

Getting ready to rock!



POP dance choreographer Geleen Eugenio with the Fil-Am teen dancers during one of the rehearsals for the star-studded and fun-filled *Eat Bulaga, Live!* show to be held at the Boardwalk Hall Arena in Atlantic City on April 4, 2009 at 7pm. Headlining the star-studded entertainment extravaganza are *Eat Bulaga's* three main hosts, Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto, and Joey de Leon. Joining them are special guest stars Richard Gutierrez, Rhian Ramos, and Rufa Mae Quinto with *Eat Bulaga's* dabarkads—Allan K, Pia Guanio, Anjo Yllana, Keempee de Leon, Pauleen Luna, Jose Manalo,

Wally Bayola, Ruby Rodriguez, Jimmy Santos, Julia Clarete, and Lougee. This is the first time that a Filipino entertainment presentation will feature more than 17 celebrities on a single stage. *Eat Bulaga, Live!* is produced by First Name Entertainment Production in cooperation with Western Union, Garden State Travel and media sponsor GMA Pinoy TV. Ticket prices of \$35, \$55, \$75 and \$90 are now on sale at www.ticketmaster.com (or thru toll-free 1-800-736-1420), Boardwalk Hall Box Office or call (201) 604-0975 to reserve your tickets now.

(Advertising Supplement)

BPI Opens Nomination for 4th BPinoy Awards

THE Bank of the Philippine Islands is set to pay tribute to exceptional overseas Filipinos through the 4th BPinoy Awards slated in August 2009. The Awards recognize Filipinos who have brought glory to the country with their excellent achievements abroad. The nomination period for the Awards is from April 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009.

"The BPinoy Awards aims to spur nationalism in Filipinos around the world and celebrate the *Pinoy* qualities and attributes that have helped elevate the Philippines on a global platform," says Teresita B. Tan, Head of Overseas Banking and Channels Services Group of BPI.

The Awards also endeavors to generate awareness on the BPI Expat Pinoy Program, BPI's avenue to assist overseas Filipinos in their banking needs and financial empowerment.

BPI launches its fourth BPinoy Awards amidst its own achievement in the remittance industry as Top Commercial Bank for Overseas Filipino Remittances for the 3rd straight year and first bank to be conferred with the BSP Hall of Fame Award in this business.

Individuals or organizations may nominate any-

one who has established a name and is currently active in his or her field, has worked or lived overseas, of good moral character, and has not yet received similar awards from other banking institutions.

Nominations will be screened by the BPinoy Awards Steering Committee. Two winners will be chosen—one from the Arts and Media or Sports category and the other from the Business or Science and Technology category.

Winners will receive a BPinoy trophy and Php100,000 worth of cash to be donated to the charity of choice of the winner.

Past BPinoy Awards recipients include renowned singer and musical artist Lea Salonga, entrepreneur Diosdado Banatao, heart surgeon Dr. George Garcia, fashion designers/entrepreneurs Monique Lhuillier and Josie Natori, and BBC anchor Rico Hizon.

Nominations may be sent via email to bpinoy-awards@bpi.com.ph or via post to Paul Joseph F. Ponte, Marketing Department, Overseas Customers Division, Bank of the Philippine Islands, 6/F BPI Family Savings Bank Center, Paseo de Roxas cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City 1226, Metro Manila.

For more information, log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

(Advertising Supplement)

People and Events

Imagining a violence-free world for Filipina Women & Girls

Washington, DC Filipino community leaders speak out against violence

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not always late. I'm not proud of the times I was late but I come to the set with my homework done. I even do stuff not required of me by helping fix the show behind the scenes."

Didn't he feel threatened when DJ Mo stood in for him in "Kakasa Ka Ba Sa Grade 5?" "Mo is a friend. I'm happy they chose him to host my show while I was sick. It's no big deal. I'm back and it has been extended for a few more weeks."

What can he say to his detractors? "It's sad that they see my flaws and not my positive side," he laments. "Everyone who has worked with me knows I give my 100 percent every time!"

Let's GIBB Janno a break!

No comment

Rachel Alejandro would rather keep mum about her name getting dragged into the rumored separation of her ex-BF Dingdong Avanzado and Jessa Zaragosa (who have both clarified that there's no truth to it).



"I feel that keeping quiet is the best way to deal with the issue," says Rachel, "so that it will die down as quickly as possible. I'm not the type who makes patrol to every intriga hurled at me. Besides I'm happy with my BF Philip, so it's really impossible for me to fall for Dingdong again. We just did a concert together."

What's Philip's sentiments about the issue? "His only complaint is that his picture in the papers does not show his best angle (laughs)." Rachel is totally out of the picture in Jessa and Dong's marriage.

'Nuff said
Rachel's manager Girlie Rodis doesn't want to further comment on the issue.

"I've said enough in my blogs. I'm taking the cue from Rachel so I'll just stop talking," Tita Girlie stresses. "I want to thank all the people who supported me by leaving messages on my blog site. Dingdong and Jessa have made a public apology to Rachel in SNN and Rachel has accepted it so it's now time for all of us to move on."

Moving on is the only way we can move up to greater heights. ■

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WHAT: V-Day Filipina Women's Network Benefit Performances in collaboration with V-Day's global campaign to end violence against women and girls:

The Vagina Monologues
A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer

When: Saturday, April 11, 7:30pm. (one performance only)

RSVP: Online, go to www.FilipinaWomensNetwork.org/Events

• Call (415) 278-9410
• Tickets - \$38-\$88 (VIP); \$28-\$78 (FWN Members)

• Pick up pre-paid tickets at FWN's "Will Call" table one hour before the show.

