

# VEGAS & STYLE

## JOURNAL

### FUNFARE

by RICARDO F. LO  
Philstar.com

## For Erap, Ai-Ai is Box-Office Queen

**PRES.** Joseph 'Erap' Estrada and Ai-Ai delas Alas: A potential Metro Filmfest blockbuster

#### Curtain-raisers:

• Guess where Craig David went Saturday night to unwind after his show at the Big Dome the previous night — yes, The Embassy at The Fort where he met a pretty TV reporter. They clicked and in a jiffy they were, according to Funfare's "Party-hopping DPA," "sweet-sweet already" when they left...together. Was it a "great sin?" Or was it a night "full" of "I do's?" One thing is sure, added the DPA. "Craig had a generous taste of the fabled Filipino hospitality."

• This actress (whose surname is the same as that of a movie queen) can breathe freely now that the court has granted her petition for the annulment of her marriage which seemed to have been doomed from the start. "Her days of misery started shortly after the honeymoon," said somebody close to the actress. "The marriage felt like a maximum-security prison." She's now gradually picking up the pieces and starting a new life with her children away from her husband whose sister is married to the son of a high government official.

• Meanwhile, Funfare's "legally-correct DPA" said that a popular actor should stop grumbling that the annulment of the marriage of his beloved long-time home companion has been gathering dust in court. "The truth is that the decision declaring her marriage (to a non-showbiz man by whom she has a daughter) null and void was final last year pa. I got this information from the Office of the Solicitor General." It turned out that when the Court of Appeals affirmed a lower court decision, the OSG didn't anymore meet for reconsideration. *O, tuloy na ang kasal!*

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No, the much-awaited movie team-up of Pres. Joseph "Erap"



Estrada and Ai-Ai delas Alas hasn't been scrapped. In fact, if Erap would have his way, he would start shooting for it anytime so it would make it to this year's Metro Filmfest in December. That's five months before the 2010 presidential elections in which,

keep your fingers crossed, Erap might run in his effort to unite the opposition. The election ban on TV and movie appearances starts three months before election day (May 10).

"Ai-Ai is the real Box-Office Queen," Erap told reporters who talked to him during last Saturday's anniversary celebration of MOWELFUND. "Her movie (Star Cinema's *Ang Tanging Ina N'yong Lahat*) was the top-grosser in last year's (2008) Metro Filmfest, so she's the Box-Office Queen of the Year. And that's why I want our movie to be shown also in the Metro Filmfest."

The still untitled romance-comedy (with Star Cinema as probable producer) should be a riot considering that Erap, besides being an action superstar, is also an effective comedian as proven by the hit Erap movie series (among them *Erap Is My Guy* with Nora Aunor and *Tatay Na Si Erap* with Boots Anson-Roa who was actually pregnant with her and her late husband Pete's youngest child Benjamin during the shooting; she gave birth on the day the movie opened).

Yes, Erap and Ai-Ai will have a kissing scene, definitely.

"Dream ko 'yan matagal na," Ai-Ai has been saying. ■

## [Showbitz!]

### Gretchen Barretto releases second album

**C**ONTROVERSIAL actress and TV game show host Gretchen Barretto premiered her new music video of the Barry Manilow original hit *Ready To Take A Chance Again*, the carrier single for her new album *Complicated*, under Star Records at a recent episode of *The Buzz*, where she was subjected to the *Tough Ten* segment for the show. Her new album is her follow-up to the 2008 *Unexpected* under the same label. *Complicated* has three different covers and contains 14 songs.



The name of the album came naturally for Gretchen, as it is no news that her personal life has had its share of drama. So when asked by host Boy Abunda why she thinks love is complicated, Gretchen was quick to reply.

"*Pag yung sitwasyon complicated to begin with, nagiging complicated yung love. Kailangan kasi buo ang loob mo. Pag mahal mo ang tao, you'll really fight for it. You go for it.*"

Gretchen also shared that marriage for her is important as she tells Boy, "I live for the moment when I will finally say I do." ■

### 'Zorro' duo is New York-bound

**S**TARS of GMA 7's *Zorro* Richard Gutierrez and Rhian Ramos are scheduled to spend their Holy Week in New York. Speaking with Philippine Entertainment Portal during the recent launch of the fragrance line for a clothing company, Rhian shared that she is excited for her upcoming trip as it will be her first to the US, adding that Richard, who has been to the US many times but not New York, is excited as well.



