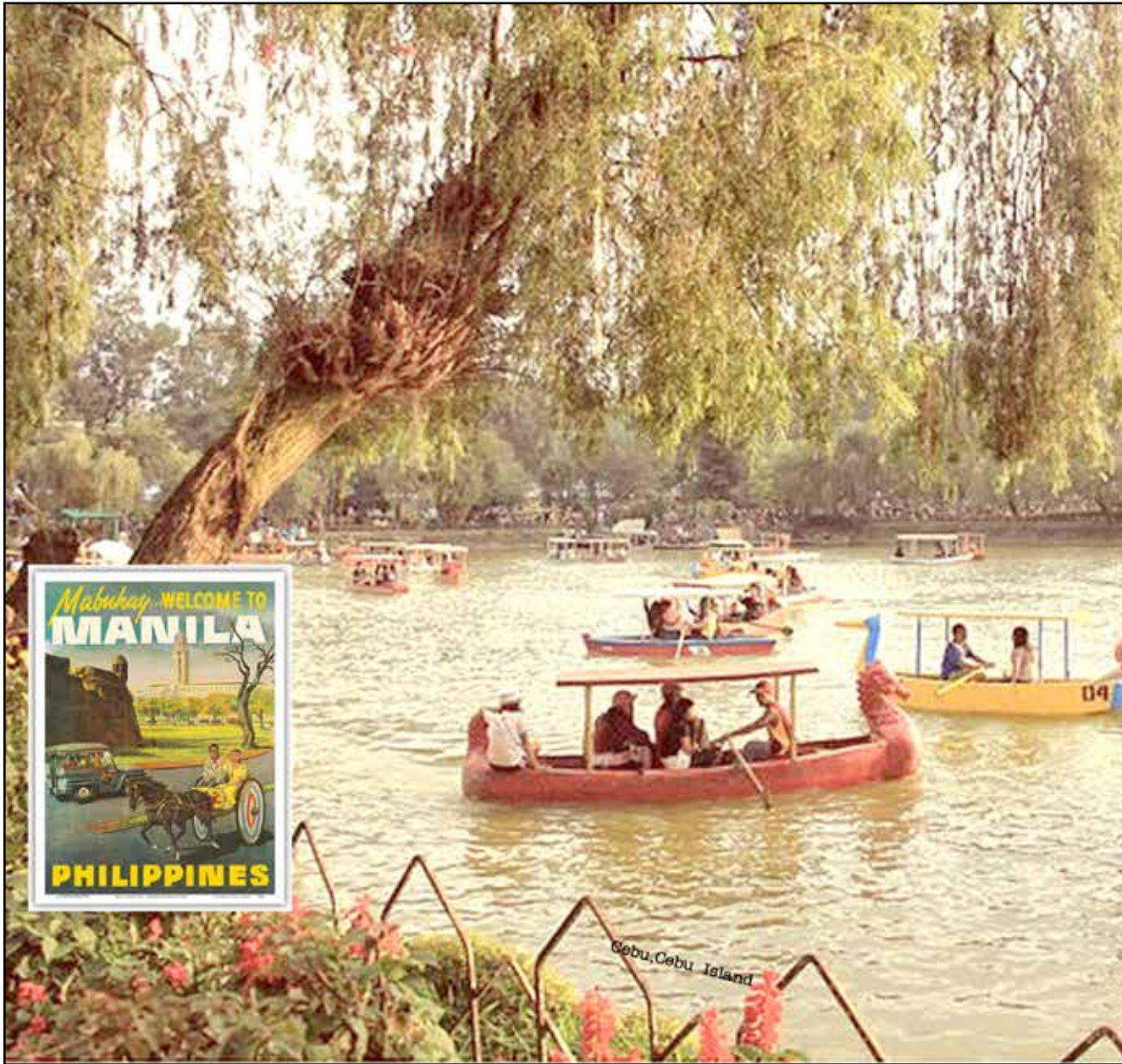
tario Seniors Association(SOSA). Of the 69 GBA individual and institutional candidates from across Canada, 71% or 49 Ontarians were designated category winners(12), while 37 received nominations.

Ronnie Dela Gana of IKubo Media and Jovito Favila of Awards Online Canada co-founded the Golden Balangay Foundation, a registered not-for-profit organisation. The Golden Balangay Awards, GBF’s premiere program, is a Canada-wide search for outstanding Filipino Canadians in a given year. The GBA, established in 2017, celebrate the excellence and contributions of Filipino Canadians in the arts, community building, education, entrepreneurship, media, and public service. “Maligayang bati sa mga” winners and nominees of GBA 2025! “Pagpalain nawa kayo ng Mahal nating Maykapal ! “ (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

Forget Me Not:

Mika Sy wrote, directed and starred in a Toronto-made movie Forget Me Not. 1. Judy Tan-McDonald, Forget me Not writer, director and lead star Mika Sy, Shai Jaramillo, Imelda Concepcion. mom Jennifer Sy; 2. Mika Sy with parents Jennifer & Philip; 3. Ryan Orlanda, co-star Dana Beddoe, Cesar Marquez; 4. Cast and crew of Forget Me Not





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Nobody loves Christmas as much as us Filipinos that we start it September 1. Mariah Carey acknowledged our love of Christmas that she allowed us to sing her hit song "All I want for Christmas is You" before November 1, which she says is the official start of the season. So, we can already greet fellow-Pinoys

Merry Christmas



Joey Baking The Socialist

"Some of the days in November carry the whole memory of summer as a fire opal carries the color of moon rise."

GLADYS TABER



Halloween Celebration mixes with Marky Hugh's premiere of his movie The Chain.

Cold Days and Parties are here



Dana Beddoe (WITH FLOWERS) with friends. See other photos on page 12.

A talent of JDL has rocked out her first concert. Dana Beddoe, Rock Out Concert had her first concert at Xinflix to open the cold month of October. The concert was opened by Pink Ribbon, a two-girl group of Mika Sy and Shai Jaramillo. Mika Sy had a solo number first followed by two more songs by both of them. Pink Ribbon has been singing at different events in Toronto. Mika Sy directed and wrote her first movie "Forget Me Not." The entrance was just decadent. She entered with a chariot pulled by her two backup dancers Chollo Lagdameo and Owen and opened with an upbeat number. With the title of the concert, I thought she was going to sing all rock songs. Thankfully, her playlist was a variety of genre showcasing her vocal range. Some of the songs are "I'm just a girl," "Before he cheats" by Carrie Underwood, "Kiss Me," "What's up," and "Sweet dreams

by Eurythmics to name a few. She also had a piano number "I want you to stay" by Rihanna. She sang a duet with another singer and vocal coach Candace Santos with the song "Took me all night long." Dana performed a Tagalog song Yosi Balasi with her backup dancers Owen and Chollo. She sang the song "Black sheep" from the movie Scott Pilgrim VS The World. Her guest stars Mark Rivera and Kaitlyn Kwok had a duet number. Mark Rivera co-stars in the CBC TV show Son of a Critch which shoots in Newfoundland. Dana performed "Complicated" by Avril Lavigne, "Alone" from heart and an original song produced by Scott Brown. She performed a popular Bon Jovi song "It's my Life" to the delight of the crowd. Mark Rivera sang an energetic

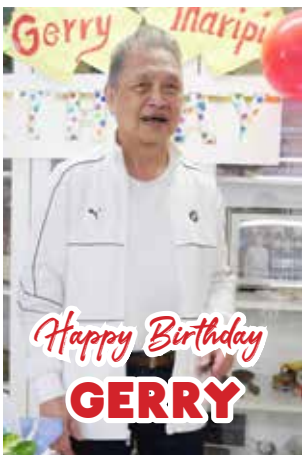
song "Shut up and Dance," by Walk the Moon and followed it up with what I would assume was a song from Newfoundland. Scott Dion Brown's solo number was memorable for a "surreal" reason. Wearing a sleeveless leather vest, he performed Franki Valli's "Can't take my eyes of you." Even he acknowledged the mismatch between the iconic love song and his outfit. "I'm not sure the song matched my outfit," he said after his number. His follow-up number was more relevant to his outfit. It was "Hungry like the wolf," by Duran Duran. Dana's concert was a showcase of her talent. For me, this is a performer that did not take her audience for granted. It showed that great preparation for this concert. Well, for me, anyone who has 6 costume changes in between a few songs shows that she is really serious about making sure to keep the audience's attention. It was an impressive show of talent, choreography and style. Congratulations to Dana Beddoe and everyone involved. What or who are Abba Revisited? According to their website, "We are ABBA Revisited, proudly recognized as North America's leading tribute to the iconic band ABBA! Since 2001, our incredibly talented

members have been enchanting audiences across the globe, bringing the magic of ABBA to life. With authentic costumes that reflect the original band's style, spectacular harmonies that resonate with fans, and note-perfect musicianship, we take our audience on an unforgettable musical journey back in time. From the vibrant stages of Las Vegas to the beautiful beaches of the Bahamas, and from the lively atmosphere of the Philippines to the rich culture of El Salvador, and even the dazzling city of Dubai, ABBA Revisited recreates the show-stopping look and sound that ABBA enthusiasts around the world simply cannot resist! Philip Beloso of Whispering Notes Productions produced, with Joy D'aoust and Mitzi Faigal co-produced an ABBA Revisited dinner-concert that delighted the audience. It was a packed room of fans that listened to every ABBA song that they grew up listening to. And the group saved the most popular song as their encore song. They encored it with the song everyone was waiting for, "Dancing Queen." Everyone had a wonderful time that night. Marky Hugh produced a horror movie to show that Filipinos are capable of making a genre besides rom-com, drama or comedy. His Toronto-made "The Chain" is that movie. I thought I would never understand the movie because I really do

not watch horror movies. But, the movie makes sense. It recognizes the Filipinos' belief in the supernatural. It was a good movie. The premiere also showed his short documentary called "ALL ACCESS". "It's real behind-the-scenes footage, swearing and all. Nothing was scripted on the actual concert day. It's raw, authentic, and shows another side of me haha! Of course, some narrations were prepared during the prep, but the heart of it is unscripted reality," says Marky in the teaser. The premiere night also had a halloween costume contest among the students. It was a wonderful, spooky night. Toronto Filipinos are diversifying in the world of movie-making. "Forget Me Not" is a bittersweet story written, directed and starred by Mika Sy. It had a well-attended show at the Royal theatre last February 25. I was not able to attend but judging from the reactions, everyone was satisfied with the acting and the production. Congratulations to Mika Sy and the whole production team. More power to you.



Forget Me Not co-star Dana Beddoe with star, writer & director Mikay Sy



Happy Birthday
GERRY



Happy Birthday
Maripi



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Gloria, Wendy, & Frank

PAINTING from page 3
their painting classmates, family, and friends gratefully savoured the “handang mga pagkain”(potluck food), especially Tess’s roast beef, cakes, desserts, drinks and chicheria. Never a lost tradition, the practice of “kodakan, kumustahan, kuwentohan”, during and after the “kain-an”, was the usual fare of a successful natal day gathering. “Maligayang Kaarawan ulit sa lahat na nagdiwang!!!” (Tony A. San Juan, OCT.)



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Watching Mudrasta movie



1. Phl actress Carmi Martin, Agnes Miranda; Nitz Rejdik, Carmie Martin, Esther; 3. Jennifer Sy, Nitz Rejdik, Cecille Araneta, Agnes Miranda; 4. FCT group with Carmie Martin; 5. Cecille Araneta (FAR RIGHT) with Philippine actress Carmi Martin



Chaileen Ong-Miss Teen Philippines Canada RU , LM Confidential publisher Joey Baking and Miss Teen Philippine Canada 2025 1st RU pose at the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) gala.



Saying Goodbye



Our sincere condolences to our columnist and friend Tony San Juan for the loss of his wife Joy San Juan (ABOVE).

