

# SHOWBIZ & STYLE

JOURNAL

## Arnel's latest journey: Peacemaking



Arnel Pineda

by TONETTE OREJAS  
Inquirer.net

ARNEL Pineda has taken on a far bigger role on top of being the lead vocalist of the American rock band Journey. The singer-songwriter's latest passion: Peacemaking.

"I introduced myself as one of their biggest supporters in bringing about peace," said Pineda, the United Nations' newest ambassador of peace, referring to his encounter with "bakwit children" or young people who fled the war in Mindanao and forced to live in an evacuation center in Sarangani.

"I'm amazed that they were able to survive the hostilities. We shouldn't expect that peace is easy to come by in Mindanao or in other parts of the Philippines. Alongside this, land and livelihood should be provided to our Muslim and Christian brothers and sisters. I'll do my bit in helping end the violence there," he said in a recent visit to the Clark Freeport.

Pineda has been sharing the message of unity in this new journey.

"No one is big or small. We are all significant. Let's join hands so we can attain peace and progress," he said.

Taking on the peace cause is Pineda's way of "being Filipino" as he shines in the

international music scene.

"Mapagmahal at mabuting Pilipino [Affectionate and a good Filipino]" was how Charito Planas, executive director of the Nayong Pilipino, introduced Pineda to the *Aeta* people who gathered during the launch of the *Aeta* Village at the park's extension in Clark.

### Hard times

Born to *Kapampangan* parents in Sampaloc, Manila, Pineda worked on the streets at a young age after his mother's death and the family was mired in debt. He sold scrap bottles and metals, and later cleaned ships docked at a pier in Manila.

In those hard times, he kept his optimism high until he found his break in local music circles.

"I'm proud to be a Filipino and I encourage you to be proud of our being Filipino," Pineda, 41, told the young *Aeta* people from *Barangay* (village) Sapang Bato in Angeles City.

For Pineda and other guests, members of the tribe performed the *duroro* (prayer hymns to Apo Namalyari, the deity of Mount Pinatubo), *matubag* (war dance) and *atang* (offering).

Pineda lit the bonfire that signaled the community dancing. He sang two songs for them

as gratitude, wishing he could learn their tribal music soon.

"I'm very grateful to them. *Kung hindi sa kanila, hindi mayaman ang kultura ng Pilipinas* [If not for them, our culture would not be rich]," he said.

Aside from living traditions, the village features *Aeta* survival skills in hunting, mountain living and fire making.

The people not only built four houses there on funds provided by the provincial government. They also planted vegetables in every available space.

The *Aeta* Village occupies a northern corner in the 3.5-hectare park that showcases pre-colonial and colonial times in the country's history. Its addition completes the pre-colonial section.

It also features replicas of the Ifugao rice terraces, *Kalinga* houses and *Maranao Torogan* homes.

### No dole-outs, please

Wyda Cosme, the first *Aeta* law graduate, said people helping the tribe survive should avoid giving dole-outs. "The help we need are the kind that will enable us to stand on our own feet," Cosme said. "Farming assistance is one of them." ■

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## A foodie made 'Litsonero'

by BAYANI SAN DIEGO, JR.  
Inquirer.net

IN making *Litsonero*, filmmaker Lore Reyes' intent was to have a Filipino version of the Oscar-winning Danish movie, *Babette's Feast*.

"A movie that celebrates food and family," Reyes said. That's because he is one mean foodie.

As frequent collaborator and fellow filmmaker Peque Galлага noted, "Lore is a fantastic cook—Filipino cuisine at its best!



He whips up delicious *pata tim* (pig knuckles) with star anise. Super *sarap!*"

Reyes admitted, "I have really unhealthy recipes—for example, *bulalo* steak. But my real specialties are ordinary *Pinoy* dishes like *sinigang* and *adobo*."

For his latest movie, which he also wrote, Reyes zoomed his digital camera onto a staple *Pinoy* fiesta fare: the *lechon* or roast pig.

