

# SHOWBIZ & STYLE

## JOURNAL

### Ai Ai: Sarah deserves title

by MARINEL CRUZ  
Inquirer.net

MANILA — “Sarah is worthy of the award. She’s very hard-working. She deserves the success she is experiencing now,” comedienne Ai Ai delas Alas said of fellow Kapamilya artist Sarah Geronimo, winner of the Box-Office Queen of 2008 Award.

**Tough rivals**

Ai Ai, last seen in *Ang Tanging Ina N’yong Lahat*, was Sarah’s toughest rival for the award given Sunday night by the Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Foundation Inc. (GMMFI) in a ceremony held at the RCBC Auditorium in Makati City.

Sarah is the lead actress of Star Cinema’s romantic comedy, *A Very Special Love*. Ai Ai was proclaimed Comedy Box-Office Queen of 2008.

“It’s a special award. I think the foundation created it for me,” she said. “I’m thankful for the recognition. I consider every award I receive very important.”

In previous interviews, the comedienne questioned the way GMMFI picked its Box-Office awardees. She said box-office records would show that *Tanging Ina* made more than *A Very Special Love*.

“What’s important is that the people I care about know the truth,” Ai Ai told the *Inquirer* on Friday. “They are proud of me.”

John Lloyd Cruz, Sarah’s love-team partner in the Cathy Garcia-Molina film, bagged the Box-Office King Award. Dolphy and Vic Sotto (*Dobol Trobol*) were crowned Comedy Box-Office Kings.

“I [just] hope the award brings [me] more opportunities for work,” said Ai Ai.

**With Erap**

In fact, she is set to make a film with former Philippine president Joseph Estrada, for screening at

the end of the year. “It’s similar to the comedy film, *Meet the Fockers*. I still have to sit down with my producers to discuss details, but I’m very excited,” she said.

Meanwhile, weekday mornings, Ai Ai co-hosts *Ruffa and Ai* with actress-beauty queen Ruffa Gutierrez. “We have so much fun on the show, according to our guests,” Ai Ai said. “Ruffa has become a very good friend to me. We go out a lot to eat or attend parties.”

**Hands-on mom**

Motherhood has also been eating her time, Ai Ai said. Her

youngest, Sofia, 13, is a high school freshman. “I offered to personally bring her *baon* to school, *kaya lang sabi n’ya malaki na raw s’ya*.”

Her son, Sancho, 18, is hooked on playing drums; Shawn, 16, the guitar. Sofia is good at singing and dancing, the proud mom said. “*Pwede na kaming bumuo ng banda*.” ■



### Orphaned’ stars plan the future

MANILA—The 15 artists managed by Douglas Quijano, who died on June 13, are still in the process of picking a new handler, according to actor Richard Gomez, one of the newly “orphaned” stars.

In the meantime, all matters related to their guest appearances and interviews, as well as movie and TV projects, will be coursed through Gomez, former actress Nadia Montenegro told *Inquirer Entertainment* in a phone interview.

Quijano’s wards had a meeting on Sunday night to discuss the matter, reported Gomez, who was last seen on GMA 7’s defunct late-night show *All About Eve*. “Nothing is final yet,” he said.

**No one for Janice**

Montenegro said that they initially wanted only one talent manager to replace Quijano. “But if one or a few other artists want a different manager, we will not take it against them,” she stressed.

Gomez said actor and former Parañaque City Councilor Anjo Yllana is considering joining the group being managed by Malou Choa-Fagar, a producer of the

long-running noontime game show *Eat... Bulaga!* where he’s a regular host. Fagar represents *Bulaga* talents Janno Gibbs, Jose Manalo and Julia Clarete, among others.

Gelli de Belen, who hosts the morning variety show *Sis*, may transfer to Backroom Inc., which manages the career of her husband, singer-actor Ariel Rivera, Gomez said, adding that Gelli’s sister, Janice, prefers not to have a manager at the moment.

**Wait and see**

Actor Wendell Ramos, a regular of the gag show *Bubble Gang*, is currently negotiating with Pery Lansigan, who handles the careers of Dingdong Dantes and Geoff Eigenmann.

Actor and concert producer Jomari Yllana, seen regularly in the Sony Pictures franchise *Zorro* on GMA 7, is keen on managing Quijano’s younger talents, among them Jay Aquitania and Tyrone Perez.

Gomez said that he and his wife Lucy, seen every afternoon on QTV 11’s *The Sweet Life*, as well as actors Joey Marquez (*Adik Sa ‘Yo*), Antonio Aquitana (*Zorro*, *Bubble Gang*), John Es-

trada (TV5’s *Everybody Happy* and ABS-CBN’s *Dahil May Isang Ikaw*) are “playing it by ear” for the moment. (*Inquirer.net*)

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