

# Apl.de Ap, Asian Americans Honored as Leaders by LEAP

By Rene Villaroman/Asianjournal.com

UNIVERSAL CITY — Hip-hop artist and Black Eyed Peas founding member Apl.de.Ap was one of the five individuals and one community-based organization that were honored by Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) during its 25th Anniversary Celebration and Gala on Thursday, July 19 at the Hilton Los Angeles.

“As a nation’s artist in the music industry, it feels good and overwhelming for me and other Asian artists in the community to have this support; that’s why I am here,” Apl.de.Ap declared minutes before he received the award.

Other Asian-Pacific leadership honorees were Doreen Woo Ho, President, Consumer Credit Group, Wells Fargo; Sally Huang-Nissen, Diversity Consultant and Trainer, Huang-Nissen and Associates; Frank Quevedo, Vice President, Equal Opportunity, Southern California Edison; Van Tran, Assemblyman, California State Assembly, 68th District;

and the Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) based in Garden Grove, California.

“That we have been 25 years in this business is quite an impressive journey,” declared LEAP chair Alvenia Rhea Albright. “Tonight, we are recognizing other people who have made great strides in leadership.”

“LEAP’s Board of Directors has selected a very deserving and distinguished list of honorees and we believe the community will agree that each of these honorees exemplifies LEAP’s philosophy, mission and goals,” JD Hokoyama, President and CEO.

Apl.de.Ap was born in the Philippines and moved to the United States when he was 14 years old.

Says Mona Lisa Yuchengco, former Publisher-Editor of Filipinas Magazine, who nominated him for the award: “Apl.de.Ap is a true icon for Asian-Americans. He is celebrated as an inspiration in this generation. He is like other Filipinos

who left their country to seek opportunities abroad.” Amy Agbayani, LEAP Secretary and Director of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity of University of Hawaii, says “I am very proud of being a member of LEAP because I think that they are doing a good job of creating opportunities for Asian-Americans.” Ms. Agbayani was involved in the selection process of the 2007 leadership awardees.

After receiving the award, Apl.de.Ap congratulated LEAP for its successes and accomplishments, saying, “I feel so proud to lead the Asian-Pacific community in everything I do off and on the stage. Unfortunately, my adoptive father can’t be here tonight to share with the honor, but my mom is here,” pointing to her mother at a nearby table. “Slow down on the steaks, mom,” he quipped.

“I started a label called Jeepney Music, which will pave the way for other Filipino artists to express themselves in this industry,” Apl announced.



Apl.de Ap AJ Photo by Rene Villaroman

“There aren’t enough Asian artists out there,” he commented. “This is our way of giving back to the community.” At the moment, Apl is also working on a solo album in collaboration with Chad Hugo, who is one of the biggest producers of hip-hop music right now. “Fortunately, we have been able to record some of the original Filipino instruments. In my record you might hear something clanging there and in the videos,” he revealed. “We want to be able to introduce that in the mainstream society also.”

His biggest unheralded project is adding a wing to the Angeles City (Pampanga province) Medical Center that will



(L-R) Apl.de.Ap, Founding Member, Black Eyed Peas (honoree), Frank Quevedo, Vice President, Equal Opportunity, Southern California Edison (honoree), Robbin Preciado, Vice Chair of the Board, Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) (honoree), Sally Huang-Nissen, Diversity Consultant and Trainer, Huang-Nissen and Associates (honoree), Doreen Wo Hoo, President, Consumer Credit Group, Wells Fargo Corporate Trust Services (honoree), Alvenia Rhea Albright, Chair, LEAP Board of Directors, Margaret Ashida, 25th Anniversary Chair, LEAP Board of Directors, J.D. Hokoyama, President & CEO, LEAP, Assemblyman Van Tran’s representative, (honoree)

serve that province’s indigent patients. He hopes that with the completion of that wing, “no indigent patient would be turned away because they do not have the ability to pay.”

Locally, Apl and the other members of Black Eyed Peas also have founded Peapod, a non-profit foundation that does benefits that help school-children. “We’ve done benefit shows recently in South Africa, and in the ghettos in Los Angeles, and the proceeds go back to the schools. “We help

Photo courtesy of Miyatake Studios

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## THE ART SCENE

# Philippines’ ‘Tuli’ Wins LA Film Fest Grand Jury Award

By Ruben V. Nepales / Inquirer.net

MANILA — “Tuli” (Circumcision), a film by internationally acclaimed Filipino director Aureus Solito, won the grand jury award for international narrative feature July 22 evening in Outfest, one of the world’s largest gay and lesbian film festivals and the largest film festival in Southern California.

