



CHRISTOPHER DE LEON THIS SUNDAY ON CITIZEN PINOY! Drama King Christopher De Leon (left), his wife, the beautiful and talented Sandy Andolong (2nd from left), and his sister Melissa De Leon (2nd from right) join "attorney-to-the-stars" Michael J. Gurfinkel (right) for an enlightening and informative episode of the most popular immigration program on television, where they discuss "instant" US Citizenship. Citizen Pinoy - airs this Sunday, at 5:40 pm (PST) with a replay on Tuesday, at 11:35 pm (PST) on TFC. Citizen Pinoy also airs on ANC-US every Sunday at 12 midnight with replays on Sunday at 8 am and Thursday at 7 pm, all PST; and on ANC- Philippines every Sunday at 4 pm with a replay at 12 midnight on Monday (Manila time).

Sharon Cuneta: The Showbiz Icon hits US

SHE'S DEALT with superstardom, heartbreak, single motherhood, and bad habits. Now, Sharon is a student again-and welcomes the challenge with characteristic openness. These days, she is busy shooting a Mother's Day film offering which co-stars Aiya delas Alas. And soon after the much-awaited movies comes her show in Los Angeles on June 12, Friday at The Shrine Auditorium. The concert aptly billed *Megathirty Tour USA* also stars no less than KC Concepcion as special guest.



Sharon Cuneta is, indeed, a beautiful woman. And if the beauty outside is simply the aura of a person's inner loveliness, then Sharon proves that theory, as well. In her early 40s, after her own admissions regarding her ongoing struggles with her weight, her smoking, her failed marriage, her travails as a single mom and working mother, Sharon Cuneta is, simply, a sweet gal.

When she was younger and still new in the business, Sharon was puzzled by how many people reacted with hostility to her sweet disposition. "I was shocked at how some people were convinced it was all just an act. It was then that I decided that I should not change who I am simply because other people had a hard time believing it."

And that characteristic sweetness simply radiates from her. It's in the sing-song intonation of her voice, the smile that breaks out when she sees a friend, her laughter when she cracks a joke, the way she touches the person she's talking to. She loves to connect with other people, and when Sharon talks, you can't help but notice her. She likes to share - her memories, her passions, her pain, and her insights.

If her sweetness is a put-on, then Sharon deserves another grand slam of acting awards for it, having dis-

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TFC hosts 'Project: Bigay Pag-asa' for subscribers

Foreclosure prevention seminar educates homeowners on available

REDWOOD CITY – ABS-CBN International's The Filipino Channel (TFC) conducted recently its first foreclosure prevention seminar at its office in Redwood City.

The seminar, called Project: Bigay Pag-asa (Give Hope), was the first activity under ABS-CBN International's corporate initiative that responds to the rise of foreclosures and job loss affecting many Filipinos in the U.S.

Volunteering their services for the seminar were seasoned financial and real estate experts: Jojo and Maricel Quiroz, hosts of the show, Pera Ko, Pera Mo on TFC and founders of Keyrose Corporation, a financial wellness center focusing on debt reduction strategies; Chito Desuasido, CEO of GDE Holdings, Inc. and project manager of Bay Area Mabuhay Alliance; and Milky Lagandaon, real estate mortgage broker and branch manager of America One Finance in Burlingame, California.

Lagandaon talked from the perspective of a real estate broker, relating experiences and tips on how to go about the loan modification process. Desuasido explained the banker's point of view and what banks are looking for when negotiating with them regarding house loans. The Quiroz couple, on the other hand, dwelt on how to achieve financial balance and wellness in the midst of the economic crisis. Everyone provided several resources that the homeowners can avail of and also answered questions from the audience.

John Lazatin, ABS-CBN International's head of Media Events & Production Group, facilitated the seminar. Attendees also enjoyed the raffle prizes that were given away during the event.

"This project was triggered by a letter from a TFC subscriber who asked help from us regarding his foreclosure problem," narrates Chinky De Jesus, ABS-CBN International Managing Director. "What touched us most about this is the overwhelming trust our subscribers have placed on TFC to help them with their financial problems even if we're not a financial establishment. It is both an honor and responsibility to be regarded as such."

De Jesus continued: "We decided to respond by providing a venue in which our TFC subscribers could receive reliable information from experts to prevent unnecessary home foreclosures. We want to be able to say we helped people keep a large part of their American dream – their own homes. The success of Project Bigay Pag-asa propels us at TFC to do more proactive corporate initiatives in the service of the Filipino community during these trying times." (Advertising Supplement)



At the Project: Bigay Pag-asa seminar are, from left, speakers Milky Lagandaon, veteran real estate mortgage broker; GDE Holdings Inc. CEO Chito Desuasido; Pera Ko, Pera Mo hosts Maricel and Jojo Quiroz; and John Lazatin, head of ABS-CBN International's Media Events & Production Group. Photo by NMFernandez

Arnel Pineda...

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Ross Valory, sang lead vocals in several numbers. Jonathan Cain multi-tasked – playing guitar, then the blues harp and later the piano with enviable ease. Old and new The MoA concert was a mixture of classic and new Journey material.

It opened with *Never Walk Away*, an upbeat track off the group's latest release, the double album *Revelation*, which debuted at No. 5 on the Billboard charts in June last year and sold its millionth copy six months later. This was followed by *Only the Young* from 1983's *Frontiers* album, prompting baby boomers in the audience to sing along to the lyrics.

A middle-aged Filipina was spotted mouthing every line of most of the '80s songs, while couples around her hugged and swayed to the music. Later on, another tune, *Lights*, released only as a single in 1978, delighted the crowd. Two cuts from *Revelation* seemed to have a special meaning for most of Journey's members.

In a sense, the ballad *After All These Years* and the fast-paced *Change for the Better* could describe the trials and tribulations the band had gone through – including a 10-year hiatus and losing Steve Perry as lead singer in 1997, which prompted a frustrating search for a replacement, until Schon found Pineda on YouTube in 2007.

High notes
While comparisons with Perry's clean, high tenor was inevi-

table, Pineda's inspired performance at MoA revealed his own distinct vocal quality, which is a little rough but nevertheless awesome in its ability to reach the high notes. When Cain and Schon played an introspective, bluesy intro to Journey's most famous power ballad, *Open Arms*, Pineda sang with an emotion so effusive, it sent a powerful vibe of love and understanding that seemed to embrace the crowd.

By the time *Separate Ways, Faithfully, Don't Stop Believing* and *Any Way You Want It* – all big hits during Journey's peak years in the '80s – came on, the crowd was in worship mode. If the band was not exactly a favorite of critics because its songs tended to hew close to the pop-hook formula, the audience at MoA, which cut across varying age levels and social classes, couldn't care less.

They wanted to have a good time and did. Beyond his wildest dreams if there was a song that Pineda could best identify with, it was *Wildest Dream*. At one point during the gig, he referred to his new-found fame as "the most precious moment of my life," and later thanked the band "for trusting me with their songs." And if he gets to keep his job as Journey's front man and try his hand writing songs in the next few years, that would surpass even his wildest dreams.

Standing onstage, his head bowed and eyes closed, Pineda embodied all the hopes and aspirations of his countrymen. As his voice filled the concert venue with another soulful melody, the audience's faces lit up with pride. (Source: *Inquirer Libre*) (Advertising Supplement)

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