



Sharon Cuneta: The Concert Megastar

SHE FIRST DREW RAVES and made waves in the recording scene at the tender age of 12, with her chartbusting ditty *Mr. DJ*. That sweet love song started a brilliant recording career, studded with myriad awards and accolades.

The concerts in Las Vegas and Los Angeles are executive produced by KATZ Entertainment, the southland's leading concert professionals led by Jackie Regala and Gerry Katigbak. Co-producing in LA and Las Vegas is Ellen Sarmiento.

Associate producers in Los Angeles are Kaye Morales, Fernando Bernabe of FLB Corporation and Brad Dizon of Brad's Entertainment. The concert series is also presented by Seafood City Supermarket and LBC Cargo, ang Hari ng Padala.

Media sponsors are The Filipino Channel, Asian Journal, Las Vegas Asian Journal, Tribune USA and Balita.

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Asked why she constantly goes on tour, Sharon responds with simple eloquence: "I want to visit places where I haven't performed yet. My soul craves doing concerts in the same way as making movies. I just want to know if they still love me, and if they still appreciate my music. If I can still make them happy for a couple of hours."

For the most part, her movie theme songs have always been the most applauded during her concerts. Sharon is the certified Queen of Movie Theme Songs, after all.

From *Dear Heart* to the *Tala* trilogy (*Pangarap na Bituin*, from *Bukas Luluhod ang mga Tala*, *Bituing Walang Ningning*, and *Sana'y Wala ng Wakas*), from *Kahit Konting Pagtingin* to *Maging Sino Ka Man*.

These songs spell movie magic for Sharonians the word over.

In an interview with the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, Sharon chose the following movie theme songs as her personal, all time OPM favorites: *Ngayon at Kailanman*, *Maging Sino Ka Man*, *Sana'y Wala ng Wakas*, *Kahit Konting Pagtingin* and *Bituing Walang Ningning*. With these songs, the Sharonians abroad are reminded not only of their idols' box-office hit movies and award-winning films, they are also allowed to reminisce about their beloved country in the songs' haunting lyrics and melody.

Whether in Chicago or Dubai, America or Europe, the Megastar continues to dazzle her loyal Sharonians – "making them happy, bringing them a piece of the place they once called home even for a couple of hours."

Also introducing n the Sharon Cuneta concert series are fast rising pop stars, RJ dela Fuente and Dubhe Ferrer.

For tickets to the concert, please call KATZ (562) 219-7235; Jackie (562) 787-9030; Kaye (562)881-9712; Brad (310)972-1178; FLB (310)816-9371; Json Arguelles (323) 599-7865. Tickets also available at Tiketanonline.com and Ticketmaster.com. ■

Divas 4 Divas back by popular demand

GET READY to be a part of music history when 4 Divas from the Philippine entertainment industry come back to the US to once again give you an enchanting evening.

What was deemed to be impossible has now become a reality as Pop Diva Kuh Ledesma, Divine Diva Zsa Zsa Padilla, Concert Queen Pops Fernandez and Asia's Song Bird Regine Velazquez share one stage and wow audiences in a concert entitled *Divas 4 Divas*.

This momentous and phenomenal event will happen on May 31, 2009 at the Long Beach Convention Center, Terrace Theater at 7pm.

The 4 Divas have decided to return to Southern California due to insistent public demand after their sold out concert at the Pasadena Civic Center. Hundreds of Pinoy fans were not able to watch the highly successful concert of the Divas at Pasadena which is the reason why these four artists have decided to come back to Southern California and do another concert for their fellow Kababayans who would want to see and experience this concert event of the year.

Most of the songs in the show's repertoire were rearranged to flaunt the individual strength of each diva's vocal prowess. Kuh, Zsa Zsa, Pops and Regine will make you witness three hours of world-class performance ending with a medley of dance hits such as *We Are Family*, *Night Life*, and *Shake that Groove Thing*, to name a few.

In past shows, one of the songs was dedicated to the "greatest divas" in the life of the 4 divas: their moms. Other songs on the play list pay tribute to the artists who made them famous including Madonna, Christina Aguilera, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston and Bryan Adams.

Surely, superb entertainment will be seen as these four remarkable female artists are together in one show. Add to that the fabulous costumes, dazzling sets, mood-enhancing lights and impressive production numbers and you'll have a concert you definitely won't want to miss.

