

# Getting to know direk GB

by BOY ABUNDA  
Philstar.com

GIUSEPPE Bede Sampedro, GB to his friends in and out of showbiz, is one of the most sought-after concert, MTV, TV commercial and TV show directors in the country today. He currently directs the top-rating daily morning show Ruffa and Ai on ABS-CBN. Although GB never had any formal studies in directing, he learned the ropes of the trade from one of the premier directors in the industry, *direk* Louie Ignacio whom he considers as his mentor. From being an assistant director of *direk* Louie, GB is now on his own. His passion, hard work and dedication got him the 2006 Aliw Awards Best Concert Stage Director for his work in Sarah Geronimo, *The Other Side*. GB has spread his wings and embarked on another creative endeavor, this time as movie director to his first full-length indie film titled *Astig*, an entry for 2009 Cinemalaya. Get to know more about Direk GB.

*On a movie set would you rather be feared or loved?*  
Loved. With love comes respect.  
*Which period in the past would you like to visit?*  
The Renaissance. It was the rebirth of Humanism. It was an era of passion and movement that led to the advancement of cultures, arts, music and even religion.

*The most photogenic face in the world?*  
The Blessed Virgin Mary.  
*If you were a movie what would its title be?*  
The Dreamer.  
*What color describes your life? Why?*  
Blue because it has vast colors that can template emotions. It can be intensely dark. It can be light but still remains blue.

*How would you describe your state of mind?*  
Peaceful.  
*Why do roses have thorns?*  
To protect its beauty from harm. A warning to handle it with care because it can strike back. It's the bite of beauty.

*If you were a fictional character, who would you be?*  
Superman because I want to save the world.  
*If you were to confess only one sin to God, what would it be?*  
Selfishness. I sometimes question His answers to my questions.

*What is your greatest fear?*  
To wake up one morning and have no one to laugh with, no one to share my innermost emotions and no one to hold hands with as I grow old.

*The best place on earth?*  
A place with water... beach or as simple as staying on the tub in my bath. It's calming. It's relaxing. It's refreshing.

*The best movie of all time?*  
*An Affair to Remember.* It's a feel good, sincere movie. It has a plot that encompasses time.  
*Your greatest influence as a director?*  
Life experiences.

*Your biggest regret?*  
I have none. I always believe that things do happen for a reason. For whatever it's worth, the mistakes I've made molded me to who I am now.  
*What do you value most in friends?*

Honesty and respect.  
*Who are your top and best film actors of all time?*  
John Travolta, Nicolas Cage, Tom Hanks, Hugh Grant, Julia Roberts, Meg Ryan. I have a long list. I like the variety that they all offer as artists.

*What is your favorite flower? Why?*  
Rose. It symbolizes love.  
*Who is your favorite saint?*  
St. Gabriel. St. Gabriel means "man of God." St. Gabriel is an archangel and is tasked to convey important messages. He is the patron saint of communication workers. As a director, I have that accountability and responsibility to convey messages and emotions across to the viewing public. No matter how simple the show maybe, it always has something to say.

*Historical figures living or dead that you despise?*  
Past is past. I only cherish the good ones...  
*What supernatural gift would you like to have?*  
The power to know the consequences of things. But come to think of it, if I had such, life would be boring. Supernatural gift comes with great accountability.

*The quality that you admire most in actors?*  
Professionalism, passion and love for work.  
*What do you like most about your work?*  
I like the high of imagining things, the excitement, the surprises, and the unpredictable moments that challenge me. But I don't like the excitement and the unpredictability that go beyond control.

*Your dream movie project?*  
The story of my life.  
*What makes you angry?*  
Being judged by people who don't know me.  
*When are you happiest?*  
When I am loved and in love...  
*What is your philosophy in life?*  
Don't take life seriously... you can never get out of it alive.

*If you were a tree, what would you be? Why?*  
Bamboo. The bamboo sways with the wind. It bends that's why it doesn't break.  
*What do you think of organized religion?*  
It's a choice.  
Write your epitaph.  
I lived and survived life... ■



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RICARDO F. LO  
Philstar.com

# Vilma feeling at home in Big Apple

IT'S as if Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos has never left home. While in the New York tri-state area (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut) shooting the Star Cinema movie *In My Life*, Vilma is with husband, former Senator and now NEDA head Ralph Recto, and children Ryan Christian and Luis Manzano who is also in the cast of the movie directed by Olive Lamasan. Luis plays Vilma's son having a discreet affair with another man (played by John Lloyd Cruz). Vilma's character will face a lot of problems after a tragedy happens. Also in the entourage is Vilma's Girl Friday/accountant Aida Fandalian.

Vilma feels right at home in New York where she has many friends and loyal Vilmanians led by Alan Trambulo who works as assistant manager of the Radisson Hotel located in Manhattan.

