

SHOWBIZ & STYLE

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ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

by RUBEN V. NEPALES
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Lea Salonga returns to LA for shows



mail. "A couple of my friends have already let me know that they'll be attending. It's always exciting to see old friends!"

Lea herself received a Visionary Award in 2002. "Oh my, 2002 seems like such a lifetime ago!" she wrote when we asked what she remembers most about receiving the honors. "My memories are more about 2002 as the year when *Flower Drum Song* opened on Broadway, and when Rob and I got engaged. Everything else is kind of a blur."

Trailblazer

Tim Dang, EWP artistic director, said of Lea's participation in the event: "We are extremely honored. Since she received the EWP Visionary Award, she will be making her first appearance at the gala, which is perfect timing. Many Asian Pacific performers are coming into their own, raising the visibility of the entire community and becoming positive role models for Asians and non-Asians alike. Lea Salonga is probably the epitome of artistry and a role model to many—she is a trailblazer."

This year, EWP, which is celebrating its 43rd anniversary, will honor actor John Cho, who gets his biggest break as Hikaru Sulu in J.J. Abrams' much-awaited big screen adaptation of *Star Trek*. Quest Crew, the recent

winner of Randy Jackson's *America's Best Dance Crew*, which includes several Filipino-Americans as members; Oscar winning filmmaker Jessica Yu; and the California Community Foundation.

Quest Crew will also perform along with The Three Filipino Tenors—Antoine Reynaldo Diel, Randy Guiaya and Lito Villareal. "The Three Filipino Tenors are like household names at East West Players," Tim explained. "They have been in many shows at EWP as individual actors and are recognizable names when you see their names in our production programs. When they perform together, it is magical and they always bring people to their feet."

Quest Crew

Of Quest Crew, which includes Fil-Ams Dominic "D-Trix" Sandoval, Ryan Conferido, Brian Hirano and Aris Paracuelles (the other members

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LOS ANGELES—Less than a year after her historic concert at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Lea Salonga is returning to LA to do a couple of shows.

First stop for the Tony and Lawrence Olivier Award-winning singer is a guest performance at the annual Visionary Awards dinner of the East West Players (EWP), a leading Asian-American theater company, on April 27 at the Hilton Universal City near the Universal Studios.

"I'm looking forward to reconnecting with friends in the Asian-American theater scene that I haven't seen in a long time," Lea told us via e-

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