



*Hi!*  
**Society**

By MONET LU

# Reminiscing with famous '80s beauties

IT'S A JOY in my life to be surrounded by beautiful people. Last Sunday, I had the pleasure of being invited to the birthday party of the exquisite Ms. Gloria "Bong" Dimayac-Nuguid. We all know her as 1983 Mutya Ng Pilipinas-Asia and Miss Asia Pacific Quest.

The soiree, held at the Pasadena home of the Nuguids, was like a hotspot for famous beauties of the 1980s. In attendance were 1984 Miss Universe 3rd Runner Up Desiree Verdadero-Abesamis, 1982 Miss Asia USA Gemma Hipolito-Javier, fashion model Cathy De Leon, and model Maribel Lastimososa-Steinmann.



Monet with Gemma Hipolito-Javier

Time has been kind to these women, I must say. After all these years, beautiful pa rin with fresh faces that still glow like pageant girls. It's obvious that they take care of themselves.

Before Sunday, I've only been connecting with these women on Facebook. Being in the same room with them once again took me back to at least two decades during my pageant-mentoring days. With other friends such as Sonny Madera, Dave Tupaz, and Leo Baquiran, the beauties and I could not resist revisiting photo



Sonny Madera, Gemma Hipolito-Javier, Monet Lu and Desiree Verdadero Abesamis

albums from when the women still had waist lines between 20 and 22 inches. Imagine that!

Amid flowing wine and delicious Thai food, we had a blast reminiscing about the heyday of the pageant industry.

It was really nice to catch up with old friends and know that they are leading happy, successful lives. The birthday girl Bong, one of the original models of my show Reflections, is now a busy

mother of three and happily married to entrepreneur Victor Nuguid.

Another Reflections alum, Gemma Hipolito, was my discovery for the Miss Asia-USA pageant back in the day. She is my original anak and she still calls me "mother." We fondly recalled times when I would coach her on poise and how to walk.

Cathy De Leon was declared a showstopper at the party who



Cathy de Leon, Desiree Verdadero Abesamis, Gemma Hipolito-Javier, Lia Barretto-Castano, Deedee Salvino, Maribel Steinmann

came wearing sexy shorts. She can definitely still pull it off with her long, toned legs.

Other guests at the gathering were Dr. JB and Denise Abesamis who flew in from Manila for a much-needed US vacation.

Also noted was the presence of Pinky Carreon, Deedee Salvino, Lia and Ding Castano, and other dear, dear friends.

Greatly missed at the party were LA Patron of the Arts Bong Prada Lim and Nardie Presa. Wish you could have been there darlings!

It always feels nice to spend

quality time with good, ol' friends. Here's to friendship!

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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.

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## Sharon Cuneta headlines Memorial Weekend Show at Paris Las Vegas

AFTER a four-year absence from the US concert tour circuit, Megastar Sharon Cuneta once again hits the road starting on May to June with mega shows in Las Vegas, Reno, Toronto, Atlantic City, Los Angeles and Houston.

Because her loyal Sharonians abroad miss her so, this tour is guaranteed to be the hottest ticket in town—making it the most anticipated Filipino show in years (as was proven by the number of inquiries the concert tours have been getting online). In spite of the recession, tickets in the 100s section are the ones that are selling very well. Sharon's devoted followers wanted to make sure that they see her again live on stage performing her all time favorite signature hits as well as current ditties. Unlike any other Filipino artist, Sharon does a USA concert tour almost every three or four years only. Besides, this concert might just be her last one even during the coming years.

It will be recalled that the Megastar performed in the US in 1996, 1997, and 1998 for her grand world tour—which broke house records in Atlantic City, Reno, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Los Angeles, as well as Winnipeg and Vancouver in Canada and London in England.

By 2005, Sharon's US Megastar Concert Tour 2005 to six key US cities: Jacksonville, Florida; New York/Atlantic City; Reno, Nevada; San Diego and Los Angeles, California became the toast of the concert orbit.

Sharon was the first Filipino artist to break SRO records at both the Shrine Auditorium and the MGM Grand Garden Arena—so much so that her poster was on display in both venues' Hall of Fame, alongside that of Barbra Streisand's (at the MGM Grand) and Sheena Easton's and Michael Jackson's (at the Shrine).

Special guest during the concert is no other than KC Concepcion—touted to be the next megastar of the Philippines. She is gorgeous, witty, alluring and has become one of the most sought after young artists back home. The picture perfect KC has her own following in the USA. We get calls from various fan clubs who claim that they will support KC all the way. There's the Team KC Forever and Kookiebirds—who are now very anxious to see the megastar and her daughter KC—together in a concert in the US.

Aside from her fans, many are also eager to watch KC perform live as this is the first time she will be performing on stage here in the USA.

The concert aptly billed *Sharon Cuneta: Megathirty* will be staged during the Memorial Weekend on May 23, Saturday, 7:30 pm at the Paris Showroom of the luxurious Paris Casino and Hotel.

The concert is executive produced by KATZ Entertainment—considered the Southland's leading concert professionals. It is led by Jackie Regala and Gerry Katigbak and their associate, Ellen Sarmiento. The show is produced in association with Seafood City Supermarket. It is also brought to you by Las Vegas Asian Journal, The Filipino Channel and The Law Offices of Lou Tancinco.

For tickets, you may call KATZ at (562) 219-7235; Jackie Regala (562) 787-9030; Dina Maningas (702) 873-6828; Goldilocks Bakeshop (702) 368-2253 and Seafood City Supermarket (702) 873-6828. Tickets are also available at the box office of Paris Las Vegas (888) 746-7784. (Advertising Supplement)

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