



Gina Pareño

From Baseco to HK

by BAYANI SAN DIEGO
Inquirer.net

ACTRESS Gina Pareño is no stranger to the slums of Baseco compound in Port Area, Manila.

“Shooting there is hard, but I’ve gotten used to it,” she tells Inquirer Entertainment. “*Ka-vibes ko mga tao do’n* (I get along with the residents there).”

She has worked in Baseco on three occasions: twice for the ABS-CBN drama anthology *Maalaala Mo Kaya*, and for the opening scenes of the soap opera *Tayong Dalawa*.

For her latest indie film, Ralston Jover’s *Bakal Boys*, she revisits Baseco and acts with actual slum dwellers — particularly real-life *bakal* boys or kids who live for scrap metal in the fetid waters of the abandoned shipyard.

A showbiz veteran, Gina knew how to handle young, inexperienced co-stars like Ian Villaroel, Vincent Alano, Meljun Guinto and JR Alano who play the *Bakal Boys*.

“*Siyempre* they can be *makulit* (hyperactive),” she says. So she sat down with them for a heart-to-heart. “I told them that if they do well in this movie, they can become symbols of hope for Baseco.”

Bakal Boys reunites her with Jover, who wrote the script for *Kubrador*, which won for her three international awards. She also hit it off with producers Albert Almendralejo and Bessie Badilla.

Still a thrill

Gina has grown accustomed to globe-trotting for her indie movies. She was recently named Best Supporting Actress for Dante Mendoza’s *Serbis* at the 3rd Asian Film Awards, held in Hong Kong and dubbed the region’s Oscars.

Although she insists that she’s “contented” Gina admits that this latest trophy still gave her quite a thrill. “*May kiliti pa rin* (I still got tickled pink).” ■

[Showbitz!]

Martin Nievera’s new special gig



Jasmine Villegas and Regine Velasquez. ■

MARTIN Nievera is the **C**hosen One—chosen by Manny Pacquiao to sing the Philippine National Anthem in his fight against Britain’s Ricky Hatton on May 2 in Las Vegas, Nevada that is.

This was announced by the Pacman himself in an interview with GMA News. The Concert King now shares the distinction of singing the Philippine National Anthem during Pacquiao’s fights are Karylle, Kyla, Geneva Cruz,

Valerie Concepcion takes on a dramatic role

SHE may not be included in the cast of the comedy show *Banana Split* anymore, but Valerie Concepcion is happy with the latest development in her career. Valerie is included in the cast of the new afternoon series at ABS-CBN called *Bud Brothers* which is based from the Precious Hearts Romances.

In *Bud Brothers*, Valerie will play a Psychology student and will be paired with Will Devaughn. In an interview with Philippine Entertainment Portal, Valerie says she considers her hosting job in *Wowowee* a blessing but she is looking forward to her new challenge.

“*Medyo* challenging *siya kasi, ang tagal ko nang hindi nagda-drama. So, hindi ko na alam kung mabilis pa ba kong umiyak or ano...pero* at the same time, I’m excited. *Kasi, even one week lang siya, at least, drama ulit, di ba? Na-miss ko ‘to, eh...Na-miss ko ang drama,*” she says. ■



Valerie Concepcion ABS-CBN photo

Jolina Magdangal and Marvin Agustin to reunite in new show

IT has been two years since Jolina Magdangal and Marvin Agustin appeared as a love-team onscreen via the primetime series *I Luv NY* for GMA-7, and the pair is set to reunite in *Adik Sa ‘Yo* for the *Kapuso* network.

Marvin expressed his excitement in an interview with Philip-



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RP filmmakers eye Cannes filmfest

by BAYANI SAN DIEGO
Inquirer.net



MANILA—Filipino filmmakers continue to make their presence felt in international festivals.

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