

Pacquiao Sings for Pinoys at the Conga Room

by FE P. KOONS

AFTER LONG HOURS of waiting, hundreds of Filipino Americans screamed in excitement at their idol, boxing champ Manny Pacquiao who stood on stage wearing a cool hat and a dressed-to-kill coat and tie at the Conga room of the Nokia LA Live in downtown Los Angeles. About 700 people cheered “Manny, Manny, Manny!” as the boxing hero of the millennium began to sing, “*Pilipino ang lahi ko*” and the mammoth crowd responded with “*hoy! hoy!*”

With their cellphones lighting up the club, they continued to share their Filipino pride in a massive show of the *bayanihan* spirit. Lito Camo, talented composer of popular songs, shared the limelight with Pacquiao. The pound for pound slugger added that the song will be released this year. Manny Pacquiao defeated the Englishman Ricky “Hitman” Hatton TKO in Round 2 at the *East vs. West* battle in Las Vegas.

Coach Freddie Roach said at the red carpet interview that a fight with Cotto is most likely. Roach added that Pacquiao will not fight Mayweather, Jr. unless his weight is down to 140. Floyd Mayweather Jr. will face stalwart Juan Manuel Marquez on July 18 at the MGM Grand

Boxing champ Manny Pacquiao gets ready to sing ‘Pilipino ang Lahi Ko’ written by popular song composer Lito Camo (extreme left). The event at Conga Room in LA Live hopes to raise funds for the Pacquiao foundation in Zamboanga.



Garden Arena in Las Vegas. Mayweather won over Ricky Hatton on December 2007. In the interview room Pacquiao said however that nothing is final with his next boxing opponent as of this point. When asked about his political plans to run for the Philippine Congress, Pacquiao said that he will announce them at the proper time.

Philippine movie superstar Nora Aunor who graced the occasion, said that she is so proud of the win of Pacquiao. “I am likewise proud that the mother of Manny is behind him in all his victories.” When asked about Pacquiao running for the RP congress, Aunor stressed, “I think Manny Pacquiao wants to serve the people in his area. We should really let him decide what he wants to do and respect him for that.”

Character actor Michael de Mesa added that Pacquiao is a role model. “He is important. We need to look up to a hero.” The Filipino actor revealed that he is staying in the United States for good and might work on some film projects. ■

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Character actor Michael de Mesa (right) also graced the event Photos by Benny Uy

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