

'The Main Event' A Roaring Success

by RENE VILLAROMAN
AJPress



Regine, Martin and Lani while performing onstage during the Main Event concert.

AJPress Photo by Rene Villaroman

What happens when two Filipino singers are brought together in a show dubbed *Main Event* which showcases their talents as Asia's Songbird and Asia's Nightingale? A roaring success! No one doubted the outcome of the tandem performances of the Philippines' most recognizable singing sensations: Regine Velasquez, an accomplished pop singer, concert artist and actress, and Lani Misalucha, a versatile performer whose range covers pops to opera and who had wowed audiences in a long engagement at Las Vegas' Flamingo Hotel with the Society of Seven.

Misalucha was voted "Best Singer" in Las Vegas, beating Canadian singer and Vegas veteran Celine Dion. Velasquez and Misalucha are recognized as two of the Philippines' most accomplished international performers, having honed their skills in front of multi-cultural audiences in the world.

Main Event caused a minor traffic jam around Pasadena Civic Auditorium on Saturday night, with concertgoers milling around the venue as early as 7:30 p.m., and it started on time, only few ticks after 8:30 p.m.

"Oh my God, I cannot contain myself," gushed Dr. Frieda Brookshire, an Orange County dentist and one of the show's many major sponsors. "It is so good; it's spectacular. *Napakagaling talaga*. They complement each other so well," Brookshire commented. "It was a super showdown. They are both excellent artists, great singers, and I was blown away. It was the first time that Dr. Brookshire saw both singers perform. "It was unbelievable and worth it," she said.

Even Deputy Consul General Dan Espiritu, who watched the performance with his wife, was full of praises. "I was very much impressed by the powerful voices of the two. They are really divas," said the diplomat, admitting that he was not an expert in this area. "The range of their repertoire is very impressive because it ranges from pop, rock, to (Andrea) Bocelli," Espiritu told Asian Journal. "They are really both good." He observed that Regine was more into pop and Lani was more operatic, but "the good thing is that their voices were able to harmoniously blend throughout the entire performance, and even their personalities click together."

The concert producers had billed *Main Event* as a competition of sorts between the two divas, and the two "protagonists" played it to the hilt, mimicking a boxing event announcer announcing the statistics each of "fighter", just stopping short of the weight. "In this corner," Regine growls, "Lani Misalucha, weighing..." The audience rolled in laughter. Starmedia could not have lined up a better tandem: Regine who shines in popular music, OPM and romantic ballads, showed an effortless and impeccable singing style, and Lani, whose sparkling and scintillating voice, reigned supreme in her pop, rock, Broadway, and opera songs.

Martin Nievera was the perfect foil to the two superstars. His funny, self-deprecating persona fitted right in with the two divas' improvised banter. Regine surprised the audience with her dancing and comedic talents, and it was helped in no small measure by Lani's effervescent, engaging and sophisticated personality. If the two divas were competing with each other, it was never apparent during their two-and-a-half show. What was apparent was that Regine and Lani had tremendous respect and admiration for each other's talents and accomplishments. "Gusto nyo bang magpatayan na kami?" queried Regine. "Baka dumanak ang dugo." Regine asked the audience, pushing the competition theme a notch higher.

The repertoire was bewildering, ranging from OPM ("Gulong ng Buhay" by Ogie Alcasid) to Broadway hits; from Mariah Carey to Whitney Houston, Barbra Streisand to Andrea Bocelli. Some of the songs were vaguely familiar; some were very popular, especially to GMA and TFC crowds, like the theme from Regine's new drama series, *Kim Sam Soon*; and some were iconic, like ABBA's *Mamma Mia!* and *Dancing Queen*; Regine and Martin's duet of *The Prayer*; and Regine and Lani's duet of *I Will Survive*. Regine sang the ballad *I Know Him So Well*, which is widely believed to be a tribute to her boyfriend, singer-songwriter Ogie Alcasid. Comments Martin Nievera: "It's like a dream. I have two angels to my left and to my right," after the trio sang a medley that included the Beatles' *Imagine*.

"I want you to know that I auditioned for the show," Martin quipped. "You have to, to sing with these girls. This is the PBA (Philippine Basketball Association) of my life. No one wants to sing with them because you can't be heard; they can break glass," he said. "This is my biggest dream, and tonight it is achieved."

It is amazing how the two divas navigated a very wide range of singing styles without missing a beat, straying out of tune, or running out of breath. In the realm of music and live musical performances, *Main Event* is expected to reign unchallenged for a long, long time. ☐

Hey! Magazine is Here!

A Los Angeles-based entertainment and lifestyle magazine founded in 2008, *Hey! Magazine* provides features on lifestyle, entertainment and what's hot.

Hey! Magazine is all about compelling stories of famous personalities, celebrities and extraordinary Filipinos here in the US and around the world. The publication is also serves as a well-rounded source of information for television, movies, health and beauty, fashion and hot spots. Anything and everything under the sun that our editorial team deems as interesting and compelling can be found in the pages of *Hey! Magazine*. Want more? *Hey! Magazine* is committed to contribute 10% of magazine sales to the less fortunate children in the Philippines.



