

Foundation for Filipino Artists celebrates two decades of excellence

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
AJ Press

NEW YORK—What started out in 1988 as an idea of showing the rich heritage and culture of the Filipino people has become one of the most prestigious organizations in the city that has reached out to the multi-ethnic community of Queens and that of greater New York.

This year marks the celebration of the group's 20th anniversary and with a dinner gala at the Marriott La Guardia, the Foundation and its members and friends honored three distinguished women.

Helen Marshall, Queens Borough President; Pat Edwards, Citibank's VP and Community Relations Director and international artist Lolita Valderama Savage all took the centerstage to share the evening's honor.

"The foundation has done so much to promote Filipino artists and I am very proud to receive this award with these two women. I hope we have more projects in the future as we share the essence of art

and unite people from all over the world," Savage said as she received her award.

The indefatigable Aida Bartolome, the Foundation's founder and executive director, was thankful to everyone who has supported to the group for the past 20 years.

"On behalf of our the officers, members, and to the many volunteers who are instrumental in reaching our 20th anniversary, I would like to thank you all for your unstinting support, loyalty, enthusiasm and generosity for championing our cause," Bartolome said.

As a non-profit organization, FFAI helps artists promote and develop human awareness and cultivate the utmost potential of people. Since 1988, FFAI has actively served the local community in offering different programs to promote Filipino artistry and creativity as well as multi-cultural understanding.

It has also presented local and foreign Filipino artists' performance in concerts, as well as visual arts through exhibitions in galleries and prominent places in New York and in other parts of the country.

"I am aware of the good deeds you have been doing, not only for the Filipino artists, but also in preserving and enhancing Philippine cultural heritage. I admire your commitment to share your talents and resources in launching projects and programs that introduce Filipino arts and Filipino artistic talents to the American mainstream society," Ambassador Willy Gaa said in his congratulatory message to the Foundation.

The awardees weren't the only lucky ladies that evening.

Carmen Harris bought weeks earlier one of the \$15 raffle tickets being sold. Little did she know

that this one ticket would win her the grand prize: a brand new Mercedes Benz.

"I couldn't believe it at first, I thought the lady who called me was just pulling a prank. I kept saying, 'This is not a joke, right?'," Harris recalled. She bought her winning ticket from a Filipina who was a fellow nurse at the hospital where they work.

"We promised you a Mercedes Benz, that is why we are giving you one. We couldn't have done this without the support of Silver Star Motors and every single one who bought tickets from us," said Ruth Deguzman, chair of the raffle draw.



XOOM.com announced its tie-up with the Philippine National Bank at a Press Conference at the Philippine Center in New York. The event was attended by dignitaries from the community. Photo left to right: Melita Sta. Maria-Thomeczek - Deputy Consulate General, Julian King - Sr. VP Of Marketing & Product Xoom.com, Cecilia Rebong - Consulate General, Ruchika Kohli - Director Marketing Xoom.com, Jesus A. Capalad - General Manager PNB

Walmart confirms three days of Black Friday savings

Retailer officially unveils Black Friday Specials and Walmart.com introduces unbelievable Thanksgiving Day online specials

BENTONVILLE, AR—Continuing its commitment to bring the best prices to customers through Operation Main Street, Walmart on Monday, Nov. 24, posted online at Walmart.com (www.walmart.com) its entire Black Friday advertising circular with incredible savings on hundreds of items to help its customers cut the cost of Christmas. In addition, Walmart.com today announces it will offer online specials on Thanksgiving Day.

In addition to its Black Friday specials, Walmart is guaranteeing customers the best prices with its Ad Match program, whereby its stores will match the price of any local competitor's printed ad for an identical product.

"Walmart is dedicated to being a low price advocate for our customers throughout the entire year, and our Black Friday specials are no exception," said John Fleming, chief merchandising officer for Walmart. "Our associates will be working hard all week to make sure our stores are ready to welcome shoppers seeking our unbeatable Black Friday prices."

Three days of Black Friday, starting ...
• **Online Thursday:** On Thanksgiving Day, customers can visit Walmart.com (www.walmart.com) to find online specials on many of the season's hottest items in electronics, toys and video games, with free shipping through its Site to Store program. While on the

site Thursday, shoppers also can see Walmart's Black Friday specials available in stores the next day.

A few examples of the dozens of online only specials available Thanksgiving Day on Walmart.com include a Motorola Bluetooth Headset for less than \$20 and the Playhut High School Musical Star Stage for \$30.

• **In stores Friday morning:** The biggest savings begin 5 am to 11 am, Nov. 28. Walmart customers will find Black Friday only products, as advertised, across the store from \$4 and \$8 jeans, jackets and sleepwear to a Magnovox Blu-ray disc player at \$128. The full list of savings that stretch across the store is available at Walmart.com (www.walmart.com).

• **2-day Friday and Saturday savings:** Walmart's Black Friday circular also includes incredible savings storewide that begin Friday and are available through Saturday.

"With our in store and online specials, we're providing our customers the opportunity for a few Black Friday moments," said Fleming. "And throughout the weekend, our customers can count on us to continue to deliver amazing every day prices, whether shopping for Christmas gifts or checking off the weekly grocery list."

Walmart's Black Friday circular can be found in its entirety at www.walmart.com. (Advertising Supplement)

Showbitz!

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she was Valentina in GMA 7's *Darna*. She is grateful for the chance to play another villain role and reveals that the upcoming series, where she will get to test her acting mettle against industry greats Gina Pareño and Helen Gamboa, is one of the reasons why she decided to be a *Kapamilya* once again (she was formerly with the station's *Star Magic*).

"Actually *iba ang kwento noong*

pero okay na din ito, pareho lang naman... ito talaga yung dahilan kung bakit ako lumipat kumbaga magkakaroon ako ng soap na drama tapos yon ito na siya," de Rossi tells abs-cbnNEWS.com.

Jay-R cuts Christmas album

R&B sensation Jay-R will launch a Christmas album entitled *Holiday of Love* just in time for the holiday season. He himself remixed the tracks and re-mastered them at his own recording studio, the Homeworkz

Records Label.

Jay-R reveals that *Holiday of Love* is actually a repackaged edition of his first Christmas album, *Christmas Away from Home*, but with additional seven songs and two original compositions with his sister Jing.

The songs included in the album are his personal favorites as he says Christmas has always been the holiday he looked forward to celebrating the most. Jay-R also strongly believes that Christmas is the season of giving so proceeds from the sales of the album will go for Kapuso Foundation.

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