



*Hi!*  
**Society**  
SAN FRANCISCO

By **MONET LU**

## KC Concepcion: A star in her own right

**M**EGA daughter KC Concepcion might have been born to showbiz royalty parents but she didn't hoist this birthright as a golden ticket to get ahead.

On the contrary, she went out on her own to get to know herself away from the limelight and enjoy life in relative anonymity in Paris, where she studied for four years.

Sharon did such a great job on this young lady.

She is one of the most beautiful and talented young stars to grace Philippine entertainment of late.

More importantly, KC is also an authentic role model.

Designated as the Philippines' UN ambassador against hunger, KC walks the walk when it comes to sharing her blessings to those less fortunate than herself.

Her humanitarian involvement keep her busy just as much her showbiz commitments.

Her TV acting debut on *Maalala Mo Kaya* was another revelation. Knowing she is the daughter of actors Gabby and Sharon, it's also as easy to recognize that she has a talent uniquely her own! Very poignant and mature for her age.

*Kaya naman* right now, I can consider KC as this generation's "face that refreshes." Very photogenic/telegenic. The screen simply loves her!

I can still remember the last time I saw KC before she officially entered showbiz. Back then, she wasn't as *kikay*. I fixed her hair during her mom's US concert tour many years ago.

Today, she has truly lived up to her promise. A young talented actress with a best-selling record and one of the most sought-after product endorsers.

All the magazines want her to be on the cover.

Of course, her lovelife is just as colorful. She has been linked to the most dashing bachelors in tinsel town.

With each of these wholesome romances—rumored or true-to-life—we also can't help but feel some kilig.



KC Concepcion

I guess through KC, we can live vicariously our youth back when it was full of limitless possibilities.

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LA-based celebrity stylist Monet Lu was born in Marikina, Philippines. In the 80s, Monet left a thriving salon chain business in his hometown to migrate to the US. He had the vision to recreate his success in the US by building a beauty business that served the needs of Filipino Americans. Currently, Monet is the proud owner of four salons with branches in Van Nuys CA, Panorama City CA, Los Angeles CA and Las Vegas NV. He has since branched out to event productions through his events and marketing company, Events Specialists International, producer of the longest-running [20 years!] and most prestigious Filipino-American awards/fashion show in SoCal. In 2006, Monet kicked off another passion to develop his own line of all-natural, beauty care products, Skin By Monet.

Monet is also a humanitarian and has supported many charitable organizations such as the Marikina Revitalization Project, AIDS Center in Pasadena, Alab Ng Puso, Every Nation Ministries, Gawad Kalinga, Bantay Bata 163, and many more. To contact Monet, please visit his site: [www.monetsalon.com](http://www.monetsalon.com).

## DOLLYWOOD

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**  
Inquirer.net

## Iza keeps love life private

IZA Calzado would rather keep her new relationship low-key.

"After my breakup with Jerry, I've decided to try and keep my love life private as much as possible," she says. "I know it's hard considering the nature of show biz. I'm seeing a businessman who's five years older than me. *Natawa ako sa nabasa ko* somewhere na my BF is a dirty old man. I don't go for that kind."

A prize catch like Iza isn't meant to be doomed with a DOM.

### Time-out

Before David Cook and David Archuleta left Manila, Cook took time out to play basketball with the staff of Shangri-La Edsa Hotel (where they were billeted) and the two Davids sat down to sign autographs for them. American Idols turned *Pinoy Lovers!*

### Moving again?

I cornered Cristine Reyes to ask if she is really going back to the Kapuso network after moving to the Kapamilya station.

"I can't talk yet," she said. "I have to wait



for the go-signal from my manager who's still in the States."

She's neither confirming nor denying. Stay tuned to both networks then.

### Perfect 'gay'

Roderick Paulate cracked me up with his superb performance in *Ded Na Si Lolo*. He is one of the few actors who can manage not to "fagotize" a gay role.

How did he prepare for it? "First reading *pa lang, gusto ko agad yung story*," Dick said. "I thought of attacking the role *na tamang-tama lang kasi* we wanted to achieve the truth about what grieving *Pinoys* go through and our traditions *kada may lamay*. Direk Soxy Topacio is so cool to work with and so is the awesome cast."

Hardest scene? "When I was wearing a gown the first time I went to the wake. From drama, I had to deliver a punch line after. The shift from drama to comedy had to be smooth."

*Ded Na Si Lolo* was made even more *buhay na buhay* by Dick's portrayal. ■

## Cinemalaya Cinco: Capturing reality

By **THEA ALBERTO**  
Inquirer.net

If life imitates art, or even if it's the other way around, then films in this year's Cinemalaya Festival have done a great job of capturing reality—and remarkably made good art out of it.

In trailers alone of over a dozen movies in the Full length and Short Film categories, Cinemalaya has shown that movie enthusiasts could expect to see more thought-provoking, creatively-made movies this year.

"This year's films have better quality," Laurice Guillen told reporters during the launch of Cinemalaya Cinco, the fifth year of the country's premiere independent film festival. The films will run from July 17 to July 26 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Guillen said foreign guests

who pledged to join the festival have increased, a sign the world is beginning to recognize Filipino films.

CPP president Nestor Jardin said that last year alone the festival attracted 29,000 viewers—a high number of movie-goers for any independent film fest. The festival started with only 8,000 patrons during its first year.

"We're proud to say we have helped, nurtured, supported more than 50 film makers," said Jardin.

Ten differently-themed movies are competing for this year's full length category—from *Ang Panggagahasa kay Fe*, a moving story of a rape victim, to *Engkwentro* to the vigilante killings in Davao City, to *Nereri*, a story of a boy who has to make ends meet for his older siblings.

There are also simple plots but highly relevant stories like *Last Supper No.3*, which

portrays the Philippine justice system; *Sanglaan*, a story of a pawnshop and its owners; *24K* a story of a treasure hunter; *Colorum* which tells about a policeman ironically driving an illegal public vehicle to earn money; *Dinig Sana Kita* a love story of a deaf-mute and *Astig* a story of children who personify the grim images of Manila.

Amazingly, each film has only about P500,000 budget, a grant from Cinemalaya.

There are also 10 finalists for the Short Film category, whose entries are expected not to be over 20 minutes.

In this category are: *Behind Close Doors*; *Blogog*; *Bonsai*; *Musa*; *Si Bok at ang Mga Trampo*; *Tatang*; *Ugat sa Lupa*; and *Wat Floor Ma'am*.

The best full length story will get a P200,000 grant while those in the short film category will get a P100,000 grant. ■

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