

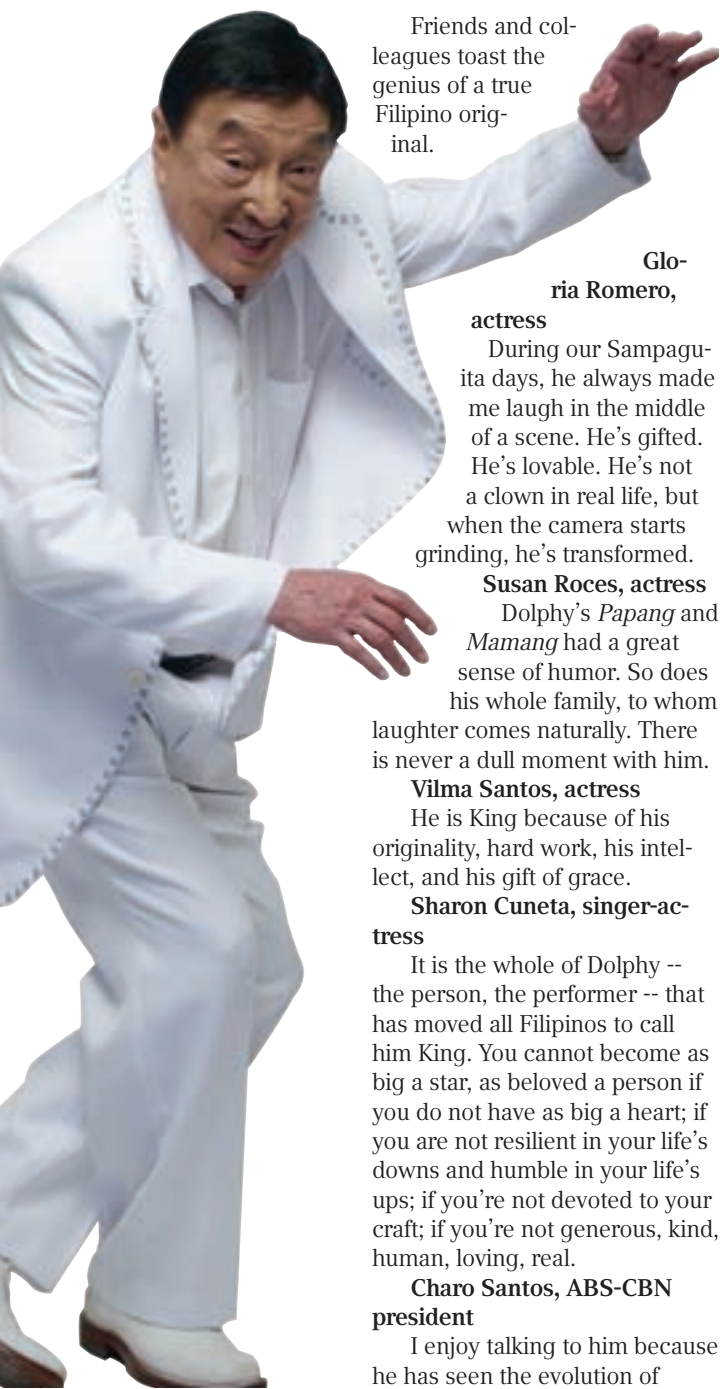
SHOWBIZ & STYLE

JOURNAL

Toast to a true Pinoy original

by BAYANI SAN DIEGO
INQUIRER.NET

AFTER almost six decades of entertaining Filipinos, King of Comedy Dolphy reinvents himself as a drama actor in the forthcoming ABS-CBN soap *Utoy*. In this series, he plays a Gepetto-like character to Makisig Morales' Pinocchio.



Friends and colleagues toast the genius of a true Filipino original.

Gloria Romero, actress

During our Sampaguita days, he always made me laugh in the middle of a scene. He's gifted. He's lovable. He's not a clown in real life, but when the camera starts grinding, he's transformed.

Susan Roces, actress

Dolphy's *Papang* and *Mamang* had a great sense of humor. So does his whole family, to whom laughter comes naturally. There is never a dull moment with him.

Vilma Santos, actress

He is King because of his originality, hard work, his intellect, and his gift of grace.

Sharon Cuneta, singer-actress

It is the whole of Dolphy -- the person, the performer -- that has moved all Filipinos to call him King. You cannot become as big a star, as beloved a person if you do not have as big a heart; if you are not resilient in your life's downs and humble in your life's ups; if you're not devoted to your craft; if you're not generous, kind, human, loving, real.

Charo Santos, ABS-CBN president

I enjoy talking to him because he has seen the evolution of

entertainment.

