

CARNIVAL OF PHILIPPINE BEAUTIES 2009

Beauty redefined

Heavenly beauties collide on coronation night



Beauty impresario Ferdie Villar celebrated his 72nd birthday that coincided with the grand proclamation and coronation night of the lucky winners of the five-in-one beauty and popularity contest, the Carnival of Philippine Beauties where the titles for Mrs. RP-USA, Mr. & Miss RP-USA, Little Mr. & Miss RP-USA were chosen. Shown in photo with the celebrant are California Senator Leland Yee, Daly City Councilman David Canepa and California State Commissioner Rey B. Satorre.

BAY AREA glitterati and fashionistas flocked to the ballroom of the Cathedral Hill Hotel for an eventful night of victories, live musical entertainment, recognition and great acquaintances for the 2009 Carnival of Philippine Beauties coronation night.

Mrs. RP- International 2007 Marilen Bernardo and the dashing Daly City Councilman Dave Canepa emceed the program, making their tandem fit for the occasion because of their beauty and wit.

Divo Bayer's heart-stopping rendition of Andrea Bocelli's *Nessun Dorma* set the triumphant mood of the night. Divo was named as Celebrity Award's Entertainer of the Year and people supported him with a rousing request for more songs. He belted out a heartfelt rendition of *The Prayer*, which served as the birthday song for beauty impresario Ferdie Villar, who looked so kingly in his especially designed bejeweled coat with matching crown as Hall of Famer King of Club Royale International.

Fashionable Lady of the Year Susan Pacifico was an eye-catcher in her mermaid-style ensemble. Former Mrs. RP-USA World Zeny Lutao Sarmiento still exudes that queenly stance and composure that made her earn her title a few years ago. Towering Jett Viray Navarro, Club Royale Chairman, never fails to dazzle in any event that she attends as she walked in the ballroom in her Vera Wang piece.

After some live music and dancing, candidates of the Carnival of Philippine Beauties 2009 strutted on stage in their lovely gowns. Special awards were given to the candidates in the categories of Best in Long Gown, Most Popular and Best in Talent. Finally, the major titles were announced.

Clarina Eleanor Camicia was proclaimed Little Miss RP-USA 2009, earning other awards like Best in Long Gown and Most Popular. Everybody was pleased the way she carried her golden draped gown and her smile resembling Mona Lisa's. Her runners-up were Anna Amador as Little Miss RP-Universe, Jaylyn Narayan as Little Miss RP-International and Karen Jabson as Little Miss RP-Asia.

This year's Mr. RP-USA is Joshua Farinas who looks like a matinee idol in the making with his expressive eyes and supple red lips. He is a sophomore at the University of San Francisco and has done a string of print modeling and movie work as a kid.

Little Mr. RP-USA 2009 is Angelo Pangilinan who caught the attention of the judges with his dancing skills to the of rap music. He seems to be very photogenic with his Moreno look and close up smile.

Former flight attendant Ceres Delapaz was proclaimed as this year's Mrs. RP-USA. Her white *terno* was very appropriate as she was crowned by Senator Leland Yee and former Mrs. RP-Universe Lilwyn Pascua. Ceres got the judges' nod when she gave a brilliant answer during per personal interview where she showed her knowledge and experience in her various careers. Runner-ups were Anita Dungca as Mrs. RP-Universe and Mylah Spears Mrs. RP-International.

But the crowd roared when Trina Dimaranan was announced as the new Miss RP-USA. Chosen from among six finalists, Trina is a towering 5'9 with a dusky skin tone and very svelte figure. A lot of beauty contest aficionados described her as a combination of former beauty queen Gemma Cruz Araneta and the model composure of Evangeline Pascual, who almost made it as the first Miss World. Her mom, Nita Rivera, recounted that her daughter was asked to sign up for a prestigious modeling agency, but Trina was so young then and she was not ready to take that route. Her mother was all so surprised when she noticed that Trina got so motivated to do photo shoots after she registered as one of the candidates for Miss RP-USA 2009. Beauty, brains, talent and a very pleasing personality all wrapped in one. With a little more coaching, she can be the next Miss World which has eluded our country for the past few decades. Another candidate, Jhasmin Toledo, who has the semblance of a young Angelina Jolie, made it as Miss RP-Universe 2009, while Karhisa Medina, who was so gorgeous in her dramatic black gown, won the Miss RP-International title.

