

Your fave celebrities'...

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kami kung sino makatapos. She's like my best friend. No secrets between us. We share everything—even clothes. *Kulang na lang pati underwear!* Hahaha."

Mark Herras: "I don't leave the house without kissing my mom. *Minsan pag nakakalimutan ko,* she would text me *at nagda-drama.* I love it when she makes *lambing* that way."

Alfred Vargas: "Despite my mom's busy schedule as a lawyer, she always makes it a point to spend quality time with me."

First time ninang

Suzi Entrata-Abrera's new show, *Mommy Diary*, premieres Wednesday (10:15 am before *Sis* on GMA 7 and 5:50 pm on QTV 11 before *American Idol*) in time for Mother's Day. The show centers on concerns of moms of babies up to 3 years old.

Did *Ninang* Suzi give Judai marriage and motherhood tips? "I got so excited about being a *ninang sa kasal*, for the first time I totally forgot to give her any advice," says Suzi, laughing. "But I will be more than willing to guide Judai and Ryan along the way. I take my *ninanghood* seriously, especially since *silang ang una kong inaanak.*"

Maybe her next show ought to be called *Godmother Diary*. ■

Assunta shines in MMK showcase

by NESTOR TORRE
Inquirer.net

WE CONGRATULATE the anthology drama show, *Maala-ala Mo Kaya*, for occasionally showcasing some under-utilized stars in challenging roles, the better to remind other producers and the viewing public of their exceptional talent.

A couple of weeks ago, the beneficiary of the "reminder" showcase was Assunta de Rossi. Even when she was a sexy starlet, Assunta impressed us with her beauty and relative self-possession. When she gave up acting in favor of married life, we were sad to see her go.

So, we welcomed the comeback showcase that *MMK* offered Assunta—and we're happy to report that she took full advantage of the opportunity to show that she's become an even better actress during her extended leave from the biz.

In the Jeffrey Jeturian-directed drama, Assunta played a young woman who has learned a lot from the ways that the many men in her life use and abuse her. Instead of reacting in knee-jerk anger, she employs psychology and a keen understanding of the macho psyche to still get her way, despite their masculine intransigence.

Due to its usual take on male-female relationships, the *MMK* drama was a refreshing viewing treat, a relatively rare find on local TV screen, which is full of mostly predictable, regurgitated stuff.

On the debit side, so many men were involved with Assunta's character in the episode that the plot progression felt repetitious after a while.

Despite this, the show was a winner for Assunta, who scored major points in terms of versatility and sensitivity. She deglamorized herself for the role, but her character came through as a lovely person nonetheless. We trust that we'll be seeing more of Assunta on both the big and small screens from here on in.

The *MMK* episode also turned out to be a comeback vehicle for another under-utilized actor, James Blanco. He played Assunta's "seriously philandering" husband, and his performance passed muster.

We trust that *MMK* continues to provide a showcase for our less active but still talented stars, because the industry needs them. All too often, local drama shows are headlined by pretty but raw young comers who can't act their way out of a paper bag.

Viewers need and deserve better actors on the small screen, and *MMK* should be applauded for helping fill in the blanks. Now, if drama anthology could pay more attention to the quality of its plotting as well ...

Salamat Dok marks 5th year

ABS-CBN's acclaimed health and public service program, *Salamat Dok*, marks its fifth anniversary this month. Since its launch in 2004 with Cheryl Cosim as host, the program has undergone key changes in order to be responsive and relevant to its viewers' health concerns.

As part of its anniversary celebrations, *Salamat Dok* offers free medical services, as well as alternative therapy and treatments.

Attesting to its quality and value, the show has won prestigious honors like the Anak TV Seal, KBP Golden Dove, USTv Students' Choice Awards and the Gawad Tanglaw. ■



Assunta de Rossi

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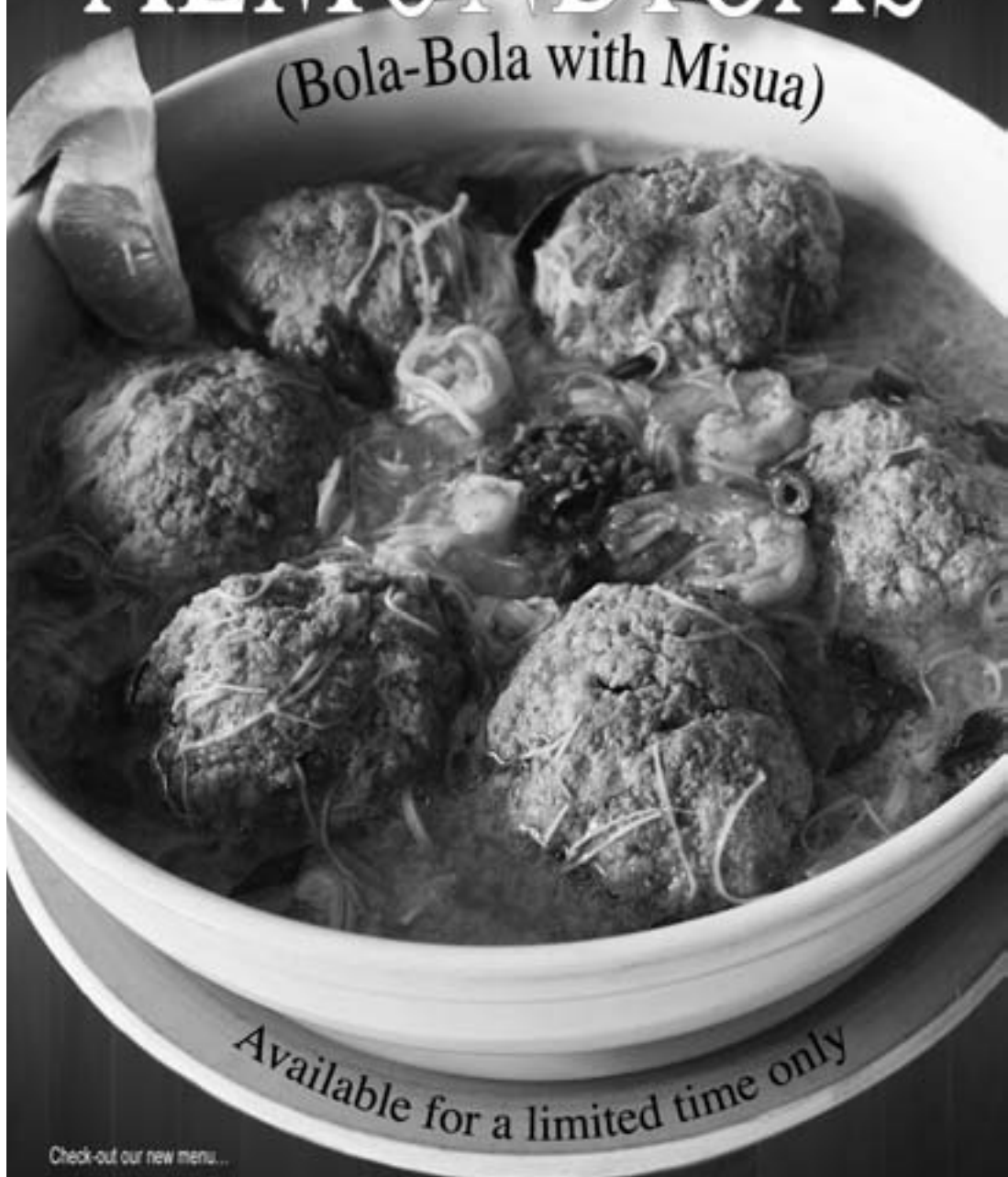
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Kung hanap ay lasa