

SHOWBIZ & STYLE

JOURNAL

Lea Salonga's 'Inspired' 2009 North American Tour



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LOS ANGELES-- Tony Award Winner Lea Salonga has captivated audiences around the world. Now she will embark upon her 2009 *Inspired* USA tour for a limited number of dates, including Los Angeles and Las Vegas, beginning this May.

Hot off the heels of headlining the critically acclaimed Southeast Asian road show of Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic, *Cinderella*, Lea Salonga leaves her "glass slippers" behind to mesmerize audiences stateside.

Having created the role of the orphaned "Kim" in *Miss Saigon* and brought to life the singing of Disney's *Mulan (Reflection)* and Princess Jasmine in Disney's *Aladdin* - it's truly *A Whole New World* for Salonga and her angelic voice.

Salonga has become the national treasure of her Philippine homeland as she captivates audiences the world over - playing to SOLD OUT houses at Carnegie Hall, Hong Kong's Cultural Centre and the historical Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

Salonga has been singing since the age of ten when she made her theatrical debut in *The King and I* and has gone on to release three studio albums. She began an illustrious career in Broadway musicals when she was cast to play Kim in *Miss Saigon* after a world-wide talent search. Additional credits include *Les Miserables*, *My Fair Lady*, *Grease*, *The Sound of Music*, *Annie* and *Cinderella*, among many others.

In 2008 Lea was presented with the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Filipino civilian, the Order of Lakandula by the President of the Philippines.

In the field of musical theater, she is recognized for having won the Olivier, Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics, and Theatre World Awards. She was also the first Asian to play Eponine in the musical *Les Misérables* on Broadway. Visit www.leasalonga.com.

2009 Tour Dates

May 1 - Las Vegas, NV University of Nevada PAC	September 26- Elizabeth, IN Horseshoe Casino
May 4 - Seattle, WA Snoqualmie Casino	October 9- Tarrytown, NY Tarrytown Music Hall
May 24- Reno, NV Silver Legacy Casino	October 10-Buffalo, NY UB Center for the Arts
May 30- Los Angeles, CA Asia America Symphony	Oct. 16 -17-Brooks, CA Cache Creek Casino
September 25- Hammond, IN Horseshoe Casino	October 18-Cerritos, CA Cerritos Center PA

Showbitz!

After a successful US tour, Rufa Mae comes back with a controversy

AFTER her successful stint in the United States with comedian Pooh, Rufa Mae is back in the country and is already facing yet another hullabaloo in her career. This time Rufa Mae is drawn in her alleged feud with her co-host in GMA's *Showbiz Central*—Mo Twister.



The supposed feud between the two *Showbiz Central* hosts started because of Rufa Mae's alleged involvement in the controversial break-up between Doctors Vicki Belo and Hayden Kho. This issue was said to be because of Mo's previous statements regarding his comments on the Belo-Kho separation.

"Hindi rin dahil bakit ako magtatanim ng sama ng loob... magkakaroon ng feeling na hateful sa isang tao, alam mo yun, dahil sa kanya? Hindi na rin, 'no! I don't mind, I don't care. I just don't care about him. I don't like him. I like him as ano...as co-host. 'Kala ko okay naman, mabait naman siya. And mahilig naman siyang mag-sorry, maglambing after. Pero this time siguro, let's leave it at that," Rufa Mae said after being asked how she feels towards Mo.

When *The Buzz* hosts asked the actress to leave a comment on her co-host, the actress just exclaimed, "Naku, ayokong magmensahe sa kanya, 'no! Kaloka ka! Ang cheap-cheap mo!" sabi ni Rufa Mae, sabay tawa. "Hindi, ang sama lang niya. Ang sama niya! Alam mo yun, nasasamaan ako. Bahala na siya sa buhay niya." ■

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