

SHOWBIZ & STYLE

JOURNAL



Pia Magalona speaks about Francis while the Magalona kids looked on.

Tearful Mass on eve of Magalona burial

by THEA ALBERTO
Inquirer.net

QUEZON CITY — Family and friends of the late Francis Magalona gathered tearfully at the Christ the King Parish on Tuesday night for necrological services on the eve of the rapper's burial.

"I don't think I can let go. I wish that he was still here," she said.

The Mass was also well attended by people from show business and politics. They included Batangas province's Governor Vilma Santos, a former actress, and Gina de Venecia, wife of Representative Jose de Venecia, San Juan City Mayor JV Ejercito, vocalist Ely Buendia, singer-artist Jim Paredes, comedian Palito, actor Tirso Cruz III and others.

Earlier in the day, showbiz couple Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales gave their last respects to Magalona, who was known as King of Philippine Rap.

Malou Choa-Fagar, senior vice president of TAPE Inc, which produces the TV noon-time show "Eat Bulaga," of which Magalona was a host, tearfully recalled her almost decade-long friendship with Magalona.

"More than a TV program, more than work, Eat Bulaga is family," Fagar said in the eulogy.

Fellow hosts of the show — Vic Sotto, Joey de Leon, Pia Guanio, Jose, Wally, Paulene Luna and Ruby Rodriguez — among others looked on as Fagar read the eulogy.

Michael V, a comedian and Magalona's co-rapper, wept as he recalled his memories with the late artist — from video games they played, to comic books they shared, to what he said were the darkest moments of their lives.

He said, "Hindi ako makapaniwala na sa huling sandali ng buhay niya, nakatanaw siya sa langit; hindi ako makapaniwala na wala na siya ... sa dami at tagal ng ating pinagsamahan." "I can't believe that in his last moments he was gazing at heaven. I can't believe that his is gone ... because of the many things and the long time we shared together." Francis M, idol, brod, I love you so, so much." ■

[Showbitz!]

Judy Ann Santos and Ogie Alcasid's first movie team-up



MUCH sought-after movie actress Judy Ann Santos and acclaimed songwriter/singer Ogie Alcasid, both highly respected in their fields, will team up for the first time in a movie to be produced by Regal Entertainment.

The movie *OMG (Oh My Girl!)* will be a romantic-comedy to be directed by *Ploning* director Dante Nico Garica. It was actually conceptualized by Regine Velasquez, with whom Ogie has a romantic relationship with.

"*Ipinatawag kasi ako ni Mother Lily at sabi niya, gusto niya yung isang romantic comedy na isang ordinaryo guy falls with a beautiful girl,*" he tells Philippine Entertainment Portal. "*Gusto raw ni Mother, isang naiibang story naman. Yun, tinawagan ko si Regs, sabi ko, igawa niya ako ng story, pero wala pa akong leading lady. Sabi niya, 'Ngayon na ba?' Yes, sagot ko. Mag-iisip daw siya. Maya-maya, after five minutes, sabi niya, meron na raw. Ang bilis!*" ■

Eraserheads' second reunion concert makes RP music history

THE Eraserheads' second stab—and probably last—at a reunion concert held last March 7 at the SM Mall of Asia Concert Grounds in Pasay City is definitely one for the music history books.

Attracting a crowd of over 100,000, The Eraserheads played their popular hits, opening their set with *Magasin*, with lead singer Ely Buendia addressing the crowd during song breaks. The concert was highlighted by the video from MTV Philippines featuring old clips of the band taken during the height of their success in the 1990s, various MTV appearances and interviews mixed with current ones in connection to the reunion concert.

While there were many moments in the concert which made fans long for the good old days when the band was intact and was dishing out one hit after another, the most heartfelt would be the band's tribute to Master Rapper Francis Magalona, who succumbed from complications due to leukemia the day before the concert. Francis M was supposed to make an appearance at the concert to perform *Super Proxy*, which they first collaborated on for the band's hit album *Cutterpillow* in 1995.

"*Ide-dedicate namin yung buong show sa kanya para may soundtrack siya sa paglalakbay niya, maliban sa kanta niya,*" Eraserheads guitarist Marcus Adoro told Philippine Entertainment Portal before the concert. ■

Geoff Eigenmann goes back to GMA-7

GEOFF EIGENMANN returns to GMA-7, where he was originally a part of until 2004, via SRO Cinema Serye. Geoff appeared in some of ABS-CBN's top-rating teleseryes, including *Hiram* where he first gained massive popularity. His last teleserye for the network was *Lobo* with Piolo Pascual and Angel Locsin.

However, Geoff's current manager, Perry Lansigan, is quick to point out that there is no issue between Geoff and ABS-CBN, insisting that Geoff had a good working relationship while he was still with the network.

Despite the network transfer, Geoff is still set to shoot a film for Star Cinema, ABS-CBN's film production outfit. The new film will also star Maja Salvador, Shaina Magdayao and Jake Cuenca. ■



Ogie on 'split' with Regine: 'So funny'

by GERRY PLAZA
Inquirer.net

MANILA — "That's so funny," singer-composer-actor Ogie Alcasid said in a short message to the Philippine Daily Inquirer in denying reports that he has separated from girlfriend Regine Velasquez.

Even talent managers of both Alcasid and Velasquez denied this.

"Not true," said Leo Dominguez, Alcasid's manager when asked by the Inquirer about the reports. In addition, entertainment reporters said they spotted "Ogie last Saturday and sensed nothing (wrong)."

For her part, Cacai Velasquez, sister and talent manager of Regine, told the Inquirer in a separate message that the reports were also "not true."

Reports reaching Inquirer.net from insiders in GMA Network said there was talk about the separation.

Other sources claimed that this was the network's strategy to draw attention away from the controversy between talent manager Annabelle Rama and network executive Wilma Galvante.

The ongoing word war between Rama and



Galvante had escalated from their differences over the network's relationship with Rama's talent, JC de Vera.

Rama had threatened to pull De Vera out after she alleged that Galvante threatened her ward with legal action over plans for him to appear as a guest in a TV drama series in rival network ABS-CBN.

Galvante denied the charges and said it was Rama who had been "pressuring GMA production personnel" with unrealistic demands on casting concerns.

According to a statement from the network, a settlement on De Vera was reached Monday with the intervention of GMA

Network's president and chief executive officer Felipe Gozon, who met with Rama. De Vera will remain a GMA 7 artist and appear in an upcoming sine-novela. ■

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