

FRIEDA BROOKSHIRE, DDS

Former Ms. Body Language is now Beautiful Smile Diva!



Hi!
Society

By MONET LU

AFTER a while of being out of touch, I got the chance to bond recently with Dr. Frieda Brookshire at the California Wok in Los Alamitos with other friends.

I even admitted this to her *na medyo nagtampo ako sa kanya ng konti kasi matagal ko din siyang iniimbitahan na mag get-together to no avail*. But, such is the life of a busy doctor.

My connection with Dr. Brookshire started when she was nominated as Woman of the Year during Reflections 18 a few years back.

Needless to say, she's a phenomenal Prosthodontist. Just look at the brilliant smiles of Ms. Kuh Ledesma and Ms. Pops Fernandez. That's the Dr. Brookshire brand.

During our outing, we had some enjoyable conversations and laughs. *Nakakatuwang kasama si Dr. Brookshire* when she's out of her doctor's robe and just relaxing with friends.



Frieda Brookshire with Monet Lu

The way she is outside work is in stark contrast to her professional life. Being a brilliant Prosthodontist, she does take her job seriously and she is excellent at it.

With the support of her younger brother Frederick Von Giese, Dr. Brookshire has expanded her practice over the past year. They moved to a much bigger, more state-of-the-art dental office in Orange County, California.

When I'm at her clinic, I sometimes forget that Dr. Brookshire had a much different career path before—being Frieda Fonda, the authentic Ms. Body Language on Philippine TV.

You can only detect traces of that *kikay* showbiz girl in her when she steps outside her workplace. As you may recall, Frieda Fonda was a very popular dancer during the 1980s. She started showbiz at age 16 and went on to join the cast of *TODAS*, headlined by comedian Joey De Leon.

When the show *TODAS* got the axe, Frieda had her academic studies to fall back on. She armed herself with a degree in dentistry. Shortly after, she migrated to the US and reinforced her dentistry

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Sharon Cuneta's MEGATHIRTY TOUR 2009: A mega-blast of a show!

by BOBBY T. YALONG

NEWARK, NJ—Amidst the pulsating rhythms and beats and wild reactions from the enthusiastic crowd at the recently concluded *MEGATHIRTY TOUR 2009* concert held last Sunday, May 31, at the NJPAC Prudential Hall in Newark, Sharon Cuneta discovers many of the things she holds dear to her heart like the chance to be able to showcase and share the Filipino music with her *kababayans* who have been years away from home and how much they thirst and crave for everything associated to her 30 years in the business... and, much to her surprise, that her fans are very much informed and well abreast with what's going on with her life.

For curtain raisers, the center stage was initially set on fire by the terpsichorean prowess and energetic moves and grooves of Karen, Kevin, Kelly, Kathie, Kyle, Charmaine, Storm, Derek, Alice, Stephanie, Sushma, Erin T, Erin D, and Gerwin... collectively known as the "Ill Theory," followed by sultry singer Cielo Tuazon who earnestly proved her mettle in the concert stage by way of her stylish vocal interpretations of hit ditties.

No matter how good and effective the front act performers were, the audience was in full anticipation for the star of the show, who were unable to hold back and control their intensifying enthusiasm as they started to show signs of excitement even before the last performer has totally exited the stage.

And finally, after a short overture, the Megastar Sharon Cuneta emerged from the side stage, smartly garbed in an all black two-piece pant suit with V-neck top and fully sequined purple vest, highly spiritedly ushered in by *Kahapon Lamang* which was met by a thunderous applause and deafening reactions from her boisterously fans who instantly turned wild and hysterical. Quite a feat since she was running a 41-degree fever backstage a few minutes before she went onstage. Her opening spiels were easily drowned by constant shrieks and cheers and her image blinded by thousands of camera flashes that



MPG Productions producer Mely Pechangco Gabriel with family during the Sponsors Night of Sharon's Megathirty Concert at Hyatt Regency, NJ.



Sharon & KC Photos by Ziggy Martinez

made security guards double their efforts to maintain orderliness in the venue.

The Megastar turned sentimental when she dished out *Tawag Ng Pag-ibig*, a cut from her early album then went even more in emotional reminiscence with *Kahit Konting Pagtingin*, a song from the movie of the same title she did opposite the late King of Phil. Movies, Ronnie Poe, Jr.

Noticeably, after all these years, Sharon Cuneta's glottal exasperation and breathing pattern have amazingly remained distinct complementing her somewhat husky voice, something that added even more feeling and depth to her rendition especially when she did *Hagkan*, a carrier single of one of her early recorded albums. You could clearly hear the vocal resonance and controlled sustaining power when she gave a fading last note.

The husky tonal quality of her voice was once again used to full advantage when she sung *Dear Heart*, one of songs people identify most with her...very synonymous to the name Sharon Cuneta. "This is one of the special songs close to my heart... *at ang laking pagsisisi ko!*" she kiddingly muttered to the amusement of the crowd that sent them into laughter.

The very lovely KC Conception, in a flowing fire-red bare shouldered gown, sashayed into center stage and joined her mom in singing the song that literally gave her life, setting a touching mother and daughter scene.

"Thank you so much for putting me on this stage and supporting me the way you have been sup-

porting my mom!" KC humbly uttered in the sincerest tone one could imagine. After which, she sang the theme song of her first movie with the same title, *For The First Time*. With her effervescent grace and youthful aura, KC contributed a lively mood and bouncy beat to the show. It was obvious that she has been re-energized by her recent winning of the Star Awards Best New Actress plum for the second time and her first teleserye with Piolo Pascual, *Lovers In Paris*, which is under wraps.

KC oriented her audience about her rally against hunger and highlighted it by singing *Isang Hakbang*, a thematic composition full of compassion and concern for the youth of the world. After which Sharon re-emerged on stage (dressed in another two-piece black ensemble) and together they did a duet, *I'll Be Here*, in a very touching, perfectly blended vocal fusion.

Sharon's MRS (Most Requested Songs) portion led her audience to a trip down memory lane via poignant songs like *Maging Sino Ka Man*, *Bituing Walang Ningning*, *Pangako Sa 'Yo*, *Kahit Wala Ka Na*, Barry Manilow's *Somewhere Down The Road*, and a medley of Louie Ocampo's hits that segued to Louie's one and only collaborative composition with the late great George Canseco (who did the lyrics), the plaintive song, *Ikaw*.

Pangarap Na Bituin fittingly served as the penultimate number to Sharon's parting words: "I couldn't have lasted this long in

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Full steam ahead for the 111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence



THE commemoration of the 111th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence this year is also the 20th year the Filipino communities of the US Northeast are celebrating this historic annual event. This year's Philippine Independence Day Parade and Street Fair/Cultural Show on Sunday, June 7, 2009, starts off with flag raising in front of the Philippine Center (556 Fifth Avenue) at 9:00 am and immediately followed by the Independence Mass at the Kalayaan Hall.

The Philippine Independence Day parade kicks off at 12:01pm on 41st Street and Madison Avenue

heading south.

Leading the 2009 Independence Day Parade will be Independence Day Parade Grand Marshal Dr. Teofila Malanum Santos and her family. Special guest dignitaries are Vice President of the Philippines Noli de Castro and Senator Manny Villar. They will be joined by PIDCI 2009 President Gerry M. Austria, the Honorable Consul General of the Philippines, Ambassador Cecilia B. Rebong, and the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, Ambassador Hilario Davide, Jr. His Honor, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and other honored guests have also



been invited to join the Parade.

Over 100 organizations and businesses, 14 floats, 7 marching/ethnocultural bands have signed up to participate in the parade.

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