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21 YEARS

Philippine SHOWbiz TODAY

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What to expect: ICC hearing to confirm charges against Rodrigo Duterte

PAGES 12-13

Celebrating the Final Day of Winter Skating at Surrey Civic Plaza

PAGE 4



Noemi Victorino, council candidate, Surrey Connect, Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke, Councillor Pardeep Kooner, Councillor Gordon Hepner, Rona Tepper, council candidate, Surrey Connect, and Councillor Rob Stutt

Pope proposes Lenten 'fast' from hurtful words

PAGE 19



Vancouver BC Teams Take Part in the 77th PAL Interclub Golf Tournament 2026



PAGE 17

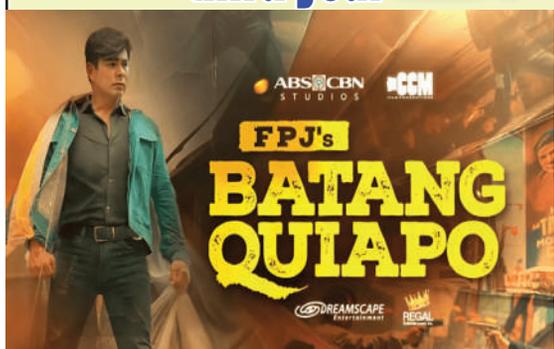


From the Heart: Rey Valera's Concert

PAGE 14

'FPJ's Batang Quiapo' marks third year

PAGE 5



Bea Alonzo forgives Cristy Fermin, drops cyber libel case

PAGE 6



Netflix Philippines unveils 2026 slate led by five new originals

PAGE 7

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Premier David Eby's Message on Family Day



BC Premier David Eby

VICTORIA – Premier David Eby has issued the following statement on Family Day:

“We mark Family Day this year with heavy hearts. We ache for the families of Tumbler Ridge.

We hold them in our prayers and stand with them in their pain and grief.

“On Family Day, we

spend time with the people we love and who are important to us. This day offers us a chance to reflect on the importance of family, both the ones into which we are born and those we

build. Family provides an anchor in uncertain times. May we all find comfort and support from our families.”

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People invited to sign condolence books for victims of the Tumbler Ridge tragedy

Following the tragic events in Tumbler Ridge on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, books of condolence are available for British Columbians to express their sympathies and messages of support.

People may sign a book of condolence at the Hall of

Honour, Parliament Buildings, Victoria. The book will be accessible on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., from now until Friday, Feb. 20, 2026.

An online condolence book is also available here: <https://submit.digital.gov.bc.ca/app/form/submit?f=5aadf492-bbc0-4685-b9ec-c7fdca617f97>

[c7fdca617f97](https://submit.digital.gov.bc.ca/app/form/submit?f=5aadf492-bbc0-4685-b9ec-c7fdca617f97)

The online book is the easiest and most convenient way for people to pay their respects. It will remain open until end of day on Friday, Feb. 20, 2026.

To learn about the supports available for people impacted by the Tumbler Ridge tragedy, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/youth-and-family-services/tumbler-ridge> (news.gov.bc.ca)

New legislation will allow people to renew, replace driver's licence online

Changes will save B.C. drivers time, reduce lines for other in-person appointments

VICTORIA - Summary

* New amendments will establish the groundwork for enabling online renewal or replacement of a B.C. driver's licence, BCID, and photo BC Service Cards through ICBC's website

* The new process will save people time and reduce trips to ICBC offices, freeing up space for other in-person appointments

* Online services will particularly benefit people in rural and remote communities

Proposed amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act will enable ICBC to renew or replace driver's licences, BC Identification (BCID), and photo BC Service Cards online, saving people time. It will also help reduce waiting time for other in-person appointments. “Too many people have to take time off work or travel long

distances just to renew or replace their ID,” said Niki Sharma, Attorney General. “By allowing these straightforward transactions online, we're making life more convenient for people, especially those in rural and remote communities. This is part of our work to modernize government services so they're easier, faster and more accessible for everyone in British Columbia.”

How it will work

If passed, the proposed amendments will allow eligible drivers to apply through ICBC's website and digital portal for select services, including:

* applications to replace a valid driver's licence that has been lost, destroyed, or damaged

* simple renewals for the majority of driver's licence classes, when no changes are required other than extending the expiry date

Eligible drivers with full B.C. licences (classes 1 through 8) will be able to apply to renew or replace their existing licence. ICBC will also be able to offer renewal and replacement of the

stand-alone BCID, stand-alone photo BC Service Card, and the combination Driver's Licence/BC Services Card.

Drivers with Class 7 learner's licences can replace a lost or damaged licence, but online renewals will not be available for learner class licences. People with learner's licences will still require an in-person appointment for retesting to renew their licence.

Renewals involving a change in a driver's information, such as their name or address, will still require an in-person visit.

More details on the online renewal process and eligibility criteria will be outlined through regulation. If the amendments are passed and regulations are completed, the online service is expected to begin operating in 2027.

Modernizing ICBC services

These changes will bring B.C. in line with eight other provinces, including Ontario and Alberta, which already offer some form of online driver's licence renewal.

In addition to saving drivers' time, the service will free ICBC employees to accommodate and reduce wait times for other types of in-person appointments, such as road tests.

The online driver's licence service is part of ICBC's multiphase, 10-year modernization program designed to expand online services, streamline business processes and upgrade technology. It is anticipated that more driver licensing services will be offered online in the future.

These amendments are part of government's commitment to make day-to-day services more accessible and affordable for families throughout British Columbia.



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Surrey's new outdoor rink draws 43,000 visitors and will return next winter



Mayor Brenda Locke of Surrey

Surrey, B.C. – Surrey's first-ever outdoor skating rink at Civic Plaza transformed City Centre into a lively winter destination this season, attracting more than 43,000 visitors over its 12-week run. Launched as a pilot during the Surrey Tree Lighting Festival, the rink quickly became a popular gathering place that supported the City's goal of creating a more vibrant entertainment district.

been an incredible success for our community," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "It created a place where residents, students, families and seniors could connect and experience City Centre in a new way. This is exactly the kind of dynamic public space we're committed to building—and we're excited to bring it back next season."

The 12,000 sq. ft. tent sheltered the 4,000 sq. ft. ice rink and created a weather-protected winter experience with free skating, cozy seating, free, themed weekend programming, family-friendly games, and live music presented by FVDED in the Park.

Located beside Surrey Central Skytrain station, Skating at Civic Plaza encouraged Surrey residents and visitors from across the region to stay longer, explore the surrounding area, and rediscover Civic Plaza as a community space.



enthusiasm and strong demand for more activations in the area, the outdoor rink is planned to return next winter.

City staff will refine and expand next season's activation based on lessons learned and public feedback from the pilot year.

"This project showed what's possible when we create exciting, people-first public spaces," Mayor Locke said. "Residents and visitors from across the region want more opportunities to gather, celebrate and enjoy our urban centre. We're excited

to build on this momentum next winter and create even more opportunities for families and friends to make memories together."

The success of the outdoor rink supports ongoing efforts to enhance recreation, culture, and year-round programming in and around Surrey Civic Plaza.

The City will continue exploring ways to animate the plaza as a dynamic destination for residents, students, businesses, and visitors. (City of Surrey)

"Skating at Civic Plaza has With clear evidence of public

Celebrating the Final Day of Winter Skating at Surrey Civic Plaza

On the final day of skating at Surrey Civic Plaza, Brenda Locke, Councillors Pardeep Kooner, Rob Stutt, and Gordon Heppner together with Noemi Victorino and Rona Tepper joined community members to commemorate a triumphant season of winter festivities. The gathering reflected heartfelt appreciation for leadership that genuinely supports the community and celebrates shared moments of connection and winter fun.

