

REVIEW

by **POCHOLO CONCEPCION**
Inquirer.net

Hi-tech Drama In Gary V Repeat



GARY V's statuesque daughter Keanna should come into her own once she overcome her shyness. Inquirer.net photo

MANILA — Gary V outdid himself at the repeat performance of his *Live @25* concert Friday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

An offshoot of the Nov. 14-15 shows for the singer-songwriter's 25th anniversary in the biz, the concert offered a dazzling experience whose visuals alone could rival a Broadway production.

There was hi-tech drama as Gary, on a platform and in a sci-fi costume, descended like a rocket onstage, then launched into a kinetic *Shout for Joy*.

The set, laid out with more platforms, two giant video screens and kaleidoscope lights, was big enough for the 10-member band (*Powerplay*), 25 dancers (*Manoeuvres* and *G Force*), guests and Gary's boundless energy.

He would recharge intermittently with grape juice but Gary, a diabetic for the past 30 years and turning 45 this August, sang and danced like he was 24.

The gig's concept of a veteran collaborating with younger singers and musicians was off to a good start as Gary bounced off the dance grooves of *Eto Na Naman* with guest band *The Itchyworms*. But it was after climbing to the upper box while crooning a jazz-inflected *Di Na Natuto*, that Gary offered a peek at the future, sort of passing the torch to his offspring, starting with eldest son Paolo.

Father and son's duet of three songs that ended with *Natutulog Ba ang Diyos* was loudly applauded, girl-shrieks going out to Paolo, who carried on like a rock star. His band, *Salamin*, accompanied him and Gary on a rap-metal version of *Shake It Off*. This number produced the night's most indelible image: Paolo head-banging and Gary airborne, like Michael Jordan.

The movie-themes segment would've been uneventful, but for rapper *Gloc 9*, who lived up to his rep as the fastest mouth hereabouts, with a stunning freestyle on *Growing Up*.

This collaboration must have been taxing, for Gary was caught scating (by way of a pause) before introducing the next number.

It turned out to be another duet, this time with only daughter Keana, on *Wag Mo Na Sanang Isipin*. The statuesque teener should come into her own once she overcomes her shyness.

A spot segment with the reigning international hip hop dance champs, *Philippine All Stars*, had Gary huffing and puffing. But he was singing in no time with *Yeng Constantino*, *Rachelle Ann Go* and *Karylle*. This was stressful on the ears, with the ladies going all out *birit*-style.

Sugarfree's turn with Gary on *Mahal na Mahal Ko Siya* was marred by faulty mixing on vocalist *Ebe Dancel*'s mic.

But this low point was quickly forgotten when actor/aspiring musician *Jericho Rosales* performed *Di Bale Na Lang* with its creator in a mixed R&B/dance/jazz version.

A specially prepared tribute for mothers featuring Gary singing *Historia de Un Amor* was noteworthy for the display of vintage film reels and photos of his beautiful mother, all taken by his father.

Amazingly, Gary sustained interest all throughout three devotional songs — *Could You Be Messiah*, *Take Me Out of the Dark* and *I Will Be Your Father*. Gary's strength here was in his sincerity.

The highest point was another duet cum dance number with Gary's younger son, *Gabriel*, a dynamo who has apparently inherited his dad's skills.

What finally brought the near-fullhouse to its feet was the all-percussion group *Brigada*, with *Gabriel* sitting in on his own drum set, and Gary pounding away on timbales while singing, *Hataw Na!* ☐

Jobless in America

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They were giving more hours to the new hires. I was like, 'why am I the one getting picked on when I've been in the company longer than they have?' But I realized it's because I had a higher salary than them."

After 12 years in a middle management position at Bank of America, Morales became expendable.

"I could have complained when they were cutting my hours but I prepared myself," he said. "My boss had already advised me to find another job and some of my co-workers who were laid off got severance pay so I didn't want to quit right away after 12 years. I hung in there. I waited until I got my severance package and it should

"Just go out there and keep sending those resumes. Look for a job, anything that might benefit you. My philosophy is that nothing in life is permanent just temporary. You look at this optimistically or pessimistically. I like to think that this is a bad situation now [but] it's just temporary."

last me until I graduate from school in one year."

But going back to school is hard, he admits.

He graduated with a degree in computer science from a local university in Los Angeles in 2002 but when he couldn't find a job in that field, he decided to work at the bank.

He lost his job in November and enrolled in a vocational nursing school earlier this year.

He is trying to pursue an LVN degree.

"I'm just going to focus on taking the boards," he said.

Things are tough right now but he advises those without a job to hang in there.

"Just go out there and keep sending those resumes," he said. "Look for a job, anything that might benefit you. My philosophy is that nothing in life is permanent just temporary. You look at this optimistically or pessimistically. I like to think that this is a bad situation now [but] it's just temporary." ☐

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