

# Mar-Korina wedding set!

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Philstar.com

As you must have noticed, there's no question mark in today's headline, just an exclamation point. Yes, it's definite: Sen. Mar Roxas and Korina Sanchez are getting married before the year is over — yes, very soon!

According to *Funfare's* unimpeachable DPA, Mar is being "traditional" with the whole thing, starting with informing the Roxases and the Aranetas about the long-delayed wedding, followed by a *pamanhikan* with Korina's siblings (both Korina's parents are gone) anytime next week.

No date has been set for the wedding which promises to bring together bigwigs from both politics and showbiz, and the business sector as well, since it will, although informally, signal the start of Mar's march to...Malacañang? In fact, he has already taken the initial bold step as shown by the TV plugs showing him driving a tricycle while encouraging the kids to pursue their dreams. Mar is definitely running for President in 2010, with Korina beside him during the grueling campaign.

Yesterday morning, Korina was with the Araneta-Roxas clan during the wreath-laying ceremonies at the tomb of President Manuel Roxas at the North Cemetery, marking his 61st death anniversary. (Roxas was the first president of the independent Republic of the Philippines.)

"It's Korina's first time to be seen in public with the clan, although she has been joining the family gatherings," said the *Funfare* DPA. "The Aranetas and the Roxases treat Korina as a member of the family. When Mar met the movie press at a post-Christmas party last January at the White House (Bahay na Puti, the Aranetas' sprawling residence in Cubao, Quezon City), he was joined by his mom, Judy Araneta-Roxas, his sister Ria Roxas-Ojeda, his cousins... and Korina."

The wedding is anti-climactic. Since they started going steady a few years ago, there has been continuous speculation that Mar and Korina would eventually end up at the altar. But neither of them confirmed it — until Monday when Mar will make an "important announcement."

Stay tuned for further details.

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It must be his sword or whatever. But since *Zorro*, the new Richard Gutierrez TV starrer, premiered on March 23, it has done "magic" with GMA's so-called "primetime block" consisting of *Totoy Bato*, *Ang Babaeng Hinugot sa Aking Tadyang*, *All About Eve* and the Koreanovela *Fated To Love You*, with *Zorro* leading the pack immediately after the 24 *Oras* newscast. The "block" ends with the late-night newscast *Saksi*.

A GMA insider said that *Zorro* kind of "pulled" the bandwagon up the ratings chart since viewers get so glued to the "block" that they end up watching the rest of the primetime shows, thereby further

improving their ratings.

Robin Padilla, star of *Totoy Bato*, is said to be thankful for the *Zorro* "magic" that he actually thanked a *Zorro* staffer for the "push."

Which simply means that viewers love Richard in fantasy-



Korina with the Araneta-Roxas clan during the wreath-laying ceremonies at the tomb of President Manuel Roxas



Sen. Mar Roxas and fiancée Korina Sanchez during the post-Christmas party Mar hosted for the movie press last January, together with (from left) Mar's cousins Veanna Fores and Blades Fores-Legarda, the Fores matriarch Baby Araneta-Fores, Mar's mom Judy Araneta-Roxas and his sister Ria Roxas-Ojeda, and Gaita Fores.

adventure roles, like the previous ones that include *Mulawin*, *Lupin*, *Sugo*, *Kamandag*, *Asero* and *Captain Barbell* which initially established Richard in that genre.

After *Zorro*, Richard is slated to do a similar role in his next GMA starrer, with a romance-drama soap (possibly with former girlfriend Anne Curtis?) before that.

On Saturday, April 18, Richard will be among the recipients of the NCCA/Malacañang Awards (NCCA is the National Commission on Culture and Arts) to be held at the NBN 4 Studio, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, after a Mass at 1 o'clock. Richard is being cited

for being an advocate of environmental issues/concerns (he's a member of Greenpeace) which was showcased in the GMA documentaries *Signos* (about global warming) and *Full Force* (about calamities spawned by nature's fury).

The main awardee is Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales. The other awardees are Timmy Cruz, Francis Magalona (posthumous) and two media persons. The



Richard Gutierrez as Zorro

trophy was specially designed by 2006 National Artist awardee Abdul, Mari Asia Imaw.

More surprises are coming up for Richard, one of them (still confidential) will be announced at a big presscon/launch on April 25. ■

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