To the members of the Featinean Association of Toronto and friends, it is with heavy hearts that we remember and hon-

SAYING ODDBYE page 15

ABBA Revisited entertains the Filipino Crowd



1. Maria Panaligan and company; 2. producers Philip Beloso, Mitzi Faigal, Joy D'aoust; 3. Philip Beloso with ABBA Revisited; 4. Mitzi Faigal with ABBA Revisited as they sing "The winner takes it all"; 5. Darles Nota, Mitzi Faigal and Jackir Cristini; 6. Singer Elle Lumbao; 7. Filipino Centre Toronto Seniors Art Program members enjoy the show.



7 Pinay Celebrities Who Are Proudly Flat-Chested

FLAT-CHESTED from page 10

to be bullied just because of your body. We are all beautiful in our own way! #NoToBodyShaming #LoveYourBody," Gabbi shared on Instagram.

Fast forward to 2021, and Gabbi still had the same mindset. She did not mind speaking up on social media when bashers came and judged her body. "Can we all stop and take a break from body-shaming?? Bawal tumaba at mag-stress eat ng lockdown? Bawal maging bloated? Kailangang beach body forever? Grabe anong petsa na guys, character development naman tayo

diyan," the actress called out on Twitter (now known as X).

Referring to the mentioned tweet, Gabbi told reporters in 2021, "And I can't take that sitting down. Life is hard for most of us, let's not make it hard-



FLAT-CHESTED page 15



Performers who helped rock out were Candace Santos, Pink Ribbon's Shai Jaramillo, Kaitlin Kwok, headliner Dana Beddoe, Mackenzie, Mark Rivera



Octoberfest: Marky Hugh talents performs at the new festival.



Lanterns in Harmony:

Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) and Vocal Groove Collective joined this new festival.



Octoberfest: JDL talents entertains the crowd at a new festival.

Julia Barretto, siblings back mom Marjorie amid new Inday interview

Actress Julia Barretto and her siblings left encouraging messages and vowed to “protect” their mother, actress and former politician Marjorie Barretto, after their grandmother Inday revealed details about their family’s strained relationships.

Marjorie addressed her mother’s comments during the latter’s interview with showbiz host Ogie Diaz. Inday revealed details about their family life to the host, even describing Marjorie as “strong-willed,” which the actress took as an insult in the context of the interview.

Marjorie also said that she was hurt by the revelations. She called the statements as “unprovoked” and “undeserved,” as she was in shock with the second part of the interview with Inday, where the Barretto matriarch talked about her three daughters: actresses Gretchen, Marjorie and Claudine.

Toward the end of her Instagram post, Marjorie said she needed to clarify and explain because she is misunderstood. She reasoned that when someone chose to “distort” truths in a “very public way,” it creates an “ache that my silence cannot hold anymore.”



Marjorie Barretto with her kids in an Instagram post in December 2024.

Julia, who followed in the showbiz footsteps of her mother and aunts, left “I love you” comments on her mom’s

page.

Her siblings, Leon, and older sister, Dani, went all out to say that they will be Marjorie’s protectors.

“No words can describe how much we love you mom. We will be your protector as well,” Leon wrote. Leon and Julia are Marjorie’s children with actor Dennis Padilla.

Dani, the daughter of Marjorie with actor Kier Legaspi, echoed Leon’s comment.

“We will always love you and protect you! No matter what,” Dani wrote.





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PCCF 15th Anniversary Gala was a Resounding Success!

PCCF GALA from page 7

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

appointed the Senate of Canada. The organization endeavors to celebrating Philippine Culture, heritage and helping others! PCCF is the proud organizer of the Pinoy Fiesta & Trade Show Toronto, the Pageants with a

Cause and PCCF Sports. Let's Let's have fun, while helping others! For more info. e-mail PhilippineCanadianFoundation@gmail.com or visit: www.philippinecanadianfoundation.com

Photo Credits: Willy Santiago, Opal Tree Photography, Joey Baking and PCCF



Princess Rogelyn Lapeña Saladino, PCCF President
Rosemer Enverga, Miss Canada World 2026 Alexa Grant



Roselle Mrs Philippines Canada Luzon 2025, Kriss Joi 2nd runner-up, Janine Fernandez 1st runner-up, Arlene Pacana Mrs Philippines 2025, Paula Palada Gunda crowning moment as Mrs Philippines Canada 2025 3rd Runner-up and our first ever Mrs Philippines Canada Western Region 2025 and Mrs. Philippines Canada - Tourism, Maricar Velasco Mrs Philippines Canada Ambassador of Goodwill



Mrs. Philippines Canada 2024 Greatchen Griffiths
and Mrs. Philippines Canada 2025 Arlene Pacana



Miss Philippines Canada
1st RU Andrea Penaverde,
LM Confidential publisher
Joey Baking & Miss Teen
Philippines Canada 2025
1st RU Hannah Lopez



Kirsten Co-Miss Teen
Philippines Canada 2024
and Chaileen Ong-Miss Teen
Philippines Canada RU



Loida
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Caña



Little Miss Philippines Canada 2025 Krystelle
Rivas and LM Confidential publisher Joey Baking



Lilian Arenas
& son with Ben
Ferrer

Charlie Dizon recalls when she almost became a K-Pop idol: 'First heartbreak na nangyari sa akin'

Kapamilya star Charlie Dizon recalled the time when she almost debuted as a K-Pop idol several years ago.

She shared that it was a friend that got her into the world of K-Pop back when she was still studying for a Nursing degree at the University of Sto. Tomas.

"May kaklase ako na mahilig sa K-Pop, so siya 'yung nagtuturo sa akin talaga -- pinapakita niya sa akin

'yung girl groups," she recalled.

From then on, she prayed for an audition to happen in the country. Fortunately for Charlie, her prayers were answered and she was accepted into the training program.

Charlie was chosen out of the 1000 hopeful auditionees and was the only one who was given the opportunity to fly out to South Korea. She recalled how she sang Black Eyed Peas' hit song, "Where is the Love?" in the

hope of impressing the judges with her rapping abilities.

"Gusto ko maging rapper -- 'yun 'yung goal ko talaga. Sabi ko, 'pag ako nakapasok sa girl group, gusto ko rapper ako. So 'Where is the Love' para makita nila na nagra-rap ako," she revealed.

"Syempre ayaw ng mom ko-- dead end na usapin 'yun sa amin. Wala kasing



nagshowbiz sa amin, so parang imposible 'yun. Kailangan talaga academic," she added.

Despite this, she was able to convince her parents, who eventually flew with her to the East Asian country to check her living conditions there. From then on, she trained for several months alongside other K-Pop hopefuls.

Unfortunately for Charlie,

her plans didn't come to fruition because of a setback from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). She was unable to continue her training in South Korea due to the mismatch in her contract details.

"Hindi daw nagma-match-- ayaw ng POEA. Nung kukunan na nila ako ng long term na visa, ayaw akong pagagan," she explained.

"Yun siguro 'yung first heartbreak na nangyari sa akin. Hindi ata ako pang ganito; hindi ata ako pangshowbiz," she admitted.

Filipino Centre Toronto Senior Art Class Halloween

The Filipino Centre Toronto Senior Art Class celebrated halloween and here are some of the winners of the costume contest. God's Strength Ministries dropped by to donate food so we invited them to eat and join the fun.



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‘May WiFi pero walang respeto’: Lie Reposposa slams Tagalog vs Bisaya meme

Actress and former “Pinoy Big Brother” housemate Angelie “Lie” Reposposa clapped back at a meme featuring her and British fiancé Paul Joshua Marsden.

Lie reposted a meme that compared how Tagalog and Bisaya individuals succeeded in life.

The post showed under the Tagalog portion a woman working behind a computer while underneath Bisaya was a photo of her and Paul, implying their success was defined by dating or marrying foreigners.

In reposting, Lie quipped she was only responding to the meme out of



boredom.

“FYI: Hindi kano ang sagot sa kahirapan. Kahit alien pa jowain mo, kung wala kang diskarte sa buhay, broke ka pa rin,” she wrote.

“Bisaya man o Tagalog, pareho lang tayong Pilipino - magkaiba lang, ‘yung iba may manners, ‘yung iba may WiFi pero walang respeto,” Lie ended.

In the comments section, Lie asked social media users to spare her and her boyfriend from any issues and to “mind their own dishes.”

One comment gaining traction said “Why not? At least di napunta sa

tambay lang sa kanto HAHAAHHA” to which Lie responded, “Okay lang tambay basta may trabaho.”

Lie competed on “Pinoy Big Brother: Otso” where she finished in 6th place behind Fumiya Sankai, Kiara Takahashi, and winner Yamyam Gucong.

That batch also featured Kaori Oinuma, Karina Bautista, Diana Mackey, Franki Russell, Seth Fedelin, Criza Taa, and future BINI members Sheena Catacutan and Gwen Apuli.

Lie and Paul got engaged in February 2023, a couple of months after going public with their relationship.



7 Pinay Celebrities Who Are Proudly Flat-Chested

FLAT-CHESTED from page 12

er. Once you know naman that you’re on the right path, let’s try to call out each other also in a very good way—in a very non-toxic way.”

5. Julia Barretto

Julia Barretto owns the title “Queen of the Flat-Chested Community,” and we’re not even kidding.

It was way back in 2019 when she candidly accepted the ti-

tle bestowed onto her by a fan. “Long live the queen of the flat-chested community,” the netizen tweeted. Julia responded to it and said, “You may call me that.” Up until now, Julia sees no problem in being flat-chested.

6. Maris Racal

Meme queen Maris Racal once wrote a humorous clapback at a netizen who shared an unsolicited remark about her breasts. In a 2021 TikTok video, Maris re-

sponded to the comment, “empty sismars,” which was pertaining to her chest.

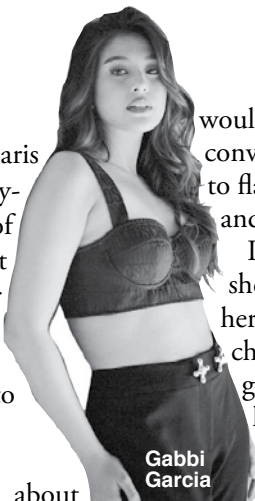
Maris said, “Guys you care so much about the size. May laman ba ‘to? Wala,” she said pointing to her chest and giving out the notion that she has no problem with it being “empty.” She then pointed to her head and added, “May laman ba ‘to? Wala rin!” Her comedic take on the situation surely made the Internet

laugh.

Nonetheless, Maris made it clear to everyone that the size of her breasts does not matter to her. After all, she’s a talented actress, and her looks have nothing to do with her skills.

7. Lovi Poe

If we’re talking about alluring beauty, Lovi Poe



would naturally enter the conversation. She knows how to flaunt her gorgeous visuals and her toned abs.

In 2021, Lovi shared how she’s embracing every bit of her body with a sultry yet chic bikini pic on Instagram! She captioassnsd her post, “Suit yourself if you think otherwise: #FlatAndProud. A little louder for the people at the back. #LoviYourBody.”

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SAYING ODDBYE page 12

or two of our most cherished and dedicated members: Joy San Juan and Tirso Balitian. Their passing marks a profound loss for our community, leaving a void that will be felt by all who had the privilege of knowing them.

In loving memory of Tirso Balitian

As one of the esteemed founders of our association, Tirso Balitian’s vision, leadership, and tireless efforts were instrumental in establishing the Featinean Association of Toronto. His dedication helped create the vibrant and supportive community we cherish today. Tirso’s legacy is etched into the very fabric of our organization, and his founding spirit will continue to inspire us for generations to come. We

are eternally grateful for his commitment to preserving our heritage and fostering a sense of camaraderie among all members.

In loving memory of Joy San Juan

A long-standing and respected member, Jocelyn “Joy” San Juan was a beacon of light within our association. She dedicated countless hours to various events and initiatives, always serving with a warm smile and a generous heart. Joy’s unwavering support, vibrant energy, and genuine kindness touched the lives of so many. She will be remembered for her unwavering commitment and the joy she brought to every gathering.

