

Kuh: A blessed Diva



Kuh Ledesma with Monet Lu

I admire them both for being direct and sincere. What you see is what you get.

Joe and Ana are blessed with two kids who are also successfully pursuing their careers.

After so many years of knowing them, they remain as simple and unassuming as when I first met them 20 years ago.

Most of all, they've always been supportive to the Filipino community and its endeavors. They have contributed a lot to boosting the image of the Filipino professional as competent, honest, and reliable.

To the Sayas family, I wish you more blessings and inspiration.

I consider myself very lucky to be surrounded by friends who constantly inspire me to be a better person. With all the stresses of life, we get by with a little help from our friends. Let's not forget to be thankful and to always count our blessings. Amid all the challenges, keep breathing, keep living, keep loving, enjoy life and praise God!

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 Vega 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.

To me, she's a woman who lives to serve the Lord, and she's not ashamed to admit this. She's a warrior. In her concerts, she dedicates songs to the Almighty to honor Him.

Years ago, it was my good friend Rio Diaz Cojuangco who encouraged me to renew my faith. Unfortunately, I lost Rio to cancer. But in her place, I feel like in some way God sent me another sister in faith through the person of Kuh. To you Kuh, may God continue to bless you and your family. I salute you!

Another remarkable woman in my life that I turn to for comfort is my long-time friend, Mila Dela Cruz. I call her Ate Mila but really, she's been like a second mother to me.

We first met many years ago when she applied for a job as cosmetologist in my salon. And we have been together ever since. *Masipag, matiyaga, maaalalahanin, tapat—iyan si Ate Mila. Kasama ko siya nung unang naging successful ang negosyo ko in the 90s through my first salon on Beverly Blvd., hanggang sa mag-open ako ng ibang branches.* During

rough times, especially when my business and personal life collapsed, *kasama ko pa rin si Ate Mila.*

Dito ko talaga napatunayan ang kanyang katapatan bilang kaibigan.

Walang iwanan, sabi nga nila. Marami na kaming pinagdaanan together. We might disagree sometimes but we know that our friendship is solid. Ate Mila, I want to thank you for being there for me not just as a valuable employee but as a trusted friend. Maraming salamat!

I also acknowledge a remarkable couple that I'm blessed to be friends with—Atty. Joe Sayas and Ana Sayas. I've known them since the very first Reflections Awards started 20 years ago.

As professionals, they are good role models for our kababayans. As friends, they are a delight to be around. Whenever we get together, we can talk about any and all topics—showbiz, politics, community, religion, spirituality and everything else in between. They are such bright people with interesting ideas.



Star Magic at 17

IN celebration of its 17th year, a star-studded extravaganza on ASAP '09 ushers ABS-CBN Star Magic's grand anniversary celebration on June 21. ASAP '09 shall present superb production numbers showcasing the talent and beauty of the Star Magic artists. Expect to see Star Magic artists who are the young royalties of today's showbiz in a glamorous fashion show with outfits from top-caliber designers with Njoy Volante with his band Rythmic Circle providing the music. There will also be song and dance numbers ranging from high-energy, standards and inspirational. Footages of the Star Magic basketball and volleyball teams, rehearsals and acting and dance workshops shall also be shown. After the anniversary kick-off in ASAP '09, the Star Magic artists shall leave for the US for the much awaited *Star Magic, The World Concert Tour*.

For the first time, Star Magic artists will get to showcase their talents, All in one night, All in one stage.

With more than 40 artists coming, Piolo Pascual, John Lloyd Cruz, Kristine Hermosa, Bea Alonzo, Sam Milby just to name a few. TFC, *Asian Journal*, ALAS Cargo and The Law offices of Michael Gurfinkel proudly bring you the concert event of the year! VIP tickets have been sold out but there are still some great seats left. Be part of history being made, Get your tickets now. Don't forget June 28, 7pm at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. This show is also brought to you by Courtyard Marriott, Pilipinas Cafe, Bench, Pera Ko, Pera Mo, Keyrose Corporation, Juicy Cologne, Yamaha, Knorr and 4G. For tickets, call (510) 938-9748 and (408) 476-4960 now or visit our website at www.starmagicworldtour.com Later this year, the stars shall once again come down from the heavens as they party the night away in the 3rd Star Magic Grand Ball.

17 years of Star Magic...17 years of discovery, management and development of artists. Star Magic has truly gone a long way from the time when then ABS-CBN President and Chief Operating Officer Freddie Garcia and Johnny Manahan hatched the idea of creating a stable of new stars exclusively for ABS-CBN. 1992 was the magical year as ABS-CBN Talent Management and Development Center was given life. October that same year, *Ang TV*, the hit youth afternoon show that spawned many mall shows, live concerts and record albums, was launched. *Ang TV* was also the door for the likes of the young Claudine Barretto, Angelica Panganiban, Rica Peralejo, Kaye Abad, John Prats, Angelu de Leon, Victor Neri and many more to enter showbiz. Later in November 1995, Star Circle Batch 1 was launched, led by the late Rico Yan. The magic continuous with ABS-CBN Star Magic! So remember watch ASAP '09 this coming Sunday at 12 noon on TFC, then watch them live, at the Cow Palace on Sunday, June 28 at 6pm for the *Star Magic The World Tour*.

*Advertising Supplement

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