Where: Terrace Theater
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts 2700 F Street, NW Washington DC 20566

Beneficiaries: Proceeds of V-Day FWN's Filipinas Against Violence Benefit Performances; V-Day 2009 Spotlight; Stop Raping Our Greatest Resource, Power to Women and Girls of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

FWN's Save A Filipina: Filipinas Against Violence Campaign

Based on interviews with over 200 women about their memories and experiences of sexuality, The Vagina Monologues gives voice to women's deepest fantasies and fears, guaranteeing that no one who reads it will ever look at a woman's body, or think of sex, in quite the same way again. It is witty and irreverent, compassionate and wise.

Meet the brave all-Filipina women cast (Washington DC):

Annalisa Vicente Enrile Ph.D., M.S.W., Associate Professor, USC School of Social Work

Bambi Lorica, M.D., Holistic Pediatrica, Physician Entrepreneur, Coloratura Soprano

Celce Thomas, Student
Charmaine Manansala, National AAPI Director, Obama for America

Christine Lorica, 2008 Jose Rizal Youth Awardee

Dawn Perlas, Associate Director for a corporate research firm

Deanna Pineda, President, Muse Advertising Design

Estela Sanidad, Corporate Secretariat, World Bank

Evangeline "Vangie" Ganelas, Board Secretary, Feed the Hungry

Gloria T. Caoile, Senior Political Director, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA)

Iryll Umel, National Field Representative, National Treasury Employees Union

Junelle Cavero, formerly Indiana Political Director, Obama for America

Leia Lorica, Corporate Communications, Ruder Finn, Inc.

Les Talusan, DJ, Photographer, Musician

Lucille Gonzalez, Hospital Administrator

Marlyn T. Aguilar, Esq., Attorney, US Environmental Protection Agency

Meggie G. Pleyto, Interior Designer, Sison Homes-Sison Group, LLC-ReMax Allegiance

Melanie Anne Caoile, Director, Consumer and On-Line Group, Microsoft

Melissa Topacio Long, Youth & AAPI Outreach Director; Coordinator, DNC Internships

Michelle Lorica, Teaching Fellow, New York City

Naomi Tacuyan-Underwood, Deputy Director, APIA Vote

Nina Nguyen Lagac, Marketing Director, Office Systems of Connecticut

Ninotchka Rosca, Author, Member, Mariposa Alliance, Gabriela Network USA

Regine Biscoe Lee, Associate, NVG, LLC

Rozita Villanueva Lee, National Vice Chair, NaFFAA

Ruth Castillo-Bermudez, Mother to two wonderful boys and loving wife to Bernard

Solita Wakefield, Senior Research Officer, IMF

Sonia Aranza, Master Facilitator, Keynote Speaker

Sonia Soriano, M.D., retired physician, passion for dance

Tessie Marfori, Consultant, World Bank

Verna V. Samson, International Monetary Fund

Wilma Consul, Producer, National Public Radio

Advance tickets at www.FilipinaWomensNetwork.org/Events

Pick up pre-paid tickets one hour before the show at the "FWN Will Call"

Tickets will not be sold at the door.

A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer: Writings To Stop Violence Against Women and Girls, is a groundbreaking collection of monologues by world-renowned authors and playwrights, edited by Eve Ensler and Mollie Doyle.

These diverse voices rise up in a collective roar to break open, expose, and examine the insidiousness of violence at all levels: brutality, neglect, a punch, a slap, even a put-down. ■

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Milton and Brooklyn by way of Davao

by ROBERT P. DE TAGLE

IN the time running up to and after the literary giant John Milton's 400th birth anniversary on December 9, many events around the world from Cambridge Univ. to the Morgan Library sought to mark his legacy. At the Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, that home of expression and experimentation in a landmark building in Brooklyn, founder/artistic director Yuko Nii and exhibit director Terrance Lindall put on a show, or rather, shows: paintings and sculpture, poetry reading, a grand ball, and a theatrical production, in the latter part of 2008.

The WAH Center had a unique perspective. Nii wrote that they wanted to bridge "great thought and literature along with historic artifacts" from Milton's time to the present day. Its show asked "professional artists, composers and poets to respond to the greatest poem of all time," *Paradise Lost*, according to Lindall. Lindall knows his Milton, as an English and philosophy major whose artwork about *Paradise Lost* appears on the cover of the 2008 Complete Poetry and Essential Prose of John Milton (ed. by Kerrigan, et al).

Yale professor John Rogers points out that Milton's libertarian writings included one justifying the dethroning of an unjust ruler, or offering the option for divorce. Milton was not timid: he predicted even in his 20s that among his writings would be a "major work of English literature."

His Biblical theme in *Paradise Lost* of man's fall as recounted in Genesis found many interpretations among the exhibitors, particularly resonating in the



Banez, on the right, and a fellow artist at the Milton "Paradise Lost" exhibit, WAH Center, Brooklyn

Photo courtesy by M. Palaci

Surrealist and jarring works of Bienvenido Banez, notably one of only three featured artists during the WAH exhibit.

Says Lindall of Banez, "He paints as if he is plugged into a wall socket and the energy that pours forth through his brain and fingertips to the canvas comes out in pulses of scintillating colors."

The works of the New York-based Banez, originally from Davao, have been seen in WAH Center and Salon exhibits in recent years, and it is expected that more such shows will feature his creativity and insight.

(Robert P. De Tagle writes about and manages events in the metro NYC area, and can be contacted at robnewyork2@gmail.com).