

Toast to a true Pinoy original

by BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
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After almost six decades of entertaining Filipinos, King of Comedy Dolphy reinvents himself as a drama actor in the forthcoming ABS-CBN soap *Utoy*. In this series, he plays a Gepetto-like character to Makisig Morales' Pinocchio.

Friends and colleagues toast the genius of a true Filipino original.



Vilma Santos

Gloria Romero, actress

During our Sampaguita days, he always made me laugh in the middle of a scene. He's gifted. He's lovable. He's not a clown in real life, but when the camera starts grinding, he's transformed.

Susan Roces, actress

Dolphy's *Papang* and *Mamang* had a great sense of humor. So does his whole family, to whom laughter comes naturally. There is never a dull moment with him.

Vilma Santos, actress

He is King because of his originality, hard work, his intellect, and his gift of grace.

Sharon Cuneta, singer-actress

It is the whole of Dolphy -- the person, the performer -- that has moved all Filipinos to call him King. You cannot become as big a star, as beloved a person if you do not have as big a heart; if you are not resilient in your life's downs and humble in your life's ups; if you're not devoted to your craft; if you're not generous, kind, human, loving, real.



Sharon Cuneta

Charo Santos, ABS-CBN president

I enjoy talking to him because he has seen the evolution of entertainment.

Ai Ai de las Alas, comedian

He is one of the kindest people I've ever met. Humble, sincere, never hides anything. And he's the first one to approach you *pa nga* in public.

Vic Sotto, comedian

He has improved on and polished what he learned from the masters. He has captured the hearts of Filipinos because they relate to his characters.



Vic Sotto

Epy Quizon, son

No other comedian in the world has consistently provided his audience with humor for six decades. And he's still at it. He's funny because he knows the language of the streets.

Gil Portes, director

Dolphy was anointed King by his peers. It's the dream of every comic in the country to follow in his footsteps. Working with him in *Markova*, I was humbled by his humility and respect for fellow workers. He listens to directions without the arrogance of other pseudo superstars.

Tony Y. Reyes, director

He is King and Cupid. Upon seeing him, you will laugh and fall in love. When I worked with him in *Dobol Trobol*, I found him lovable and witty. He's the best when it comes to reacting to his co-stars' jokes.

Eugene Domingo, comedian

Dolphy is King because he has done stage, radio, television, movies. His charm and versatility are evident in the roles he has played. My favorites are *Jack & Jill* and the classic *John en Marsha*. Apart from comedy, he also does drama well. His work in *Ang Tatay Kong Nanay* is remarkable.

Jinggoy Estrada, senator

No one can take his crown. He has perfect timing. And when he delivers his lines, he's unafraid to look funny.

Bong Revilla, senator

He is real and sincere. His humor comes from the experiences of the common *tao*. It's not forced. He mirrors our lives and allows us to laugh at ourselves.

Bibeth Orteza, biographer

Look how like a king Dolphy walks. How regal. His demeanor, as if to the (manor) born. In fact, the man was born poor. But he hasn't forgotten his roots. He shaped his comedy from his beginnings. He is loved because he gives love. Small wonder his audience crowned him King.

Elwood Perez, filmmaker

Dolphy's humor, in its many incarnations from *Glory of the Morning Sunset (Jack & Jill)* to *John Puruntong (John en Marsha)*, has resonated in the Pinoy spirit for generations.

As an artist and a personality, he has panache -- which those who trailed him sorely lacked, and which those who are now at the forefront of the medium would do well to emulate.

Caridad Sanchez, actress

He can make people laugh or cry. I was lucky to work with him in the 1970s.

Raymart Santiago, actor

He's in the same league as FPJ (Fernando Poe Jr.) -- respected because he is not just a good actor, but also a good man.

Claudine Barretto, actress

Tatay is a legend. No one can replace him. His ideas are original. I grew up with him on the set of *Home Along da Riles*. I saw first-hand how quickly his mind works.

Ruffa Gutierrez, actress

He's an original. Filipinos grew up watching him, from the *lolo* to the *apo*. Everyone loves and respects him. That's a true King.

