

Superhero Darna soars on GMA Pinoy TV

THE fantaserye experience of Pinoys abroad will never be the same again as GMA Pinoy TV launches the much-awaited return of the *Pinay* superhero *Darna*!

Under the direction of Dominic Zapata and Don Michael Perez, Mars Ravelo's original Filipino Comics character, *Darna*, is set to conquer every Filipino home with her breathtaking stunts and adventure on GMA Pinoy TV.

Donning the two-piece ensemble and crown of valor is the Queen of Prime-time, Marian Rivera,



who is undeniably one of the hottest and most sought-after actresses in Philippine entertainment industry. She

is also playing Darna's alter-ego, Narda, a crippled young woman who is torn between her love and destiny.

Prior to her portrayal as Darna, Marian played the title roles in the GMA Pinoy TV hits *Mariam* and *Dyesebel*. She also played the feisty and mysterious Proserfina in *Ang Babaeng Hinugot sa Aking Tadyang* early this year.

The fantasy series also boasts of a powerhouse cast. Joining Marian in *Darna* are Eddie Garcia as parish priest Padre Mateo; Celia Rodriguez as Perfecta, Narda's surrogate mother and the one who runs the orphanage; Caridad Sanchez as Loleng, Perfecta's assistant; Robert

"Buboy" Villar as Carding, the kid who knows Narda's secret; and Mark Anthony Fernandez as Eduardo, Narda's childhood

sweetheart.

Playing villains in the story are Paolo Contis as Kobra, the half-human, half-snake creature and the most ferocious enemy of Darna; Iwa Moto as Valentina, the snakewoman and Narda's friend-turned-arch-nemesis; Ehra Madrigal as *Babaeng Lawin*, the super villain who can control birds; Francine Prieto as *Babaeng Tuod*, the super villain who can command plants and trees to bring death; Nadine Samonte as *Babaeng Impakta*, the beautiful lady who has an evil twin; Maggie Wilson as *Babaeng Linta*, the one who can control time and can transform into anybody; and Ricky Davao as Dr. Morgan, the scientist who aims to create the most powerful creature in the world.

Darna tells the story of Narda, an attractive young woman who grows up in an orphanage and lives a happy, quiet, and simple life, until she becomes

the heiress of a powerful stone that could give her super powers.

At the orphanage, Narda meets the



Mark Anthony Fernandez

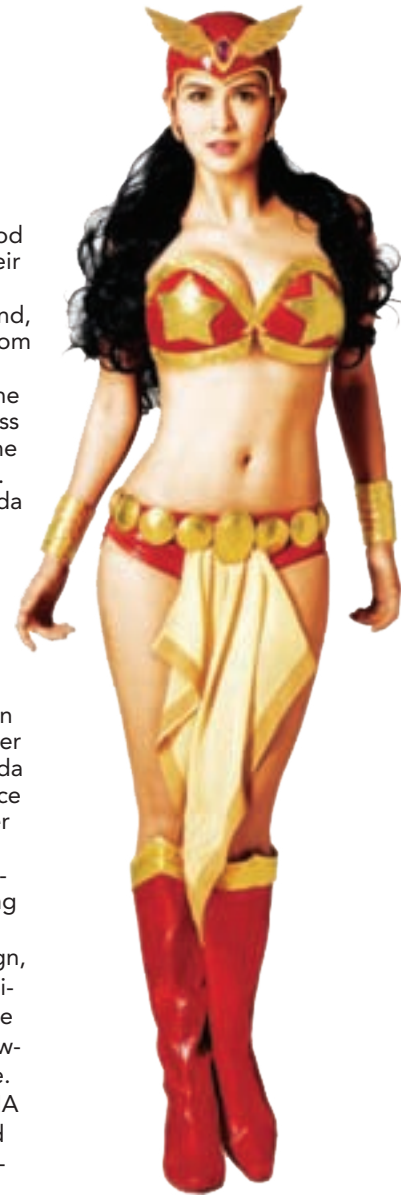
man she loves – her childhood sweetheart Eduardo. But their romantic relationship ends when Valentina, Narda's friend, schemes to steal Eduardo from her.

Narda then learns that she is indeed the anointed heiress of the powerful stone and the destined savior of the world. But the broken-hearted Narda declines and returns the stone because she believes that a simple and crippled woman like her cannot take such a huge responsibility.

But her refusal leads to an enormous problem when the super villains arrive in her town and wreak havoc. Narda finally realizes the significance of her being and accepts her destiny as *Darna*.

With the help of state-of-the-art special effects, cutting edge action sequences, and world-class production design, GMA Pinoy TV's *Darna* television series will certainly rouse the imagination of many viewers – children and adult alike.

