



LM Confidential

• INDEOSPERAMUS •

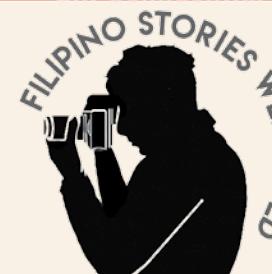
LM Confidential

LM Confidential

JANUARY 2025

LM Confidential

WWW.LMCONFIDENTIAL.COM



PH CURLING TEAM MISS THE CUT

A Canadian curler, a Swiss sex shop owner, banker, bricklayer, electrician forms the Philippine curling team for the winter Olympics. They did not qualify but here's their feel-good, inspirational story.

The improbable run of the Philippines men's curling team had a Canadian addi-

tion, thanks to a mother's Facebook message

How did the Philippines, a

tropical country nearly make the Olympics in curling?

After defeating the Phil

South Korea in the gold-medal match at the Asian Winter Games in Harbin, China, last

February, the curlers received a call from President Ferdinand

CURLING page 20

01.18.26
STILL CREATING AT FORTY

Marky HUGH

A Creative Force Uniting Art, Community, and Purpose

From concert stages to cinema screens, from workshop studio to clinics, Marky Hugh has built a career defined by passion, perseverance, and service. A producer, director, singer, actor, photographer, and entrepreneur, Marky Hugh is the founder and creative force behind Marky Hugh Productions Inc., established in 2017. What began as a bold vision has grown into a multi-platform company dedicated to uplifting Filipino talent and strengthening community connections in Canada.

Through Marky Hugh Productions, Marky has produced numerous celebrity concerts bringing Filipi-

nos together through music, shared stories, and cultural pride. Beyond major events, he also runs talent manage-

ment, actively promoting local artists and performers by giving them real plat-

MARKY HUGH Page 3



Mirachelle Capulong poses with Dr. Vicki Santiago holding her certificate of Achievement at their Family Dentistry annual Christmas dinner.



Francheska Perrone wins the Annual Best Holiday Costume 2025 contest at the Marky Hugh Year end party while Hailey Yarra performs a dance number.



1



2

3

IBANAG CHRISTMAS PARTY 1. Roy & Angie pose with the family at the Ibanag Chrsitmas party; 2. Angie Berlin, Theresa Lumanlan, Gloria Mandigma pose at the photo booth; 3. Roy and brother pose with family and friends.

Karen Bordador celebrates 4 years of being a free woman: 'I no longer live in doubt or worry'

In 2016, Karen Bordador made headlines after she was arrested for drug related charges which led to a five-year imprisonment at the Pasig City Jail. In 2021, she was finally acquitted of all charges and released. Since then, the former radio deejay and model turned events host and actress has been advocating for prison reform and better rights for Persons Deprived of Liberty in the country.

Last January 4, Karen officially marked her 4th year of getting her freedom back. "It's been four years since my unlawful imprisonment, and this is also my fourth year celebrating Christmas and New Year as a free woman. When I was behind bars, all I wanted was to be home for these moments. And now, I finally get to spend this beautiful season with my family—something I once only dreamed of."

In the same post, the 33-year-old former Pinoy Big Brother housemate also talked about focusing on staying positive, moving forward, and continually reaching for higher goals.

"Lately, I've been extremely busy maximizing my possibilities. I've been hosting TV shows and events, livestreaming on different platforms, and working with both local and international brands. The sky truly is the limit in the outside world because

my mindset is simple: everything is possible. If I was able to lose everything, it also means I can gain everything back and more!" she wrote.

Karen went on to share her thoughts on her personal growth. "At this point, I see no walls anymore. When tragic situations stretch your emotions and mental capacity, you discover a strength you didn't know you had. You realize that you can become bigger than your situation. I no longer live in doubt or worry—I carry a quiet knowing in my heart that I am meant for great things. That's why I was given another day, another chance, to share my stories from behind bars and turn pain into purpose."

Despite her ordeal, Karen has chosen to make something beautiful moving forward. "Thank you for listening, for remembering what was once a traumatic past and allowing it to now serve as inspiration for those still in the dark. I was able to overcome it—and so can you."

She added: "Happy New Year, everyone! I've been a little quiet here lately because I've been busy living, working, and grinding—but I'll try to update you all more. Thank you for the constant support and for cheering me on. Every message, every share, every bit of engagement means so much to me and is deeply appreciated."



FCT-SAP Christmas Celebration

Filipino Centre Toronto Senior Arts Painting group celebrated Christmas with good food, camaraderie, fun and games. Mila Lacerona of God's Strength Ministries distributed bread also. Bernadette Lumanlan also celebrated her birthday. Everyone had a wonderful time.



Birthday celebrant Bernadette with sister Theresa



Birthday celebrant Bernadette cuts the cake.



AJ, Judith, Nitz, and Mila Lacerona of God's Strength Ministries gave away bread.



Dan serves the lechon.



Jackie Cristini with Kuya Wally



(SEATED) Elsie & Kuya Wally Yerro, (STANDING) Jennifer Sy, and Angie Berlin



Trini, Annie, and our Vice Ganda, the livewire Jackie Cristini



Our indefatigable worker Lally Dividina Tidor, PCCF's Rosemer Enverga, Rocel, & Judith

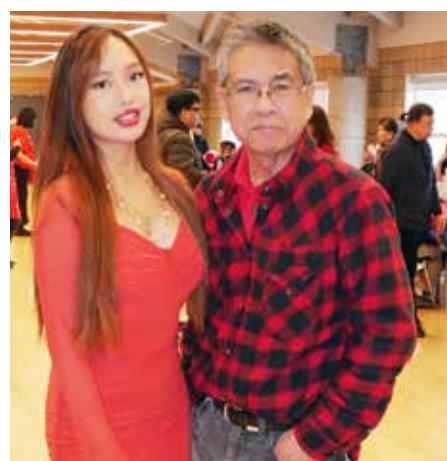


Honey Shot

Kirstine, 18, is a Miss Teen Philippines Canada 2024 titlist of Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF). She practices taekwondo and aikido. She also practices Pekti Tirsia Kali, a style specific to Filipino martial arts based on arnis. She also does baking and modelling. and runnng. For sports, she does running. Her parents are Maika and Alex.

We wish her all the luck in her future.

Kirstine Alexandria



Miss Philippines Canada 2025 1st Runner-up Andrea Penaverde with Joey Baking



Philip Beloso pose with Mika Sy and Shaine Jaramillo of Pink Ribbon at the Pinoy Ontario Vendors gala.

Canada cautions citizens about travel to the Philippines

Several provinces in Mindanao are flagged under strict advisories

Canada warns travelers of security risks in parts of the Philippines

The Government of Canada has renewed its call for travelers to remain vigilant when visiting the Philippines, particularly



as international travel picks up during the winter season.

In its updated travel advisory, Canada maintained its warning

for travelers to the Philippines, stating, "Exercise a high degree of caution in the Philippines due to crime, terrorism and kidnapping."

The reminder comes as the Philippines continues to be a popular destination for tourists seeking warmer weather during the colder months in North America.

'Long-standing security challenges' in

Mindanao

While many areas of the Philippines remain open to tourism, the Canadian government drew a clear distinction between regions with elevated risks and those deemed relatively safer. The advisory is especially strict when it comes to parts of Mindanao, where they stated, "long-stand-

CANADA WARNING page 14

MARKY HUGH: A Creative Force Uniting Art, Community, and Purpose

MARKY HUGH from page 1

forms, exposure, and professional guidance. His passion for talent development reached an international stage when he served as a former Regional Director of the World Championship of Performing Arts (WCO-PA). Under his leadership, the talents he scouted and mentored collectively won over 50 medals in 2019-2020, showcasing Filipino excellence on a global level.

His commitment to representation and storytelling expanded with the publication of eight issues of MH Magazine, highlighting inspiring creatives and community leaders. Education remains at the heart of his mission. Marky regularly conducts workshops for kids in singing, modelling, dancing, acting, and



performance, focusing not only on skills but also on confidence, discipline, and self-expression.

Marky contributions have earned major recognition. In 2021, he received the Excellence in Music and Entertainment Award from the Golden Balangay Awards. As an artist, he also reached a significant milestone earlier in his career, earning a Gold Record Award from Music Canada in 2013 as part of the

Specta Singers.

In 2023, Hugh formally entered film-making and quickly made his mark, producing three feature films and twelve short films, several of which were screened at Cineplex. One of his notable projects, How to Get Away from a Toxic Family, produced by Ogie Diaz, was shown on Xinflix in November 2025, with proceeds supporting Kasuso Foundation for Breast Cancer Inc. This advocacy is deeply personal for Hugh. After losing his mother to cancer, he has committed to using his platform to raise awareness and support those affected by the disease. As he approaches his 40th birthday this January, Hugh shared that he hopes to celebrate not just with milestones, but by giving back and helping Kasuso Foundation continue its mission for breast cancer awareness and support.

Beyond the arts, Marky is also a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) and owner of Muscle Health Clinic, where he advocates for health, wellness, and holistic care.

In an LM Confidential interview, Hugh was asked how he manages concerts, workshops, film-making, and running a

clinic. He shared, "I think it's really about time management and discipline. But more than that, it's passion. When you love what you do, the hard work feels meaningful."

When asked how he stays consistent despite challenges, Marky reflected, "It's perseverance of passion. When I wrote my first book—still available on Amazon—I shared my entire journey. I always go back to my 'why.' The people who believe in me, who trusted me from the start, are what keep me going."

As he approaches his 40th birthday this January, Marky was asked what life has taught him through the years. His answer was simple yet grounded: "Stay humble. Whatever you achieve is because of the people

MARKY HUGH page 14

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL JOINS THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN TORONTO FOR THE FIRST NIGHT OF SIMBANG GABI 2025



17 December 2025 – The Philippine Consulate General in Toronto, led by Consul General Kristine Leilani R. Salle, joined the Filipino community on Monday night for the first of the nine-day Simbang Gabi 2025 at the Our Lady of the Assumption Parish on Bathurst St.

The Holy Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Robert Kasun, Rev.

Fr. Joafer Geraneo, Rev. Fr. Ben Ebicas, Rev. Fr. Manny Duterte, and Rev. Fr. Lorenzo Salan-dan-a,

and attended by some 500 members of the Filipino community in Toronto. Bishop Kasun's homily centered on Christ as the Word of God and the ultimate expression of God's love. He called on everyone to align their actions and relationships with the Word of God.

Addressing the community briefly before the final blessing, Consul General Salle noted the dual significance of this time of year, which is also the Month of Overseas Filipinos. She thanked the Filipino diaspora for bringing the Simbang Gabi tradition and the warmth of the Filipino Christmas spirit to Toronto and for everything

that they do for their communities in Canada and their families and friends in the Philippines. "Your resilience and generosity are the very reasons our nation continues to thrive", she said. She also enjoined everyone to continue to nurture the vibrant relationship between the Philippines and Canada, including through the exercise of their civic duties and the participation of eligible Filipino and dual

Filipino-Canadian citizens in the ongoing overseas voter registration for the upcoming Philippine national elections in 2028.

Her Worship Olivia Chow, Mayor of the City of Toronto, also joined the community in prayer and fellowship.

Following the Mass, everyone gathered at the Parish Hall for salu-salo.

Each year, the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto sponsors one of the nine Simbang Gabi Masses at the Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, aligned with its mandate to support initiatives that promote community building and cultural identity among Filipinos in Toronto. In 2008, the Archdiocese of Toronto formally designated the Parish as the home of the Archdiocesan Filipino Catholic Mission.



Casting Call - Short Film (Paid Gig)

Title: Empty Frames
Genre: Drama
Director: Marky Hugh
Producer: Marky Hugh Films
Executive Producer: Marky Hugh Productions
Shoot Dates: January 2026 / Toronto
Self-Tape Deadline: December 30, 2025
Union Status: Non-Union / Paid
Contact: markyhughfilms@gmail.com

ROLES:
Walter (Lead, Male, 30-35)
• A Filipino male preferred.
• A photographer struggling with trauma, grief, and loss.
• Must portray vulnerability, emotional depth, and subtle charisma.
• Comfortable with intimate and dramatic scenes.

Caleb (Supporting, Male, Early 30s)
• Any ethnicity, warm, empathetic, and approachable.
• Brings a quiet & grounding energy.
• Ability to convey emotional honesty without overacting.

Matthew (Supporting, Male 30-35)
• Any ethnicity
• Charming, casual, and emotionally unavailable.

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS:
• Self-Tape Submission: Email your headshot, resume, and 1-2 minute monologue to markyhughfilms@gmail.com by December 30, 2025.

NOTE:
• This project contains adult themes, including intimate scenes. All auditions and filming will be conducted with professionalism and respect.

HIRING: CINEMATOGRAPHER & EDITOR

Marky Hugh Productions/Marky Hugh Films is looking for a Cinematographer and an Editor with experience in film festival projects to collaborate on an upcoming short film shooting this January in Toronto.

Project Details:
• Short narrative film (festival-focused)
• Drama
• Toronto-based

Requirements:
Proven experience with films that have screened at film festivals
Strong visual storytelling and cinematic style
Experience in narrative editing and emotional pacing
Collaborative and reliable
Own gear is a plus (f1c, cinema lenses, etc.)

Compensation:
• Paid (rates based on experience)
• Screen credit / IMDb Credit
• Film festival exposure

To apply:
Send your reel/portfolio, festival credits, and availability via DM or email at markyhughfilms@gmail.com

Let's create a powerful short film together!
— Marky Hugh Films/Marky Hugh Productions



What The Fact

by Joey Baking

☺ We Live in Interesting Times ☺

FIFA Peace Awardee Attacks Venezuela

"We live in interesting times" is a phrase to describe a world that is chaotic and uncertain. According to my online search, the term was popularized by Robert F. Kennedy, it's often called a Chinese curse, but evidence points to British origins.

The year 2026 just started and the United States attacked Venezuela and



kidnapped President Maduro without any resistance. It looked more like an Uber picking up a passenger, complete with a bit of fireworks from the bombing of a military installation by the United States.

You just have to wonder where the presidential security detail was, no armed forces who put up any resistance, nothing, nada.

It makes you wonder if the Venezuelan armed forces and the United States had an agreement beforehand.

The abduction of Maduro is still fresh in the news and FIFA's first Peace Award recipient US President Donald Trump is already repeating his idea of annexing Greenland. Then, Mexico. Then, Cuba. Makes you wonder, he wasn't kidding about annexing Canada after all, was he? ☺



No big fish is in jail

President Bongbong Marcos proudly boasted that by December 25, those involved in the flood control scandals will be in jail.

But, just like any promises that involves jailing rich and powerful people in the Philippines, the only ones in jail are some small officials involved in the ministries, mga engineers, assistant ng mga department heads, pero walang mga congressmen at senators. Baka nga pati janitor nilagay na sa kulungan para lang masabi na may naipakulong sila. Kawawa talaga mahihirap sa atin. Sila lang ang nakukulong. Kailangan talaga kapag nagnakaw ka sa Pilipinas, iyong malkihan para hindi ka maikulong. If you only steal food to feed your family, makukulong ka. Pero kapag nagnakaw ka ng billion Pesos, ligtas ka.

Kawawa na mga too, kawa talaga Pilipinas. Wala na talagang pag-asa. ☺

Annual medical check-up

Why do we schedule nga pala ang ating annual medical

check-up at the beginning of the year? How many of you schedule it in the middle of the year? I think it makes more sense if we schedule it in the middle of the year or at the end of summer and before the cold season starts. That way, we are still in good shape. If we schedule it in summer, we are fit because we want to show our beach bodies. That means, we are eating healthy during that time. If we schedule it in January, which is after the holidays, we are going to take crash healthy diet para kapag blood test natin, we are hoping maganda result. After eating a lot from all those parties during the holidays, chances are, our cholesterol will be bad and high. But if we schedule natin ng summer, we already had enough time from January to eat healthy. That means, there's a chance our blood cholesterol will be free of bad cholesterol already.

Is the mainstream media telling the truth?

On December 26, I went to Scarborough Town Centre to check a jacket. By the time I left at around 11:45 am, it wasn't that crowded. My friend showed his live video in the afternoon of crowds in another mall. It wasn't crowded at all. But when I saw the news in the evening, the reporters were saying that it was crowded. Or is it depending on the mall? For me, it looked like a sombre atmosphere at the mall.

Coco pinaramdam loyalty sa Kapamilya

Panay-panay ang promote ni Coco Martin ng paglipat ng Kapamilya Channel sa Alitv2, ha!

Grabe nga ang pagpo-promote ni Coco ng bagong tahanan ng "FPJ's Batang Quiapo" serye niya.

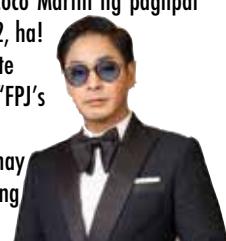
Actually, bukod kay Coco, panay rin ang promote ng dyowa niyang si Julia Montes.

Pinost nga ni Julia ang video reel ni Coco na nagpapasalamat ang boyfriend sa panonoong mga faney sa "FPJ's Batang Quiapo" sa Kapamilya Channel Alitv2.

Marami nga ang bumilib sa pagpapakita ni Coco ng loyalty sa ABS-CBN, ha!

Anyway, kapiirma lang ni Coco ng kontrata sa ABS-CBN kaya grabe talaga sa pagpo-promote ang action star-producer-director sa kanilang bagong tahanan.

Samantala, hinihintay naman ng mga faney kung



sasagutin ni Coco ang tsikang malapit nang magtapsos ang "FPJ's Batang Quiapo".

Tsika ng isang tinanong namin, wala pa naman daw sinasabi kung hanggang kailan nga ba ang seryeng 'yon ni Coco.

'Yun na!

Bea Alonzo 'di pa atat patali sa dyowa

Nagbigay ng kanyang fearless prediction hinggil sa kilalang showbiz personalities ang isang psychic.

Ayon sa kanya, ang 2026 raw ay hindi tamang taon para mag-pakasal.

Base raw kasi sa karakter ng kabayo na patalon-patalon, hindi rin daw advisable



At the 2025 Metro Manila Film Festival Gabi ng Parangal, Ashley earned nominations for Best Actor for Love You So Bad and Best Supporting Actor for Bar Boys: After School.

"Eighteen years old ako nun, sabi ko five years from now, which is now, ngayon, magkakaroon ako ng lead role, award nominations, bayah, business," he said.

He described the moment as surreal. "Nakakatuwa kasi talagang na-manifest ko siya nang matindi and sobrang pasasalamat lang talaga sa Panginoon," he added. Ashley has stayed busy since finishing as Second Big Placer on Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition alongside Ralph De Leon.

He staged his first solo concert at the New Frontier Theater in October.

He is also part of the upcoming GMA Network-ABS-CBN collaboration series Secrets of Hotel 88.

Philippine Curling Team Miss The Olympic Cut

CURLING from page 1

nand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. (PBBM).

PBBM congratulated them on becoming the first Filipino athletes in any sport — as well as the first from any Southeast Asian nation — to win a medal in the Asian Winter Games and invited them to Manila.

But most of the curlers had day jobs in Switzerland. The team's skipper, Marc Pfister, is a bricklayer; his brother, Enrico Pfister, an electrician; and Christian Haller, an honest-to-goodness Swiss banker.

