

IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

(Part 1 of 2)

I HAVE never been a boxing aficionado — till now. Watching Rocky Balboa get bloodied and beaten to a pulp, even if I knew that was pure Hollywood, has given me an aversion for any contact sport where someone is bound to get hurt. Who can forget Mike Tyson biting off Evander Holyfield's ear? Talk about appalling. Maybe it's a chick thing or an overly active empathetic hormone making me feel another person's pain on the gut level. But I will push my queasy stomach aside for the moment because there is an angle to the man that needs to be said. *Time Magazine* ranked him the 22nd most influential person in the world for 2009. Time is right on the mark. For most of the 90 million Filipinos, of which several millions are spread far and wide in every corner of the world as immigrants or overseas foreign workers, there's a bit of Pacquiao's tenacity of spirit in every Filipino.

It's not just the usual rags to riches story of someone who rose from crushing poverty by sheer gumption, prize-fighting with his fists to put food on the table at an early age, from the dusty streets of General Santos City, erstwhile known as Dadiangas by Sarangani Bay, to come to the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood half a world away, step in as replacement on two week's notice to vanquish a seasoned opponent and defeat bigger opponents convincingly since then to become one of the most amazing luminaries of the sport. He found a mentor who took him to his wings and nurtured a relationship that approaches that of a father

Pacquiao and the art of war

"The one who figures on victory at headquarters before even doing battle is the one who has the most strategic factors on his side."
— Sun Tzu, "The Art of War"

to a son. Roach, the great boxing trainer of our time, who struggles with Parkinson's disease, is Pacquiao's Yoda. Roach has molded a willing, malleable and brilliant pupil transforming him from an aggressive but one-dimensional boxer into a complete fighter of the sport that is just beginning to recapture its former glory among a world audience, a sport that has sputtered a bit in the absence of a captivating persona people can admire.

Pacquiao's story is engaging and at 30 years old, he does inspire millions. Has there ever been anyone in history that can put a long, protracted war in Mindanao on hold and zap crime down to zilch nationwide for a few hours when he steps into the ring to do battle?

With his no-nonsense, precise, concise, 2-round total demolition of the British boxing champ, Ricky "The Hitman" Hatton, who was pole-axed with the vaunted left hook delivered with power, precision and speed that seemed to come from nowhere, some aficionados remain shell-shocked weeks after the event. Hatton still is. British fans still are. There's a newfound respect for the Pacman as Pound for Pound King. Recriminations and excuses are percolating to account for the devastating defeat in Hatton's camp. Cruel jokes about how Hatton should have gotten sponsors for the soles of his shoes for his 2 knockdowns and his embarrassing knockout and how he defended himself from punches with his face have surfaced on the internet.

Hatton shies away from the public these days admitting he has cried many times in the days since, admitting he never knew what hit him and may never get the courage to watch that foot-

age ever. It guts his soul to be so unceremoniously done away with in such fashion, his tattered reputation needing redemption. Years from now, that particular segment of the "Battle between East and West" will be replayed over and over again as part of boxing history on HBO and the disbelief will still linger. Blink and you'll miss it. I glimpsed Jack Nicholson rising in a flash from his seat in the third row with the audience in utter disbelief at the final blow of the second-round bout, his hand over his mouth in shock and awe. That is one show worth the thousands of dollars such ringside tickets command.

I could almost hear the collective screaming and groaning of 850,000 pay per view American buyers, over 16,000 live audience at the MGM Grand, thousands on short-circuit television, a million in England and several millions more in the Philippines and around the world, 168 nations in all. Two rounds! Stretch it to 2 more rounds and I'm getting my money's worth. But the truth is, it is brilliant and unforgettable. Roach did say fewer than 3 rounds but Pacquiao wisely and humbly said, only God knows.

Some boxing pundits the world over, on print and on the web, are quite ready to crown him as one of the great ones of boxing, putting him up there alongside the likes of the 1930's Henry Armstrong, who won on several weight divisions just like Pacquiao, or alongside Roberto

Duran, Sugar Ray Leonard or even "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" Ali. Some pundits proven wrong are whispering in mild protest saying it's premature. Bob Arum, Pacquiao's promoter, is convinced about his greatness but since he stands to gain financially by his hyperbole, his opinion may not weigh much to the public at large. It's his job to hype it up and get the numbers soaring until the next big fight.

