



*Hi!*  
**Society**

By **MONET LU**

## Flawless make-up for the timeless bride

Just a quick note to emphasize an obvious fact: Bridal make-up looks best on good, healthy skin. If you were not blessed with naturally beautiful skin, it might be a good idea to take up a beauty regimen leading up to the wedding.

Get a monthly facial or consult with a reliable aesthetician. At my salon, we have an excellent in-house skincare specialist who is ready to assist.

A decision you have to make next is choosing the style of

make-up and hairdo.

The best way to convey your vision to a stylist is to gather clippings of make-up and hair you see yourself having.

Bring these photos during your consultation with the stylist. It helps to be on the same page. A good stylist will often execute your vision but also add his or her stylistic signature on the work.

Bridal make-up should look effortless, even if it takes hard and meticulous work on the part of the experienced stylist to apply it.

It should look natural but pronounced since you are going to be photographed and filmed.

I personally endorse Velvet Spray Airbrush Make-Up because this make-up technique specifically brings out the natural but defined look.

Velvet Spray is different from regular make-up in that it gives a high definition coverage.

To learn more about airbrush make-up, please visit [www.monet-salon.com](http://www.monet-salon.com) under Wedding Services or call us at (702)617-1200 to ask about our full wedding service.

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The author is a Marikina-born, award-winning celebrity beauty stylist with his own chain of salons across Southern California and Las Vegas, Nevada. Ultimately, Monet is known as an all-around artiste who produces sold-out fashion and awards shows, as well as unforgettable marketing campaigns. Monet is also the founder of the revolutionary all-natural beauty products available at [www.skinbymonet.com](http://www.skinbymonet.com). He supports many humanitarian efforts to include projects in his native Marikina, The Bantay Bata Foundation, and many more. To contact Monet, please visit [www.monetsalon.com](http://www.monetsalon.com) for more information.



joyce jimenez and groom

## [Showbitz!]

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### From segment to movie: Yaya and Angelina go mainstream

SINCE they started appearing on GMA's *Bubble Gang*, the funny segment of Yaya and the spoiled brat Angelina played by comedians Michael V and Ogie Alcasid tickled the fancy of every Filipino.

Now, the much-talked about duo of Yaya and Angelina will not settle for just a segment in a TV show because this year their very own movie—*Ang Spoiled Brat the Movie*—will be launched.

Aside from the movie, Yaya and Angelina will soon be busy as the hosts of *Hole in the Wall*.

*Hole in the Wall* is a franchise of Fremantle Media, the same company behind *American Idol*. *Hole in the Wall* will premiere on April 20, 2009 in replacement of *Family Feud*. ■



Yaya and Angelina

### They still have it

THE younger they are the better. This seems to be a new trend in media.

Well not really.

Just recently, three gorgeous matured ladies were chosen by a prominent vinegar brand to be its latest endorsers. Tagged as the *Mukhasim Women*, Eula Valdez, Carmi Martin and Ina Raymundo despite not being youthful anymore still have it as far as beauty and sensuality are concerned.

Aside from their professionalism and experiences under their belts, the three women were chosen "because they still show the spunk or *Asims* even as they have matured," the directors said. ■



Ina Raymundo



Carmi Martin



Eula Valdez

### IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

UNLESS you're an ostrich with your head buried in the sand, you couldn't have missed the up tick in the rash of mass murders and murder suicides in recent times, in many places in the US. There's a common thread — one man driven by rage, jealousy, paranoia, desperation, depression over economic pressures, family problems or just plain deranged, decided he can't take it anymore and instead of committing suicide, decide to inflict murder and mayhem killing several others, either his own family members or total strangers. By last count, there were 7 mass murders committed by ordinary people since the beginning of 2009, with a total casualty count, including the murderers themselves nearing 60 before the first 100 days of the year were over. Is this a social trend? Pundits and talking heads predict that as the recession becomes more firmly entrenched, we can expect more of this type of horror.

With each horrific case, the public seems to become more inured and desensitized to violence and death, becoming more accepting of all these, as a normal feature of modern life. Ever since the Columbine mass murder perpetrated by 2 young misguided misfits garbed in black trench coats about 10 years ago, things haven't been the same. There were copycats exhibiting lemming-like behavior since then. Evil glamorized by repetition and attention-getting drama seems to have morphed into many other incidents in North America and elsewhere, resulting in incalculable, untold pain and suffering among families of the victims. We remember with great pain the Virginia Tech mass murder which snuffed out the lives of 32, including Cho, the killer, who was a quiet, deranged malcontent who never quite fit in. In the blogosphere chatter, many noted that perpetrators of this troubling trend were often the quiet ones. Word is out on the street to watch out for the quiet "pressure cooker" types, those who never cause a ripple and yet, has a fondness for weapons, but who can implode and explode with volcanic intensity and wipe out those around them.