"She won't feel homesick here," Alan texted Funfare.

Slated for a September release, *In My Life* is Vilma's first movie after Regal Films' *Mano Po 3: My Love* in 2004 and also her first with Luis and John Lloyd. Asked in an earlier interview if Luis and John Lloyd would have a kissing scene, Vilma said in jest that she would "save" Luis and do the scene herself with John Lloyd. The movie also stars Rafael Rosell, Vice Ganda, Nikki Valdez (based in Canada with her husband) and Tirso Cruz III (who replaced Edu Manzano as Vilma's husband, a "guest" role).



Luis Manzano, John Lloyd and Vilma Santos on the tour bus at New York

Shooting in the tri-state will take only three weeks, that's why the entourage is doing things almost non-stop. Last week in Connecticut, it rained but the shoot at a clothing shop went on. So far, they have shot scenes at the Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, New Jersey; and at the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island, New York.

"Ryan Christian is also a hit with the Pinoy fans here," reported *Funfare's* Big Apple correspondent Edmund Silvestre (of *The Filipino Reporter*). "*Mukha daw 'chickboy' ang bata*, like his dad. And he is matinee-idol material daw."

### A 'surprise' bash for Ricky Reyes

Thursday night last week, Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando and her husband, MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando, hosted a belated "surprise" party for Ricky Reyes at their residence. Ricky's birthday is April 12 (which fell on Easter Sunday this year). He came with partner Cris Aquino (who manages TravelPros, his own



Vilma Santos

travel agency).

Among the very few invited guests were Julie Yap-Daza, Louie Cruz and GMA executives Reggie Magno, Darling de Jesus and Marivin Arayata.

Leny de Jesus (on guitar and vocals) led the original members of the Electromaniacs (but minus Jose Mari) in playing retro songs (Beatles, etc.) and, of course, the band's classic instrumentals like *I Miss You So* and *Lover's Guitar*.

Mayor Marides sang a few songs and so did Chairman Bayani who was in his Celebrity Duets element. ■

# What's cooking with Janice?

by BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.  
Inquirer.net

A PLEASANT SURPRISE WAS in store for couch potatoes who watch Bobby Chinn's foodie show, *World Café Asia*, on Discovery Travel and Living.

In the episode on Philippine cuisine, chef Gene Gonzalez and his culinary school were featured and among the students caught on cam was TV host Janice de Belen.

A self-confessed fan of cooking shows, De Belen unabashedly asked for autographs from Chinn, and snapshots with him.

"He was nice to everyone and very friendly. He wrote a beautiful dedication when he signed my copy of his book," she recounted. "Chef Gene told him that I had a cooking show, too."

### Gourmet groupie

She also met Chinn's fellow Discovery host, Anthony Bourdain, when he visited Café Ysabel, site of Gonzalez's cooking school (Center for Asian Culinary Studies), late last year. "I got a photo and an autograph, too!"

### Seems she's a bona fide gourmet groupie.

De Belen related that she's almost done with her course under chef Gene. "We'll just have our repertoire, which is sort of our final exam, and then our internship and externship. I graduate in October," she said.

The busy mother of five has always been a tireless cook, who can whip up a mean callos and kaldereta. Since taking up a professional course, she has picked up more tricks in the kitchen.

"I get to cook more dishes with better technique," she related. "Before, there were recipes that I was scared to try."

She had put off going to school for the longest time. "I took lifestyle and short-term classes, but never seriously pursued it."

Last year, the timing was just perfect. "Instead of just planning and planning, I jumped into it. My teachers—chef Gene, chef Gino Gonzalez and chef Junjun de Guzman—were very understanding."

Plus, the classes fit snugly with her schedule as part-time TV host and full-time mom. "My classes are in the evening, so I can still attend to other things prior to school."

She admitted that hosting the GMA 7 women's show *Sis* and, more crucially, the Net 25 cooking show *Spoon* was instrumental in her decision to take up culinary arts.

### Autopilot

"I love watching cooking shows," she said. "I want whatever information I impart in my own shows to be accurate and factual. I knew I needed to be credible."

On *Spoon*, she said, "I get to show off my newly learned skills. I enjoy doing the show because viewers get to see a different side of me and the guests as well."

*Sis*, on the other hand, is almost on autopilot after eight years on the air.

The trick, she said, is keeping it fresh, "by going with the times. We just have fun and people see the genuineness of the fun we have."

As a host, she explained, she tries "to keep her hosting style on *Sis* different from that on *Spoon*."

Next stop for the TV host is a restaurant. "(Sister) Gelli and I have been talking about opening our own resto for years. I hope to put my new skills to good use. I'm excited and nervous. My biggest problem is taming my excitement because I want to do a lot of things." ■



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