Zsazsa Padilla, partner

I performed with him during the *Dolphy@80 World Tour* last year. People all over the globe adore him! They find him funny because he is your typical Pinoy. You see in his characters someone you know -- your dad, brother, neighbor, husband or friend. I am forever grateful to be part of this extraordinarily gifted man's life and to be called his partner for life. ■



Claudine Barretto



Dolphy and Zsa Zsa Padilla



Ruffa Gutierrez

Palace honors FrancisM

by JOEL GUINTO, TJ BURGONIO
Inquirer.net

He wasn't around to receive the honors, but FrancisM would have been proud of the tribute to him Wednesday as his teary-eyed widow and their eight children accepted the Presidential Medal of Merit intended for the "Master Rapper" from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

Francis "Master Rapper" Magalona, whose music inspired love of country and pride in being a Filipino, died of leukemia on March 6 at the age of 44.

Ms Arroyo handed the medal and a certificate to Magalona's widow, Pia, in formal but brief ceremonies at Malacañang's reception hall, following a video presentation of still photographs which the artist shot in different settings.

The video was a slide show of family pictures and Magalona at work, with one of his biggest hits, *Kaleidoscope World*, playing in the background.

Another hit, *Cold Summer Nights*, filled the Palace hall during the ceremony.

The awarding-cum-tribute to the rapper, songwriter, actor, director, photographer and TV show host turned emotional for Pia and their eight children.

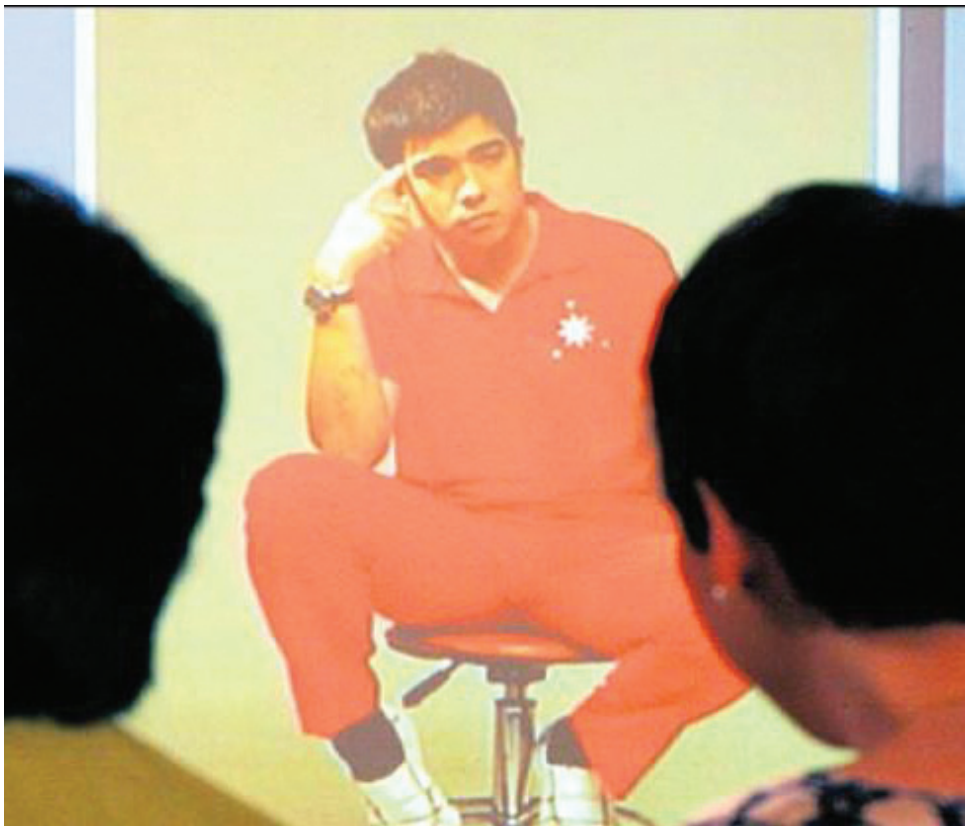
"I was more teary-eyed because of the video presentation," Pia told reporters. "When it went on to the presentation of the medal, there was a wave of joy that overcame me. It was a feeling of happiness, more than anything else."

Pia said their eldest daughter, Maxene, shed a tear during the presentation because she was close to her father.

