

# SHOWBIZ & STYLE

JOURNAL

**FUNFARE**  
by RICARDO F. LO  
Philstar.com

## Vilma feeling at home in Big Apple

IT'S as if Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos has never left home. While in the New York tri-state area (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut) shooting the Star Cinema movie *In My Life*, Vilma is with husband, former Senator and now NEDA head Ralph Recto, and children Ryan Christian and Luis Manzano who is also in the cast of the movie directed by Olive Lamasan. Luis plays Vilma's son having a discreet affair with another man (played by John Lloyd Cruz). Vilma's character will face a lot of problems after a tragedy happens. Also in the entourage is Vilma's Girl Friday/accountant Aida Fandalian.

Vilma feels right at home in New York where she has many friends and loyal Vilmanians led by Alan Trambulo who works as assistant manager of the Radisson Hotel located in Manhattan.

"She won't feel homesick here," Alan texted Funfare.

Slated for a September release, *In My Life* is Vilma's first movie after Regal Films' *Mano Po 3: My Love* in 2004 and also her first with Luis and John Lloyd. Asked in an earlier interview if Luis and John Lloyd

would have a kissing scene, Vilma said in jest that she would "save" Luis and do the scene herself with John Lloyd. The movie also stars Rafael Rosell, Vice Ganda, Nikki Valdez (based in Canada with her husband) and Tirso Cruz III (who replaced Edu Manzano as Vilma's husband, a "guest" role).

Shooting in the tri-state will take only three weeks, that's why the entourage is doing things almost non-stop. Last week in Connecticut, it rained but the shoot at a clothing shop



Luis Manzano, John Lloyd Cruz and Vilma Santos in New York City

went on. So far, they have shot scenes at the Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, New Jersey; and at the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island, New York.

"Ryan Christian is also a hit with the *Pinoy* fans here," reported Funfare's Big Apple correspondent Edmund Silvestre (of The Filipino Reporter). "Mukha daw 'chickboy' ang bata, like his dad. And he is matinee-idol material daw."

A 'surprise' bash for Ricky Reyes

Thursday night last week, Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando and her husband, MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando, hosted a belated "surprise" party for Ricky Reyes at their residence. Ricky's birthday is April 12 (which fell on Easter Sunday this year). He came with partner Cris Aquino (who manages TravelPros, his own travel agency).

Among the very few invited guests were Jullie Yap-Daza, Louie Cruz and GMA executives Reggie Magno, Darling de Jesus and Marivin Arayata.

Leny de Jesus (on guitar and vocals) led the original members of the Electromaniacs (but minus Jose Mari) in playing retro songs (Beatles, etc.) and, of course, the band's classic instrumentals like *I Miss You So* and *Lover's Guitar*.

Mayor Marides sang a few songs and so did Chairman Bayani who was in his Celebrity Duets element. ■

## [Showbitz!]

### Cesar Montano eyeing a gubernatorial post in Bohol in 2010

AFTER his unsuccessful bid for a senatorial post back in 2007, action star Cesar Montano will try his luck again in the political arena come 2010, this time eyeing a gubernatorial post in his home province of Bohol. Cesar, host of the top-rating game show *The Singing Bee* aired on the Kapamilya network, shared the news recently with ABS-CBN News.



Cesar Montano

"I have intention, pero of course *kailangan ko munang ayusin ang lahat*," he reveals. "Maraming questions na dapat sagutin, with my family, with my business associates at *sa mga trabaho ko din*."

While ruminating on his political plans, Cesar, who just received his college diploma from the Lyceum of the Philippines, hopes to pursue his long-time dream of becoming a lawyer and intends to keep himself busy with civic projects. Currently, he is involved with Panaghoy Children Foundation, which aims to provide education for the less fortunate children in his province.