Also in attendance were Reyfort Media Publisher Rey Fortaleza and Noel Zamora the incoming president of the Filipino Canadian Seniors Association of Surrey.

Thanks to Mayor Locke and Surrey Council for championing this wonderful winter tradition and for celebrating another successful season of community connection and winter enjoyment at Surrey Civic Plaza.



Noemi Victorino, Mayor Brenda Locke, Councillor Pardeep Kooner, Councillor Gordon Heppner, Rona Tepper and Councillor Rob Stutt



(L-R) Noel Zamora, Incoming President of the newly formed Filipino Canadian Senior Association of Surrey, BC, Rey Fortaleza, Mayor Brenda Locke and Noemi Victorino



'FPJ's Batang Quiapo' marks third year



Primetime star Coco Martin expressed gratitude as his action series FPJ's Batang Quiapo celebrated its third anniversary, drawing viewers nationwide who have followed the story of Tanggol every night.

In plugs released by Dreamscape Entertainment, fans shared messages thanking the show and its lead character for years of action, drama, and inspiration.

"Tatlongtaon mona kaming napapasaya, napapahanga, at napapaiyak sa bawat eksena," one viewer said. Another added, "Maraming salamat sa patuloy na pagbibigay inspirasyon at saya sa aming lahat."

Since its debut on television and online, the series has followed Tanggol's journey from a street-smart friend to a hero, featuring death-defying stunts and plotlines reflecting the lives of everyday Filipinos.

To mark the anniversary, the series opens the week with an action-packed mission. Tanggol and his team face off against the police after a jewelry heist, only to be betrayed by a friend, Enteng (Jojit Lorenzo), who acts under duress to protect his mother from Rigor (John



Estrada).

The series will also show Tanggol's political victory after winning a mayoral election recount in Manila, surpassing

his rival Miguelito (Jake Cuenca), promising more suspenseful episodes.

FPJ's Batang Quiapo airs on Kapamilya Channel and ALLTV2. (Manila Standard Showbiz)

'Softdrink Beauties' from the '80s appear in 'Batang Quiapo'

MANILA -- Members of the '80s sexy group Softdrink Beauties recently appeared in an episode of ABS-CBN's "FPJ's Batang Quiapo."

Myra "Mirinda" Manibog, Coca Nicolas, and Sarsi Emmanuelle were introduced as visitors and friends of Enteng's (Jojit Lorenzo) mother.

Aling Myrna, portrayed by Myrna Castillo, was also a sexy star in the '80s.

Apart from Manibog, Nicolas, and Emmanuelle, the character of veteran actor Ernie Garcia was also introduced as the former partner of Aling Myrna.

On its social media pages, CMM Film Productions shared a reel announcing the appearance of the Softdrink Beauties and Garcia.

Formed in the '80s, the Softdrink Beauties also included the late star Pepsi Paloma.

"Batang Quiapo," which recently marked its third anniversary, airs weeknights at 8 p.m. on Kapamilya Channel, Kapamilya Online Live, Cinemo, A2Z, and TV5. It's also available on iWantTFC and TFC. (ABC-CBN News)



Bea Alonzo forgives Cristy Fermin, drops cyber libel case



After almost two years of court proceedings, actress Bea Alonzo dropped the cyber libel case she filed against veteran entertainment journalist Cristy Fermin after she issued a public apology.

Cristy and her co-hosts, Rommel Villamor and Wendell Alvarez, thanked Bea, her family, and her lawyers for bringing the case to an end.

“Naisponamingmagpasalamat kay Bea Alonzo, sa kanyang mga pamilya at sa kanyang mga abogado na kahit minsan hindi nila pinaramdam sa amin na kami ay magkatunggali sa korte. Wala po. Nirespeto po nila kami. At kami naman sa panig namin, nagpapasalamat po kami sa aming abogado. Bea Alonzo, salamat sa pag-unawa mo sa aming hanay. (We want to thank Bea Alonzo, her family, and her lawyers, who never made us feel like we were adversaries in court. No. They respected us. And we,

on our part, are grateful to our lawyers. Bea Alonzo, thank you for your understanding of our position.)”

“Yung aming paliwanag ay tinanggap na ni Bea Alonzo. Hindi lang po ang pagpapakumbaba namin. Pati si Bea rin po, nagpakumbaba. Iniintindi rin po namin kung gaano rin namin inuunawa ang kanyang trabaho. Pinaghirapan po niya ‘yan at ang kanyang imahe inaalagaan po niya ‘yan. (Our explanation has been accepted by Bea Alonzo. It’s not just our humility. Bea has also humbled herself. We also understand how much we understand her work. She worked hard for it, and she takes care of her image.)”

“Kahit kailan, wala kaming ninais na siya ay saktan, sirain, o wasakin. Walang-wala po. (We never wanted her to be hurt, destroyed, or destroyed. Absolutely nothing),” said Cristy, in their program “Showbiz Now Na.”

In a report by GMA Network, following the apology, Alonzo’s camp, Garcia Elauria Ruanto & Associated (GERA), released an official statement confirming that Bea had decided to resolve the matter through mediation after two years of legal proceedings. The statement read:

“After two years of legal proceedings & with the case pending before the Regional Trial Court, this matter has run its course under the law.

Not merely an ending, but a powerful expression of emotional maturity, personal growth & courage. We thank all those who continue to respect both the legal process & the humanity behind it,” the statement said.

In May 2024, Bea filed a cyber libel complaint against Cristy, Ogie Diaz, and their co-hosts arising from their respective programs. Bea’s complaint affidavit states she was the victim of false, malicious, and



From left: Rommel Villamor, Cristy Fermin, and Wendell Alvarez (YouTube)

The process has not been easy for any party involved. It has required accountability, reflection & fortitude.

“Upon deep reflection, Ms. Alonzo has chosen to forgive. Not out of weakness but out of strength. Not to erase what was done, but to free herself from a cycle of harm & hostility that no longer serves her life or her purpose. “We ask that this moment be seen for what it truly is.

damaging information from someone who pretended to be close to her, which was published and discussed on Ogie and Cristy’s online shows without any basis.

In July 2025, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court (RTC) issued arrest warrants for Cristy, Rommel, and Wendell. The following month, they posted bail in the amount of P48,000 each. (R. Requentina/mb.com.ph)

Cristy Fermin claims victory in Dominic Roque cyber libel case

MANILA, Philippines — A Pasig City court favored entertainment journalist Cristy Fermin in a cyber libel case filed by actor Dominic Roque back in 2024.

It can be recalled that towards the end of May 2024, Dominic sued Cristy for “malicious statements and innuendos” the showbiz host said on her online show “Showbiz Now Na.”

The actor filed the case in the Office of the City Prosecutor of Pasig City. At the time Dominic was the fifth high-profile individual to sue Cristy after Sarah Lahbati,

celebrity couple Sharon Cuneta and Sen. Kiko Pangilinan, and Dominic’s ex Bea Alonzo.

Last February 18, Cristy claimed victory after receiving a paper signed by presiding judge Manuel Gerard C. Tomacruz indicating a verdict she was acquitted of the cyberlibel charges.

According to the judge, the prosecution (Dominic’s camp) were unable to “establish beyond a reasonable doubt the veracity of the subject statements” Cristy made, nor did they provide evidence her statements were

false or “made with reckless disregard.”

“Maraming salamat lang ang puwede kong ibalik sa matinding suporta, tiwala, at pagmamahal,” Cristy said. “Awa ng Diyos, tapos na! Wala na, tapos na lahat. Maraming salamat sa walang kuwestiyong tiwala, suporta at pagmamahal.”

Bea recently withdrew her charges against Cristy and her “Showbiz Now Na,” opting instead to resolve their issues via mediation.

