



## Notes from RENO

John "Romy" Rose

**T**HE Buffet's Fill Up Thursdays special is back by popular demand offering the best buffet special in Reno. In July, guests can enjoy dinner at The Buffet for the price of three gallons of gas.

The Buffet provides an all-you-can-eat culinary experience like none other, featuring live action stations, an exhibition kitchen and a delectable dessert bar that's a feast for the eyes.

"The Fill Up special is a great way for us to show our appreciation by offer-

ing guests the best food and service in town," says Gregg Carano, Eldorado's Corporate Director of Food & Beverage. "The food is incredible, the atmosphere is great, guests won't want to eat anywhere else," added Carano.

The Buffet's extraordinary dining selection includes American and international cuisine including Italian, Chinese, sushi, Mexican and more. Buffet nightly food specials include a spectacular Friday night Seafood Dinner and Sunday Champagne Brunch. Also, back by popular demand, the Eldorado's spectacular Prime Rib will be served every night. For more information please dial (800)

648-5966 or (775) 786-5700 in Nevada or visit the Eldorado online at [eldoradoreno.com](http://eldoradoreno.com).

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The hot flash continues as the ladies of Menopause the Musical continue their laugh-out-loud musical comedy through the summer. Due to popular demand, *Menopause* has been extended to July 26 in the Eldorado Showroom. Tickets are available from \$29.95 for adults and from \$24.95 for children and seniors; dinner and show packages available from \$39.95. For show ticket reservations and information, please call (800) 648-5966 or (775) 786-5700 in Northern Nevada.

Inspired by a hot flash and a bottle of wine, *Meno-*

*pause The Musical* has sold out audiences across the country. Billed as *The Hilarious Celebration of Women and The Change*, the original, off-Broadway musical begins with four women, "Professional Woman," "Soap Star," "Iowa Housewife" and "Earth Mother," at a Bloomingdale's lingerie sale. These ladies have nothing in common—but a black lace bra, hot flashes, night sweats, memory loss, chocolate binges, not enough sex, too much sex and day-to-day challenges.

The women share their ups and downs through a collection of 25 re-lyricized baby boomer songs from the '60s, '70s and '80s. Disco hit *Stayin' Alive* becomes *Stayin'*

*Awake*, Motown favorite *My Guy* is transformed into *My Thighs*, *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* switches to *In the Guest Room or on the Sofa*, *My Husband Sleeps at Night*, and *Puff The Magic Dragon* becomes the anthem to exercise, *Puff, My God I'm Draggin'.*

"We want to bring women together and empower them. This is an event—a happening," says Kathi Glist, one of the show's producers. "It resonates with just about any woman over 40, but it is enjoyed by all. And the younger women laugh just as hard," she adds. "It's a party every night!"

The show, which has become an international phenomenon, is written by Jeanie Linders and is produced by South Florida-based GFour Productions. *Menopause The Musical* has been seen by more than ten million people all over the world since it

debuted in a 76-seat perfume-shop-turned-theatre in Orlando, Florida in 2001.

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Also, please visit The Rose Garden Restaurant at 1255 Stardust Street in Reno, which serves Asian, American and Italian cuisine. The Rose Garden features a Filipino Buffet from Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 2pm (lunchtime) and 5pm to 10pm (dinnertime), and Sunday from 10am to 3pm. On Fridays and Saturdays, The Rose Garden features ballroom dancing and karaoke.

See you in Reno!

\*Advertising Supplement

## REVIEW

By BERT B. SULAT JR.  
[Inquirer.net](http://Inquirer.net)

## A successful 'journey'

**C**HARICE Pempengco's first full-length concert, dubbed *The Journey Begins* at Mall of Asia's SMX Convention Center last Saturday, June 27, was not without flaws even before it started.

Lines had snaked outside the venue early on, yet doors remained shut until past 7pm. Once inside, some ushers led people to the wrong seats. Forty minutes past show time, the gig was still in limbo.

## Eight costume changes

The show itself was imperfect. For one thing, the main star was subjected to a total of eight costume changes, which resulted in a few moments of dead air and extended "cover-up" by the band and backup vocalists (one of whom looked bored).

Later, Charice was made to thank a long list of sponsors (the voiceover announcer should have done that). Was it a way to keep her humble, as she was advised onstage (by Kuh Ledesma) or on videotape (David Foster, among others) that night?

Moreover, by cramming over 20 songs into the two-hour show, several numbers were abridged—dished out with some stanzas omitted, jumping straight to the belt-out parts—lending the proceedings an all-peak-no-valley monotony.

That said, Charice herself did not fail, her singing stupendously awesome, scaling stratospheric octaves that wowed some 6,000 people that night.

She has become Manny Pacquiao's counterpart in the mu-

sic industry (never mind if the boxer is also sort of a singer). She did not falter either on her signature toss-and-catch mic trick, which she displayed as she kicked things off with the *Dreamgirls* ballad *And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going*.

As expected, she sang the Titanic theme, *My Heart Will Go On*; the other *Dreamgirls* hit, *Listen*; and *The Bodyguard's* pesticide-strength *I Will Always Love You* and *I Have Nothing*. (Interestingly, none of those flicks are her favorite. As the concert souvenir program said, *Friday the 13th* and *Autopsy* are her preferred movies, mercifully hinting at a complex personality—or at least youthful audacity—and not entirely saccharine tastes.)

Even the seventh number, a *You and Me Against the World* duet with mom Raquel, herself a former band vocalist, could have been farcical—given mother and child's twin yellow gowns that echoed Belle's of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. But the number wound up being quite a poignant spectacle.

## Surprises

There were two surprises. In a nod to the late Michael Jackson, Charice rendered his *Billie Jean* (replete with a faux Moonwalk) and *You Are Not Alone*; what was surprising to the audience was that, she said, they were due to duet two weeks from now (during his scheduled London tour, we presume).

And there were several guest performers, although the main invitee was absent: Regine Velasquez turned out to be sick, her two-day fever averting what would have been an earsplitting "birit" faceoff.

Filling in Regine's gown, literally, was the regal Kuh, who joined Charice for a grand take on Freddie Aguilar's *Anak*—one of the two instances when the show got musi-



## Pinoy albums on iTunes



**F**ILIPINOS in the US who want to listen to their favorite local acts need not wait for their albums to be available on record stores or ask their relatives to send their albums there. That is because they can now download their songs and full albums via iTunes.

Lea Salonga, Sharon Cuneta, Ariel Rivera and Joey de Leon make up the lists of top local artists whose singles you can download for \$0.99 per song or their full album for \$9.99. One can also choose from the wide catalog of Sony Music Philippines' artists like Eraserheads, Wolfgang, Razorback, The Dawn, South Border, Greyhoundz, Color It Red, 6Cyclenind, Callalily, Cueshé, Pupil, Itchyworms, Brownman Revival, Duster, Roots of Nature, Letter Day Story, KC Concepcion, Lovi, Gloc9, Gian Magdangal and Jimmy Bondoc.

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cally unpredictable, thanks to the brief melodic syncopation halfway through. (The first was the musicale-mimicking overture at the very beginning, before Charice appeared onstage.)

All told, Charice, who is likewise an aspiring songwriter, made us appreciate the beauty in pop music—how it can echo real emotions through song. Now that she has everyone's attention and can trump her vocal peers at their own game, here's hoping she will somehow manage to inject more Pinoy-ness into her repertoire.

That way, no matter how her "journey" proceeds, we would gladly be right behind her. ■

**CATCH IT NOW!**  
**SHOW CLOSES JULY 26**

# Menopause

## The Musical

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