

VEGAS & STYLE

JOURNAL

Ruben Nepales elected to board of Golden Globe award-giving body

RUBEN V. Nepales, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer's* Only IN Hollywood columnist and Los Angeles correspondent and a contributing editor of *Balikbayan*, *The Asian Journal's* new magazine, was elected to the board of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), the group that votes on and presents the prestigious Golden Globe Awards for excellence in film and television every January.

The HFPA recently made the announcement following the association's annual election meeting. Nepales, the first Filipino member in the 60-plus history of the HFPA, will be serving his first term as a member of the board of directors of the group of international journalists. He joins Jorge Camara, who is chairman and has just served as president, Ali Sar, Theo Kingma, Armando Gallo and Frances Schoenberger (alternate) in the new board.

Also elected were Philip Berk, president; Hans Spurkel, vice president; Jack Tewksbury, treasurer; and Meher Tatna, executive secretary.

Nepales, who holds an AB degree in Communication Arts from the University of Santo Tomas, is profiled in the June 2009 issue of *Balikbayan magazine* (www.balikbayanmagazine.com). In his column that appears Friday to Sunday in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, Nepales writes about the year-round press conference-style interviews with Hollywood and international film and TV talents that he attends as an HFPA member, set visits and film festivals. He also makes it a point to spotlight Filipino talents making it in the global entertainment stage.

The new officers and directors will be honored in the annual HFPA installation luncheon, at which time the group makes its annual donations to non-profit organizations and film schools. The success of the Golden Globe Awards has enabled the non-profit press organization to donate over \$8 million to entertainment-related charities, fund scholarships and other programs. HFPA's international philanthropic efforts have been



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[Showbitz!]

Geneva is Philippines' sexiest vegan



GENEVA Cruz was hailed as the Philippines' Sexiest Vegetarian Celebrity for 2009 in the month-long contest conducted by the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

The singer-actress who was a vegan—since she was 15—bested out other Filipino celebrities, which include Lougee Basabas, Yasmien Kurdi, Chin-Chin Gutierrez, Raymond Bagatsing, Cory Quirino, and Alicia Mayer.

Cruz topped the list after Filipinos worldwide voted on PETA's month-long contest, which officially ended last May 29. After the voting, one winner was declared for each country, and two overall winners are declared for each region.

"For me, being vegan is not

about the diet. It's really about my love for all creatures," Geneva said.

The online poll also revealed that Taiwanese singer-actress Barbie Hsu is considered Asia's Sexiest Vegetarian woman for 2009, and Bollywood superstar and heartthrob Shahid Kapoor as Asia's Sexiest Vegetarian Man.

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