

Megastar Sharon Cuneta and KC Concepcion take center stage

May 31, Sunday at the NJPAC Prudential Hall in Newark, NJ

by BOBBY T. YALONG

There's nothing but only one most-awaited event slated to unfold on Sunday, May 31, 2009 this side of the East Coast. All wheels and GPS units simultaneously veer towards the NJPAC Prudential Hall in Newark, New Jersey for Sharon Cuneta's *Megathirty Tour 2009*.



Tensions and excitements are enormously building high at this instance for the producer and enthusiastic fans, respectively. Last minute ticket sales registered a record high that lightens MPG Global Productions' almost surmounting worries... thus only proving the Megastar's undiminished box office appeal.

Even in the early phase of her veritable career spanning three decades, Sharon Cuneta has proven herself worthy of the endearment and unconditional support accorded her by her millions of adoring fans and avid followers. She is one shining star that doesn't glitter from the merits of other source but merely by the prolific talents that profusely emanate from within her.

Sharon Cuneta never fails to induce excitement and curiosity each time she performs for her fans

across the seas... although she has nothing more to prove her worth and unparalleled versatility.

"I always feel indebted to all my fans and loyal followers who never cease to support me even in those trying times... and now, they're also there for KC. That's why I always strive to have something new to offer in my every performance... my peculiar way of giving back. They deserve all the best I could deliver." Was Sharon's sentimental pronouncement in an impishly humble manner and sincere tone that deliberately contributed to her being catapulted to such megastar status.

"This time, I'm just too eager to perform for them again after a long absence. I promise to give them the best entertainment they truly deserve... they are definitely a part of my *Megathirty Tour*

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THE UNSTOPPABLE POP PRINCESS SHINES ON CITIZEN PINOY THIS SUNDAY! One of the biggest names in Philippine entertainment - "Pop Princess" Sarah Geronimo (2nd from right) joins "attorney-to-the-stars" Michael J. Gurfinkel (right) for an entertaining and informative encore episode. Sarah's parents, Delfin (left) and Divina (2nd from left) also take part in the lively discussion as they talk about how they got their US visas. 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).

CITIZEN PINOY LIVE IN THE BAY AREA ON MAY 31! Kapamilya from the San Francisco Bay Area are invited to be part of the live studio audience of Citizen Pinoy on Sunday, May 31st at the ABS-CBN Global Studios at 150 Shoreline Drive, Redwood City, CA 94065. Tapings will be at 12nn; 2:30pm; and 4:30pm. Leading US immigration attorney Michael J. Gurfinkel will be there to answer your immigration questions and provide relevant information that you will find useful. As a public service from the TFC and the Law Offices of Michael J. Gurfinkel, seats are FREE, but you need to reserve now at www.citizenpinoy.com or you may call toll free 1-866-487-3465. (Citizen Pinoy - airs every 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.)



'Citizen Pinoy': Live in the Bay Area on May 31

REDWOOD CITY - As ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel (TFC) celebrates its 15th year of committed service to the global Filipino, *Citizen Pinoy* embarks on its eighth season of public service to Filipinos around North America and their families back in the Philippines - by giving them valuable immigration information that could eventually help in reuniting them with their loved ones.

As it opens its new season, the most popular immigration program on television returns to the Bay Area to provide answers to your (immigration) questions. Kapamilya from cities surrounding the San Francisco Bay Area are invited to be there at any of the three scheduled live studio tapings on Sunday, May 31st at the ABS-CBN Global Studios at 150 Shoreline Drive, Redwood City, CA 94065. Tapings will be at 12:00 noon; 2:30 pm; and at 4:30 pm. Leading US immigration attorney Michael J. Gurfinkel will be there to listen to your immigration concerns & provide relevant information that you will find useful. As a public service from the TFC and the Law Offices of Michael J. Gurfinkel, seats are FREE, but you need to reserve now at www.citizenpinoy.com or you may call toll free 1-866-487-3465.

Citizen Pinoy's new season is sure to provide more relevant immigration information to our "kapamilya" viewers. For several years now,

the program has constantly been a genuine commitment to public service on the part of ABS-CBN International's The Filipino Channel (TFC) and the Law Offices of Michael Gurfinkel. TFC subscribers and their families and loved ones around the world benefit from the helpful advice and counsel learned from the show.