Remembering their shared legacy

Together, Joy and Tirso embodied the very best of the Featinean commu-

nity. Their service, passion, and friendship were a testament to the power of coming together to support one another. They were a constant presence, not just as members, but as dear friends to many. Their shared

love for our association and its mission created a powerful example of what it means to be a dedicated community member.

As we reflect on their lives, let us hold onto the memories of their kindness, their laughter, and their profound impact on our organization. Though they may be gone, their spirit lives on in the community they helped build and nurture.

On behalf of the entire Featinean Association of Toronto, we extend our deepest sympathies to the San Juan and Balitian families. May you find peace in the cherished memories you hold, and may their souls rest in eternal peace.

They will be dearly missed but never forgotten.



TIRSO BALITIAN

Mika Salamanca learns that authenticity outlasts hype

PBB Celebrity Collab big winner Mika Salamanca shares how staying authentic has guided her growth as a content creator and actress

There was a time when Mika Salamanca spoke her mind without thinking twice. But after her stint in Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab, the reality show alumna learned that fame comes with responsibility—and that words, once spoken, can follow you for life.

The content creator turned actress, now the first-ever endorser of J Spray Perfume, shared how navigating public life has taught her to think before she speaks and stay grounded. For Mika, authenticity has become a guiding principle both online and off.

"I make sure that whatever statement I release is true to me," Mika said. "Because in the future, when someone brings it up again, you should still be able to stand by it."

That mindset reflects how much she's grown since leaving Kuya's house. While fans still see the same warmth and energy that made her a favorite on the show, Mika

now approaches her career with more self-awareness and purpose.

"The way I think now won't be the same as before, and that's the beauty of it," she added. "What matters is that you stay genuine."

That sense of growth and sincerity hasn't gone unnoticed. For Mika, opportunities now come not just because of fame but because people see the person behind it.

The partnership with J Spray Perfume, made official on Oct. 3 at Noctos Music Bar in Quezon City, stood out to her because it wasn't just about image.

"I just realized they went without an ambassador or a face for the brand for eight years, and they're still strong," she said. "It means they didn't need me, but they still chose me, and that means a lot."

Mika is also venturing into new territory

with her first Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) movie, *Call Me Mother*, which she described as a comedy with heart.

"This is my first-ever movie and my first MMFF," she said. "I'm very happy and excited about it. It's funny, but it's also touching. Even while reading the script, I cried because there's so much to learn from it—for both the children and their parents."

Even with her busy schedule, Mika finds ways to turn her influence into something meaningful. She said she's been inspired to do good, especially when she meets people whose stories remind her why she works hard.

One of those moments happened at the National Children's Hospital in Quezon City during a visit organized by the Little Ark Foundation, where a young cancer patient thanked her for giving him a copy of her book *Lipad*.

"That moment reminded me of why I do what I do," she said. "Yes, I work for myself and my family, but also for the kids and people I try to help. If I can use my platform to give attention to things like that, I will."

As for what keeps her motivated, Mika re-

mains thankful for every opportunity that comes her way. "I can't ask for more," she said with a smile.

"I'm thankful for the brands that trust me, for the steady work, and for my family. I always think that when you're working on your birthday, it means you'll have work all year round."

Balancing all these roles hasn't been easy, but Mika seems to have found her rhythm, more mindful now of what matters most.

"I can't ask for more," she said once more with a grin. "As long as I'm working and learning, that's already a blessing."

Will Ashley admits crush on fellow 'PBB' housemate Mika Salamanca

Will Ashley revealed that he has a crush on Mika Salamanca during their stay in "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Collab Edition."

Will answered questions regarding their stay inside the famous house on Mika's YouTube vlog.

"Sabi ko nga 'di ba, kapag meron Kapu-



so na magiging ka-duo, ikaw ang pipiliin ko," Will said.

Mika then said that she also wanted Will to become her duo but they are both Kapuso.

"Kasi parang out of anyone or everyone na nasa Kapuso, si Will talaga 'yung gusto ko maka-duo talaga," she said.

When asked by Mika who was his crush in "PBB," Will said that it was her.

"Sinabi ko ngayon lang. Sinabi ko, 'Ikaw,'" he said.

The lie detector agreed with Will, which made Mika scream and laugh.

"Ano lang naman 'yun, kumbaga pagka-gusto ng someone is pag-hanga lang naman," Mika said.

"Huwag mo na i-explain, mukhang defensive," Will replied.

'PBB: Gen 11' housemate Fyang Smith shares advice for new celebrity housemates

"Pinoy Big Brother: Gen 11" Big Winner Fyang Smith shared words of advice for the new batch of residents in "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition 2.0," encouraging them to stay authentic throughout their stay inside the iconic house.

Speaking during the press conference of the Metro Manila Film

Festival entry "Shake, Rattle & Roll: Evil Origins" with her on-screen partner and fellow "PBB" alumnus JM Ibarra, Fyang looked back on her own experience as a housemate.

"Feeling ko naman hindi sila mauubusan ng pagkain kasi so-



brang dami. Ako nung time na 'yun, nag-nanakaw pa ako ng pagkain. Pero ngayon, feeling ko puno sila ng pagkain," Fyang said jokingly.

She noted that

it's easy for housemates to become too comfortable and forget they're being watched by millions.

"Ganun ka-comfortable sa Bahay ni Kuya. Minsan makakalimutan mo talaga na pinapanuod ka ng milyon-milyong tao," she continued.

When asked for advice, Fyang urged the current housemates to

embrace their true selves.

"Magpakatotoo lang sila. Hindi mo naman ma-pi-please lahat ng tao. Mas ma-a-appreciate sila ng taong bayan kapag hindi sila naging plastic," Fyang added.

Fyang was hailed as season's Big Winner, besting Rain Celmar, Kolette Madelo, and Kai Montinola.

Trump's Tariffs & Policies Killing Jobs in Canada and the Philippines

CANADA-PHL from page 8

dorsed the proposed legislation.

"This much-needed legislation protects US call center jobs and addresses the growing threats posed by artificial intelligence and offshoring," said Dan Maurer, CWA's director of government affairs. "Historically, companies have offshored customer service jobs to avoid paying good union wages and benefits. Now companies are using AI to de-skill and speed up work and displace jobs, which undermines worker rights and degrades service quality for consumers."

HIRE Act of 2025

The HIRE Act of 2025, introduced by Senator Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio), would impose a 25% tax on payments to foreign workers providing services to US clients, with proceeds funding domestic job training and apprenticeship programs.

The Philippines is bracing for the impact of the two proposed US bills. The country's BPO industry – projected to generate \$40 billion in revenue this year and employ 1.9 million workers – remains one of its strongest economic drivers.

Industry groups warn that the proposals could weaken investor

confidence and highlight the sector's heavy reliance on American clients, who account for most outsourcing contracts.

Local firms are already moving toward higher-value services, such as data analytics, cybersecurity, and healthcare information management, according to the Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Diplomatic steps

The Philippine government has taken diplomatic steps to address the issue. In October 2025, Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel Romualdez said Manila is working with US lawmakers to seek exemptions for the Philippines.

He added that the government is encouraging US companies and business groups to advocate for less restrictive rules on established offshore operations.

On Oct. 20, 2025, the Philippine House of Representatives filed a resolution calling on the DTI and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to initiate consultations with US officials to protect the country's BPO workforce.



Trade Secretary Cristina Roque

Earlier, Trade Secretary Cristina Roque told the Philippine News Agency that the government stands ready to assist the sector amid protectionist headwinds. She emphasized the need for market diversification, saying the Philippines must look beyond US clients and expand into other regions. Roque added that she is open to meeting with IBPAP to develop strategies such as upskilling programs and the promotion of digital and knowledge-based services.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) noted in its 2025 economic report that the country's Information Technology and Business Process Management (IT-BPM) industry is accelerating its use of AI and automation to enhance productivity and maintain global competitiveness.

The report said firms are in-

creasingly integrating robotic process automation and digital tools to transition toward higher-value services.

While the proposed US laws aim to bring customer service jobs back home, analysts warn that higher domestic labor costs could lead to increased service fees for American consumers. Outsourcing to countries like the Philippines has long allowed companies to provide round-the-clock support at affordable rates – an advantage that could diminish if offshoring is penalized.

Both bills remain under committee review, but their introduction underscores a broader trend toward economic nationalism in US policy.

For the Philippines, the challenge will be to adapt – through diplomacy, diversification and digital transformation – to sustain one of its most vital industries.

Trump's Policy is America First

Trump will not relent on tariffs designed to ensure more cars are made in the US, Gomez said.

"Think of the photo op – cutting a ribbon in front of the first new Jeep made in Illinois in years," he added.

Canada should prioritize being an essential provider of auto parts to serve US assembly

plants, Gomez said.

Stellantis said it remains committed to Canada.

"We have been in Canada for over 100 years, and we are investing," the company said in a statement.

"We have plans for Brampton and will share them upon further discussions with the Canadian government."

The Crown Royal Ontario closure is expected to impact roughly 200 Canadian jobs, and has faced criticism from both sides of the aisle in Canada, according to The Guardian, including New Democratic Party MPP Lisa Gretzky, who called for provincial liquor stores to pull Crown Royal from their shelves.

"We're not going to stand by and let you just try and squeeze a little more money out for those wealthy shareholders at the risk of 200 people in our community," she said.

This comes as Canadian liquor stores have boycotted U.S. liquor in response to Trump administration tariffs. Jack Daniel's parent company Brown-Forman reported that sales to Canada had dropped by 62% year-over-year during the most recent fiscal quarter, with CEO Lawson Whiting blaming "significant headwinds" from the ongoing trade dispute.

Daily bread Food Bank Acknowledges Toronto Kapuso Lions Club



Toronto Kapuso Lions Club



Toronto Kapuso Lions Club poses with Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow.

On October 11, more than 200 volunteers rolled up their sleeves at Daily Bread Food Bank for this year’s Thanksgiving Public Food Sort-packing an incredible 61,869 pounds of food in a single day. Their hard work and compassion will help thousands of Torontonians who rely on food banks for emergency food access.

We’re deeply grateful to every volunteer who gave their time, and to the Daily Bread staff who gave up part of their weekend to make the event such a success. A special thank-you goes to the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club, who not only helped sort and pack food, but also collected and donated 3,539 lbs of non-perishable food to support their neighbours in need.

‘Jepronks: The Musical’ revisits the soul of Pinoy rock

Director Frannie Zamora clarified that Jepronks: The Musical, which draws inspiration from the music of Filipino rock icon Mike Hanopol, is not a biographical work.

“It’s not Mike’s story,” Zamora said. “But it’s a story about rakistas (rockers) like him, real artists with real struggles and real dreams.”

Set in the 1970s but told through a modern lens, the production follows three bandmates chasing the rock-and-roll dream while dealing with friendship, family, and fate. “Even if the world looks different now, the soul, the emotions, the confusion, they’re all still the same,” Zamora said.

The cast features David Ezra as Mico, Jeffrey Hidalgo as Willy, and Nino Alejandro as Paolo—the rakistas at the heart of the story. Alejandro’s character is inspired by the late Pepe Smith, and the role resonated deeply with him.

“There are parts of the script that just felt too real,” said Alejandro, nephew of OPM legend Hadji Alejandro. “Moments of friction with your bandmates, the grind of gig-hopping, the fear of fading out, I’ve lived all that.”

For Alejandro, the term “jepronx” has evolved over time. “It used to mean ‘rebel’ or ‘anti-establishment,’ but now it’s deeper—about resilience and the Filipino drive to keep going,” he said.

That redefinition lies at the heart of the musical, which explores identity and class through humor, emotion, and music.

