

SHOWBIZ & STYLE

JOURNAL

Sarah Gets Hefty Bonus

by DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
Inquirer.net

BOSS Vic Del Rosario of Viva Films refutes allegations that their major star Sarah Geronimo got only 500K as talent fee for her two blockbuster movies, *A Very Special Love* and *You Changed My Life*, both joint productions of Star Cinema and Viva.

A production insider says Boss Vic added enough moolah to make Sarah's fee equal to her co-star John Lloyd Cruz. The amount remains undisclosed. He also gave Sarah a hefty bonus.

Boss Vic wouldn't have lasted in the biz for so long if he didn't know how to take care of his wards and compensate them properly. Viva la Viva! ■



Sarah Geronimo

VIEWFINDER

Welcome departure from cynical TV shows

by NESTOR TORRE
Inquirer.net

LIFE has become so challenging and complicated that some people have stopped believing in miracles. Instructively, however, others believe fiercely in miracles—because life has become so challenging. When all else fails, despite the wonders that man's technological wizardry has effected, God is still the answer—even when, for some, He's also become the question.

Huh? How can these conundrums and seeming contradictions exist side by side, in push-me-pull-you fashion? That's both the question and the answer. Put more succinctly, the question and the answer are one.

These admittedly befuddling thoughts come to mind, because we've just caught the premiere broadcast of *Chances Are*, QTV's

new show about seemingly inexplicable events and encounters in people's lives, telecast Monday nights.

Hosted by the agreeably low-key Paolo Abrera, the show is a welcome departure from all of those hard-edged and cynical "reality" programs on TV. In fact, *Chances Are* can also be described as a "beyond reality" show, because it looks beyond actual and physical limits, to the less quantifiable but decidedly still essential possibilities of life.

Once in an inspiring while, those possibilities become moving and transforming actualities, contra mundum and all of the carefully calibrated rules of the "real" world, and those rare epiphanies help us comprehend the true parameters of existence.

The first *Chances Are* telecast focused on the case of a young

boy who was grievously ill for 17 days, apparently expired for 45 minutes, then came back to life. While the program scrupulously included the doubting comments of some doctors, it was clear that, if it wasn't absolutely miraculous, the boy's unusual experience was definitely wondrous—and wonderful.

Thus, the feature achieved the show's intention to inspire viewers with life's unexpected possibilities. What made the feature less of a total thrill was the program's admission that the boy's case had already been touched on by Jessica Soho in her own TV program.

We were also a bit disappointed that the entire telecast of *Chances Are* focused only on the boy's experience. As a result, our interest level dropped after a while. Perhaps, the program would be more eventful

and absorbing if it featured two wondrous events or encounters per week?

On the whole, however, we found *Chances Are* a welcome addition to our local viewing fare, because it reminds us that life is more than just what we see, touch and experience. In this sometimes dismayingly cynical age, we need all the upbeat and possibility-expanding *Chances* we can get!

Perfect resource person

A bright spot on radio was provided last month by the dzMM program *Music & Memories*, co-hosted by Boots Anson-Roa and Willie Nepomuceno.

We've caught portions of the show in the past, but we really gave it a good, long listen that Sunday, because the special guest was Jose Mari Chan.

Mari turned out to be the perfect resource person for the "musical nostalgia" program, because he not only sang snippets of the many popular songs he's composed since the 1960s, but he was also very knowledgeable about other local and foreign songwriter's works.

He was such a fount of knowledge that he even contributed interesting anecdotes about specific songs. As a result, many listeners contacted the program to express their delight and gratitude for a most eventful musical afternoon.

Boots and Willie were also at their best, adding to the information Mari provided, interacting with callers, and contributing their own musical anecdotes, highlights and sidelights.

Other musical savvy people who should guest on the show include Mitch Valdes, Behn Cervantes, Ryan Cayabyab, Edmund Sicam, Willy Cruz, Rico J. Puno, Joan Orendain, Andy Bais, Lyn Pareja, Fritz Ynfante, Basil Valdez, Joey de Leon and Leo Rialp. ■

[Showbitz!]

Gretchen Barretto releases second album

CONTROVERSIAL actress and TV game show host Gretchen Barretto premiered her new music video of the Barry Manilow original hit *Ready To Take A Chance Again*, the carrier single for her new album *Complicated*, under Star Records at a recent episode of *The Buzz*, where she was subjected to the *Tough Ten* segment for the show. Her new album is her follow-up to the 2008 *Unexpected* under the same label. *Complicated* has three different covers and contains 14 songs.



