

SHOWBIZ & STYLE

JOURNAL

Sarah Geronimo sings to girl with cancer

by CARLA GOMEZ
Inquirer.net



BACOLOD CITY—A 13-year-old girl whose cancer has spread to her lungs smiled again for a brief moment last March 1 as her idol, singer-actress Sarah Geronimo, sang to her over the cellular phone.

Metos Lachica of the village of Don Salvador Benedicto, Pontevedra, Negros Occidental would have flown to Manila to meet Geronimo but this was ruled out because of her current state of health.

Instead, at 4pm Sunday, Metos got a call from Geronimo who asked her how she was.

On learning from Metos that her cancer had spread, Geronimo urged her to pray, after which she sang Lachica's favorite song *How Could You Say You Love Me*.

"I was so happy she called. And she even sang my favorite song," Metos said.

Geronimo also promised to give Metos a signed CD of her album *Just Me* and a DVD of her blockbuster movie *A Very Special Love* with John Lloyd Cruz.

Geronimo's call to Metos was arranged by Paul Moñozca, chairman of the Dr. A.B. Moñozca Foundation, through Millie Kilayko, president of the Suntown Camp Foundation, of which Metos is a member.

Metos is the eldest child of George, 38, and Mayleen, 34, Lachica. George is a laborer on a sugarcane farm and the couple has four children.

The cancer-stricken girl was named Metos because she was born on May 2, her mother said.

When Metos was in sixth grade in 2008, a lump appeared on her left foot and the doctors discovered that she was suffering from cancer of the bone.

In June, her left leg was amputated at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila but her mother said it was not until two months later that the child could undergo chemotherapy because they did not have the money for it.

Metos had to drop out of school and learn to get around on crutches.

But in recent months the cancer spread to her lungs, causing her to suffer excruciating pain in the chest, her mother said.

"Metos cries a lot. Sarah's call made her forget her pain. She smiled again," Mayleen said.

But the cancer made it difficult for Metos to speak so she could not say much to Sarah even if she was very happy, her mother explained.

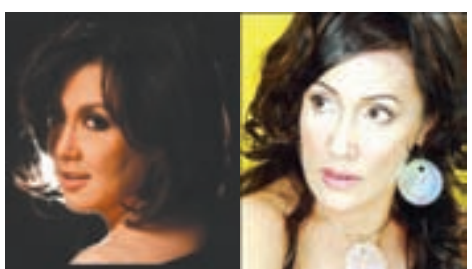
Since Metos was due for chemotherapy this week, Sarah's call would keep her happy and distracted from that, Mayleen added.

Moñozca said Geronimo's schedule has been very tight but she made time to call Metos in between tapings. ■

[Showbitz!]

Sharon Cuneta and Ai-Ai delas Alas ecstatic for first ever movie team-up

FOR the fans of Mega-star Sharon Cuneta and Comedy Concert Queen Ai-Ai delas Alas who have eagerly hoped for the two to appear in a movie together won't have to wait any longer. Star Cinema will bring the two together in its Mother's Day offering.



The film, to be helmed by box-office director Wenn Deramas, will be a "dramedy" which will co-star John Estrada, Candy Pangilinan and Chokoleit. Sharon Cuneta is over the moon with the opportunity to work with two of her favorite people in the industry.

"Dream come true *ito para sa akin. Kapapanganak ko pa lang (jokes). Hindi ko pa man gaanong ka-close si Ai noon ang lambot na ng loob ko sa kanya. Tsaka ngayon lang ako magko-comedy nang dire-diretso sa pelikula at ang kasama ko pa ay isang pro. Nung tinawagan ako ni Tita Malou (Santos, Managing Director of Star Cinema) na may movie ako kasama si Ai at si Direk Wenn, napatalon talaga ako," Sharon tells abs-cbn.com.*

On the other hand, Ai-Ai says that she is looking forward to working with the Megastar, although she is a bit nervous.

"Sobra akong na-overwhelm kasi si Megastar 'yan. Ngayon ko lang siya makakasama sa buong buhay ko," Ai-Ai says. ■

Eric Quizon returns to acting via GMA 7's new primetime soap

ERIC QUIZON, who has long been sorely missed in the showbiz industry, returns to acting through the primetime soap *All About Eve* for GMA-7 which will star Eula Valdez, Jean Garcia and Richard Gomez.

Eric has been based in HongKong for a while now, working as a house producer for the Chinese-owned company Spring Time Stage Production, but he was still active in a few projects back home, particularly when his dad, superstar comedian Dolphy, launched his biography and went on a US tour to mark his 80th anniversary in showbiz last year.

Although he has been granted with a permanent resident status in HongKong, Eric shared that the offer for him to go back into acting was something he couldn't say no to. It was Edlyn Tallada, an executive producer for the former fantaseryes *Darna* and *Majika*, where Eric also appeared in, who offered him the job, adding that they were willing to work around Eric's schedule so he could still continue to work in HongKong.

"I play Robert, the network president. *Anak ko si Mark Anthony Fernandez at ina ko si Carmen Ronda, na by the way looks good, ha. Ang ganda ng papel ko. Natanong ko nga si Edlyn, kung sakaling hindi ko ito tinanggap, sino ang second choice? Wala raw, ako lang daw ang choice, so talagang flattered ako," he tells Philippine Entertainment Portal. ■*



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Piolo on KC: I've become a fan

by BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
Inquirer.net

Piole Pascual has nothing but praises for KC Concepcion, his new leading lady on the forthcoming ABS-CBN series *Lovers in Paris*.

A day before this exclusive interview held at the launch of his latest

endorsement (for Blue Water Day Spa), Piolo had his first taping with KC.

Tough scene

Making things tough, their first scene together involved an emotional outburst. "I had to fire her and she had to cry. But she delivered and I was impressed."

He described KC as "refreshing" in a role that requires her to wear very little makeup. "She glows. She's more beautiful without makeup. I've become a fan," he enthused.

In a previous interview, KC related that

Piolo literally

"courted" her to convince her to accept the project.

"She doesn't have to do a soap," he explained. "It's a big challenge to be seen on TV every night. I simply told her that it'll be a good experience."

This adventure's highlight is a trip to Paris, where key scenes will be taped. KC finished college in Paris.



up," he recounted. "She's excited to show us around and take us to her school, her favorite park and café to the Louvre."

It will also permit them to do ordinary things like ride the Metro, the Parisian equivalent of the MRT.

As bonus, traveling will allow them to get closer—along with co-star Zanjoe Marudo. "There'll be no fans and press people watching our every move. We'll be more relaxed. We can be ourselves."

KC said that she learns a lot from Piolo.

"What's nice about Kristina (KC's real name)," Piolo said, "is that she's grounded."

She will never make you feel that she's the daughter of the Megastar (Sharon Cuneta). That she comes from a well-off family."

She makes him feel at ease, Piolo added. "At first, I thought I'd end up stiff or reserved around her but she was the first to break the ice."

After *Lovers in Paris*, next stop for Piolo and KC is a movie.

Looks like the heartthrob is out to give KC's erstwhile screen partner Richard Gutierrez stiff competition. As KC quipped on TV: "May the best man win." ■