Some critics of the sport remain unconvinced and are still a little less awed by Pacquiao's accomplishments. Over and over again, they have consistently bet on Pacquiao's opponents — those great Mexican boxing warriors — based on physical size and strength alone, underestimating Pacquiao's chances each time. These critics have been cautioning colleagues in the business, about putting Pacquiao in that hallowed category, grudgingly admitting he is good, very good but not great — just yet. No matter. Even if Pacquiao retires today, he has already made his mark in the world of boxing and the Philippine national psyche, where it matters. One credible boxing authority who made a short list of the great boxers by decade beginning in the 1910's has already anointed the Pacman, as the one for this decade.

(To be continued)

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Nora Aunor, Anthony Castelo headlines at the star-studded HPMC Independence Day Variety Show



Philippine SuperStar, Ms. Nora Aunor heads the star-studded cast at the Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center Independence Day celebration on Saturday, June 13, 2009. Cecilia Ramos, notable community leader in Los Angeles, confirmed the stars' participation according to Errol Santos, HPMC Independence Day Event Coordinator. Aside from Ms. Aunor, the Variety show also includes multi-awardee Anthony Castelo, together with up-and-coming child singer Ms. Aria Clemente, who won the Junior division of the 2007 World Championship of Performing Arts. Also in the line-up of performers is Asia's Elvis Tribute Artist, Alfred Sanchez, and many, many more performers who will keep the attendees entertained.

The HPMC Independence Day celebration begins at 9:00 am with the symbolical flag-raising, after which the whole-day variety show begins. Lots of prizes await each attendee including \$200.00 gift certificates which will be raffled during the whole day. Seniors will also have a chance to win the Grand Prize of a FREE Trip to Manila.

Everyone who wants to be eligible to win the raffle prizes are required to be at the HPMC complex at 8:30 am where raffle stubs will be given.

For more information, call Mr. Errol Santos at 818-621-2912. For variety show and booth information, call Mel Reyes at 818-281-8267.

(Advertising Supplement)

Jinkee after the...

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ready a celebrity being chased around by media. Proof of her being a celebrity is the fact that there was talk that there was trouble in the Pacquiao home when she was missing during the victory celebration thrown for Manny by GMA 7 on S.O.P. the other Sunday. The truth was Jinkee was with Dr. Belo that day for consultations and to tape Belo Beauty 101. (They couldn't agree on any other date because Dr. Belo is always out of the country.)

The following day, Manny was given a reception in Malacañang and Jinkee was missing again. Her absence at the Palace further strengthened the rumors that she and her husband were quarreling. Of course, again, those were just stupid rumors.

Jinkee couldn't be with Manny that time either because she was at the Belo clinic doing platelet rich plasma (PRP) to boost the collagen of her skin (to make her face even more fresh-looking), meso scalp (to make her hair thicker and healthier), multi-polar of the arms (to sculpt them and make them slimmer) and botox on the forehead.

Prior to that she had the new Belo diet injections, which were administered to her at one shot daily for 24 days. Jinkee's goal was for her to lose 10 lbs. with that procedure. She overshot it by losing 13 lbs. instead. Now, she is the Belo poster girl for the Belo diet injections.

In the beginning, Jinkee was hiding from Manny her trips to Belo because she didn't think he would approve of the procedures. Jinkee just didn't know how her husband would react. But having gained a lot of weight while pregnant with Princess, she knew she had to seek the help of Dr. Belo six months after giving birth.

Jinkee scheduled her smart lipo while Manny was in the US training. Little did she know that her bodyguard (who is Manny's cousin) already told the champion boxer about the procedure. "Manny calls the bodyguard when I don't answer the phone," reveals Jinkee. Manny, however, didn't

tell Jinkee that he knew.

Weeks later, Jinkee flew to America to keep her husband company. Manny's first reaction upon seeing his wife the first time after the smart lipo: "Ang sexy mo, ah." Sure, he knew she underwent a procedure, but he didn't expect his wife's body to be that shapely. The result: Jinkee got pregnant not long after with Queenie, their youngest child so far. But we hear that Manny wants two more kids. "Four is enough! I don't want anymore," protests Jinkee.

But what does she have to worry about? Dr. Belo will always be there to assist her with her weight loss anyway, I tell her half jestingly. "I know she will always be there for me and on my part I am Belo forever," she answers smilingly, but later turns serious: "The problem is that we want to raise all our kids properly and if we had any more, I doubt if we'd be able to give them the attention they need."

I've always known that Jinkee is a sensible woman — way back five, six years ago during Manny's early triumphs and she would tag along with him during *Startalk* interviews. Manny is indeed lucky to have her. But did you know that not everything was rosy during the early part of their marriage? That and Jinkee's relationship with her in-laws, especially Mommy Dionesia, is up next in the concluding portion of this column on Thursday. ■



Jinkee Pacquiao now a poster girl for the Belo diet injections. Philstar.com photo

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