Sharon and Kiko similarly withdrew

their charges against Cristy while the cases by Sarah, specifically her family, were junked due to the insufficiency of evidence. (K. Purnell/Philstar)



Composite photo of Dominic Roque and Cristy Fermin Dominic Roque via Instagram, STAR / file

Netflix Philippines unveils 2026 slate led by five new originals

Netflix Philippines is entering 2026 with its largest and most ambitious local slate to date, headlined by five new original productions that signal a deeper investment in Filipino storytelling.

The lineup, unveiled this week, includes three series and two films spanning dystopian action, horror-mystery, young adult romance and family drama. The expansion marks a major step for the streaming platform as it celebrates a decade of operations in the country.

Leading the slate is “BuyBust: The Undesirables,” a dystopian action series that reimagines the aftermath of the 2018 film “BuyBust.” The series stars Anne Curtis and is directed by Erik Matti. With large-scale set pieces and an ensemble cast, it is billed as Netflix Philippines’ most ambitious action production to date.

Also in the spotlight is “Balaraw,” an atmospheric horror-mystery series directed by Rae Red. Drawing from Filipino folklore, the show follows an ensemble cast in a story described as expansive and unsettling, blending suspense with distinctly local themes.

The upcoming young adult romance film “18th Rose” brings together Xyriel Manabat and Kyle Echarri in their first on-screen pairing. The film centers on first love and marks a rare entry in the local market for modern YA romance, a genre that has seen limited recent releases.

Family drama “Ganito, Ganyan, Ganoon,” starring Jodi Sta. Maria, explores the chaos and warmth of Filipino family life through the story of a complicated matriarch. The film combines humor and heart while tackling intergenerational tensions.

Rounding out the originals is “Paskong Pinoy,” a holiday anthology film celebrating Filipino Christmas traditions through stories of nostalgia, romance and second chances.

Beyond its original productions, Netflix Philippines will continue its partnerships with local networks. Two series will premiere on the platform three days before airing on free-to-air television.

GMA’s “The Master Cutter” stars Dingdong Dantes as a former scout ranger who leads a double life as a tailor and bounty hunter. ABS-CBN’s “Someone, Someday” features Kathryn Bernardo,



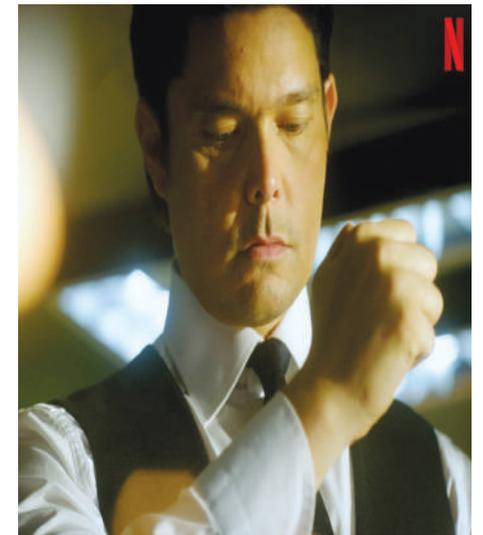
For the first-ever *Next on Netflix Philippines*, the biggest Filipino stars of this generation came together to unveil bold new stories, shaped by the talented voices redefining local film and series. PHOTOS FROM NETFLIX PHILIPPINES

James Reid and Maja Salvador in a drama about a woman who creates a dating app aimed at helping women find meaningful relationships while confronting her own past.

The 2026 slate reflects Netflix’s broader evolution in the Philippines, where it has shifted from primarily distributing global content to actively investing in local productions. According to the company, more than 90% of its Philippine members watched local content in the past year. To date, 32 Filipino titles have appeared on Netflix’s Global Top 10 lists.

Past local hits such as “Doll House,” “Lolo and the Kid,” “Outside,” and “Kontrabida Academy” helped establish the platform’s foothold in the local industry and drew international attention.

Since 2022, Netflix has also premiered episodes of long-running Filipino dramas ahead of their broadcast on free-to-air television, first in partnership with ABS-CBN and later with GMA. The arrangement allows viewers early access while maintaining traditional television distribution. “We are excited to continue growing alongside the industry, strengthening partnerships, and supporting more ambitious ideas from script to screen. We continue to bring Filipino stories to the global stage, working with a wide range of creators to showcase the breadth, ambition, and diversity of Filipino storytelling.



Dingdong Dantes is ‘The Master Cutter,’ playing on April 17

the Philippines and director of content licensing for Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand. As Netflix Philippines marks 10 years in the country, its 2026 slate shows a clear strategy and that is to scale up local productions, deepen creative collaborations and position Filipino stories for audiences at home and abroad. (Manila Times Ent.)

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Jasmine Curtis-Smith names 'The Loved One' among her favorite works of sister Anne Curtis

Jasmine Curtis-Smith took to social media to pen her reflection after watching *The Loved One*, which stars her sister, Anne Curtis, alongside Jericho Rosales.

"I sat in my car for a good hour after watching *The Loved One*, just absorbing everything. It is such a quiet, honest portrait of how love develops and changes when two people grow in life," she posted on her Instagram page.

The actress also expressed how she was in awe of the performances in the film. "The performances felt so raw, it was painful to watch two people loving each other the only way they knew how," she said.

Jasmine also commended the styling choices for Ellie's (Anne) character in the film. "I loved the visual language: the blues of Ellie's (and love's) initial fluidity, then the browns when she finds some of her own grounding.. like love finding its shape, then finding its limits." She also shared the most memorable lines from the movie for her, saying:



"That 'I just want you, to live with you' moment... Ellie kneeling, almost like her own proposal. 'Hinahanap na natin 'yung dating tayo sa ibang tao.' By the end, even the colors fade into black and white... like love reaching the end of one season of its life," she said.

She then extended her congratulations to the entire team of the movie. "Congrats *sestra* @annecurtissmith, @jerichorosalesofficial and Direk @ayrin. Such a

beautifully honest film about the natural cycle of love; how it begins, deepens, and sometimes gently learns how to let it run its own course," she said.

Jasmine remarked that *The Loved One* is now one of her favorite works of Anne. "Easily added to my favorite works of *sestra* how blessed I am to witness all your success and growth," she said.

Anne then commented on

Jasmine's post, saying: "Love you so much!"

According to the film's logline published on smcinema.com, *The Loved One* tells the story of former lovers Ellie and Eric who meet again ten years later "to trace the memories of a love and sorrow that never went away."

The project marks Anne and Jericho's first film together since the 2008 Metro Manila Film Festival entry *Baler*. (Toff C. /Push Team/abs-cbn)

T&T Supermarket Helps POWER UP the Future of Community Health Care in Richmond



From left to right: Spencer Gall, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Richmond Hospital Foundation; Natalie Meixner, President & CEO, Richmond Hospital Foundation; Cindy Lee, Founder, T&T Supermarket; Charles Huang, Senior Merchandising Director, T&T Supermarket

RICHMOND, BC – T&T Supermarket continues its commitment to uplifting communities with a \$50,000 donation towards the Richmond Hospital Foundation POWER UP Campaign which will help advance expanded and future-forward health care services for families across Richmond.

Advancements will include new technology and automated systems that will help increase access and efficiency to health care in the future Yurkovich Family Pavilion, the new acute care tower at Richmond

Hospital.

Founded in British Columbia in 1993, T&T Supermarket began as a family-run grocery store serving local Asian communities at a time when access to Asian foods was limited.

Over the years, T&T has grown into Canada's largest Asian grocery retailer while remaining rooted in the communities where it first started. Today,

NEXT PAGE PLEASE...

