

VEGAS & STYLE

JOURNAL

Maricel's indie spirit

by MARINEL CRUZ
Inquirer.net

FOR her first solo feature, a comedy titled *Last Supper No. 3*, independent filmmaker Veronica Velasco got a big-name star like Maricel Soriano to appear for free.

"Maricel was very accommodating," Velasco told *Inquirer Entertainment*. "She came to the set prepared. She gave her input on the character no matter how minor it was."

Last Supper No. 3, which Velasco co-wrote with Jinky Laurel, is an entry to this year's Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival, which runs from July 17-26.

Velasco had previously worked with Soriano as lead actress in *Inang Yaya*, a film she co-directed with Pablo Biglang-Awa Jr. in 2006.

In *Last Supper No. 3*, not only Soriano, but



Maricel Soriano

Inquirer.net photo

veteran actors Ricky Davao and Liza Lorena agreed to work without charging talent fees.

Velasco recalled that Davao got lost and was stuck in traffic on his way to the set in Arroceros, Manila, but still arrived on time. "He plays a policeman here and he gladly gave suggestions on wardrobe and acting in particular situations," said Velasco.

"Ms Liza said she was happy we shot her scenes near the LRT," added Velasco. "She has never ridden the train before. After work, I asked one of our staff members to ride with her."

No small role

Velasco has nothing but praises and gratitude to these actors. "They showed us that there's really no such thing as a 'small role,'"

Continued on PAGE B2

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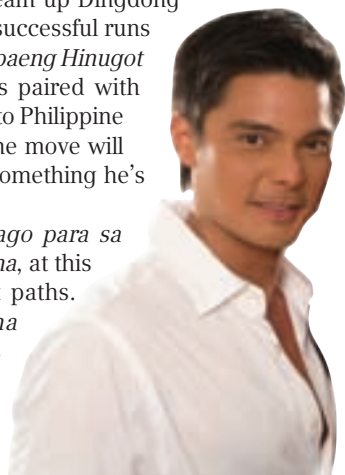
Dingdong Dantes prepares for new TV

ONE of the most in-demand young actors today, Dingdong Dantes, is set to star in a television series based on the Korean hit drama *Stairway to Heaven*. Dingdong will play Cholo (originally played by Korean actor Kwon Song Woo), and this will mark Dingdong's foray into Korean teleserye territory, which has been quite popular lately.

The new series is also set to team up Dingdong with a new leading lady after the successful runs of *Marimar*, *Dyesebel*, and *Ang Babaeng Hinugot Sa Aking Tadyang* where he was paired with Marian Rivera. Dingdong reveals to Philippine Entertainment Portal (PEP) that the move will take time to get used to, but it's something he's prepared to do.

"Siyempre, malaking paninibago para sa akin yun. But we have to accept na, at this point, we have to take different paths.

Pero naniniwala naman ako na magkakaroon pa kami ng projects in the future. Basta sa ngayon, pagbutihin na lang natin ang mga nangyayari ngayon," he says. ■



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