Geneva Cruz joins the ensemble as Liwayway, a mysterious but uplifting figure who serves as the rakistas’ spiritual guide.

“She brings light to their darkness,” Cruz said. “Liway isn’t a typical muse — she’s nurturing, edgy, and represents safe spaces.”

The singer-actress, who rose to fame as part of Smokey Mountain, said the role reflects her own journey. “We don’t need to be famous to do something good,” she said. “What matters is staying true to who we are.”

Featuring songs such as “Laki sa Layaw (Jepronks),” “No Touch,” “Ang Himig Natin,” and “Nangigigil,” the show pays tribute to the golden age of Pinoy rock while connecting it to the present.

Zamora said the production aims to reach a new generation. “The young today may not know these

songs, but they know the feelings behind them,” he said. “It’s for anyone finding their voice, building their dreams, and searching for light.”

Alden eyes big-screen team-up with Anne Curtis

GMA’s prized actor Alden Richards is dreaming big, and fans might just see it happen sooner than expected. The actor recently shared his hope to work with Anne Curtis in a silver screen project.

“Actually, we have a project in the pipeline, but I think she has to finish first the projects she previously signed up for. The same thing with me—I also have to honor my commitments,” Alden said.

When asked about his impression of Anne, he didn’t hold back. “We’ve met on shoots before. I can feel that she’s a kind person and easy to deal with. That’s why I’m excited to share the screen with her!”

Anne Curtis is among the top Filipino celebrities under Viva Films, with whom Alden Richards hopes to share the screen soon

Fans are also curious about Alden’s return to teleseryes. His last drama, Pulang Araw, co-starred Barbie Forteza, Sanya Lopez, and David Licauco. This year, he’s been busy hosting the reality dance competition Stars on the Floor, while also juggling pilot training, product endorsements, and attending international film festivals for Out of Order, his directorial debut.

“For sure, I’ll be doing a soap next year. I may be doing many things on and off showbiz, but one thing’s certain: I will never turn my back on acting. There’s a very good offer for a teleserye I’m considering, but I can’t divulge details yet,” he said.

On the success of Out of Order on Netflix Philippines, Alden teased that another project is on the horizon.

“I’ll be doing one with Viva, where I’m both the lead actor and director. Details will be announced during the media conference,” he added.

AC Bonifacio joins star-studded cast of K-pop thriller ‘Perfect Girl’

AC Bonifacio has been confirmed to join the cast of the upcoming film “Perfect Girl,” which also stars “KPop Demon Hunters” stars Arden Cho and May Hong, as well as Nancy McDonie of Momoland.

Bonifacio’s casting was confirmed in a Deadline report on Oct. 31, with the film confirmed to be a “Scream meets Black Swan” kind of thriller.

Also part of the cast are K-pop idols Siyoon (Billie) and Chaerin (Cherry Bullet), as well as solo artist

Jeon Somi, Peter Lee Jae Yoon, Samantha Cochran, Ally, Adeline Rudolph, and John Kim.

The film revolves around a K-pop “super group” preparing for their debut when they encounter a mysterious new girl.

“With only four spots available in the band and the final cut a week away, the competition is off the charts. When a talented and mysterious new girl is introduced at the last minute, things start to get strange — girls are being hunted and attacked one by one, but who is responsible for the carnage, and more importantly... who will make the final cut?” the report said.

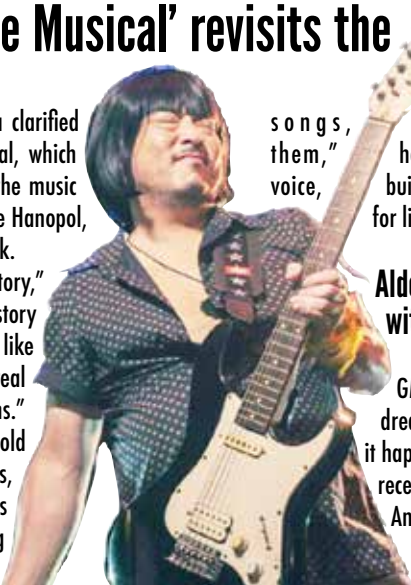
It will feature six original songs from Korean music

label The Black Label, home of Jeon. It was also the agency who co-produced the soundtrack of “KPop Demon Hunters.”

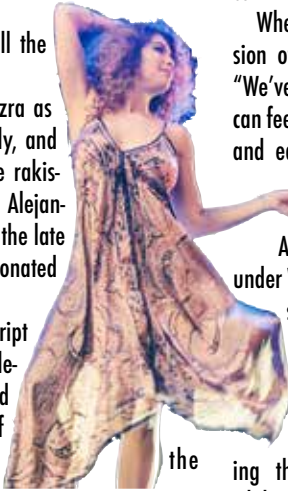
Bonifacio is best known for her eye-catching performances on the “ASAP” dance floor, various shows, and her social media platforms. She started her entertainment career as the winner of “Dance Kids” with co-duo Lucky Ancheta in 2016.

She also appeared in an episode of “Riverdale” in 2021, and is part of the cast of “Raja,” “High Street,” “Shake, Rattle & Roll Extreme,” and “Lolong.”

She was also a housemate of “Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition.”



Nino Alejandro takes on the role of Paolo, a character inspired by the late Pepe Smith, in ‘Jepronks: The Musical’



Geneva Cruz portrays Liwayway, a free-spirited figure who guides the rakistas on their journey



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Why Christian Bables took a short break from acting

While Christian Bables considers acting as his expertise, he decided to take a short break from the entertainment industry to focus on putting up his own skincare line — a personal dream of his for quite some time.

Last October, Bables launched Wildskyn, a skincare line that aims to help fellow men take care of their skin and develop self-confidence, which he confessed has always been a thing that he himself had struggled with.

“Ang sarap sa pakiramdam,

this is four years in the making. I feel like pwede nang pwedeng i-present sa public ang Wildskyn (It feels so nice. This has been four years in the making. I think I can present Wildskyn to the public),” he told reporters.

The actor shared that he had to prioritize his skincare line to en-



sure that it will be of good quality when it gets revealed to the public. Now, he can breathe a sigh of relief.

“Ang expertise ko ay pag-arte, wala akong experience pagdating sa pagbi-business. Good thing ang aking management, gina-guide nila ako. Malaking tulong din talaga sila,” he said. “Nag-focus ako sa pag-build ng brand and I know na

hindi ako makakafocus kung makatanggap ako ng projects. Feeling ko ngayon, makakabalik na ako.”

Bables is aware of the many skincare products that are out in the market. However, he clarified that his skincare line is not meant to “compete” with others and instead, be an additional source of self-confidence for those who need it.

“I wanted to see confident people. Alam ko na maraming pinagdaanan [ang lack of self-confidence due to skin is-

sues]. Ang hirap ng wala kang confidence na humarap sa maraming tao. It feels like it’s eating you alive. Sana matulungan nito ang mga tao,” he said.

“May space ang bawat isa sa market. More than competing, dadagdagan ko lang ang mga opportunities ng mga tao,” he continued.

While Bables is ready to get back into acting, he smiled when asked if he has upcoming projects in the works. “Abangan niyo lang (Just watch out for them),” he said.

Chie Filomeno addresses Jake Cuenca ‘split,’ ‘Sofia’ rift

Actress-model Chie Filomeno issued a statement clearing the air on her supposed separation with Jake Cuenca and her spat with a certain “Sofia.”

Chie and Jake have not outright stated they’ve ended their two-year relationship, although earlier this month Jake did admit “that chapter of his life was over.”

Last month, Chie calling out someone named “Sofia” for “spreading hate” about her on social media.

“Truly heartbreaking. I know

she’s evil but didn’t expect her to go this low. I am not suprised anymore tho. I really wish she does not feel this kind of pain,” Chie said then. “Because I will never ever do something like this, I do not want my future child to be treated the way you treat people. I was gonna let karma do its job — nope I am your karma.”

While she never indicated a surname, Filipinos online have speculated Chie was referring to fellow actress Sofia Andres, whose partner Daniel Miranda

is a relative Cebu businessman Matthew Lhuillier, whom Chie was linked to but has since denied.

Chie addressed her supposed break-up with Jake and the personal attacks being hurled at her.

Chie acknowledged that being in show business means being open to online and offline judgment, however, she stressed she isn’t public property despite being a public figure and wanted to set things straight.

“This will be the last time na magsasalita ako about this issue,

and I’m choosing to respond with calm, care, and clarity,” the actress said, sharing her early entertainment beginnings that led to becoming the family’s sole provider.

The actress reiterated she honorably works to help her loved ones and expressed gratitude to brands, designers, partners and supporters who’ve put their trust in her.

“When it comes to my personal life — my previous relation-

ship was public, and I’m thankful for that chapter,” Chie said, echoing Jake’s words. “But now, I’ve found new connections and safe spaces that I want to protect from unnecessary attention.”

“This time, I’m choosing peace and privacy. And when the time comes, you’ll see what love looks like when it’s nurtured quietly. For now, this is what I can share — my truth, my story, my peace,” Chie ended.



Klea Pineda speaks out against vicious ‘online bashing’

Klea Pineda has broken her silence regarding the relentless online harassment she faces.

On Instagram, the Sparkle star said she felt compelled to speak up about “online bashing,” noting that this marks the first time she is doing so.

“First of all, I’m one of those people who still experiences heavy bashing online. About my physical appearance, how I dress, the way I create my content, how I carry myself, even my skin color. And then there are all the things people accuse me of without even knowing the real story or what’s actually happening in my personal life,” Klea said.

Describing the experience as “not easy,” Klea shared the emotional impact of waking up and having the first thing she sees on her phone be hurtful words from strangers.

She admitted that she has frequently promised herself to stop reading comments as a way to protect her mental health but the simple measure is “hard” to do.

“There are still moments when I can’t help but look, especially when I post something on TikTok or Facebook that I genuinely like, when I feel good about myself, confident, and happy with what I’m sharing. But then... wow. Some of the comments just hit differently. You have no idea how damaging words can be,” she said.

Per Klea, she chose to share her experience so people can more aware of how words can affect others.

“You might think it’s nothing, but you never really know how deep that pain goes



for the person on the other side of the screen,” she said.

“It hurts to think that sometimes, it takes someone losing their life before people realize how serious and deep this issue is. Let’s always choose to be kind. None of us have the right to judge others, especially when we don’t know their story. Please don’t be the reason someone gives up on life.”

Klea concluded her message by urging the public to choose kindness and compassion.

“Be an inspiration instead. Help lift others up. Let this be a reminder to those who find joy in bashing and judging people online, use the right way. Stop the hate. Be kind,” she said.

Klea stars in “Open Endings” with Jasmine Curtis-Smith, Janella Salvador, and Leanne Mamonong.

In recent months, Klea has been linked to Janella after the former announced her breakup with Katrice Kierulf.

Klea earlier shut down the rumors linking Janella to her split with Katrice.

Dolly de Leon to star in ‘Heidi Fleiss’ biopic opposite Aubrey Plaza

Dolly de Leon is set to join the cast of an upcoming biopic about Heidi Fleiss, the notorious “Hollywood Madam” known for running a high-profile prostitution ring in Los Angeles during the 1990s.

Deadline reported that de Leon is in talks to join Aubrey Plaza and Alana Haim in the forthcoming dark com-



edy, “The Heidi Fleiss Story,” where she will play Madam Alex, the first and only Filipino Madam of Hollywood who taught Heidi everything she knew.

According to the outlet, Plaza will play the role of Heidi during the time she was arrested for running the largest high-end prostitution ring in the world and met aspiring writer Jacolyn (Haim), who vowed to write “The Heidi Fleiss Story.”

De Leon, who rose to fame for her breakout performance in “Triangle of Sadness” (2022), which earned her nominations at the Golden Globe and BAFTA Awards, celebrated the casting announcement on Instagram.