"The guys, working full-time, working construction, they were like, 'We can't go. We have appointments on Monday,'" said Alan Frei, the group's fourth Swiss-Filipino member, an entrepreneur who has paid the bulk of the team's expenses from his personal savings.

"And then, our (curling) federation was like, 'Guys, when the president calls, you need to come to the Philippines,'" Frei said.

So, they flew to Manila. A delegation from the Philippine Sports Commission met them at the airport with "Welcome Home" banners and bouquets of flowers. The team was feted in the media, appearing on the country's major television networks to recount beating Asia's three top-ranked curling nations — Japan, China and South Korea — back to back to back in the



medal rounds.

And, to explain to TV audiences in the tropical island nation, which has just four public ice-skating rinks for a population of 120 million and not a single dedicated strip of curling ice, what the sport is and how this gang of dual citizens from Switzerland hoped to qualify for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics.

Months later, Marcos referenced the curlers' triumph as a symbol of hope in the president's annual State of the Nation address. "Imag-

ine that, there's no winter here in the Philippines," he said in Filipino. "Yet we still proved that we can be champions in the Winter Games."

Now, the curling team representing a country where snow has never fallen in recorded history has a chance to compete in the Milan-Cortina Games.

After going undefeated in a preliminary qualifying event in Scotland this fall, the Philippines and seven other nations will compete in the final qualifier, in Kelowna, B.C., from Dec. 5-16, with the top two finishers earning spots in the 2026 Olympic curling tournament.

It's unclear who coined the term, but at some point in the past three years, folks around the Philippine men's curling team began referring to their Olympic quest as "Curl Runnings."

And indeed, their story contains many of the improbable, made-for-Hollywood elements

that made sports fans fall in love with the 1988 Jamaican bobsled team that inspired the 1993 comedy "Cool Runnings."

"This is like the Jamaican bobsled team times 100," said Jennifer

de la Fuente, treasurer for the Philippine curling federation.

But for a country that had never competed in international curling before 2023, the Filipino curlers

CURLING page 16

Join us!

MOVIE NIGHT

31
January 2026
7:00pm

647-403-8887

Kids can bring sleeping bags, pillows & blankets

\$30/adult
\$20/children 12 & under

Forget Me Not Screening
Glenmore Records Studios
24 Viceroy Road, Unit 16
Concord, On

Pajama Party!

PERSPECTIVE AND PERCEPTION

Glimpses On Significant Developments In The Philippines



Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

FILIPINO RETIREMENT REALITIES.

In the working world, the word “Retirement” has often been romanticised as an opportunity “to take a break from the routine of daily work, engage in unrealised personal pursuits and to smell the roses”, so to speak. The event is usually accompanied by a celebration, appreciative statements and a farewell gift. Recent surveys conducted by 2 large insurance companies, respectively, revealed that 1) “Only half of Filipinos feel financially prepared for retirement,” and 2) “Most Filipinos remain anxious and unprepared for retirement due to persistent financial and economic barriers despite growing awareness.” The Manulife Study’s “2025 Financial Resilience and Longevity Report”, found that “Just 52 per cent of Filipinos believe they have enough funds to retire comfortably, but are least likely to have sufficient retirement savings”. 66% of the Philippine respondents “rely on cash and fixed deposits for retirement, rather than alternatives such as pensions, property or mutual funds”. The Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd Survey conducted on 1,000 respondents, aged 18 to 59, who are earning at least P2,000 to P220,000, showed that “most Filipinos remain anxious and unprepared for retirement due to persistent financial and economic barriers despite growing awareness.” “Totoo na ang isang pangunahing problema sa pag-retiro sa Pilipinas ay ang kakulangan ng pagpaplano sa pananalapi. . Ang mababang sahod, hindi sapat na benepisyo sa seguridad sa lipunan, mataas na gastos sa medikal na hindi maaaring bayaran o saklaw lahat ng PhilHealth o diskwento sa mga senior citizen, at mga kadalilan sa kultura na lahat ay nag-aambag sa kahirapan ng mga Pilipino upang maghanda para sa isang katuparan na pag-retiro.



“Filipino Families” Priorities

A management consulting firm, the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), recently examined how Filipino households make decisions, allocate resources and navigate the tension between daily survival and long-term aspirations. According to the study of 1,515 families across the country, representing 6,387 individuals (out of a total population of almost 117 million), showed that the top three priorities of Filipino families are 1) financial security during health emergencies (70%), 2) building a large savings fund (68%) and 3) improvement of nutrition and food quality (64%).

Anthony Oundjian, co-author of the report, “The Filipino Family”, believes that “to truly understand the needs of Filipino people, and see the Filipino family as a decision-making unit.

“Their study found that seven in 10 Filipino households identified “being financially prepared for health emergencies” as one of their top five priorities, surpassing savings, education and homeownership.

The five takeaways of the report are:

1. The consumer is not an individual

but a household coalition.

2. Health remains the household’s deepest vulnerability.
3. Aspirations are modest but symbolise dignity.
4. Household structures shape economics.
5. Migration reshapes families without breaking them.

“Sa wakas, ang mga aspirasyon ng pamilyang Pilipino kasama na ang pinakamahalagang hamon sa kalusugan ay hindi isang partikular na sakit, kundi ang napakalaking pangamba ay ang pag-iipon at paghanda sa pananalapi dulot ng mga gastusin sa medisina, kalusugan, at pagkabuhay. Kaya dapat, ang pamilyang Pilipino ay maging matatag sa mga mapanghamong panahong ito, upang protektahan ang pamilya mula sa isang sistemang itinuturing na hindi sapat. Para sa tunay na pambansang pag-unlad, ang matinding pangamba at takot ay dapat tugunan sa pamamagitan ng pagtiyak na ang seguridad sa kalusugan ay isang kolektibong katotohanan, hindi lamang isang indibidwal na aspirasyon kundi ang buong pamilya na naayon sa kulturang Pilipino.” (Tony A. San Juan, OCT.)

Kung ang isa ay may mga paraan, ang susi ay talagang magplano nang maaga para sa pagretiro kung hindi mo nais

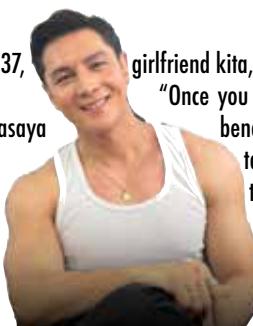
na mabuhay ang iyong buong buhay na nagtatrabaho. Dahil dito, ang isang magreretiro ay dapat pamahalaan ang

kanyang mga inaasahan tungkol sa kung ano ang magiging buhay (health and lifestyle) pagkatapos maabot ang sosyal na ipinatupad na edad ng trabaho. Sa huli, para sa karamihan ng mga Pilipino, ang nakakatakot at naka-lulumbay na katotohanan ay ang isang katuparan na pagretiro ay magpakailanman ay isang panaginip lamang!”

NEW “MIRACLE RICE”

“Dinorado”, the Philippines’ rice variety, won the Silver Medal at the World’s Best Rice Award on November 7, 2025, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Dinorado came in second behind a two-way tie for gold awarded to Vietnam’s three-time champion ST25 rice and Cambodia’s seven-time winner Phka Rumdoul rice. It is an upgrade from the country’s third-place finish last year. On winning second place, Philippine Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said, “This is proof that our local farmers and scientists can hold their own against the world’s best”. Popularly known as “Mabango” and formally called NSIC Rc218, Dinorado has “both the substance and the scent to stand among the planet’s finest grains,” according to the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA). The rice variety is known for its aroma, tenderness, and taste and was developed by the DA’s Philippine Rice Research Institute in 2009. Agriculturists, farmers, businessmen, and government officials agree that the “win isn’t just about quality; it’s about identity—a reminder that the Philippines is not only the world’s largest rice importer but also a nation capable of producing world-class, sustainable, and export-worthy rice”, thus putting the country again on the map. “Kahimanawari ay tuloy-tuloy na ito para maging daan sa pagbibigay buhay at paglago ng ating agrikultura sa pagtatanim ng bigas, para mapababa ang presyo ng bigas at tuloy mabawasan o matigil na ang pag-aangkat sa mga karatig bansa at ibang bansa sa buong mundo, ano! Sana naman!”

What Joseph Marco learned about handling a relationship



Single at walang dine-date si Joseph Marco, 37, sa ngayon.

Però hindi raw ibig sabihin ay hindi siya masaya ngayong panahon ng Kapaskuhan.

Ilan sa mga dati niyang nakarelasyon ay ang Russian model na si Dasha Rokanova at Filipino-Italian beauty queen na si Celeste Cortesi.

“You have a free will, you know. You can do whatever you want,” saad ni Joseph nang tanungin ng PEP.ph (Philippine Entertainment Portal) kung ano ang advantage ng pagiging single.

“And at the same time, you know, walang distractions. You can focus on yourself, focus on your family and focus on the things that you love,” dagdag niya.

Sa kaso niya, “Well, right now, I really want to focus on work.”

RELATIONSHIP ADVICE

Kung mayroon siyang relationship advice na pina-practice niya mismo, iyon daw ay paghinang ng mga katangiang makakabuti para sa self-growth.

Paliwanag ni Marco: “Take care of yourself for her and you take care of yourself for me.

“Kasi, ang nangyayari baliktd, e. Na, ‘Alagaan mo ako,

girlfriend kita, e. Alagaan kita, girlfriend kita.’ Hindi.

“Once you take good care of yourself, she’s going to benefit from it. If you read so much books, you take care of yourself, you eat good food, you try to be better each day as a person, siya magbe-benefit. Makikita niya, mai-inspire siya. So it’s, you know, kumbaga, kargo mo sarili mo, kargo ko sarili ko.”

Hindi raw puwedeng iasa sa karelasyon ang kasiyahan ng isang tao.

Sumang-ayon si Joseph sa awtor na ito na “one complete person plus one complete person equals a healthy relationship.”

“Exactly,” tugon ni Joseph.

“Kasi, you know, nagiging misconception, kapag malungkot tayo, kapag damaged tayo, we’re gonna look for someone who’s gonna save us.”

“You’re gonna say you’re okay. But then again, pag nag-away na kayo and naging toxic na, ikaw, lalabas yung toxicity mo kasi hindi ka pa talaga fully healed.”

“So, you really have to be super okay before you enter a relationship.”

“I think that’s the best thing kasi, or else, ipapasa mo lang yung mga traumas mo in life. Kawawa lang yung tao.”

‘Hayaan na natin’: Karla Estrada on son Daniel Padilla, Kaila Estrada dating rumors



Actress Karla Estrada said that it is not her story to tell whether her son Daniel Padilla and actress Kaila Estrada are now in a relationship.

In her interview with TV Patrol, Karla said Daniel and Kaila are at the right age to make their own decisions.

“Nasa edad na kasi sila eh. Manggaling na lang sa kanila. Hindi naman na ako para manguna, ‘di ba?’ she said.

“Hayaan na natin, kung anong nakikita natin, masaya naman tayo pare-pareho,” she added.

Karla said that she is happy for her

son Daniel.

“I think it’s about time na mag-mature na tayo sa gani-tong mga sitwasyon. Kung anong nakikita ko

sa anak ko na masaya, masaya na rin ako bilang nanay niya,” she said.

The actress also said that she already met Kaila because of her parents, actors Janice de Belen and John Estrada. She and John are not related.

“Yes. Matagal ko nang nami-meet si Kaila because we’re very close. Me and Ate Janice are friends, also John,” she said.

Pinky Amador says Gen Z changed political, voting landscape

Veteran actress Pinky Amador expressed her admiration for the younger generation, or Gen Z (born 1997-2012), saying they played a huge role in reshaping the political landscape.

In a "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda" interview on Tuesday, Dec. 30, Amador said Gen Z voters make a conscious effort to research and find out whether a candidate is worth voting for, which eventually made an impact on today's political landscape as a whole.

The actress was also joined by Bianca Gonzalez and "Sang'gre" star Faith Da Silva in the interview.

"Sila talaga ang nagbago ng [political] landscape kasi mapanuri na sila. Hindi dahil porket sikat [ang pulitiko]," she said. "Tinitingnan nila ano ba ang nagawa nilang batas. Ano ba ang plataporma nito? Iisa-iisahan nila 'yan."

Amador also noted that Gen



Zs do their best to inform older generations why a certain government official is worth voting for.

At the same time, she pointed out why it's important to have an open mind in engaging with communities when it comes to discussing such matters.

"Makakapagpabago sila ng bansa natin dahil mapanuri sila, magaling sila sa [pag-research sa] internet. 'Yun ang hinahanap natin, kailangan may kaalaman sila," she said.

"[But at the same time], kailangan marunong ka rin makinig. Marunong ka rin pumulso sa tao. Ano ba talaga problema natin? You need to go on the ground to find out. Paano natin masosolusyunan 'to? Pero dahil sa mga Gen Z, maraming nagbago," she further explained.

Amador is one of the many celebrities who voiced out their fury against corruption, and even participated at the anti-corruption rally in Manila where she reminded the public to speak up on issues that matter.

The past year has been an eventful one for celebrities who used their platforms to speak up against corruption following the alleged anomalies in flood-control projects.

Maria Sovietskaya Bacud, biktima ng death hoax

Si Sovietskaya ang first runner-up sa Binibining Pilipinas 1996; 1st runner-up sa Miss Intercontinental 1995 na ginanap sa Dresden, Germany; at "She's Got The Look" winner ng Eat Bulaga! noong dekada '90.

Ka-batch ni Sovietskaya sa Binibining Pilipinas 1996 sina Aileen Damiens (Bb. Pilipinas-Universo), Daisy Reyes (Bb. Pilipinas-World), Yedda Marie Kittilsvedt (Bb. Pilipinas-International), and Sonia Santiago (second runner-up).

Nasubukan din ni Sovietskaya ang pag-arte dahil nagbida siya noong 1997 sa mga pelikulang Mga Nakaw Na Sandali at Kahit



Hindi Turuan Ang Puso, na produksyon ng MAQ Productions, ang sister company ng Regal Films.

Ginamit noon ni Sovietskaya ang screen name na Maria Sovietskaya.

MARIA SOVIETSKAYA IS VERY MUCH ALIVE Buhay na buhay si Maria Sovietskaya Bacud at kasalukuyang naninirahan sa Australia.

Napilitan ang mga content creator na naglabas ng fake news noong Disyembre 27, 2025, na burahin ang mga social media post nila dahil nagbanta ang isang kamag-anak ng dating beauty queen at aktres na maaari silang sampah-

an ng kaso dahil sa pagkakalat ng kasingalingan at walang basehang balita.

Sovietskaya's family clarifies. This is their official statement against the fake news:

"Sovietskaya moved to Australia several years ago and lives in Sydney with her daughter Chloe. She now works in high-end real estate.

"Prior to that she had done TV commercials and was a former flight attendant with Qantas. Today, she enjoys a quiet life on the Northern Beaches making the most of life and travel.

"Sovietskaya sends her love and wishes everyone back home a happy, safe, and prosperous New Year!"

Canada cautions citizens about travel to the Philippines

CANADA WARNING from page 3
ing security challenges persist."

Avoid all travel

For Western Mindanao, Canada advised travelers to completely stay away, issuing an "Avoid all travel" warning.

Provinces included under this classification are Basilan, Cotabato, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del

Norte, Maguindanao, Misamis Occidental, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and several provinces in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

According to the advisory, these areas face "the serious threat of terrorism, kidnapping, high levels of crime and violent clashes between the security forces and rebel groups."

Avoid non-essential travel

Meanwhile, Central and East-

Awra Briguera vows to defend herself from 'transphobes,' internet bullies

Awra Briguera declared that she won't let herself be bullied by "transphobes" any longer, as she made a promise to stand up for herself when the situation calls for it.

Briguera — who goes by the pronouns she/her — made the declaration on X (formerly Twitter) on Saturday, Jan. 3, in response to one @pauloMDtweets who said there's a "better way" of defending oneself from bashers.

"You've all been bullying me online, picking on me every single day. You've been transphobic and homophobic toward me, yet you never hear anything from me in response," she pointed out.

I chose peace. I chose to ignore everything, even though I was getting hurt every single day, despite not doing anything to any of you. You enjoyed doing that because, for so long, I chose not to stand up for myself," she continued.

The actress-comedienne then lamented about being seen as the "bad person" when she defends herself from naysayers on social media.

"But when I finally do, I'm suddenly the bad person? It's 2026, yet so many of



you still enjoy bullying someone who is trying to grow, improve, and redeem herself from past mistakes," she said.

Briguera stated that she's tired of being the "bigger person" and won't be giving internet bullies the "freedom to bully" her any longer.

"I'm tired of being the bigger person. This year, I'm focusing on myself and my transitioning era. I promise myself that I will no longer give transphobes the freedom to bully me," she said. "One thing I should've done sooner was be meaner to those transphobes. I don't care anymore. I will stand up for myself this time."

The "Your Face Sounds Familiar Kids" alum's statement earned praise from her followers, including Sassa Gurl, filmmaker Rodina Singh, drag performers Odasha Flop and Deja, and AC Soriano.

In July 2025, Briguera reposted a reminder on Instagram, where "misgendering" members of the LGBTQIA+ community and the lack of observing the proper pronouns are forms of disrespect.

This came after one Jack Argota claimed that she should be addressed as "bro."

The actress-comedienne graduated from senior high school at the University of the East in the same month.

Did Andrea Brillantes go public with non-showbiz BF?

It looks like Andrea Brillantes is starting the year on a rosy note, as she rang in 2026 with her rumored boyfriend, Pankie Capistrano, at the New Year's Eve countdown event in Taguig.



Brillantes and Capistrano welcomed the New Year together at BGC's NYE at the 5th countdown party, as seen in the latter's photo on his Instagram Story on Thursday, Jan. 1.

The photo showed the rumored pair posing close together while watching the per-

formance of SB19.

In a separate photo, Brillantes and Capistrano danced the night away with friends.

"Happy New Year!!" he wrote.

Brillantes and Capistrano were rumored to be in a relationship after they were spotted hanging out together on multiple occasions including a Christmas celebration with the latter's family.

plies to provinces such as Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon, multiple Davao provinces outside Davao City, Misamis Oriental and parts of Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur. The government pointed to the ongoing risk of kidnapping and persistent criminal activity in these locations.

The advisory further noted that extremist groups have been active in the southern Philippines for several years. Although authorities have succeeded in demobilizing some violent factions in recent years, Canada stressed that the threat has not been fully eliminated.

It highlighted that terrorist attacks and kidnappings remain a concern, particularly in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the Zamboanga Peninsula and the Sulu archipelago.

Concluding the advisory, the Canadian government cautioned travelers about "the risk of being in the wrong place at the wrong time."

They emphasize that their ability to provide consular assistance is limited if travelers become stranded in high-risk areas.

Philippines travel advice



Philippine Consulate General in Toronto Kicks Off Overseas Voter Registration, in Coordination with Philippine Foreign Service Posts Worldwide



2028, are highly encouraged to register and ensure their eligibility to vote. Likewise, Filipino citizens who turn 18 years of age on or before election day also qualify to register as overseas voters.

In addition to registration, Filipinos may also avail of other actions related to overseas voting, such as the transfer of

01 December 2025 – In accordance with R.A. 10590 and COMELEC Resolution no. 1117 on the system for overseas voting and registration of Philippine citizens abroad, the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto officially commenced the registration of overseas voters today, 01 December 2025. The registration period for Filipino overseas voters will run until 30 September 2027.

