

Dingdong Dantes, Jay-R wow Filipinos at the 111th Philippine Independence Day Celebration in NYC

by LUIS PEDRON



GMA Pinoy TV and GMA Life TV was this year's major sponsor at the 111th Philippine Independence Day Celebration in New York City last June 7. Like the theme of this year's celebration, GMA together with the Philippines showed its pride for all Filipinos abroad. GMA flew two of *Kapuso's* biggest stars Dingdong Dantes and Jay-R.

Dingdong Dantes is one of the Philippines' most bankable leading men, admired by Filipino when he played Sergio in GMA's *Marimar*, loved by women as Fredo in *Dyesebel* and Homer in *Ang Babaeng Hinugot sa Aking Tadayang*. Soon he will be playing the much coveted role of Cholo in the GMA adaptation of *Stairway to Heaven*.

Dingdong was named Philippine Entertainment Portal's Number One Sexiest Man and named a E! Entertainment's 3rd Sexiest Man in the World.

Jay-R is a regular artist of GMA's *SOP* and recently received a double platinum album award for his CD entitled *Soul in Love*. He is dubbed as Philippine's Prince of R&B.

Starting at the GMA Float where they trekked the parade route of 40th St.- 27th St. on Madison Ave in New York City. The fans were excitedly screaming for Jay-R and Dingdong on the sidelines and eagerly waited for them at the end of the parade. Due to the hordes of hundreds of eager fans, it was impossible to walk the stars on the streets, it took the help of the NYPD to transport the two stars from the float to the GMA booth.

At the GMA booth, an orderly Meet and Greet Photo Opportunity was conducted kudos to the GMA staff with the help of the Parade Security. Hundreds of fans were able to take pictures with Jay-R, Dingdong (and Aljur Abrenica who joined them at the GMA booth) which was continued on at the DishNetwork/GMA booth as well.

At the cultural show at 5pm, it was dubbed as the GMA hour, were local dancers namely Michelle Cahanap, Trisha Bulalacao, Merrill Villanueva, Meriden Villanueva, Jeffrey Cuartero, Dominic Senador, Chris de Guzman, Myluck Estrella, Angelique Garcia, Joey Cruz, Adrian Macandile and Antonio Alvaira danced the opening number *Sabay Sabay Tayo* made famous by GMA's Marian Rivera. Jay-R wowed everyone with his RNB talent and sang four songs to the fans delight. The fans enjoyed his songs namely *What's Going On*, *One Hundred Ways* and a medley of songs which included his big hit song: *Bakit Pa Ba*. Everyone was pleasantly surprised as he jumped off stage to serenade the fans. He was a hit with the New York Fil-Am audience.

As Dingdong was introduced, he was welcomed by an excited and screaming audience chanting "Dingdong, Dingdong, Dingdong!" He was introduced by the GMA host Jush Andowitt who interviewed him, asking him titillating questions about Dingdong's new leading lady in *Stairway to Heaven* and how he felt if Marian were to have a new leading man. The Dingdong-Marian "romantic" relationship was also brought up, and Dingdong shied away from answering the question. The crowd screamed, teasing the star on stage.

Someone on stage placed a Marian Rivera *Darna* life-size poster right beside Dingdong to the fans delight and everyone's camera clicked away.

GMA Pinoy TV and GMA Life TV will be bringing more stars to our NYC area in the next few months. Check out www.gmaypinoytv.com for more details.

GMA Pinoy TV and GMA Life TV are available in our area with Cablevision (ioTV), DirecTV, DISH Network, RCN and Verizon Fios. ■

The Voice of FilAmerica

Political empowerment is still a treasure that eludes us as a community here in America. While we are the second largest Asian American community in the United States, we have yet to harvest the power that comes from our numbers. The Voice of FilAmerica features elected and appointed officials—regardless of political affiliation—in the different US states who are of Filipino ancestry. As your Filipino American community newspaper, the *Asian Journal* recognizes the fact that we all have a responsibility towards bringing political empowerment to fruition, especially for our future generations. It is our hope to have our voices heard all over America.

Roland Sagum III

Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
AJPress

IT'S hard to replace a good leader.

