

SHOWBIZ & STYLE

JOURNAL

Martin in 'Vocal Soup'

With Susan Anton, Clint Holmes and Domenick Allen, June 19-21 at Suncoast Casino in Las Vegas

by RENE VILLAROMAN
AJPress

CONCERT KING Martin Nievera, who last starred in a Las Vegas show at Flamingo Hotel with singer Lani Misalucha, will be performing with established Las Vegas star performers Susan Anton, Clint Holmes and Domenick Allen next month. Asian Journal's community and the arts writer Rene Villaroman tracked Martin Nievera down in Manila and initiated an e-mail interview. The following are excerpts from that exchange:

AJ: When will this concert happen and what is the venue?

MN: This first time ever foursome, Clint Holmes, Domenick Allen, Susan Anton and yours truly, Martin Nievera, called *Vocal Soup*, will be at the Suncoast Hotel and Casino on June 19, 20 and 21 at 8pm. For tickets call (702)636-7075 or log on to www.suncoastcasino.com

AJ: Who is producing this show?

MN: This three-night concert is hotel produced and not by any independent or Filipino producer. The producer is the Suncoast Hotel and Casino.

AJ: How do you feel about this new gig, after a long hiatus from Vegas?

MN: Feels great to be part of the Las Vegas entertainment industry again, but what feels even better than that is being chosen to be part of this group in the first place. There are so many great and more popular singers in the Entertainment Capitol of the World so to be handpicked by a Las Vegas headliner like Mr. Clint Holmes is truly an honor.

I will share the stage with a man who owned the strip when he was a headliner over at the Harrah's hotel and casino for about 3 years straight until he decided to concentrate on an off Broadway show he wrote himself entitled, *JAM* or, *Just Another Man*. It's beautiful story set to original music written by Clint about his parents; his mom a white opera singer from London England and his dad a black jazz singer and their struggles living through prejudice, war and broken dreams.

I have idolized Clint my whole life as an entertainer on the strip, but what I didn't realize is that it was not just his obvious gift switching musical genres in a snap of

a finger while moving across the stage that got me to be a, "Holmes boy." It was his humility and class that stole my heart away. And what an entertainer! He is complete as complete can be.

He kinda reminds me of a Gary Valenciano mixed together with a Martin Nievera. You'll see...

Clint has many feathers in his cap, but I am sure he would agree with me that the feather that stands the tallest would be his discoverer Bill Cosby. Or maybe the time he got a standing ovation from Frank Sinatra himself. The stories Clint tells and the friend he has made through his musical journey will make your jaw drop. I should know because mine is still dragging on the carpet.

It was Clint Holmes who conceptualized, *Vocal Soup*, and all the ingredients in it. He told me his number one requirement was that the people he chooses have to be nice people. I am still wondering who backed out when I got his call. All jokes aside I am thrilled to be the only Filipino in this *Vocal Soup* mix and I hope to represent us to the best of my ability. I love Clint Holmes very much and my respect for what he stands for is forever.

AJ: How well do you know Domenick Allen of Foreigner?

MN: I have always been a huge fan of the rock band, Foreigner, and to sing harmonies and original songs written and arranged by a member of that legendary band will be more than just fun; it will be a total re-learning experience.

Being the former lead singer for Foreigner one would think Domenick Allen is all about rock and screaming guitar solos, but what I have learned is he is much more

than that. In fact if you were to ask me I would tell you he just dabbles in rock, because his knowledge of music and history of music is unmatched by anyone I know. His vocal range is from, "skyscraper high," to, "knocking on heaven's door high." He switches from Sinatra swing to Crosby Stills and Nash and Young faster than most people drive. Oh, and he can play any musical instrument ever created while frosting cream cheese on a bagel. Kaya mo yan? My hope is that his musicality will rub off on me.

With all of the above mentioned, the best thing about this rocker is he is the nicest guy you will ever meet. Ever! His values and life's passion never collide. When I grow up I wanna be just like him...

AJ: Tell us about your first meeting with bombshell Susan Anton.

MN: I sit closest to this bombshell beauty during every rehearsal. My fondest memory of Susan would be my first meeting with her. The first thing she ever told me was, "hey you really are short!" so with our friendship started. Now for more reason than what is obvious, I so look up to her.

I have never met a true life Hollywood actress let alone a Hollywood superstar. Her list of credits run off any bio sheet or resume, but what I love most about Susan is that even though her list of accolades is a mile long she remains unaffected and still very true to her craft.

She is the ideas girl and the first to raise her hand to say, "May I make a suggestion?" and more often than not she always has the best ones. (Ok, second to Clint) She has a beautiful soul and Clint and Domenick will agree with me when I say, "Susan has always been

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Martin Nievera during a presscon last year.

AJPress Photo by Rene Villaroman

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God, Sex and Blue Water

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
AJPress



NEW YORK – What happens when you bring an age-old religious tradition from the Philippines to the modern world of Hoboken, New Jersey? Conflict, one may say, and in Linda Faigao-Hall's play *God, Sex and Blue Water*, there's more than enough conflict among the characters to keep the play afloat.

Laling Kintanar (Lydia Gaston) and her daughter Clarita (Leanne Cabrera) move to Hoboken from an island around Cebu in the Philippines to

live with Laling's brother Max (Andrew Eisenman). Devout believers, mother and daughter bring with them their religious beliefs and idiosyncrasies, including Laling's self-crucifixion, much to the consternation of her now Americanized brother Max.

The virginal Clarita left the convent as a novice and in more ways than one, she gets culture-shocked the moment she steps on American soil. A dashing young American man named Ryan McCarthy (Brian Andersen) enters her life and makes it just a little bit more complicated.

Clarita gets smitten with Ryan and thinks that she might be falling in love with him. Her personal conflict is two-fold, one with her mother, who doesn't like the idea of her falling in love this soon; and the other with Ryan because she is keeping a big secret from him, a secret too huge she fears he won't ever understand. The fact that Ryan is agnostic makes their relationship more challenging and Clarita begins to question if God intended for her to meet him so that she could change the way he thinks, and not the romantic way she had hoped.

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SEX VIDEO ROW

Katrina Halili: Hayden Kho will pay

by TETCH TORRES
Inquirer.net



MANILA – Actress Katrina Halili said she would make beauty doctor Hayden Kho pay over the release of a video of their intimate moments on the Internet so that other women will not suffer the same fate.

"Dapat magbayad siya. Para hindi na gawin ng ibang lalaki sa amin, sa mga babae na wala nang mabiktima [He should pay so that men will not do the same to other women, so that there will be no more victims]," Halili told reporters as she was leaving the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

"Hindi ako uurong. Napakawalanghiya niya. Hindi ko sila uurungan [I will not back down. He has no shame. There's no turning back]," she said.

Halili sought the help of the NBI to determine what case could be filed against Kho.

"Gusto ko nang lumaban kasi ayoko

nang maulat ang mga pangyayari, sobrang pambababoy [I want to fight back. I don't want this humiliation to happen again]," she said.

"Hinaharap ko itong kahihiyang ito para lang matapos na... Ayaw ko nang maulat sa akin ito, kasi kahit anong ingat, kung may lalaking intensiyon nilang gawin [I am facing this scandal to get this over with... I don't want this to happen to me again. Now matter how careful you are, some men are determined to do it]," she said.

In a privilege speech on Thursday, Senator Ramon Revilla Jr., sought the revocation of Kho's license as he decried the release of the doctor's sex video with Halili.