Filipinos residing outside the Philippines who expect to remain abroad on the day of the next national elections in the Philippines, scheduled for 08 May

registration from one country to another, reactivation of registration change or correction of entries, change of address, and recapture of biometric data, among others.

Consul General Kristine Leilani Salle urged all qualified Filipino voters to take advantage of the opportunity to register and participate in the upcoming elections. "Voting is one of our responsibilities as citizens of the Philippines. We owe it to our country and future generations to participate in our

democratic processes and vote for good leaders," she emphasized.

The Consulate's first registrant in Toronto, a resident of Stoney Creek, Ontario, expressed surprise and satisfaction at being the first to register, adding that she looked forward to casting her vote in the 2028 elections.



Donnalyn Bartolome set to step away from vlogging

Content creator Donnalyn Bartolome revealed that she is set to quit vlogging.

In her latest YouTube vlog, Donnalyn said she will release her last 10 vlogs before saying goodbye to vlogging.

In the video, Donnalyn gifted people who greeted her on her birthday with camera, phones and others.

Zeinab Harake, Jelai Andres, Paul Salas, Chikana, Small Laude, Alodia Go-siengfiao, Baninay Bautista and Donnalyn's boyfriend JM de Guzman received a gift from her.

"I have a gift to myself. My gift to myself involves 10 million of you," she said, referring to her YouTube subscribers.

"When I think about who I am and how I've always



been, I've always thought of what would make others happy. I never really asked myself what would make me happy," she added.

She then turned emotional, announcing her goodbye to vlogging.

"There's no easy way to say this but I'm saying goodbye to vlogging. That

is my gift to myself," she said.

Donnalyn then thanked her supporters, saying they gave her the chance to fully live her life.

"So I offer you last 10 vlogs. We will make it a beautiful ending," she said.

"I'll still be around, just not in the same way I used to be," she added.



Saturday
January 31, 2026

2:00 PM (Matinee)
6:00 PM (Evening)
Maja Prentice Theatre
3650 Dixie Road
Mississauga

\$15 (General Admission) / \$10 (Age 10 and Under)
Contact (647) 996-7755

Sunday
February 8, 2026

1:00 PM (Matinee)
5:00 PM (Evening)
Palmerston Theatre
560 Palmerston Ave
Toronto

Sunday
February 15, 2026

1:00 PM (Matinee)
5:00 PM (Evening)
Palmerston Theatre
560 Palmerston Ave
Toronto

Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty
Music by Stephen Flaherty

Toronto Kapuso Lions donates gifts to poor children in Bacolod



Toronto Kapuso Lions Club President, Lion Dr. Nudge Biclar, joined the Bacolod City Unity Leos and Lions' in distributing gifts and bringing cheer to underprivileged children in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental in the Philippines.

A big thank you to Toronto Kapuso Lions and Lions District A711 Past District Governor Sandy HEERALAL-JUDHAN for the gifts and toys sent from Canada.



DATE: January 17, 2026

VENUE:
Kampo at 1250 Event Place
1250 Markham Rd., Scarborough, ON M1H 2V9

FREE ENTRY | Now 2 Days!

register now at: events@dongentertainment.ca

(647) 632-7823

AJ Raval on Aljur Abrenica: "I love him endlessly."

As 2026 officially began, celebrity mom and actress AJ Raval marked the first day of the year not with grand words, but with a simple message of gratitude to her partner, Aljur Abrenica. On January 1, the actress took to Instagram to share a video compilation made up of their candid moments, capturing memories that reflected their love.



The video showed the couple enjoying simple joys together from celebrating birthdays with AJ blowing a candle, sharing lighthearted dance moments, being playful, posing for photos during beach trips, date nights, to quiet moments at home.

Alongside the video, AJ wrote a short but touching message that summed up her feelings for the actor.

"Not everything needs explaining. Just appreciation. Thank you Aljur," she captioned the post.

AJ paired the montage with the lyrics of the song "Love Grows (Where My Rosemary Goes)," a track whose words speak of love that grows naturally and joyfully with the right person.

Some netizens initially thought AJ was celebrating her birthday after seeing her blow out a candle in one of the clips, prompting her to quickly clear things up with humor.

"HINDI KO PO BIRTHDAY," she wrote, explaining that the post was simply her way of expressing gratitude, with no special occasion attached.

The post drew warm reactions from followers, many of whom shared their support and admiration for the couple.

"I love it and I love the freedom you have and peace of mind.. stay in love," one commented.

"I can see that you two are genuinely in love," another wrote.

Not long after, AJ shared another Instagram post showing how they welcomed the new year as a family. The video featured Aljur and their children running around their garden, laughing and playing as they celebrated with sparklers.

AJ's sweet and candid posts followed her recent interview with Boy Abunda, where she spoke openly about her family and relationship, and addressed long-standing rumors linking her to Aljur's breakup with Kylie Padilla.

In the same interview, AJ also expressed how excited she was for the holidays after finally being open about their family to the public. "Actually, sobrang excited ko ngayon parang may mga plans na ako lalo na ngayon mag Christmas, maraming park. Kinalakihan ko kasi yun-- lagi kaming dinadala sa park nung bata. Gusto ko yun ipa-experience sa mga kids."

That excitement was reflected in the snippets she later shared of their Christmas party celebration at home with the Raval family, filled with games, laughter, and music, including Aljur singing his viral cover of "Past Lives".

It was in early November when AJ admitted that she has five children, three of whom she shares with Aljur. AJ also revealed that her second child had passed away. Meanwhile, the actor also shares two sons with his former partner, Kylie.

AERA *Covers* **JAYHEART** *Music*

OUR TURN

MAY 30, 2026 6PM / Global Events Centre

Prepare for a Live, Vibrant, and Unforgettable Night

1250 Markham Rd
Scarborough ON M1H 2Y9

\$65 General Admission
\$125 VIP with Photo-op

647-203-0097 / 416-725-9045 / 647-278-4374 / 647-468-1208 / 416-831-9236

Inter-Act Global in cooperation with EdRen Entertainment LLC

'Huge part of my life': Andi Manzano reacts to MTV shutdown after 40 years

Andi Manzano is among those saddened by news of MTV closing some of its channels by end of this year.

Andi said getting the video jockey (VJ) job of MTV was a huge part of her life in an Instagram post earlier today.

She recalled how she was nervous to audition for the MTV VJ Hunt in 2007, where she got the job along with Kat Alano. Other winners of the Philippine editions of the MTV VJ hunt are Jamie Wilson, Derek Ramsay, and brothers KC Montero and Colby Miller.

"My first day hosting the Top 10 countdown, I was shaking so much. We had to memorize and

adlib 15 pages. It took me two hours to finish that first shoot." "MTV was such a huge part of my life. It opened doors, taught me so much, it let me experience things I never imagined I would like meeting artists and different people, hosting in front of massive crowds and the biggest stadiums and just being part of something that defined a whole generation. But more than anything, it's the people I'll never forget. The people behind the scenes who made the whole ride so fun!" Andi wrote on Instagram thanking the people who helped her grow as a VJ."

Anne Curtis, who briefly hosted shows on the 24-hour music broadcaster, commented on An-

di's post and called their days as "nostalgic."

"We were babies. I remember being so nervous and excited about being an MTV VJ," Anne wrote.

Apart from Andi, other MTV VJs in the Philippines are Donita Rose, Belinda Panelo, Cindy Kurleto, Marc Abaya and G Toengi.

Changing viewer habit

BBC reported that MTV is set to close five of its channels by end of the year. Its flagship channel, MTV HD, will remain airing shows, but mostly reality series.

The report said that the move reflects the shift



in viewing habits, with many viewers consuming content via streaming on platforms and social media rather than on TV.

MTV Philippines, after several attempts at reviving under different branding, ended its broadcast in December 2018.

PHILIPPINE PARK ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETS WITH MISSISSAUGA MAYOR

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The Board of Directors of the Philippine Park Association (PPA) paid a courtesy call to Hon. Carolyn Parrish, Mayor of Mississauga, on November 18, 2025. PPA is the newly organized community association assuming the communal responsibility of helping develop the first officially named park in Canada. Philippine Park, previously known as Max Ward Park, is located north of Matheson Boulevard East between Satellite Drive and Orbitor Drive and is open daily from dawn until 11 p.m.



Mayor Parrish affirmed the City's strong commitment to collaborate with the PPA in implementing both short- and long-term improvements. Standing from L-R: Maureen Ahmad - Adviser; Rick Torres - Director; Clemente Cabillan - Business Manager; Dr. Solon Guzman - External Vice-President; Mayor Carolyn Parrish; Rick Falco - President; Lerma Valdez - Secretary; Earl Francis Dacara - Internal Vice-President; Gerry Villareal - Treasurer and City Mayor Senior Strategic Advisor George Carlson.

George Carlson. The scheduled 30-minute courtesy meeting extended into a productive two-hour discussion session.

The PPA presented a series of proposed priority park projects such as 1) Installation of three temporary porta-lets during the spring/summer seasons, 2) construction of a permanent washroom facility, 3) Construction of the Philippine Pavilion with Filipino-inspired design, 4) Construction of a children's playground, 5) Repair and refurbishment of two tennis courts and construction of two new tennis and pickleball courts, 6) Creation of a



Mississauga City Mayor Carolyn Parrish meeting with Philippine Park Association (PPA) Board of Directors. A scheduled 30-minute courtesy meeting that extended into a productive two-hour working session. Attendees from L-R: Clemente Cabillan - Business Manager; Earl Francis Dacara - Internal Vice-President; Rick Torres - Director; Senior Strategic Advisor George Carlson; Mayor Carolyn Parrish; Rick Falco - President; Lerma Valdez - Secretary; Gerry Villareal - Treasurer; and Maureen Ahmad - Adviser.

Filipino "Wall of Heroes", and 7) Installation of flagpoles.

Mayor Parrish affirmed the "City's strong commitment to collaborate with the PPA in implementing both short- and long-term improvements. The good Mayor has also expressed "full and enthusiastic support for upcoming upgrades and community-driven enhancement projects" in the city's Filipino-Canadian centred park. It was the consensus at the meeting, that

"funding for the park's development may be sourced directly by the PPA or shared with the City of Mississauga, subject to available municipal budget allocations."

Meeting with the city leader is reflective of Mayor Parrish's outreach initiatives of working with her constituents in successfully promoting and achieving the city's rich multicultural heritage, culture, and traditions. (By Samson Regalado/ & Tony A. San Juan, OCT).

Filipino Canadian Educators Group Conducts Officers Induction



Tony A. San Juan,
OCT.

In faithful affirmation, "I solemnly pledge and promise to perform the duties and responsibilities of my position as.....", thirteen Executive Officers and 9 Board Directors of the Philippine Teachers Association of Canada(PTAC) vowed to serve and fulfill their obligations of purposefully pursuing the mandate and mission of the remarkable Filipino-Canadian socio-professional organization.

In faithful affirmation, "I solemnly pledge and promise to perform the duties and responsibilities of my position as.....", thirteen Executive Officers and 9 Board Directors of the Philippine Teachers Association of Canada(PTAC) vowed to serve and fulfill their obligations



a swearing -in-ceremony during its "Annual Christmas Party" on December 21, 2025 at Edithvale Community Centre in North York, Toronto, Ontario. PTAC, established in May 2006, is mainly composed of former teachers and educators from the Philippines who are professionally certified by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT), and are currently engaged as practicing teachers in various English school boards and educational

Treasurer Marcial Singson, Asst. Treasurer Aisha Gomez, Auditor Grace De La Reyna, Asst. Auditor Donna Scutariu, PRO Joy Caliva, Asst. PRO Aileen Rendoque, Business Mgr. Mary Doris Redondo, and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Marie Ann Guiang. The Board of Directors consists of Veberly Belo, Marissa Ciacico, Robylie Gorospe, Rosalie Santiago Piga, Zenaida Ramos, Donnabel Reid, Rowena Sagun, Aniedel Singson, and Mary Anne Celine Villa.

Members and Guests of the Philippine Teachers Association of Canada(PTAC)

Alaiza, France Ampioco, Maria & Manuel "Jun" Bernasor, Joy Caliva, Marissa Ciacico, Lex Gabrito, Aisha Gomez, Mariz Madarang, Roelle Perez, Jean Reloba, Aileen Rendoque, Gigi Reyes & daughter, Mary Ann Santos, Donna Scutariu, Marcial & Aniedel Singson, Celine Villa, Richard & Tess Vinluan, and other members. Sumptuous Pinoy festive favourites

and potluck dishes served comprise lechon, pancits, arroz caldo, chicken wings, embutido, fried rice, menudo, palabok, Bbqs, sisig, salads, "at mga kakanin, biko, buchi, prutas, puto, suman, pampalamig, atbp."

Guests and participants admirably characterized the holiday celebration-cum-induction event for its distinctive fun-filled merriment, food sharing, gift-giving, challenging contests, musical entertainment, and heart-warming displays of professional love, respectful togetherness and collaboration in an aura of family-focused gathering..... the true essence of Christian tradition and unequivocal spirit of "Paskong Pilipino". (Tony A. San Juan, OCT.)



Members and Guests of the Philippine Teachers Association of Canada(PTAC)

of purposefully pursuing the mandate and mission of the remarkable Filipino-Canadian socio-professional organization.

The 20-year-old Philippine Teachers Association of Canada, a registered not-for-profit and volunteer-run outfit, held

institutions in Ontario.

Led by 4-termer President, Cielito "Mahlrika" Drapeza, among those inducted for the 2025-2027 term were Vice-President Maria Bernasor, Vice-President Richard Vinluan, Secretary Mary Ann Santos, Asst. Secretary Jean Rose Reloba,

Retired Toronto Educator and Past PTAC President, Tony A. San Juan presided over the induction of the 22- member Executive Directorate.

The hardworking "mga punong abalana" party organizers, program participants, and volunteers consist of Mary

ANNSET HOLIDAYS
UNIT 206 THE MANILA RESIDENCES TOWER II •
2310 TAFT AVENUE, MALATE MANILA
Reservation (02) 8 354-4101 to 04
Fax Number (02) 8 354-4105
Email: tours.travel@annsetholidays.com.ph

Mabukay WELCOME TO
MANILA
PHILIPPINES

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 21, 2025

Edithvale Community Centre

North York, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

RSVP: info@annsetholidays.com.ph

For more information, contact:

TONY A. SAN JUAN, OCT.

President, Philippine Teachers Association of Canada (PTAC)

Mobile: +1 647 555-1234

Email: tony.sanjuan@ptac.ca



Joey Baking The Socialist

New Year's Resolution: To tolerate fools more gladly, provided this does not encourage them to take up more of my time.

James Agate



Hot Parties, Cold Nights



Judy McDonald, Imelda Concepcion & Jennifer Sy perform a beautiful rendition of The Three Degrees' "When will I see you Again" at the Dong's Dreamers Academy's first Christmas Recital and Awards Night.

December is the month of chilly days and even chillier nights. And the parties get hotter until we all plop down in our own bed on the eve of the new year. Here's to some of the celebrations we managed to attend.

Dong's Dreamers Academy held their first Christmas Recital and Awards Night. It was a wonderful night of performances by all students of the school headed by Dong Sabanal. What makes this school different is the presence of students/performers who are "not in their teens." There are more of them than the other schools. While the young ones still outnumber the "young Once" (or in Philippine street name "tanders") performers, both actually performed very well and with confidence.

5-year old Anasteysha sings "Pretty Little Baby."

"Top of the World" performed by Jennifer Sy and Tounie.

I was pleasantly surprised the 1961 song by Connie Francis "Pretty Little Baby" was performed by 5-year old Anasteysha.

Ron Angeles and Anylou Cruz performed Ogie Alcasid's "Bakit ngayon ka lang Dumating."

The rendition of The Three Degrees' "When will I see you Again" by Imelda Concepcion, Judy McDonald and Jennifer Sy was lovely.

Imelda's performance of Louis Armstrong's "What a wonderful World" was just lovely.

For me, DDA can create a singing group of tanders that might become popular with the community. It might become a hit across generations, meaning young and old, not only in the Filipino com-



Personally, because I identify with the tanders, I actually enjoyed the numbers by the, ahem, tanders. Perhaps because I'm familiar with the songs they sang.

I liked the rendition of "Holy Night" by Imelda Concepcion. Then, there's the Carpenters song



MH Productions closes another banner year and looks forward to a more creative 2026.

munity but Canadians too.

It was a very enjoyable and entertaining night.

I checked out Kainan at Kultura festival- bazaar at 1250 Kampo. It was produced by the Kainan Na Inc, a group composed of artisan Filipino food producers. It is co-chaired by Kitz Asuncion and Fred Oreal of Sir Fred. From what I saw, it looks promising. It has the making of another Filipino must-see festival in the calendar.

We wish them all the luck.

MH Productions, headed by the multi-hyphenated Marky Hugh had their Christmas celebration at Bistro Manila. Marky Hugh runs a performing arts school, a concert produc-



tion, a film production company, and a massage therapy clinic. And he owns all of it. Like I said, multi-hyphenated. Oh, he sings too. But, he doesn't do that anymore. But I remember seeing him the first time as one of the front acts for the Sheryn Regis concert at Toronto pavilion that was produced by my friend Randy Bucao.

I actually



Marky Hugh has branched out from producing concert for Catriona Gray and Sam Milby (BELOW) to producing movies like Silent Battles taken at the premiere showing (ABOVE).

said beforehand that I won't be coming anymore because my Dr. Vicky Santiago invited me for her clinic's Christmas dinner at Gilaneh restaurant at Don Mills and York Mills. The dinner finished early so I was able to still drive and join the MH party.

I came just in time to catch Hailey Yarra still performing. There were still other performances I managed to watch. Not only that, I was still on time to catch the highlight of the party, their annual best costume contest.

By the way, after producing movies to showcase Filipino culture and talent, Marky is aiming higher for 2026. He is aiming to make movies for film festival entries. We look forward to those movies.

It was a wonderful evening. I had a lovely time with a sumptuous Middle Eastern dinner with Dr. Vicky Santiago and company at Gilaneh and still managed to catch some entertainment at the MH party.

The Filipino Centre Toronto - Senior Art Program (FCT-SAP) held an internet security course for seniors for 4 Wednesdays. It was a very useful and informative session. Did you know that you should not accept all cookies on websites that you visit? However, we just accept it all because it is easier to click that one "accept" button than to open it and turn off non-essential cookies like advertising, analytics, tracking and only accept essential cookies like session and authentication.

At the end of the fourth session the (FCT-SAP) had their Christmas celebration marked by good food, fun and games and lot of giveaways. All I can remember is I won \$10 for a game. Thank you to everyone and the donor of the \$10 prizes, Ms. Nitz Rejdik of Sandbanks Campground in Picton.

Then, the Filipino Centre Toronto - Senior Art Program (FCT-SAP) decided to celebrate their last meeting for the year or their version of "New Year's eve" for seniors with a lunch get-together on December 30th.

As expected there were more food, fun, and games.

And after stuffing ourselves together for the last time in 2025, we greet you a Happy New Year.

The Pinoy Ontario Vendors (POV) annual gala is the Toronto Filipino community's version of the Met Gala of New York City. The Met Gala was formerly called the Costume Institute Benefit. Held on the



Jackie Crisostomi joins the best costume contest at the "New Year's eve" party of the FCT seniors art program last December 30.



