

A Pinoy does us proud once again!



Ruben Nepales elected to board of Golden Globe award-giving body

RUBEN V. Nepales, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer's* Only IN Hollywood columnist and Los Angeles correspondent and a contributing editor of *Balikbayan*, the *Asian Journal's* new magazine, was elected to the board of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), the group that votes on and presents the prestigious Golden Globe Awards for excellence in film and television every January.

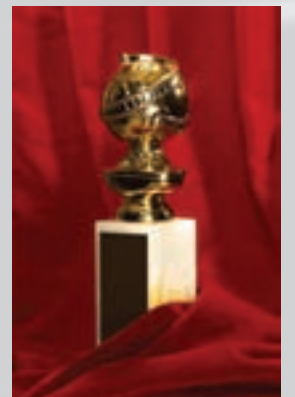
The HFPA recently made the announcement following the association's annual election meeting. Nepales, the first Filipino member in the 60-plus history of the HFPA, will be serving his first term as a member of the board of directors of the group of international

journalists. He joins Jorge Camara, who is chairman and has just served as president, Ali Sar, Theo Kingma, Armando Gallo and Frances Schoenberger (alternate) in the new board.

Also elected were Philip Berk, president; Hans Spurkel, vice president; Jack Tewksbury, treasurer; and Meher Tatna, executive secretary.

Nepales, who holds an AB degree in Communication Arts from the University of Santo Tomas, is profiled in the June 2009 issue of *Balikbayan magazine* (www.balikbayanmagazine.com). In his column that appears Friday to Sunday in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, Nepales writes about the year-round press conference-style interviews with Hollywood and international film and TV talents that he attends as an HFPA member, set visits and film festivals. He also makes it a point to spotlight Filipino talents making it in the global entertainment stage.

Ruben, a native of Calasiao, Pangasinan, lives in Los Angeles with his wife Janet Susan R. Nepales, who is also a journalist and was elected as an HFPA member in 2008. They have two children, Bianca Nicole (Nikki) and Rafaella Angelica (Ella).



HFPA installation luncheon, at which time the group makes its annual donations to non-profit organizations and film schools. The success of the Golden Globe Awards has enabled the non-profit press organization to donate over \$8 million to entertainment-related charities, fund scholarships and other programs. HFPA's international philanthropic efforts have been recognized by Variety which gave the association its Benefactor of the Year award in 2008.

HFPA also donates to The Film Foundation to fund the preservation of important films, including classics by Jean Renoir, John Ford, Stanley Kubrick, Alfred Hitchcock and other filmmakers. A world premiere of the newly-restored 1948 masterpiece, *The Red Shoes*, was presented by the HFPA and The Film Foundation in the recent Cannes Film Festival. Director Martin Scorsese, who introduced the special screening in Cannes and is The Film Foundation's chair, said in a statement, "Due to the incredible generosity of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, *The Red Shoes* has been fully restored. Those of us who love film owe the HFPA a deep debt of gratitude."

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Charice sets 1st local major gig this month

by POCHOLO CONCEPCION / inquirer.net

Charice Pempengco was back in Manila for the June 12 Independence Day celebrations at the Quirino Grandstand. She is also back to prepare for her first major concert on June 27 at Mall of Asia's SMX Convention Center.

The 17-year-old Filipino singing sensation arrived June 7 from Los Angeles, where she is recording her debut album to be released in the United States. Veteran record man and composer David Foster is her producer.

While taping for an episode on ABS-CBN's *Pinoy Bingo Night* game show on Wednesday afternoon, Charice chatted on the phone with the *Inquirer*.

How's the recording coming along?
 Note to God, we're still looking for the right songs. May mga tinanggal si Sir David sa [line-up]. Note to God did very well on

the singles charts.
 Last month, No. 2 *po sa* Amazon, Top 3 sa iTunes, Top 40 sa Billboard.
Now that you're earning good money, what else have you bought aside from the seven-door apartment in Laguna?
Nakabili na rin po ako ng sasakyan, Expedition.
Why did you pick Regine Velasquez as guest in your concert?
Idol ko po siya talaga. Nung concert ng Divas 4 Divas sa Long Beach (California) pinilit ko ang nanay ko na manood kami. ■



STARS FOR OTHERS

Every kid deserves a chance-Gary V

In the fight for children's rights, every little thing counts.

Gary Valenciano, Unicef National Ambassador, invited everyone to join a community called Champion for Children during its recent launch at SM City North Edsa.



The singer talked about his life-changing experiences as a Unicef envoy for over a decade. "I've learned that nothing is impossible. I've seen former war zones transformed into peaceful, thriving communities. I've seen empty classrooms fill up with children eager to learn and make their dreams come true, with the help of Unicef and its partners," Gary said. "We can do so much for these children; they deserve every chance we can give them."
Right to learn
 Guests at the launch walked through exhibits depicting what learning is like for a toddler in a makeshift daycare center; a family living inside a small tent

in an evacuation center; and children who work for a living. Champion for Children is a community of Unicef supporters working to make a difference in a child's life. By donating regularly, champions can help children all over the country enjoy the right to education, healthcare and nutrition, protection from neglect, abuse and exploitation.
Visit
 Prior to the launch, Gary visited the Baseco Compound in Tondo to meet several children that the community is helping raise.
 As Unicef ambassador, and also as a friend, he read to, and exchanged stories with them. ■