



*Hi!*  
**Society**

By MONET LU

## Ruffa & John Lloyd: Love under fire?



**Sherry, Long Beach CA:**  
*Tama naman si Annabel. Concerned siya sa anak nya. She's also been traumatized sa mga pinagdaanan ni Ruffa noon. You can't blame a mother for reacting this way.*

**Madam Eliza Blue, Fortune Teller, Glendale CA:**  
*Nauulit na naman ang destiny ni Ruffa sa love. Tulad ng kay Dennis Da Silva na ngayon ay nasa katauhan ni John Lloyd Cruz. Mukhang ngayon, hindi na mapipigilan ito. Kahit pa ng kanyang ina. Ito na ang nakakatak sa kanyang palad.*

**Oliver Carnay, Talent Manager, LA:**  
*Why not? I think it's exciting for Philippine movies. As a loveteam, Ruffa and John Lloyd make a great pair. We all know na pigilan mo man, mangyayari pa rin ang mangyayari. The heart wants what it wants...*

**Kath, Cerritos CA:**  
*Ruffa is an independent, strong woman. She should follow her*



heart. She still looks youthfully beautiful! *Bagay sila ni John Lloyd. We should let them be, if the rumors are indeed true.*

In conclusion, I'd like to print the comment of Ruffa herself, which she sent to me via text message. This was dated May 30, 2009 right after John Lloyd Cruz made a statement to the news.

Ruffa: *Whew! At last nagsalita na si John Lloyd tungkol sa issue sa amin. He cleared my name from the break-up, defended me sa mga*

malicious na mga balita na puro KASINUNGALINGAN and even praised me that I'm not that type of girl. I already had respect for JL as an actor but more so now as a person dahil hindi siya nakilalaro sa mga nag-iintriga. Wala siyang pakialam sa sasabihin ng iba... he was serious and answered straight to the point. Secure kasi sa sarili niya and sa posisyon nya sa industriya.

*Salamat John Lloyd at pinagtanggol mo ako ng kusa sa mga maling balita. Isa kang tunay na gentleman. Thank you!*

All we can do now is stay tuned, if or when there are developments to this speculated love story.

In the meantime, I'm inviting everyone to attend Ruffa's birthday bash on June 28 at the CBS Lot—New York St (4024 Radford Ave Studio City CA). It's a fashion soiree and fundraising event for Ruffa's Roof-A-Child Foundation. There will be world-class performers, celebrity guests and great food. Tickets are selling fast. Reserve yours now by calling 1-888-MAGANDA. ■

## Showbitz!

From PAGE B1

### Paula Taylor makes RP film debut with Vic Sotto as leading man



ONE of the most recognizable faces in print and TV ads these days is making her Philippine film debut with one of the most charming leading men in the big screen. Popular international commercial model Paula Taylor was handpicked by top comedian/TV host Vic Sotto for *LOL (Love On Line)* to be directed by Tony Reyes.

Paula is originally from Australia but is currently based in Thailand. In fact, she was in Thailand when she learnt from her agent in the Philippines that she was chosen by Vic to star in the movie, and she instantly said yes because the project interested her and also because she loved working in Manila.

"I've been coming here for a long time now for work, I love it here and I know a little bit of Tagalog," she tells *Philippine Entertainment Portal (PEP)*. Another thing she enjoys is the Pinoy food such as *sisig, dinuguan and sinigang*, her current favorite.

And it looks like Paula isn't blind to Vic's charms as her leading man.

"It's a nice experience [working with him] because he is nice considering he's like a superstar," she says. "He's down-to-earth and he keeps me alive. He's very charming in the sense that he looks after his co-star."

### Indie film wins raves at Manila's 14th French Film Festival



A scene from the film

LOCAL filmmaker Raya Martin is glad with the warm reception to his latest movie, *Independencia*, which recently held its premiere at the recently concluded French Film Festival in Manila last June 12 coinciding with the celebration of the Philippine Independence Day.

The young director was given a grant by the French government to make the movie set at the turn of the 20th century as the country is caught between Spanish and American occupation. The movie stars Tetchie Agbayani, Sid Lucero



'Independencia' director Raya Martin and Alessandra de Rossie. The well-attended screening makes Raya hopeful that RP movies will continue to thrive both in the Philippines and abroad, as proven by the recent win of Brillante Mendoza as Best Director for the 62nd Cannes International Film Festival for the movie *Kinatay*.

"*Alam natin, sa nagdaang tatlong taon, ang mga Pilipino ay parang hindi masyadong interesadong manood ng Filipino films. I think may revival ng ganung attitude, gaya nang dati, na gustung-gusto nating pumunta sa sinehan para manood ng pelikulang Pilipino,*" he tells *Philippine Entertainment Portal (PEP)*. ■

