

# People and Events

## ‘A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer’ and ‘The Vagina Monologues’

### V-Day 2009

LOS ANGELES – Change the story of women! The international movement to end violence against women and girls comes to Los Angeles with benefit readings of Eve Ensler’s award winning play *The Vagina Monologues* and the groundbreaking collection of monologues by world-renowned authors and playwrights, *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and a Prayer*. For the first time in Los Angeles, all-Filipino casts have been assembled for both productions, headlined by Dante Basco, Nia Peeples, Janelle So, Giselle Tongi, Tamlyn Tomita and just added performer/singer/actress/publisher Antoinette Taus.

Each year, 1 in 3 women in the U.S. will be victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and/or rape, a staggering statistic that only counts reported cases. For women in college, 1 in 4 will be raped or sexually assaulted in their freshmen year. The current economic crisis is dramatically impacting women even more so. “There has been a noticed increase in women who are seeking assistance from women’s shelters,” explained Holly Mattson, Development Associate at the Center for the Pacific Asian Family, one of the beneficiaries of V-Day 2009: Filipinas. “A lot of women, mostly new immigrants, are being kicked out from their homes by their spouses or partners because they have lost their jobs and can no longer support a family. Most of the women are stay-at-home mothers, with little or no work experience or skills. All the shelters have been impacted and the situation gets worse daily” continues Mattson. “The recent headline grabbing incident with Chris Brown and Rihanna is reason enough for all of us to see how violence, particularly towards women, should not be tolerated in our society,” explained Ted Benito, Executive Producer of the *V-Day 2009: Filipinas* productions. “It was so disheartening to hear some people say ‘well, maybe she deserved it’ or ‘she put herself in that situation herself’ or ‘he’s like that because of his childhood experiences’. Whatever the case, and we may never know what actually happened, I believe there is no excuse to result to such brutality.”

In 2008, over 4000 V-Day benefit events took place produced by volunteer activists in the U.S. and around the world (and for the first time, in the Philippines), educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls. To date, the V-Day movement has raised over \$60 million for local beneficiaries working to end violence against women and children.

“I’m very excited about our V-Day:Filipinas productions” explains Associate Producer Maria Gardoche “not only because of the message of V-Day but also because they will have special highlights. Janelle So (from *Kababayan L.A.*) and Prosy de la Cruz (civil service commissioner) will be making their theatrical debuts in *The Vagina Monologues*. Camile Velasco will be debuting a song off her new, upcoming CD. Eleanor Academia – The Black Swan will be playing music throughout both shows and theater veterans Bernardo Bernardo and Becca Godinez will be sharing the stage in *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer* for the first time in years!”

This year, net proceeds from the benefit performances Bantay

Bata (Child Watch), a project of the ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.-USA (www.abschnfoundation.org), and The Center for the Pacific Asian Family. CPAF’s toll free 24-hour crisis hotline is 1-800-339-3940 and they are on the internet at www.cpacf.info.

The cast of *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer* includes (in alphabetical order) actors Dante Basco (*The Debut, Take the Lead*, upcoming *Ixnay* at East West Players), Dion Basco (*City Guys, Biker Boyz*) Bernardo Bernardo (*The Romance of Magno Rubio*) and actor/dancer/producer Sonny Sison (*General Hospital*). They are joined by actresses Esperanza Catubig (*Without a Trace, The Sensei*), Fran de Leon (*Becker, Faces of America*, Associate Artistic Director of Will & Company), Liza del Mundo (*ER, Imelda: A New Musical, Punk’d*), Becca Godinez (singer/songwriter, director, producer, recording artist; *West Side Story, The King and I*; *Golda Inquito (The Shield, Chess-The Musical)*) and Minerva Vier (*Stateside Girls, Barefoot Boy with Shoes*).

The cast of *The Vagina Monologues* features (in alphabetical order) actresses Edelyn Aubrey (*Kapalaran, Dough Boys*), Melody Butiu (*Dogeaters, Shipwrecked, Samantha Who*); poet, playwright and performance artists Alison de la Cruz; community leader Prosy de la Cruz (former L.A. Civil Service Commissioner appointed by Mayor Villaraigosa); actress, singer and television personality Nia Peeples (*North Shore, Fame, The Young and the Restless*); television host and producer Janelle So (*Kababayan L.A. – KSCI Channel 18*); and actresses Leslie Lewis Sword (*Miracle in Rwanda, Yesterday Came Too Soon*), Antoinette Taus (actress/singer/dancer/magazine publisher); Tamlyn Tomita (*The Joy Luck Club, Day After Tomorrow, Heroes*) and Giselle Tongi (television host, singer, *Anna in the Tropics*).

