

Hawaiian variety act of Society of Seven, joined by Jasmine Trias, to call Gold Coast Showroom Home

LAS VEGAS—Formed in Hawaii and perfected in showrooms throughout Las Vegas and the Islands, Society of Seven brings its lively variety show to the Gold Coast Showroom for an extended run beginning November 6. Joined by season three American Idol finalist Jasmine Trias, Society of Seven is scheduled to appear every Friday, Saturday and Sunday with two shows daily – 3:30pm and 7pm.

Society of Seven, the famed Hawaiian-bred group, offers an energetic variety show that combines comedy sketches, celebrity impersonations, dance and live music performances, including popular standards, Top 40 and Broadway.

“We are thrilled to call Gold Coast home,” said Tony Ruivivar of Society of Seven. “This long-term engagement gives loyal fans who have supported us throughout the years, the opportunity to see us on a regular basis. Las Vegas is well-known among Hawaiians as the ‘Ninth Island,’ and we think our show is a great fit for the community.”

In what has been called an entertainment experience that rolls a classic Hollywood movie, Broadway show and Vegas spectacular into one, Society of Seven has been entertaining fans for more than 40 years. Having performed to more than 10 million fans, these seven elite performers and American Idol make this show a must-see. Audiences can expect a memorable evening that combines lights, choreography, action and Hawaiian talent.

Tickets go on sale Friday, October 30 starting from \$29.95, plus tax. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Box Office at (702) 251-3574 or visiting www.goldcoastcasino.com. (Advertising Supplement)

Break from the ‘Widow Penalty’

IMMIGRATION CONNECT



MARY LYN SANGA

IT may not be fair, but the present law prevents surviving spouses of US citizens who died before the second anniversary of marriage from becoming permanent residents based on the marriage, a benefit that may be available to those whose US citizen spouses died after two years of marriage. This so-called “widow penalty” may leave the surviving spouse without status and subject to removal from the country.

The “widow penalty” is now the subject of a growing number of lawsuits against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), triggering DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano to issue an interim administrative relief in the form of deferred action. Under this interim administrative relief, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will temporarily suspend adjudication of visa petitions and adjustments applications filed for widow(er)s where the sole reason for an adverse decision from USCIS would be the death of a US citizen spouse prior to the second anniversary of their marriage. It will also allow deferred action against qualifying surviving spouses facing removal proceedings.

USCIS has emphasized that this is only an interim relief until there is a legislative solution to remedy the “widow penalty”. This interim relief does not change the present “widow penalty” law, but only suspends its enforcement for two years. The request for deferred action must be made within two years from the issuance of the Secretary’s directive to DHS on May 27, 2009, unless a subsequent directive otherwise provides.

Thus, while the periods of time in deferred action qualify as periods of authorized stay, it does not confer or alter any immigration status.

The program specifies the criteria to qualify for deferred action. Surviving spouses, whose US citizen spouses died before the second anniversary of their marriage, may apply for deferred action if: (1) they were married to, but not legally separated or divorced from, their US citizen spouse at the time of that spouse’s death; (2) did not remarry; and (3) are currently residing in the US, regardless of whether the US citizen spouse filed a Form I-130 petition for the foreign spouse before his or her death. Children of qualified surviving spouses may also qualify for deferred action if they are: (1) below 21 years old at the time the request is submitted or a Form I-130 was filed on their behalf as an immediate relative; (2) currently residing in the US; and (3) unmarried.

In general, applicants for deferred action must file Form I-360 with fee with the Vermont Service Center. If the applicant is facing removal proceedings, the application must be made with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). For applicants subject to the law of the First, Sixth, and Ninth Circuits (California and Nevada are covered by the Ninth Circuit), USCIS states an application for deferred action is not necessary based on these circuits’ holding that such spouses should be considered as immediate relatives notwithstanding the death of the US citizen spouse.

An applicant qualifying for deferred action will be issued a decision that he or she has been granted deferred action for a validity period of two years. The qualified applicant will also be eligible to request for employment authorization by filing Form I-765 with fee. The employment authorization will be granted for a maximum period of two years, but not to exceed the validity period of the deferred action granted.

Please feel free to call Band-

er Law Firm at 213-873-4333 regarding your legal concerns. Bander Law Firm, LLP provides a full range of legal services in the fields of Immigration, Mortgage Litigation, Bankruptcy, Personal Injury, Criminal and Removal Defense, Civil and Business Litigation, Wage and Hour Litigation and Class Action lawsuits. Bander Law Firm is composed of multilingual attorneys and support staff capable of communicating in Tagalog, Cebuano, Korean, Spanish,

and Mandarin. Visit us at www.banderlaw.com.

Mary Lyn Tanawan Sanga is an associate attorney at Bander Law Firm, LLP and is licensed to practice in California and the Philippines. Ms. Sanga obtained her Bachelor of Science in Economics and Bachelor of Laws from the University of the Philippines. She is experienced in the areas of Immigration and Naturalization Law and Business Litigation, and is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA).

(Advertising Supplement)

Sam & Anne together again?

ARE Sam Milby and Anne Curtis back in each other’s arms? The buzz in show town is they have been going out and are often seen together. In one of ABS-CBN’s relief operations, Sam followed Anne to where she was distributing relief goods. Recently, Sam got into a vehicular accident when the van he was riding in turned upside down. Anne was the first to be by his side. It will be re-membered that when Anne met an accident a few weeks ago, it was also Sam who was the first to come to her rescue. Now people are asking, are they or aren’t they?

DIRECTLINE

Boy Abunda

“We have been hanging out but we are not together,” explained Sam. “But we are not closing our doors. *Hindi namin minamadali kaya wag din madaliin ng tao*,” explained Anne. At the moment, both Sam and Anne are just enjoying each other’s company. Asked if there is a possibility they will be together again, Sam and Anne chorused that possibilities are infinite.

Sam and Anne are two of the most beautiful people inside and out. They deserve to be happy.

Judy Ann still waiting for stork’s visit

Looks like Judy Ann Santos is pressured in having baby. Six months after her wedding to Ryan Agoncillo, everybody is looking forward to Judy Ann being pregnant. And they’re looking at a baby sister for Yohan!

“I am praying. *Pero siguro sabi ni Lord*, you have to enjoy each other’s time as newly-weds. In the beginning, I felt the pressure, *pero ngayon kung ibibigay, ibibigay*. I really relish the moment when I am able to do things that I should be doing. *Nasusuot ko pa lahat ng gusto ko suotin. Nagde-date pa kami*,” she said. Ryan was quick to the draw, “*Wag kang mag-alala, pag nabuntis ka, ide-date pa rin kita*.”

Their hit TV series *George & Cecil* can now be seen on its new timeslot at 8:30pm right before *Pinoy Big Brother* and after *Sharon* on Sundays. ■

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