Erwan Heussaff pens heartwarming birthday message for Anne Curtis

Erwan Heussaff took to social media to pen a birthday message for his wife, Anne Curtis.

“Another year. Another chance to push for everything worth having. To squeeze the moments that matter. To face what’s hard, climb what’s high, figure out what makes it all count,” he wrote on his Instagram page.

The content creator added: “To stay true to where you’re headed and who you are while you get there. Happy birthday, mon amour.”

In his post, Erwan shared a video montage of Anne, capturing moments from her adventures in various parts of the world.

Fans online were quick to react to the post of Erwan. “Every year ko tong hinihintay!!! FAVE COUPLE,” one fan wrote.

“Inaabangan ko na to yearly. Happy birthday, Miss Anne!” another fan said.

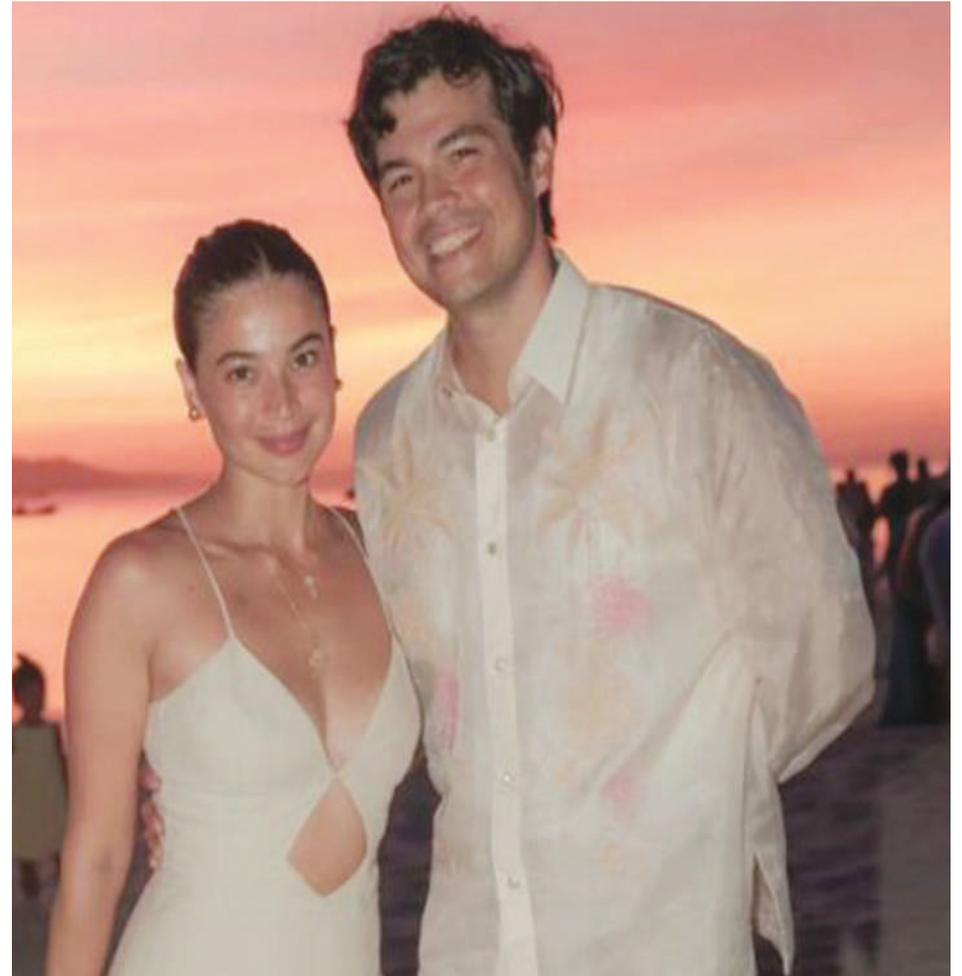
Anne celebrated her 41st birthday on Tuesday, February 17.

To mark her birthday, Anne also penned a post on her Instagram page, sharing photos from a shoot for a luxury brand.

“Birthday ko? forever a La Drama Queen. What a fantasy @gucci. Thank you everyone for all the sweetest greetings. My new year officially starts today. So excited for what this year will bring sending all my love, good energy and vibes to everyone! PS forgive me for the flood. I’m obsessed with this look,” she remarked.

Anne is currently headlining the hit film *The Loved One*, which premiered on February 11. The movie is directed by Irene Villamor.

As per its logline as published on smcinema.com, the movie tells the story of former lovers Ellie and Eric who meet again ten years later “to trace the memories of a love



and sorrow that never went away.”

This marks Anne and Jericho’s first movie together since the 2008 Metro Manila Film Festival entry *Baler*. It was in April

2024 when Anne sparked speculation about a reunion when she posted a photo of herself having dinner with Jericho and Irene, captioning it: “When like minds collide.” (Toff.

T & T cCONTINEOUS ...

T&T is a one-stop destination for Asian food discovery — enriching families through everyday meals and through initiatives that help strengthen community well-being.

“Food brings people together and nourishes both body and spirit, while strong health care protects families when they need it most,” says Cindy Lee, Founder of T&T Supermarket.

“As a company founded in this region, we’re proud to support the future of local health care and help families in Richmond live healthier, fuller lives.”

“We are so grateful to Cindy and T&T Supermarket for their philanthropic donation to support families in

Richmond,” shares Natalie Meixner, President & CEO of Richmond Hospital Foundation.

“Their joyful giving towards the future Yurkovich Family Pavilion will help ensure more families and their loved ones have access to advanced health care for generations to come.”

The Richmond Hospital Foundation POWER UP Campaign will help equip areas of care such as surgical services and the Emergency Department with technological advancements and innovations, providing the health care teams with the tools they need to deliver exceptional care for better patient experiences and

faster recoveries.

To learn more and donate towards the Richmond Hospital Foundation POWER UP Campaign, please visit: <https://www.richmondhospitalfoundation.com/campaign/power-up/>

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'Until She Remembers'

Until She Remembers, an intimate new drama, tells the story of a young girl (Barbie Forteza) whose world quietly unravels as her parents separate. With no one willing or able to take responsibility, she seeks refuge with her grandmother, Concha, played by Charo Santos-Concio. There, she faces the painful truth that the woman she loves most is dying of cancer.

In the fragile time they have left, the girl uncovers a long-buried secret: Concha once shared a deep, unresolved love with another woman, Catherine, portrayed by Boots Anson-Rodrigo. Determined to bring closure to her grandmother's final days, the girl tracks down Catherine, only to find her living with Alzheimer's disease, unable to recall the love they shared—or even the woman who loved her.

The film traces a quiet, devastating, yet ultimately healing journey toward a final meeting, where memory fades, but love endures. Through this journey, the young girl learns that love is defined not by possession, time, or memory, but by presence, sacrifice, and compassion.

From Solar Studios Inc. and Center Stage Productions, the film is executive produced by Wilson Tieng and written and directed by Brillante Mendoza. It will be released commercially on Feb. 25.

During the film's press conference, Charo pointed out that the film avoids stereotypes, allowing the actresses to portray love in all its dimensions. "Direk Brillante did not put us in a box, babaeng babae kame, but we're so in love. This film doesn't have any stereotypes," she added.

In response, the director described the story as "pro-LGBTQ," but without labels. He said that *Until She Remembers* touches on universal themes of love, loss, aging, and emotional inheritance, grounding the story in Filipino culture while speaking to audiences worldwide.

"Regardless, we're human beings, and we love regardless of gender," he noted.



Barbie explored her character's view of love, showing how it extends beyond romance to family, community, and self.

"I see love not only in romantic terms but in broader ways—love for family, for equality, for community, and even for oneself. Those forms of love can inspire growth and, ideally, help change the world in positive ways," the young actress, who portrays a 16-year-old girl in the movie, said.

