

'Jay' and '100' at VC Film Fest; 'Dim Sum Funeral' Rocks

by FE KOONS

LOS ANGELES - Chris Martinez young Filipino filmmaker graced the screening of his film 100 last May 2 at the Laemmle Sunset 5 during the Asian Pacific film fest of the Visual Communications (VC). The film which won the new currents audience award at the 2008 Pusan International and at the independent Cinemalaya film festival in Manila stars Mylene Dizon who recently coveted the best actress award of the Entertainment Press Society for 100.

Martinez said that Mylene Dizon was their first choice for 100. Dizon whose subdued acting portrays Joyce, a strong woman who faces death and submits to her fate. An awesome supporting cast Tessie Tomas (mother of Joyce) and Eugene Domingo (best friend Ruby) add joy and melodrama to the film. Martinez announced that the film will be exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art film festival on June 11. The film

David Magdael, co-director of the festival encouraged Filipino Americans to see Jay, a comedy starring Baron Geisler who won best actor (Entertainment Press Society Awards) last April 30 for his performance in the film.

Geisler said in his Facebook, "Thanks so much guys! maraming maraming salamat sa lahat ng press na naniwala... ngayon naniniwala ako na hindi nadadala sa salapi ang mga press...it's an honor to win again...ang sarap nakakainspire...sa lahat ng nag greet saakin...maraming salamat sobra! God is so good!!! I praise Him! Maraming salamat sa Jay."

Jay directed by Francis Xavier Pasion won the 2008 Cinemalaya award for best picture and in the Black Movie festival in Geneva, Switzerland Feb 2009. The film won over 76 entries and a cash prize of CHF5,000 (P20,000). This was the first time that a Filipino entry won in the six-year history of Geneva festival.

The showcase film Dim Sum Funeral should not missed in the theaters this coming June. Starring Talia Shire (Rocky and Godfather 2) and Russel Wong, (Romeo Must Die, Twisted, The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor). Directed by Anna Chi, Dim Sum Funeral is about family relationships and how Westernized children deal with their traditional Chinese mother.

Wong said that the film is about connecting your culture. "Everyone experiences some sort of dysfunctional relationship in the family. But the importance message of the film is not to forget your roots."



Chris Martinez, director of 100, answers questions from the audience at Laemmle Sunset 5

Kelly Hu who plays Cindy, the wife of Alexander (Russel Wong) added that the film learned a lot from the film. "We sort of become the Dim Sum family."

The VC filmfest ends on May 7 with the screening of the 2008 OSCAR foreign language film winner Departures. For the schedule of films, check the website www.vconline.org.■

GETTING TO KNOW FASO

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the El Camino Chamber Orchestra for four years and has traveled with them to Europe to perform in Solvenia and Italy. She has also performed with Hawaiian musical artists such as Keali'i Rachel and Jake Shimabukuro.

Gina enjoys playing the violin for weddings, parties, anniversaries and any other social gatherings.

Julia Marie Denise Clemente
Ataat - Violin

Born in the Philippines in 1992, 17-yr old Julia Marie immigrated to the US in 2002. She attends Mayfair

High School in Lakewood. Her parents are both musically inclined with her mother, Doris, playing the piano and father, Joe Clemente, playing the organ. Her two brothers also play musical instruments; 19-yr old Jose Carlo plays the cello and 15-yr old John Benedict plays the viola. With everyone in her family able to play instruments, Julia Marie began playing the violin in her 8th grade. Admitting to having a passion for music, Julia said her being a member of FASO "challenges me in my music".

Roth Emmanuel Ramos-1st Violin

Roth Emmanuel Ramos was born in Pasay City, Philippines sixteen years ago. Now residing in Glendale, California, he is in 11th grade at the Glendale High School. He has been in the Symphonic Orchestra for 5 years, playing 1st violin. He also joined the GHS Marching Band, playing flute & saxophone. He was 13 years old when he started to lead an instrumental ensemble of the Adventist Youth Church - the Praiseconnection team.

Roth's dream is to become a nurse.

Stephen Kevin Ramos- Clarinet

Fourteen-year-old Stephen Kevin Ramos was born in Pasay City, Philippines but is now residing in Glendale, California. A 9th grader at Glendale High School, Stephen has been in the Symphonic Orchestra for 3 years, playing 2nd violin. He is also a member of the GHS Marching Band, playing clarinet, and the Adventist youth church Praiseconnection team. His dream is to become a Genetic Engineer.■

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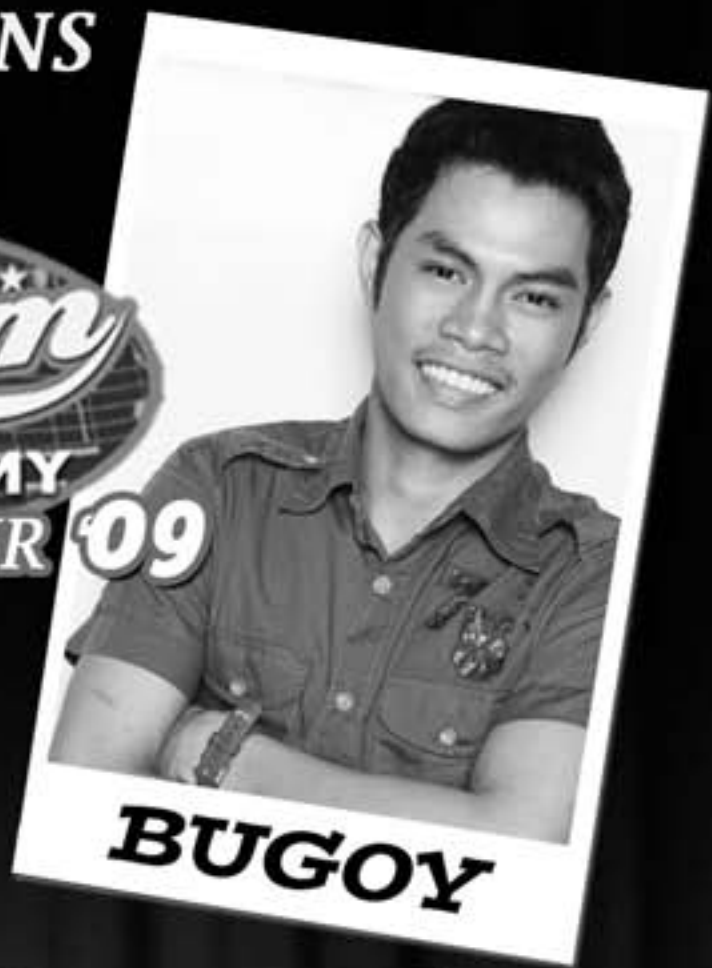
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