In this time of economic meltdown, beauty contests such as this is hard to set up in this magnitude. However, the festive hearts of our sponsors made it all possible. Our special thanks to Senator Leland Yee for always being supportive of Filipino community events, to Councilman David Canepa of Daly City, Tourism Director Rene Delos Santos, Mrs. Jett Viray Navarro of Club Royale International, and the able staff like pageant director-writer Noel Nuguit, Judith Retotar, Mervin Nuguit, Claire Viray, Jeanette Almirez and the rest of those gentle-heated people who took time out to share their talents in making this year's pageant a big success. ■



▲ Karhisa Medina, a beauty from Daly City, was proclaimed and crowned as this year's Miss RP-International. At present, she is the general manager of Nordstrom's in San Francisco.



Lurline Ortiz of Vallejo, winner of this year's special Talent Award, is shown receiving her award from Senator Leland Yee.



Ceres Delapaz, a former flight attendant is the newly crowned Mrs. RP-USA 2009 and is shown looking so elegant in her Maria Clara gown in white just-lace material designed by a well-known fashion designer in the Philippines. At present, she works at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and is a realtor.



Angelo Pangilinan of South San Francisco, the seven-year-old son of Maria Pangilinan is this year's Little Mr. RP-USA. Angelo love to dance to rap music and plays basketball.



The royal court of winners of this year's Carnival of Philippine Beauties is shown with the pageant's producer, beauty impresario Ferdie Villar, who is also known in the country as the father of beauty queens, and Sen. Leland Yee.



Moring Macalinao, president of the Buri-Buri Filipino-American Senior Association, is shown receiving her trophy as this year's Celebrity Star Award for Club President of the Year.



Tessie Labitoria, administrator of Saint Teresa Agency and Home Health Services is shown receiving her trophy as this year's Celebrity Star's awardee as Humanitarian Lady of the Year.



Annabelle R. Guevarra, owner and proprietress of Pampanga Cuisine Restaurant is shown holding her trophy as this year's award as Restaurateur of Year after receiving this prestigious award from Senator Leland Yee.



Her Majesty Queen Trina I, a portrait of real Filipina beauty, is the only daughter of Ramon Dimaranan and Nita Rivera of Fremont. Trina stands 5'9, with vital statistics 36-24-36, and her hobbies are singing, modeling and swimming.



Anita Quiambao Dungca, a successful businesswoman in San Francisco, was proclaimed and crowned as Mrs. RP-Universe 2009 by Christine Acha, former Mrs. RP-World winner.



Clarina Eleanor Camicia of Daly City was crowned by Cinco de Mayo King and Queen Rolly Lavarias and Alice Atienza. Little Miss Camicia was also chosen as Most Popular and Best in Long Gown.



Trina Rivera Dimaranan, the newly-crowned Miss RP-USA 2009, is shown with Singer for All Season Tess Gregorio, Virginia Eggert, Ester Ramos and Helen Calonge.



▲ San Jose Youth Model of the Year awardee and outgoing Mr. RP-USA Matthew Luciano together with Mrs. RP-USA Irene Chapa, presented the three-legged trophy to Joshua Farinas, a sophomore college student from the University of San Francisco, for winning the title of Mr. RP-USA 2009.



Former ABS-CBN Channel 2 director and talent manager Noel Nuguit of San Jose is this year's scriptwriter and pageant director of the most attended Carnival of Philippine Beauties, held every year here in Northern California.



Jhasmin Toledo of San Jose is shown receiving a Recognition Award for being chosen as Miss RP-Universe 2009 from Senator Leland Yee, after being crowned by former Mrs. RP-Universe Lei Venegas Atis.



Lyndia Humphrey is this year's winner for Mrs. RP-USA Photogenic Award. Mrs. Humphrey is shown receiving her special award from Senator Leland Yee and former Mrs. RP-World winner Christine Acha.



Jett Viray Navarro, grand dame of Club Royale International Foundation and overall chairman of this year's Carnival of Philippine Beauties, is shown with the members of the executive committees who have worked hard to make sure this year's event is a tremendous success. (Seated, L-R) Flor Rennock, Claire Mendoza Viray, Mrs. Navarro, Linda and John Standcliff, (standing, L-R) Dory Paniza, Jeanette Almirez, Bituin Ignacio, Joseph Nucera and Elaine Estabrooks.



Four lucky finalists for Little Miss RP-USA are shown dancing merrily before they were proclaimed and crowned as winners. They are (L-R) Little Miss RP-USA 2009 Clarina Camicia, Little Miss RP-USA RP-Universe Anna Amador, Little Miss RP-International Jaylynn Narayan and Little Miss RP-Asia Karen Jabson.