

The Vilma Santos Newsletter

= T H E = N O S T A L G I A = R E T R O = I S S U E =



FROM SWEET SIXTEEN TO GOLDEN YEARS

Blog of E-mails

(mga posted messages sa e-groups)

About our first salvo!

"Ang galing talaga...ang ganda ganda..." - **reachingthestars2003**

"ang ganda ng newsletter! Kailan kaya ang next issue?... kaya lang marcus, sana bawasan natin ang mukha at pangalan ni YKW next time. thanks." - **Law_eve**

"Congratulations sa lahat ng pasimuno ng maiden issue of the VS Newsletter. Nabasa ko na po from cover to cover during our lunch break here in the office. I enjoyed reading every page. Pihado matutuwa si Queenstar pag nabasa itong issue na ito. More power to all of you, guys! " - **"Ancheta, Rante V"**

"SPECIAL THANKS to Charlz and Marcus for taking their time and effort to send me the first issue of VS Newsletter. I just printed it and will read during my free (panakaw-nakaw) time. It seems like a first rate newsletter. I'll give my constructive comments once completed reading it. Thanks, guys, for all the efforts in bringing out this A-1 Newsletter. Hopefully, i will be able to contribute an article next time." - **Romy Silangan**

"Congratulation! A job well done! One thing I would like to point out, Ask someone to check grammar and spelling. Also, increase your font and choose a more reader friendly font like ARIAL. I would like to wish you and all your columnists all the best and I will be looking forward for more issues to come! Now, Marcus, when will you be able to join us for some cappuccino at the village?" - **Rendt2004**

"Anong kabalalan yang newsletter-newletter na iyan? Puro

mga walang kuwentang istorya ng mga Velmaniacs... pwe! - **Deo C.**

"Wow, first time na magkaroon ng ganito... Pero, when I read it, it's a big disappointment. Wala naman mababasa kundi praises for their idol! This is just a waste..." - **Jumbo Tron**

Libro ng mga kampon?!

"..Ano namang kaek-ekan na mag print sila ng book tribute daw kay Nora Aunor at nagkaroon pa ng launching day...Bibili ba kayo ng book nila?" - **Nelvin Rea**

"Ibigay ko na lang sa kawang-gawa makakatulong pa kahit papano...." - **Henry Llana**

"Puro DIIN ang matutunghayan mo sa libro ni YKW. Kahit achievements niya puro DIIN. Pilit na DINIDIIN na siya ang ONE AND ONLY SUPERSTAR...." - **Alessandra**

About URIAN!

"...tama ka bro. mar! the writer mentioned about ykw's 'audacious' role, and Ate Vi's 'confident' performance...Urian is all about performance wise and

not role-wise. Parang gustong sabihin ng writer na maganda ang role ni ykw, pero natalbugan siya ni Ate Vi sa acting department. speaking of 'talbog'....Sundin lang ng Urian ang kanilang pamantayan no doubt, the QueenStar will bring home her 9th trophy." (unfortunately, they didn't, Judy Ann won — ed) - **Eduardo Lozano**

"well...it's her turned now (Judy Ann Santos' win at URIAN) and we must accept and congratulate her latest trophy...Still...Queen Vi got 8 Best Actress." - **Namprit Rak**

Other e-mail messages...

"..Alma Moreno, in her show introduced Nora Aunor who comes in late: *"Finally, please welcome, the late Nora Aunor."* - **Ray Bal**

"..the Chinese language that Ate Vi spoke in Mano Po 3 was Fokien not Mandarin or Cantonese." - **Jeanni Wong**

"FYI: i just got a copy of the new issue of STARSTUDIO magazine and according to it the Vilma Santos DVD Collection: Dekada 70, Anak and Bata, Bata Paano ka Ginawa, is only \$11.99. is this a misprint or what?...." - **Father J** (Yes, it is not the correct price.)

The Vilma Santos

newsletter

is published once every two months by the Vilma Santos e-group members.

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Did you know...

- ...that the first posted message on **Vilma Santos Star for All Season** Yahoo group was on July 26, 2000 and the message was posted by non other than law_eve! (see page 19)
- ...that the e-group **Vision** founded by Allan Trambulo on April of 2004 has the most visual designs with 261 members (and still counting)!
- ...that the **VSR** e-groups, founded in March 26, 2004, is currently third in membership counts but carries the most broader collections of pictures.
- ...that **VSFanClubCanada** is the only exclusive VS e-group to date, the baby of all e-group, currently has only 21 members, 3 from Canada.

Edit-O-Real

VILMA and ME

by Father J

I must admit that it is an honor for me to be counted among the millions of loyal VILMANIANS. When I begun chatting with other fans of Ate Vi, it was just to pass some of my time. However, as days and weeks and months, passed by, I begun to feel that chatting in this group is now a part of my vocation.

I believe that there is more to chatting, there is more in sharing stories and news about the STAR OF ALL SEASONS AND REASONS. This is the reason why I am sharing with you my thoughts about VILMA.

Vilma Santos, the longest reigning QUEEN of the PHILIPPINE MOVIES, should be admired not only for exceptional talents but for the good examples that she has shown us and continue to show us throughout the years. Ate Vi does not only entertain us through her works in movies and television but she has shown us how to touch other people's lives through her life in public service.

Ate Vi, the Mayor of Lipa, has deeply touched the lives of the people of that city and beyond. She shows us how to use her God-given talents and resources for the benefit and good of others. She once said: "If I depend on my salary as a mayor, it is not enough to help the people who come to my office and ask for financial help." In other words, Ate Vi truly acknowledges that her blessings are truly a gift from ABOVE and that is why she shares this with others especially among the most unfortunate ones.

My dear VILMANIANS, as we continue to follow the latest happenings with our idol, may we also imitate the good things she has been doing. Let us reach out to others, VILMANIANS and non-VILMANIANS alike, especially the less fortunate among

us. Let us continue to share our resources with them because through our acts of charity that they will see God's love. Let us be instruments of God's peace and generosity with others.

As a servant of God, please be assured of my continuous prayers for you and your loved ones. May the Good Lord continue to bless us all especially our dear Ate Vi. Let us continue to make a difference in this world by what we say, think and do.

Long Live, Vilma Santos, our QUEENSTAR!

YAN SI ROSA VILMA

ni Father J

May isang naggangalang Rosa Vilma, Ipinanganak sa Tondo, Maynila.

Naging artista kahit noong siya ay bata pa, Galing sa pagganap noon ay pinag-aralan na.

Noong siya ay nagdalaga na, Nagpatuloy sa kanyang pag-aartista. Naging sikat at hinahangaang bituin Katambal si Edgar bilang ka-loveteam.

Naging karibal si Nora Sa pagiging isang reyna. Subalit mas matagumpay si Nora Noong mga panahon ng setenta.

Hanggang siya ay mag-iba ng imahen, At gumanap bilang isang Burlesk Queen.

Mula noon at magpahanggang ngayon Si Vilma na ang Reyna taon-taon.

Siya ay nag-iisang Star for All Seasons, At gayundin naman ng for All Reasons. Hindi magugupo o mapapataob ninuman, Pagkat Vilmanians hindi s'ya pababayaan.

Queenstar mula noon hanggang ngayon, Pinakamahusay na aktress sa lahat ng panahon.

Nirerespeto ng mamayang Pilipino, Pagkat mapagmahal siya sa kapwa Pilipino.

Isang ulirang artista at ina, Matagumpay na mayora ng Lipa. Siya at wala ng iba ang Reyna, Yan ang mahal nating si Rosa Vilma.



On the cover

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Credits:
Model: Vilma Santos
Art Graphics: Marcus Peter Lee
Source: Eric Nadurata's Vilma Santos website

For comments, Submissions or copy of The Vilma Santos newsletter, Please send us an e-mail: c/o The Editorial Staff vilmasantosnewsletter@yahoo.ca

We have the right to edit any letters for space layout purposes. It is the responsibility of the sender to make sure e-mail attachments has no virus, anyone who sent virus infected e-mail will be banned from the e-groups.

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Eric Nadurata's
VS Updates

Ate Vi's family life in the 70s

Nostalgia ang theme natin for this issue. So, I will write about Ate Vi noong October 1970. After staying in an apartment sa may Bambang, Tondo, Manila and later sa isa uling apartment sa La Loma, QC, nakabili na si Ate Vi ng bahay sa isang bagong subdivision sa Quezon City rin.

Isang katamtamang laki ng bungalow sa may Cenacle Drive ng Arfel Subdivision ang bagong bahay ni Ate Vi. Simplicity at elegance ang masasabing keynote ng bagong bahay na ito. May tatlong bedroom na pawang carpeted and all covered by wallpapers, which was the fad then. Incidentally, the said bedrooms ay pulos air-conditioned ding lahat. Carpeted din ang loob ng kanilang living room na kumpleto ng mga makabagong furniture. Adjacent to the living room is the dining room with a fabulous dining set good for 12 person. Dalawa ang kusina. The dirty kitchen is situated at the back of the house while the main kitchen is connected to the servant's quarter. Kumpleto rin ang nasabing dalawang kitchen ng modern equipments. At the back of the house ay ang isang maluwang na terrace na sadyang pinagawa ni Ate Vi para sa kanyang mga fans. Sa may bandang gate ay ang wide at cemented driveway na siyang tinitigilan ng kanilang dalawang kotse. Ang landscaping ng buong bahay ay simple lang ang pagkakangawa yet very fascinating naman to everyone's eyes. Sa may gilid ng bahay ay may grotto rin na palaging inaalayan ni Ate Vi ng bulaklak. Katabi ng bahay ni Edgar Mortiz. After Arfel, tumira si Ate Vi sa Bel-Air Subd, Makati, then sa Dasmariñas Village sa Makati rin.