It's that magical time of year to celebrate the Christmas season!

The Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) hosted a joyful, fun-filled holiday celebration packed with dazzling performances, delicious food, and exciting games for everyone to enjoy. The festive spirit was everywhere with a contest to see who could bring the most holiday cheer! The biggest highlight of

all? A very special guest traveled all the way from the North Pole — Santa Claus himself made a surprise visit, spreading smiles, laughter, and Christmas magic to all!

Maraming Salamat, po! Thank you all for coming! May the joy and spirit of Christmas fill your homes and your hearts. We look forward to celebrating with you again in 2026!

Kylie Verzosa & the comment that influenced her next collection

Miss International 2016 Kylie Verzosa no longer approaches the holidays with pressure to dress for spectacle.

Running her own brand has changed how she approaches the season, shifting the focus from appearance to ease, and from dressing up to dressing with intention.

COMFORT COMES FIRST FOR KYLIE

When asked what holiday dressing means to her now, Kylie explains that comfort has quietly taken priority over everything else.

"Over the holidays, I've learned to prioritize comfort," she said.

That sense of comfort, however, looks different depending on where she is. Travel, for instance, demands practicality above all else.

"When I'm on ski trips, it's all about layering and staying warm," she says.

Back home in Manila, the approach softens even more.

Family time dictates a more relaxed way of dressing—one that doesn't require performance.

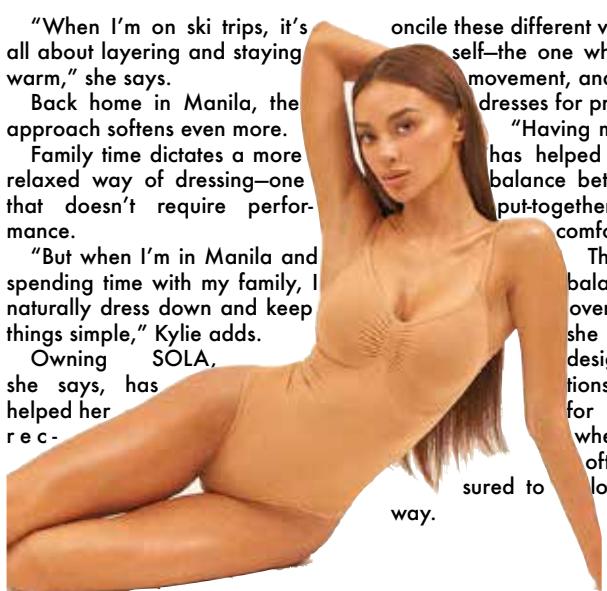
"But when I'm in Manila and spending time with my family, I naturally dress down and keep things simple," Kylie adds.

Owning SOLA, she says, has helped her re-c-

oncile these different versions of herself—the one who dresses for movement, and the one who dresses for presence.

"Having my own brand has helped me find that balance between looking put-together and feeling comfortable."

That same balance carries over into how she thinks about designing collections, particularly for the holidays, when women often feel pressured to look a certain way.



THE COMMENT THAT SHAPED THE COLLECTION

For Kylie, the process has become less about following expectations and more about responding to real, sometimes blunt, feedback.

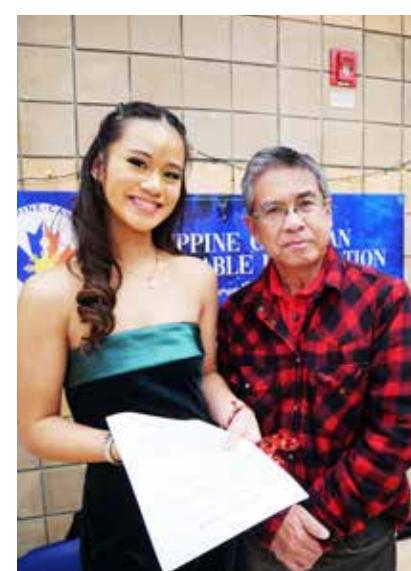
Asked about the most brutally honest comment that influenced her next designs, Kylie doesn't point to a long critique or a detailed review, but to a single sentence that caught her off guard.

"Don't be scared to overdress." She admits the remark stayed with her precisely because of its simplicity.

"It was such a simple comment, but it stuck with me," she says.

Rather than reading it as advice to go bigger or louder, Kylie interpreted it as permission to stop holding back, and to trust instinct.

"It reminded me to be bolder, to take risks, and to explore pieces that make you feel confident."



Miss Teen Philippines Canada 2024 Kirstine Alexandria with Joey Baking

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



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

Call Harold for Appointment
416-578-7351

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

ROADSPORT LTD.
940 Ellesmere Rd. (NE Kennedy) Toronto Ontario M1P 2W8
416-291-9501
www.roadsport.com

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

NO PROBLEM!!!

Come In And See More Choices Of Vehicles



**2019 Hyundai Tucson Preferred |
FROM \$18,799*



**2016 Honda Civic Coupe Touring
Leather | Sunroof | Navi | Bluetooth | FROM \$18,990*



**2018 Nissan Pathfinder SL Premium 4WD
FROM \$19,290*



**2016 Honda Civic Sedan Touring
Leather | Sunroof | Navi | Bluetooth | FROM \$19,290*



HONDA

CarProof
VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS



Honda
Certified
Used Vehicles





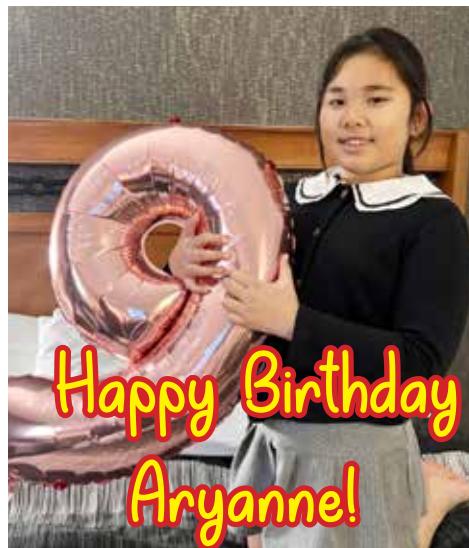
Hunk Shot

Nino, 13 is a composer and a singer. He also plays the drums, the guitar and the trumpet. He goes to Claude Watson School for the Arts. He plays badminton. In his free time, he plays Sonic the Hedgehog. He is the other half of the Rockin Siblings with his sister Celeste. They are both Marky Hugh talents. They just released their original composition Blue. He wants to be a rock star or a social media influencer. Her parents are Maria and Celestino.

We wish him all the luck in his future.



Nino Villarosa



100%
SATISFACTION
GUARANTEE

UMAC
Forwarder Express Inc.

LOYALTY
Rewards

SEND 9 BALIKBAYAN BOXES
AND THE 10TH BOX IS FREE

416-298-8622
WWW.UMACTORONTO.CA



MH Marky Hugh Year End Party



Lions in the City



LEFT, Toronto Kapuso Lions Club pose at their Christmas dinner. RIGHT, Toronto Maharlika Lions Club hold their party joined by Seniors in Action and FCT Ukulele ensemble.

MARKY HUGH: A Creative Force Uniting Art, Community, and Purpose

MARKY HUGH from page 3

who supported you and believed in you. Success is never a solo journey." Follow Marky Hugh's page: Instagram/Facebook/YouTube/TikTok: Marky Hugh Productions & Marky Hugh Films



Bianca Gonzalez wishes accountability from public officials in the new year

Kapamilya host Bianca Gonzalez offered prayers for the Philippines and all Filipinos this new year, wishing that accountability will be observed at last.

In an interview with fellow television host Boy Abunda, Bianca hoped that those involved in the corrupt flood control projects would be jailed.

"Sana may makulong na dapat nang makulong. Sana may mai-balik, kung may maibalik pa na pera ng taumbayan," Bianca said. "At saka, naniniwala kasi ako na ang batas natin nandiany, "

hindi lang naipapatupad nang tama."

"Pero sana 'yung pagpapatupad ng batas ay maging pantay para sa mahirap at para sa mga nasa posisyon ng kapangyarihan," she added.

Bianca pointed out that small-scale thieves were easier to jail than plunderers, and the latter are always treated differently upon capture.

"Bakit ganoon, bakit 'yung dapat nagsisilbi sa bayan, parang nabe-baby pa bago pagbayanin ang kailangang bayaran?" Bianca posited.

The host also explained to Boy why she and husband JC Intal brought their children to the Trillion Peso March last September.

"Sa edad nila na then na 9 and 6, ang sabi namin ng asawa ko, parang naitindihan na naman na nila and para alam nila kung ano yung nangyari sa bansa nila," Bianca said.

"Para unti-unti may pakialam sila para hopefully 'pag tumanda sila, mas maging mas aware sila, at sila naman ang makikibaka din sa kalsada 'pag kailangan," she ended.



HOT PARTIES from page 3

26th of December, the POV gala, like the Met gala, brings out the flashiest, glitziest outfits from the attendees. The POV gala is the only one must-be-seen party held after Christmas and is always sold out. Every year has a theme. This year's theme is Enchanted Forest.

Congratulations to founder and president Paulo Bucud and the officers for a very well-run organization and gala.



LEFT, Mel Galeon, Gemma Pascual; RIGHT, Joey Banduyang of Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation, Paulo Bucud, Mel Galeon, Agnes Miranda, Cecille Araneta

THE FILIPINO CENTRE, TORONTO

4395 Shepard Avenue East TELEPHONE: 416-335-0485

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



Alden Richards navigates modern fan culture with gratitude

Alden Richards is aware of how much fandom culture has evolved since entering the entertainment industry, noting that everyone has the platform to be opinionated. Yet he would rather choose silence when it comes to dealing with negativity.

"We're given types of platforms to be opinionated. Everyone is a certified critic. With all of the negative ones, I tend to really have a closed ear about it. Mas inaalam ko lang where they're coming from. [Do they] come from pure and good intentions? Are their [opinions] factual?" Richards said.

Since Richards has been in showbiz for 15 years, he learned the importance of not paying attention to negativity, and dedicating his time to other things instead.

"Kung hindi dapat bigyan ng space to pay attention to it, that's where I get over

those situations because I've been here for quite some time. I've experienced a lot. Walang ginawang maganda to retaliate and talk back (Nothing good happens when you retaliate and talk back)," he said.

The actor — who chuckled when he was noted for his "kind" way of dealing with negativity — said he realized that silence is the best way to take back his power and own his story.

"At the end of the day, whether the comments are good or bad, it's a matter of how you respond to it. And the best way to respond — especially with the negative comments we get as celebrities — is to stay mum about it," he continued. "At the end of the day, you know yourself. You know what you're doing. There's a bigger picture despite all this hate."

Richards also explained that he witnessed some of his colleagues answering back at critics through the years. And while he understands where they come from, he doesn't want to fuel the fire.

"Nakikita ko kasi 'yung iba na kasama ko sa industriya na siguro, hindi makapagpigil or they tend to really talk back and answer those people who give a statement. Ako kasi, ayokong i-fuel ang fire," he said.

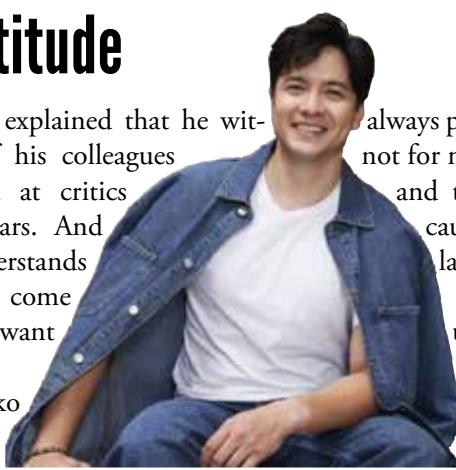
"These people that say hurtful things about you or current issues, wala naman silang mukha. The celebrities who are very much public — especially with all of the things we do, say, or post — are

always put in the spotlight. Kaya [it's not for me] to dignify the comments and the person behind that because wala namang mawawala," he continued.

As the topic shifted to his upcoming fan meet, Richards explained that his experience as a concert producer allowed him to be exposed to different kinds of shows

and what the audiences want.

"You should always think about your supporters. Coming from [my experience], it's about being with all of them in the past 15 years. I get to learn about their stories and so I want them to be highlighted in the fan meet. Gusto kong makita nila ang effect nila sa'kin and sa aking journey," he said.



'Not a kabit, never was': Elisse Joson shuts down mistress rumors

Actress Elisse Joson put to bed any talks she was ever someone's mistress or the third party in another couple's relationship.

Elisse made the assertion in a 10-second TikTok video uploaded Thursday, January 1, which she simply captioned, "That's all folks!"

"Goodbye 2025. Time to clear the air — not a kabit. Never was. 2026: minding my own business, building, and choosing peace," the actress wrote in text on the

video. "Leaving false narratives in 2025. Entering 2026 lighter."

One TikTok user did ask in the comments section if Elisse was the cause of a couple's breakup, but the actress bluntly replied "No." @elisseofficial



That's all folks!
?????????

? original sound - Andreea Bostanica

While Elisse did not upload the video on her other social media feeds, she did post it as an Instagram story before

continuing her holiday posts in Hong Kong.

Mistress talks emerged from rumors that Elisse was the reason behind the breakup between Aljur Abrenica and Kylie Padilla.

Elissa was previously in an on-and-off relationship McCoy de Leon with whom she has a daughter, Felize, with.

The two officially confirmed last year they separating for good and would co-parent Felize.

Maricar Reyes shows how life after 40 can be the best chapter

It's one thing to agree with the saying "age is just a number," and quite another to truly live it.

Maricar Reyes-Poon, 44, has recently found a passion.

"Because this is what helped me—I have this passion to help women heal, get over bitterness, find accountability.

"Because that's really where you find freedom, that's really where you find truth, good and the bad, which you'll see through accountability."

Having experienced many personal transformations and faced life's challenges,

the actress now uses her social-media platforms to offer guidance, share lessons, and provide valuable insights.

In her own words: "I've let go of the perception na the younger you are, you're more valuable and you'll have a fresh perspective to offer the world. And that's partially true.

"But at the same time, growing older, there's also value in that as well.

"Older women have a responsibility to teach the younger women on what mistakes they can avoid so that each generation, we become better and better.

"And I think that's our responsibility

as the more mature ones: to teach the younger ones so that they don't make the same mistakes that we did before, so that everybody goes up eventually."

MARICAR REYES ON EVOLVING

Since the pandemic, Maricar has devoted much of her time to her chocolate cake business.

What began in 2015 as a simple indulgence—baking three chocolate cakes for friends and acquaintances—has, a decade

later, evolved into a thriving and successful venture.

"People evolve. When I was in showbiz, I thought that was it.

"But then as I go through life, you feel like you can offer something more. And when you have that feeling, especially when you're getting older, you'll feel like, 'Oh I can't

start anything new because I'm older.'

"But that's really a mindset that is not helpful.

"So you just have to try something new, and if it fails, then, okay, you learned from it. Try something else.

"I mean that's the worst. I realize na parang it's in partnership with my more immature mindset na kailangan perfect lahat.

"So when you let go of that as you get older, when you try something new, it's not always going to be perfect. But 100%, you're going to learn something from it."

She ventured into business. She married. All the while she tried to put out that persistent artistic fire inside of her.

Eventually it took its toll. Her business ventures and her marriage came tumbling down. She hit rock bottom.

But it was then she found her purpose.

"I discovered something life-altering," she said. "God was the Rock at the bottom. Steady. Strong. Steadfast."

CELL-MASTER

SALES - REPAIR - INSTALL

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

647-469-9889
3JS.CELLMMASTER@GMAIL.COM



How Salome Salvi reacted to demand letter urging her to stop posting sexual content

Adult content creator and actress Salome Salvi reacted after receiving a demand letter from an organization claiming to be a social media watchdog that called her out over her sexual content.

Last December 22, the online personality posted a photo of the letter from the Kapisanan ng Social Media Broadcasters ng Pilipinas (KSMBPI), which was addressed to her as "Salome Salve" and "Mr. Salve."

The letter demands that she "immediately cease and desist from posting, publishing, and disseminating obscene, sexually explicit, and sexually exploitative content

on social media platforms."

"KSMBPI has received numerous complaints and has independently monitored online materials publicly accessible through their platforms, which allegedly contain lewd, indecent, and sexually suggestive content, including discussions and portrayals that normalize sexual vulgarity and exploit women and young girls as objects of sexual discourse," the



letter reads. "These materials are freely accessible to the public, including minors, raising serious concerns regarding public morals, child protection, and compliance with Philippine laws," it added.

"KSMBPI emphasizes that freedom of expression is not absolute and does not extend to content that is obscene, exploitative, or harmful, particularly when such content endangers minors or undermines public decency and moral standards," the letter continued.

The org also stated that Salome must "immediately remove the subject contents, refrain from producing similar materials, and ensure that future online activities comply with existing laws on obscenity, child protection, and responsible digital conduct."

It likewise clarified that it does not intend to "silence legitimate artistic or creative expression, but to draw a clear line against content that is sexually exploitative, harmful, and inimical to public welfare."

Salome posted a copy of the letter on her Instagram account with the caption, "cackling."

Others also chimed in in the comments section.

"Mr. Salve?" an Instagram user asked.

"LMAOO, I didn't even catch that," Salome responded to the Instagram user.

"What are they gonna do?" another Instagram user commented.

"A whole lotta nothing," Salome replied.

"Jusko. Kung sana pina-priority nila 'yung mga national issues, ikaw talaga. Gusto ba nila ng commission?" another wrote.

Salome is an adult content creator who began on X (formerly Twitter) in 2017 before transitioning to platforms such as OnlyFans and Pornhub.

She is also an actress who has appeared in the series "Black Rider" and in VMX films including "Tahong," "Mayumi," "Ahasss" and "Boy Kaldag."

Philippine Curling Team Miss The Olympic Cut

CURLING from page 4

aren't quite the underdogs they seem.

Marc Pfister, 36, and his younger brother Enrico, 34, both represented Switzerland, one of the sport's traditional powerhouses, in the World Curling Championships earlier in their careers. Haller, 46, curled for the Swiss junior national team in the late '90s.

"Enrico is probably one of the best sweepers I've ever gotten a chance to work with — if not just witness," said Miguel Gutierrez, one of the team's coaches. "Between his way of controlling the sweepers and also, I've never seen so many effortless double takeouts as he's accomplished through the years."

"For Marc, just calling the gameplan," Gutierrez continued. "Envisioning where each shot is, envisioning what the opponents are trying to accomplish and try-



ing to beat them to the punch. And also, just making shot after shot — we call him 'Magic Marc,' because he'll pull something out of a hat and be able to execute on that."

The Pfisters might have already found their way to the Olympics for Team Switzerland by now, if not for a 2018 cancer diagnosis that forced Marc off the ice for six months while he recovered from surgery and underwent chemotherapy. By the time Marc

was ready to return to competition, the Swiss national team had moved on, and his Olympic window appeared to have closed.

Both Pfister brothers stepped back from international curling between 2018 and 2023, finding work in their respective trades and settling into civilian life. But they kept alive the embers of an Olympic dream via a WhatsApp group chat with Haller, who they'd met over the years at curling events.

They named the group "Team Philippines" and mused about making one last run under the flag of their mothers' homeland. But the trio remained one curler short of a team.

Enter Alan Frei.

"I know that in every tournament I go," Frei said, "I'm the worst player."

