

A Season Long...

the whistle on the overheated real estate market. There were short-term, hefty profits to be made at the time and everyone, individuals and institutions, got in on the act, fueled by the human emotions of fear and greed. Over and over again in the last few centuries, FEAR AND GREED have driven the markets and these will continue to do so as long as our DNA wiring remains the same. And over and over again, as we move to recovery, the lessons will be forgotten.

For things to normalize, experts say real estate prices must come down to a sustainable level. Banks have to go back to the basics in lending to only those that can truly afford it — what used to be a ratio of 22% to no more than 33% of gross income. Integrity and common sense among the captains of industry in the financial markets must reign supreme again. Government must back off, or at the very least, rethink and redraw its

policy of socialized housing, which forced banks to lend to those who could not afford it thereby causing the subprime mortgage mess.

For a consumer society, this downturn can have disastrous results. If those who are able to influence this trend, do not have the courage and the moxie to undertake course correction immediately, all dire predictions will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Or we can bank on the certainty that there is an ebb and flow, a night and day to life. There is the principle of "Horror Vacui" or that nature abhors a vacuum. There will be a new season that will come out of this, perhaps on the proviso, that we learn something from this.

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The advantages of...

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In the midst of mending a broken heart

Pops Fernandez Joins Divas4Divas on March 21

by BOBBY T. YALONG

THE Philippine concert stage has been prevalently ruled for more than a score and five years by none other than the Concert Queen herself, Pops Fernandez, until an ambitious project of gigantic proportion surfaced in the midst but never dislodged her from the "throne" she's been reigning for years... instead, involved and honorably billed her along with three other equally established artists; the Pop Diva Kuh Ledesma, the Divine Diva Zsa Zsa Padilla, and the Asian Songbird Regine Velasquez, in an almost unimaginable casting coup — the DIVAS 4 DIVAS Concert!

Pops Fernandez has already proven her worth and status as a performer not only in the local front but across the seas as well... globally recognized, that is. Her new-found fame enabled her to work with practically every top artist in the business and working together with her equally popular male counterpart, Martin Nievera, didn't only demand her professional involvement but also uncontrollably captured her heart.

After their harmonious togetherness in the TV show Twogether, (which replaced the long-running evening dance program, Penthouse Live!), the twosome played and shared sweet music privately which was romantically punctuated with an altar-bound interlude. After painting an enviable picture of a young couple reaping success and an outpouring idolatry from adoring fans, the supposedly promising marital bliss was inevitably spoiled by an irreconcilable matter that prompted them to go on their separate ways in 1998 after having two sons, Robin and Ram.

Her firm belief to her creed readily guaranteed a strong hold to the principle she's fighting for. The call of professionalism exemplifies how truly dedicated she is to her craft and her being in the state of single motherhood awakens even the least active senses of her being.

Despite the painful separation from Martin, experience taught her how to channel it positively that gave her more leverage before the cameras... her acting showed intensity and depth, immense strength in her conviction, heart in her delivery and substance in her total womanliness. Pops' internal reinvention impressively resulted to her winning a Best Actress award for Linlang from Famas and a Best Supporting Actress award for Zsa Zsa Zaturnah from Urian. Her assignments noticeably turned daring and off-beat than the usual sweet-sweet roles... that she even mustered enough courage to pose for FHM's October

2006 cover as if to prove that she could still give fresh corners a run for their money.

These sorts of life's aspects aptly developed her total persona. Her vocal range attains a wider range and getting richer and getting sultrier with the passing of time specially when she renders ballads or belts out hits with infectious beats... there are always the



prevalent qualities in them: emotional depth, effortless rendition and artful expressions.

Then comes Divalicious, the Concert Queen's most touted show last year to celebrate her 25 years in the business she has loved. Not even having fully enjoyed its unprecedented success, "Divas 4 Divas" keeps the indefatigable Concert Queen's schedules hectic and loaded due to the almost hard-to-refuse commitments the four of them tried to meet.

Pops' lovelife was triggered by another blow lately, just a few weeks after her Valentine show Missing You at the Big Dome with estranged hubby, Martin Nievera and produced by her current beau, Jomari Yllana. For whatever reason or cause of the break-up is yet to be openly known or maybe, far from being resolved as both parties refused to talk.

But Pops, after a couple of weeks, showed an unaffected front and refuses to tell and dwell on the matter. Having been in similar

situations twice or three times in the past, the lucky-in-career-but-not-in-love chanteuse could still manage to smile despite an aching heart. With shattered emotions, Pops remains unperturbed and "unaffected" and her pains don't show... not even a hint or suspicion would give away her feelings when she takes center stage and deliver what's expected of her... doing what she does best— performing!

Be part of the DIVAS 4 DIVAS show when they perform with Gabby Concepcion, Philippine cinema's come-backing matinee idol of the 90's, as their special guest.

Be there and witness for yourself another historical event as the DIVAS 4 DIVAS magic unfolds before your very eyes when MPG Global Productions, LLC brings to fore this entertainment package at the Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 8:00 PM.

Tickets are still on sale and priced at: \$68.00, \$88.00, \$108.00, \$128.00, and \$150.00 for VIP Section. For online tickets: www.ticketmaster.com or Tiketanonline.com or call the Boardwalk Box Office at 1-800-736-1420.

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