

Eminem, Pinoys grace Billboard's pop charts

by RITO ASILO
Inquirer.net

MANILA — So much has happened to white rapper, Eminem, since the release of his last album, (2004's chart-topping *Encore*): His second marriage to his ex-wife ended after only 11 weeks. Then, things went further downhill: He suffered from exhaustion, lost his best friend, rapper Proof (who was shot dead after a nightclub altercation), got addicted to prescription drugs—etc.!

Irreverent

This week, the unapologetically irreverent rap/hip-hop superstar returns to the limelight via *Relapse*, which opens at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart amidst a very interesting—and

curiously diverse—musical landscape, that includes Greenday's *21st Century Breakdown*, Miley Cyrus' *Hannah Montana: The Movie*, Lady Gaga's *The Fame*, Eric Clapton and Steve Winwood's *Live From Madison Square*, Bob Dylan's *Together Through Life*, and the debuts of Ruben Studdard's *Love Is* (No. 36), Adam Lambert's *Season 8 Favorite Performances* (No. 33) and Kris Allen's *Season 8 Favorite Performances* (No. 50).

In his sixth studio album, the Real Slim Shady proves he hasn't lost his energetic lyricism, radio-friendly musicality and flair for acerbic wordplay as he dishes up his caustic rants about Britney

Spears and Lindsay Lohan (*Same Song & Dance*), Christopher Reeve (*Medicine Ball*), Mariah Carey (*Bagpipes From Baghdad*) and other celebrities (*We Made You*), as well as his ludicrous fantasies (*3 am, Insane*) and painfully honest revelations about his sleeping pill addiction (*Déjà Vu, My Mom* and *Dr. West*).

Eminem's collaborations with Dr. Dre and 50 Cent (*Old Time's Sake, Crack A Bottle*) are potent, catchy and appealing, but his rendition of *Beautiful* is particularly memorable. Discontent and anger continue to fuel his songs, but his outlook has become more insightful and mature.

Elsewhere, Billboard's Hot 100 chart welcomes the release of three of Kris Allen's singles—*No Boundaries, Heartless* and *Ain't No Sunshine*—debut at No. 11, 16 and 37, respectively—while runnerup, Adam Lambert's *Mad World* bow at No. 19. Interestingly, David Cook's current single, *Permanent*, debuts at No. 24.

Making a dent

Notably, Filipino performers are likewise making a dent on the singles chart: Apl.de.ap and his funk/hip-hop ensemble, the Black Eyed Peas, are on top with the party thumper, *Boom Boom Pow*, which is now on its eighth consecutive week at the top—so far the longest-running No. 1 single of 2009!

And, teenage belter, Charice, parlays her growing international popularity into pop-music gold as she debuts on Billboard's Hot 100 chart—at No. 44—with her cover of Jojo's 2006 hit tune, *Note to God*. ■

Primo to debut...

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At the 2006 World Championship of the Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Hollywood, California, Jon Joven won several medals including one gold for Broadway, two silvers for Pop and Opera and one plaque for overall Champion Male Solo Broadway Category. That's how talented and versatile Jon is. In *Primo*, he renders the Broadway and opera flavors to the brand.

Floyd Tena, a Bicol native, is a product of the Ateneo de Naga Music Ministry where he often sang as a soloist. After graduating from a course in Development Communication, civic-minded Floyd joined the Jesuit Volunteers Philippines (JVP) and worked as a Senior Coalition Builder helping farmers in Compostela Valley, Mindanao with paralegal services. That's probably where he gets the depth in song interpretation among other things. He does freelance consultancy on Marketing and Brand Management, Product Development and Corporate (Behavioral and skills) Training. With a keen interest in arts and culture, Floyd also dabbled in dance and musical theater as a member of Teatro Dignos and played the role of Andres Bonifacio in the centennial presentation dubbed *Josebanifacioandresrizal*.

He has been playing classical guitar (left-handedly) since his grade school days. A radio talent, he regularly gets invited as host or singer in various formal and corporate functions.

Floyd is also a commercial model, having done print and TV ads here and abroad for brands such as PLDT global, Smart, Lucky Me, Rustan's, Eight o'clock, Knorr et al. He counts the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Basil Valdez, Andrea Bocelli, U2 and Sting as among

his musical influences, and in the group, he renders the pop-ballad ambience.