Catch *Darna* only on GMA Pinoy TV. Call your preferred pay TV operator now to subscribe. ■



Weighing in on Willie Revillame

MANILA, Philippines—Willie Revillame has reportedly taken time off to reflect on the fallout caused by his cutting remarks on national TV, in which he ordered stricken from his ABS-CBN noontime show *Wowowee* on-screen inserts of ex-President Cory Aquino's funeral cortege.

On Saturday, it was announced on the program that its beleaguered, controversial host was on an "indefinite" leave.

Though not an indication that he's bowing to an online demand for his head by "concerned" televiewers (33,000 as of Monday), this seems to show that Willie is being very careful about this latest fiasco.

Meanwhile, Inquirer Entertainment was flooded with reactions from readers via e-mail, many of them indignant as expected, but quite a few offering sober assessments.

Wow, pare!

- "My family and I watch your show here in San Francisco (USA). But that Monday show, I think is the last [time] ... *Pare ang yabang mo*. I have lost all respect for you."

- "Willie is a very sarcastic and rude person. He should be banned as an entertainer [for] conduct unbecoming. No amount of explanation could excuse that [remark]."

- "Willie [displaying] his infamous temper on national TV, is the most obnoxious behavior."

- "His comment on Cory's funeral was not good, especially coming from the host of a popular show seen all over the world."

- "Despite previous controversies and suspensions, Willie Revillame still acts like he's the boss ... I think it's time for ABS-CBN to gamble on a new noontime host, if only to protect the network's integrity."

- "*Hindi lang isang beses nangyari ang kabastusan ni Willie Revillame ... Dapat [na siyang] ipag-bawal sa showbiz.*"

"Bwisit."

Misunderstood lang

- "I don't get to watch the show daily here in the US. But I wholeheartedly agree with Willie that it was inappropriate to insert the Aquino funeral footage in the middle of a sexy dance portion."

- "I am a UP Los Baños English instructor, not a fan of Willie's. My mother, who is not a Willie fan, either, found his behavior reasonable. Too bad, he was misunderstood for voicing out a very reasonable objection. This is the only Willie controversy where I sympathize with him. I hope people would be more objective in looking at this issue."

- "A lot of [viewers] here in America love *Wowowee* the show, but not everyone loves Willie the host, because of the way he talks to his staff ... and how he insults contestants. But in fairness, Willie has done a lot of good for many people ... I believe he deserves another chance [though I also] wish he would be more sensitive and careful with his words from now on. That has always been his problem."

- "Willie Revillame's controversial remarks on the showing of the Cory funeral cortege, while not quite pleasant to our ears, is not enough to justify bashing and haranguing him publicly. His only fault, perhaps, was that he was too emotional and he came on too strongly with [when] articulating his feelings. His remarks were neither vituperative, malicious nor defamatory to President Cory. It is those who assail him who really desecrate Cory's memory. She stood for freedom, and that includes freedom of expression. I am certain that she would have stood up in his defense."

- "Perhaps it's asking too much of personalities used to basking in the limelight to be discriminating in their choices of what [to show or say to] the public that adores them. It seems they are just not capable of such refinement. Many of them are not conscious of the responsibility that comes with fame. So fans end up idolizing people who are bereft of character and a sense of values that could bring out the best in Filipinos. Until such values become a primary concern, those who patronize these idols are doomed to be unrefined as well." (*Inquirer.net*)



HEAVY WEIGHT YUMBURGER

Premium 1/3 lb

\$3.49 everyday

AVAILABLE IN ALL JOLLIBEE L.A. STORES

BEVERLY BLVD. (Drive Thru)
3831 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90004
323-906-8617

CARSON
139 W. Carson Street,
Carson, CA 90745
310-513-1941

CERRITOS
17312 Norwalk Blvd.
Cerritos, CA 90703
562-924-7263

CHINO
Chino Spectrum Towne Center
cor. Grand and Pipeline Ave.
4021 Grand Ave. Suite B
Chino, CA 91710
909-590-0044

EAGLE ROCK PLAZA
2700 Colorado Blvd. Ste. 140
Los Angeles, CA 90041
323-258-5664

MORENO VALLEY
Moreno Valley Mall Food Court
22500 Town Circle, Space 2142
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
951-656-7851

PANORAMA
Panorama Woodman Center
8261 Woodman Ave.,
Panorama City, CA 91402
818-442-9403

PANORAMA MALL (Near Wal-Mart)
8401 Van Nuys Blvd. Ste. 8
Panorama, CA 91402
818-830-0452

PUEENTE HILLS MALL (Near AMC Cinema)
1600 Azusa Ave. Suite 116-D
City of Industry, CA 91748
626-810-8900

SOUTH BAY PAVILION (Food Court)
20700 Avalon Blvd. Ste. B-25
Carson, CA 90746-3734
310-538-8080

WESTFIELD WEST COVINA (Food Court)
112 Plaza Drive Space 817
West Covina, CA 91790
626-814-3888