“Grabe! To step into the shoes of the first and only Filipina Madam of Hollywood, Alex Adams – this is what I live for. Let’s go, Leah Rachel,” read De Leon’s caption.

The biopic is set to start filming in Los Angeles early next year, and will mark the directorial debut of Leah Rachel.

Prior to this, de Leon starred in the adult animated drama “The Missing,” for which she won a Cinemalaya Award for Best Supporting Actress, and the 2024 comedy dramas “Between the Temples” and “Ghostlight.”

The 56-year-old actress also appeared in the second season of “Nine Perfect Strangers,” starring Nicole Kidman, as well as the second season of “Avatar: The Last Airbender.”

Plaza, on the other hand, is known for her role as April Ludgate in “Parks and Recreation.” She later earned critical praise for her performances in the series “The White Lotus” and “Agatha All Along.” She last appeared in the neo-noir dark comedy film “Honey Don’t.”

Haim, meanwhile, made her acting debut in Paul Thomas Anderson’s “Licorice Pizza”

(2021). She earned a Golden Globe nomination for her performance in the film. She is also the lead vocalist and guitarist of the Grammy-nominated pop rock band Haim.

Willie Revillame hints at new show ‘Wilyonaryo’



Months after his failed senatorial bid, Willie Revillame hinted at his TV comeback by sharing a teaser of what seemed to be his new game show on social media.

The official Facebook page of “Wowowin” — based on his game show that aired on GMA and AllTV — hinted that a new game show called “Wilyonaryo” will be released soon in a series of posts on Sunday, November 2.

“Sa bawat letra at kulay, may swerteng magpapabago ng buhay! Araw-araw may magiging milyonaryo sa Wilyonaryo! Abangan!!!” one of the posts read.

“ARAW-ARAW may magiging milyonaryo sa WILYONARYO! Abangan!!!” another post read.

(In every letter and color, something lucky will change your life. Get ready to be a millionaire everyday with “Wilyonaryo!” Coming soon! You can be a millionaire every day with “Wilyonaryo.” Coming soon!)

Details about the game show, including the lineup of hosts, segments, premiere date, and platform where it will be aired are yet to be announced, as of this writing.

Revillame, who ran for senator in the 2025 midterm elections and lost, was previously the mainstay host of “Wil To Win,” a game show that aired on TV5. The show was put on hold during his senatorial bid.

Notable for his “bigyan ng jacket” remark, he was also the TV host of game shows “Wowowin,” “Wowowillie,” and “Wowowee.”

Zsa Zsa Padilla warns vs fake milk, online gaming ads using her name

Zsa Zsa Padilla became the latest victim of false advertisements after her name was used to promote a supposed “miracle milk” and online gaming.

Through her Instagram page on Friday, Oct. 31, the veteran singer-actress informed her followers that a social media account under the name “Zsa Zsa Daily Life” has been using her and her partner Conrad Onglao’s names and photos for its products.

Padilla included in her post a screenshot of the page’s fake advertisement as well as the promo offers it disseminates through direct message.

“Sinasabi pa nila na uminom daw kami ng ‘miracle milk’ at gumaling sa sakit kahit hindi naman totoo at wala kaming ganung karamdaman! Mayroon din silang mga AI videos na parang ako raw ay nagpo-promote ng online gaming. FAKE NEWS din ‘yan!” she exclaimed.

“Hindi kami konektado sa mga produktong ‘yan. Hindi namin inendorso o ginamit ang mga ito, at lalo na, hindi kami nagpo-promote ng online gaming,” she stressed.

Padilla further reminded social media users to always verify content first before engaging or spreading it.

Onglao, for his part, said he will seek legal measures to address the matter.



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TEMPER TANTRUMP from page 1

prices caused by tariffs would force Republicans to break with Trump. “It will become untenable for them to just close their eyes and say, ‘I’m signing up for whatever the president wants to do,’” Kaine told reporters.

The Senate passed a similar resolution applying to Brazilian tariffs on Tuesday, and it has already passed a resolution on Canadian imports in April. The same four Republicans — Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Susan Collins of Maine, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Rand Paul of Kentucky — voted again with all Democrats to approve the resolution applying to Canada.

The vote underscores unease with the tariffs as Americans head into the holiday shopping season. It’s the second time this week the GOP-held body has split from the president over tariffs, after seeking to limit levies on Brazil earlier this week.

It was also the second time this year that the Senate has gone on record against Trump’s tariffs on Canada. Republicans Mitch McConnell, Rand Paul, Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski voted in favour of the measure and in opposition to Trump’s Canadian tariffs, as they did earlier this year.

The vote also demonstrates the difficulty lawmakers face in regaining trade authority Congress has ceded to the White House.

There is also increasing tension between GOP senators and



the president over how soybean farmers have suffered from the trade war with China, as well as his administration’s plans to allow the purchase of more beef from Argentina.

The legislation amounts to little more than a public rebuke, since to take effect it must also pass the House and then be signed by the president — who would almost certainly veto it. The Senate’s vote fell far short of the two-thirds that would be needed to override any Trump veto, and House Republican leaders have flatly refused to bring up anti-tariff legislation at all this year.

Hostility between the U.S. and Canada escalated last week, when Ontario Premier Doug Ford aired a television ad during the World Series that used the words of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan to condemn tariffs. In response, Trump said that he was ending trade talks with Canada. He later vowed to add an additional 10 per cent tariff

on the country’s imports.

While Canada faces a U.S. base tariff of 35 per cent, the rate doesn’t apply to most Canadian goods because of an exemption for products and ship-

Philippines imported just \$8.17 from the US while \$32 billion came from China

ments made within the rules of the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement. The U.S., Mexico and Canada are set to undergo a previously planned review of their USMCA trade agreement next year.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has been trying to engage with Trump to ease the import taxes that have hit Canada hard. The U.S.-Canada economic relationship is one of the largest global-

ly, totaling US\$909.1 billion in 2024, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. More than three-quarters of Canadian exports go to the U.S., and nearly C\$3.6 billion (US\$2.7 billion) worth of goods and services cross the border daily.

PM Carney has not been able to sign a deal with President Trump unlike three Asian countries at the ASEAN summit.

Canada has also tried to turn to Asian trading partners amid the trade war.

Why other ASEAN countries got zero US tariffs but PH got 19 percent

Malacañang explained the Philippines’ non-inclusion in the United States’ decision to impose zero percent import tariffs in some Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, saying this was to protect industries here in the country.

A Thai news outlet earlier reported that the US granted zero percent import tariffs on select products from Southeast Asian countries, which included Thailand, Cambodia, and Malaysia — a deal supposedly made during the ASEAN Summit.

But Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs Frederick Go said the country’s non-inclusion was to “protect several industries in the Philippines.”

This includes, Go said, industries on rice, corn, sugar, and poultry.

“The ASEAN countries opened up their countries, with

Cambodia, for example, opening up 100 percent of its country to US food and agricultural and industrial products,” he said.

The US earlier reduced its tariff rates imposed on Philippine exports to 19 percent following President Ferdinand Marcos Jr’s meeting with US President Donald Trump.

The US is the Philippines’ biggest export market. In 2024, the Philippines exported \$12.14 billion to the US, making up 16.6 percent of the country’s total exports that year.

In terms of imports, however, the US was just the fifth largest source of goods imported into the Philippines, at \$8.17 billion, far below the \$32 billion worth of goods that the country imported from China in 2024.

GOP block votes on tariff elimination

House Republican leaders so far have blocked votes in the chamber on efforts to roll back Trump’s tariffs, though a small group of GOP lawmakers waged a short-lived revolt over the president’s trade policies in September.

Speaker Mike Johnson made clear to reporters he is deferring to Trump on all trade matters and in no mood to bring up bills challenging the president on the issue. Earlier this year he delayed a fight over the legality of Trump’s tariffs until at least the end of January.

Johnson said that the president is at work negotiating “dozens” of trade agreements and his efforts have been a “great success.”

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Ruru Madrid and Bianca Umali beat the seven-year itch

THE phrase seven-year itch is defined as “supposed infidelity on the seventh year of marriage.”

Clearly, and strictly, it is one inevitable phase that occurs — or is expected to occur — in most wedded couples. There are isolated cases though where it applies to romantic relationships.

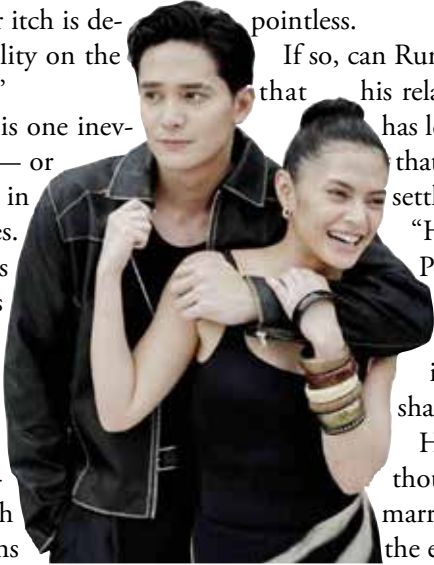
Speaking of which, celebrity sweethearts Bianca Umali and Ruru Madrid marked their seventh year a couple of months back.

Fortunately for them, or as fate would have it, they came out of it without Ruru committing any single act of infidelity.

In fairness to the Kapuso actor, he has been candid enough to admit he hopped from one relationship to another until he screeched to a “full stop” with Bianca.

Yes, Ruru has never laid his eyes on any other girl!

So, to make him believe that the so-called seven-year itch does exist is totally



pointless. If so, can Ruru say with conviction that his relationship with Bianca has leveled up to the point that they get to talk about settling down?

“Honestly, we don’t. Particularly in my case, it’s all a matter of gut feel. Once I feel it, then that’s it!” he shared.

His visceral basis though doesn’t mean marrying Bianca is not in the equation, so to speak.

Ruru insists that Bianca is “the one.”

“Wouldn’t we have reached this far if I believed otherwise? I’m only speaking for myself... I can’t really say the exact date of our wedding but she’s definitely the woman I want to spend the rest of my life with!”

Based on impression, Ruru has yet to fulfill what’s on his career bucket list — and everything else will fall into place.

Still at the moment, Ruru is still bask-

ing in his second victory following his Best Supporting Actor trophy this time from the 53rd Box Office Entertainment Awards held in July.

His triumph reaffirmed his first ever receipt of the same recognition in last year’s Metro Manila Film Festival for the film Green Bones.

“I still can’t get the hang of it most especially if I hear comments about my performance from those who missed the movie last year and just saw it on Netflix! Hope I can make more of this in the future,” Ruru gushed.

Meanwhile, his next GMA action-packed whodunnit is airing soon, a fitting follow-through after his highly successful “Black Rider.”

Aiko Melendez acknowledges strength in government service

QUEZON City 5th district Councilor Aiko Melendez arguably knows where she’s very good at — the legislative aspect of her post.

In her guesting on “Fast

Talk with Boy Abunda,” Aiko — now on her second term — was asked if her next target is eyeing the vice mayoral post (elections will be in 2028).

If Boy had some other subject, well, not as interesting as Aiko, he’d sure get a vague answer — way too “showbizzy.”

But lest we remember, it’s the actress-vlogger who can’t afford to lie through her teeth. Aiko’s straightforward reply was: “No, not at all! And that’s a sure answer!”

The mom of two — who ably juggles her time performing various tasks — maintained that she’s far better off on the legislative rather than on the administrative side.

After all, Aiko had completed her three straight terms the first time she took the political plunge (2001 to 2009).

And more than ever, she now realizes she owes it much to her constituents, hence, squeezing them in her busy schedule for as long as they need her around.

Back to being single, expect a busier, more visible Aiko Melendez in her district.



Toronto Kapuso Lions Club continues to help our community

For the last four years, the Toronto Kapuso Lions has picked beneficiary Food Banks for their Thanksgiving Day service initiative. Past beneficiaries were the Oshawa Food Bank, Feed Scarborough Food Banks and the Mount Zion Adventist Church Food Bank. This year the beneficiaries are the Food for Life and the Daily Bread Food Bank.