For her part, Boots aimed to capture her character's inner thoughts and emotions, ensuring her performance feels authentic and resonates with

'Until She Remembers' stars award-winning actresses (clockwise) Charo Santos-Concio, Barbie Forteza, and Boots Anson-Rodrigo

the audience.

"Love persists even when memory doesn't fully cooperate. Even a fleeting moment of recognition can mean everything. That realization helped me connect more deeply with the character and understand the emotional weight she carries," she said.

Charo, on the other hand, emphasized that her character represents "a love that never forgets. Even when memories fade or life changes, that emotional connection remains. It shows how powerful love can

be—it shapes who you are, influences your choices, and stays part of you no matter what." (N. Wang/ Manila Standard)

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Why mistakes and failures excite David Licauco

Actor David Licauco isn't afraid to stumble; in fact, he embraces every mistake and challenge that comes his way.

In a recent TV interview, the actor revealed that making mistakes has been an essential part of his journey, both in showbiz and in business ventures.

"And this holds true whether it's my showbiz career or businesses," he admitted.

The Pambansang Ginoo recalled a childhood setback that would ultimately fuel his drive.

"When I was in fifth grade, I didn't make the cut for the school's basketball team. Admittedly, I wasn't that good yet. But in the following months, I practiced nonstop. The next year, I made it — and became part of the mythical five!"

David considers failure as a stepping stone. "I try my very best to become the best at everything. I'm not afraid of blunders because they actually excite me. If you fail, you learn and apply the lessons next time. Perhaps you can't perfect it, but you're one step closer. Success starts from failure."

Currently, David is channeling

that same determination into a dream project: building a luxury villa in Siargao.

"I'm in the designing phase. Maybe after my current prime-time show, *Never Say Die*, I'll move on to construction. I'm very hands-on with things like that!"

But it's not all construction and career moves. The former college basketball star is preparing to compete in a global indoor fitness competition, starting with a monthly race in Taiwan.

"Of course, my goal is to medal. I make time to work out even before tapings and before dinner. Some say they don't have time, but if you really want something, you find a way," he said.

On set, David has found camaraderie among his co-stars Jillian Ward, Kim Ji Soo, and Raheel Bhyria. "Jillian is so kind and genuine.

She even gives me business advice sometimes. Kim and I share the same humor, and Raheel has big dreams and wants to learn the ins and outs of the biz. I just love these guys!" (J.P.R. Gonzales/ Manila Standard)



David Licauco stays disciplined by working out around tapings as he gears up for an indoor fitness competition, starting with monthly races in Taiwan

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What to expect: ICC hearing to confirm charges against Rodrigo Duterte

By Carlito Pablo

The International Criminal Court is set to hold a hearing to confirm charges that ex-Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte committed crimes against humanity.

Running from February 23 to 27, 2026, the hearing will determine whether the case against Duterte should go to trial.

Duterte is facing charges related to 78 alleged murders in connection with the war on drugs he led as mayor of Davao City and later as president of the Philippines.

Lawyer and educator Tony La Viña notes in a recent column with the Manila Standard newspaper that the confirmation process is "widely misunderstood by the public".

"Many interpret the phrase as an announcement of guilt or an automatic move toward punishment," La Viña wrote in his column on February 13, 2026.

"In reality," he explains, "the confirmation of charges is neither a verdict nor a declaration of criminal responsibility."

To better understand what will take place at the ICC hearing in The Hague, Netherlands, the New York-based Human Rights Watch prepared a questions-and-answers guide. Here are some excerpts:

What are the charges against Duterte?

The ICC Office of the Prosecutor is seeking confirmation of three counts of the crime against humanity of murder against Duterte:

Nine incidents relating to 19 murders in Davao City between 2013 and 2016, when Duterte was mayor;

Five incidents relating to 14 murders of "individuals labelled as 'high-value,'" including for their alleged involvement in drug manufacturing or drug syndicates, in locations across the Philippines in 2016 and 2017, when Duterte was president; and

Thirty-five incidents relating to 45 murders and attempted murders committed in clearance operations in barangays (villages or neighborhoods) across the Philippines in 2016 and 2018 when Duterte was president.

The Office of the Prosecutor has indicated that the charges are "a non-exhaustive list of examples of the conduct underlying the charge," and that the 78 victims included in the document are "a non-exhaustive list of victims in this case."

What will happen during the confirmation of charges hearing?

The hearing to confirm the charges against Duterte is not a trial. It is held before a pretrial chamber composed of three judges. The hearing will allow the judges to evaluate whether the prosecution has enough evidence to move ahead with a trial on one or more of the charges cited.

Duterte, through his defense counsel, can object to the charges, challenge the prosecution's evidence, and put forward his own evidence. However, the hearing is not aimed at determining guilt or innocence.



Former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte first appeared before the International Criminal Court via video link on March 14, 2025. Photo by ICC.

The confirmation of charges hearing was initially scheduled to begin on September 23, 2025. However, on September 8, the pretrial chamber decided to postpone the hearing indefinitely because Duterte's lawyers contended that he was unfit to take part in the proceedings due to "cognitive impairment in multiple

domains," and requested an adjournment of the proceedings.

On January 26, 2026, the pretrial chamber rejected the defense's arguments and found that Duterte was fit to take part in the confirmation of charges hearing.

What rights does Duterte have during the confirmation of charges hearing?

Duterte's rights during this hearing are similar to his rights at trial. He is presumed innocent until prov-

en guilty, and is entitled to a fair and expeditious hearing conducted impartially.

Ahead of the hearing, Duterte was provided with the document containing the charges sought by the prosecutor, as well as a list of the evidence the prosecutor intends to rely on at the hearing. The disclosure of this evidence has been ongoing for several

months.

What happens after the confirmation of charges hearing?

After the hearing, the pretrial chamber will have 60 days to issue a written decision. If the chamber decides that there are "substantial grounds to believe" that Duterte committed the alleged crimes, the charges will be confirmed, and the case will proceed to trial.

If the judges decide that there is not enough evidence

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to confirm some or all of the charges, the prosecution can submit additional evidence and request a new confirmation of charges hearing.

Going back to La Viña's column on February 13, 2026, the opinion writer noted that the confirmation of charges against Duterte is "not merely a procedural step".

According to La Viña, it is a "message to the victims and their families that their grief has been heard, that their losses matter in the eyes of the international community".

"For thousands who mourn loved ones lost to extrajudicial killings, this moment offers something beyond legal vindication: it offers recognition."

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BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN & APPLE PLATA



From the Heart: Rey Valera Successful Meet & Greet in Vancouver

On February 11, 2026, fans gathered at Royal Palace Banquet Hall for a special meet & greet with OPM legend Rey Valera.

It was a successful evening as guests enjoyed taking photos and shared memorable moments with Rey Valera, and listened to a couple of his timeless songs. The night was filled with emotion, nostalgia, and beautiful memories shared with the audience.

There were also lighthearted moments and fun stories about the legacy of OPM Hitmakers, the group composed of Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Marco Sison, and Nonoy Zuñiga. Rey shared some stories, jokes and songs reminded everyone why their music continues to touch generations.

“From the Heart, For the Heart” – Canada Tour Dates:

- Feb 13– Edmonton - *DONE*
- Feb 14 – Penticton - *DONE*
- Feb 20 – Winnipeg
- Feb 21 – Victoria
- Feb 27 – Vancouver
- March 1 – Fort McMurray
- March 7 – Toronto
- March 8 – Grand Prairie

Don't miss this special concert happening in Vancouver on February 27 at Massey Theatre in New Westminster, part of the From the Heart, For the Heart – Rey Valera's Canada Tour.

