Sharon Cuneta Bids Concert Fans Adieu

Sharon Cuneta

REPORTS have it that Megastar Sharon Cuneta has been heard saying that her forthcoming USA concert series billed *Megathirty USA Tour 2009* might be her last concert for now. It might take a long while before she embarks on the live concert stage again as she veers for various commitments not only in her professional career but on the personal side as well. One of the most important and immediate plans is to support her husband, Senator Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan's bid for Vice-Presidency in the coming elections.

At the moment though, Sharon is all set to in her concert which kicks off on May 23 at the Le Theatre des Arts in Paris Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas; May 24, Peppermill Hotel in Reno; May 31, NJPAC Prudential Hall in New Jersey; June 6 in Toronto; June 12 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles and on June 14 at Merrell Center in Houston.

The brisk sales of tickets in each city is a clear sign that the Megastar's followers have remained solid and devoted to her through the years. They are all eager to catch a glimpse of their favorite. Special guest during the show is KC Concepcion.

The concert on June 12 at The Shrine Auditorium is executive produced by KATZ Entertainment led by Jackie Regala, Gerry Katigbak and their associates Kaye Morales and Ellen Sarmiento. It is co-produced by Fernando Bernabe of FLB Corporation and Brad Dizon of Brad's Entertainment.

The concert is presented by Seafood City Supermarket and LBC Cargo (ang Hari ng Padala). Sponsors are Asian Journal Publications, Balita, Tribune USA and The Filipino Channel. Also brought to you by Mabuhay Inc Companion-Home Care, Joy Silva of Century 21, Gandi Skina Care and K.M. Printing Production, Inc., Jimmy de Guzman (General Contractor); Brookshire Dental Care, Pera Mo, Pera Ko/ Keyrose Corporation, O'Skin Care, Flowers by Trish, and Xclusive Staffing & Services.

Also featured during the concert are LA's homegrown talents Dubhe and RJ dela Fuente. Both artists have opened before various artists here. Both have also their own set of following who are all supportive of their talents.

Retiring from show business is a remote possibility as far as Sharon is concern. In fact, it seems to get better for her. Her recent success in Star Cinema's *Caregiver* gave her the added accolade. There is also the platinum seller, *Isn't It Romantic* series which is about to be released as a third volume of OPM tracks soon.

"Whenever I think of slowing down and retiring for good, God sends me huge signs not to. The first time was Madrasta and the second time was *Caregiver.* I don't have control over things. I cannot claim to be the master of my longevity in showbiz. I can only see God's hand that has moved everything," Sharon says in one interview.

The blessings continue to pour in for the Megastar. Star Cinema just told her it is reviving her team-up with Richard Gomez. Sharon is also looking forward to a movie with her idol, Vilma Santos, next year. Then, there are projects with Dolphy, Robin Padilla ("he makes me feel like a princess") and Aga Muhlach waiting to be done.

Sharon is also raring to make a movie under GMA Films. That's not merely wishful thinking for a Megastar who, by her own admission, can choose the movies she wants to make.

Also in her wish list is a sitcom with Gloria Romero. "That would be fun!" Sharon's eyes light up.

So make sure you catch Sharon and her special guest, KC at the Shrine Auditorium. Mark the date, June 12, Friday, 8 pm at The Shrine Auditorium. You may not see her again perform live on stage in the years to come. For info, you may call KATZ (562) 219-7235; Jackie Regala (562) 787-9030; Kaye Morales (562) 881-9712; FLB Corp (310)816-9371, Brad Dizon (310) 972-1178 and Json Arguelles (323) 599-7865.

Tickets on May 23, Saturday at Paris Casino are also available by calling Jackie or Katz Entertainment; Seafood Las Vegas (702) 851-0021; Goldilocks (702) 368-2253. ■

Coming back to LA

From **PAGE B1**

recognizes trailblazers in the Asian-American entertainment community, artists from the worlds of film, television, theater and dance. The evening would also serve as a fundraiser for East West Players.

This year, among the honorees were John Cho (actor—*American Pie,* the *Harold and Kumar* series, and the new *Star Trek* movie), Jessica Yu (Oscar-winning director for the documentary *Breathing Lessons*) and Quest Crew (an all-Asian dance group named the best dance crew in the United States).

It was a star-studded night! The awards night was hosted by Tamlyn Tomita (*The Karate Kid II, The Joy Luck Club*) and Francois Chau *(Lost)*. George Takei (the original Sulu) and his partner Brad Altman was seated at our table. Carrie Ann Inaba (one of the judges on *Dancing with the Stars*) was a presenter.

Opening the show was the Three Filipino Tenors (one of whom is Lito Villareal, a name recognized by Manila theater fans as Aslan in Trumpets' *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe,* as well as its composer). Other performers were Taiko Project, Ethan Le Phong (a *Miss Saigon* alum heading to London to play Lun Tha in *The King and I*) and Quest Crew which closed the show. The audience was on its feet! Yes, Asians can totally dance!

It was an inspiring evening, celebrating the triumphs of the Asian-American theater community. It's also wonderful to feel welcomed back.

Schedule

So, where are my shows going to be? May 1, UNLV, Las Vegas; May 4, Snoqualmie Casino, Washington; May 24, Silver Legacy Casino, Reno; and May 30, Aratani Theatre, Los Angeles.

Hope to see you there. ■