"As far as I know, this is the first movie on the *lechon*," he said. "From my research, I realized that *lechon* has become symbolic for Filipino families. Even if times are hard, *lechon* on the table signifies some prosperity."

On the set of *Litsonero*—one of six movies in the ongoing *Sine Direk* series in SM cinemas—there was a *lechon*, courtesy of Lydia's, every day throughout the 11-day shoot.

"We had to document every step of the roasting process, starting with scrubbing [the carcass]," Reyes recounted. "I asked the *litsonero* from Lydia's: If we interrupted the roasting, would we still get a perfect *lechon*?"

### Yes, of course

Apparently, the answer was yes. At the end of every day, cast and crew feasted on the star of the shoot.

Reyes said the biggest problem was getting the

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## Korea-winning Filipino film premieres in NYC

A DIFFERENT kind of Filipino drama—a subtle yet powerfully moving story about a young woman coming to terms with a terminal illness—is premiering in New York City on June 11 at the Museum of Modern Art after garnering raves from festivals abroad and bagging the coveted Audience Award in South Korea's Pusan International Film Festival, one of the most high-profile fests in Asia. The film *100* is the Opening Night Presentation of the first annual IndioBravo Filipino Film Festival, alongside the Spanish-era romantic epic *Baler*.

Starring versatile actress Mylene Dizon—who has won two Best Actress awards for her understated, gripping performance—the film *100* asks: "What would you do with 100 days left to live?" Mylene plays Joyce, an executive who is so much of a control freak that she makes a power point presentation for her own wake—and crams as much living as she can into a wall of post-it notes. Do karaoke in front a live audience in a Malate comedy club? Check. Seduce married neighbor? Check. Do a late-night *Ate Vi* movie marathon? Check. But can Joyce find deeper meaning, and face those she's left behind, before she peels off the last post-it?

Raucous, thought-provoking and touching, director Chris Martinez drafts a memo for viewers to lead their lives, rather than the other way around. It is a testament to Martinez' talent that he is able to deftly handle the sensitive subject matter without resorting to cheesy melodrama or slapstick. The supporting cast is uniformly stellar, including Tessie Tomas, Eugene Domingo and Ryan Eigenmann. It's no surprise that *100* virtually swept all the major awards



The cast of '100' Tessie Tomas, Mylene Dizon and Eugene Domingo

at the 2008 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival in Manila—including Best Director, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress and the Audience Choice award—along with the gay satire *Jay*, IndioBravo Film Festival's Closing Night Selection.

Mylene will be flying in to New York City to attend the Philippine Independence Day Celebration on Sunday, June 7, and the red-carpet premiere of *100* on Thursday, June 7. She will be joined by Chris Martinez and Marlon Rivera, the film's producer. The red-carpet premiere will be followed by an after-party at Nikki Beach (151 East 50th Street between Lexington and Third Ave.) which is free for those who attend the premiere. The IndioBravo Film Festival is in partnership with GMA Pinoy TV and GMA Life TV. For tickets, visit www.indiobravo.org or call 1-800-838-3006. ■

## Charice's song cracks Billboard Hot 100

AFTER Manny Pacquiao's win over Ricky Hatton in the much-anticipated Las Vegas boxing match last May 2, there is another one who is bringing pride to the Filipinos. Charice, the young Filipina singer who charmed the likes of Oprah Winfrey and Ellen DeGeneres last year and became a worldwide singing sensation practically overnight, released her first single, *Note to God*, in the US last May 18 and entered the Billboard Hot 100 chart at No. 44.

*Note to God* is composed and written by the award-winning Diane Warren and is produced by David Foster. Charice debuted the single by performing it on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* last May 18, coinciding with its release for digital download. *Note to God* immediately entered the iTunes and Amazon.com's best-selling singles charts.

Charice is signed up with Warner Bros. Records in the US and is currently working on her album, due for release before the end of the year. *Note to God* will premiere in radio stations in Metro Manila within this week. ■



Charice

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