

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

# Charice brings down Dodger Stadium

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the stands.  
And the fans loved Charice's performance.  
Many fans in the dugout club (the seats right behind homeplate where she performed) walked towards the aisle to congratulate Charice on a well-done performance.  
"Unbelievable," said an elderly

woman who stopped Charice and gave her a hug. "What a performance. It brought tears to my eyes."  
Despite having such a stellar performance, Charice remained humble.  
She said she had butterflies in her stomach before heading out to the field. This is the first time she ever sang the *Star Spangled*

*Banner*, she said.  
"I think the people enjoyed it," said Charice in Tagalog to the *Asian Journal*.  
Charice arrived in Los Angeles late Sunday night (April 12), and through the help of Atty. Michael Gurfinkel and his wife, Millie, the *Asian Journal* was given the chance to get an exclusive interview.  
Still a bit jet lagged, she said she tried to stay awake by playing the Sony PSP and listening to the *Star Spangled Banner* lyrics over and over.  
"I am still a bit sleepy because of the time [difference]," she said. "I was just trying to focus on staying awake and not to forget the lyrics."  
She said singing in front of

thousands of people at the home of the Dodgers, Chavez Ravine, was a great opportunity.  
"You know as I was walking down [to the field] I saw all these pictures of the Dodgers and I was just thinking of all the people, all the celebrities who sang the American National Anthem here," she said. "And here I am. They chose me. I'm not even an American citizen but they chose me to sing the National Anthem. This is really a big opportunity for me."  
**What's next?**  
For the past year, Charice seems to have been everywhere. She sang in the *David Foster and Friends* concert in Las Vegas, was invited by Andrea Bocelli to sing in his birthday party in Italy, sang in front of 50,000 football fans in the Netherlands and performed with diva Celine Dion.  
She also made the jump to Hollywood.  
The last time Charice was in Los Angeles, she was in Hollywood shooting a scene in the upcoming movie *Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakel*. She played herself in the movie. She said that she'd be competing against the chipmunks in a school talent competition.  
She's also recording another album.  
Charice said that she feels very blessed with the number of opportunities she's receiving in her career.  
"Everything is happening so fast," she said. "I was on *Ellen* (hosted by Ellen DeGeneres) in 2007, and then in 2008, a lot of things happened. And then now in 2009, I feel like there's more opportunities coming my way—the movie I didn't expect, album I didn't really expect, and that I was considered to sing the [RP] National Anthem for [Manny Pacquiao. I congratulate Martin Nievera [for being selected] but I didn't expect to be considered. And now, I just sang the [US] National Anthem for the Dodgers."  
She said she owes many of her accomplishments to her fans.  
"Many have been following me since *Little Big Star* and up to now," said Charice. "I really thank them and also to the new fans who are supporting me. Keep supporting me. Thank you very much. I love you all." ■

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# The Golden Boy retires

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successful boxers in the history of the sport.  
The former 1989 Golden Gloves winner, and US gold medalist in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, De La Hoya captured 10 world titles in six different weight divisions during a 17-year professional career.  
He's also been the most successful pay-per-view fighter, his fights netting over \$660 million in revenues.  
Still, after losing a very lopsided victory to Philippine champion Manny Pacquiao in December, he knew he had enough.  
"I've been going back and forth with this retirement decision," said De La Hoya. "I'd say to myself I can do this one more time. I can still train and compete, but when you're an athlete who has competed in the highest level... when your body doesn't respond, you can't do anything about it."  
De La Hoya said that he's going to focus on his business endeavors. Besides Golden Boy Promotions, De La Hoya is active with many charitable and cancer organizations.  
"That's what I have to do now," he said. "Be the best that I can be outside the ring. I believe I can leave a legacy outside the ring, and that's just as important to me."  
"This is truly a bittersweet day for boxing and its fans throughout the world as Oscar's name has been synonymous with sport for nearly two decades," added Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer. "It has been a privilege and honor for me to work with this amazing champion and watch the brilliance of his career both in and out of the ring."  
De La Hoya retires from the ring with a 39-6, 30 KO record. (*Joseph Pimentel*)

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