

Save the date: The 11th Philippine Fiesta in America sizzles on Aug. 15 and 16

by BOBBY T. YALONG

THIS early, wisps of the festive air already predominantly envelope the atmosphere... ushering the heralding fiesta mood that all Filipinos miss and setting in the festive ambience so much like back home... that aptly gather the largest gathering of Filipinos only Special Edition Press, Inc., the premiere provider of quality events for the Filipino community in the US and the prime mover behind the successful annual Philippine Fiesta in America, could effectively assemble.

This year's Philippine Fiesta is slated on August 15 and 16 at the Meadowlands Expo Center in Secaucus, New Jersey. Continuing its commitment to the Filipino community for more than a decade,

the Philippine Fiesta in America is an excellent venue for business, consumer-supplier interaction, networking, product exhibition and trading and cultural exposition. Special Edition is always gearing up for new features in its cultural presentation aside of course, from their signature unmatched package of entertainment and musical extravaganza. This year, the annual selection and grand coronation of the Philippine Hearts & Hopes Society, Inc. (PHHOSO's Miss Teen Philippines winners and the Fiesta's own Miss Philippine Fiesta Court will be presented as one pageant competition.

Headlining this year's entertainment and musical extravaganza are two of the ABS-CBN's (the



Sheryn Regis



Kim Chiu



Gerald Anderson



Bugoy Drilon

Kapamilya Channel) top young dramatic thespians, Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson, major lead stars of the station's top-rating primetime tv series, *Tayong Dalawa*. Also featuring are *Star-in-a-Million* winner and Philippine Modern Jukebox Queen—Sheryn Regis and *Pinoy Dream Academy's* sensation, "Bugoy" Drilon, plus many local talents in the region—Ciennese Lontok, Nina Mojares, Rhythmology, Crossing, Project D, Suzie Karlic Dance Company, Ninth Paradigm, the Philippine Folkdance Society of Pennsylvania, Bayanihan of Union Singers, and NYFT just to name a few.

The Philippine Fiesta has an annual average of over 20,000 visitors. With over 200 booths open to businesses, this event is an ideal venue and perfect setting for introducing new products, product sampling and promotions to a very receptive and captive audience. Exhibiting at the Philippine Fiesta is very effective way to build and enhance corporate image and conduct direct consumer market research. A special mass will be celebrated at 10am on Sunday, Aug. 16, followed by a very festive Santacruzian. Other features include Business Seminars, Senior, Youth & Children's Pavilions and

Art & Chess Pavilions. The Food Court which is an attraction by itself offers a wide selection of cuisines from various regions of the Philippines.

Special Edition Press, Inc. President and CEO Nanding Mendez and Executive Vice-President Mila Mendez project another big and festive Philippine Fiesta celebration this year. Now on its 11th year, the Philippine Fiesta is a "must-go-to" event for the summer, even just to temporarily escape the monotonous grind of one's daily existence.

Save the date! Mark August 15 and 16 as days to personally experience the grandeur and fun of a true Fiesta atmosphere, truly a Philippines experience. Philippine Fiesta is sponsored by Northwest Airlines, Delta Airlines, Garden State Travel Corporation, ABS-CBN Global. Smart Communications, Citibank, Startec, Western Union, Citibank, Mama Sita's, Philstar.com, Tancinco Law Offices, Asian Journal Publications and Inquirer.net.

To sponsor, exhibit, advertise or purchase tickets to the Philippine Fiesta in America, please contact 212.682.6610, Email at sepmgzn@aol.com or visit www.philippinefiesta.com.

*Advertising Supplement

A soldier's son sings of peace

by MARIDOL RAÑO-A-BISMARCK / Philstar.com

MANILA—His father, Lt. Col. Eduardo "Red" Kapunan, wanted him to join the PMA (Philippine Military Academy). But since JV's (Josemari Vicente) heart belonged elsewhere, he did the next best thing. The 19-year-old Entrepreneurship sophomore decided to sing and rap about a cause close to his dad's heart: Peace.

Thus, even if he's not in the battlefield of Mindanao, young JV can help heal wounds and promote unity the best way he knows how: Through music.

Kapayapaan (Give Peace a Chance), a cut off his debut album Ready or Not, for instance, talks of breaking barriers. And this, it does, not through holier-than-thou words. It uses rap, a language young people like JV knows so well.

Dear dad, who first looked at his youngest child's work as all noise and fury, has changed his mind. He has finally joined young JV's mom (Elsa Arancillo) in giving the thumbs-up sign to his son's music career.

After all, JV is so much his father's son he might as well have "Junior" attached to his name (his full name is Eduardo JV Kapunan III).

"I was born and raised a soldier's son," says JV. "I was moved by my father's war stories when he was a combat pilot in Mindanao and when he took part in the EDSA I People Power Revolution... These stories of conflict not only made my father stand tall but brought me closer to the sad situation of our Muslim brothers in Mindanao and countless women and children war victims. The learnings about the pains of war stirred in me a real yearning and true calling to be an artist-soldier fighting for peace and love in our troubled world today."