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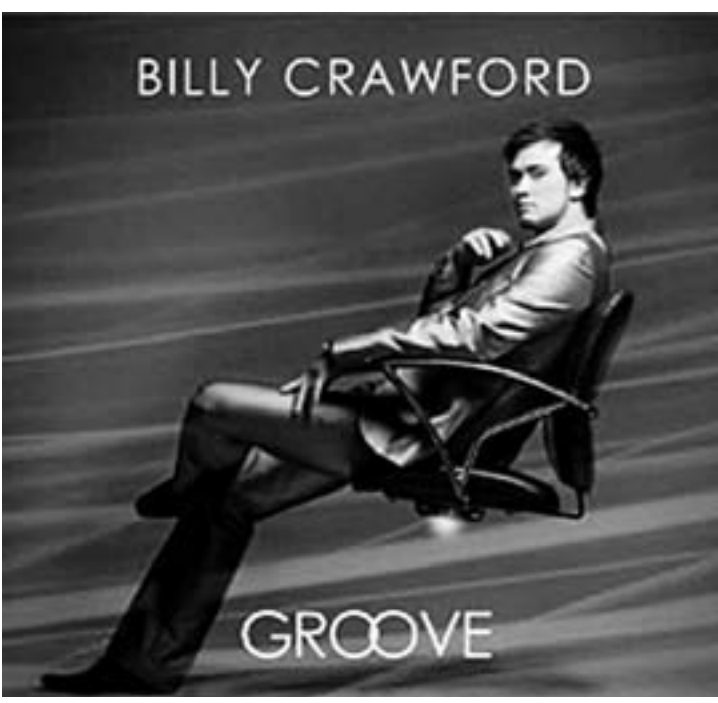
## SOUNDS FAMILIAR Billy Crawford grooves with the oldies

by BABY A. GIL  
Philstar.com

AT a time when CD sales are down, why do you think record companies still continue to spend a small fortune on packaging? Well, a nice album cover pleases the vanity factor in the artist and draws buyers while on display. And best of all, if the box is uniquely attractive, it keeps fans away from downloading or getting pirated copies. You get no CD case when you download and pirated CDs come with cheap desktop printed covers which make them look like what they are, stolen.

I thought about this when I got hold of Billy Crawford's new CD *Groove*. It comes in a celluloid box with a great photo of Billy. The kid is aging well. The former child star has stopped being cute and gracefully grew up a handsome young man. Nice. And that box would make a good display case for an action figure or two. Maybe I'll put in those little Pokemons.

I also thought of how Billy must



feel about *Groove*. He really has only two choices. One is frustrated and downhearted. This guy is used to working with originals. He sang and danced his way to the charts with some of the best producers and songwriters in Europe and the US. He has sold millions of albums worldwide and has Gold and Platinum awards to show for it. *Urgently In Love, Mary Lopez, Trackin', When You Think About Me, Steamy Nights* and *You Didn't Expect That* were among his big sellers. So what is he doing now, recording an album of covers?

On the other hand though, he must be feeling fulfilled and elated nowadays. Despite his big name out there, I cannot think of another country that would give him a chance to record these modern classics. Maybe they will do so in 20 or 40 years in some sort of retrospective, but not now save in this cover crazy country of ours. And Billy went all out with some of the most popular songs of recent times, tunes he grew up with, that he joyfully remembers and most of all that he had dreamed of also recording. ■

## Yes, Douglas is all that...

From PAGE B1

for whose company Douglas line-produced several hits, was overjoyed by the number of people who love Douglas... people from showbiz, politics, business, all sectors of society.

"*Ang daming nagmamahal kay Douglas,*" said Mother Lily who wore black for the first time (she's always in her signature white).

And they keep coming to bid Douglas a fond farewell in a light mood presumed to be what he would have wanted his last "get-together" to be, celebrated perhaps less with tears but more with recollection of beautiful memories and anecdotes about this man about whom nobody could say anything negative.

"He has no mean bone in his body," said talent manager June Torrejon. "He was there when you need him."

*Tempo* columnist Ronald Constantino said, "He was a good man, *mabait sa lahat lalo na sa mga bagong reporter.*"

Douglas was all that—and more.

Several years ago, I told him what a nice (read: expensive) bracelet he was wearing. "Try it," he said, putting the bracelet around my wrist. Before I could gasp, he added, "*Iyo na!*"

That was Douglas. With him, it was always "*Iyo na*" and never "*Akin na.*" He was that generous, very giving in every way, whether with his time, materials things and friendship.

So you want interview any of his talents (also including, among others, Anjo Yllana and brother Jomari, Janice de Belen and sister Gelli, Antonio Aquitania, Wendell Ramos, Jeremy Marquez, John Estrada and Nadia Montenegro)? He would arrange an appointment

for you posthaste. If you insisted, he would make any of his talents call you in a jiffy. In short, *hindi niya ipinagdamot ang kanyang mga alaga.*

When GMA offered me a show (*Showbiz Stripped* which metamorphosed into *The Ricky Lo Exclusives* that lasted for almost four years), Douglas became my self-appointed manager. Without my knowing it, he took the initiative of negotiating with GMA executive Wilma Galvante. Two weeks later, Douglas called and said, "Okay na." Playing innocent, I asked, "*Ang ano?*" He said, "*Ang lahat!*" Meaning, six suits from Randy Ortiz (thank you, Randy!), weekly supply of Bench shirts from Ben Chan (tsin to sia, Ben!) and, *ehem*, talent fee. And he never got any "commission" for that. It was all a labor of love, an act of selflessness and generosity that I can never thank Douglas enough.

If you count the petals of the flowers that adorn the dozens and dozens of wreaths leading to the three chapels at Heritage Memorial Park where Douglas Quijano lies in peace, smug with a pair of glasses (the better to see upclose the faces that look down at him), you multiply that a hundred times and you get an idea, as Mother Lily aptly put it, how many people love Douglas.

Up there, with his iPod on, Douglas doesn't need to call to find out who the stars in the blind items are. As a new arrival, he must be busy updating the likes of Charito Solis, Rita Gomez, Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, Joey Gosiengfiao and FPJ, and all the others who have gone ahead and must now be welcoming him with open arms, on the latest goings-on in the showbiz which they loved so much. ■