She also had a house sa Monterey Hills Subd. sa Marikina. Ang alam ko hindi niya tinirhan ang bahay niya sa Monterey, although dito siya nag-celebrate ng kanyang 20th birthday. For practical reasons, dahil na nga sa sobrang laki ng bahay sa Dasmariñas Vill., they decided to sell it at bumili sila ng isang mas maliit na bahay sa Magallanes Village, also in Makati, although hindi rin naman maliit ang bahay sa Magallanes, it has 5 bedrooms at may basement at swimming pool pa ito. Dito nagtagal si Ate Vi, until she bought the house where she is staying until now sa Green Meadows sa QC. Curious lang ako, ano na kaya ang itsura ng unang bahay ni Ate Vi ngayon? Sino kaya ang nakatira doon ngayon? Siguro, it will take another issue for that. Meanwhile, let us enjoy how it looked like to live in the '70s. - en



Si Ate Vi sa kwarto ng kanyang mahal na sina Papa at Mama Santos.

Bukod sa bagong bahay ay mayroon pa ring bagong kotse si Ate Vi na malimit niyang ginagamit patungo sa mga shootings at personal appearances. Pero pag siya ang nagdra-drive ang madalas niyang gamitin ay ang kanilang puting Renault family car.



Si Ate Vi with ate Emelyn sa living room.



Bago umalis ng bahay, ugali na ni Ate Vi ang mag-alay ng sariwang bulaklak sa grotto na nasa gawing tagiliran ng bahay.



Sa likod ng bahay ay naroroon ang maluwang na terrace na sadya umanong ipinagawa ni Ate Vi para sa mga fans.



Room ng kid sisters ni Ate Vi na sina Maritess at Winnie.



Bilog na kama ang napili ni Ate Vi para sa kanyang room. Mayroon din siyang sariling stereo at colored TV sa loob ng kanyang kwarto.



Franco Gabriel's
Lets Be Franc

Edgar Loves Vilma

I saw this book of Lorna Kalaw Tirol titled "Above the crowd". It caught my attention when I saw the drawing of Vilma's face which was the most beautiful one compared to other caricatures. This book contained interviews of Kris, Kuh, Nora, Lino Brocka and others. The pictures was illustrated by Nonoy Marcelo.

Let me share you the article about Vi (Vilma Santos) & Bot (Edgar Mortiz)

"If Vilma comes, can Edgar be far behind?"

In the colorful world of the Filipino movie fan, circa 1971, the ideological lines (with all due respect to the radicals and the moderators in the movement) are sharply drawn. One is either for Nora Aunor or for Vilma Santos. One cannot like both and be worthy of the name "movie fan". In fact, there are no fans in the case of Nora and Vilma; they are only fanatics.

Nora, her loyal subjects maintain, has a far better singing voice than Vilma. That, counters the Santos camp, is because Vilma is primarily an actress and only incidentally a singer. And Vilma of the doll-like face is definitely the prettier of the two, her fanatics boast. There, we think, the debate should end.

The assignment was to interview Vilma Santos for a cover story. We were told that we could catch her one Saturday morning at an Antipolo resort where she was shooting Wonderful World of Music for Tagalog Ilang Ilang. Her director was there, all right, and so was Snooky (child star), too self conscious and too small for her age. But Vilma was still in Cabanatuan, and so was Edgar.

The following Wednesday she was scheduled to start filming for another Tagalog Ilang Ilang picture, Young Lovers. With a title like that, we thought, the movie couldn't be anything but a further buildup of the Edgar-

Vilma love team. But who wants a story when you can have your fill of Vilma and Edgar exchanging sweet words and glances?

We were at this house in Quezon City, site of the first day of shooting, at nine in the morning. The entire cast and crew were there, except for the leading lady and her leading man. When they arrived an hour and a half later, the place seemed to come alive. The young lovers were chaperoned by Mrs. Santos, pretty and amply proportioned.

We were relieved to see none of the burly tomboys who smothered Nora. It was Edgar Mortiz, with his height and size, who looked more like Vilma's body-guard. If he were slim and shorter, he could pass for her shadow. Yet it is difficult to imagine him in the role of bodyguard, he is what older folk would describe as mukhang musmos pa. Edgar Mortiz is, in fact, younger than Vilma Santos who, at 17, is no giggly teenager. She is a woman and she knows it.

"A LOT of people tell me that I am very mature for my age" she says at the start of the interview. "I feel it myself. I like to think that I have the mind of 23-year-old woman." She speaks with unusual poise and self-confidence, a self-assurance which must explain why she strikes some people as suplada.

Vilma had little time to be a child. When she was nine and a student at St. Mary's Academy in Manila, an uncle who was a cameraman at Sampaguita introduced her to Dr. Jose Perez. Not long afterward, Rosa Vilma Santos made her first film, Trudis Lit, where she played the title role. Shooting schedules were arranged so as not to conflict with her studies: she attended school in the morning, reported to the set in the afternoon. More pictures for Sampaguita followed, including two on the life of Ferdinand Marcos, in which she was cast as Imee. When the time came for Vilma to choose between school and a film career, she readily chose the latter.



"We study so we can get a job later, di ba? Well, I have a job already." When she does decide to resume her studies (she was in fourth year high school when she quit), she wants to go into fine arts. Right now however, her thoughts are on her career and, if we are to believe her studio's drumbeaters, Edgar. Is he or isn't he?

That is as intriguing a question to their fanatics as Imelda Marcos's political ambition is to newspaper columnists. The love team of Vilma and Edgar has been going strong for two years now. Whether on TV's Sensations and Edgar Loves Vilma or on radio's "Hot line 1250 with Edgar and Vilma" or in advertising gimmicks, the latest of which is birthday party with Vilma and Edgar, the team-up has proved to be a hit. They are, in addition, neighbors somewhere in Quezon City. Doesn't she get tired of being paired with him? "Of course not," she says petulantly. Whether their apparent fondness for each other is the real thing or just plain acting is hard to tell. When not holding hands, which is most of the time, they have their arms around each other. "I'm not really a singer," Vilma admits, "but Edgar is teaching me how to sing."

Love team come and go, but that is the least of Vilma's worries. Show business is her world. She wants to stay in it for as long as she can. "Sana magtagal ako", she says. Even without Edgar?
 Asia-Philippines Leader
 July 9, 1971

Today, Vilma Santos is still the most bankable star of Philippine cinema. Her movies continued to be box-office hits. She is the most awarded actress in the country and a respected public servant.

Edgar on the other hand is now a TV director. He now a happy family man. He's now part of the Teleserye "Kampanerang Kuba" which happened to be the remake of a Vi & Bot hit during the 70's. Recently, Vilma was one of the sponsors of Edgar's daughter's wedding. The former love team are now Kumpares & Kumares. — fg

Marcus peter Lee's
At Iba't Iba Pa

Watching Vilma's Films

The Beginning – When I was a little kid, I remember watching my very first Vilma movie with my aunt. It was “Lipad Darna Lipad”. The theatre was Cine-rama on Claro M Recto near the underpass headin’ towards Quiapo. I remember the crowded theatre. The carpeted floor and velvet curtains. With no more seats and an SRO crowd, we sat on the stairs near the balcony area. People were screaming and into each fight scenes. I remember vividly how my aunt almost got into a fight because she wanted me to sit on one of the seat that was vacated and a man standing in front of us wanted the seat too. Celia Rodriguez was really scary with her head covered with snakes and her voice was so icy cold. Liza Lorena didn’t registered much on me but Gloria Romero was even scarier! This film brought me some nightmares but it also gave me and my cousins something to play about every afternoon after school.

Pakawalan – The second memorable film experience for me was during early 80s where I saw the free sneak preview of “Pakawalan Mo Ako” at Gotesco Theatre near University of the East. I was one of the lucky ones who managed to get in. My college mates weren’t. They got stocked in the pandemonium outside. I was worried sick as I took the long escalator and saw them being crashed by the crowd. The security guards have to closed the gate of the lobby. Fans became so restless and broke the glass windows (where they displayed posters and still photos). Inside, it was crowded, hot and wild. We were seeing a more mature Vilma Santos. From the very beginning, the crowd went along the story until one of the climatic scene - - the courtroom scene where she cried and swear! Oh my god I still remember the crowd swearing and cursing too! It was so wild!

Activism – The third movie experience was when I saw Sister Stella L at Capri near the Philippine Rabbit Bus Station on Rizal Avenue (it is always called Avenida). Now, the total opposite happened to me. The theatre was half empty but most of the people I noticed were students and office workers. This film affected me so much and I started to join rallies and demonstration along Mediola and at our school. I also remember that Sharon Cuneta had a film showing at the same time, and most of my friends watched this film instead. I was so disappointed that they decided to see this film instead of SSL. This film also became my mantra at school. It inspired me to take issues and voice out what I think, I became militant. I rebelled against my family who I believe were too strict. I wanted my freedom and so this film inspired me. The end result was my independence. Up to this day, I will never forget the

time when I had an argument with my grandfather, it wasn’t funny back then. I told him: “Tama na, panahon na....hindi habang panahon pigipigan n’yo ako sa pagsasalita...” the line from SSL.

Why does he have to rape Rubia? – Another memorable experience was when my aunt got into a huge fight in front of Galaxy Theatre on Avenida. Being a true Vilmanians and with her deadly weapon, her umbrella, my aunt pulled the hair of this two crazy Nora Aunor fans. This was after the two said nasty things about Vilma while passing on in front of the theatre. I ended up on the cement floor hiding near the newspaper stands. Thank god she always came up on top because we were always able to go home uninjured. Rubia Servios was showing at the Galaxy theatre back then. Again we have to sat down on floor, my aunt’s realized that she can’t put me on her lap anymore as I am a bit heavier now. As I observe, people are more serious this time. No shouting but silence as the story being told to us. The crowd was so into it too but no shouting instead a feeling of sighs and sadness. My aunt cried as she watched Rubia crawled on the sandy side of the beach. Rubia Servios was for adults only but my aunt’s sister was the ticket collector or “takilyera”. So I was able to get in. Philip Salvador was so “hot” in his black swimming trunk, I dreamt of him a number of times. As we watched the film, I remember asking my aunt about why does he (Philip) have to rape Darna? My aunt patiently explained, about love and lust. My innocent mind were corrupted that day. Eventually, I got over that rape scenes but revenge when Vilma killed Phillip using a boat paddle still stucked on my mind.