Hey! Magazine is currently searching for Mr. and Ms. Hey! The publication will feature their picks every month and will present the final candidates and winners on their first anniversary next year. Winners will have a one-year contract with a major television studio in the Philippines and other prizes. So sign up now and be one of the privileged few to achieve their dreams of becoming a TV star! *

*Advertising Supplement

SINAG TOTO'S SEAFOOD GRILL PAT

818-892-0310

1441 ROSCOE AVE (ISLAND PACIFIC) CORNER VAN NUTS BL PANORAMA

Alasarp na Luning Dalay pa!

Fresh Lechon, Palaging Masarap!

Every Sat/Sun. • \$200 LARGE
LUNCH SPECIALS \$5.50

Try our Kambing-Kilawin, Caldereta, and Pinapaitan, Palabok, Halo-Halo, Seafood Mix and Mushroom Shitake

Kapistahan®

Seafood • Grill • Sizzling

We are centrally located in the Historic
Filipinotown of Los Angeles.

Good Food not Fast Food

Grilled Tuna Collar

Grilled Tilapia

Grilled Tuna Tail (Patang Dagat, pinakamasarap na parte ng isda)

Chicken Inasal

Grilled Tuna Belly

Pinaputok na Pampano

Sizzling Pork Sisig

Chicken BBQ

Garlic Chicken

Baby Back Ribs

Binusog na Pusit

Siopao (Bola-bola, Asado, Chicken)

Mami (Beef, Chicken, Pork)

Pancit Guisado (Canton, Bihon, Miki, Sotanghon)

Sinugba Platter

SPECIAL OF THE WEEK

ALL ENTREES SERVE WITH RICE, SHANGHAI
EGG ROLL & SALAD

AVAILABLE 11:00 am to 5:00 pm except holidays

EMPLOYEE'S KAYANG KAYA COMBO MEAL

MONDAY

ADOBONG PUSIT \$6.75
(Squid cooked in vinegar, soy sauce, garlic & a dash of peppercorn)

PAKSIW NA LECHON \$6.75
(Sliced deep fried pork belly simmered in vinegar & soy sauce)

MONGOLIAN CHICKEN \$6.50
(Sliced boneless chicken & young corn sauteed in garlic & onion with w/ hoisin sauce and dried finger chili)

TUESDAY

CHICKEN OR PORK ADOBO \$6.75
(Sliced chicken or pork marinated in vinegar, soy sauce, garlic & bay leaves & a dash of peppercorn)

GRILLED TUNA BELLY \$7.50
(Seasoned and grilled tender juicy tuna topped with garlic served w/ variety of Filipino dips)

CRISPY PORK CHOP \$6.75
(Breaded pork chop deep fried until crispy & brown served with tomato catsup)

WEDNESDAY

GARLIC FRIED CHICKEN \$6.50
(Fried seasoned garlic chicken served with garlic sauce)

SWEET & SOUR LAPU LAPU \$7.50
(Battered pan fried rock cod until brown served with sweet & sour sauce)

PAKSIW NA PATA \$6.75
(Sliced grilled pork hocks simmered in vinegar & soy sauce with banana flowers)

THURSDAY

BISTEK PINOY \$6.75
(Sliced beef sirloin simmered in lemon, onions & soy sauce until tender)

DAING NA BANGUS \$7.50
(Fried boneless milkfish marinated in garlic & vinegar served with Filipino dips)

MONGOLIAN BEEF \$6.75
(Sliced beef & bamboo shoots sauteed in garlic & onion w/ hoisin sauce topped w/ dried finger chili)

FRIDAY

CHICKEN INASAL \$6.50
(Grilled marinated chicken in garlic, lemon juice with achiote & lemon grass)

GRILLED TANIQUE STEAK \$7.50
(Grilled king mackerel marinated in garlic & lemon served with Filipino dips)

BISTEK BANGUS \$7.50
(sliced boneless milkfish with Filipino bistek sauce)

Price, menu or schedule subject to change.
Sales tax will be added

This month's special (Available anytime)
Adobong Kangkong \$3.95, CrispyPork Chop \$7.50
Siopao \$1.50, Beef Mami \$2.95, Batchoy \$3.25
 Served with rice, salad and eggroll
Siopao \$1.25, Beef Mami \$2.95
All Day Breakfast (Tapsilog, Longsilog, Spam & Eggs) \$5.50
Special Bicol Pinangat \$6.50

We serve beer and wine

Business Hours: Monday - Saturday 11:00 am to 10:00 pm, Sunday 11:00 am to 9:00 pm
 WE ACCEPT CATERING FOR PRIVATE PARTY * PARTY TRAYS AVAILABLE
 1925 W. Temple Street, Luzon Plaza #103, Los Angeles, CA 90026
 Tel (213) 484-2660 • Fax (213) 484-8025

NOW HIRING

• Cook • Assistant Cook
• Servers • Cashiers