The name of the album came naturally for Gretchen, as it is no news that her personal life has had its share of drama. So when asked by host Boy Abunda why she thinks love is complicated, Gretchen was quick to reply.

"*Pag yung sitwasyon* complicated to begin with, *nagiging* complicated *yung love*. *Kailangan kasi buo ang loob mo*. *Pag mahal mo ang tao*, you'll really fight for it. You go for it."

Gretchen also shared that marriage for her is important as she tells Boy, "I live for the moment when I will finally say I do." ■

'Zorro' duo is New York-bound

STARS of GMA 7's *Zorro* Richard Gutierrez and Rhian Ramos are scheduled to spend their Holy Week in New York. Speaking with Philippine Entertainment Portal during the recent launch of the fragrance line for a clothing company, Rhian shared that she is excited for her upcoming trip as it will be her first to the US, adding that Richard, who has been to the US many times but not New York, is excited as well.



"*Marami kaming places na gustong puntahan doon*. *Ako*, I want to see Central Park *kasi ang ganda-ganda raw doon*. *Tapos magpapa-picture kami sa Times Square at gusto ko rin sumakay ng ferry boat papunta sa Statue of Liberty*. And I want to taste *din yung sikat doon na Gray's Papaya*. It's a famous hotdog restaurant *na ang sarap-sarap daw*," she says.

Rhian is also looking forward to shop at the stores which are widely known in the city.

"*Kaya nga tayo nagwu-work para ma-enjoy natin ang mga pinagpaguran natin, di ba?*" she says. ■

Jake Cuenca's career skyrockets



JAKE Cuenca is relatively new in the business but it seems that the teleserye *Tayong Dalawa* has skyrocketed his career. Before *Tayong Dalawa*, Jake was well-known as Roxanne Guinoo's ex-boyfriend. But with ABS-CBN's *Tayong Dalawa*, Jake has proven himself a formidable dramatic actor, and the reception has been very warm so far.

"I just want to thank all the people who support us *kasi talagang ginagalingan po namin*. *Araw-araw nagpupuyat kami*. *Binubuhos namin ang pawis at dugo sa proyektong ito para sa inyong lahat*. *Kasi talagang alam namin na maganda ito at nakakatulong ito sa mga buhay ng mga sundalo*. *Nakaka-inspire sa kanila*. *So, malaking responsibilidad sa amin lahat yun*. So, we do our best every day," he tells Philippine Entertainment Portal. ■

Dollywood Inspired madness

by DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
Inquirer.net

SINCE it's April Fools Day, I cornered John Estrada and asked him about the naughtiest prank he ever pulled. "I gave a Breitling watch to a close friend," John revealed. "But I didn't tell him it was fake. When the watch stopped, I told him to go to Lucerne to have it checked. That's when he found out it was fake. But he kept arguing with the people there that it was real because it came from me. *Di niya*

akalain na magreregalo ako ng fake (laughs)."

Here's to an April-full of foolish little things. We all need some inspired madness every now and then.

Singled out

Even if Precious Lara Quigaman was not included in the Bb. Pilipinas '09 tribute to *Pinay* beauty queens who brought home the bacon, she harbors no bitterness against Madame Stella Araneta, pageant head organizer.

"I will still be here to support the winners and I'm willing to train them if Madame asks me to," she says. "Despite their snubbing me, I am still a Bb. Pilipinas. Winning Ms International is something they can't take away from me."

Why wasn't she given due recognition in the pageant's tribute? "*Sabi eh dahil* I put up Turismo Pilipina pageant with two other beauty queens Karen Agustin and Denil Valmonte. *Baka nagtampo si Madame Stella sa akin*."

Is there anything she wants to change about Bb. Pilipinas? "They should stop sending the girls to Colombia to train. Let us take care of our own," she suggests. "Even



the making of gowns and national costumes should be assigned to local designers."

Maybe Precious Lara should do a Beyonce and sing ... "All the (not) single(d) (out) ladies, put your hands up!"

Attitude problem?

Janno Gibbs refutes allegations that he has an attitude problem and is perennially tardy. "I've long struggled with insomnia. Almost all my co-workers know that," Janno explains. "So I have a hard time getting up. But I'm



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