Food for Life is the largest food rescue organization in Halton and Hamilton in Ontario. Rescuing food helps those in need of food in the community and the environment. Without the food rescue program, good quality fresh food would otherwise end up in the landfill. It diverts greenhouse gases to be released to the atmosphere. The Club delivered 650 lbs of fresh produce and

454 lbs of non-perishable food items (a total of 1104 lbs of food) to Food for Life in Burlington, Ontario. The Club donated fresh fruit, vegetables and non-perishable foods.

Daily Bread Food Bank was the Club’s other beneficiary. Club members participated in this year’s Thanksgiving Public Food Sort - joining 200 volunteers packing 61,869 lbs of food in a single day. The Club also was recognized for collecting and donating 3,569 lbs of non-perishable food to their neighbours in need.

The Club is led by President Dr. Pepito (Nudge) Bicar. The Thanksgiving service project was spearheaded by Lions Judith Gonzales and Rocelle Esteban.



GOD'S LITTLE PARADISE

Another gem of the Visayas, Bohol's Historical significance extends way back to the blood compact between boholano chieftain sikatuna and the Spanish Conquistador, Miguel Lopez de Legaspi, in 1565.

Scenic Bohol Casts an enigmatic charm drawn from the many archaic mementos spread throughout the oval-shaped island: from the chocolate hills and the tarsier to the 16th century watchtowers and Jesuit baroque mission churches. The Chocolate Hills that abound in Central Bohol, two have been developed into top class resorts.

Sunset @ Sta. Fe Beach

Chocolate Hills

Balicasag Resort & Diving Spot

A tropical havel of beauty, the coastline of province is skimmed by gentle coves and white sand beaches. You can fins some of the country's great dive sights here. Balicasag in Bohol is one of the most popular dives in visayas.

One of the Rare Faunas found in the Philippine archipelago, the Tarsier is the smallest primate in the world. It is a nocturnal primate measuring from four to five inches, with a tail that is longer than body.

Those Interested in tarsier watching are always welcomed by the Boholanos to see the famous primate in its natural adobe up the hills in the town of Corella

A black coral forest is among its main attractions but virtually anywhere you drop in is sure to be rewarding. another major attraction, Cabilao is renowned for the hammerhead sharks that shoal around the clear waters. Large pelagics are very common here. And if you are really luck, you can find yourself swimming with a passing school of dolphins.

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Gerald Anderson, Dondon Monteverde reconnect through ‘Rekonek’



Gerald Anderson and Dondon Monteverde of Reality MM Studios

Actor Gerald Anderson and veteran producer Ronald “Dondon” Monteverde are joining forces for the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) entry *Rekonek*, an alternative Christmas film that explores the meaning of connection in a world suddenly cut off from the internet.

The project brings together Monteverde’s Reality MM Studios and Anderson’s 3rd Floor Studios, with the actor taking on a new role behind the camera as a producer.

Monteverde, who co-founded Reality MM Studios with director Erik Matti in 2003, shared that working with Anderson motivated him to keep

learning despite his long experience in the industry.

“Even as a veteran, I still want to learn new things, and working with Gerald allowed me to do that,” Monteverde told Manila Standard Entertainment in an interview.

Rekonek takes place during a global internet outage that forces people to rediscover what connection truly means beyond screens and social media. The film follows Filipinos from different walks of life as they navigate a world suddenly stripped of Wi-Fi and constant connectivity.

According to Anderson, the story shows how dependent people have become on technology.

“Sometimes relationships are affected by social media, by phones, by the internet—and then suddenly, when all of that disappears, what happens?” he explained. “When the internet goes down, there are a lot of lessons to learn. It makes you realize we can still live without it.”

The partnership between Anderson and Monteverde began more than a decade ago during the production of *On the Job*. Monteverde recalled that

their professional chemistry eventually led to discussions about new projects, one of which became *Rekonek*.

“We’ve always wanted to work together again,” Monteverde recounted. “Everything just fell into place. We submitted a concept to a film festival, and it got accepted. From there, everything took off.”

Monteverde commended Anderson for his dedication behind the camera, describing him as “very involved” in every aspect of production, from planning to casting.

Anderson noted that the team has been meticulous in shaping every element of the film.

“We’ve been hands-on all the way. The film is almost done. We have two to three more days of shooting left,” he mentioned. “We’ve carefully planned everything, from the cast to the story to the promotions.”

Reality MM Studios is known for producing acclaimed films and series that push creative boundaries, while 3rd Floor Studios began as Anderson’s passion project in fitness and lifestyle before evolving into a film and content production company.

Why Charlie Dizon was chosen as the lead of psychological horror ‘Near Death’

For writer-director Richard Somes, it was the innate power and strength of Charlie Dizon that made her the perfect lead for his psychological horror film “*Near Death*.”

An entry to the sixth CineSindak Film Festival, “*Near Death*” tells the story of Julia (Dizon) who survived an attempt to take her own life. She was then brought to the place of her younger sister Mia (Xyriel Manabat) to help her recover mentally. However, Julia finds herself haunted by mysterious souls urging her to redo her attempt and join them in the afterlife.

“She’s a powerful and strong actress,” Somes said of Dizon’s acting prowess when interviewed by reporters during the film’s premiere night.

“[‘Yung ‘*Near Death*’], hindi siya ‘yung horror na may jumpscare (*‘Near Death’ is not a horror film that focuses on jumpscare*). I believe in a horror story, dapat ang bida mo should be tormented and tested — and I think that Charlie is one of the few actresses who could bring that onscreen,” he continued.

For her part, Dizon said that while doing “*Near Death*” was physically and mentally exhausting, it was nonetheless fulfilling because she knows how much the film meant to Somes.

“Ilang beses ko sinabunutan at sinaktan ang sarili ko. Ibang klaseng pagod ito. Noong [nakuha ko ang offer], umoo agad ako. Hindi ko pa nababasa ang script, kinuwento pa lang niya, umoo na ako,” she said.

Life after death

While Somes is known by many as a filmmaker with a straightforward approach to the action genre, he explained that “*Near Death*” talks about the questions he had about death and what happens after.

“It’s like coming back to my roots... it is a spiritual journey toward the afterlife. It’s a question of is there life after death and kung meron, ano ang magiging experience mo. I, myself, since childhood, I’ve been asking that. It’s a psychological horror film because it deals with a challenging premise because it deals with what’s happening right now,” he said.

The writer-director also shared that he grew up as a “Catholic boy in church,” where the topic of suicide has always been taboo. “Lahat tayo, may iba’t ibang takot. What I discovered about Filipinos is that they fear sin.”

“Takot kayong magkamali kasi baka parusahan tayo. It’s a haunting challenge,” he continued, seemingly noting that many religious people consider suicide as a sinful act. “That’s what I’m exploring sa istorya na ‘to. Ayokong mag-preach what is right and wrong.”

(We’re all scared of different things. What I discovered about Filipinos is that they fear sin. We’re all scared of making mistakes because we might get punished. It’s a haunting challenge. That’s what I’m exploring in this story. I don’t want to preach what is right and wrong.)

Staying on the topic, Somes believes that there is life after death. He also hopes that people need to “be kind to everyone else” as a way of taking care of one’s mental health.

“I really believe that there’s truly life after death, a Supreme Being, and what we fear is not what it seems all along,” he said. “I just want to show what is worth discussing. On a spiritual context, you need to follow the Scripture but on a moral standard, but may mga bagay na kailangan mong gawin (*there are things you have to do*).”



Don’t power-trip, MTRCB told after content creator’s rant over LGBT film rating

Public officials, when scrutinized, should not resort to power-tripping, Akbayan party-list Rep. Percival Cendaña said after the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) summoned a production house due to a content creator’s rant.

Cendaña was referring to MTRCB’s letter to Viva Communications Inc., seeking a dialogue with the company over influencer Sassa Gurl’s expletive-laden rant against the board during the premiere of “*Dreamboi*.”

Viva President Vincent Del Rosario was invited to a meeting, which the MTRCB said the meeting seeks to promote mutual understanding.

But Cendaña noted that Sassa Gurl’s rant was a valid criticism about the double-X rating initially given to *Dreamboi*, a queer film which is Viva’s entry to the CineSilip Film Festival 2025.

“When public officials are criticized, they shouldn’t respond with power tripping. Making at umunawa (Listen and understand why),” Cendaña said.



The MTRCB did not specify who was the content creator who cursed at the agency, but a video of Sassa Gurl cursing the MTRCB during *Dreamboi*’s premiere made the rounds of social media.

The internet personality called out the MTRCB for giving “*Dreamboi*” an X rating when it was not anywhere near a porn movie. She claimed *Dreamboi* received an X rating twice from MTRCB before it got an R-18 rating on the third attempt.

This is not the first time that MTRCB and personalities from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual (LGBTQIA+) community were embroiled in controversy.

In September 2023, noontime show *It’s Showtime* was suspended by MTRCB for 12 airing days after it received multiple complaints over the alleged “indecent acts” of hosts Vice Ganda and Ion Perez, including other warnings of “inappropriate language” in previous episodes.

AiAi delas Alas revokes ex-husband Gerald Sibayan’s green card application

Actress AiAi delas Alas revealed she had the green card petition of her former husband Gerald Sibayan revoked.

AiAi appeared on “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda” where she and Boy discussed her estranged relationship with Gerald.

Boy brought up the topic of Gerald applying for a green card — a document proving a person’s right to live and work permanently in the United States — for him and AiAi, something she wasn’t initially comfortable with.

The comedienne confirmed she revoked Gerald’s petition, viewing as her revenge for the pain she experienced.

“Siya naman ‘yung nagsabi kasi na gusto niyang pumunta ng Amerika eh. Hindi naman ako ‘yung nagbigay sa kaniya na, ‘Halika na, punta na tayong Amerika,’ AiAi explained.

AiAi added the green card revocation coincided with the filing of divorce, however the latter is still being processed.

“Ako ay at peace, sabi ko nga mayroon na akong legacy of peace,” said AiAi, who will soon become a grandmother for the first time.

AiAi revealed that she and Gerald had separated last October 2024.

“Sinabi niya na gusto niya magkaanak at hindi na siya happy,” AiAi said at the time. According to the “Tanging Ina” star, her estranged husband expressed his intention to end their marriage through chat in October of last year.



‘Ni-block mo sa IG’: Ogie Diaz denies ill feelings toward Sarah Lahbati

Showbiz reporter Ogie Diaz denied that he has ill feelings toward Sarah Lahbati after the actress called out his story about her rumored involvement in Ellen Adarna and Derek Ramsay’s alleged breakup.

Ogie recently reported that Sarah urged Ellen to ask Derek to buy a house for her.

Sarah and Ellen laughed off Ogie’s report saying it was not true.

In his latest vlog, Ogie said that he did not confirm the rumors about Sarah, Ellen and Derek, and that he was only seeking the truth.

“Wala akong galit sa’yo, Sarah. Kung willing ka, open ako for one-on-one interview with you,” he said.

“Feeling ko ikaw ang may galit sa akin kasi ako ‘yung ni-block mo sa IG. Ako, wala akong galit. Sana bigyan mo rin ako ng pagkakataon na marinig ko ang panig mo sa mga issues na involved ka rin,” he added.

Ogie said that he reached out to Ellen and Derek and they dismissed the rumors. However, they did not respond about the real status of their relationship.

Kyline Alcantara says she will never give up on love despite past heartbreaks

Actress Kyline Alcantara hinted that she is ready to fall in love again, but this time with a more mature man.

The actress revealed what she learned from her past heartbreaks with talk show host Boy Abunda.