Spoken like a true idealist who looks at the world with rose-colored glasses. At 19, JV has yet to see humanity at its ugliest.

Studying as he does in an international business school, young JV has yet to look brutality straight in the eye. And so, his songs of peace, love and unity reflect the innocence of youth.

The young artist—and his good intentions—deserve to be heard. ■



The Beauty of Forgiveness...

From Page 4

I can still remember back in early 2009 when Vicki personally shared her heartbreaking story about Hayden. She was really hurting then. All throughout that conversation, she never once mentioned the identity of the "other girl" (kasi hindi pa officially lumabas sa press ang pangalan ng sexy actress). I had my suspicions but I did not press her for answers.

Vicki said she was still trying to understand what happened to Hayden so that she could somehow deal with the pain of his betrayal.

While on a trip to Georgia last March, Vicki found time to touch base with me about the latest on her. She told me that she was already starting to get over it; that she has forgiven Hayden.

It takes a strong woman to deal with a betrayal of this magnitude and forgive the person or persons who have done her the greatest damage.

Not only has Vicki had her heart broken in the most humiliating way imaginable but her professional credentials have also been unjustly questioned because of this issue. And for Vicki to still have the heart to forgive is really superhuman.

She even credited Hayden for making the effort to set things right. He's been seeing a therapist toward the process of forgiving himself as well.

Vicki refuses to let the crab mentality pull her down. I commend her for this. Whatever the outcome, I know she will get through this stronger and if possible, more compassionate.

I was touched to see her on TFC recently giving an interview about the lessons she's learned from all of these.

Her candor is very moving. She recognized the unconditional love from her two children, Quark and Crystalle. She said this is the kind of love that will really see you through whatever challenges you face in life. Boyfriends may come and go but the love of your children and family, you can always count on.

Vicki has acknowledged the mistakes that she has made. But I feel that her sometimes lack of judgment on who to trust pales in comparison to the ultra kindness of her heart.

Last week, a "forecaster" by the name of Madam Eliza Blue from Glendale, impressed some of my readers because of her "insightful" remark about the Ruffa and John Lloyd issue.

So we asked her for her take on Dr. Belo's situation and here is what she had to say:

"Batu-bato sa langit, tamaan 'wag magalit! Vicki, kahit ano gawin mo, attractive ka talaga sa tao. Kita ko yan sa mapupungay mong mga mata (nakita ko pix mo nung din pa ito nireretoke). Poised at sophisticated ka. Business, power and money e nasa dugo mo talaga. Pioneer ka; tintingala ko ng tao kasi me aura ka ng control at confidence, kung negosyo pag-uusapan ha? Eto na, pero sa personal, wrong choice ka. Sa totoo lang, Vicki, me dalawang katauhan ka. Tanggalin natin yung marangya at itsura mo sa labas, e deep inside, loner ka at pilit mong hinahanapan ng dahilan ang lahat ng pangyayari sa buhay mo, lalo ngayon. At naghahanap ka rin ng taong tulad mo para unawain ka. At yun ang dahilan bakit attracted si Hayden Kho sa'yo. Sad to say din, parang palagi mong mapupuna ang sarili mong sinusuportahan usually ng pinansyal ang mga nadidikit sa 'yo. Isang lalaking mas may edad sa'yo at may halong lahi mula sa Asya ang makakaunawa sa'yo. Antabayan ang lalaking ito na malamang sa hindi e mahilig mag-tie na reddish at purplish. Ang ending nito? Malakas vibes ko, di makukulong si Vicki. Makakaahon siya sa kinasasangkutan niya ngayon. Cycle na sa kanya na kapag nakitaan ng kahinaan, e automatic kasunod ang katatagan. Yan ang nababasa ko sa bolang kristal." —Madam Eliza Blue.

Nota Bene: I believe in God and I don't take this hula seriously. But for the benefit of our readers, I have to include this in the article. To all my readers, thank you so much for the overwhelming feedback every week.

LA-based celebrity stylist Monet Lu was born in Marikina, Philippines. In the 80s, Monet left a thriving salon chain business in his hometown to migrate to the US. He had the vision to recreate his success in the US by building a beauty business that served the needs of Filipino Americans. Currently, Monet is the proud owner of four salons with branches in Van Nuys CA, Panorama City CA, Los Angeles CA and Las Vegas NV. He has since branched out to event productions through his events and marketing company, Events Specialists International, producer of the longest-running [20 years!] and most prestigious Filipino-American awards/fashion show in SoCal. In 2006, Monet kicked off another passion to develop his own line of all-natural, beauty care products, Skin By Monet.

Monet is also a humanitarian and has supported many charitable organizations such as the Marikina Revitalization Project, AIDS Center in Pasadena, Alab Ng Puso, Every Nation Ministries, Gawad Kalinga, Bantay Bata 163, and many more. To contact Monet, please visit his site: www.monetsalon.com.

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