"I think she's very sensitive about her father's loss because she was very close to him. I guess she tears up easily," she said.

She said their family was proud of the honor bestowed on her husband, "who is really a great patriot."

The award was bestowed on Magalona "for his musical and artistic brilliance, his deep faith in the Filipino and his sense of national pride that continue to inspire us."



MAGALONA FAMILY AT THE PALACE President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Pia Arroyo-Magalona watch the VTR of the latter's late husband, Francis Magalona, before the conferment of the Presidential Medal of Merit on the country's "King of Rap" on Wednesday.

Arroyo also sought to have Magalona's music played during the Independence Day celebrations on June 12.

"We still have to plan that...She [President] asked me who I'd like to interpret the songs, so we really have to sit down and think about that," Pia told reporters after the ceremony.

Cecile Guidote Alvarez, presidential adviser on culture and executive director of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, said Magalona was honored for being a nationalistic composer.

Most of his recorded hits, including *Mga Kababayan*, *Man from Manila*, *Ito ang Gusto Ko*, *Three Stars and a Sun* and *Kaleidoscope World*, instilled a love of country, added Press Secretary Cerge Remonde.

Magalona's friends and co-hosts in the television noon-time show *Eat Bulaga*, former Sen. Vicente Tito Sotto III, now chair of the Dangerous Drugs Board, his brother Vic and Joey de Leon, as well as the show's producer, Malou Choa-Fagar of Television and Production Exponents (TAPE), also attended the ceremonies.

It was Vic Sotto who announced Magalona's passing on *Eat Bulaga*. ■

Victor, victim or villain

by OLIVER PULUMBARIT
Inquirer.net



Pinky Amador gets mother roles "all the time," despite being childless in real life. This pattern began in the '90s, when the actress first played mother to 13-year-old Antoinette Taus in the soap "Anna Karenina."

But Amador is thankful that she continues to portray moms, martyrs, home-wreckers and a variety of other roles in movies, teleseryes and stage plays.

Over two decades ago, she appeared in films such as "Balweg," "Magdusa Ka" and "Anak ng Lupa," among others, but soon left for the UK and enrolled at the Bristol Old Vic

Theatre School. While in England, she auditioned for and got a part in "Miss Saigon." She was in the musical for two and a half years.

After her stint as the scheming Agatha in the GMA 7 soap "Saan Darating ang Umaga," Amador is grateful that she's now on her 26th year of acting.

How do you feel about getting and playing mother roles?

I've been really blessed na I really get along with all the people who have played my sons and daughters off-cam. It's easy.

Have you thought about real motherhood?

Motherhood has only been in my mind in the last year, only because the window of opportunity may be closing. I have also considered adoption, but maybe when I decide to live here or to go back to the UK. But I've never been a woman who has really defined her person as having children.

How difficult does playing a villain get in your show?

I come home in pain because I've had a struggling scene. Like when I got whacked crazy by Yasmien (Kurdi, in "Saan Darating ang Umaga"). Hindi namin na-rehearse. Yung slap ko sa kanya fake. Sapaw naman ng camera, hindi kita. Pagsampal niya, nag-180 ako, natanggal 'yung mukha ko sa frame. Panga, pisngi, tenga, leeg! Hindi naman niya talaga sinasadya. They're waiting for me to cut. Iniisip ko, kung ika-cut ko, take two na naman.

What are your dream roles?

On stage there are still roles I wanna do, like Edith Piaf. There's a musical called "Piaf," about the life story of the French singer who sang "La Vie En Rose." We did that play in Repertory Philippines about 22 years ago. I was the nurse. Now I'm old enough to play Edith. I've been studying French for two years.

Describe your fitness regimen.

Eat properly. Exercise a lot. But most of it, I think, is just outlook. You have to remain positive. You just always have to make the best of every situation. Luckily, I got blessed with kinda good genes. How do I stay young? Having a younger boyfriend. Joke.

How do you stay focused on different aspects of your career?

A lot of discipline I owe to Repertory and my aunt, Zeneida Amador. Most of my training I really got from her. She wasn't only a disciplinarian; she had the great gift of inspiring people, of bringing out the best in them. ■