Naked Christopher – Lastly, the one that was so special to me, was when I saw Magkaribal at Luneta theatre. I went to so many theatres to get in but at last the woman at the box office was so busy reading comics that she didn’t even bother to ask about my age. The film was “For Adults Only” and I agreed. Christopher De Leon here was so sexy, riding a horse, naked. And Alma Moreno was so young and thin. Even her boobs here are well proportioned to her body, although its already huge. And ate Vi here was at her best, acting wise. The crowd here are more mature, a combination of college students and office workers. The theatre was not SRO but all the seats are taken and it was obvious that the film was catered to couples. It was weird, I met my first lover inside this theatre and up to now we are still friends. He eventually became an avid follower of Vilma. He also kept a copy of out ticket stub and have a VHS tapes of this film! Funny how most of my life, Vilma has become part of me. It feels like she has become like air. I won’t be able to live without! - mpl



Mar Garces

umbra et penumbra

Bring Back “Wilma!” - the Greatest Musical Variety Show Ever!

In the 1980's, Nora Aunor's Superstar show was losing viewership and her box-office appeal was also in question. Suddenly, the 70's superstar was being eclipsed by a non-singer but an excellent dancer and versatile actress Vilma Santos. She has just scored her first of four grand slams for the movie *Relasyon* and continued to reign as the Longest Box-office Queen of Philippine Cinema. And slowly but surely, her VIP (Vilma In Person) TV show was gaining patronage/high ratings too from the precious class ABC households nationwide, TV advertisers' prime target audience for their products.

Smart Move – There was no stopping Vilma Santos. She was about to conquer the TV musical-variety genre where Nora Aunor ruled for years. Early on, Vilma Santos had rough sailings with her musical variety show. VIP was being broadcast from Channel 2 which had a bad reception among TV homes nationwide, and was no match to the more modern RPN Channel 9 where Nora's Superstar show was simultaneously shown from Luzon to Mindanao in vivid, crisp color. When VIP moved to GMA Channel 7, it was the best move that Vilma's think tank ever did. With better satellites, shrewd marketing, state of the art facilities, and more ambitious production numbers and with the Dancing Queen Vilma at the center of it all, and with the genius of Maribeth Bichara's choreography and musical concepts written all over the show – “Vilma!” became the most watched and the most awarded TV show in the musical/variety category.

52 – Every Friday, 52 weeks a year, there was Vilma Santos' most awaited opening number that never failed to surprised, amused and elicited oohhhs and aaahhhs as the TV Musical Variety Queen won the hearts of music and dance aficionados here and abroad. Who would ever forget these outstanding, well-rehearsed, high performance level and unforgettable numbers?:

Madonna – The Madonna Material Girl number, which would make Madonna proud. She sashays, gyrates and pirouettes ala Tina Turner for Vilma's version of Private Dancer. (“I'm your private dancer, a dancer for money, do what you want me to do?” Talbog ang Burlesk Queen! My most memorable Maribeth B. and Vilma Santos sexy number was when they showed their legs and swing those hips as the Swing Out Sisters belt out their number one hit

Breakout...

The “A Chorus Line” ensemble, “On Broadway” with Queen Vilma leading the group with a hat, gloves, a cane and a glossy costume. Who would ever forget her swing number with then sweetheart Ralph Recto? Or a dance number with the late Nida Blanca? Or a naughty, haughty dance number *La Conga*, sung by Gloria Stefan? And many, many more production numbers that were shot from Luzon to Mindanao, and even in the U.S., like *The Raging Waters* in California.

Imitated – Vilma! was imitated but never equaled by the fly by night copycats: Snooky Serna, Maricel Soriano, even Alma Moreno in *Love-liness*. Sharon stuck to singing and wers-wers English. At one time, Nora Aunor was guest. Pinaluhod lahat sila ni Ms. Vilma Santos! Whenever a Regal or a Viva movie promo was in progress, they all trooped to the ratings winner Vilma! From GMA studio, to the Metropolitan Theater, Vilma! made history. From the cha-cha, the boogie, to tinkling to meringue and the swing – Vilma did them all. She was everybody's Ate Vi or Tita Vi. The TV Queen. The Dancing Queen, and how!

Here are some of the awards the Queen Star and her famous Vilma! show had won:

- 1987 STAR Award Best Musical Variety Show Host
- 1987 CMMA Best Musical Variety Show
- 1988 STAR Award Best Musical Variety Show Host
- 1988 STAR Award Best Musical Variety Show
- 1988 CMMA Best Musical Variety Show
- 1989 STAR Award Best Musical Variety Show
- 1989 CMMA Best Musical Variety Show
- 1990 CMMA Hall of Fame in Musical Variety Show
- 1990 STAR Award Best Musical Variety Show
- 1990 New York International Awards for TV-Finalist
- 1991 STAR Award Best Musical Variety Show
- 1991 Dove Awards Best Musical Variety Show
- 1992 STAR Award Best Musical Variety Show
- 1994 STAR Award Best Musical Variety Show
- 1998 STAR Award Ading Fernando Lifetime Achievement Award

My wish: please bring back Vilma!, the dancer and entertainer par excellence, even if it's just one show. Sayaw, Vilma, sayaw! The whole world awaits. Who cares if you're 51? Tina Turner is almost 70.

Vilma, you are the Eternal Youth and the Dancing Queen Forever! - mg



Charlie Gomez
Anything Goes

Viva La Vilma !!!

We're back!... once more to bring you the best of the best on Ate Vi. Fresh from the success of the maiden issue of our newsletter, the V-5 is back. This time they're not just five, but five times five. The talented and wonderful Vilmanians across the globe have joined forces to come up with more exciting contributions and write-ups to ensure that only a quality and entertaining newsletter is delivered right at your door. Besides, this newsletter is for all of us - you and I, the forever Vilmanians!

We thank everyone who have appreciated our first salvo and those who unselfishly imparted suggestions and encouraging words, including the negative ones. We truly appreciate them. Rest assured that we would take everything positively and constructively. Our theme for the second issue as Marcus emphasizes to us, is Retro/Nostalgia. What a fitting follow-up indeed! For there's so much that can be written of the Philippines' legendary and ultimate movie queen. Having weathered a successful career that spans for three decades now. Yet, I'm in quandary as to how would I start. Perhaps, words aren't enough to describe her majestic resume and refreshing persona that anyone who intends to write about her would be taken aback in bewilderment. But alas! As I contemplate in front of my PC, a perfect word came along. And this is it - "Viva La Vilma!" "Perfect!" I said to myself. And the keyboard started to tick.

It's a nomenclature that speaks of the Queen Star's revered stature in the Philippine movie industry as country's prime and greatest actress of all times, and Star for All Seasons and Reasons. Likewise, it hails of the diminutive actress' charm and strength in political arena where she is now serving her third term as Lipa City's mayor, and the bright promise of an endless possibilities her innate and God-given talents will bring.

What's in a name anyway?

Spelled as capital V I L M A.

Let me put words to each to get the right picture.

V - is for victorious!

Indeed she is, right from the start. Her very first outing into celluloid world in 1963 where she was then 9 years old via the film "Trudis Liit" opposite Lolita Rodriguez bestowed her that year's FAMAS Best Child Actress. Also worth mentioning is - at that same year while filming Trudis, she is wrapping up another movie titled "Anak ang Iyong Ina" where she shared stellar

highlights with acting stalwarts, Gloria Romero and the late Rita Gomez. Thus, she's the only child actress who started her career via two movies. What a feat! And La Vilma did. The winning streak continues. From Trudis Liit (1963) to Mano Po 3 (2005), the victorious La Vilma always emerges triumphant year after year even in the midst of storms that beset her in life, she wears still the crown. Nothing and no one can ever stop the winningest actress of all time, La Vilma. The record speaks for itself: Four-times Grand Slammer for Best Actress - 1982 in "Relasyon", 1993 in "Dahil Mahal Kita (The Dolzura Cortez Story)", 1998 in "Bata...Bata... Paano Ka Ginawa?", and 2002 in "Dekada 70". 8 times URIAN awardees for Best Actress (one more is coming up), 6 times in PMPC Star Awards for Movies, and 5 times in FAP.

Best Actress Hall of Fame in FAMAS and Lifetime Achievement awardees.

Box Office Queen Hall of Fame awardees.

Cine Manila and Brussels International Film Festival Best Actress awardees.

And lots more.... The list goes on and on.

V - is also for versatility!

Only La Vilma can essay varied roles in every movie she made with finesse and perfection. This is very true during the early 70's especially after she won her very first FAMAS Best Actress trophy via "Dama de Noche" in 1972.



She was the super Filipino flying heroine in "Lipad, Darna, Lipad", the all-time favorite and most successful Darna movie ever made, box-office wise speaking. The testament to her effectual performance of this Filipino heroine is her having played the role four times, namely "Lipad, Darna, Lipad", "Darna and the Giants", "Darna and the Planet Women" and "Darna at Ding".

That's another feat unparalleled in the history of movie-making that only La Vilma can deliver.

She was the beautiful mermaid in "Dyesebel at ang Mahiwangang Kabibe", the champion of the jungle in "Wonder Vi", and the action heroine in "Vilma Veinte Nueve", "Phantom Lady" and "Vivian Volta" - all box-office hits of the 70's.

She's exciting to watch in heart-pounding, hair-rising suspense-horror movie in "Kamay na Gumagapang" and "Anak ng Asuwang", and in heart-warming drama-fantasy movie "Kampanerang Kuba", the latter now being aired as ABS-CBN's latest teleserye.

She's equally refreshing and hilarious in "Kundoktora", "Teribol Dobol", "Tok Tok Palatok", and "Vilma and the Beep Beep Minica" where she played a young socialite opposite a talking minica. The latter movie was truly hilarious. The audience had a great laugh when it was shown in theatres many years back.

