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## YouTube discovery...

◀ PAGE B1

checked into a classy beach club and took the "Sensual Room" and then, added the DPA, "nag-order ng maraming beer." The actor's screen sweetheart and the movie's other stars were billeted in another resort.

• During Roselle Monte-verde's birthday bash at the function room of the Imperial Palace Suites Tuesday night, a TV executive and a talent manager tried to avoid crossing each other's paths. Reason: The talent manager came with his new recruit (since last January) who used to be one of the TV exec's precious talent. The guy appeared so ill-at-ease that he didn't bother to say "Hi!" to the TV exec, not even for, ehem, old time's sake. How could he when his new "boss" was clinging to his arm as if afraid that somebody would grab him (the guy) away from him (the "boss")? \*

### United we stand, divided we...what will happen?

More than a month after their beloved manager Douglas Quijano passed away, his talents have been slowly but carefully choosing new managers despite their initial plan to stay together under one manager.

Wendell Ramos is now managed by Wyngard Tracy, Gelli de Belen by Backroom and Anjo Yllana by Malou Choa-Fagar. Richard Gomez and wife Lucy Torres said that they will look for a manager after July 24 when they observe the 40th day after Douglas' death.

Jomari Yllana has decided to put up his own talent management company and manage himself (and the children of some of Douglas' talents, perhaps including Richard and Lucy's daughter Juliana, and Nadia Montenegro's daughter Alyna Asistio).

Jomari has partnered with Singson brothers Ronald and Ryan in producing concerts, the first one having been that of *American Idol's* David Cook and David Archuleta.

Jomari's next project is *Marie Digby Live in Manila* slated at the NBC Tent in The Fort, 8pm on Aug. 1 (a Saturday, which happens to be the

birthday of Ethel Ramos, dean of movie journalists).

**Just who is Marie Digby?**  
She's a YouTube discovery just like Charice, Arnel Pineda, Panic at the Disco and Moymoy Palaboy.

Now, if you have heard a cover of Rihanna's *Umbrella*, chances are that you listened to Marie's interpretation of the "it" song of summer 2007. Marie (pronounced Mar-ee-AY), 26, a singer-songwriter living in LA posted a YouTube video of her acoustic version of *Umbrella* on May 31, 2007 and, in a jiffy, she racked up more than 500,000 views — and counting! — that landed her a national TV appearance on *Last Call with Carson Daly* and placement on the season premiere of *The Hills*. Marie didn't stop there. With the release of her new Hollywood Records four-song digital EP (Extended Play), Marie instantly vaulted to the forefront of emerging young singer/songwriters.

"I never expected my version to be such a hit," Marie was quoted as saying. "When I put up those YouTube videos I had no idea of how people would react to them. What's working for me is the stance I put on my songs. People feel like they know me," added Marie whose father is Japanese and mother is Irish-American. (She was a freshman at the University of California, Berkeley, who dropped out to pursue her dream of being a musician.)

It turned out that 20 minutes after first learning Rihanna's hit single, Marie propped her MacBook in her living room, filmed herself performing the song and put it on the Web. That's what Moymoy Palaboy also did, remember? The rest, as the cliché goes, is history.

The good news is that Marie and her producer Mike Daly have just recorded her cover of *Umbrella* and that of Linkin Park's *What I've Done*, together with two of Marie's originals (*Stupid For You* and *Unfold*, which is the title track of her upcoming debut CD). ■

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