The Divas 4 Divas concert is brought to you by ABS-CBN's TFC, GMA Pinoy TV, Tribune USA, Asian Journal, Western Union, Tancinco Law Offices, Brookshire Dental Center, Hacienda Isabella, Gurfinkel Law Office, Rainbird Manila Restaurant, Simons' Banquet Center, Radisson Hotel West LA, Legal Solutions Group, Inc. JIR Foundation, Get Assured Inc & EEC Balik Bayan Box.

For more information, please call 888-Divas4D (888-348-2743), Monica Chen (818) 726-6333, Melan (818) 983-8881, Vicky (949) 933-7065, or Tito (626) 321-5381.

(Advertising Supplement)

Prepare for...

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Literature degree. Her secret, she claims, is simply proper time management. Now she is even more eager to have more things set on her plate, thus the concert is something she welcomes with open arms. "I've never been on a trip with these many artists so this should be fun," she says, adding that the only time she recalls something of similar nature was the *ASAP Kapamilya Caravan* a few years back. And there's one more reason why she's always excited about doing shows abroad. "The experience is always different, it's never the same," she says.

For the younger set who are part of the concert like Empress Schuck, the concert is a new experience they hope to learn a lot from in terms of performing onstage. But Empress is no newbie when it comes to performing onscreen as her performance as a young prostitute for an episode in *Maalaala Mo Kaya* was heavily praised that she has won roles in several other episodes for the drama anthology. She looks up to Judy Ann Santos and Gina Pareño, citing the two have very good acting skills that they never seem to be merely "acting." "Natural lang," she says. Although she says to be more focused on drama, she says that, acting alongside versatile actress Maricel Soriano in the now defunct sitcom *Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis*, makes her want to strive for the same versatility. But for now, she is looking forward to the concert, which would be her first trip to the US.

Maegan Young, on the other hand, is no stranger to the US, having spent most of her childhood years in Virginia. She started with the rival channel when she was 14 and moved to the Kapamilya network. As part of ABS-CBN, she was able to make her mark via the recently ended *Betty LaFée*, and now, as a co-host the lifestyle show *Us Girls*, she is sure to make herself be noticed more. Not that she needs any more noticing. Her stunning beauty is already enough to make people stop in her tracks, and add to that her charming personality, and she's got the total package. Plus, although she grew up in the US, she has made it a point to know how to speak the native language. This gal speaks Tagalog quite well you will not even think she grew up in the US. She is raring to go to the US not only to perform for the *kababayans* there but also because it will give her a chance to reunite with her family who's staying there, her half-brother and her Dad. "I'm super excited 'coz I haven't been to the

US in a while," she says.

Someone who have been to the US and various other locations worldwide for shows and shoots is acclaimed actor Piolo Pascual. However, he is nonetheless enthusiastic about the whole thing like it's his first time. "To be able to go to the US with a very big group is exciting," he says. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime event so I'm excited to be a part of this." And for sure, he is one of the big-name artists most people will be clamoring for in the show. This is something that has never failed to amaze him. "It humbles me," he says. "It never wavers for me. This is where I draw inspiration from. It makes all the difference, knowing how life in the US can be tough nowadays, all the more reason that I appreciate them because what they go through, they go out of their way just to watch you and show you their support, it's always something I appreciate." Piolo himself is not lacking in appreciation in terms his acting skills. Ever since bursting onto the screen in the independent movie, *Lagarista*, almost 10 years ago, he has been one of the most sought-after actor for dramatic showcases, whether in TV or movie. With his new film, *Manila*, an independent movie as well which will have a special screening at this year's Cannes Film Festival, it's almost as if he has come full circle. With all the accolades he has received, one would think he is thinking of stopping or at least slowing down, but this is not the case. Piolo is determined to be better and better with every role he plays. "I want to always be better, to always outdo yourself, to compete with no one but yourself," he says. "If there's anything you want to change, you change it from within yourself. You should always hunger for that something that is lacking in your art, the rawness of your emotions, your getting out of your comfort zone, getting into the moment, these are the things that I look forward to when I do something in every role that I get."

The Star Magic Concert will be held on Saturday, June 27, 7pm at the Citizen's Business Bank Arena in Ontario, CA. The concert is brought to you by The Filipino Channel, *Asian Journal* and *Balibayan Magazine* in cooperation with Alas Door-to-Door Cargo, All-Access, Beginnings at 20 Plus Inc., Spicy Fingers Bar and Restaurant, CBC, Oliver Tolentino, Sheraton Ontario, and Cherry's Salon. Tickets are now available at \$45, \$85 and limited VIP at \$125. To buy tickets, please call All Access at 909-592-8951 or visit www.StarMagicWorldTour.com. ■

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