In the past month alone, a young gun enthusiast from Alabama, depressed over his life and who kept mostly to himself, killed 5 members of his own family and 5 other total strangers at

random in a barrage of gunfire before taking his own life. A Vietnamese immigrant, Jiverly Wong, aka Vuong, a quiet, social misfit and also a gun enthusiast, driven by severe paranoia and frustrated over his "poor life" and poor English skills, gunned down 12 others in an immigrant center, 10 of whom came from 8 countries and who were students just trying to learn English as a second language. One was a Filipina, Dolores Yigal, a recent immigrant who was studying so she could find a job. One was a long time substitute teacher named Roberta King. One was an Iraqi woman who survived 3 car bombs in her native Iraq and left behind a devastated family, a daughter at the Sorbonne in Paris and another daughter, a Fulbright scholar. All these lives were cut off by one sorry excuse for a human being in one fell swoop.

Among ordinary families from all strata and from nearly every ethnic group, there has also been a rash of killings among fathers who have decided they have failed and will kill themselves and are taking their whole family with them. On rare occasions, it is a mother who does it. Sometimes, the sick and the elderly decide to take matters into their own hands and end it all. The murder suicide rate among families is on the rise, thankfully not in epidemic proportions just yet as to cause panic. Perhaps, this is fueled by the effects of the economic downturn, with mounting financial pressures and with an unprecedented number of foreclosures, forcibly displacing families from their nests. And yet to merely focus on economics as the root of this troubling phenomenon is shortsighted and misses the whole point.

After all the news vans are gone from the crime scene, after the vacuous words of any sitting president have been said, after all references to the story are buried in the inside pages and eventually ground to a halt on the internet, and when the grieving families have no more tears to shed, many questions as to why such things happen with alarming frequency remain unanswered.

There seems to be a moral turpitude that ails a society that lurches at murder suicide as an option. This much is certain, when extreme hubris rules the heart and mind, there will always be a lack of personal responsibility and accountability when something goes wrong. It was always because of someone else's fault

or because of a set of circumstances. We tend to blame everything else but ourselves. The tendency to shirk responsibility is probably wired into our DNA right at the Garden of Eden with Eve playing the blame game early on. The devil made me do it. So did Adam. The woman gave me the apple. It is our inability, due to pride, the deadliest of all human failings, to own up to sin. And so it was with the fallen angels. There's only one antidote to pride for us mere mortals and that is to cultivate daily a grateful, humble heart that thanks God for every moment of life on earth. Our Blessed Mother exemplifies the kind of heart that bears all. That is why she is worthy of emulation.

"Thou shalt not kill" is a commandment that holds in good times and in bad. There's no moral relativism on this. Each is precious to God or He wouldn't have sacrificed His own Son if He didn't think we were worth the time and trouble. Each murder is a grievous sin against the Holy Spirit from whom all life comes. It is us who have discounted our own worth.

Part of the reason we have discounted the value of human life is that modern society has become so desensitized to violence and death via the content in films, games and media that pass for entertainment these days, that we take life for granted as though it means nothing. Add to that is the easy access to the cheap killing machines, guns that only the very sane, the very mature and the upright should be given the license to own. If the strictest of standards for gun ownership were really enforced, maybe only a tiny percent of the population can own guns.

Does hell exist? How is punishment meted out in the after-life? In the physical universe, scientists claim that there are black holes in the known universe that can't be seen by human eyes but with gravitation so strong that it sucks, as in a whirling cosmic cauldron stirred by mighty forces, all the stars and planetary systems that come within its orbit, so strong that not even light can escape. Need a visual for hell aside from Dante's *Inferno*? Black holes could fit the bill as a repository for lost souls, a cold, dark, fetid, eternal state of gnawing pain and bitter regret, filled with the piercing screams of the damned, without the presence of God, and forever blotted out from all memory except their own.

Is it possible that the morally

bankrupt and depraved, regard the taking of a life as an option when things do not go their way or when the course of their lives hit a snag and overweening pride tells them to end it all, instead of getting down on their knees to pray to the God of their beings for the humility, the courage and the strength to endure? Gone is the fear of God, much less the love of God. As we steer farther and farther away from God and place something else in the center of our lives, scenarios of helplessness and despair such as what we are witnessing more frequently these days may be expected to unfold with eerie regularity.

Many of us have become ego-centric, overly individualistic, self-absorbed individuals. Perhaps during this period of testing, we would be a lot happier, healthier and less prone to veer towards lives of quiet desperation if we focused less and less on ourselves and more on the welfare of the other person and commit spontaneous, frequent acts of kindness and generosity to family members, total strangers and even those we struggle to love. It would be a tough slog but still doable.

There was one telling incident I never quite forgot. Long ago, I was running breathlessly huffing and puffing in my stilettoes to drop some coins on a parking meter on Wilshire Boulevard I knew had expired because of a long, drawn-out presentation I was making on the upper floor of a nearby high rise. Fortunately, I narrowly missed getting a thirty-some dollar fine from the parking enforcer because a panhandler had dropped some coins for my car's meter, from his can of coins. It stunned me to see him feeding all the meters that were expiring on that block. Of course, he may have been merely trying to annoy the heck out of the parking enforcer. Who knows? I only saw the kindness in the act. That stayed with me. From then on, I would remember and always be inspired by the completely anonymous gesture of that person who had practically nothing but still gave of the little he had.

That's when I knew kindness is contagious like the flu.

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