

SHARON CUNETA'S MEGATHIRTY TOUR 2009 : Mega in every way

by BOBBY T. YALONG

THE EAST COAST has recently been "showered" with a great number of entertainment productions which became much-needed *joie de vivre* in the midst of the the economic meltdown. After a series of successful shows by quite a number of popular talents from Manila (and other parts of the world), there's still a vacuum left void and empty that's wanting to be filled, a spot solely intended for one particular performer—a space meant only for somebody of galactic status... a specially carved bezel fitted just for a precious gem—like the Philippine showbusiness' one and only Megastar, Sharon Cuneta!

The Star

There were concerts, and there were shows, then here comes a much-awaited entertainment production with a gigantic headliner in the person of Sharon Cuneta and her equally marvelous guest, her Megadaughter KC Concepcion.

Beaming with pride and confidently emitting that certain measure of might only somebody of Sharon's magnitude could muster, the Megastar assures her fans and avid followers a great performance and an entertainment-loaded evening with an impressive repertoire of old, romantic, sentimental and even patriotic and novelty ditties.

"I have extensively prepared a diverse collection in my repertoire just to be able to meet everybody's musical preference. I want my songs to really reach out to all and in the process, be able to touch their own personal lives... even just through my kind of music!" Sharon sincerely states in jest. "In the course of my busy schedule, I want to take this rare opportunity to thank them for always being there for me... through thick and thin... so this concert is really for them."

After having had proven her worth as a singer (with 7 top selling singles, more than

38 albums, over 20 concerts and being recognized with numerous awards), as an actress (with 16 Best Actress Awards and a Grand Slam record holder for her role in *Madrista*), an outstanding TV host (with 5 Best Female TV Host awards), one of the most in-demand product endorsers (having been acknowledged as the Most Effective Product Endorser), and a dutiful wife to Sen. Kiko Pangilinan and responsible mother to KC, Frankie and Miel.

There has never been anyone else who seems to even (at least) be at par with the Megastar. Surely, it will take some time before another Megastar shines in the local showbiz firmament.

The Producer

Answering to the insistent demand and endless clamor of the concert-going public, MPG Global Productions, the same entertainment outfit that brought us the *Divas 4 Divas* Concert at the Atlantic City last March 21, once again brings another huge project that's worth-watching: Sharon Cuneta's *Megathirty Tour 2009* together with the current princess of the Philippine movies, KC Concepcion... plus a bevy of fresh and promising local talents.

"The upcoming Megathirty concert promises another evening filled with grandiose moments. It was my intention to at least duplicate *Divas 4 Divas* success in terms of quality show, attendance and box-of-

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'Boses' screening...

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Ongkeko-Marfil doesn't veer away from the traditional way of story telling, which made the film much simple. She took the story of a battered child and combined it with classical music, a combination that is rarely seen onscreen.

"I am not so much into experimentation. I am focused on the material but I am also focused on reaching the audience and making my film accessible," she explained.

Veteran thespians like Ricky Davao and Cherry Pie Picache shared their talent by essaying roles that ably supported the characters of the non-actors - Bolipata, who played Picache's reclusive brother Ariel and Duque, who played the role of abused child Onyok with

such intensity.

The film established that Onyok's character is unable to speak due to a physical trauma that damaged his larynx so he barely spoke a word in the entire film. What his character could not express in words, he relayed through his eyes and his music.

Duque's effective portrayal of Onyok earned him a Breakthrough Actor award from the recently concluded 6th Golden Screen Awards, handed out by the Entertainment Press Society (Enpress). Boses also brought home a lion's share of the awards: Best Film-Drama, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Editing, Best Musical Score.

Not bad for an indie film. "Boses is a blessing. There were other materials that I

submitted to Cinemalaya last year. This was the one which got the blessing of the universe. I am an advocacy filmmaker. I really believe in my messages. I believe in the power of art to be a tool in education," Ellen said.

Indeed, *Boses* has come a long way. The film has earned sought-after endorsements from film review boards, garnered critical acclaim from film critics and received popular praise from moviegoers and the film is now the advocacy film for UNICEF Manila's "Children Against Violence" campaign. Internationally, it screened at the Louis Vuitton Film Festival in Hawaii and at the Women's Film Festival in Los Angeles with a poem *Filipinas* written by Jose Palma in 1899. ■



AN ATE'S DILEMMA ON THIS SUNDAY'S CITIZEN PINOY! What do you do when your beloved little brother is in danger of having his case denied, shattering his "American Dream"? Dr. Frieda V. Brookshire (left), the Orange County dentist responsible for the dazzling smiles of divas Pops Fernandez and Kuh Ledesma, joins her brother Frederick (right) and "attorney-to-the-stars" Michael J. Gurfinkel (middle) for a heartwarming and informative episode. The most popular immigration program on television, Citizen Pinoy - airs this Sunday, at 5:40 pm (PST) with a replay on Wednesday, at 12:15 am (PST) on TFC. Citizen Pinoy also airs on ANC-US every Sunday at 12 am with replays on Sunday at 8 am and Thursday at 7 pm, all PST; and on ANC- Philippines every Sunday at 4 pm with a replay at 12 am every Monday (Manila time).

Way to go, Judy Ann...

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Another reason may have been that, at 30, she felt she had become her own person, so her solitary walk vivified this confident sense of being.

'Silent' coup

It was similarly heartening to realize that the Agoncillos' "secret" wedding couldn't have been pulled off without the cooperation of all of the people who had been invited to the wedding. In local show biz, it's unheard of that people keep secrets, so the fact that the "silent" coup was pulled off is a tribute to the love that their relatives and friends felt for the engaged couple.

For their part, Judy Ann and Ryan also earned the admiration of many for the creativity and brio with which they pulled it off. Instead of doing things by rote, they added personal touches to the occasion that made

it distinctly, feelingly their own.

It's just too bad that some people have been criticizing them for flouting the show biz-y baggage and adumbration that have weighed down so many celebrity weddings. Yes, stars "owe" their public and coworkers a lot, but they owe themselves—and deserve—much more.

No apologies

Before they became stars, they were persons. After their stellar careers ebb and eventually end, they will still be persons—so, they are entitled to uphold their personhood above all other considerations on one of the most significant days of their lives. Thus, they have nothing to apologize for, and it's their onion-skinned and sniffy critics who should be abashed.

The Agoncillos' desire to make their wedding rites their own gives us hope, because it indicates that we have some stars who don't allow their stardom to control and stifle them. ■

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