She's so sweet and amorous in "Batya't Palu-Palo" and "Bato sa Buhangin" opposite the late king of the Philippine movie, FPJ, and in "Nakakahiya" and "Nakakahiya II" opposite the late drama king, Eddie Rodriguez, that you cannot help but fall in love with her. I did, and still am.

She's riveting and magnificent in her portrayals in
Turn to page 20



Alan of Vision

By Alan Tumbulo

VS Retro-Folio: Beauty, Fashion and Movie ICON

With a 52nd birthday on the horizon, Ms. Vilma Santos is hotter than ever. The ICON, whose sophisticated-chic style inspired the many Filipinas around the world. Any way you consider it, Mayor Vi looks simply great. And not just in that cliché's left-handed-compliment way of "great—for her age".

For most of us, the fountain of youth is a kind of holy water. And Ate Vi, the best example of a woman who is fabulous at any age. For Mayor Vi, happiness means kinetics of both body and mind. No amount of living and learning has closed off her youthful curiosity or positive outlook. "I'm so blessed and I can't ask for more and I'm a very happy person" she admits. But that's because I choose to be happy. You know, we get down, but then we get right back up. And marami tayong pinagdaan ganyan. Ate Vi, who turns 52 this November, continues: They say getting old isn't for the weak of heart, and it's true. It's tough. You have to deal with it, You have to live your life as if each day is the greatest day. I put things in perspective. Where is a bad mood or depressed going to get you? It will slow you down, make you miserable and less attractive — way less attractive. I'm so busy with work as Mayor, a mother and an actress. Believe me it's no joke. I don't know how I juggle my time but I give credit to all the people behind me. I cannot do it alone and I'm so lucky to have them. Heaven ang feeling ko dahil I know they do their best so they can be proud of me. Sure, she exercise and do Tae-bo — but if she's too busy, "I won't obsess, There's a difference between paying attention and paying too much attention," she says.

"Just think what you eat and what's going on inside, but don't obsess. Unlike many other celebrities. Ate Vi doesn't consider plastic surgery to be the first age-defying option. Woman can have all the facelifts they want, but the reality is their inside are still what their insides are. I'm just so scared that something will not be done right when I do cosmetic surgery. People telling me to do this, sabi ko, no-not yet the time. I'm still happy and confident of myself. Believe me, the other reason why I don't consider it is "pamaya pagtapos ng operation "kirat" na ang isang mata ko...ayy !!!", and then she giggles. She confesses her lifestyle has changed a lot since she became mayor in 1998.

Aside from having to travel frequently to Lipa, Batangas, from her home in Green Meadows, Quezon City, every weekend, Vilma says she had to have a complete wardrobe makeover. "I now wear more formal clothes," she says. "I'm the mayor of this city, I have to look like one. "As an actress, I was used to wearing jeans, shirts and jackets," says Vilma. She now has several dozens of barong Tagalog and corporate suits, but most of them are at the Recto home in Manila. I wear size 6 for shoes and it must be very comfortable for I'm always on the go. I love Prada and Ferragamo bags, I collect them all. I collect perfume bottles and sunglasses. I love wearing shades. I experiment with different frames and styles. What did not change, she says, is her penchant for handkerchiefs and scarves, a Vilma Santos trademark. "I never leave home without them," she admits. "Kaya nga ako nabansagang si Panyo. I don't feel complete without a hankie or a scarf." Vilma has always carried herself with an individual sense of style that reflects her outlook on life and lets her personality come through. Her look is not dictated by fashion or trends. She's hip, she's alive and she loves glamour and clothes. Her youthfulness, her body language and infectious sweet smile—she's ageless.—at

Vi's foremost consideration is comfort. No matter how beautiful or expensive a dress is, if she's not comfortable with it, she won't wear it.

VILMA-Influenced Looks Vilma Then... Fashion Now



Vilma loved to wear hats back on the 70's, now fashion mogul Madonna, J.Lo, Britney and Aguilera- it's a must have in their closets.



Before the Oscar winner "Chicago", Britney Spears danced with a python at the MTV awards and Darryl Hannah became the mermaid in "Splash" Vilma did it "FIRST". In the 70's we another milestone in her career. She did "Burlesk Queen" where she played the very daring and challenging role of a stripper. "Burlesk Queen" may have figured prominently in the 1977 Metro Filmfest, nevertheless heralded Vilma as an excellent actress. She did a "Darna" and "Dyesebel" movie that broke all box-office records at that era. At this point, she was already on her way to greatness as far as acting was concerned. Ms. Vilma Santos very much a Hollywood trendsetter.

Vilma's Gallery

1960s

The Giant Gold Mine, Trudis Liit



1970s

Daring Reinventions



1980s

On Top of the World



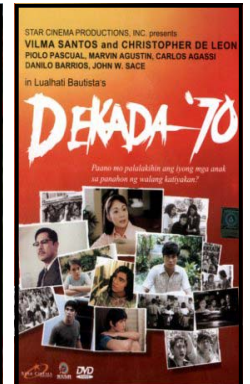
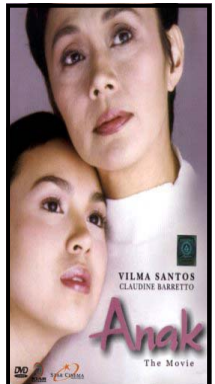
1990s

Love and family



2000s

GOLDEN YEARS
The best is yet to come...



Remembering Marilou

1982

The year Vilma won her first grand slam best actress

23

Number of songs included in the Vicor's re-releasing of Vilma Santos' album she recorded in the 70s.

Vilma!

The Title of the CD which includes her golden record "Sixteen" & "Bobby, Bobby, Bobby". (To order the CD, check Vicor's website: www.vicormusic.com)

1980

The year Vilma married Edu Manzano.

Romansa

The first movie Vilma and Edu did together.

Emmanuel Borlaza

The director of Romansa.

Luis "Lucky" Manzano

Name of Vilma & Edu's son.

0

Number of times Luis Manzano co-star with His mother in a movie

1974

The year Vilma Santos broke-up with Edgar Mortiz.

December 11, 1992

The date Vilma wed Ralph Recto.

Ryan Christian

Vilma & Ralph's son.



23 Years has passed since Vilma Santos did Relasyon. As we all know, this film gave her first grand slam best actress, winning four best actress from URIAN, FAP, FAMAS and CMMA (the four major award giving bodies that time).

It is worth noting that the film has been successfully transferred into DVD and VCD and everyone can buy a copy (see www.regalfilms.com).

Relasyon has been exhibited in many international film festival. Sub-titled, "The Affair" is scheduled to be screen New York Filipino Film Festival (for more details, see www.carouselpinoy.com/filipinofilmfestival).

With its rival film, Himala, Relasyon has been tested by times. All award giving bodies agreed. Vilma's performance outscored the intricate and overrated performance of her rival, Nora Aunor.

To commemorate this triumphant feat, here are the comments made by critics, see if these comments are still valid.

"Sinasabi ng mga drummer ni Vi na ang kanyang role sa pelikulang ito ay pang-award, pang-FAMAS, pang-URIAN o pang-Film Academy Award kung matutuloy ito. Hindi kami tumutol sa kanilang palagay laluna't napanood namin ang pelikulang ito. Masuwerte si Vi at sa ganitong maselang role ay dinirek siya ng isang katulad ni Bernal.... Napakadramatiko ang pagkompronta ni Vi kay Chris sa direksyon ng kanilang relasyon. Higit sa lahat, sa pamamagitan ng huling eksena, ang pagsasara ni Vi sa pinto ng kanilang bahay, ang pugad ng kanilang "relasyon", inihayag ni Bernal na ang

ganitong relasyon ay may hindi

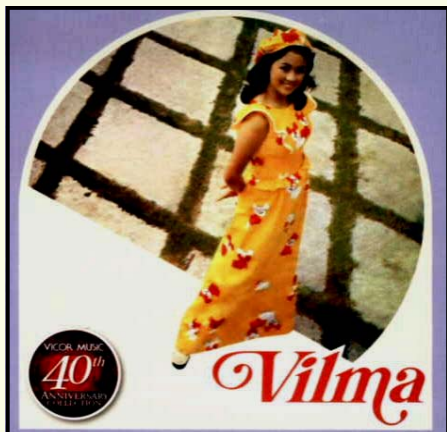
maiiwasang magwakas tulad ng sa tunay na buhay...." - Mando Plaridel Star Monthly Magazine Vol. 1 No. 10 July 1982

"Vilma Santos represents womanhood in the film...commonly thought of as a martir or long-suffering masochist. Santos portrays a mistress who is an out-and-out martir. She serves De Leon hand and foot, ministering to his every need, including fetching beer for him, washing his clothes, serving as his shoulder to cry on, even baby-sitting his child. In return, all she gets from De Leon is chauvinistic love, void of tenderness, full of immature aggressiveness....Santos' acting is adequate and extraordinary...." - Isagani Cruz, Parade magazine - 21 July 1982

"Napakahusay ni Vilma Santos sa papel ng pangunahing tauhan, isang dalagang umibig sa isang may asawa. It's one hell of a role and a heaven of a performance. Kasama si Vilma sa lahat ng eksena sa pelikula at talagang ito na ang pinakamabigat na papel na napaatang sa mga balikat ng isang local actress mula ng gampanan ni Gina Alajar and lead role sa "Salome". This time, sigurado nang mano-nominate si Vilma sa Urian (ito lamang ang award na hindi niya napapagwagihan) at malamang na ang maging pinakamahigpit niyang kalaban dito ay si Nora Aunor na very demanding din ang role sa "Himala" (na si Bernal din ang direktor)..." - Mario Bautista, People's Journal July 1982



Sing Vilma Sing



Aside from the Vicor Music Company's 40th year Anniversary re-releasing of yesteryears' golden record of Ms. Vilma Santos, their web site also featured her original album titled, "Sing Vilma Sing" (notice the similarity to her movies during those time, re: Lipad, Darna, Lipad and Takbo Vilma Dali?). The album was August 13, 1973 and includes the ff tracks

1. Da Doo Ron Ron
2. Aba Daba Honeymoon
3. Tweedle Dee
4. Bo Weevil
5. A Kookie Little Paradise
6. Bobby, Bobby, Bobby
7. The Ricky-Tick Song
8. It's Been a Long Time
9. Breaking Up is Hard to Do
10. You Made Me Lovely You
11. The Birds and the Bees
12. He's So Near (Yet So Far)



Karinderyang Bukas sa Lahat...