Citizen Pinoy is made possible with the support of friends who are committed to giving back to the Filipino community: Asian Journal -- with circulation in Northern and Southern California, Nevada, and in the East Coast and Arko Foods of Glendale. *Citizen Pinoy* is also supported by ABS-CBN Global's key product offerings: Star Kargo, Starry Starry Store, ABS-CBN Telecom and TFCDirect.

Informative. Entertaining. Inspiring. Tell your family and friends around Northern California who have immigration concerns to reserve their seats now and be there when *Citizen Pinoy* returns to the Bay Area on May 31st at the ABS-CBN Global Studios in Redwood City.

Citizen Pinoy - airs every 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). ■

Philippine Cinema has arrived

IN A STUNNING dark horse triumph, Filipino filmmaker Brillante "Dante" Mendoza won the Best Director prize for *Kinatay* at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival on Sunday, May 24. Mendoza's 2008 film *Foster Child* is the Centerpiece Film of the IndioBravo Filipino Film Festival in New York City on June 11-14. The festival is presented by the IndioBravo Film Foundation (www.indiobravo.org), in partnership with GMA Pinoy TV (www.gmapinoytv.com) and GMA Life TV (www.gmapinoytv.com/life). Mendoza bested past Oscar and Cannes winners, like Taiwan's Ang Lee, Spain's Pedro Almodovar, New Zealand's Jane Campion, Denmark's Lars von Trier, and the United States' Quentin Tarantino. Mendoza's triumph was regarded as a surprise because this year's competition was touted by Variety as the "biggest heavy-weight auteur smackdown in recent years."

As the first Filipino to win the Best Director prize in Cannes, he joins the list of revered filmmakers who have won the coveted prize, including Martin Scorsese, Ingmar Bergman, Francois Truffaut, Luis Buñuel, Robert Bresson, Costa Gavras, Bernard Tavernier, Werner Herzog, Robert Altman, Joel Coen and Gus Van Sant.

Tarantino himself, whose entry *Inglourious*

Basterds was also panned by critics, singled out *Kinatay* as "extraordinary." He attended the red-carpet premiere of *Kinatay* himself, giving Mendoza a 10-minute standing ovation. He told Metro, a French newspaper: "I'd gladly defend *Kinatay*... it reminded me of Brian de Palma."

In justifying their picks, jury president & award-winning French actress Isabelle Huppert said: "We found ourselves being attracted to the same films... movies that deserve to get the world's attention."

Mendoza related: "Isabelle Huppert told me that, from start to finish, she couldn't take her eyes off my film."

Richard and Mary Corliss of *Time Magazine* called Mendoza "the forlorn hope of Philippine cinema."

Kinatay chronicles a day in the life of a young police officer that begins with his wedding and closes with his involvement in the rape, murder and hacking into pieces of a prostitute. "This is not just entertainment, these kinds of stories are real," Mendoza said.

IndioBravo Film Festival is also presented in cooperation with its Online Media Partners, *Hyphen Magazine*, Planet Philippines, Inc. and STIR.ph, and its Premium Media Sponsor, Asian Journal.

Buy your tickets now to *Foster Child* and 14 other critically acclaimed Filipino features at www.indiobravo.org. Purchase tickets online before May 29 for \$12.50 to regular screenings (\$15 after May 29). ■

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31TH ANNUAL SANTACRUZAN CELEBRATION - JERSEY CITY, NJ The Catholic Action of Mary's (CAM) Santacruzan in Jersey City is the largest and longest running Santacruzan in the tri-state area. The 31st Annual Santacruzan Presentation Ball was held on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel, Newark, NJ. Fr. Victor Kennedy, the Resurrection Parish Pastor, expressed his appreciation to the community for the efforts put together to make the celebration possible, while the Santacruzan Executive Chairperson, Ledy Almadin, invited everyone to come and join in celebrating the Santacruzan and Flores de Mayo just like in the Philippines. The Special guest speaker was Consul Leandro B. Lachica of the Philippine Consulate General of New York.



FACES OF POVERTY. During the "Faces of Poverty" photo exhibit at the Philippine Center in New York City last May 22, 19 extraordinary images, taken by photographer Jerry Garcia, of the poor in the Philippines were unveiled by 19 people. Above are two of those who unveiled the pictures, Deputy Consul General Melita Thomeczek, left, and Paul Verzosa, council candidate in Union Township, NJ. The event was sponsored jointly by Couples for Christ NJ and Gawad Kalinga (Northeast).

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