"Ngayon what is important is 'yung Panaghoy Children Foundation na sana ay tulungan niyo kami," he says. "We have our web site, 'yong [www.panaghoy.org](http://www.panaghoy.org), you can help, you can send children to school, ito 'yong mga bata sa Bohol na hindi na kayang magulang mapag-aral. Matutulungan niyo sila sa Panaghoy Foundation. So bonus na lang 'yon kung makakatakbo tayo for whatever public office sa Bohol." ■

### Angel Locsin teams up with Gabriela



Angel Locsin

POPULAR young actress Angel Locsin proves there is more to her than meets the eye. Last April 23 marked a momentous event for the actress and in-demand product endorsers as she celebrated her birthday with Gabriela, the well-known organization which advocates for women's issues. Through an arduous selection process and with Gabriela's help, Angel was able to grant four deserving women with scholarships.

"Nakakatuwa rin," Angel shares with Philippine Entertainment Portal. "Sa konting panahong mabigyan mo sila kahit konting saya, magkaroon din ng chance na makatulong sa mga nangangailangan talaga. 'Yung may cause, hindi 'yung kiyeme-kiyeme lang. 'Yung may ipinaglalaban talaga, and I'm proud na maging part ng Gabriela."

Angel, who is currently busy with her new series, *Only You*, with Sam Milby and Diether Ocampo, reveals she has no plans of putting up her own foundation soon, but she is determined to continue to help those who are in need.

"Iba rin 'yung may sariling foundation. Pero sa ngayon, I'm happy na ganito. Tutulong-tulong lang sa kung sino ang feel ko na tulungan at gusto rin nila na tumulong ako," she says. ■

## Penang, a taste of authentic Malaysian Cuisine

THE moment you enter Penang restaurant, you are immediately greeted by their servers and warm smiles. The atmosphere is so cozy that you will definitely enjoy the food and each others' company. Their servings are big enough to satisfy your cravings for Malaysian food and the presentation is very creative. There are so many dishes to choose from that are affordable and if you cannot decide which to order, the servers are always happy to give some recommendations.

Speaking of recommendations, here are some of the dishes you might want to try. Start off by ordering the appetizer while waiting for the main course.

As the menu says, it is a must that you order Roti Canai which is the all-time favorite Malaysian crispy Indian-style pancake served with curry chicken as dipping sauce.

Another Malaysian specialty is the Penang Satay which is marinated beef or chicken on skewers, charcoal-grilled to perfection and served with peanut sauce.

The Honey Squid dish which is deep-fried tentacles with honey sauce is considered a favorite among the Filipinos who eat at Penang. Its perfect crispiness and spicy flavor is enough to get your appetite going.

Beef Rendang, beef cooked over low heat in coconut milk, lemon grass, spices (cinnamon & cloves), and chili paste, then simmered in a thick rich coconut curry and Mango Shrimp, sauteed shrimp with fresh slices of mango in Chef's special sauce are among the house specials that you might want to try.

If you love curry then you might want to try Pineapple Curry Chicken (beef or shrimp). You have a choice of chicken, beef or shrimp with fresh pineapple chunks, lemongrass, basil leaves and onion in a mild curry sauce served in a pineapple shell.



Penang Restaurant

Another option to the beef, pork and chicken dish is fish with the flavors of sweet, sour and spicy. A choice of Red Snapper, Tilapia, Stripe Bass, or Chilean Sea Bass is deep fried in a Chef's special sauce with red, green pepper and onion or simple called Pattaya Sauce.

If you have room for dessert, ice kacang is their version of halo-halo except that it is shaved ice with red bean, corn, palm seeds, jelly, red rose syrup and evaporated milk. Now that summer is in the air, this is a refreshing dessert to beat the heat.

The restaurant is big and spacious and can fit 100 seats perfect for meetings, birthdays, reunion with friends and family, and other special occasions. If you feel like hanging out, the bar is open Monday through Friday (Happy Hour 5pm-7pm). Penang has its own parking area in front of the restaurant and a public parking between Bethesda Ave. & Elm Street. Special lunch combo and menu is available from Monday-Friday at 11:30am-3pm.

Penang Malaysian Cuisine is located at 4933 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda, Maryland 20814. It is open daily from Monday through Sunday at 11:30am-10pm. For more information, visit their website at [www.penangcuisine.com](http://www.penangcuisine.com) or call (301) 657-2878, (301) 657-2875.

(Advertising Supplement)

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Honey Squid



Mango Shrimp



Pineapple Curry Chicken