The year was 1986. Palimos Ng Pag-ibig directed by Eddie Garcia was a smashed hit. Vilma co-starred with her soon to be ex husband Edu Manzano and Dina Bonnevie. Despite the mixed reviews from the critics, the film gave us, arguably, one of the most memorable lines in Philippine movie history.

The scene was, Vilma, playing Fina was about to leave the house when Ditas, (Edu's mistress and baby maker) knocked on the door, with her was her husband's child. She forced herself in.

Confronting Ditas...

Fina (Vilma): "Ilang gabi kang binili ni Rodel?"

Ditas (Dina): "Isang Gabi lang, malakas ang kanyang punla at nangangailangan lang ng matabang lupa!"

Fina: "Okey! So you're fertile and I'm barren...pero sa mga pangyayari, **para kang karinderyang bukas sa lahat ng gustong kumain!** Paano mong mapapatunayang ang asawa ko nga ang ama ng batang iyan at wala siyang kasosyong iba?"



Vits

1986

The year Vilma met Ralph Recto at King Kong Disco in Paranaque

1963

The year Trudis Liit was shown

8

Number of URIAN best actress Vilma received from the Manunuri ng pelikulang Pilipino

2

Number of acting awards Vilma won prior to her very first best actress.

1

Number of best actress Vilma won playing the bikini clad spoiled teenager in Eddie Rodriguez' film, Nakakahiya

Quijano De Manila

The name used by Nick Joaquin in his tribute like article about Vilma Santos.

"Heaven"

Vilma's timeless expression

5

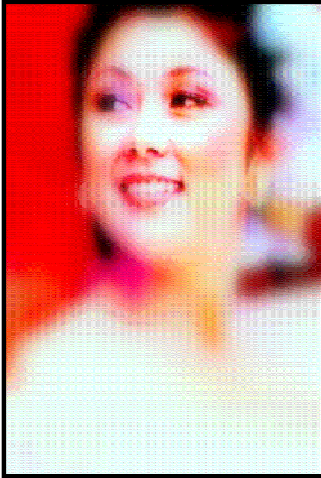
Number of films Vilma made in 1963

My Pledge of Love

Titled of Vilma Santos and Edgar Mortiz film which was also a hit song in the 70s

Palimos Ng Pag-ibig

In English: "Begging for Love"



Congratulations To The QueenStar!

Vilma Santos gets UP Gawad Plaridel

First posted 06:44pm (Mla time) June 11, 2005

Inquirer News Service

Editor's Note: Published on page A2-1 of the June 12, 2005 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

ACTRESS-POLITICIAN Vilma Santos is the recipient of the University of the Philippines-Gawad Plaridel 2005. Established by the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication last year, the Gawad recognizes Filipino media practitioners "who have excelled in any of the media (print, radio, film, television and new media) and have performed with the highest level of professional integrity in the interest of public service." Last year's awardee was Inquirer founding chair Eugenia D. Apostol. The award, named after propagandist Marcelo H. del Pilar, comes with a cash prize of P100,000 and a trophy by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, both of which will be handed to Santos by UP officials on July 4 at the university's Cine Adarna.

What is Gawad Plaridel?

The U.P. College of Mass Communication is now accepting nominations for the second U.P. GAWAD PLARIDEL, which recognizes Filipino media practitioners who have excelled in any of the media (print, radio, film, television, and new media) and have performed with the highest level of professional integrity in the interest of public service. For this year 2005 the award will be given to an outstanding practitioner in FILM.

The award is named after Marcelo H. del Pilar (nom de plume, Plaridel), the selfless propagandist whose stewardship of the reformist newspaper La Solidaridad helped crystallize nationalist sentiments and ignite libertarian ideas in the 1890s. Like Plaridel, the awardee must believe in the vision of a Philippine society that is egalitarian, participative and progressive, and in media that is socially responsible, critical and vigilant, liberative and transformative, and free and independent.

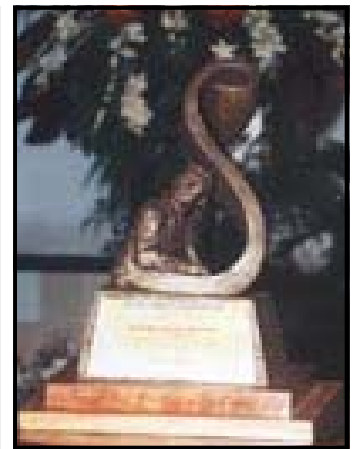
Eligible for the awards are all living Filipino individuals who have excelled in the field of FILMMAKING, as a producer, director, actor, scriptwriter, production designer, cinematographer, musical scorer, etc. Aside from their probity and integrity, these media practitioners must have produced a body of work that is marked by excellence and social relevance and recognized by national and international awards.

Only nominations from institutions will be accepted for the award. These institutions may include media corporations, professional media associations, media advocacy groups, educational institutions, cultural foundations, and NGOs. All current full-time faculty and staff of the U.P. College of Mass Communication are disqualified from the nomination.

Deadline for the nominations is April 1, 2005. The recipient of the U.P. Gawad Plaridel 2005 will be known by June 15.

The U.P. GAWAD PLARIDEL is given every July 4 in commemoration of del Pilar's death anniversary. The awardee will receive the U.P. Gawad Plaridel trophy (designed by National Artist Napoleon Abueva) and a cash award of P100,000 and will deliver a lecture called the Plaridel Lecture, which will address an issue relevant to the state and practice of Philippine media.

For more information about Gawad Plaridel
 Visit their web-site:
http://www.upd.edu.ph/~cmc/news_events.htm
 Or their office at:
 Plaridel Hall,
 University of the Philippines
 Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, 1101



Gawad Plaridel Award. (below) Ate Vi and the late Fernando Poe Jr.



Trivia ni Aries Answers (from page 20)

1. Ike Lozada (He also called Ate VI PRECIOUS most of the time)
2. Maribel Aunor (Yes, kahit itanong nyo kay Mar DEGUZMAN Cruz. I heard her when she gúested in kuya Mar radio program)
3. Richard Merck (Matagal na syang may crush kay Ate Vi bago nya pa na meet si Nora)
4. Robert Jaworski (Kahit nagning muse si Ate Vi ng Crispa noon)
5. Armida Sigüion Reyna (Even her son director Carltos is a Vilmanian. Actually HIHINATAYIN KITA SA LANGIT was intended for Ate Vi.)
6. Joey Marquez (She also feels very sorry ng malihagis nya si Ate Vi ng tohohan in one scene in a movie TAGOS NG DUGO produced by Via Marquez Hoff-man)
7. Laurel (Doy and Celia: They line produce a movie OPHELIA AT PARIS starring Ate Vi and their son Victor na na-link kay Nora Aunor)
8. Alvin Patrimonio (Kaya cguro si Kris Aquino nagning Vilmanian din dahil type na type ni Kris si Alvin di ba. Naging Sila Ba)
9. Alicia Vergel (She believe that only Vilma Santos can do justice to the role she once portrayed in BASAHANGINTO hindi nga lang natuloy. They make a movie together bagy siya punamaw ang SAAN NAGITAGO ANG PAG-IBIG.
10. DALAGANG NAYON (Ang dance number na SINGKIL ang naging main



Eddie Lozano's
VILMANIA!



A Fact...

It is a fact that Ms. Vilma Santos is the most-loved actress of all time. The longest reigning Queen of Philippine movies is incomparable. She must have stumbled or fell before, but this did not stop her from moving on; instead she used her vast experience as her weapon against tougher situations, she succeeded and the rest is history.

Why do people love Vilma? I asked this to myself as well, but I cannot find enough reasons why. It's hard to explain but my love for Queen Vi comes out naturally and not forcing through. She possesses such a magnetic charm that nobody can't resist. When I see her, I feel like a fallen leaf in a stream and just goes wherever it would lead me.

Parade – Way back my younger days in the Philippines, I used to go to the assembly point of the floats of the participating films in the MMFF as long as the QueenStar has an entry. And God! Never have I felt a bit of tiredness while looking at the Queen in the float. Vilma is such a thing of beauty that captivates the eyes of every beholder. Until the parade starts, just like other people, I keep on following the flow of the float where she is in without batting an eyelid. Still not satisfied, I will then go to the other lane and wait for the return of the parade from Baclaran.

Grade School – I started to admire Ate Vi when I was still in grade school as influenced by my sister and her friends who were already Vilmanians at that

time. I enjoyed it very much every time my sister is bringing me along with her specially when watching Vilma movies of course, until the first time I saw her in person. The sweetness and caring that she showed us is forever etched in my mind. So natural.... so human.

Sweet Sixteen – She may not be a singer, but who can sing her Sweet Sixteen with magic? The song fitted her personality and charm perfectly that I have never heard of any rendition that surpasses the fascination delivered by Sweet Vi. And yes, she may not be a singer but she has a gold album or two to her name that can be identified only to her.

Unreachable – Status wise, Queen Vi is an unreachable star as compared to her peers. It is impossible for anybody to do better than or even be on par with Vilma's achievements as a private individual, a public servant and as a movie star. New stars may come and go but Queen Vi's throne has remained firm and unthreatened through the years. There will never ever be a star that may outshine the brightness that Ms. Vilma Santos-Recto has bestowed upon the movie kingdom, at least not in the near future. Vilma indeed is the greatest gift that God has given to Philippine Cinema.