Unlike his teammates, Frei hasn't been curling since childhood. The 43-year-old took up the sport just a few months before the Philippine team made its international debut at the 2023 Pan-Continental Championships.

A self-described "serial entrepreneur," Frei tried 51 startups, all failed, before the popularity of the film adaptation of "Fifty Shades of Grey" helped launch his 52nd attempt — an online sex-toy depot — into the stratosphere.

"It's a horrible movie, but I'm so thankful for that movie," Frei said. Amorana, the virtual adult shop he co-founded in 2014, grew into one of Switzerland's

leading specialty e-commerce sites by 2020, when it was acquired by British sexual wellness giant Lovehoney.

The price Lovehoney paid for the company has not been reported, but gave Frei financial independence. He was 38 years old and had the time and money to pursue nearly anything he could dream of, but at 5-foot-7 and 220 pounds, he felt unhealthy and was "massively overweight."

"This will be a s— time to die," he recalled thinking.

He decided to get in shape. Frei opted for a more fanciful approach: "I was like, 'Who are the fittest people in the world?' The people who are going to the Olympics."

Frei called his lawyer and asked him to research the easiest route to becoming an Olympian. "He came back (and said), 'Hey, Alan, you have no chance for Switzerland, neither in Summer nor Winter Olympics. In every sport, there's somebody who's

CURLING page 18

Toronto Kapuso Lion Yujuico Bal Cricket's helps the poor children in Cuba



HAVANA, Cuba - The spirit of Christmas during my outreach project for impoverished children at Central Havana in Cuba was very fulfilling. They jumped in grateful jubilation, praised God, prayed for me and dedicated their talents in songs and dances in honor of the birth of our Redeemer. Dec 21 was one memorable event in my life touched with the outpouring of love from the children, parents and Vedado neighborhood. A million thanks for making this possible- the International Christian Commu-

nity of Havana, friends and those who helped with purchasing gifts from school supplies, dolls, chocolates, toys, pairs of shoes, sports gadgets- many things that gave innocent children the joy this Christmas. WE SERVE, which to Toronto Kapuso Lions means selfless service to others in need in our communities. DIOS ES AMOR !!!



And while he was there, he made a floral offering in memory of 129th execution of Dr Jose Rizal, Philippines national hero. His heroism remembered at the Rizal bust monument located meters away from Capitolio, Cuba seat of government. Yujuico Bal Cricket of Toronto Kapuso Lions led the homage together with Sociedad de Amistad Filipino-Cubano (Philippine Cuban Friendship Society) of Havana. Adios Patria Adorada.



Filipino Centre Toronto Seniors Art Painting group holds their "New Year's eve" celebration with a luncheon last December 30, 2025.



Kultura at Kultura Festival is a Success



Maraming salamat!

Our first-ever Kainan At Kultura: A Holiday Edition was a huge success and it's all because of you!

To everyone who came, supported, and celebrated with us, thank you for filling

the event with so much life and good energy.

A big thank you to our vendors and sponsors for trusting us with our very first market. Your support and hard work meant everything.

And to our amazing volunteers, and the students of George Brown College, MC's Domz and Rowell, our Event tech and entertainment providers, DJ Jomer of B-Zone Visuals and DJ Andre of Click and Grove, you made this weekend run

smoothly from start to finish. To all our performers, We are so grateful for you.

This is just the beginning.
Salamat po sa inyong lahat!

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN TORONTO PROCESSES CENTENARIAN FOR DUAL CITIZENSHIP

10 December 2025 – The Philippine Consulate General in Toronto proudly announced the approval of the application for dual citizenship of Mrs. Cristina Pascual Pua, a 102-year-old centenarian.

Mrs. Pua was born Cristina Manuel Pascual in 1923 in Angadan, Isabela. She married Venancio Pua shortly after the end of World War II in 1947. She migrated to Canada in 1979 and became a Canadian citizen in 1992. Together, the couple raised nine children, six of whom eventually came to Canada. Mrs Pua also devoted herself to taking care of her grandchildren and until quite recently, was a very active member of the community.

Despite her advanced age, Mrs. Pua demonstrated a remarkable clarity of mind during her application process, confidently answering questions and personally signing her forms. She is the oldest dual citizenship applicant of the Philippine



Consulate General this year, and quite possibly one of the oldest ever on record.

In recognition of her milestone as a centenarian, the Philippine Consulate

General also assured Mrs Pua's family of assistance in securing her entitlement under the Expanded Centenarians Act, which grants qualified Filipino centenarians a one-time gift of Php100,000 upon approval. END

How Ashley Rivera turns a wish into reality

A passing remark on a podcast is usually just that—something said, shared, and quickly buried by the next clip in the feed. For Ashley Rivera, one comment set off a chain of events that led to her being named the 2026 calendar girl of White Castle Whisky.



Instead of a formal pitch or casting call, Ashley's name surfaced inside the company through a short podcast clip. In it, she spoke openly about wanting to become part of White Castle's calendar tradition—a remark that prompted executives at Destileria Limtuaco to look her up.

What they found, executives said, was not a creator they needed to mold, but one who already fit where the brand was headed.

"Since 2020, we've really been trying to use the White Castle platform as a way to send out a message—finding joy in the lighter moments," said Aaron James Limpe-Aw, executive vice president of Destileria Limtuaco.

"We take the most mundane things and make light of them. Right now, we're all about having fun."

That shift, Aaron explained, meant moving away from heavier themes and leaning into humor that reflects everyday life. Social media became central to that effort, with meme-driven posts and casual storytelling shaping the brand's voice.

Ashley Rivera is named the 2026 calendar girl of White Castle Whisky after executives at Destileria Limtuaco took notice of her podcast remark about wanting to join the brand's calendar tradition.

Ashley's work naturally fell into that space.

"We actually follow her," Aaron said. "We see her content, and it really connects with what we're trying to show with our brand. It's really more about her being herself. Being herself is what aligns with us."

For Ashley, the call came around October, just as she was preparing for a month-long trip to the United

States. The timing worried her.

"I was really surprised," she said. "I was so flattered. At the time, I already had a U.S. trip planned, so I worried because I would be gone for a month."

Instead of rushing the process, the brand waited. Ashley said the shoot took place a day after she landed back in Manila.

"Even while I was in the States, I really prepared," she said. "I worked out and watched what I ate. I didn't want to get bashed by netizens, and it was also a matter of pride for me. I wanted to make sure the brand was happy with me."

Becoming a calendar girl was something Ashley had talked about long before the offer came. She traced the idea back to a sitcom shoot in Boracay years ago with John Lloyd Cruz and Carmi Martin, when a casual joke about White Castle calendars stuck with her and never really went away.

"I said it was classic, iconic," she recalled. "Not everyone gets the chance to be a calendar girl. I only mentioned it on the podcast, and I never expected that it would end up being one of the reasons this happened."

When the creative team later shared the storyboard—set on a ranch, complete with horses and a pared-down, classic look—Ashley said the direction confirmed the seriousness of the project.

"We were on a ranch, there were horses. It was very classy," she said. "I had no words. I was completely speechless."

For White Castle, the choice also signaled a return. After featuring a range of personalities and advocacy-driven themes in previous calendars, Brandon Limpe-Aw, vice president for administration at Destileria Limtuaco, said the brand decided to bring back a traditional calendar girl—this time grounded in humor and online culture.

"We wanted to go back to having the classic sexy endorser but with a good sense of humor," Brandon said. "If you check our social media, you'll see that the voice of the brand is very humorous—mostly meme posts and funny videos."

Ashley said the experience still feels surreal, especially knowing it began as something she once said out loud without expectation.

"I really didn't expect this to happen," she said. "I just mentioned it before, and then suddenly it became real. Maybe sometimes you just have to say it. And when it comes, you just have to be ready."

JDL PERFORMING ARTS
Presents

Seussical™ KIDS

Saturday, January 31, 2026
2:00 PM (Matinee)
6:00 PM (Evening)
Maja Prentice Theatre
3650 Dixie Road
Mississauga

Sunday, February 8, 2026
1:00 PM (Matinee)
5:00 PM (Evening)
Palmerston Theatre
560 Palmerston Ave
Toronto

Sunday, February 15, 2026
1:00 PM (Matinee)
5:00 PM (Evening)
Palmerston Theatre
560 Palmerston Ave
Toronto

\$15 (General Admission) / \$10 (Age 10 and Under)
Contact (647) 996-7755

Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty
Music by Stephen Flaherty

Eric addresses long-running National Artist issue on dad Dolphy

Kinontra ni Eric Quizon ang mga pahayag na kumukuwestyon sa kontribusyon ng yumaong amang si Dolphy sa entertainment industry dahilan para hindi pa ito kinikilala bilang National Artist.

Si Dolphy, na tinaguriang King of Comedy sa Pilipinas, ay pumanaw sa edad na 83 noong July 10, 2012.

Paliwanag ni Eric ay mga kontra na ilulok ang kanyang ama bilang National Artist dahil kuwestyonable umano ang body of work nito.

“Because, honestly, sinasabi kasi nila ang mga pelikula ng daddy ko daw walang substance, walang laman, puro slapstick,” saad ni Eric.

Hindi tinukoy ni Eric kung sino ang mga

kritiko na kumukontra, pero sinalungat niya ang mga ito.

“I beg to disagree,” sabi ni Eric.

“Pag pinanood mo ang pelikula ng daddy ko, parating he talks about family and kids at pagmamahal.

“Parating may family, may touch na noon... my dad gives importance to family.”

Plus consider Dolphy’s contribution to the entertainment industry.

Dolphy’s career lasted 6 decades and is considered one of the pillars of the Philippine entertainment industry.

Pagpapatuloy ni Eric: “Also, sa akin, yung contribution ng daddy ko sa bansa natin, napatawa niya, napasya niya, kahit sa sandali, sa panonood sa kanya.



“Napasaya niya ang maraming Pilipino.

“So I think that’s a feat na hindi mapantayang kahit na sino.”

KEEPING DOLPHY’S LEGACY ALIVE

Kaugnay pa rin ng isyu ng National Artist, sinabi ni Eric na buhay pa si Dolphy ay nino-nominate na ito para sa parangal subalit hindi naigagawad.

“Buhay pa yung daddy ko parati na nilang nino-nominate,” pakli niya,

Sa puntoong ito, kung sakaling gawaran

ng posthumous National Artist award ang kanyang ama ay ikatutuwa raw nila ito.

Pero may panghihinayang si Eric.

Aniya: “So alam mo, of course, if they give it to him, thank you. It’s a big... it’s a huge honor.

“If they don’t, okay lang din. Because, I think, he’s already dead.

“So, kung ma-honor man siya, parang posthumously. Sa pamilya namin, yes [karangan siya].

“Pero sana ibinigay nila sa daddy ko nung buhay pa siya, because he deserves it. My dad deserves it.”

Para sa kanilang mga naiwan ng Comedy King, sinabi ni Eric na ang importante ay panatilihing buhay ang sinimulan at iniwan ng kanilang ama.

Paliwanag ni Eric: “So, more than the award, I think my dad being considered the

King of Comedy, and even up to now yung legacy niya nagpapatuloy pa rin. So, happy na kami doon.

“Iyon talaga yung purpose namin. That’s why we’re doing all these things, kasi gusto naming ipagpatuloy ang legacy ng daddy ko.”

May mga anak si Dolphy na nakilala sa showbiz, tulad nina Eric, Epy Quizon, Vandolph, at Zia Quizon.

Bukod pa rito, may ventures din ang pamilya na pagkilala sa kanilang ama, tulad ng Banayad Whiskey na negosyong sinimulan ng Quizon brothers.

Ang brand ng alcoholic drink ay associated sa isang movie project noon ni Dolphy, ang Father En Son (1995), kunsan sa isang eksena, pinaiinom ng alak ang karakter ng Dolphy para sa isang commercial shoot, at nalasing siya dahil sa dami ng takes.

Philippine Curling Team Miss The Olympic Cut

CURLING from page 16

much better than you.”

However, the attorney added, because of Frei’s roots in the Philippines, a country that has produced just six Winter Olympians throughout its history, Frei might have a chance to represent the archipelagic nation in an individual sport, such as cross-country skiing.

Frei hired a coach and began training. He did not get off to an auspicious start. “I had zero talent for it,” Frei said. “I always fell, I was (lying) on the snow, and my coach was like, ‘This will be very, very hard.’”

Still, the success of Amorana had turned Frei into a public figure in Europe, and the media found his Olympic pipe dream — and headlines like “Dildo millionaire wants to win an Olympic medal” — irresistible. That coverage brought him to the attention of Haller, who saw in Frei a potential fourth member of “Team Philippines.”

“I got an email from a guy called Christian Haller,” Frei recalled. “He was like, ‘I’ve been curling for 25 years, and I’m half-Filipino, as you are. Can we have a phone call?’”

When they spoke, Haller described a scenario that sounded like destiny: “He told me the incredible story that besides him, in the deep mountains of Switzerland where the Emmentaler cheese is made, there are two

brothers, also half-Filipino, and they’re not just curlers — they were elite curlers for Switzerland at the world championships,” Frei said.

“I was like, ‘Screw cross-country skiing. I’m now part of the Filipino curling team.’”

Frei identified three main obstacles they’d need to overcome to have a shot at the 2026 Milan Games. First, money. That part was simple — Frei could cover the team’s travel, equipment and administrative costs. (To date, he estimates he has spent about \$150,000 on the endeavor.) Second, eligibility. He arranged the paperwork and ap-

pointments necessary to acquire dual Swiss-Philippine citizenship for himself, Haller, and the Pfisters. It had been about five years since the Pfisters competed for Switzerland — long enough for them to be allowed to curl for another country. Then he obtained a letter of certification from the Philippine Olympic Committee, which allowed them to gain recognition from

the World Curling Federation.

Third, Frei had to learn to curl.

He had never curled in his life, but on April 11, 2023, Frei showed up at the curling center in Baden, Switzerland, and began training. His ludicrous goal: To become an Olympian in less



than three years.

Baden, a hub for many of the top curlers in Europe, was an intimidating place for beginners. At one of Frei’s early practice sessions, he shared the four-rink arena with the Swiss men’s national team, the Swiss women’s team, and the Italian men’s national team. While the genuine Olympians worked on perfecting their craft, Frei stumbled across the ice, falling often and

wearing a bicycle helmet to prevent serious head injuries.

“It was very hard in the beginning, being by myself there, people making jokes about me, sliding out there not properly,” he said.

The Philippine team joined its first tournament just months after Frei took up the sport, before he was truly comfortable on the ice. In their very first match, he flopped hard on his back while

sweeping in front of one of Enrico Pfister’s stones. A hush fell over the arena, as spectators and curlers alike feared Frei had slammed the back of his head on

the ice. Frei was fine. And thanks largely to the play of Haller and the Pfisters, the Philippines won its first match.

Over time, the group found ways

to set up Frei for success. They made him the team lead, the curler who throws the first two stones in each end. The role is generally considered the simplest in the sport, and it allowed him to devote his training sessions to becoming consistent at placing stones in a handful of designated spots on the ice, usually in positions to guard, or block opponents’ stones from scoring

position. The most complicated role belongs to Marc Pfister, the skip, who curls the team’s final two stones when the ice is already crowded with stones from both teams.

“The complexity in curling comes through many stones in the field,” Frei said. “It’s like chess on ice. Marc has the tactics, he has the hard stones, and mine are always the same eight positions.”

Compared to his teammates and probably every high-level curler Frei has competed against, he’s still a novice. But he has gotten good enough at his role to allow Haller and the Pfisters to be great.

Great enough to make the Olympics?

Canadian Brayden Carpenter heard about the team during its international debut in 2023 but he had no idea that his mom, Zoya, would start the ball rolling for him to join. Ahead of a family holiday to Manila last December, she reached out to the Philippines curling federation on Facebook, saying her son was a curler and asking if they could visit the club.

The reply: “There isn’t a club in Manila, or anywhere in the Philippines, for that matter.”

A few rounds of messages later, she had learned the team was based in Switzerland and the federation’s president, Benjo Delarmente (a physician and health economist based in the U.S.), knew enough about her son’s curling to be interested.

CURLING page 22

Marcelito Pomoy’s wife vaguebooking after performance in front of US President Donald Trump

Filipino singer Marcelito Pomoy received a standing ovation for his performance at the The Trump Estate in Florida to close off 2025.

The president saw Pomoy sing at Mar-a-Lago’s New Year’s Eve Celebration Party.

This time Pomoy performed “The Prayer,” showing off his capability for dual voices in front of the president and other guests including First Lady Melania Trump.

“What a start of 2026! A real dream came true,” Pomoy wrote on Facebook, thanking those who made his performance possible.

The singer later shook hands with the Trumps, receiving praise from the president

whom he also got a photo with.

“No more words needed. The best possible kick off of 2026,” Pomoy said in the caption for his photos with the Trumps.

Pomoy rose to fame as the Season 2 champion of “Pilipinas Got Talent,” going on to be third runner-up for “America’s Got Talent: The Champions” in 2020.

Buong pagmamalaking ibinahagi ni Joan ang video ng kanyang asawa at ni Trump.

Caption niya rito: “Marcelito Pomoy not only took photos but also shook hands and had a brief conversation with PRESIDENT TRUMP!!

Sinundan ito ng Joan ng kontroversyal



at tila may pait na mga salitang “DISRESPECTED in the Philippines!!! HONORED in other COUNTRIES!!!”

Maaring may malalim na dahilan ang pinanggagalingan ng tampo ni Joan sa Pilipinas at sa mamayang Pilipino.

Pero imbes na pairalin ang tampo at “bit-

terness,” dapat maging maligaya na lamang siya sa malayong narrating ng singing career ng kanyang mister.

Hindi rin dapat kalimutan ni Joan na pinarangalan at kinilala sa Pilipinas ang husay sa pagkanta ni Marcelito dahil ito ang itinanghal na grand winner sa second season ng talent reality competition na Pilipinas Got Talent noong Hunyo 2011.

Ang tagumpay na tinama sa Marcelito mula sa pagtali nito sa Pilipinas Got Talent Season 2 ang dahilan kaya narrating niya ang



kanyang kinaroonan sa kasalukuyan.

Dapat na isaisip ni Joan na mas mahalaga ring manatilig mapagkumbaba, sa gitna ng mga tagumpay na nararanasan, dahil may higit na mataas na karanagan kesa makausap nang sandali at makipagkamay kay Trump.

FILIPINO CANADIAN LASS WINS INTERNATIONAL BEAUTY TITLE

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

An epitome of beauty and brain, Filipino-Canadian, Miss Kiana Crystal Craig, wins the "Miss Glamour Look International" crown on November 28, 2025, at the SkyDome, SM North EDSA Quezon City, Philippines. From Burlington, Ontario and proudly representing Canada as "Miss Glamour Look-Canada," Kiana Craig, bested other beauty candidates from 16 countries, including the Philippines.

What the judges and guests "loved most was the glamorous and glitzy competition, but no less gorgeous to behold", according to news reports. The statuesque beauty standing tall at 5'7", stood tall and amazing among the contestants. The prestigious international pageant is owned by Derek Primo Gusi, a global pageant director based in Australia.