It promises to be a beautiful evening of music, memories, and love with the original Pinoy “Hugot King,” Rey Valera. (Photo credit: Mesa Photography)



Group photo of the producers together with Rey Valera, who are also the promoters behind the entire Canada Tour.



Rey Valera Live in Penticton on Valentine's Day

PENTICTON, BC – Known as a year-round, sun-soaked destination in the South Okanagan Valley, Penticton is known for its mild winters, and least snowfall in Canada, the city is also widely recognized for its live music scene and well-loved festivals such as the Penticton Peach Festival, Ignite the Arts Festival, and Penticton Elvis Festival.

Adding to the city's music festivals, the Filipino community recently hosted a special Valentine's concert featuring OPM icon Rey Valera.

With around 1000 Filipinos now calling Penticton home, the community continues to make meaningful contributions to the city's cultural and economic life. In a strong show of support, Penticton Mayor Julius Bloomfield is working with the community leaders and Fr. Neil to have a designated office space at City Hall for the community's use. It will be finalized next week, and the community is hoping for the best for its approval.

The initiative to bring Rey Valera's Canada Tour to Penticton began when community leader Marlene Atienza learned about

it from Rey Fortaleza CEO of Reyfort Media Group. Inspired by the city's strong festival spirit and reputation as a music destination, she envisioned presenting a major Filipino artist in Penticton.

On February 14, “From the Heart, For the Heart” was successfully held at the Penticton Lakeside Resort & Conference Centre. The evening was memorable as Rey Valera serenaded the crowd with his timeless love songs. One of the highlights of the night was the audience participation, as he invited fans to join him for a duet that delighted everyone.

For the grand finale, the three priests - Fr. Neil, Fr. Cerlouie, and Fr. Ferdinand - joined Rey Valera for a duet rendition of the iconic Kahit Maputi Na ang Buhok Ko, drawing cheers and applause from the audience and signaling the end of the concert.

Big congratulations to the Penticton team for their first major Filipino artist concert in the city. Their dedication and teamwork have opened the door for more Filipino

community events in the future. (Note: contributing writers

and photos - Jazel and Leigh from Abbotsford)



Christian of Reyfort Media, Jazel and Leigh from Abbotsford and Marilyn Atienza - Penticton Filipino community leader.

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Thank you, and we hope to see you on the dance floor!  



Michelle Dee files cyberlibel complaints vs Xian Gaza, 4 Facebook pages

MANILA, Philippines — Beauty queen Michelle Dee filed cyberlibel complaints against internet personality Xian Gaza and four Facebook pages for allegedly spreading false information about her.

Dee filed the complaint before the National Bureau of Investigation on Monday, February 16, accompanied by her lawyer, Maggie Garduque. “Napakarami na po halos araw-araw may mga lumalabas na mga maling impormasyon tungkol po kay Michelle,” Garduque told reporters. (There are so many, almost every day, false information about Michelle keeps coming out.)

The case stemmed from Facebook posts by Gaza that mentioned Dee, as stated in the complaint-affidavit, a copy of which was shared with Philstar.com.

The affidavit also listed four Facebook pages in the complaint:

- Sarap Pinoy

- Bagong Umaga News
- Pinoy Star Buzz
- Celeb News

Gaza’s response

In a Facebook post, Gaza described the filing of complaints as “strategic,” claiming it was meant to shift attention to him instead of the “driver they ganged up upon and detained illegally.”

“The news headlines will become Michelle Dee vs Xian Gaza tapos siya na ngayon yung biktima na lumalaban,” Gaza wrote. (The news headlines will become Michelle Dee vs Xian Gaza and then she is now the victim who is fighting back.)

Underlying dispute

The posts referenced an earlier incident involving Dee, actress Rhian Ramos and beauty queen Samantha Panlilio, who were accused of ganging up on Ramos’ driver over the alleged theft of an “angpao” said to contain



Xian Gaza and Michelle Dee

sensitive photographs.

Dee subsequently filed a qualified theft complaint against the driver. On January 19, the Makati prosecutors dismissed the complaint and recommended filing it through regular preliminary investigation proceedings.

Dee refiled the complaint on January 30.

The driver, for his part, filed complaints of serious illegal detention, torture and assault against Dee, Ramos, Panlilio, several bodyguards and police officers. (I. Laqui/Philstar)

Vancouver BC Teams Take Part in the 77th PAL Interclub Golf Tournament 2026

One of the many teams participating in the 77th PAL Interclub Golf Tournament 2026, to be hosted by three golf courses in Davao City from February 19 to March 6, 2026.

South Pacific Davao Golf Club, Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club, and Apo Golf and Country Club will share hosting duties for one of the Philippines' premier amateur

golf events.

Participants from Vancouver include Filcansa, PGA British Columbia, Country Meadows Pinoy Senior Golf Club, PTGC Pinoy Twilight Golf Club, Vancouver Golf Association of BC, Seattle Golf Club, Van City Golf Club, and many more. **GOOD LUCK TO ALL!**



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TEAM CAPTAIN



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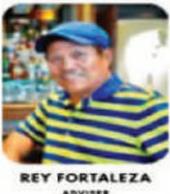
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'It's not that simple': Kim Atienza responds to Robin Padilla's comments on depression



Kim Atienza in this photo posted on his Facebook on Feb. 18, 2025 (kuyakimatienzaph via Facebook)

Content Warning: This article contains discussions of mental health, depression and suicide.

Television host Kim “Kuya Kim” Atienza, who has spoken about his daughter’s mental health struggles, reacted to Sen. Robin Padilla’s comments about the youth being “weak” nowadays and depression being “unheard of” in his time.

Kuya Kim reportedly commented on a news publication’s post featuring Robin’s remarks during a hearing of the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media on the Children’s Safety in Social Media Act.

“Ang mga bata po ngayon, sad to say, huwag kayong magagalit sa’kin, nako, maraming batang magagalit siguro, pero pasensya na kayo, you are weak,” the senator said on

Wednesday, February 11.

“Hindi kayo katulad nung panahon namin na hindi kami iyakin. Natuto kami, natuto kami sa kalsada, natuto kami na huwag umupo, umiyak,” he added.

“Nung panahon namin, hindi uso ‘yung salitang depression. Hindi ko nga alam ‘yun eh, kung ano depression. Ngayon batang maliit, sasabihin, I’m depressed. Magulo eh. Kaya sana po pag-usapan po natin ito,” Robin further said.

He went on to recall how the youth of the ‘80s and ‘90s spent their time.

“Siguro naman, iba dito, ‘di ko man kaedad, ay naranasan niyo ‘yung panahon ng 90s, 80s, na tayo ay mga naglalaro pa sa kalsada. Tayo ay masaya pa, alam pa natin kung ano ang camping, alam pa natin kung ano ‘yung pakikipagkaibigan, alam pa natin kung ano ang kalsada,” Robin said.

‘Not that simple’

Meanwhile, Robin’s comments about the youth being “weak” and depression being supposedly unheard of in his time struck a chord with Kuya Kim, whose youngest child has struggled with mental health conditions.

“It’s not that simple, Mr. Senator. It is not that simple,”

he reportedly wrote in a comment.

Kim also shared a more detailed reaction on his social media account, saying that “a little kindness (and understanding) goes a long way.”

“On February 11, during a Senate hearing on the proposed Children’s Safety in Social Media Act, Senator Robin Padilla said depression wasn’t something they talked about in his generation, going as far as to describe today’s youth as ‘weak.’ The internet didn’t take long to respond — it’s 2026, after all,” the TV host said on Thursday, February 12.

“While views may differ on how depression is understood across generations, one thing is clear: support should always be available. That’s why we’ve put together a list of 24/7 crisis hotlines, because whether or not the word was used before, the need for help is real for many today,” Kuya Kim added.