My gratitude to Mr. Eric Nadurata is worth mentioning as he opened the doors for me to interact with the smart Vilmanians all over the globe. I am in the group of wonderful fellow Vilmanians who always welcome new members with open arms and all at once you will feel comfortable. I am delighted to be with a group of people from all walks of life who are not just mere followers of the QueenStar but real people as well. Real in the sense that they say what they feel, they can make you laugh, they can make you cry, and the best of all you will feel that you are a part of a big family.

Though most of us have not met each other personally, it seems that we have known each for so long because of the camaraderie existing within the group.

My congratulations to Mr. Marcus Lee for conceiving this newsletter as well as to the initial contributors the V5 themselves composed of Eric Nadurata, Mar Garces, Charlie Gomez, Franco Gabriel and Marcus himself.

At the rate things are going, as one of the country's highest paid actresses, the most sought after star by the producers, with throng of followers, then words are not enough to depict the eminence of the one and only Queen of Philippine Cinema, Ms. Vilma Santos-Recto.

VILMANIA is still very much alive, kicking and keeps on getting more amazing by the day, and that is a fact, I swear! - el

Burlesk Queen... From page 15

Sa eksenang ito'y may gamit ang lahat ng tauhan, wala sa kanilang nagsilbing dekorasyon, walang nag-o.a. at parepareho nilang ginawang makatotohanan ang komprontasyon. Magandang halimbawa ito ng synchronized acting. Kung allusions naman ang pag-uusapan, marami ritong mga sariwang metaphor na mababanggit. Isa rito ang mahusay na pagpapakita na birhen pa si Vilma sa sex act nila ni Rollie. Habang nasa likod ng tanghalan ay may nagaganap sa magkasintahan, sa tanghalan ay nang-aliw naman ang mga acrobats na sinundan ng isang madyikero na tumutusok ng sariling noo, nagbabaon ng pako sa ilong at lumululon ng espada. Masakit tingnan iyon. At ganoon din ang nararanasan ni Vilma sa likod ng tanghalan sa piling ni Rollie. Hindi rin madaldal ang pelikula. Kung itatanong kung paano tinanggap ni Pol ang pasiya ng anak, nagtulos na lamang siya ng isang makahulugang kandila sa altar na para na ring sinabing "bahala na ang Diyos sa iyo". Kung paano naman ipinakitang naging mananayaw na nga si Vilma, sapat nang ipakita ang isang trak na nagbababa ng isang wheel chair na ipapalit sa lumang tumba-tumba ng ama. Maging ang paglakad ng panahon ay nararamdaman din ng manonood kahit hindi ikuwento o ipakita ang kinagawiang pamamaraan at ulat ng "nalalaglag na dahon ng kalendaryo o dahon ng puno kaya". Sunod-sunod na cuts na nagpapakita sa uri ng palabas sa tanghalang kinabibilangan ni Vilma ang ginawa ni Celso. Saka ito sinundan ng kuha naman sa bahay nina Vilma at Rollie. Nag-iinit ng tubig si Vilma habang nakikinig ng dula sa radyo tungkol sa buhay ng isang asawang tamad at iresponsable. Ganoon nga ang nangyayari sa buhay ng dalawa, at may kasunod ring "abangan sa susunod na kabanata". Sa paghihiwalay ng dalawa, sapat na ring iparinig ang awiting You're All I Want For Christmas, para buhayin ang irony na nagaganap sa relasyon ng dalawa. Kung makinis ang exposition at pagbuhay sa conflict ng istorya, malinaw rin ang paghahanda sa wakas ng pelikula. Si Rose na laos na ay naging mumurahing puta. Si Dexter kahit hindi ipakita ay malibanag na sumama na sa ibang lalaki. Si Roldan ay may bago nang kabit at napatay sa spiral staircase ng tanghalan na siya rin niyang dinadaan sa paghahatid sa dalawang naunang kabit. Si Rollie, ang mama's boy, ay natural bawin ng ina. Si Vilma ay nagsayang-nang-sayang. Sa simula'y mahinihin at nakangiti at kaakit-akit hanggang sa pagbilis ng pulso ng tambol at pompiyang ay naubusan ng ngiti, tumagaktak ang pawis at manghina ang ligwak ng kanyang balakang, upang sa pagbuhay sa damdamin ng manonood ay siya namang maging dahilan ng pagkalaglag ng sanggol na kanyang dinadala. Sa labas, matapos ang pagtatanghal, may tatlong bagabundong naiwan na nakatangkod sa larawang pang 'come on' ng burlesk queen, habang ang kadilima'y bumabalot sa kapaligiran. Kung matino ang kaanyuan ng pelikula, ay ganoon din ang masasabi sa nilalaman. Makatotohanan at masinop ang pagtalakay sa buhay ng isang abang mananayaw. Tinalakay rin dito kung paano siya tinanggap ng lipunan at inuusig ng mga tagapangalaga raw ng moralidad. Maging ang empresaryo ng tanghalan na ginampanan ni Joonee Gamboa ay may konsiyensiya rin at nagtatanong sa atin kung anong panoorin ang dapat ibigay sa isang ordinaryong Pilipino na hindi kayang pumunta sa mga mamahaling kainan upang manood tulad halimbawa ng Merry Widow at Boys in the Band. Sila, aniya ng mga 'dakilang alagad ng moralidad na nagdidikta at kumu-kontrol sa moralidad ng komunidad', katapat ng munting kasiyahan ng isang Pilipinong hindi 'kaya ang bayad sa mga eksklusibong palabas ng mayayaman.' Samantala'y busy tayo sa paglilibang at sa kanila'y walang pakialam ngunit may handang pintas at pula sa mangahas lumabas sa batas ng moralidad ng lipunan.

Flashback Reviews

Reyna ng Pelikulang Pilipino

Jun Cruz Reyes, Miyembro

Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino

Manila Magazine

Dec. 1-31, 1977

Si Celso Ad. Castillo ay marami nang naunang eksperimento. Pero pumaltos sa pamantayan ng mga manunuri. Maraming nagsuspetsa na may ibubuga siya, pero hindi lang talaga maibuga nang nasa tiempo. Malimit ang kanyang pelikula ay maingay at maraming sobra. Halimbawa, maraming karahasan na wala namang katuturan ang kanyang Madugong Daigdig ni Salvacion, seksing walang kadahilanan (pinagandang garapal) ang kanyang Pinakamagandang Hayop sa Balat ng Lupa, numero unong manggagaya ang kanyang Maligno, at sabog-sabog ang kanyang pinakamagandang nagawa, ang Daluyong at Habagat. Kung may magkamali mang pumuri kay Celso, iyon nama'y halos pakunsuelo-debobo lamang, at hindi ito sapat para itaas ang kanyang pedestal sa ranggo nina Bernal, Brocka at Romero. Wari ngang napako sa komersiyalismo ang direktor na inaabangan maglalabas ng natatagong talino. Lalong nagduda sa kanyang kakayahan ang mga kritiko nang kumalat ang balita na gagawa siya ng serye sa TV na ala Cleopatra Jones na papamagatan naman niyang O'Hara. Pero ang direktor na ipinapalagay na laos ay biglang pumalag nang walang kaabog-abog. Bigla'y nabalitang may inihanda raw itong pang-festival na ikinataas na naman ng kilay ng kanyang mga kritiko. "Aber tingnan," ang pasalubong sa balita. At sa preview ng kanyang *Burlesk Queen*, biglang napa-mea culpa ang ayaw maniwalang may ibubuga si Celso.

Tiyak na naiiba ang *Burlesk Queen*, kahit ikumpara sa mga naunang trabaho ni Celso at sa iba pang direktor na nagtangkang tumalakay sa paksang ito. Matagal-tagal na rin namang nauso ang kaputahan sa pelikula, pero walang nakapagbigay ng katarungan sa lahi ni Eba bilang Pilipina at bilang puta. Sa *Burlesk Queen*, para kay Celso ay hindi nangangahulugan ng pagpapakita lamang ng utong, puwit o singit, kung hindi isang seryosong pagtalakay sa damdamin ng mga tauhan sa isang kapanipaniwalang dahilan na nangyari sa isang makatotohanang kapaligiran. Sa kanya, ang tao ay hindi basta maghuhubad at magtatalik. Maraming pangyayari sa buhay ang dapat munang linawin at unawain, at iyon ang basehan ng kasaysayan.

Simple lamang ang plot. Isang tinedyer si Vilma



Santos na alalay ng isang original burlesk queen, si Rosemarie Gil. May tatay na lumpo si Vilma, si Leopoldo Salcedo. Si Rosemarie naman ay may kabit na isang hustler, si Roldan Aquino. Nang iwanan ni Roldan si Rose, nagwala ang huli. Naging lasengga siya at tumangging magsayaw sa tanghalan. Mabitin ang palatuntunan, kaya't si Vilma na talaga namang may ambisyong magsayaw ang pumalit. Hit naman sa manonood si Vilma. Sa bahay, pilit kinukumbinsi ni Vilma si Pol na payagan na siyang magiging full time dancer. Ayaw ni Pol, mas mahalaga sa kanya ang prinsipyo at delikadesa. Sapagkat wala namang ibang pagkakakitaan, si Vilma rin ang nasunod sa bandang huli. Nag-suicide si Pol nang hindi na niya masikmura ang pasiya ng anak. Si Rollie Quizon naman ang binatilyong masama ang tama kay Vilma. Nagtanan sila at nagsama. Pero hindi sanay sa hirap si Rollie. Sa pagpili sa pag-ibig o ginhawa sa buhay, ang huli ang pinahalagahan niya. Nagkataon namang buntis na si Vilma. Sa pag-iisa sa buhay, nagbalik siya sa pagsasayaw. Nagsayaw siya ng nagsayaw hanggang duguin siya sa tanghalan at malaglag ang kanyang dinadala.

