

'Divas 4 Divas' Back Again in Long Beach Concert on May 31



SAN PEDRO – *Divas 4 Divas*, the highly successful concert series presented to audiences in major cities in the United States and Canada, is back again, this time with shows in Long Beach, San Diego and Stockton, California, and in Dallas, Texas.

"If you missed the Pasadena concert you will have a chance to see the Long Beach show on May 31," said Kuh Ledesma, one of the four divas in *Divas 4 Divas*, which include Regine Velasquez, Pops Fernandez and Zsa Zsa Padilla. The four divas promoted their upcoming shows at a press conference at Simon's Restaurant in San Pedro on Wednesday, May 20.

The concert series was envisioned way before the onset of the current global recession. The earlier shows have been well-attended, but Ledesma, whose idea it was to bring together the Philippines' iconic music artists in an unprecedented team-up, has acknowledged to the press that the production is now "economically challenged."

The diva said that production has become very expensive, but they were committed to complete the concert series. "It's teaching me how to produce," Ledesma said. "There are dozens of lessons to learn."

by RENE VILLAROMAN
AJPress

I want to do in my list of dreams. This is our way of life because we are enjoying," she said. "If you enjoy, nothing else matters."

"Of course, it is more of a challenge to do new things, new styles, even the way you dress up to reinvent ourselves" Fernandez reasoned.

Padilla informed the press that she is making albums and producing specials in Manila. "I'll be fifty in five years," she said. "I want to help alleviate poverty in our country, and I am helping to send underprivileged students to school." Padilla said that she is also getting her three girls to be involved in her charity work.

Padilla comes from a family of bakers, but admits that she has not been into baking.

"So I thought about opening a business which we will call The Sweetest Things," she revealed. "I really want to have a fall back," she said.

Kuh said she broke out of the mold. "I dreamt of being an architect, but I took up Nursing and passed the board examinations, but I joined a band instead." Kuh said she had invested some of her money into Hacienda Isabella, an estate in the province of Cavite, just outside the scenic Tagaytay City.

She said that Hacienda Isabella is providing jobs to the people of Cavite. "You should really come and stay at Hacienda Isabella and experience the hospitality of the staff," Kuh said. "How they love to serve."

"Every structure there is my design; they are from my own imagination," Kuh said. ■

Martin...

◀PAGE B3

hope is that his musicality will rub off on me.

With all of the above mentioned, the best thing about this rocker is he is the nicest guy you will ever meet. Ever! His values and life's passion never collide. When I grow up I wanna be just like him...

AJ: Tell us about your first meeting with bombshell Susan Anton.

MN: I sit closest to this bombshell beauty during every rehearsal. My fondest memory of Susan would be my first meeting with her. The first thing she ever told me was, "hey you really are short!" so with that our friendship started. Now for more reason than what is obvious, I so look up to her.

I have never met a true life Hollywood actress let alone a Hollywood superstar. Her list of credits run off any bio sheet or resume, but what I love most about Susan is that even though her list of accolades is a mile long she remains unaffected and still very true to her craft.

She is the ideas girl and the first to raise her hand to say, "May I make a suggestion?" and more often than not she always has the best ones. (Ok, second to Clint) She has a beautiful soul and Clint and Domenick will agree with me when I say, "Susan has always been and will always be one hot mama!" We all look forward to share the stage with her, but more excited to share the dressing room.

AJ: You were recently involved in a brouhaha regarding the singing of the Philippine National anthem. Has the brouhaha died yet? Was it good for your career?

MN: Many say that good or bad news is good publicity. I disagree. I didn't ask for all this exposure. My only goal was to not let our champion down and to sing the National Anthem with all my heart and soul. My only fear was forgetting the lyrics. That's it. I, like so many, never knew or heard of any law that prohibits singing the anthem with all your heart and soul so I was truly and sincerely not prepared for what has been so blown out of proportion. I wish the lawmakers of our country were this passionate about more world changing matters.

AJ: What are you doing in Manila; are you doing some concerts there?

MN: I'm doing ASAP, finishing a new CD, planning a big concert in September and preparing for a series of Independence Day shows in London, England.

AJ: Please tell us when you are coming to the US to publicize this latest gig.

MN: will be there only a few days before the show because of my London gigs.

AJ: Do you have new compositions that will be part of this show?