“I’m so happy!” Solito wrote via e-mail. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, Outfest featured more than 200 films and videos from 26 countries. Outfest is the leading festival of its kind in the US and is the oldest running film festival in Los Angeles. “Tuli,” Aureaus’ follow-up to his internationally

well-received “Ang Pagdadalaga ni (The Blossoming of) Maximo Oliveros,” was featured in Sundance film festival’s Spectrum program last January.

In an e-mail, Solito recalled how he learned the good news about “Tuli.” “Suddenly, an e-mail popped on my PC. Bird Runningwater, an executive of Sundance film festival, e-mailed me that ‘Tuli’ won in Outfest. I felt so ecstatic that I jumped for joy. I told my friend Paul Morales on the phone and said goodbye, ran to my mother downstairs and told her the good news. She jumped for joy and ran to our neighbors in Sampaloc and announced the good news to them,” Solito said.

“This is a victory for indie

filmmaking in the Philippines,” added Solito.

“Tuli,” which links the summer ritual of circumcision among young boys and other traditions in the Philippines to a love story with a twist, stars Desiree del Valle, Carlo Aquino, Vanna Garcia, Bembol Roco, Amable Quiambao, and Eugene Domingo. Written by Jimmy Flores, the film shared the Netpac Award at this year’s Berlin Film festival.

After “Tuli,” Solito made “Pisay,” his entry in the ongoing Cinemalaya festival. A nostalgic look at his student days at Pisay, the alumni’s affectionate short name for Philippine Science High School, the film and Solito received a standing ova-



tion at its recent premiere.

“Tuli” was one of the major winners in Outfest’s awards night gala held at the Ford Amphitheatre in Los Angeles.

# Dolphy: 80 and...

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a Roaring ’20s party for him at the Villa Immaculada in Intramuros, Manila.

Together for 19 years, the couple has weathered all kinds of storms and survived the worst kind of tsismis which is the recurrent one about their having parted ways and putting up appearances by living under one roof but sleeping on separate beds.

“Yes, it’s true,” confirmed Zsa Zsa when Funfare dropped by last July 22 at Tamayo’s Flower Shop and Catering Service & Restaurant, near the venue of the July 28 affair, where Zsa Zsa and Dolphy had a food-tasting. “Yes,” repeated Zsa Zsa with a wide smile, “we slept on separate beds when I came back from Melbourne two weeks ago because I had the flu and I didn’t want to infect him. Dolphy can’t sleep without having the aircon on and I was feeling cold, so I asked him to sleep in another room. But our separation didn’t last long because we missed each other. Now, we’re back to sleeping on the same bed.”

Don’t misinterpret Zsa Zsa’s trip to Melbourne as a ploy to evade the rumors.

“I went there to enroll Nicole at the university. She’s taking up an arts course.”

The couple could also only laugh at the rumor linking Zsa Zsa to Tito Sotto.

“I haven’t seen him for years,” exclaimed Zsa Zsa. “The last time I saw Tito was at the hospital where FPJ was confined. Are we bothered by rumors like that? No, we are not, not at this stage of our life.”

Asked why she chose the Roaring ’20s as motif, Zsa Zsa simply explained, “Because Dolphy was born on July 25, 1928.”

will partake of the following menu, the same one Zsa Zsa and Dolphy went out of their way to taste (“Ayaw namin mapahiya sa mga guests, ‘no,” said Zsa Zsa):

- Appetizer: Chicken Galantina, Fisherman’s Dream, Garlic Mushroom, and Lumpiang Shanghai;
- Soup: Crab & Corn Soup Chinese Style;
- Salad: Salad Bar, Poached

Baby Prawns in Asian Vegetable Garden, and Pepered Beef Tenderloin;

- Main Entree: Stuffed Beef Tenderloin St. Sylvester on a port wine, Hawaiian Pork Spareribs, Sauteed Shrimps in hot chili sauce, Tri Color Pasta with Arabiata sauce, and Steamed Rice;
- Desserts: Fresh Fruits in Season, Mango Sago, and

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