American Idol Season 3 finalist Camile Velasco will make a featured appearance at *The Vagina Monologues* and singer/songwriter and musician Eleanor Academia – The Black Swan will be the featured musical guest artist at both shows. Directing both productions is Jon Lawrence Rivera, award-winning Artistic Director of Playwrights’ Arena (*Dogeaters*). All performers have volunteered their time and talent to make both productions a success.

Both performances will be presented on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at the Aratani Theater, part of the Japan American Cultural & Community Center, at 244 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. Tickets for each show are now available at www.tix.com. ■

## Community Groups Partner with Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center for March 5 Blood Drive

LOS ANGELES - Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center (HPMC) has partnered with the American Red Cross and community organizations for a large-scale blood drive that will take place on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at the hospital’s auditorium, 8am to 8pm.

“A single blood donation can help save the lives of up to three people,” explained Jay Yoo, Director of Special Projects at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center. “An adult of average weight has about 10 to 12 units of blood, so one pint is easy to spare. Once donated, blood can be separated into several components including red blood cells, platelets and plasma.”

While donating blood is an easy way to save lives, people surprisingly do not donate. For this reason, Mr. Yoo reached out to volunteers from the Korean American Women’s Association (KAWA), Armenian Youth Federation (AYF), Southern California Korean College Student Association (SCKCSA), Asian Journal and Skilled Nursing Company, SIPA, Alexandria Convalescent, North Serrano Convalescent, Fountainview Convalescent, Virgil Convalescent, Brier Oak Convalescent, South Serrano and Country Villa Convalescent, Alvarado hospitals, who have committed their participation.

“Our hospital is a community institution that serves the local Filipino, Hispanic, Armenian and Korean populations. We’re a family that helps each other,” Mr. Yoo explained.

Approximately every two seconds, someone needs blood, and one out of three people will need a life-saving blood transfusion in their lifetime.

According to the American Red Cross, the process of donating takes about an hour, starting with registration, a health history and a mini-physical. The actual donation usually takes less than 10-12 minutes. Donors are then asked to rest for a few minutes before returning to normal activities.

Some of the basic requirements are that donors be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health.

Donors may sign-up online for the March 5 blood drive at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center by visiting www.givelife.org and entering “hpmedcenter” in search field. Instead of the usual snacks, the hospital will provide a complimentary Korean Barbeque lunch to donors on site, or \$10 gift card to Starbucks or Subway Sandwiches.

Prospective donors may call toll free 888-590-3883, or visit www.givelife.org for additional information and online sign-up. ■

## Treatment of discolored...

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are two power bleaching treatments. In both cases a rubber dam is used to protect the gum tissue from the strong bleaching solution applied to the teeth. A heat source is applied for about one hour and fast results are obtained. The laser treatment is touted as the most effective. The laser beam is

“dragged” over each tooth slowly. This activates the applied peroxide with light and heat speeding the breakup of stain molecules. It has good results on very stubborn discoloration and takes some extensive chair time and is costly.

Porcelain veneers are a proven excellent treatment to treat even

the most discolored teeth. The shape can be improved also. Often a combination of the above procedures may be appropriate depending on the nature and degree of discoloration. Smile with confidence, it’s just a phone call away.

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The following information is provided as a general guideline. It is NOT intended in place of professional care. Since every pregnancy may vary, consult your physician or dentist for advice on your particular situation.  
(Advertising Supplement)



# Blood Drive

### give

- If you are healthy
- At least 17 years old
- At least 110 pounds
- And have not donated blood in the last 8 week

### wait

- If you are pregnant
- 1 year after getting a tattoo

TO MAKE AN ONLINE APPOINTMENT:

- Go to [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org)
- Enter hpmedcenter in search field

## Thursday, March 5th

Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center  
DOCTORS TOWER AUDITORIUM

With the participation of SIPA, Alexandria Convalescent, North Serrano Convalescent, Fountainview Convalescent, Virgil Convalescent, Brier Oak Convalescent, South Serrano and Country Villa Convalescent, Alvarado hospitals



Donate to save 3 lives!

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FREE Korean Barbeque Lunch to donors OR \$10 gift card to Starbucks or Subway Sandwiches

ALL DONORS ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT VALID ID