But that's exactly what FilAm Roland Sagum III did when he campaigned and won the 16th district seat in the Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives in 2006.

Sagum succeeded retiring District 16 state House Rep. Bertha Kawakami, who had held the post for nearly 20 years.

Sagum represents District 16 covering West Kauai and Niihau.

It was his strong passion and beliefs to represent the people of Kauai and Niihau in the State Legislature that won over voters.

Since being elected, he hasn't disappointed. Sagum currently serves on the Energy & Environmental Protection, Finance, Housing Interim Task Force on Smart Growth, and Water, Land, & Ocean Resources committees.

Prior to serving District 16, Sagum was a respected business and community leader.

Sagum is currently the Vice President of Kikiaola Land Company, LTD. in Waimea, Kauai. He is responsible for strategically making budgets, and plans, prioritizes and negotiates all planning and development efforts for Kikiaola Land Company's



600-acre property while maintaining excellent community, government and corporate relations.

He also holds principal position with Applied Planning Systems which is a land use consulting firm that provides technical support in the procurement of discretionary entitlements, urban & land use planning, and environmental studies, to public and private entities, according to his website.

He also served as deputy planning commissioner under mayors Tony Kunimura and JoAnn Yukimura from 1987 to 1992. He has been a member of various boards and commissions including the Kauai Civil Service Commission, the Kauai General Plan Update Advisory Committee, the Kauai Housing Advisory Committee and the Marine and Coastal Zone Advisory Council, according to *The Garden Island*, a Kauai newspaper.

He received his bachelors in Biology at Chaminda University and an Associate in Science Degree, Hotel Management from the University of Hawaii.

With his leadership credentials, Sagum is sure to become not only a good leader but a great leader for West Kauai. ■

One Glamorous Night: Greater and Grateful at 59

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ery of news and entertainment. GMA's phenomenal winged gods and goddesses struts the catwalk with prestige and sophistication.

And true to the network's core values, the element of REACH marks GMA's growth and development as it connects to Filipinos across the globe through its international channels, GMA Pinoy TV and GMA Life TV. Its expansion worldwide signals the network's winning strategy as the Filipinos top choice of providing quality programming abroad.

GMA's *One Glamorous Night: Greater and Grateful at 59* is slated to air on June 28 on GMA Pinoy TV. Call your preferred Pay TV operator now to subscribe.



(Advertising Supplement)

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Cast of the upcoming play 'Imelda' marching at the Philippine Independence Day Parade.



Filipino youngsters don the elegant flag of the mother land.



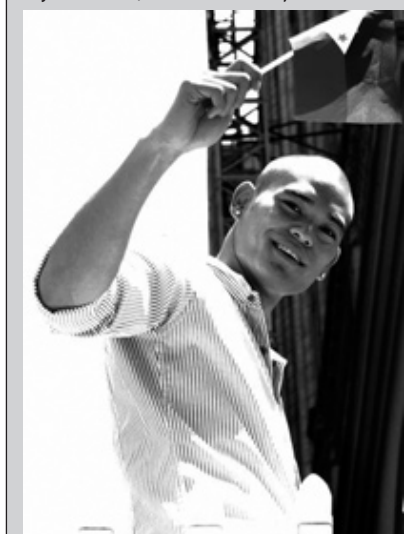
A smile from Dingdong gets the crowd pumped.



Jay-R reaches down to grab a memento from a fan abroad.



Aljur Abrenica, a telenovela star poses with adoring fans.



Jay-R sports Pinoy pride as he waves to adoring masses.



A plethora of princesses wave as they float along Madison Avenue.

(All photos were taken by Efen Landaos, a Filipino photo enthusiast who is currently residing and working in New York City. Efen is ripe with interest over his own Filipino heritage and looks forward to taking more photos of Filipinos abroad, especially those who are located in NYC.)



IN REUNION THERE IS STRENGTH.

In our continuing efforts to serve the Fil-Am Community, Asian Journal will be featuring profiles of Filipino-American associations here in the United States.



Please submit a brief background of your association, a list of current officers and your contact information for the benefit of our readers who may want to get in touch with you.

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