“Just set boundaries with your partner, the public, and also with my parents, brothers. At dapat kilalanin mo rin talaga ‘yung sarili mo,” she said. Kyline also said that she will never give up on love despite past heartbreaks.

When asked by Boy about the qualities of a man she likes, Kyline said, “Wala po ako sa pisikal e, sa ugali po ako.” “Sana mas mature, mas stable mentally, mabait, will respect my family, and will respect me, not just as a woman but as a person,” she added. Boy also asked Kyline if she likes a rich boyfriend. “Why not? Pero syempre hindi naman po ‘yon first thing para makipag-relasyon ako,” she said.

Kyline is now being linked to presidential son Sandro Marcos after her relationships with Mavy Legaspi and Kobe Paras.



Candid CAMERA



Jennifer Sy looks on as Maestro Frank Cruzet shows Annie Costiniano how to improve her artwork at the Filipino Centre Toronto Senior Art Program painting class.

Regine Velasquez's nieces form new P-pop girl group DNA

ABS-CBN has officially introduced the new P-pop girl group DNA who just launched its debut single "Don't Ask Me Why" under its StarPop record label.

The three-member group consists of sisters Tasha, Julia, and Ezri, who share a musical bond as daughters of renowned composer and musical director Raul Mitra and singer Cacai Velasquez-Mitra.

Their aunt, OPM icon Regine Velasquez-Alcasid, encouraged them to form a group as they were all passionate about music and arts.

"Even from a young age we liked performing. We did theater workshops and we watched a lot of 'America's Next Top Model' so we had fashion shows and they would take pictures of us," Julia shared in a video uploaded on Star Magic's YouTube channel.



DNA composed of Tasha, Julia, and Ezri Mitra

Ezri noted that at the time the Wonder Girls' "Nobody" was at its peak popularity, citing second generation K-pop as a huge inspiration. But even with their sisterly bond, the DNA members also went through a tough time before they eventually got their rhythm.

"The process to get to being comfortable doing it together was a very, very long one. There were a lot of tears, a lot of arguments," Tasha said.

"Don't Ask Me Why" was composed by Ezri — serving as an anthem of self-expression, encouraging listeners to stay true to themselves despite others' opinions — and produced by Jonathan Manalo.

Tasha, Julia, and Ezri signed a management contract with Star Magic last July and were initially introduced as Mitra sisters.

Before their debut, the trio showcased their powerful harmonies and fresh energy when they guest performed at Regine and Vice Ganda's "SUPERDIVAS" concert as well as on the Sunday noontime variety show "ASAP."

Honey Shot



Andrea, 18, is taking flight services at Seneca College towards her goal of being a flight attendant. She plays basketball and badminton. She is a PCCF Miss Philippines Canada 2025 1st RU. Her other awards include best in beauty and poise, People Choice Award, Best in Filipiniana Terno, and Tourism award. She's a dance leader in high school. She also joins dance competitions. She is the daughter of Rolinda and Joel. We wish her all the luck in her endeavours.

Andrea Penaverde



Philippine artist Juan Karlos poses with FV Foods owner Mel Galeon.



Sophia Daclan poses with LM Confidential publisher Joey Baking at the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) gala.



Toronto Kapuso Lions Club officers and members were among the 200 volunteers who rolled up their sleeves at Daily Bread Food Bank Thanksgiving Public Food Sort-packing last October 11.

Happy birthday Chris Jones



Chris Jones (STANDING 2ND FROM LEFT) is joined by family and friends including PCCF president Rosemer Enverga (SITTING 2ND FROM RIGHT) on his birthday.



Dong Sabanal (INSET) and his students perform at the Spooky Night with Donekla.



Filipino Centre, Toronto Flag-raising Ceremony



The flag-raising ceremony at FCT for the flags of Canada, Ontario, Philippines, Toronto and the Filipino Centre, Toronto (FCT) was attended by councillors, MPs and MPPs.





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Why veteran stars agreed to be directed by Alessandra De Rossi in one-shot film

The veteran actors of VIVA Films' "Everyone Knows Every Juan" described their director, Alessandra De Rossi, as someone who knew exactly what to do on set and brought a sense of humor to the atmosphere.

The drama-comedy movie, now showing in cinemas, delves into the chaotic, love-hate nature of a Filipino family. "Everyone Knows Every Juan" marks Alessandra's second film as a director after "My Amanda" in 2021.

According to the media release, the story is about The Sevilla Siblings, played by Edu Manzano, Ruby Ruiz, Gina Alajar, Ronnie Lazaro, Joel Torre and Alessandra, who gather at their ancestral home following the first death anniversary of their mother, Juaning Sevilla, portrayed by Liza Lorena.

With the glaring differences in status and personalities, the siblings have become estranged, and each of them is keeping a secret that can permanently ruin their already strained relationships.

One secret, however, cannot be kept for long and is the reason why they are gathered in the first place: Rose had their mother's body exhumed for an autopsy report.

Everyone erupts in anger, but the autopsy report is seen to clear up the circumstances surrounding their mother's death, especially because there are other people in their midst: Anna (Angeli Bayani), Juaning's former caretaker and an escapee from a mental hospital; Jacob (Kelvin Miranda), Juaning's gardener, who has an unexpected claim to the ancestral house; and Alfred, Raquel's live-in partner, who insists on letting Jacob defend himself as the family questions his true intentions and involvement.

Soon, deep-seated issues surface, more shocking secrets are revealed, and their ancestral house is at the point of crumbling down, just like their fragile bonds.

"Everyone Knows Every Juan" also stars JM De Guzman, with a special participation of Empoy Marquez, Jaime Fabregas and many others.

It was revealed at a presscon that Alessandra hand-picked the star-studded cast and she initially pitched the film material for the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF).

"When I saw the talent fee (of the actors), I said,



'OK, let's finish this in one day.' I created this, supposedly, for MMFF. But Boss Vic had another idea," shared Alessandra.

The entire flick was captured in one continuous take.

"We filmed in two days. This is going to be amazing because it's un-

cut," said Ronnie.

"It felt like theater on field, it was like a play. It may seem simple but believe it or not, it was not," added Edu.

Jaime, for his part, described the movie as "one-of-a-kind." "It's hard to explain but matutuwa po kayo."

Moreover, despite the challenges of filming within a limited timeframe, the actors commended their director for successfully pulling it off.

It has always been a dream of Kelvin to work with Alessandra again after their previous project together. "I'm thankful to be part of this. I felt overwhelmed. It's like we were just playing but I was overwhelmed because all of them are great actors."

"Sobrang hindi ko naramdaman ang pagiging director niya. She didn't want to be called director Alex," chimed in Ruby, who further described the film's concept as "very creative, bold and daring. I felt flattered, honored and excited upon learning that I'm part of this cast."



The cast members of the drama-comedy movie 'Everyone Knows Every Juan' are (from left, top row) Ruby Ruiz, Edu Manzano, Gina Alajar, Joel Torre, Ronnie Lazaro, (bottom row) Kelvin Miranda, Angeli Bayani, Alessandra and JM De Guzman. Not in photo are Jaime Fabregas and Empoy Marquez. The film is now showing in cinemas

On the other hand, accepting the offer was a no-brainer for Angeli, knowing that Alessandra would be directing. "It's about time. I'm very happy. No second thoughts. I said yes right away without knowing the details."

"When I learned about the details and who my co-actors are, parang it's a gift na lang. I always say that it's a gift to be in the company of such immensely talented people, and I'll never get over it. So, thank you talaga Alex for putting us together," she added.

"I know that 'pag sinabing Alex, baliw yan," quipped JM, adding how passionate Alessandra is about her craft. "I know that I would learn a lot from this project. So, I got excited when they told me that I'm part of this film... The cast inspired me in terms of work ethics and professionalism."

For Ronnie, he immediately said yes to the offer. "Because guys, if you're going to see the film and know how we did it, matutuwa kayo. Hindi lamang sa mapapanood ninyo (also) kung papano namin ginawa, (it's) the best!"

Edu, meanwhile, recalled how taxing it was for them to bring their characters to life.

"It is a leap of faith," he stated. "When we learned kung gaano ka-ambitious yung plan, standards, the reluctance, one minute lang. When I saw my co-actors and they all said yes, (I said) If they'll do it, I'll do it."

"I've worked with them (in the past) but it's the first time I worked with them again because ang demanding nung hiningi ng aming role. Alex is young but she knows what she wants to do. She would entertain if you have suggestions, but, wala, eh. Ganun din pala yung gusto niya. 'Direk, can I add something to my character because I have this idea?' (Alessandra would reply), 'Maganda yan. But this is what you're going to do.' OK, tigil."

Alessandra, who was sitting next to Edu, just laughed at his remarks.

Edu then joked that he had a "bold and daring" love scene with Ruby, something he said that had never been done before in Philippine cinema. "Hopefully, I piqued your curiosity to watch this film."

Award-winning actress and director, Gina commented on Alessandra's directing style, "Ay naku ang masasabi ko — she knows exactly what she wants. She's the type of director who doesn't say that much because I know that she respects the actors that she directs."

"But she's not afraid to say what she wants to say. No intimidation. And it's a happy set because she's a very happy person. No dull moments with her," added



The director with her stars Ronnie, Ruby, Edu, Angeli, Gina and JM at the red-carpet premiere of her film.

the seasoned director.

Gina shared that she directed Alessandra when she was 14 years old in the TV series "Kirara, Ano ang Kulay ng Pag-ibig?" and she was already impressed by her acting chops then.

"Amy Austria and I said, 'Magaling ang batang 'to.' And what did you say when I told you that?" Gina passed the mic to Alessandra, who answered, "Alam ko naman yun." And they both laughed.

Gina was, nevertheless, elated to be Alessandra's first choice in the film.

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Beyond ‘foodie’ culture: Reclaiming the slow soul of Filipino cuisine through food literature



It may be easy to wonder why Filipino food is not ‘trendy’ enough, but maybe it doesn’t always have to be

MANILA, Philippines — Spanning fields, markets, kitchens, and tables, the slow and intentional rhythm of Filipino food often goes unnoticed — yet it is at the heart of it all.

However, it is no secret that digital society has commodified food into picture-perfect content. The depictions we see on social media are curated, filtered, and packaged into trends driven by engagement. Every so often, an ingredient gets its moment in the spotlight, only to be replaced by the next viral flavor.

Although “foodie” culture brings attention to what we eat, it often stops at taste and aesthetic. It only scratches the surface, but rarely reflects the deeper stories, histories, and systems that shape what is on our plates.

This is the same idea that runs through two literary canons of Filipino gastronomy, *Sarap: Essays on Filipino Food & Palayok: Philippine Food through Time, on Site, in the Pot*, written by Doreen Fernandez and Edilberto Alegre, the two most enduring voices in Filipino food literature. Even after two decades since they were first published, the pieces remain relevant to how we understand Filipino cuisine today.

What local ingredients do we actually know? Do we understand how the palengke operates, or where our food really comes from? Have we ever cooked with a lesser-known Filipino crop beyond the usual chopsuey mix available in our kitchen? These questions nudge us to reflect not just on what we eat, but how we

engage with what we eat.

And what better way to reflect on our food than revisiting the works of Fernandez and Alegre? *Sarap & Palayok* both reveal a clear message: Filipino cuisine has always been rooted in the principles of slow food — the very opposite of fast food — meals that are good, clean, fair, and conscious of their impact on people and the environment.

These themes and legacies came to life again at the October book launch of the latest editions of the books by Exploding Galaxies in Karrivin Plaza. During a panel discussion, chef Stephan Duhesme of Metiz, Slow Food Negros advocate Reena Gamboa, food scholar Raymond Macapagal, and entrepreneur Bea Misa-Crisostomo shared reflections on how we can approach our cuisine more mindfully — not as something to turn into viral content, but to sincerely approach as a living culture shaped by our environment, community, and tradition.