Besides winning the prestigious "Miss Glamour Look International 2025" title, Miss Craig garnered 7 additional awards like Miss Photogenic, Best in Camera, Miss Popularity, Miss People's Choice, Body Beautiful, Best Arrival Attire, and Miss Fashionista. Having represented Canada on an international stage, Kiana is a Women's Empowerment Advocate and publicly spoke for advocacy and global issues. As a HOY Maharlika "Miss Maharlika Toronto 2025", she continuously supports academic achievers in the Philippines.



During the ANCOP Walk 2012 she, raised funds for impoverished Filipinos through the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation.

powerment Advocate and publicly spoke for advocacy and global issues.

As a HOY Maharlika "Miss Maharlika Toronto 2025", she continuously supports academic achievers in the Philippines.

A Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Economics degree graduate of McMaster University, with minors in Business and Sustainability, Kiana received the Summa Cum Laude Latin academic honours in June 2025. As a university scholar, she was awarded three in-course scholarships for academic excellence in upper-year courses. Kiana completed her secondary education-OSSD at Nelson High School and grade school studies at Burnt Elm Elementary School as a Valedictorian. The Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) honoured her as the "Most Outstanding Fil-Can University Graduate of 2025" on November 30, 2025.

During her McMaster University years, Kiana 1) Spent 3 months CityLAB Semester in Residence Practicum Student, 2) Founded the HamOnt Placemakers group, initiating and coordinating two free community events for Hamilton residents in low-income neighbourhoods within two months, 3) Co-authored the report "Getting Hamilton's LRT on the Right Track" for a local NGO, the Hamilton Community Benefits Network and presented findings to Hamilton City Council and staff, 4) Project Executive-Zero Waste McMaster, and 5) Welcome Week Representative, Economics Liaison-McMaster Social Science Society.

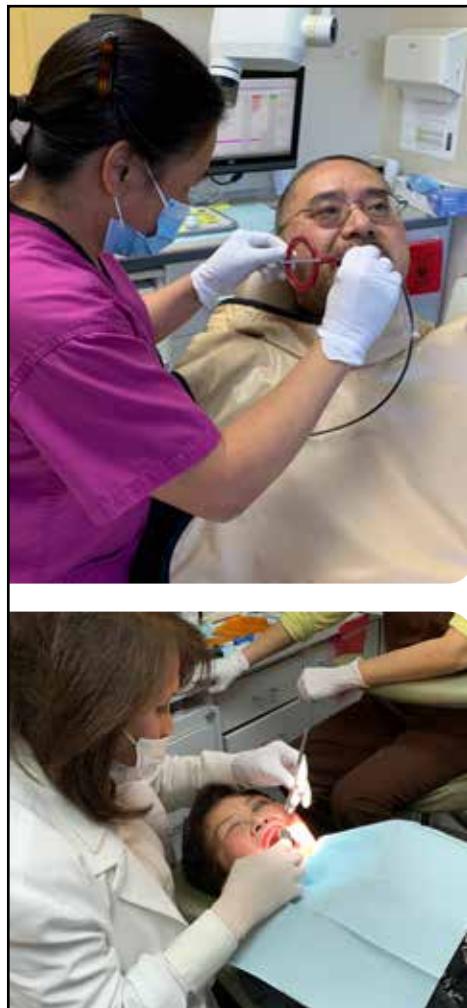
Active in community engagements, Kiana's involvement includes: 1) Alliance of the Ladies of the Knights of Rizal (ALKOR)-Head of Youth Delegate Canada Chapter 2025, 2)

Carabram Events 2011/2012/2013/2025-Canadian Pavilion & Indian-Chinese Pavilion-Volunteer and performer, 3) Taste of Philippines Event 2025-Muse, performer, volunteer, 4) HamOnt Placemakers-Founder, event coordinator, community communications, 5) 5K 2015- Participant and supported tourism and CHCH Toy Drive and Hamilton Food Share, 6) Clean Water for Africa 2014-Volunteer and performer, 7) Karate Chops Cancer 2014-Donated 10" of hair and raised money for cancer research, 8) Let it Shine Fundraiser for Typhoon Yolanda Victims 2013-Volunteer, performer, 9) ANCOP Walk 2012 -Raised funds for impoverished Filipinos through the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation, and 10) Brampton Santa Claus Parades 2009/2010/2011- Participant, volunteer for CAW Local 1285.

Presently, Kiana works at the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks as an Environmental Resource Planner and Environmental Assessment Coordinator. In 2024, during her university internship, she was a Policy and Programs Assistant, Divisional Training and Registrar

Section and Powered by People Research and Grants Coordinator. She previously worked as a The Burnt Tongue Server, SportChek Footwear Associate, Famous Footwear Sales Associate, and Fortinos Cashier Kiana professed to be "a natural leader, passionate community advocate, balances a dynamic career and education with community involvement and interests in running, event planning, and singing." Her future outlook includes blending interests in economic development, planning, and sustainability into a meaningful and impactful career.

A proud Filipina Irish Canadian, Kiana was born in Brampton, Ontario, Canada. She is the only child of Ian Craig, from Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland, and Christine Craig, from Quezon City, Philippines. Kiana's beauty title-winning milestone and her advocacy and achievements is a great beacon of pride, inspiration, and honour for Filipinos and Filipino Canadians throughout the world. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)



FAMILY DENTISTRY DR. V. SANTIAGO & ASSOCIATES

Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic
(Across Sherbourne TTC Station)
600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307
Toronto
dr.vsliu@bellnet.ca

We offer complete dental care & are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

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

Registered Dental Hygienist:

Raymond Echavez
Gayle Baylon

Specialty Dentistry:

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

Dennis Padilla seeks to mend ties with Marjorie Barretto's kids anew

Months after ending his relationship with Marjorie Barretto's children, Dennis Padilla reached out again to them with a Christmas greeting.

In his Instagram account, Dennis posted a photo of Julia, Claudia and Leon Barretto with their half sibling Gavin and Maddie.

"Love you All mga anak... God bless you more," he captioned the post.

Meanwhile, Marjorie, Julia, Claudia and Leon celebrated the holidays together with Dani Barretto and Claudia's husband Basti Lorenzo.

Last April, Dennis said that he is deeply

hurt by what happened to him during the wedding of his daughter Claudia Barretto with Basti Lorenzo.

In his new interview with Ogie Diaz, Dennis said that it had been better if he was not invited to the wedding.

"One of the most painful part ng buhay ko na naranasan. Wala ito sa kalahati ng mga naranasan ko sa kanila sa mga nakaaran, pati nu'n mga debut. Wala," he said.

"Kasi even hindi ka nila pinansin, problema mo 'yun. Hindi ka invited, pumunta ka e. Hindi ka pinansin, wala kung magagawa.

Pwedeng iwanan mo na lang 'yung gift mo sa organizer, pabigay mo... Wala kung ie-expect. So I'd rather hindi ako na-invite," he added.

Dennis said that he has already given up trying to fix things with his children.

"Ayoko na. Surrender na. I'm finished... Tatay na lang nila ako pero bringing back the relationship, wala na siguro. Maybe we can just play around with the memories pero that's it, finished," he said.

Dennis Padilla with children and mother



HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE



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

Padalahan ng kahon sa Pilipinas

416-298-8622



416-298-8622

umactoronto@yahoo.ca

www.umactoronto.com

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

Miss Universe president slams Singson's claims of possible acquisition

Rocha issued his statement over Instagram Story after Singson and his daughter, Rep. Richelle Singson, met with Shawn McClain, a former Miss Universe vice president, during a recent visit to the Philippines.

In his post, Singson asserted that Miss Universe is no longer owned by Rocha or Anne Jakrajutatip, a Thai business executive linked to the organization's leadership.

Rocha responded publicly, rejecting the claims and directly criticizing Singson and his daughter. "I'm fed up with that delusional fool and his daughter making statements, [dreaming] of something he [wouldn't] be able to achieve in a hundred years. Keep dreaming. [My] lawyers will put an end

to your fairy tales," he wrote.

Singson uploaded a photo of himself and his daughter with McClain and said the former Miss Universe executive had provided updates on the organization.

"Had a good chat with my daughter Congresswoman Richelle Singson and Shawn McClain, former Miss Universe Vice President. He updated us with possible acquisition talks on Miss Universe Organization," Singson wrote.

"For everyone's information: MUO is



Former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson and daughter Rep. Richelle Singson with former Miss Universe vice president Shawn McClain.

not owned anymore by Anne Jakrajutatip or Raul Rocha Cantú. In fact, they both

have arrest warrants against them! Thankyou Shawn for visiting us! We look forward to having discussions with the rightful owners, the creditors they defrauded," he added.

Thai media reported that Jakrajutatip, founder of JKN Global Group and co-owner of the Miss Universe Organization, was sentenced to two years in prison without suspension after a court on Dec. 26 found her guilty of fraud tied to a \$951,927 corporate bond investment. Meanwhile, a fed-

eral prosecutor issued an arrest warrant for Rocha, and Mexico's Financial Intelligence Unit froze his Mexican bank accounts, per Associated Press on Dec. 6.

The exchange followed an earlier statement from the Miss Universe Organization reaffirming that it remains under its current ownership and leadership and warning against what it called false and misleading claims suggesting acquisition or sale of the brand.

The Miss Universe Organization is preparing for a major milestone as it approaches the 75th anniversary of the international pageant, set to be held in November in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Camille Prats says she apologized to Kuya Kim Atienza after viral TV moment

Camille Prats addressed the viral moment that turned her recent TV appearance into a social media talking point, saying she personally apologized to Kuya Kim Atienza and that there are no hard feelings between them.

The Kapuso actress and host spoke about the incident during an interview

with Boy Abunda, explaining that she was unaware of the show's emotional lead-in when she was introduced on air shortly after tributes were made for Atienza's late daughter, Emman.

"I didn't know that kung ano yung pinanggalingan ng programa-- that was actually the first live show they had after what happened to Kuya

Kim-- so I wasn't aware of that," Prats said.

Focused on her guest performance, she admitted she did not review the script and only realized the situation when the clip spread online.

Despite understanding



why viewers reacted strongly, Prats said she immediately reached out to Atienza. "I'm like 'Kuya forgive me, I didn't know,'" she shared, adding that she was grateful he took it lightly.

Atienza reportedly told her there was no need to apologize, but Prats insisted. "What's important is he's fine, he's okay, he's happy-- we're okay," she said.

Atienza later joked that the moment helped lift his spirits, calling Prats "Pambansang Dopamine."

A gentle start: New Year's detox tips

(NC) After a season of indulgence, many Canadians crave a reset, but detoxing doesn't have to mean restriction. The most effective "cleanses" are often the gentlest, focused on supporting your body's natural detox pathways rather than overhauling them.

Here are a few simple ways to help your system refresh and rebalance naturally.

Support your liver

Your liver is your body's natural filtration system. It processes toxins so they can be safely eliminated, but it needs to be properly hydrated to function at its best. Drinking plenty of water is a good way to support your liver

function and helps with a number of other important body functions. Some herbs, such as milk thistle, can provide gentle additional support for your liver. There are Canadian producers, such as St. Francis Herb Farm, which offer herbal blends designed to support liver health.

Focus on fibre

- Whole grains, vegetables and seeds like chia or flax are natural cleansers for the digestive tract. They help sweep out waste and keep things feeling light and balanced. Adding digestive bitters--herbs that stimulate taste buds to create more saliva, which in turn jumpstart your digestive system--to your diet can also support regular elimination and overall digestive function.

Simplify your plate

- Cutting back on processed foods, added sugars, and excess caffeine gives your detox systems, like the lymphatic system and skin, a break. The lymphatic system helps clear waste and support immune function, while the skin acts as a secondary detox organ, releasing impurities through sweat. Herbal remedies with blue flag--also called iris versicolor--such as the lymph tonic from St. Francis Herb Farm, can gently support lymphatic functions.

Support your natural detox pathways

- Your body removes waste through four key channels: the liver, lymphatic system, kidneys



and bowels. Each plays a unique role in maintaining balance:

1. The liver filters toxins from the blood
2. The lymphatic system clears cellular waste
3. The kidneys manage fluid and mineral balance
4. The bowels eliminate solid waste

Gentle daily practices, like staying hydrated, eating fiber-rich foods and supporting circulation can help these systems function efficiently.

Cleansing can be simpler than many people realize--the body already has the tools to do it. All it needs is good diet, proper hydration and some gentle support.

MACKY'S LECHON HOUSE ISLAW

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

Frozen Lechon
Good for:
Paksiw na Lechon, Pritong Lechon,
Adobong Lechon, Crispy Sisig,
Sinigang na Lechon, Nilagang Lechon

We deliver! Right To Your Doorstep.
Order now..call us at

09162372800
or
02 8-2839401

Ask for Macky or Monica..

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

How Salome



Adult content creator and actress Salome Salvi reacted after receiving a demand letter from an organization claiming to be a social media watchdog that called her out over her sexual content.

Last December 22, the online personality posted a photo of the letter from the Kapisanan ng Social Media Broadcasters ng Pilipinas (KSMBPI), which was addressed to her as "Salome Salve" and "Mr. Salve."

The letter demands that she "immediately cease and desist from posting, publishing, and dis-

seminating obscene, sexually explicit, and sexually exploitative content on social media platforms."

"KSMBPI has received numerous complaints and has independently monitored online materials publicly accessible through their platforms, which allegedly contain lewd, indecent, and sexually suggestive content, including discussions and portrayals that normalize sexual vulgarity and exploit women and young girls as objects of sexual discourse," the letter reads.

"These materials are freely accessible to the public, including minors, raising serious concerns regarding public morals, child protection, and compliance with Philippine laws," it added.

"KSMBPI emphasizes that freedom of expression is not absolute and does not extend to content that is obscene, exploitative, or harmful, particularly when such content endangers minors or undermines public decency and moral standards," the letter continued.

The org also stated that Salome must "immediately remove the subject contents, refrain from producing similar materials, and

ensure that future online activities comply with existing laws on obscenity, child protection, and responsible digital conduct."

It likewise clarified that it does not intend to "silence legitimate artistic or creative expression, but to draw a clear line against content that is sexually exploitative, harmful, and inimical to public welfare."

Salome posted a copy of the letter on her Instagram account with the caption, "cackling."

Others also chimed in in the comments section.

"Mr. Salve?" an Instagram user asked.

"LMAOOO, I didn't even

catch that," Salome responded to the Instagram user.

"What are they gonna do?" another Instagram user commented. "A whole lotta nothing," Salome replied.

"Jusko. Kung sana pina-priority nila 'yung mga national issues, ikaw talaga. Gusto ba nila ng commission?" another wrote.

Salome is an adult content creator who began on X (formerly Twitter) in 2017 before transitioning to platforms such as OnlyFans and Pornhub.

She is also an actress who has appeared in the series "Black Rider" and in VMX films including "Tahong," "Mayumi," "Ahasss" and "Boy Kaldag."

Kim Chiu reflects on the meaning of family

"They say Christmas is about family. This year, mine looked a little different."

This was how actress and host Kim Chiu described the meaning of family in a heartfelt Instagram post.

Sharing photos of the people who stood by her side throughout 2025, Kim reflected on the bonds that made her year meaningful.

"All my life, I've been blessed to find family in people who chose to love me, hold me, and stand by me—especially this year. Blood is different, yes, but bond is everything."

These photos are just a part of the many souls who lifted me up. Not everyone fit in the frame, but every single one of you lives in my heart," Kim wrote.

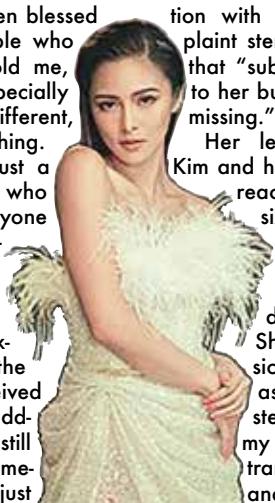
She went on to express gratitude for the support she received throughout the year, adding, "As Christmas is still being celebrated somewhere in the world, I just

want to say thank you—for the gift of presence. For the laughter, the patience, the understanding, and the love."

Kim concluded her post by wishing everyone peace and love ahead of 2026. Kim's post comes weeks after she made headlines for filing a qualified theft complaint against her sister, Lakambini "Lakam" Chiu, in connection with their business. The complaint stemmed from her discovery that "substantial amounts" related to her business assets were "found missing."

Her legal counsel noted that Kim and her lawyers had previously reached out to Lakam, emphasizing that there were "several attempts" to resolve the matter internally.

For Kim, the move was a difficult but necessary step. She said the "difficult decision," which she described as "one of the most painful steps I have ever taken in my life," was made to ensure transparency, accountability and to protect her company.



Rabin Angeles & Angela Muji on how they stay

Rabin Angeles and Angela Muji, popularly known as the RabGel love team, talked how they stay grounded with their success in show business! They star in A Werewolf Boy, by Viva Films for 2026.

For rising love RabGel, not forgetting you came from is the key to stay down to earth despite their success.

"Kapag magbabago ka, conscious ka doon," sabi ni Angela. "Iniisip ko sa sarili ko na I'm just the same old me. Lagi kong ni-remind 'yong sarili ko na I'm still the old Angela with better opportunities, but I'm still remaining true to myself."

Tulad ni Angela, iniisip din ni Rabin kung sino siya bago niya nakamit ang mga tagumpay sa showbiz.

"Wala naman pong talagang nagbago. Nagbago lang po 'yong ginagawa ko sa araw-araw, nakakain ko lang po 'yong gusto kong kainin, pero 'yong dating ako, ako pa rin po 'yon. 'Yon 'yong iniisip ko. Hindi pa rin ako pwedeng magyabang,

wala akong pwedeng pagyabangan na tao, wala akong pwedeng tapakan na tao kasi wala pa akong napapala. Wala pa ako sa dulo ng mga pangarap ko," sabi niya.

Rabin added that even if he reaches his dreams, hindi siya magpapakita ng kahit anong bahid ng yabang.

After two series, — Ang Mutya ng Section E at Seducing Drake Palma—at ngayon ang A Werewolf Boy, what does the RabGel love team want? "Gusto namin mag-concert tapos sasaway kaming dalawa. Lagi naming napag-uusapan 'yon. Gusto namin sumayaw na magkaisama," sabi ni Rabin.

Para kay Angela, kahit saan man sila dalhin ng kanilang opportunities—together or separate—mananatili silang supportive sa isa't isa.

grounded amid showbiz success



"If there was a chance na magka-movie siya with somebody else or magka-project ako na 'di siya kasama tapos mag-iba career paths namin, we'll always be there for each other, rooting for one another. 'Yon naman po ang pangarap namin sa isa't isa," sabi ni Angela.

"We keep aiming higher. Wala naman pong masamang pangarap, 'di ba? Kaya we just really want more. Gutom pa po kami matuto, gutom po kami sa projects, and we really want to strive—not just for us, for our own benefit, pero para matulungan namin 'yong pamilya namin at mga mahal po namin sa buhay," dagdag pa niya.

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 Legazpi, 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

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

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.

Balicasag Resort & Diving Spot

A tropical haven of beauty, the coastline of province is skinned by gentle coves and white sand beaches. You can find some of the country's great dive sites here. Balicasag in Bohol is one of the most popular dives in Visayas.

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 lucky, you can find yourself swimming with a passing school of dolphins.