The TV host had a 19-year-old daughter, late content creator Emman Atienza, who initially attempted to take her life in 2020.

He stayed by her side for days at a time when visitors were strictly limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kuya Kim also previously said that mental illness is “unpredictable,” adding that “anything can trigger

depression.

“Losing your phone, getting scolded, a small rejection. People with chemical imbalance, they can’t always choose correctly. It’s not about willpower. When you’re sick, your brain makes wrong choices,” he said.

“So never say, ‘She chose it.’ Because when you’re that sick, you’re not choosing the same way we are. You’re fighting a battle we can’t see,” the TV host added, referring to his daughter’s suicide attempt.

A spokesperson for the College Editors Guild of the Philippines also reacted to Robin’s comments about depression, saying it should not be considered a “taboo” topic.

Brell Lacerna, national convenor of Kabataan Tayo ang Pag-Asa, said the youth’s knowledge about depression and mental health should not be seen as a weakness but a way of addressing the problem, considering the topic is now more openly discussed than before.

Depression is a common mental disorder characterized by a persistently depressed mood or a loss of interest or pleasure in activities for extended periods. The World Health Organization estimates that about 5.7% of adults worldwide suffer from depression, with women being disproportionately affected compared to men. Signs of depression include a loss of interest or pleasure in activities and experiencing a depressed mood, such as feeling sad, irritable, or empty. (J. Malasig/Interaskyon)

Sam Milby surprised by Catriona Gray detailing their break-up

MANILA — Sam Milby candidly admitted that he was surprised by ex-girlfriend Catriona Gray’s revelation about the reason why they broke up.

“Was I surprised, yes,” said Sam who exclusively sat down with ABS-CBN News before the media conference of his upcoming free TV series “The Alibi”.

In an interview with Karen Davila, Catriona said that Sam wasn’t ready to get married, even though they’re already engaged.

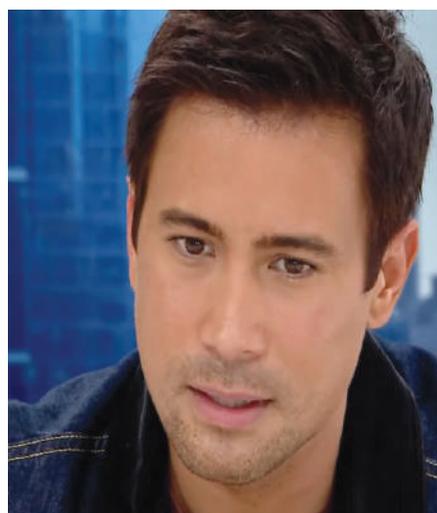
The former Miss Universe said,

“I really tried to make it work so I was willing to adjust ‘cause siguro when you love someone you are willing to understand them.”

We asked for Sam’s reaction to what his ex-gf said, but the actor opted not to give any comment. “My reaction is just I just wanna keep yung sa amin ni Cat, private. I just don’t want to comment. That’s it.”

It has been close to two years since they called it quits.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE ...



Pope proposes Lenten 'fast' from hurtful words



Pope Leo XIV. (Vatican Media via CBCP News)

In his message for Lent 2026, Pope Leo XIV urges Catholics to listen more closely to God and others — and to “disarm” their language by fasting from words that wound.

The Lenten season begins Feb. 18 with Ash Wednesday.

In the message, released Feb. 13, the pope offers a simple definition of Lent as a time when the Church “invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.”

He encourages Catholics to allow the word of God to touch their hearts with docility so that Lent may become “a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ.”

Listening to God and the cry of the poor

The Holy Father first highlights the importance of listening. “The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone,” he writes.

Listening to sacred Scripture, he says, teaches believers to recognize and respond to suffering in the world.

Quoting his own apostolic exhortation *Dilexi Te*, he adds that Catholics must recognize that “the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.”

Entering into this interior openness means allowing God to teach us to listen as he does, he writes, so that faith shapes both personal conversion and social responsibility.

Fasting, including from harmful speech

Turning to the traditional Lenten practice of fasting, the pope describes abstaining from food as “an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion.”

“Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we ‘hunger’ for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance,” he writes. It helps believers to “identify and order our ‘appetites,’ keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency.”

Quoting St. Augustine, he notes that the human heart expands through desire for God. “Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.”

However, he stresses that fasting must be lived “in faith and humility” and grounded in communion with the Lord.

In this context, the pope proposes a specific Lenten resolution: “a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor.”

“Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves,” he writes. “Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and

respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities.”

“In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace,” he adds.

A shared journey toward conversion

Finally, Pope Leo XIV emphasizes the communal dimension of Lent, recalling that Scripture frequently presents fasting and listening to the word of God as shared acts of repentance and renewal.

“Our parishes, families, ecclesial groups, and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent,” he writes, where listening to the word of God and to “the cry of the poor and of the earth” becomes part of community life.

He underscores that conversion concerns not only individual conscience but also relationships and dialogue. It means “allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity’s thirst for justice and reconciliation.”

Concluding, the pope invites the faithful to ask for grace and strength during the penitential season.

“Let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us,” he writes. “Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others.”

“Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.”

(A. Martínez-Bordiú, Catholic News Agency via CBCP News)

FROM LAST PAGE.....

During ABS-CBN News’ past interviews with Catriona, she had a difficult time-sharing detail or even just talking about their break-up.

Sam also said that Cat is a private person, which is why he was surprised when she suddenly opened up.

Is Sam dating anyone right now?

“Nope, I’m not. Not seeing anybody.” “Is it because he has no time? Or not interested yet to get back into a relationship?” “Hindi sa walang oras, I do. I haven’t met anybody. I don’t go out that much,” he said.

He added he might be on a full “tito” mode at the moment and just enjoys being a homebody.

Last Valentine’s Day, Sam spent the day taking care of his sister’s kids at home.

Sam also gave an update on his health. The actor has Type 1.5 diabetes.

He said that his insulin levels are steady and so far, in good condition. “End of last year was not too great, my blood sugar was struggling. But good news is that this year, it was a little bit better. I’ve been more active also. I’m back in the gym two to three times a week.”

“I did start insulin, kasi because of my situation, hindi ako type 2 (diabetes), I’m type 1.5. Just for emergencies, I’ve taken it a few times. But it’s not a daily thing, but luckily my blood sugar has been, the last two weeks were on the right track,” he added. (MJ Felipe/ Abs-Cbn news)

AT THE MOVIES
By Robert Waldman

*Running time: 2h 15m
Mixed Blessing!*

In the aftermath of the tragic Rumbler Ridge school shootings healing is the order of the day. Coming together is paramount for everyone in the community and across British Columbia. On a local smaller level the arts can bring that sense of community together. That was the takeaway presented by the artistic director of the Arts Club Theatre on the opening night of their latest offering Dial M for Murder. Somehow those words resonated as does the presentation. Of this drama now unfolding at the Stanley Alliance Theatre in Vancouver.

Way back when cinephiles may remember British thrill master Alfred Hitchcock achieved more international acclaim and notoriety with his similarly named movie. Now the Arts Club does one better as they team up with a Calgary troupe to pull off a stunning Modern day rendering of this classic whodunnit all done with considerable finesse. None of the cast miss a beat and along with some smart writing this show will keep you fully immersed from start to finish as this fiendish fantasy unfolds. Why even Lieutenant Columbo would have a hard time figuring out who did that dastardly act. Murder most foul indeed.

