



## Divas4Divas to Wow Stockton

ONE of the standout shows happening this Memorial Day Weekend is the Stockton stop of the *Divas4Divas* tour. The momentous concert, featuring four of the recognized divas in Philippine music and entertainment, takes place at the Bob Hope Theatre on May 24, 2009, starting at 7pm.

It took a while for Pop Diva Kuh Ledesma, Divine Diva Zsa Zsa Padilla, Concert Queen Pops Fernandez and Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez to have the opportunity to join forces in a project that celebrates their friendship and their music.

Although each of these artists have established music careers and have starred in solo concerts throughout their entertainment careers, they all approached this project with excitement. This marks the first time that four women with careers spanning decades in Philippine music are blending their voices and forces to stage a well-executed concert that will leave audiences spellbound and satisfied.

This concert features great production numbers, various costume changes, segments from each of the concert's stars and song numbers from Kuh, Zsa Zsa, Pops and Regine that will leave you wanting for more.

According to Kuh, who spearheaded the forming of this show, the song numbers have been specially arranged to bring out the strengths of each of

the performers.

As evidenced in their San Jose show earlier this year and in their performances in various parts of the United States, the numbers featuring the four divas had distinct melodies and harmonies, and the arrangements played up to the vocal prowess of each of the performers.

And with these professional artists, there is virtually no *sapawan*, or trying to put one over the other. Having performed with one or more of their fellow artists at one point in their careers, Kuh, Zsa Zsa, Pops and Regine know what to do and how to meld their voices as one unit.

This is the last stop in Northern California of the 4 Divas together... there is no other opportunity to see Kuh, Zsa Zsa, Pops and Regine belt out delicious song numbers together like *Vogue*, *Queen of the Night*, and *Ugoy Sa Duyan...* of course, aside from performing songs that are close to their heart and chart hits popularized by their fellow divas.

Fans who want to see a concert worth

their money should not miss *Divas4Divas*, which is being presented by Caselin Productions and Filipinas Productions. The show's sponsors include ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel, GMA Pinoy TV, Hacienda Isabella, Tancinco Law Offices, Asian Journal Publications, Inc. and Michael Gufinkel Law Offices.

Good seats are still available! For more information about the show or to inquire/reserve your tickets, please call the following: Filipinas (209) 832-0027, Cecille Azarcon (707) 645-1098, Bernie Mirando (650) 278-2326 or Pia Pena (510) 499-5340. You may also dial the Bob Hope Theatre ticket office at (209) 337-4673.

Don't miss the show that fans have been raving about since it first previewed at the Araneta Coliseum last year! Watch *Divas4Divas* and enjoy a night of great music, unity and friendship!

(Note: Prior to the May 24 show at the Bob Hope Theater, fans can meet the Divas at Seafood City Marketplace in Sacramento on Friday, May 22 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.)

\*Advertising Supplement

## FUNFARE

By RICKY LO  
Philstar.com

### Raymond pursues his own American Dream

WHEN Funfare met last week with Raymond Bagatsing at the coffee shop of the Beverly Hilton (where the international journalists were billeted for the print/TV interviews with *Terminator Salvation* stars Christian Bale and Sam Worthington), he begged off from talking about his private life.

It was understandable. When he married LA-based journalist Cora Pastrana last year, the thirtyish Raymond was roundly criticized (nay, ridiculed!) for marrying a woman twice his age even if, he insists, he did it for love and not for the *papel* (you know...).

Instead, we talked about his pursuit of his own American Dream.

He has been in LA for more than two years, spending his first several months doing some "soul-searching."

"I rested from being showbiz and lived a simple life," said Raymond, still goodlooking with shoulder-length hair. "Why did I have to soul-search? *Kasi nga*, I'd been in showbiz for 20 years and I wanted a change of pace, go back to basics, and enjoy life as an ordinary person. Now, I'm ready to return to showbiz. My manager and I have several plans."

His manager, Everett Wood (who accompanied Raymond to the interview), said that they are preparing an album to be recorded in the US but released in the Philippines and finalizing a plan for Raymond to star in an indie film.

"I have gotten adjusted to the American way of life," added Raymond. "It wasn't hard for me because I spent several years in Australia with my mother. I was there when I was 10 years old until my college years. Life in Australia and life in America are almost the same—you know, no maids, at *talagang kayod*."

It wasn't a total turning-back on showbiz, though.

"I first came (to LA) in 2006 to play Jose Rizal in a one-man play. Every now and then, I would sing for Filipino communities. But I spent most of my time doing *muni-muni*."

Asked what he missed most about the Philippines, Raymond said, "A lot. My friends, my fans, everybody and everything."

Isn't he coming home yet?

"Not in the near future. But I will, in due time."

Come to think of it, will he and his wife have a baby...soon?

"No, not yet. She's concentrating on her work and so am I on mine. ■"



suit of



Bring your love home through  
**balikbayangifts**  
www.balikbayangifts.com

Send them a gift...make them feel loved, make their day special by sending a gift to your relatives. We deliver anytime, anywhere in the Philippines!

With balikbayangifts.com, you are a step closer to home...

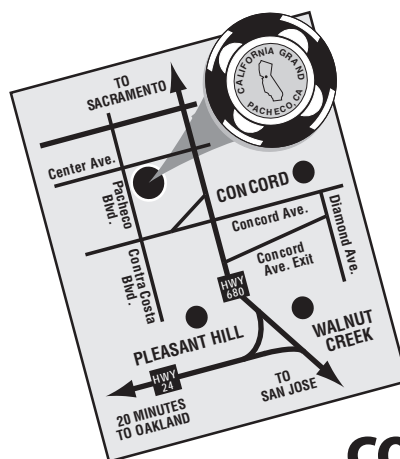
Call our customer service hotline at  
**888-530-8934**

www.balikbayangifts.com

# THE HOTTEST PAI GOW POKER IN THE BAY AREA!

The Joker is always WILD in our Pai Gow Poker games!

**NO LIMIT HOLD'EM**  
\$70,000+ Super Cash Jackpots • \$400 max buy-in  
**Hot Action BLACKJACK® • OMAHA**



Your Best Bet in the Bay Area!



**COMING SOON!**  
**THE ALL NEW CALIFORNIA GRAND CASINO!**



**California GRAND CASINO**

5867 Pacheco Blvd., Pacheco, CA 94553 925-685-8397  
(off Hwy 80 at Concord Ave.) CaliforniaGrandCasino.com

\* No purchase necessary. Management reserves the right to modify or cancel promotions at any time. Please inquire at cashier's cage. Please gamble responsibly. Gambling problem? 1-800-GAMBLER