Ai Ai de las Alas, comedian

He is one of the kindest people I've ever met. Humble, sincere, never hides anything. And he's the first one to approach you pa nga in public.

Vic Sotto, comedian

He has improved on and polished what he learned from the masters. He has captured the hearts of Filipinos because they relate to his characters.

Epy Quizon, son

No other comedian in the world has consistently provided his audience with humor for six decades. And he's still at it. He's funny because he knows the language of the streets.

Gil Portes, director

Dolphy was anointed King by his peers. It's the dream of every comic in the country to follow in his footsteps. Working with him in *Markova*, I was humbled by his humility and respect for fellow workers. He listens to directions without the arrogance of other pseudo superstars.

Tony Y. Reyes, director

He is King and Cupid. Upon seeing him, you will laugh and fall in love. When I worked with him in *Dobol Trobol*, I found him lovable and witty. He's the best when it comes to reacting to his co-stars' jokes.

Eugene Domingo, comedian

Dolphy is King because he has done stage, radio, television, movies. His charm and versatility are evident in the roles he has played. My favorites are *Jack & Jill* and the classic *John en Marsha*. Apart from comedy, he also does drama well. His work in *Ang*

Tatay Kong Nanay is remarkable.

Jinggoy Estrada, senator

No one can take his crown. He has perfect timing. And when he delivers his lines, he's unafraid to look funny.

Bong Revilla, senator

He is real and sincere. His humor comes from the experiences of the common tao. It's not forced. He mirrors our lives and allows us to laugh at ourselves.

Bibeth Orteza, biographer

Look how like a king Dolphy walks. How regal. His demeanor, as if to the (manor) born. In fact, the man was born poor. But he hasn't forgotten his roots. He shaped his comedy from his beginnings. He is loved because he gives love. Small wonder his audience crowned him King.

Elwood Perez, filmmaker

Dolphy's humor, in its many incarnations from Glory of the Morning Sunset (*Jack & Jill*) to John Puruntong (*John en Marsha*), has resonated in the Pinoy spirit for generations. As an artist and a personality, he has panache -- which those who trailed him sorely lacked, and which those who are now at the forefront of the medium would do well to emulate.

Caridad Sanchez, actress

He can make people laugh or cry. I was lucky to work with him in the 1970s.

Raymart Santiago, actor

He's in the same league as FPJ (Fernando Poe Jr.) -- respected because he is not just a good actor, but also a good man.

Claudine Barretto, actress

Tatay is a legend. No one can replace him. His ideas are

[Showbitz!]

After a successful US tour, Rufa Mae comes back with a controversy

AFTER her successful stint in the United States with comedian Pooh, Rufa Mae is back in the country and is already facing yet another hullabaloo in her career. This time Rufa Mae is drawn in her alleged feud with her co-host in GMA's *Showbiz Central*—Mo Twister.

The supposed feud between the two *Showbiz Central* hosts started because of Rufa Mae's alleged involvement in the controversial breakup between Doctors Vicki Belo and Hayden Kho.

This issue was said to be because of Mo's previous statements regarding his comments on the Belo-Kho separation.

"*Hindi rin dahil bakit ako magtatanim ng sama ng loob... magkakaroon ng feeling na hateful sa isang tao, alam mo yun, dahil sa kanya? Hindi na rin, 'no' I don't mind, I don't care. I just don't care about him. I don't like him. I like him as ano...as co-host. 'Kala ko okay naman, mabait naman siya. And mahilig naman siyang mag-sorry, maglambing* after. Pero this time *siguro*, let's leave it at that," Rufa Mae said after being asked how she feels towards Mo.

When *The Buzz* hosts asked the actress to leave a comment on her co-host, the actress just exclaimed, "*Naku, ayokong magmenseha sa kanya, 'no! Kaloka ka! Ang cheap-cheap mo!' sabi ni Rufa Mae, sabay tawa. 'Hindi, ang sama lang niya. Ang sama niya! Alam mo yun, nasasamaan ako. Bahala na siya sa buhay niya.'*"



original. I grew up with him on the set of *Home Along da Riles*. I saw first-hand how quickly his mind works.

Ruffa Gutierrez, actress

He's an original. Filipinos grew up watching him, from the lolo to the apo. Everyone loves and respects him. That's a true King.

ZsaZsa Padilla, partner

I performed with him during the *Dolphy@80 World Tour* last year. People all over the globe adore him! They find him funny because he is your typical Pinoy. You see in his characters someone you know -- your dad, brother, neighbor, husband or friend. I am forever grateful to be part of this extraordinarily gifted man's life and to be called his partner for life. ■

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