M: Clint and Domenick wrote a few originals for this show, one of which is the title cut of the show entitled, *Vocal Soup*. My one and only spot number is a medley of my hits. Most of the show will be all four of us on stage together. We even sing back up for each other. A new and friendlier concept untried by anyone on the strip, so far as I know.

AJ: Is this the big mainstream break that you were dreaming about?

MN: Every time I put one foot on any stage that is not in the Philippines could be that break.

AJ: How is your family doing?

M: Family is great. All three boys are with me now in Las Vegas. It's a dream come true!

AJ: Will you be doing a big concert in Manila before doing this new show in Vegas?

MN: My next big concert in Manila will be on September 3 and 4 at the Araneta Coliseum. It's entitled, *AS1* for the first time in history, together on one stage, Gary Valenciano & Martin Nievera in concert! That is a whole other interview. Let's have some *Vocal Soup* first! ■

SPRING SAVINGS

Valid May 1 - 31, 2009

Fruit Charlotte Cake
~~\$24.99~~ \$20.99

Frozen Lumpia Shanghai
Buy 2 save \$5.00
Buy 3 save \$8.00

Halo-Halo
~~\$4.99~~
\$3.99

Wheat Pan de Sal
~~\$1.99~~ 99¢
Limit 1

Iced Cappuccino
~~\$1.99~~ \$1.79

Kutsinta
~~\$2.99~~ \$1.99

Lasagna Platter
~~\$42.99~~
\$39.99

Visit Any of Our Participating Locations:

- *Cerritos (562) 924-5990
- *Eagle Rock (323) 543-2876
- *Panorama (818) 891-5253

- *Los Angeles (213) 382-2351
- *West Covina (626) 964-1811
- *North Hills (818) 895-9100 (In Seafood City)

Manila Travel

Book your flights and win
ROUND TRIP TICKET to MANILA!

Philippine Airlines EVA AIR CHINA AIRLINES
KOREAN AIR JAL JAPAN AIRLINES CATHAY PACIFIC

TEL: 714.956.5668 / 714.991.8669 / 714.600.7818

MANILA TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

INSTANT REBATE

Canon EOS 50D with 18-200mm IS lens
\$1599
after \$300 instant savings

15.1 MEGA PIXELS

- New 15.1 Megapixel CMOS sensor and 14-bit conversion for smooth color tones and gradations.
- Next generation DIGIC 4 Image Processor for faster processing, 6.3 fps up to 90 JPEGs using UDMA CF cards; 60 consecutive JPEGs or 16 RAW using standard CF cards.
- 3.0-inch Clear View LCD

May 3, 2009 - July 11, 2009 Canon Instant Lens Rebates

EF 200mm f/2.8L IS II USM	save \$500
EF 70-200mm f/2.8L IS II USM	save \$200
EF 100mm f/2.8L IS II USM	save \$100
EF 40-150mm f/2.8L IS II USM	save \$100
EF 40-500mm f/4.5-8 IS II USM	save \$100
EF 100mm f/2.8L IS II USM	save \$100
EF 24-105mm f/4L IS II USM	save \$80
Macro Twin-Lens EF 100mm f/2.8L USM	save \$70
Macro Ring-Lens EF 100mm f/2.8L USM	save \$70
EF 70-200mm f/2.8L IS II USM	save \$75
EF 40-150mm f/2.8L IS II USM	save \$70
EF 40-500mm f/4.5-8 IS II USM	save \$70

Canon PowerShot A1000S
\$129.99
After Canon \$30 instant rebate

10 MP
4X
2004

- New lens design
- Optical image stabilizer
- Easy mode and Easy Playback mode
- Free 1-year limited warranty

Canon PowerShot SD 1200IS
\$199.99
After Canon \$30 instant rebate

10 MP
3X
2004

- 10x optical zoom
- Large image 2.5" PureColor LCD II
- Smart AF II intelligently selects the proper settings

Canon PowerShot SD1800S
\$249.99
After Canon \$30 instant rebate

12.1 MP
3X
2004

- 10x optical zooming capability (10x optical zoom for easy shooting)
- Video and photo playback only
- Smart AF II mode

Canon PowerShot SD960IS
\$299.99
After Canon \$30 instant rebate

12.1 MP
4X
2004

- 10x optical zooming capability (10x optical zoom for easy shooting)
- Smart AF II intelligently selects the proper settings

Includes Canon USA 3-year Limited Warranty/Registration Card. Warranty available for inspection at authorized Canon dealers in the US.

Simon's Camera 323-463-8585
1213 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood, CA 90038