

Aljur Abrenica & Kris Bernal: 2009's Loveteam to Watch!

JUST how hot is the Aljur Abrenica-Kris Bernal love-team these days? To give you an idea, their series *Dapat Ka Bang Mahalin?* debuted at no. 2 in Mega Manila households - a phenomenal feat considering that the program airs not on Philippine primetime, but on the after-

The roles are really several steps up for the two who were first paired in teeny-bopper show *Boys Next Door*. They then co-starred in shows such as *Zaido: Pulis Pangkalawakan*, *Dyesebel*, and *Luna Mystika*.

Dapat

Ka



Bang

block.

The overnight ratings conducted by AGB Nielsen Philippines showed *Dapat Ka Bang Mahalin?* (with 22.1%) clearly beating its rival show (which only got 10%) - a testament to the excitement surrounding the first lead role of Aljur and Kris.

Dapat Ka Bang Mahalin? is the television adaptation of the 1984 hit movie of the same title, which starred one of the all-time most popular show biz loveteams in the Philippines, Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion. The series is about the trials that young lovers go through.

"Sobrang excited kami, at kinakabahan," Kris told interviewer Jason John S. Lim in an interview for igma.tv. She adds that there is indeed a lot of expectations surrounding this remake. "Dahil itong movie na 'to, naging best actress pa po dito si Sharon Cuneta, lat' isa pa ito sa mga naging paborito niya."

Mahalin? is the couple's biggest break in the Kapuso Network. As expected, both are not taking the responsibility of leading a show lightly. Not only do they make sure that they thoroughly study the entire script, they also call each other to get pointers on how they can make the scene work when they feel that a scene would be particularly challenging for them.

The hard work seems to pay off. Their co-star Ara Mina can attest to that. Ara, who plays the manipulative rich woman who is out to steal the heart of Aljur's character, said in an interview during the show's launch, "I'm happy with Kris and Aljur, kasi nakikita ko 'yung chemistry nilang dalawa. And sabi ko, malaki ang mararating nila, lalo na kung pagbubutihin nila 'yung trabaho nila."

Catch more of Aljur and Kris from Monday to Friday 7:10pm PDT and 10:10pm EDT only on GMA Pinoy TV. Call your preferred pay TV operator now to subscribe.

(Advertising Supplement)



Francis M, the Man from Manila, gone at 44

FRANCIS M succumbed to death in the morning of March 6 after almost seven months of battling with leukemia. He was 44.

The Master Rapper's passage was announced by Vic Sotto on *Eat Bulaga* on GMA Pinoy TV, a few hours after he was declared dead at Medical City, Pasig. Francis was one of the noontime show's co-hosts since 1997.

It was August of last year when Francis was diagnosed with leukemia, which was eventually confirmed to be Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML) with Mixed Lineage (MLL), one of the graver kinds of cancer of the blood. Since then, he underwent four Chemotherapy cycles, the fourth being the last one he blogged about.

The Magalona family brought Francis' remains from Funeraria Paz in Araneta Avenue to Christ the King Memorial Chapel in Greenmeadows, Quezon City to give the fans their last chance to see the famous rapper. Among the celebrities who were seen at the funeral to grieve with Pia and their eight kids were close friends Michael V., Ogie Alcasid, and Joey de Leon.

After five days, Francis' body was cremated in the morning of March 11. The cremation was preceded by a necrological service, which was attended by close family, relatives, and friends. His ashes were laid to its final rest at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City

on the same day.

Francis M. started his career in the showbiz industry back in 1984 when he starred in the movie *Bagets 2*, following his parents' (Pancho Magalona and Tita Duran) footsteps. But it was in 1990 that he made himself known as a rapper-composer when *Mga Kababayan* was released in the airwaves. Among his other hits were the nationalistic *Tayo'y Mga Pinoy* (1992), a Heber Bartolome original, and *Kaleidoscope World* (1996), which won an Awit Award Best Produced Record of the Year. It was Francis who is said to have opened the doors for Hip Hop in the local music scene, therefore earning the name "Master Rapper."

He proved that he was worthy of the title when he produced five more albums - *Happy Battle* (1996), *The Oddventures of Mr. Cool* (1998), *Interscholastic* (1999), *Freeman 2* (2001), *The Best of Francis M* (2002), plus the single *Pambihira Ka Pinoy* in 2004. Undeniably influential to not one but multiple generations, Francis M. was awarded the Generation Award by MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards in 2006.

Francis' nationalism was never confined to music. In 2006, Francis launched his own line of clothing tagged "3 Stars and a Sun," with which he declared "I'm ready to defend the 3 Stars & a Sun" - his own battle cry for the nation. During his burial, family and friends wore his shirts as their declaration to continue Francis M's short-lived legacy.

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Calzado and Sunshine Dizon clash onscreen once more in GMA Pinoy TV's All About Eve

AFTER a clash in GMA Pinoy TV's phenomenal GMA hits *Encantadia* (2005) and *Impostora* (2007), Iza Calzado and Sunshine Dizon are back, sharing the screen and each giving memorable performances in the new Kapuso series called *All About Eve*.

The series, a Filipino adaptation of the popular Korean series, is a riveting story of love, friendship, fame, and rivalry brought to life by a fine ensemble of actors in the Philippines - Iza, Sunshine, Richard Gomez, Jean Garcia, Alfred Vargas, Mark Anthony Fernandez, Eric Quizon, Celia Rodriguez, Keempee de Leon, Ina Raymundo, Gabby Eigenmann, and Eula Valdez.

All About Eve tells of two generations of women turned from friends to rivals because of love and ambition. First, it was Katrina (Jean Garcia) and her best friend Alma (Eula Valdez). Katrina was in love with handsome and wealthy Frederico (Richard Gomez). But his mother intervened and married him off to Lisa (Ina Raymundo). Frederico and Katrina then had an affair, to which Alma strongly opposed.

Frederico's wife Lisa dies under mysterious circumstances and Katrina was sent to jail for it. While in prison, Katrina gives birth to Erika (Sunshine Dizon), her daughter by Frederico. While Katrina was in jail, Alma, who became Frederico's secretary, falls for Frederico. They get married and Alma gives birth to Nicole (Iza Calzado).



Both Nicole and Erika grow up to be smart, beautiful, and assertive. They also share the same dream, that of becoming the country's most famous broadcast journalist. And so, their paths cross and they become fierce rivals.

Their rivalry is not just professional, it's also personal as they begin competing for the love of two men - Warren (Alfred Vargas), an aspiring photographer, and rich kid Kenneth (Mark Anthony Fernandez).

Will Nicole survive Erika's revenge and machinations? Don't miss the enthralling new series from the Kapuso network - *All About Eve* - airing Monday to Friday at 7:40pm PDT and 10:40pm EDT only on GMA Pinoy TV. Call your preferred pay TV operator now to subscribe. ■