Bagamat simple ang plot ay hindi naman masasabing simple ang pamamaraang ginawa rito ni Celso. Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon ay nangyari sa isang pelikula ang pagsasama-sama ng magandang istorya, mahusay na direksyon, magaling na pag-arte ng mga tauhan, masinop na musika, magaling na editing at angkop na sinematograpiya. Sa *Burlesk Queen* ay nagsama-sama ang talino ni Celso (direktor), Mauro Gia Samonte (story and screenplay), George Canseco (musical director),

Ben Lobo (cinematographer), at Abelardo Hulleza (editor). Kung may ipipintas sa pelikula, iyon ay ang hindi malinaw na pagbuhay sa panahon na nangyari ang kuwento. Kung minsang maaisip na nangyari ito sa panahon ng kasikatan ni Elvis noong 1950s. Pero kapag pinansin na maraming long hair sa extra, may wall paper at synthetic na sako ang bahay nina Vilma ay maaari namang sabihing baka naman pa-Elvis craze lamang ang mga tao roon. Pero may pulitiko, at Yabut, at may dagdag pang Connie Francis bukod sa motorsiklong Lambretta at mga kotseng Buick. Kung sabagay, maliit na detalye lamang ito na agad makakalimutan kapag ang inasikaso ay pagbuklat sa magagandang punto ng istorya.

Tingnan natin ang ilang magandang eksena sa pelikula. Sa ikalawang eksena ay nagtatanong si Vilma kay Rosemarie kung puwede rin siyang maging dancer. Walang malinaw na sagot si Rose, pero ang timing ng background music na It's Now or Never ay makahulugan. It's Now or Never nga, payo ni Elvis. At kung kailan siya maaaring mag-umpisa, Tomorrow, sabi ng kanta. Ang ganitong sagot ay nasa mukha ni Rose, pero hindi na kailangang sabihin. Ang ganitong pamamaraan ay tinatawag na creativity ng direktor, na nagdagdag ng ibang pamamaraan sa paghahayag ng damdamin ng tauhan. Sa paglakad ng istorya, dapat ding pansinin kung paano ang characterization ay binubuhay dito. Halimbawa, sa isang eksena na nangyari sa isang patahian ay nag-abot sina Dexter Doria, ang bagong kabit ni Roldan Aquino, at si Rose. Naroroon din si Vilma at sa hindi kalayuan ay si Rollie. Maliwanag na may kani-kanyang pangangailangan ang mga tauhan at magkakasama sila sa iisang eksena. Walang nakawan ng eksena na naganap dito. Nag-insultuhan sina Dexter at Rose, natameme si Roldan at waring walang pakialam sina Rollie at Vilma na panay na panay ang kindatan. Lalo namang walang pakialam ang dalawang pulubi na tumutugtog ng violin (na siya ring background music) sa mga nangyayari. Limos ang mahalaga sa kanila. **Turn to Page 14**



Flashback Reviews



DEKADA 60:

Si Ate Vi, Si GING

All Vilmanians and even those who just love watching old Tagalog movies must have been glued to their TV screens last Thursday afternoon when Channel 9's "Premiere Pilipino Klasiks" aired "Ging", Vilma Santos' follow-up movie after she was introduced in Sampaguita Pictures' "Trudis Liit". Produced by Premiere Productions when Vilma was only 10 (circa 1963), "Ging" casts the now-Star for All Seasons (and Lipa City Mayor, too!) as a street child who is in charge of taking care of her invalid mother, played by Olivia Cenizal. In flashback fashion, we find out that Ms. Cenizal was once a big movie star who fell in love and married a young rich man (portrayed in the film by Jose Padilla, Jr.) Padilla's aristocratic mother (Etang Discher), unfortunately, breaks up the union and the two lovers go their separate ways. Vilma, as Ging, was born shortly after. While begging for food scraps from customers at the restaurant of the Chinese Ponga (I doubt if today's generation have any idea who he is or how he looks like), she is spotted by Ramon D'Salva and his wife, Carol Varga. The couple immediately express their wish to adopt her. Vilma was hesitant at first at the idea - until she was promised by D'Salva that she would be sent to school, and her

mother, to the hospital for medical treatment. Once she is in the D'Salva home, the couple show their true colors. They exploit her by making her perform in vaudeville presentations. Although she is a hit and a top money maker, she is still badly treated by Varga. For one, she is not given proper nutrition to stunt her growth (child stars are supposed to be cute and small). Little Vilma rebels when she finds out that D'Salva does not fulfill his promise of sending her mother to the hospital for treatment. She runs away and in the process bumps into people related to her biological father. Padilla and Cenizal are reunited and the little heroine lives happily ever after with her parents. "Ging" was directed by Cirio Santiago and Teodorico Santos. Although it was made in the old-fashioned way of making films (the flashback scenes in particular), the material used here is timeless - especially since there are more street children in our midst now more than ever. As far as the showbiz scene is concerned, there are still a lot of heartless impresarios today exploiting young talents in the business.

But what really made "Ging" a delight to watch was the performance of the very young Vilma Santos. Even at the early age, it was clear that she was already brimming with talent. Vilma, apparently, was born into this world to perform, entertain and make people happy. She was utterly convincing in the dramatic scenes and thoroughly graceful in her musical numbers. Listang-lista - as we'd say in the vernacular. Even then, she was already living up to her showbiz title of "Star for All Seasons" because her performance in "Ging" is not only brilliant, but timeless as well.

Source:
 The Reviewer, Butch Francisco
 People's Journal 04 March 1999
 Article and Pictures submitted by:
 Eric Nadurata



Cover Story

Vilma Santos, Through the Years (or Why She Is Still on Top)

By Mario O. Garces, RN, BSN, MBA

Philippine movie queens, superstars and so-called divas have come and gone. They are either dead, in total or semi-retirement, relegated to supporting roles, or had a reversal of fortune. Forty-two years in the acting business and fifty-something, a death knell for any movie queen, Vilma Santos, the Philippines' Star for All Seasons, remained formidable in her enviable stature as the country's highest paid, most awarded dramatic actress and perhaps the longest reigning movie and box-office queen title holder.

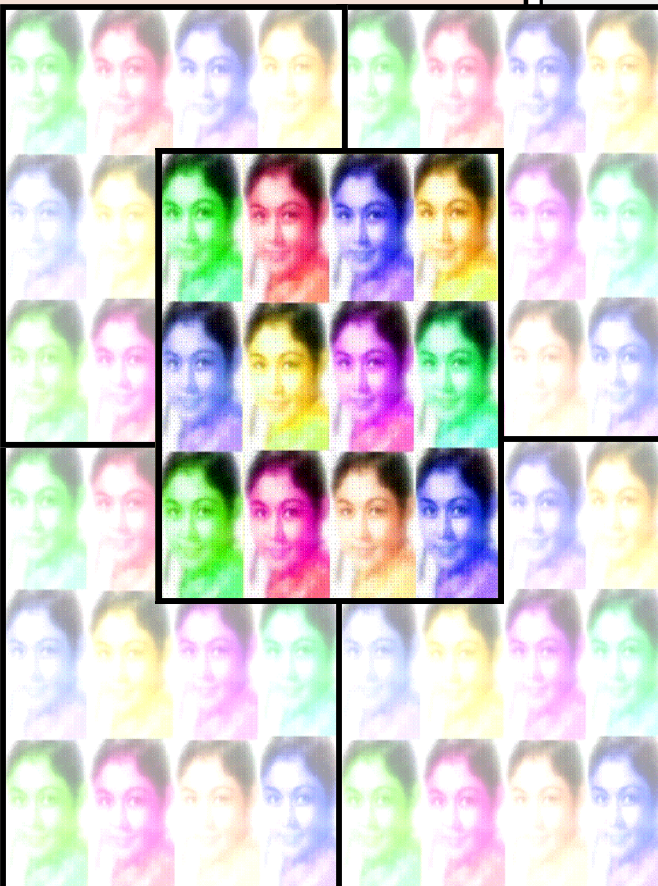
Known as Baby Vi, Ate Vi, or Vi to her fans and colleagues, the unsinkable QueenStar is not only known for her acting prowess but also, to the surprise of doomsayers and detractors, a very capable and effective Mayor of Lipa city, Batangas. Having no college degree nor experience in governance and public service, three-term elected Mayor Santos has turned husband Sen. Ralph Recto's town as one of the most progressive cities in the country. Balikbayans, visitors, tourists and the curious have only but praises for the changes in Lipa, its growth and development since Mayor Vilma took charged. For her excellent governance and management of Lipa, she has received various recognitions/citations/awards from both the public and the private sector. And in two national surveys, Vilma came out on top, number 6 and 86, as the country's most influential/admired people.

Fifty plus acting awards, and still counting, the most for any Filipino actor, including two international trophies from the prestigious Brussels and Cine Manila film festivals, a record four Grand slams for best actress, the most awarded actress in the Urian (8), PMPC Star (6), PASADO (4) and Tanglaw (2), several Lifetime Film achievement trophies, a FAMAS Hall of Fame recipient, several movie queen and box-office titles, countless awards and citations for the most-awarded TV musical-variety program in Philippine TV history, Vilma!, and still collecting honors for her shrewd and savvy approach to city management, the diminutive and youthful-looking Vilma Santos is not content with her rich and enviable resume of accomplishments on film, TV and politics.

Not that she is being selfish or obsessed, it is destiny!

From her Trudis Liit days, her fist FAMAS, her collaboration with Lolita Rodriguez, Marlene Dauden and Eddie Rodriguez, to her teen-age salad days as second fiddle to then superstar Nora Aunor, to her love affairs, a failed first marriage, to a producer who lost her shirt in the ungrateful showbiz, and going home a loser to Nora Aunor in acting jousts failures have only honed Vilma to become the number one actress and mayor of the land.

She learned from her mistakes, sought the advice of the knowledgeable supporters, and regrouped herself to fight on! Before we know it, she has embraced change for the better. She chose her movies and directors well (Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, Chito Rono, Mike De Leon, Joel Lamangan and Laurice



Guillen, among others) and won a phalanx of Best Actress awards.