Support local ingredients in season
The most straightforward way to embrace slow food is to cook with ingredients that are native to our regions and in season. Doing so not only sustains their production but also protects the crops from disappearing altogether.

Slow Food advocate Reena Gamboa stresses that when we stop using an ingredient, we contribute to its decline or even its extinction. She discusses the case of the native dayap, or Philippine lime. Known for its sweet aroma and tartness compared to the calamansi, the dayap has become increasingly rare in markets today.

Without the demand for more variety of crops like dayap, farmers are forced to produce the crops that are more common and profitable.

“The farmer will only plantmond Macapagal, and Stephan Duhesme. lettuce because that’s the only thing they can sell at a high price. That’s not even food that they eat, which is unfair. We want good, clean, and fair food for everyone, especially for the farmer who’s the one planting it,” Gamboa explained.

However, what is forgotten can still be revived. Through the reintroduction of forgotten ingredients and recipes, like the ones in the *Ark of Taste* catalog, there may be potential to rekindle demand.

“If there’s a dish that uses dayap specifically — if we get reminded of that dish and we want to resurrect it — the demand for dayap will go back, the farmer will take care of it again.”

Seasonality is also a cornerstone in slow food that is meant to be embraced, not ignored. Not only does this support farmers and agriculture as a whole, but it also uplifts the health of biodiversity as a whole.

“The world of today says ‘everything must be available right now at the time that I need it and every day when the customer wants it,’” Gamboa said. “But naturally it is not so.”

She cites that this is why we have practices like fermentation and jam-making — to preserve and reduce food waste

during off-seasons. As such, it is only natural that we work with the timing of nature and work with the ingredients it has



GASTRONOMY, DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS, ORIGINS. The panel discussion with (L-R) Bea Misa-Crisostomo, Reena Gamboa, Raymond Macapagal, and Stephan Duhesme.

to offer at a given season.

We are encouraged to incorporate native ingredients into our cooking, even if it is mixed with other influences. “The heart is still there — the local ingredient will show you who you are, that’s the Filipino in you that’s going to come out there,” Gamboa added.

Exploring rare and even overlooked ingredients can help resurface forgotten dishes. The more you cook with these marginal elements of our cuisine, the better chance they have at making a comeback.

Forego comparing, undermining Filipino cooking

Another important point in the panel is to view Filipino food through our own unique context, instead of measuring it against global standards or outsiders’ expectations.

Raymond Macapagal, a UP Professor of gastronomy and food studies, explains that Filipino taste preferences are shaped by environmental and geographical factors bespoke to the Philippines, pushing us to adapt in ways that other countries do not experience.

Why are we Filipinos fond of sour flavors when other countries might find it off-putting? Macapagal reframes this ‘unusual’ taste as a product of our circumstances and surroundings. He uses our love of unripe mangga as an example, theorizing that their sourness may be a



LIMITED EDITION SLIPCASES. The new editions of *Sarap* and *Palayok* by Exploding Galaxies are available while supplies last.

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vital source of vitamin C, or that acidic flavors might give a cleansing sensation to the body or serve as a natural preservative for food.

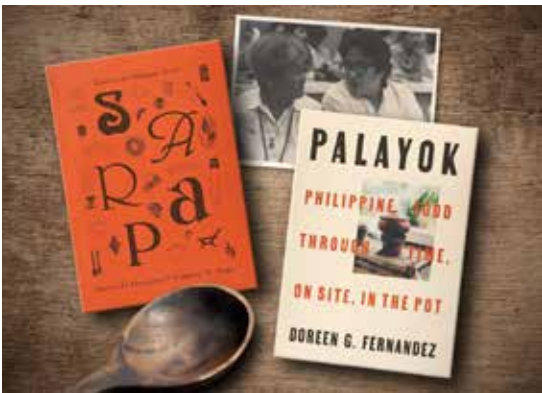
He also highlights the batuan, a native sour fruit, as a fascinating case, wondering why Filipinos don't wait for it to get ripe before harvesting it. Macapagal recalls a visit to Silay, where he discovered from a local that if batuan is left to ripen, it will be eaten by the bats first.

"When you look at our taste [as a country], it is shaped by the landscape but there's also this aspect of interacting or competing with other animals," he reflects. "With the bats and the birds in Silay, we took it (batuan) already, and we have to find a way to appreciate it."

In the same way, chef Stephan Duhesme challenges the sentiment of Filipino cuisine being 'too plain.' In his view, simplicity is not a weakness. In fact, although seemingly simple, our flavor profiles can even be just as complex and layered as other countries in Southeast Asia.

The problem is in comparison and standardization. Filipino food is actually "endangered of becoming simplified," he warns, pointing out that we risk flattening the richness of our cuisine when we use other countries' as a benchmark.

Instead, the Metiz chef emphasizes the adaptability and customizability of Filipino cooking, which shines in how we make sawsawan or dipping sauces to pair with our meals.



"I think we have to remember that we actually like to personalize our food to our taste to all very different varying degrees," he says, which makes our taste complex. The instinct to mix and balance flavors to our liking just might be one of the quiet strengths of our cuisine.

So next time we feel like doubting the depth of our local food, maybe we should reframe our mindsets. Instead of seeing it as inferior to global standards, we might begin to see our cuisine as shaped by resourcefulness, adaptation, and deeply personal taste.

Immerse in roots of food supply
To tie it all in, the panel problematized the biggest challenge: the cultural and structural disconnect between consumers and the food supply chain, especially in Metro Manila.

Entrepreneur and researcher Bea Misa-Crisostomo emphasized that marginal ingredients and the systems behind them are often ignored because they lack visibility.

"Our weakness as a country is not being

so cognizant of marginal things," she said. "It's not that we don't value marginal ingredients, but we don't think about them that much. It's like out of sight, out of mind."

She pointed out a "broken thread" between farmers, palengkes (wet markets), and consumers that has to be bridged for a more secure food future.

Although chefs and businesses like her organic store, Ritual, are trying to find solutions to the structural problems, she stressed, "No retail store, no chef can save the farmers." Real change, she said, requires a collective effort from across sectors.

"If we, as a country, really try to do it together and prop up our palengkes, prop up our small farmers, make it affordable for them to sell their own stuff and to sell a variety of things — connecting the karinderya (small eateries), the school

system, government procurement. Then maybe these things can be in broader circulation," she said.

So next time you want to go on a real food crawl around the country, consider taking it deeper: rediscover a lost recipe, try out a rare native fruit, talk to the market vendors, and ask about where your food comes from. Curiosity and interest, after all, are a powerful start.

In retrospect, the insights of today's food experts echo back to Doreen Fernandez's writing about Filipino cuisine and culture:

"From field and river to market, from market to kitchen, then to the table, and finally to the savoring. We have tried to place food in context in its cultural setting. Filipino cuisine is an authentic facet of Philippine culture that invites methodical inquiry. On our tables, rich and poor, are mute — albeit aromatic — testimony to the blending of history and our landscape."

It may be easy to wonder why Filipino food is not "trendy" enough, but maybe it doesn't always have to be. Classic Filipino food literature teaches us that at its core, Filipino food is meant to be enjoyed the way it has always been: slow, intentional, and rooted in our identity.



STREET PARTY AT THE ALLEY. The book launch celebration continued with a lively street party featuring grilled sticks and small plates from Papi Jepe by Toyo Eatery, free beer from Brujo, and more.

Gerald Anderson steps behind the camera for the first time

Gerald Anderson proudly shared how he directed his first scene in ABS-CBN's crime action-drama series "Sins of the Father."

Produced by JRB Creative Production, the show features Gerald as one the directors, alongside FM Reyes, Bjoy Balagtas and Avel Sunpongco. Gerald is also the lead actor, portraying Samuel Trinidad, a bank manager, in the series that tackles investment scams.

"My first scene was actually with JC (de Vera) and LA (Santos). When they entered the building, that was the first scene I ever directed," Gerald shared at a presscon. "And thank you also to them because that's one for

the books."

He also thanked the "amazing" producers, cameramen and the entire production team for helping him out, stressing, "I couldn't have done it without them."

The Kapamilya actor's foray into directing was just a "spur of the moment." As he recalled, "JRB (Julie Anne R. Benitez) and I and the creative team were just talking. They presented to me one versus 100 scenes para malagay si Samuel in this one particular situation. And then I was also giving my inputs na pwede ganito, pwede ganyan. And that's the beauty of this team, they are very collaborative. It's really team work.

"Miss JRB mentioned if I want to direct that scene. And honestly, I said, 'Wow! That would be an honor, a privilege.'"

He felt nervous at first because it was an on-the-spot moment. "But the fact that she had that trust in me, parang it gave me the confidence na parang, 'Sige. Laban.' And our directors were very gracious and I was asking questions, 'Direk, paano nga pag over the shoulders shots?'"

He reiterated the importance of the support and guidance that he received from his fellow directors and actors in pulling off the scenes.



It never occurred to Gerald that he would get to direct someday, just as he didn't expect to find himself in the acting field.

"It's a different animal, craft. It's something

that I did not really aspire to be but at the same time, when I was younger, I didn't really aspire to be an actor. Wala talaga yan, sa basketball ang gusto ko or papasok ako sa military, nasa dala-wa lang na yun," he reflected.

"But when an opportunity so good



Gerald's character Samuel in a scene with JC de Vera's Jacob

is handed to you and it was handed to me after (having) 19 years naman in my (acting) career, (I accepted it). I didn't attend film school. But I'm a very observant person and I listen to the directors. I see them — how they worked for the past 19 years. I'm not saying that I'm at their level. I have so much to learn."

ABS-CBN's crime action-drama series 'Sins of the Father' marks the directorial debut of Gerald Anderson. He is also the lead actor in the show.

The "Sins of the Father" is his first step into directing, he said. "Mas tumaas pa yung respeto ko sa kanila (directors) because it's not an easy job, mahirap siya. You are the captain of the ship, you are the leader, there's pressure from the production. Because we're working with limited time, minsan yung location, minsan yung artista, when you put all of that together, and the director has to produce something na at least quality sana, it's very hard. It's very hard but I enjoyed my experience."

He learned a lot through the entire process and for that, he was thankful. He also planned to direct more projects. "I want to direct more in the future but hindi na ako yung artista," he expressed. "I would like to do that because, of course, I want to test myself."

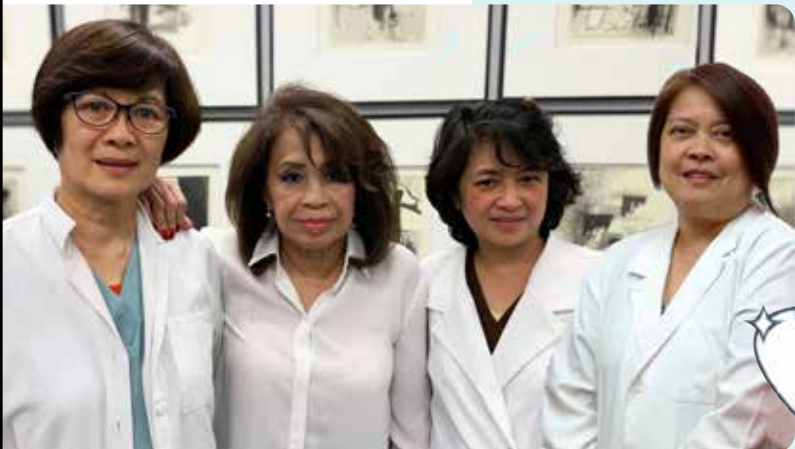
Acting and directing are two different fields and doing both is really tough, added Gerald.

Apart from directing, he recently ventured into film production. His company, Third Floor Studios, teamed up with Dondon Monteverde and Erik Matti's Reality MM Studios for the Metro Manila Film Festival 2025 entry "Rekonek."

The "Sins of the Father" delves into darker storylines that uncover large-scale scams like money lending, human trafficking and employment fraud. The series also became the most watched series on iWant.



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