Clown Fish, Flowers & Loboc River

When in the Philippines, call

ANNSET HOLIDAYS

UNIT 206 THE MANILA RESIDENCES TOWER II •
2310 TAFT AVENUE, MALATE MANILA
Reservation (02) 8 354-4101 to 04
Fax Number (02) 8 354-4105
Email: tours.travel@annsetholidays.com.ph

Ashtine Olviga and Her Power to Inspire

As Filipino actress Ashtine Olviga rises to new heights, her dreams grow clearer and bolder. Before shifting her focus to acting, she shared her artistry through music, winning "Born To Be A Star" in 2016. Her win led her to P-pop, joining U Go Girls in 2017, PPop Generation in 2019, and LITZ in 2021.

In 2018, she appeared in Miss Granny, Will You Be My Ex? and The Ship Show in 2023, and Sunny and Roadtrip in 2024. Nine years after entering the industry, she broke through as the leading lady in Ang Mutya ng Section E, Viva One's Wattpad adaptation.

A Pearl in the Making

An oyster takes months, sometimes years, to form a priceless pearl between its shell—much like Olviga, who has slowly come into her own as an artist. "It was in my first lead role in Ang Mutya ng Section E where I realized how happy I was," the rising actress expressed. "And it was there that I realized how much I love what I do."

She credits her co-actor Andres Muhlach for grounding her throughout the series. "At first I was really nervous, but as we were

shooting, I eventually grew comfortable with him," the actress reflected. More than just a love team, AshDres has found its rhythm—two rising stars learning to grow alongside each other.

Olviga's character, Jay-jay, shakes up the all-male classroom as the only girl. Headstrong, defiant, and chaos incarnate, it's easy to see why the actress feels so strongly about her character. "She's a fighter, especially when she knows she's right," she said, describing a trait she has embraced.

The Power to Inspire

The world is her oyster, as they say. With her recent success in a coming-of-age series—and a recent film with Muhlach, Minamahal—it begs the question: What's next for the rising star?

With new opportunities unfolding for the actress, she's determined to explore as much as she can. "As a soft girl, I want to try action, because I want to see a different side of me—a toughness, if it exists in me."



Olviga chuckled. "But I also want to try inspirational movies, the kind that after the audience watches, they learn something and get inspired."

More than a desire to explore genres, Olviga aspires to inspire her audience. That is where her artistry is rooted—because if her dreams can come true, so can the people who look up to her. "I want to inspire my audience to be the best version of themselves," the Woman to Watch declared.

"With everything that's happening on social media, we think of ourselves as small and irrelevant. I want to prove them wrong."

Growth takes courage and patience—qualities that Ashtine Olviga clearly has, especially with nine years in the industry. Beyond the roles she plays, her true artistry lies in uplifting others. Through Jay-jay, she fights for what's right and sparks change, and reminds her audience that they, too, can shine on their own time. For this rising star, the dream isn't to succeed; it's to inspire.

Philippine Curling Team Miss The Olympic Cut

CURLING page 18

"She was doing all this without even me knowing," Carpenter says. Then, she casually dropped the news: "Oh yeah, you know, the Filipino curling president wants to reach out. I gave him your contacts."

That led to Zoom meetings with the team, a Philippines passport secured in July and his first weeks with the team in Switzerland in August. By October, he was the team's lead, bumping Frei to alternate.

Canadian Brayden Carpenter is competing for the Philippines men's curling team and looking to make history by qualifying for the 2026 Olympics in Italy.

Frei, who remains the team's

frontman and financial backer, has said his goal is to get to the Olympics however that can be accomplished, and Carpenter's contribution may be a determining factor.

Carpenter grew up curling, competed extensively in juniors and recently played on the senior circuit with Cameron de Jong's rink, which won the B.C. provincials and represented the province at this year's Montana Brier.

Team Philippines is still a long shot. Among the eight nations competing in the final Olympic qualifier, the United States and China are favored to punch the last two tickets to Milan. Japan and South Korea will also be dif-

ficult to overcome.

Yes, the Philippines defeated that trio of rival Asian nations earlier this year, but they might have benefited from the element of surprise. Those teams won't underestimate the Southeast Asian upstarts again, not with two Olympic berths on the line.

The Philippines has welcomed one important new member of the team, though. Brayden Carpenter, an experienced Filipino-Canadian curler from British Columbia, joined the group for the preliminary qualifier in Scotland and helped them cruise through the tourney with a 6-0 record. He and Frei now split ice time, depending on matchups.

Frei has already accomplished

the first goal he set for himself when he decided to chase an Olympic dream. Over the past three years, he has shed 50 pounds. What if, somehow, he and the Philippine curlers manage to pull off the other half of that pledge and make it to Milan?

"Filipinos are very proud people, but we don't win too many things in sports — not international," Frei said. "If there's a karaoke competition, we will win it, but not sports."

"I'm completely biased, but I think this will be the greatest Cinderella story of the 2026 Olympics."

So close, yet, so far

Sadly, the dream of participating in the Olympics is over for

the Swiss-Philippine curling team.

The quartet of Brayden Carpenter, Christian Haller, the brothers Enrico and Marc Pfister and substitute Alan Frei failed in the preliminary round of the qualifying tournament in Kelowna, Canada, where the last two tickets will be awarded.

Three wins and four defeats were not enough to reach the final podium of the top 3, and after a defeat against South Korea on December 10, the matter was clear. The two places will be contested by the curling-experienced USA, China and Japan.

Dawn Zulueta inspires daughter Ayisha to pursue the arts

She may be only 16, but Ayisha Lagdameo, the unica hija of Dawn Zulueta, is beginning to attract attention in her own right. Unsurprisingly, she's getting questions about whether she's open to being part of showbiz, just like her mom.

"Well, I would rather that she doesn't,"



business. For the proud mom, it's a dream come true.

"I've always, always dreamed of a daughter that could dance. When she was in my tummy, I hoped, you know, she would like to dance the way I like to dance, and fortunately she does. She is so much better than me," she also

told the press.

Ayisha points to her mom as her role model, whose example inspired her to pursue the arts.

But, she noted, "I don't think it (showbiz) would be my profession. I think I prefer dancing — being a dancer."

Asked how the veteran actress is like as a parent, Ayisha shared, "I like spending time

with her, and I see her as someone I can always talk to about anything. She's a fun person to be around."

Ayisha, who is determined to undertake advanced ballet education abroad, added that her idol in dancing is Ni-Ki of ENHYPEN.

Aside from K-pop, mom and daughter like to go to the salon and go shopping together.

'Sana maging totoo': Chavit Singson denies Jillian Ward romance rumors with anew

Former Ilocos Sur Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson denied anew he had a "special relationship" with Kapuso actress Jillian Ward.

In his guesting on "The Men's Room" hosted by Stanley Chi and Janno Gibbs, the hosts asked Chavit if he has already met Jillian.

"Hindi. Sa awa ng Diyos, hindi pa," the ex-politician said. "Hindi pa. Sana nga."

@oneph_cignal

Natsi-tismis daw si Chavit Singson sa magandang artista babaeng ito. Nang tanungin si Chavit tungkol dito, heto ang sagot niya!



Rumors of Chavit and Jillian having an affair began last October. The actress, however, denied such talks in an interview with Boy Abunda.

Chavit did say he wants to meet Jillian so they can both put the issue to rest.

"Yun na nga eh. Pero sana may magpapakila-la [sa amin] para pareho naming i-dedeny. Para mawala na," he explained. "Kasi nag-de-deny ako,

nagde-deny siya, parang naglolokohan lang eh. Kaya kailangan mag-meet kami para pareho naming i-de-neny."

When asked if he had a message for Jillian, Chavit laughed and joked

"Uhm, sana nga maging totoo."

Candid CAMERA



Imelda Concepcion joins the best costume contest during the "New year eve" celebration of the Senior Art group on December 30 at the Filipino Centre Toronto.

Regine Tolentino recreates 20-year-old magazine cover

MANILA, Philippines — Host-actress Regine Tolentino rolled back the years by recreating a magazine cover she did over two decades ago.

On Instagram, Regine posted a photo of her in a revealing a black outfit with matching fishnet stockings — just about exactly what she wore for the December 2004 cover issue of FHM magazine.

Toengi and the late Rico Yan. She went on to star in "Flames" the following year and became the first Filipino VJ of MTV Asia in 1997.

Other onscreen appearances include stints on "Unang Hirit," "Digital LG Quiz," "Shall We Dance?" and "A Beautiful Affair."

The host-actress has two daughters with ex-husband and "Flames" co-star Lander Vera Perez and one daughter with Dondi Narciso.



the comments section, which the host-actress mirrored right back at her, meanwhile Regine replied to Aubrey Miles' comment citing the latter as an inspiration.

FHM ceased its print operations in the Philippines in May 2018, with Nathalie Hart as its last cover girl.

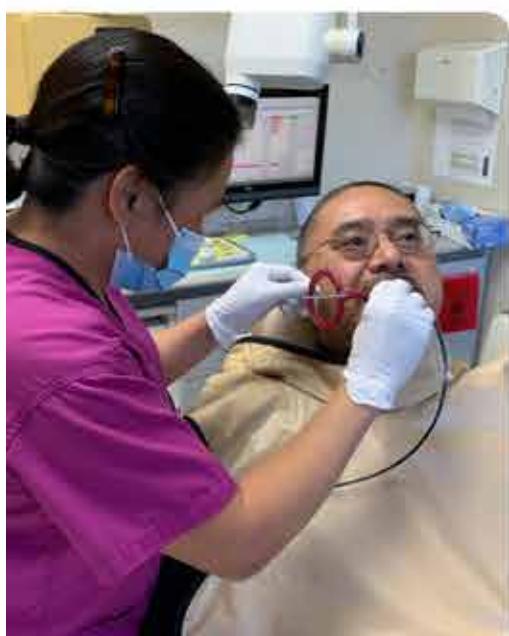
Regine rose to fame as a part of the first batch of Star Magic artists launched in 1995 alongside Victor Neri, G.

Miss Philippines Canada 2025 Princess Saladino with Joey Baking



Dong's Dreamers Academy 1st Year Anniversary Recital





We offer complete dental care & are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

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

Specialty Dentistry:

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

Registered Dental Hygienist:

Raymond Echavez
Gayle Baylon

Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic
(Across Sherbourne TTC Station)
600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307
Toronto
dr.vsliu@bellnet.ca

Website now live
thefamilydentistry.ca



Alden Richards celebrates 15 years in showbiz

GMA Network and Sparkle GMA Artist Center homegrown talent, Asia's Multimedia Star Alden Richards, celebrated his 15th year in the industry with a strong drive to give back to the people who have supported him since day one.

Last Dec. 13, Alden celebrated a special night with them through a fanmeet "ARXV: Moving ForwARD" at the City of Santa Rosa Laguna Multi-Purpose Complex.

"This is an event about gratitude, appreciation, and honoring the people who have been part of my 15-year journey, Alden shared, emphasizing how he is personally involved in crafting the event, highlighting every important detail of his career. From supporting roles as one of the industry's breakthrough artists, Alden has become one of the most sought-after actors of his generation, starring in countless series and movies.

For him, being able to share meaningful stories, portray significant roles, and evoke emotions in audiences has helped him understand himself better and define his place in the industry.

Brands and endorsements continue to stay because of his generosity and commitment. With the opportunities that came his way, Alden learned how to use his platform to help others. For many years, Alden has actively shared his success in various organizations and through his own AR Foundation, which is dedicated to helping those in need and providing scholarships to students.

"I think the most pivotal ones are the



lives that I was able to touch, and kaya siguro ako nalagay dito sa sitwasyon, I think my mission is to be a vessel, and give out all the blessings that are coming in the way," Alden reflected when asked about the highlight of his 15 years in the business.

He added, "Iba kasi yung joy and happiness that I feel whenever I'm able to help in my own small way sa mga taong nangangailangan, especially in terms of education, I think yun yung maibibigay ko sa kanila—something that cannot be stolen and that they can carry with them until tumanda na sila."

Even before staging a fan meet, Alden celebrated his anniversary with an outreach tour, "ARXV Care-a-van" last Dec.

7 where he visited institutions closest to his heart—Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, East Ave Medical Center and Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) Animal Rehabilitation Center. For him, being involved in such activities is his way of giving back to the community.

Recently, Alden has been hailed as one of Anak TV's MAKAbata Star Hall of Famers, alongside Dingdong Dantes, Marian Rivera, Atom Araullo, Drew Arellano, Kim Atienza, Kara David, Vicky Morales and veteran journalists Mel Tiangco, Jessica Soho and Mike Enriquez.

"Maraming salamat po for the continuous recognition since I started my career in the past 15 years. I think it's very

essential for us public figures to be given this kind of recognition so that it can ground us and to give us even more fuel to continue what we have started to do".

Highlighting that he will continue to use his platform in spreading kindness and social responsibilities that will give inspiration to others—especially the youth who look up to him.

Furthermore, as part of Sparkle's advocacy campaign, Alden even led the "Click Kindness" initiative, which aims to spread kindness both online and offline. Given the challenges the country is facing, he believes that now is the perfect time to rethink and control our actions toward one another.

Moving forward, Alden believes there is much more in store for his career, and he is excited for what lies ahead. "Sabi ko nga, 'malayo na pero malayo pa'. In the past 15 years, everything felt planned and thoughtout, pero syempre hindi natin tatanggalin yung aspetong yun. But I just want the next 15 years in the industry to be full of surprises. I want my journey to present itself, because of course, it's not going to be easy."

Alden added that staying in the business is at the heart of his journey, and with changing times, it is important to continuously reinvent oneself as a celebrity.

Little Manila

LM Confidential

• INDEOSPERAMUS •

LM Confidential

LM Confidential



LM confidential • LMc

You can also read LM Confidential (LMC) online!

LMconfidential.com

EMAIL: pleasurelife@email.com

Little Manila

LM Confidential

From Ashtine Olvida to Fyang Smith to Kai Montinola: Stars to watch out for in 2026



(From left) Ashtine Olvida, Fyang Smith and Kai Montinola

The past year turned out to be an introduction to Ashtine Olvida, Fyang Smith, Kai Montinola, Will Ashley, Andres Muhlach, Bianca de Vera and other stars who had the potential to take up the entertainment industry by storm. While some earned the support of the public with breakthrough acting performances, others gained the love of casual viewers with their honest-to-goodness personalities.

Here is a look at the stars with the potential to reach greater heights in the Philippine entertainment industry and gain more love from casual viewers:



Ashtine Olvida

The moment Ashtine Olvida told Piolo Pascual in the 2025 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) entry "Manila's Finest" that she's unsure whether she's proud of the latter's job as a police officer, she ultimately cemented her position as one of the most promising up-and-coming dramatic actresses in her generation. Her MMFF Best Supporting Actress nomination for her portrayal is proof.

Olvida might've been catching the public's eye as a former P-pop idol, as well as the lead star of "Ang Mutya ng Seksyon E" and "Minamahal," but the MMFF entry was proof that she has more to give — as long as she's given the right project to show she has what it takes.

Will Ashley

Even before entering the "Pinoy Big Brother (PBB)" House, Will Ashley has been building his reputation as a formidable actor, as seen in "Balota," "Prima Donnas," "X&" and "Unbreak My Heart." Since then, he was able to introduce himself and gain the hearts of casual viewers.

After his double nomination at the MMFF 2025 Gabi ng Parangal for his captivating performances in "Bar Boys: After School" and "Love You So Bad" — and with a ton of upcoming projects along the way — it's clear his star will keep shining brighter.

Bianca de Vera

A "MasterChef Junior" alum, Bianca de Vera showed her potential as a leading lady in "2 Good 2 Be True" and "Unbreak My Heart," but it was on TikTok and "PBB" that she showed her bubbly personality and magnetic presence.

Although some critics were initially doubtful that she could carry a film in the MMFF 2025 entry "Love You So Bad," her portrayal of Savannah, an outgoing young adult who found herself torn between two loves, showed she has the potential to be dubbed the new-generation RomCom Queen.

Fyang Smith

Love or hate her, the stage presence of Fyang Smith is nothing short of undeniable. Her lead role in the digital series "Ghosting" and Scream Queen-esque performance in the MMFF 2025 entry "Shake, Rattle & Roll: Evil Origins" were clear proofs that she can act.

With an upcoming film by Dan Villegas and a dedicated fanbase, there is no way to go but up for his starry-eyed star.

JM Ibarra

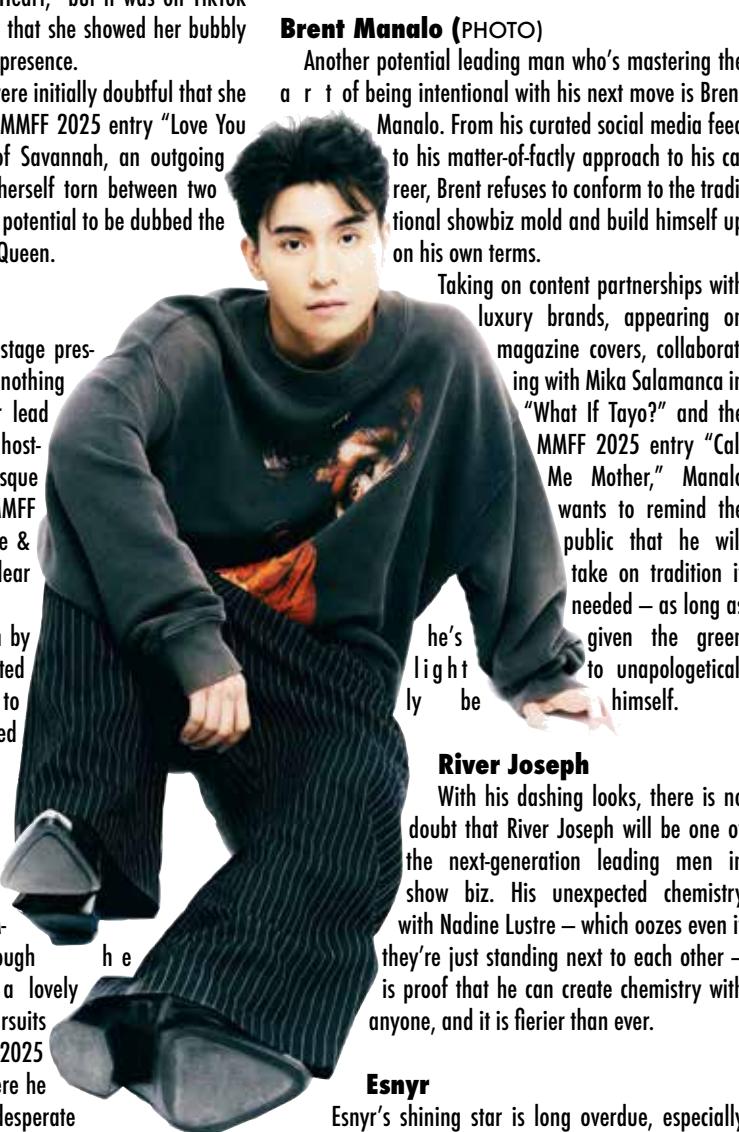
JM Ibarra proved that he's more than just one-half of the JM-Fyang tandem — although he and Fyang have been a lovely match in their joint pursuits — with the Cinemalaya 2025 entry "Child No. 82," where he portrayed a young adult desperate to reconnect with his late father. Just a mix of mainstream and indie roles here and there, and Ibarra has what it takes to be a formidable film star.

