

# SHOWBIZ & STYLE

## JOURNAL

### 'Boses' screening resonates in New York

by MOMAR G. VISAYA  
AJPress

**F**ILIPINOS in New York had a rare chance to watch one of the best films that came out in the Philippines in 2008, through the fund-raising project / movie premiere staged by the Assumption Alumnae Association recently.

The film is called *Boses*, and its director, Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil and star Ricky Davao graced the event at the St. Paul the Apostle Church near the Lincoln Center in Manhattan.

"This film project fell on my lap. It won in a scriptwriting contest and I found out that it was written by a friend. I asked him to show me his script because the deadline for Cinemalaya was fast approaching," Ongkeko-Marfil told the *Asian Journal*.

The director has been behind films and documentaries that focused mostly on the lives of people who have been marginalized.

"*Boses* is about the power of art to transform lives. This is my luckiest, of all the ones that I have done. Financially, I was able to gather funds. I was also able to

get the boy. I was about to give up. I told myself, if I don't find a young boy who can act well and play the violin as well, forget it. It's going to look so fake. And I found him," Ellen shared.

By him, the director meant Julian Duque, the real-life child prodigy who is the central character of the film. Duque effectively portrayed the role of Onyok, a mute, battered boy who had a hidden talent despite the fact that he has no acting experience prior to the film.

Born to a family of musicians, Julian's father is a guitar teacher at a special educational school for gifted children, and many of his cousins and uncles are also in the

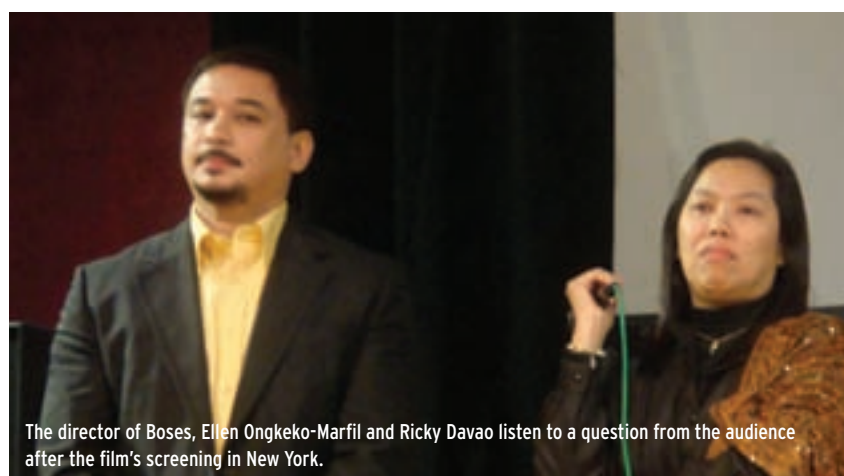
field of music.

Julian trained at Casa San Miguel in San Antonio, Zambales, a place for the children of fisher folks, farmers, mango pickers and other rural inhabitants of nearby towns to discover their varying talents and skills in music and the visual arts.

The family of Coke Bolipata, who also plays a crucial role in the film, established Casa San Miguel in 1993.

"He [Bolipata] contributed a lot to the script. He knows the life of an artist so the angst was there. And he was the one who recommended the boy," Ellen shared.

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The director of *Boses*, Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil and Ricky Davao listen to a question from the audience after the film's screening in New York.



Ricky Davao sings the classic song 'Manila' with the board members of the Assumption Alumnae Association Abroad. AJPress Photos by Momar G. Visaya

### VIEWFINDER

by NESTOR TORRE  
Inquirer.net

## Way to go, Judy Ann and Ryan

**M**ANILA—Many celebrity weddings are played for all of the gloss and glitter they're worth, with big-bang nuptial rites, multiple sponsors and, literally, a cast of hundreds. To their credit, Ryan Agoncillo and his bride Judy Ann Santos recently "dared" to flout that big-bash and big-deal stereotype, and opted for what may be described as an "anti-celebrity" wedding set, not at the Manila Cathedral, but in the relatively recondite parish church of the bucolic town of San Juan, Batangas.

80 guests

To uphold the solemnity and personal significance of the occasion, the couple did away with a lot of the attendant fuss and bother that weigh stellar nuptials down, starting with the hundreds of VIPs who "have" to be invited to weddings and receptions.

Judy Ann and Ryan pared their list down to only 80, even if it meant earning the ire of "important" people. Now, that took guts.

In addition, Judy Ann made sure her

estranged father was present, at the risk of offending her beloved mother. Happily, her mom later assured everyone she understood her daughter's need to be surrounded by her "complete" family on the important occasion, jokingly adding that she resisted the temptation to trip her former hubby up.

Levity aside, the "conflicted" nature of her parents' relationship may have been one of the reasons that Judy Ann opted to do away with the traditional march down the aisle, deciding instead to walk to the altar by her lonesome.

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Linda Limcaco (609)903-1123  
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Isagani Puertollano (Committee Chair)  
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