

# Full steam ahead for the 111th Anniversary...

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Channel 2 CBS News reporter Hazel Sanchez and Channel 7 Eyewitness News reporter Nina Pineda will be joined by Ogie Afable as parade emcees on the reviewing stand located on 29th/30th Street on Madison Avenue.

The Diwa Ng Kalayaan 2009 (Spirit of Independence) Monica Castillo Meares, and her court: Miss Filipino American Renee Nicole Lago, Hiyas ng Pilipinas Janette Gomez, Bituin ng Luzon Loriella Reyes, Bituin ng Visayas Alexandra Uy, Bituin ng Mindanao Demellen Faith Cuerta, and Lakambini ng PIDCI Natasha Abella., will be presented as the finale of the parade.

Other special guests from the Philippines include Aljur Abrenica a television and movie personality who won *Starstruck's* Ultimate Hunk title. His recent appearances include featured roles in *Dyesebel*, *Luna Mystica* and *Dapat Ka Bang Mahalin*;

Ms. Mylene Dizon, a versatile, award-winning television and film actress topbills *100*, the Opening Night Selection of the IndioBravo Filipino Film Festival in New York City on June 11-14. In *100*, she plays a cancer-stricken woman who strives to fulfill her goals in life in a span of three months, an outstanding performance that won her the Best Actress award at the Golden Screen Awards and the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival in 2008.

The Effie Nanas DanCentre of Manila under the modern guru of Philippine ballet scene, Effie Nanas, recently performed and awed the audience in New York and Washington, DC. They will be performing Philippine Suites in stylized balletic movements in the cultural stage. The classically trained young dancers with ages ranging from 12 to 15 years old, have recently attended weeks of classes at (2) prestigious NY ballet schools. Members include: Christel Chongson, Cassandra Chan, Kimberly Lim, Angela Tan, Judy Miano, Courtney Ong, Tiffany Ong, Jana Negre and Katrene San Miguel.

GMA Pinoy TV will present Jay-R, dubbed as the "Prince of Soul", in the Celebrity Segment Finale of the Cultural Program with guest appearance by Dingdong Dantes, an award nominated actor/director and sought after model and product endorser. Catch both celebrities during the "Meet and Greet" portion at the GMA7 Pinoy TV Street Fair Booth.

Other local special headliners will be the National Junior Champions of *Dancing with the Stars* Season 7, 2009—Craig and Samantha Abaya-Campos (14yrs old & 12yrs old, respectively) of Nutley, NJ will also be gracing the stage to the delight of the audience! It was a unanimous decision by all 3 judges of the show that got them into the finals & millions of viewers voted for them winning the title of Junior Champions. Also their youngest sister Cara who is partnered with Jaryd Farcon was in show too in Season 6 & won in the 10 & under category & just got into the finals of the show.

Pan Asian Theatre is very proud to be part of the cultural performance on June 7 and will feature songs from *Imelda* a new musical with a cast of talented professional Fil-ams actors from Broadway. lead it will

be Jaygee Macapugay as Imelda and Mel Sagrado Maghuyop and Brian Jose as Marcos and Ninoy. Other cast members included Alan Ariano, Angelica-Lee Aspiras, Billy Bustamante, Leanne Cabrera, Liz Casasola, Loresa Lanceta, and Jonelle Margallo.

The Cultural Festival presented on an open stage north of 23rd Street on Madison Avenue will also feature new faces, young Fil-ams performers, and local artists with a growing patronage in the community from pop-rock-soul/heavy-rock-groove bands, rappers, R & B singers; and cultural performers from VA.

A front act section beginning at 1:15pm hosted by songwriter, composer, singer, producer Archie D', will join the CB Savage Band, along with another pop-rock-soul-groove Happy Analog Band; and introducing the "Kommon Ground"—all local Filipino musicians organized in November 2007 from New York and New Jersey that share the same passion for music. They cover pop, r&b, OPM, dance & rock music and the members have all been in and out of the local Filipino music circuit in NY and NJ so together they bring a unique and exciting sound to your ears and will certainly entertain the masses. The band consist of Sheldon Magbanua on bass, Carlo Tampac on guitar, Virgil Tabije on drums, Michael Villarosa on keyboards, Marichu Edmilao on vocals and our latest addition to the group is Tony Gado on vocals.

Joining the Front Act is a segment of *Young Fil-Ams Who's Got Talent*. They are 10-year-old Nina Sophia Waga Mojares from Freehold, NJ. Nina loves to sing but also enjoys playing the piano and Latin ballroom dancing. She and her partner, Gabriel Basalatan, won 1st place in their first ballroom competition in the MAC Competition in New York City this year.

Maria Krby M. Asunto, 11 years old, performed at the Diwa ng Kalayaan Pagaeant. Her credits include: *A Night at the Movies Variety Show*—May 28 Connecticut; Concert 100 Best Communities—February 21, 2009 Linden New Jersey; Regional Competition Access Broadway; and won: 9-12 yrs. Old Category last January 17, at Groton, Connecticut.

Lianah Sta. Ana, competed on March 28 (her first ever talent competition) at The Guild Theatreworks production of Our Jersey Shore "Idol" Contest and she won the first place prize. She was the youngest (9 yrs old) out of 17 contestants and was the only Asian in the competition.