Dial M for Murder (PG)****

Affairs of the heart can be vexing. With Valentines Day now in our rear view mirror timing is everything. So are romantic liaisons. And indiscretions. Enter the world of Tony and Margot Wendice. Let's just say their marriage may be a bit on the rocks as Tyrell Crews and Emily Dallas so ably demonstrates. Most people know that many marital break-up revolve around extra curricular affairs or money. Both these vices and indiscretions figure oh so prominently as the two lovebirds fight it out. And when a surprise murder occurs there's no telling who did the dirty deed or why.

Catch me if you can is part of the fun in this truly expertly acted fantasy where voyeurism reigns supreme as others enter into the fray. Will justice be served as the countdown to the hangman looms large? Stay tuned. Crimes of passion never seemed so appealing. Director Jillian Kieley delivers a knockout punch as its gut check time for one of Scotland Yard's finest attempts to get at the truth.

With great support from acting heavyweights Olivia Hutt, Shekhar Paleja and Stafford Perry Dial M for Murder is dangerous fun and top notch entertainment definitely worth seeing.

For more information and tickets go to arts club.com or call (604) 687-1644

And for more reviews please visit my website moviereviewssite.com.

Revolver Lily (PG) ****

*Running time: 139 minutes
Quick Draw!*

Hell hath no fury like a scorned woman. Or an underestimated one. All bets are off when a passive lady returns to her fabled roots in the action-packed Revolver Lily. And I do mean action. Settle in for a thrilling tale of friendship, revenge and a never say die spirit all engineered by Well Go (USA Entertainment and now available on demand and through your cable company or internet server.

Lock and loaded. That about sums up the current life of famed Japanese courtesan and proud brothel owner Miss Yuri. In a knock-out performance that makes John Wick look like a choirboy Ayase Haruka simply sizzles as her old ways come into play big time when a young boy comes her way.

The boys dad apparently had a friendship with Yuri years ago and now she is propelled into a dangerous tug of war resulting in her once upon a time former life now resurfacing. Trained originally as a master assassin those skills come in handy as all sorts of bad actors will stop at nothing to find the boy - and worse. Heaven help anyone who gets in their way. Ah, but they never expected to run into this babe.

Director Isao Yukisado delivers an epic tale of espionage and

deceit that is full of suspense and never lets up. Set in 1924 amidst a time of turmoil within Japan's military hierarchy this movie shows just how far one lady can and will go to protect a little boy and safeguard the future of a nation. It's a tall order for one woman to fulfill but somehow Lily rises to the challenge. And how!

For more reviews please visit my website moviereviewssite.com.



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Church leaders, civic groups call for justice, accountability in 40th EDSA anniversary march



Church and civic leaders will lead the third "Trillion Peso March" on February 25 to mark the 40th anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution.

Fr. Carmelo "Tito" Caluag, executive director of Caritas Philippines, said the Church continues to call for justice, accountability, and respect for the Constitution amid persistent corruption.

"The Church stands for the rule of law and the respect of the Constitution," Caluag said, urging public insistence on the admission of guilt and recovery of stolen wealth.

Organized by multi-sectoral groups under Buhay Ang People Power, the anniversary theme, "Tayo ang People Power Laban sa Korapsyon at Dinastiya!

Noon. Ngayon. Bukas, Tayo ang People Power Laban sa Korapsyon at Dinastiya! Noon. Ngayon. Bukas," links past and present struggles against corruption and political dynasties.

Francis Joseph "Kiko" Dee, campaign convenor, said participants will appeal for the passage of the Anti-Political Dynasty Law, included by President Marcos as one of 21 priority bills to pass by June.

The activities will begin with a prayer march from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., from EDSA Shrine to Club Filipino, commemorating the oath-taking of former President Corazon Aquino.

3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the People Power Monument, culminating in a Mass to be presided over by Archbishop Socrates Villegas of Lingayen-Dagupan.

Caluag said the march will call for prosecution of major corruption cases, recovery of ill-gotten wealth, justice for human rights violations, formation of a truth commission, and defense of historical truth. Dee clarified that while he supports calls for accountability at the highest levels, the anniversary events focus on peaceful, constitutional civic action rather than violent or extra-legal measures.

Organizers said the march will be replicated across 86 dioceses nationwide. (CBCP News)

Main program follows from

Star-studded EDSA 40



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As the Philippines draws near the 40th anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution, a moment etched into the very soul of our nation, the air hums with a renewed call to reflect on its profound legacy.

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For every segment of our society — civil society, the clergy, educational institutions and indeed, every citizen who cherishes our homeland — marking EDSA 40 is not just a commemorative act, but a vital reaffirmation. And within this sacred remembrance, the evocative power and prophetic vision of our artists are absolutely essential, serving as a guiding light for our collective journey. The festivities are set to ignite

on February 21 with a highly anticipated "Awit at Aksyon Kontra Korapsyon" kick-off concert at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

This isn't just an evening of entertainment; it's a deliberate act of rekindling the flame of EDSA for a new generation. With luminaries like Ogie Alcasid, Janno Gibbs, and Rivermaya sharing the stage with contemporary artists such as Ice Seguerra, Ebe Dancel and Elmo and Arkin Magalona, the event aims to translate the spirit of the bloodless revolution into a language that resonates today.

Comedians like Vice Ganda, Alex Calleja and Red Ollero, alongside Iza Calzado add a diverse appeal, ensuring that the message of unity, courage, and conviction — the very pillars that rebuilt our democracy in 1986 — reaches every heart. (N. D. Ferrer/ Malaya)

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Regine Velasquez opens up about performance anxiety after duet with Josh Groban

MANILA, Philippines — Singer Regine Velasquez-Alcasid revealed she has been struggling with performance anxiety despite delivering a successful duet with international artist Josh Groban during his “GEMS” concert at the SM Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City on Wednesday night.

Velasquez joined Groban onstage for a performance of “All I Ask of You” from The Phantom of the Opera.

After the show, the veteran singer shared on social media that although it was “wonderful and an honor” to perform with Groban, she felt extremely nervous and anxious throughout the day, even forgetting to eat.

She added that recent performances including her regular appearances on “ASAP” have become more challenging.

“Lately every single performance for me is such a struggle even doing ASAP. And it used to excite me a source of

joy but now it give me so much anxiety,” wrote Velasquez on her X account.

She added, “I still LOVE singing I do but performing on stage..... maybe it’s part of getting old I don’t know. But it’s kinda of heartbreaking,” she added.

Aside from Velasquez, Filipino artists Martin Nievera and Julie Anne San Jose also appeared as guest performers during the concert.

“What a dream... such an honor and inspiration @ joshgroban! It’s a full-circle moment. From listening to your songs eversince I started my musical journey to singing together felt so surreal! Thank you for sharing your kindness and music,” San Jose wrote on Instagram as she shared her photos with Groban.

Groban performed several of his well-known songs and classic ballads, including “You Raise Me Up,” “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” and “To Where You Are.” (I. Iglesias/Manila Times)

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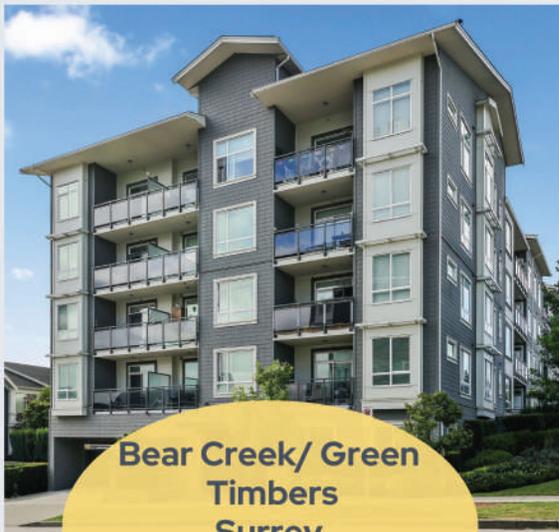
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