Andres Muhlach

Coming from a prominent showbiz clan, Andres Muhlach had big shoes to fill. Yet he continues to build a solid reputation for himself as a potential leading man, as the dangerously charming Keifer in "Ang Mutya ng Section E" and hopeless romantic Raffy in "Minamahal." He also scored a lead role as Adie in "Bagets: The Musical," which was coincidentally portrayed by his dad in 1984.

Kai Montinola

With her doll-like features, charming presence and a penchant for singing, Kai Montinola is establishing herself as a multi-hyphenate. With the release of her debut EP "Kaileidoscope," appearances in an episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya" and "Roja," as well as an undeniable wit in interviews, there is no doubt that 2026 will be the year when curious onlookers will gravitate to her.



Mika Salamanca

Mika Salamanca didn't jump into the traditional showbiz ring since winning "PBB." Her moves were calculated (in a great way) and intentional, and she even pointed out that she wanted to be "fully ready" before taking on such commitments.

The result? Scene-stealing appearances in the MMFF 2025 entry "Call Me Mother," a new children's book, a new single, and a new album on the way. As her star shines brighter in 2026, Mika is clear that she will make it — in her own way.

Brent Manalo (PHOTO)

Another potential leading man who's mastering the art of being intentional with his next move is Brent Manalo. From his curated social media feed to his matter-of-factly approach to his career, Brent refuses to conform to the traditional showbiz mold and build himself up on his own terms.

Taking on content partnerships with luxury brands, appearing on magazine covers, collaborating with Mika Salamanca in "What If Tayo?" and the MMFF 2025 entry "Call Me Mother," Manalo wants to remind the public that he will take on tradition if needed — as long as he's given the green light to be unapologetically himself.

River Joseph

With his dashing looks, there is no doubt that River Joseph will be one of the next-generation leading men in show biz. His unexpected chemistry with Nadine Lustre — which oozes even if they're just standing next to each other — is proof that he can create chemistry with anyone, and it is fierier than ever.

Esnyr

Esnyr's shining star is long overdue, especially with the hilarious skits he had been doing on TikTok during the pandemic. With "PBB," he was able to solidify his refreshing personality, undeniable sense of humor, and a unique kind of magnetism that couldn't be taught.

Ralph De Leon

With a face like Ralph De Leon, there's no doubt that he will make it as a New Gen heartthrob. His scenes in the MMFF 2025 entry "Love You So Bad" might only be a few, but his quick reactions and comedic timing show that he can gain more love from casual viewers. His appearance in "Naiilang" with AZ Martinez was a start, and we hope that his upcoming role in "The Secrets of Hotel 88" will be the right push.

AZ Martinez

It's hard not to be attracted to AZ Martinez, especially with her radiant aura and statuesque beauty. At the same time, AZ possesses a unique knack for creating good chemistry with different actors, such as her "PBB" co-housemates Ralph De Leon, River Joseph, Michael

Sager, Will Ashley and Emilio Daez — as seen on their appearances on TV and social media.

With "The Secrets of Hotel 88" — where it is hinted that she will be in a love triangle with Ralph and River — it's undeniable that she is on her way to becoming a screen darling.

Michael Sager

Michael Sager didn't just leave "PBB" to make a good impression on the house. He left to prove that he's more than what meets the eye. And he surely did. Michael was able to hold a solo fan meeting, take on multiple hosting opportunities at the MMFF 2025 and impress casual viewers, and lead a digital film.

With an upcoming musical drama on the way, Sager just needs the right project to explode into an impeccable leading man — and he is on his way there.

Rabin Angeles

X (formerly Twitter) trends, an endorsement deal with a Japanese restaurant, magazine covers, scene-stealing appearances in "Ang Mutya ng Seksyon E" and "Seducing Drake Palma," and a legion of fans in the past year — it's clear that Rabin Angeles is not one to play around with his entertainment career.

He is here in the industry to stay, and his upcoming lead role in "A Werewolf Boy" is shaping up to be the film that will define his star power in 2026.

Emilio Daez

The moment Emilio Daez departed from "PBB," it was clear that there were plans to groom him as the new-generation matinee idol. Starring in "Love at First Spike," "Romance Reboot," "Bar Boys: After School" and "Roja" — on top of other endorsements — Emilio is booked and busy. And he is more than ready to solidify himself as a matinee idol with the range to boot.

Klarisse de Guzman

Klarisse de Guzman's innate ability to be a "mowm" might've gained the love from the public, but she wants to make it clear that she is a performer with a lot of tricks up her sleeve. In the past year, she was able to release the album "Unimaginable," hold a solo concert, and make her acting debut in "Bar Boys: After School" and "Call Me Mother." On top of that, she established an unexpected onscreen rapport with Kean Cipriano.

From these milestones alone, de Guzman wants to remind the public that she's more than just the "Nation's Mowm." She's out to stay in the spotlight for the long haul.



Film director Albert Langitan on CinePop!: We're not a porn site

Director Albert Langitan, the creative force steering CinePop!, emphasized that the entertaining platform is far from a destination for adult content.

Director Albert Langitan and Apples Angeles, star of the vertical series 'Mansanas ni Eba,' now streaming on CinePop!

Director Albert Langitan and Apples Angeles, star of the vertical series 'Mansanas ni Eba,' now streaming on CinePop!

Albert clarified that CinePop! is dedicated to providing a diverse



range of engaging films and shows for vertical viewing that reflect artistic storytelling rather than anything explicit.

"We're not porn. Ours is not a porn site, and our stars do not show their genitals. But our concept revolves around the theme of eroticism," said

the director during a press conference at their head office in Quezon City recently.

Albert emphasized the profound significance of intimacy in our lives, asserting that sex is an essential facet of the human experience. He articulated that a vibrant and fulfilling sex life acts as a cornerstone for sustaining a relationship, nurturing deeper connections, and enduring passion between partners. "Sex sells. Part yan ng pagiging tao. (That's part of being human.) It's essential to have a healthy sex life. If not, your relationship might be destroyed."

The director also makes a point of en-

suring there is no exploitation of their stars during the shoot for CinePop!

"When it comes to exploitation, we avoid that. Before we shoot, we ask our stars about their limitations and parameters — walang sapilitan (We don't force them.) Kapag lumampas doon hindi na namin gagawin. May mga instances na biglang nagbabago ang isip nila. Sabi ko, 'Okay lang yun. No worries. Walang sapilitan. (If it goes beyond that, we won't do it. There are instances where they suddenly change their minds. I said, 'That's okay. No worries. Nothing's forced,'" he said.

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



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

Call Harold for Appointment
416-578-7351

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

ROADSPORT LTD.
940 Ellesmere Rd. (NE Kennedy) Toronto Ontario M1P 2W8
416-291-9501
www.roadsport.com

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

NO PROBLEM!!

Come In And See More Choices Of Vehicles



**2019 Hyundai Tucson Preferred |
FROM \$18,799*



**2016 Honda Civic Coupe Touring
Leather | Sunroof | Navi | Bluetooth | FROM \$18,990*



**2018 Nissan Pathfinder SL Premium 4WD
FROM \$19,290*



**2016 Honda Civic Sedan Touring
Leather | Sunroof | Navi | Bluetooth | FROM \$19,290*



HONDA

Are celebrities ready for new beginnings this 2026?

The first month of the year, January, is named after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, passages and transitions. He is frequently depicted with two faces, each one looking in opposite directions. The double-sided head symbolizes his flair for seeing the past and the future.

As 2026 unfolds, I hope for better and brighter things for the country and for all Filipinos. I asked some celebrities about the lessons they learned from 2025 and what they look forward to in 2026. Here are their answers:

Drew Arellano – “Lessons of 2025: My body performs best when I listen to it. Training hard only works when recovery is part of the plan. Preparation prevents stress. Hospitality is about how you respond. Things won’t always go perfectly, but great service can. Humor plus simplicity equals strong creative ideas. Empathy goes a long way. Value beats cost. Curiosity fuels growth.”

Goals for 2026: Race smarter and stronger. Aim for that ‘Personal Best’ marathon and build toward ‘The Qualifier.’ Elevate my mountain house experience. Grow creatively. Make decisions with confidence. Live more intentionally. Streamline, refine and enjoy more of what matters.”

Iya Villania-Arel-Iano – “2025 was the year I experienced the peace and strength that could have only come from the Lord. I learned that if you really seek the Lord, you become so much more sensitive to the ways He speaks and moves you, giving you peace, direction and even ideas! So many moments in my prayer time, He has impressed on my heart different thoughts and ideas.”

“In 2026, I’m looking forward to more moments together with the family. Every day is so special just watching the kids love each other, so I’m just looking forward to witnessing more of that love. I also hope to build more family traditions.”

Mariel Padilla – “The biggest lesson 2025 taught me is the value of slowing down and being present. This year reminded me that no matter how busy life gets – with work, family and everything in between – what truly matters are the quiet moments with the people I love, the simple joys and the peace that comes from choosing gratitude over stress. I learned to appreciate balance, to listen to my body, and to protect my peace without guilt.”

“For 2026, I’m simply looking forward to more laughter, more travels, more time with family, and more moments that make life fun. I’m hoping for a year that feels lighter, happier and filled with good energy – and maybe a few surprises along the way.”

Sitti – “Rest is equally important as work. You have to prioritize it. More quality time with family and hopefully more new music.”

Baron Geisler – “2025 taught me the value of discipline, presence and gratitude. This year reminded me that growth happens quietly – when you choose to show up for yourself, honor your craft and be present for the people who matter. I learned to embrace grace, to trust God’s timing and to stay grounded even as new projects and endorsements came my way. Every opportunity, whether on set or through a brand that believes in me, became a reminder of how far God has taken me from where I once was.”

“In 2026, I look forward to being more consistent – in my work, in my relationships, in my faith and in the man I’m becoming. I’m excited for new roles, meaningful collaborations and more partnerships with brands whose values align with mine. But most of all, I look forward to a year where I can serve quietly, love deeply

and continue building a life rooted in purpose, integrity and gratitude.”

Boots Anson Roa Rodrigo – “In 2025, I learned from my lawyer-husband, King Rodrigo, the term ‘righteous indignation.’ I fully felt and experienced ‘righteous indignation,’ our ultimate right to anger, at the outbreak of the flood control scandal. When nature took its wrath at personages and their elements, I felt collapsing violently inward. For a moment, I felt helpless. The only recourse and antidote to helplessness, I thought, was to speak when asked and to express oneself when questioned. And to help those who are victimized in ways constructive and far-reaching.”

“As a community, as a people, and as a nation, we collectively move up as we muster faith, hope and goodwill that lead us to peace. True peace brings with it hope. With Christ at our center, we shall keep that hope burning in our hearts amidst the mis-haps and the turmoil that surround us.”

Nikka and Patrick Garcia – “To always have patience because the Lord always answers in His most perfect time. For 2026, we are excited for new experiences and opportunities, not just for ourselves but for the entire family.”

Nikki Valdez – “Every day is a learning experience for me, but what I learned the most in 2025 is to make sure to be in your here and now as much as you can. To face everything one step at a time.”

“For work, I look forward to doing more significant projects with roles that will inspire and help others.”

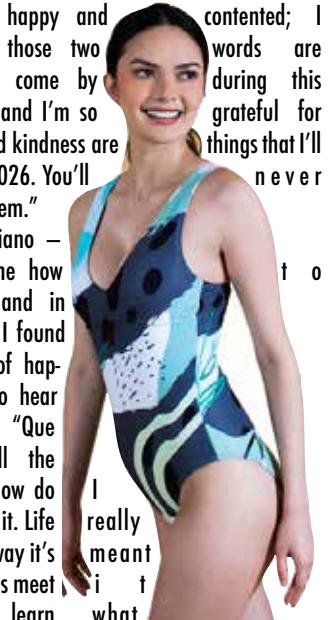
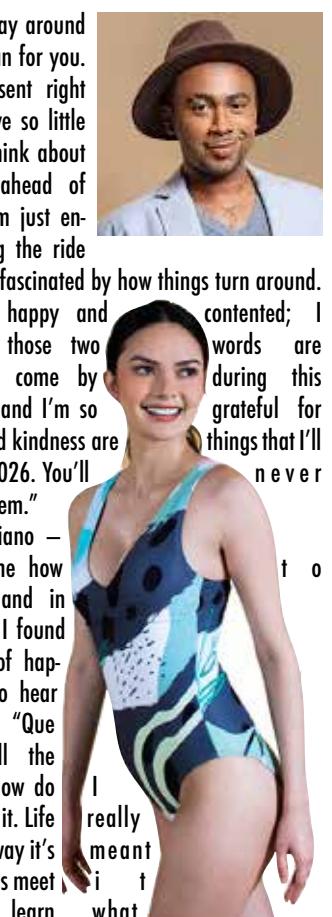
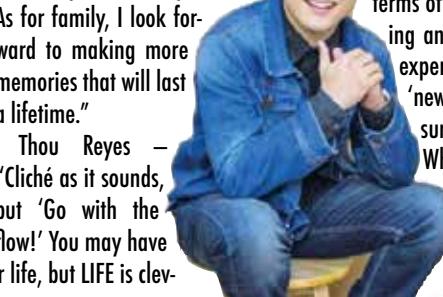
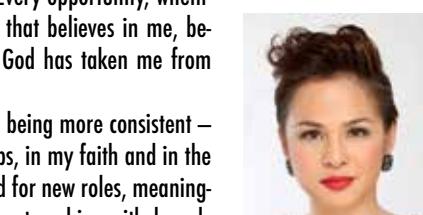
As for family, I look forward to making more memories that will last a lifetime.”

Thou Reyes – “Cliché as it sounds, but ‘Go with the flow!’ You may have the perfect plan for your life, but LIFE is clev-

er enough to play around its PERFECT plan for you. I am so present right now that I have so little time to think about what’s ahead of me. I’m just enjoying the ride and fascinated by how things turn around. I’m happy and contented; I think those two words are hard to come by during this time, but I am, and I’m so grateful for things that I’ll never go wrong with them.”

Gabrielle Basiano – “2025 taught me how to accept myself, and in that acceptance, I found a deeper kind of happiness. I used to hear my mom sing ‘Que Sera, Sera’ all the time, but only now do I truly understand it. Life really does unfold the way it’s meant to. All we can do is meet it with acceptance, learn what we need to learn and grow from there. As I step into 2026, I’m choosing growth. I’m excited to try new things, to feel uncomfortable on purpose, and to say yes to experiences that once scared me. New beginnings don’t scare me anymore; they excite me.”

Gab Umali – “I’ve learned that in being an artist, you really have to reach deeper in terms of your art to a more personal level. Being an artist, I’ve also tried to explore and experiment with my craft through these ‘newer’ technologies (AI tools), and it surprisingly made the process easier. What I’m looking forward to in 2026 is to inspire my circle of co-artists to be more emotionally, mentally and physically expressive in their passion.”



Sparkle artists encourage everyone to choose kindness

MANILA, Philippines — Apart from creating entertaining and informative content, the GMA network also takes on the role of reminding everyone about Filipino and universal values that should remain alive amidst technological advancement.

They serve as "guideposts" as one lives in a fast-paced world, strengthening Pinoy identity and sense of humanity.

For its 75th anniversary, the Kapuso network came up with "Ganito Tayo, Kapuso," a collection of seven short films that presented seven Filipino core values such as "Maka-Diyos," "Masayahan," "Maabilidad," "Makabayan," "Mapagmalasakit sa Kapwa," "Mapagmahal sa Pamilya" and "Malikhain." Their close English equivalents are "God-fearing," "cheerful," "re-

sourceful," "patriotic," "concern for others," "family-oriented" and "creative."

It tapped its artists such as Althea Ablan, Mikee Quintos, Allen Ansay, Thea Tolentino, Ewenn Mikaell, Patricia Tumulak, Vaness del Moral, Matt Lozano and Anton Vinzon to star in these shorts. GMA Playlist artists like Kim De Leon, Seb Pajarillo and Mitzi Josh lent their voices to Atin ang Mundo, Ikaw Na Lang Ang Kulang and Basta't Magkakasama Tayo as songs for the short film "G.G.," focusing on "Masayahan" as part of the GMA

values campaign.

The other shorts are "Opo," "Para! Sa Pamilya,"

The calling to campaign or advocate for something good and timely carries on with "Click Kindness,"



"Raketera," "The Job Interbrew," "The Mami Returns" and "Tres Marias."

Sparkle GMA Artist Center talents such as Alden Richards, Julie Anne San Jose (above photos), Kyline Alcantara and Ruru Madrid come together 'to inspire positivity and compassion' and encourage people to choose kindness.

FAMILY DENTISTRY DR. V. SANTIAGO & ASSOCIATES



We offer complete dental care & are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

Dr. Victoria Santiago

Dr. Joy Y. Ho

Dr. Amy Fan

Dr. Jennifer Chen

Dr. Damian Yung

Dr. Myra Caballero

Specialty Dentistry:

Dr. Ali Adibfar

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr. Abbasali Hassanali

Periodontist

Registered Dental Hygienist:

Raymond Echavez

Gayle Baylon

Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic

(Across Sherbourne TTC Station)

600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307

Toronto

dr.vsliu@bellnet.ca



Website now live
thefamilydentistry.ca



which was launched when the network's talent management arm, Sparkle GMA Artist Center, turned 30 last November. And one of its most prized talents, Alden Richards, talked about it during the event and celebration, "Sparkle Trenta."

"Madali naman tayong magpaka ng magandang katangan sa tunay na mundo (it's easy to show good traits in the world)," said the actor-host-entrepreneur-and-singer in a statement given by the GMA network's publicity team. "So, siyempre, gamitin din natin ito online (of course, we also do it online) because our reach online combined is very powerful. Lahat ng posts natin dapat nagbibigay ng inspirasyon, hindi nagbibigay ng hateful feedback (all posts should give inspiration rather than hateful feedback)."

"Hindi nang-aaway, kundi nagbibigay ng pag-mamahal (posts that don't invite conflicts, but give love)," added he. "Kindness goes a long way, and it starts with all of us... with you, with me, and (with) everyone online."

The talent management also made a special video for the campaign, being aired on GMA, to further put across the message behind "Click Kindness." It features Alden, Julie Anne San Jose, Ruru Madrid, Miguel Tanfelix, Kyline Alcantara, Ysabel Ortega, Shuvee Etrata, Ashley Ortega, Allen Ansay, Rita Daniela, Jessica Villarubin, Roxie Smith and Prince Carlos.

"Pag ka-tingin mo na medyo foul at masakit yung sinasabi, parang magandang 'wag na lang nating pansin' (if you think the statement is foul or hurtful, perhaps, it's better to ignore it)," said Ruru in a GMA News Integrated News "24 Oras Weekend" report, also featuring Kyline and Alden.

As for Kyline, she shared that "love and kindness (are) free. We can easily give it and receive it. So, I hope magawa po natin yun araw-araw (we can do it every day)."

"We encourage people to be positive, to stay positive and (to) bring out the best in each other when it comes to the postings on social media. It's very much healthy at makaka-create pa tayo ng mas magandang community (and it will create a better community) with this," said Alden, "and we can use our platforms for the benefit of the common good."

The campaign's purpose is "to inspire positivity and compassion" with the goal to reach people in the virtual or real world.

It also makes one reflect on the value of choosing kindness and being kind to anyone who is part of one's circle or community of friends.

A piece of information from the artists' publicity team says that "Sparkle encourages everyone to continue to flood the digital world with kindness using the hashtag #ClickKindness, with high hopes to create a ripple effect that extends far beyond its fan base because kindness benefits everyone."