"*Marami kaming places na gustong puntahan doon. Ako, I want to see Central Park kasi ang ganda-ganda raw doon. 'Tapos magpapa-picture kami sa Times Square at gusto ko rin sumakay ng ferry boat papunta sa Statue of Liberty. And I want to taste din yung sikat doon na Gray's Papaya. It's a famous hotdog restaurant na ang sarap-sarap daw,*" she says.

Rhian is also looking forward to shop at the stores which are widely known in the city.

"*Kaya nga tayo nagwu-work para ma-enjoy natin ang mga pinagpaguran natin, di ba?*" she says. ■

### Jake Cuenca's career skyrockets

**J**AKE Cuenca is relatively new in the business but it seems that the teleserye *Tayong Dalawa* has skyrocketed his career. Before *Tayong Dalawa*, Jake was well-know as Roxanne Guinoo's ex-boyfriend. But with ABS-CBN's *Tayong Dalawa*, Jake has proven himself a formidable dramatic actor, and the reception has been very warm so far.

"I just want to thank all the people who support us *kasi talagang ginagalingan po namin. Araw-araw nagpupuyat kami. Binubuhos namin ang pawis at dugo sa proyektong ito para sa inyong lahat. Kasi talagang alam namin na maganda ito at nakakatulong ito sa mga buhay ng mga sundalo. Nakaka-inspire sa kanila. So, malaking responsibilidad sa amin lahat yun. So, we do our best every day,*" he tells Philippine Entertainment Portal. ■

## Meeting Tita Vi: A Big Scare

by MARINEL CRUZ  
Inquirer.net

**M**ANILA – Nerve-Wracking.

That was Angel Locsin's recollection of being introduced for the first time to Vilma Santos, A-list dramatic actress and governor of Batangas – who also happens to be her boyfriend Luis Manzano's mother.

"Imagine a girl being introduced to her boyfriend's parents – I felt that three times over. I kept thinking, 'This can't be real. She's a respected actress and provincial governor,'" Angel told Inquirer Entertainment at her launch Thursday as endorser of Facial Care Center's Laser Light treatment.

#### 'Steady' with Luis

Angel continued: "I felt ill-at-ease in her company in the beginning. But I've learned to relax, especially now that I've seen how close Luis and Tita Vi are. He would wrestle with her. *Si Tita Vi naman, lumalaban din* [Tita Vi would fight back]."

"Steady" is how the young star described her relationship with Luis. "I love that Luis is very sweet and thoughtful. I guess that's why he's mistaken for a 'chick-boy.' He's every girl's friend. They open up to him, tell him their secrets." They have been a couple for six months.

#### Closer to dad

As for her own family, Angel said she's closer to her father. Angel's parents separated when she was 14. She has since lived with her dad, Angelo Colmenares. "Up till now, I sit on his lap," she admitted.

"But I communicate with my mom [Emmal regularly]," Angel



Angel Locsin and Luis Manzano

added. "She knows that she can count on me when she needs me. *Siyempre – nanay ko 'yun* [Of course, she's my mom]."

Angel flew to Korea on Friday with *Only You* co-stars Diether Ocampo and Sam Milby. "We're all excited," she said during Thursday's event. "We'll be away for a month."

The original Korean novel was set in Venice. The local version will be directed by Rory B. Quintos.

#### Not so easy

"We thought doing a light-romance series is easy; *hindi pala* [not so]. We got so used to playing dramatic roles that we had a hard time delivering our lines [in this one]," Angel related. "Direk Rory would say, *Masyadong mabigat* [It's too heavy]! Then we'd do it again and again until she's satisfied." The show airs this summer on ABS-CBN.

Angel first appeared on *Click* (1999), GMA 7's youth program. *Mulawin*, the fantasy series that made Angel a big star, was broadcast in 2004. A year later, she played the lead role in *Darna*, the Kapuso network's highest rating show that year.

In 2007, she signed a two-year talent contract with ABS-CBN. Her first assignment was *Pilat* on the long-running drama anthology *Maalaala Mo Kaya*. Under the *Kapamilya* banner, Angel has starred in the TV program *Lobo* and romantic film *Love Me Again*. ■

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