James Uy, the youngest member of *Primo*, is a graduate of Computer Information Systems at the Heritage College in Nevada, USA. While in the US, he joined and landed the finalist position in the Las Vegas *Pinoy Pop Superstar* singing competition. He discovered his passion for singing at an early age, watching his brother Jon Joven sing and perform Broadway Classics. During high school at Lourdes School in Quezon City, James bagged the lead role in the school's original play, *Manora* and has represented the school in several singing competitions. Being a 'techie,' James enjoys tinkering with computers, and plays basketball and table tennis. James has also had solo vocalist and choir experience, and has done minor stage performances here and abroad, usually guesting at concerts of other Filipino performers such as Mykel Laygo and *Miss Saigon* US alumnn Johnny Fernandez. He renders the pop-rock taste to the group's brand of singing.

Primo often arranges their songs themselves, creatively bringing a genuine interpretation of the songs from the past to the music of today's charts. Though they come from different backgrounds, they are united in bringing good music to all.

Tickets available at www.brownpapertickets.com or Via TDRZ Productions, Inc. by calling 310-339-6879 Visit www.unoprmo.blogspot.com for more information. No refunds or exchanges. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Portion of net tickets sales goes to local charities.

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Seafood City kicks off Exciting Workshop Series with cooking lessons from Top Chef

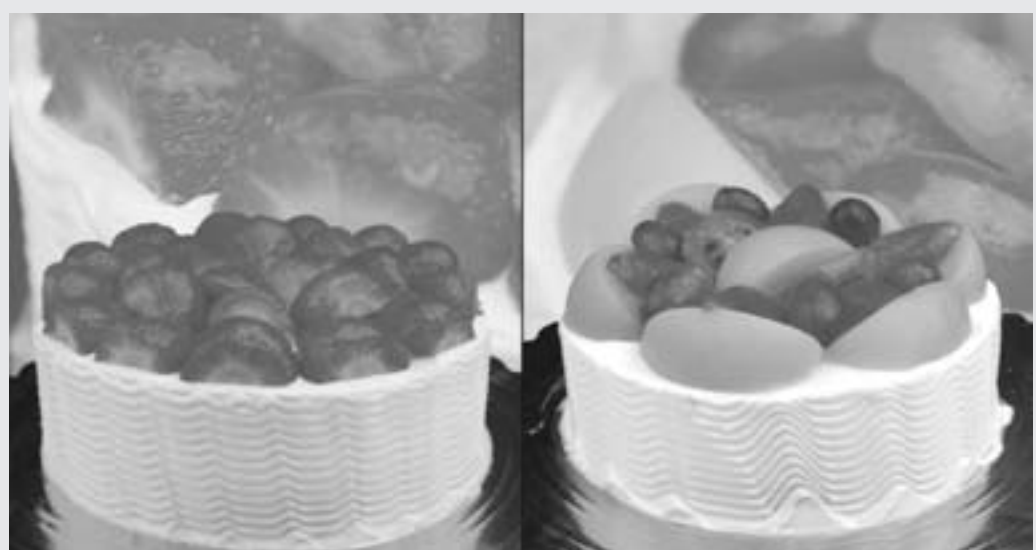
SEAFOOD CITY presents the *At Home Ako Sa 'Yo* Workshop, a series of weekly cooking lessons that will be held at selected Seafood City stores. The *At Home Ako Sa 'Yo* workshop series will not only help Seafood City customers develop the basic skills needed for cooking or baking, but will also provide options for creating delicious meals on a tight budget.

Catch top chef Cecilia De Castro at Seafood City North Hills on June 6, 13 and 20 with the pilot theme Philippine Independence Day Menu. On June 13, learn new recipes to stretch your budget with delicious everyday meals that are easy to prepare with ingredients that are affordable and on June 20 learn how to make use of food leftovers that will be just as tasty.

Chef Cecilia de Castro has a long and distinguished career in the culinary arts industry. She has collaborated with world renowned Chef Wolfgang Puck in cookbook and recipe developments and was also the culinary producer for the Emmy Award-winning Wolfgang Puck on Food Network.

She developed the UCLA Extension certificate program in Culinary Arts and was awarded Educator of the Year award several times by UCLA. Chef Cecilia de Castro is an active member of the LA Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier whose membership includes the top 40 women in the culinary field. For a limited time you can sign up for any of the classes for free. Register now at seafoodcity@3mplus.com.

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GOLDILOCKS welcomes summer with beautiful new cakes featuring luscious strawberries and other delectable fruits abundant during the season. Shown in photo are the Fresh Strawberry n' Crème cake available this month at only \$12.99 (regular price \$15.99) and the Summer Fruit Fiesta cake available at \$11.99 (regular price \$14.99). Enjoy the perfectly moist, soft and light vanilla cakes, iced with billows of whipped cream and lavishly topped with fresh strawberries or a colorful medley of assorted fruit. The cakes are available at all Goldilocks Restaurants and Bakeshops in Los Angeles County.

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