Ryan Pagueo, a 7 year old, will give you goosebumps when he sings *Smile* by Charlie Chaplin and Charice Trinidad, trained with the Miguel Braganza II NY Young Performers Workshop.

The Philippine Independence Day Council, Inc.. (PIDCI) is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization and organizes, produces, executes, directs and presents the annual Philippine Independence Day Celebration in New York City. Please visit the website [www.pidci.org](http://www.pidci.org) Check out the event page on Facebook (The 111th Philippine Independence Day Celebration NYC). For inquiries email [pidci2009@yahoo.com](mailto:pidci2009@yahoo.com).

(Advertising Supplement)

# Historical epic 'Baler' to screen on June 11 at Museum of Modern Art

THE IndioBravo Film Foundation is proud to present the first annual IndioBravo Filipino Film Festival on June 11-14, 2009 in New York City, showcasing the boldest and most internationally acclaimed works by Filipino filmmakers in recent years. Opening night takes place Thursday, June 11, 7:15pm at the Museum of Modern Art (11 West 53rd Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues) with the North American premiere of *Baler*, a historical, romantic epic which swept awards at the 2008 Metro Manila Film Festival. Holders of Opening Night tickets get free entrance to the 11:30 PM afterparty at Nikki Beach lounge (151 East 50th St between Lexington and 3rd Avenues) and a complimentary drink. Tickets are priced at \$25 each. (To purchase, visit [www.indiobravo.org](http://www.indiobravo.org) or call 1-800-838-3006).

The festival continues Friday to Sunday, June 12-14, at the Visual Arts Theater in Chelsea, 333 West 23rd Street between 8th and 9th Avenues in New York City.

*Baler* was an entry the 2008 Metro Manila Film Festival. Directed by Mark Meily (*Crying Ladies*,

*La Visa Loca*) and starring Anne Curtis and Jericho Rosales, *Baler* is a sweeping romantic epic set during the last days of the Filipino-Spanish war.

In 1898, a band of Spanish soldiers heroically defended Baler (which was not yet the capital municipality of Aurora until 1951) against Filipino forces for 337 long and grueling days. The battle, now referred to as the Siege of Baler, is the setting of a forbidden love between a Mestizo soldier (Jericho Rosales) and a Filipina lass (Anne Curtis) who lived at the end of the 19th century. *Baler* is a powerfully moving drama that chronicles the bravery and heroism of Filipinos—and ultimately their sense of humanity and compassion—in the midst of a ravaging and bitter war.

*Baler* won a total of 10 Awards at the 2008 Metro Manila Film Festival including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress (Anne Curtis), Best Supporting Actor (Phillip Salvador, in a comeback performance) and the Gatpuno Antonio Villegas Cultural Award. *Baler* is the special Independence Day presentation of IndioBravo Film Festival.

It will have a second screening on Sunday, June



14, 4:10pm at the Visual Arts Theater (333 West 23rd Street between 8th and 9th Avenues). Tickets to this screening are priced at \$15 each.

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# Gawad Kalinga to unveil anti-poverty template at GK Global Summit in Boston

GAWAD Kalinga, the nation building movement originating from the Philippines, is set to unveil a global template for poverty eradication at the GK Global Summit to be held at the Cambridge Marriott in Massachusetts, with workshops being conducted in three prestigious institutions: Harvard University, MIT and Boston University. GK 2024 is a 21 year timeline following Gawad Kalinga's Asian model of community development envisioned to end poverty for millions of Filipinos.

The weekend gathering starts off with a glimpse of Filipino culture through colorful performance arts, exhibitions and culinary

sampleings, Barrio Fiesta style, to commemorate Philippine Independence Day. Philippine national and local government officials will be joined by leaders of Fil Am organizations and Gawad Kalinga Executive Director Luis Oquinena in flag raising ceremonies. Cambridge Mayor Denise Simmons will lead welcome ceremonies.

At the Gawad Kalinga Exchange, outstanding governors and mayors from the Philippines including Cam Sur Gov Lray Villafuerte, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, Sulu Mayor Munib Estino, Makati Mayor Jojo Binay, Mayor Sonia Lorenzo, among others will showcase their innovative partnerships with GK, the tourist at-

tractions in their respective towns and opportunities for investment and patriotic philanthropy.

The book, *Builder of Dreams*, authored by GK Father Tony Meloto, chronicling the growth of GK and honoring GK partners will also be launched. The Summit formally opens at 6 pm with Vice President and Housing and Development Coordinating Council Chairman Noli de Castro giving the keynote address. The evening will be capped with a night of song with no less than staunch Gk supporter Maestro Ryan Cayabyab. Talented singers and GK champions Louie Reyes, Stephanie Reese and Joey Albert have included inspiring Filipino compositions

in their repertoire.

The opening plenary session will engage delegates in a discussion of the "GK WAY" and the road map to GK's 2024 timelines. It will outline the transformative capacity of private and public sector groups to collaboratively develop and implement programs to end poverty and create replicable templates of development.

Gawad Kalinga is a call to greatness and call to service to all Filipinos who have a shared love for their country, transforming lives, from village to village, from school to school, from barangay to barangay, from company to company, from town to town, from province to province and now from country to country.

For more information, please visit [www.gawadkalinga.org/globalsummit/](http://www.gawadkalinga.org/globalsummit/)

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