

Employees of Ai-Ai and Allan K cry foul



Ai-Ai de las Alas



Allan K

by TETCH TORRES
Inquirer.net

MANILA — Eleven employees of a comedy bar owned by comedians Allan K and AiAi have asked the Court of Appeals to reverse a decision of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) upholding their dismissal.

They told the court they were illegally terminated by the Klownz Comedy Bar, owned by Allan K (Allan Quilantang), AiAi (Eillen Delas Allas) and other incorporators. In an 11 page petition for certiorari, employees Marlon Gutierrez, Ryan Libao, Hilario Servallos, Ryan Paul Ramirez, Cesar Medes, Michael Sagun, Jeffrey Sipig, Joseph Pleno, Raphael Encinares, Joselito Magtibay and Diosdado Harold Celestial said the comedy bar had justified their dismissal by claiming it was going bankrupt. The employees were dismissed in separate instances all in 2007 and the NLRC ruled in favor of Klownz management. But the workers told the court their dismissal was only a way of the management to get back at them after they filed a labor case against Klownz over what they said were violations in their employment contract. They said they were hired to work for Klownz Araneta but were later transferred to other Klownz branches. They wondered how the company could justify its action when it said only its Araneta branch was losing. Klownz has branches also in Timog and Quezon Avenue. "Given this milieu, it could not say that the quantum of believable or credible evidence on closure due to losses was satisfied and would exempt private respondents from any liability," the employees said. "Given this backdrop, there can be no other conclusion that the closure is a charade and the action taken by the private respondents is plain circumvention of the law," they added. ■

Marian is the New Darna

It's official: Marian Rivera is the new Darna. The popular star from GMA Network will don the red-hot costume of the Philippines' most-loved heroine.

The announcement turned to be a pleasant surprise for Marian. "Hindi ko alam na ganito, ang sabi lang sa 'kin na kakausapin ako para sa next project ko, so... excited ako," she told igma.tv's Loretta Ramirez of how GMA Senior Vice President for Entertainment Wilma Galvante informed her of the new project. "I congratulate Marian," Galvante said during the mini press conference that followed her meeting with the superstar. "She is now officially our new Darna. From here on she will begin training for the role. Base sa story na binubuo, nakita na naming medyo mahirap, pero knowing Marian na nagawa niya 'yung Dyesebel, wala kaming doubt na she will be a very good and successful Darna."

Darna is the beloved superheroine created by Filipino komiks legend Mars Ravelo. "Siguro kahit sinong artistang babae papangarap maging si Darna," Marian said of getting the plum role, which was previously portrayed by Alma Moreno, Vilma Santos, and most recently on TV, Angel Locsin. Marian said that she is ready for the inevitable comparisons. "Noong ginawa ko ang Marimar, I was compared kay Thalia, di ba? Tapos noong gawin ko ang Dyesebel, na-compare din ako kay Ms. Vilma Santos. Kahit sino naman yata na gumanap na Darna, maku-compare sa mga gumanap na Darna in the past," she told writer Ruel Mendoza. She is deep in preparation for the role, which will be physically demanding. One of the things that will set this Darna apart from the previous incarnations, according to Marian, is that it will have some light, comedic moments. In the same interview, Marian added this promise: "Gagawin ko ang dapat para maging credible ako sa pagganap ko sa Darna." (GMA)



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