She reinvented herself in movies that are now classics. Her daring turn as a stripper in Burlesk Queen was a major turning point in her otherwise predictable, ho-hum acting career. Her first Grand slam foray via the mistress with a difference in Relasyon. The activist nun in Sister Stella L. The timid at first but turned activist Mother Courage in Dekada 70. The unforgettable AIDS victim in Dolzura Cortez. Her engaging role as Lea, the liberated single mother in Bata, Bata. Her memorable, intense and confident Lillia Chiong character in Mano Po 3, her latest triumph, is further proof of Vilma's reputation as the most versatile actress of the Philippines. Writes one movie critic: It is to Vilma Santos' credit that she managed to survive her rivalry with Aunor by taking on unusual, gutsy roles. Revered movie critics such as Nestor Torre and the international community of film cineastes have had positive reviews of her legendary film roles. Variety magazine, Hollywood entertainment bible, has coined a most appropriate title for the Drama Queen, the Filipina Cinematic Diva. Says Mr. Torre of Vilma's acting style versus Nora: Vilma is more structured and plotted which enables her to come up with more focused, textured and thematically insightful performances.

Whether it is the acting business, the entertainment business (she, along with the late Nida Blanca, are perhaps the two actresses who are endowed with tripping the light fantastic at their dancing best) and politics, the quintessential Ms. Vilma Santos has come up to the challenge.

Her contemporaries are neither here nor there.

So what's next for the Philippines' most successful cinema legend and effective mayor, a doting mother of sons Luis Manzano and Ryan Christian-Recto and loving wife of Senator Ralph Recto?

Governor? Senator? Directing? The stage?. Personal appearances abroad? More movies? (The acting diva is currently wrapping up a two-part "Maalaala Mo Kaya" TV special about cerebral palsy, and will soon start a new movie with a gay theme, Flores De Mara).

The possibilities are endless for the Victorious Vilma. Like Midas who has a golden touch in most everything she does, the Vilma mystique lives on.

TV remakes of her gigantic fantasy classics (she is the original fantaserye Queen, as if you didn't know) such as Darna, Dyesebel and Kampanaerang Kuba are but coattails of a glorious, colorful and successful movie career. Her inclusion as one of the three finalists of the U.P. Gawad

Plaridel for Film is another feather added to her cap. (As of press time, she has added this recognition to her feather cup! - editor) Can the National Artist Award be far behind then? It is up to the critics? the public and history. After all, Vilma Santos has done her best. Movies. TV. Public Servant-hood. Wife. Mother.

Armed with a deep spiritual faith that strengthens her, a keen sense of perfection and competition, humility in triumphs and losses, an innate charm that is her trademark and a nerve of steel, professionalism and hard work in juggling her multi-layered roles as wife, mother, actress and mayor these traits are what makes Vilma Santos the success that she is. No one comes close.

With a little bit of luck, prayer and support of her loyal fans and admirers, her winning streak continues.

AND HER BEST IS YET TO COME!

YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN YET!

Vilma Santos...

The Eternal Philippine Movie Queen!

Ang Nag-iisang Bituin!

- mg

ARIES · Egg-rollon-2005

Classic OPM

Dear Vilmanians, I would like to share with you some songs that have been written originally as theme songs for Vilma Santos movies. Song that became big hits and now considered as Original Pilipino Classic.

1. DITO BA - Composed by the late George Canseco. This song was the theme song of MISS X. Ito ang awi-ting nagpakilala at nagpasikat kay Kuh Ledesma. This was one of Ledesma's earliest hit which also gave her multi-platinum awards. Kaya sa ayaw at sa gusto ni Kuh, malaki ang naitulong ng awiting ito sa kanyang career. Kahit nag-concert siya USA, kasama si Nora Aunor alam kong mas malapit sa puso niya si Vilma. Isa pang awitin ni Kuh na talaga namang napakaganda at mangangarap ka kapag pinakikinggan mo ay ang MINSAN SA ISANG PANAHOON. Gawa din ito ni George Canseco para mag-ing theme song ng pelikulang KARMA.

2. LANGIS AT TUBIG - Another Canseco composition that have been made for the movie of the same title. Dito nagsimulang marinig ang kakaibang tinig ni Sharon Cuneta. Naging mega hit ang awiting ito at maririnig sa lahat ng sulok ng Pilipinas, dahil walang singing contests na hindi mo maririnig ang awiting ito. The people behind the making of this Vilma Santos classic movie were also the people behind Sharon Cuneta's first movie DEAR HEART. I believe that LANGIS AT TUBIG is a big influence to Sharon Cuneta's film career, remember she is originally known as a singer.

3. IBIG KONG IBIGIN KA - The song have been composed by Vic Villafuerte for the movie "PAKAWALAN MO AKO". Sang by one of Ate Vi's leading men in the film, the dashing debonaire, Anthony Castelo. Actually, during that time "BALATKAYO" lang ang talagang hit ni Anthony. But because of this song muling nagkaroon ng hit si Anthony and actually gave him a gold record award. Naging favorite din ito ng mga sumasali sa singing contest, pero talagang ang may mahusay lang na tinig ang pwedeng umawit nito. To date, this is still one of my favorite OPM.

4. KUNG KAILANGAN MO AKO - This was composed by Rey Valera as theme song of the movie "ROMANSA". The movie is the first team-up of Ate Vi and former husband Edu Manzano. Sa trailer palang ng movie ang awiting ito kaagad ang bubungad. Ito ang isa sa biggest hits ni Rey Valera at naging multi-platinum din and awiting ito. Hanggang Ngayon sikat pa rin ang awiting ito at madalas gamitin na theme songs ng pelikula at television drama. Naging title at theme song din ito ng pelikula ni Sharon Cuneta at Rudy Fernandez, ditto with one of teleserye in ABS-CBN kung saan unang napansin at nakilala si PILOLO PASCUAL. Incidentally Piolo became one of Ate Vi's anak in DEKADA 70.

5. KUNG TAYOY MAGKAKALAYO - Another Rey Valera composition that was used as theme song of the movie "HIWALAY". The song is also a hit and considered by song critics as one of

Rey Valera's best composition. This is one of my favorite song and I enjoyed singing it on videoke. Madamdamin talaga ang awiting ito and Rey Valera admitted that this is one of his favorites and would you believe he composed this song alone in LA LOMA CEMETERY?

6. HIRAM - This was again originally written by George Canseco for the movie "PALIMOS NG PAG-IBIG". Magnificently rendered by ZSA ZSA PADILLA that gave her first platinum record and her biggest hit. Ito ang awiting nagpasikat ng husto kay ZSA ZSA PADILLA aminin man nya o Hindi. Hanggang sa Ngayon bumebenta pa ang awiting ito. Inawit din ito ni Sharon Cuneta at ginamit na theme song ng pelikula nila ni Richard Gomez ang MINSAN MINAHAL KITA. And now it was the title and theme song of ABS-CBN Soap Opera starring Kris Aquino.

7. SINASAMBA KITA - Written by Rey Valera and Lyrics by George Canseco was made for the movie of the same title. Katulad ng movie record breaking din ang song dahil naging mega hit ito sa mga record bar and naging multi platinum din ito. This is Rey Valera's biggest hit. Lalong sumikat ang awitin din ni Sharon Cuneta. This was also included in one of Regine Velasquez' album. That means marami ang kumita sa awiting ito at hanggang ngayon sikat pa rin.

8. Sino ang makakalimot sa mga walang kamatayang awitin ni BASIL VALDEZ na sadyang ginawa para sa pelikula ni Vilma Santos. Kung ano ang title ng song siya ring title ng movie. Ang mga awiting ito ay all time favorites ng mga videoke officionados. Mostly if not all composed by George Canseco, these songs gave Basil either Gold or Platinum. Here they are:

- **GAANO KADALAS ANG MINSAN**
- **PAANO BA ANG MANGARAP**
- **MINSAN PA NATING HAGKAN ANG NAKARAAN**
- **MULING BUKSAN ANG PUSO**
- **SAAN NAGTATAGO ANG PAG-IBIG**



9. SANA MAULIT MULI - This song was used as theme song of the movie "IBULONG MO SA DIYOS". Originally sang by GARY VALENCIANO and one of Ate Vi's leading men in the film. This is Gary's first hit tagalog song. Lalong sumikat ang kanta nang awitin ni Regine Velasquez. Inawit din ito ni Lea Salonga at naging theme song ng ng movie nila ni Aga Muhlach sa Star Cinema. The movie won Best Picture and gave Aga his first Best Actor trophy sa URIAN.

10. SANGANDAAN & ALING PAG-IBIG PA - Kung madalas kang mag-attend ng mga rallies especially during the time of EDSA revolution and up to now sa mga labor rallies madalas mong maririnig ang mga awiting ito. These songs have been featured in the movie SISTER STELLA L. These were magnificently rendered by PAT CASTILLO. Ang mga awiting ito ang nagpakilala sa singer na ito. Sa mga music lounge lang naman talaga sya maririnig at makikita, pero simula ng awitin nya ang mga songs na ito nagsimula syang makilala ng masa. Laging kasama ang mga awiting ito sa mga Nationalistic and Patriotic albums.

We can now consider Vilma Santos not just a powerful figure in the movie industry but in the music industry as well. Kahit hindi sya and singer or composer malaki ang naiambag nya sa pag-sikat ng Original Pilipino Music. Imagine how influential Ate Vi is, mapa-kanta or singer napa-pasikat nya as long as ma-identify ito sa kanya. And now Vilmanians, start compiling these songs in one CD and be proud to be a true blooded VILMANIANS.

SARANGHAMNIDA ATE VI!

- a

Featured Vilmanian

Lawrence Monteza aka law_eve

Introducing...Lawrence Monteza also known as Law_eve. He is one of the founding father of our e-group. Now, based in Manila and currently working in a high tech call-centre company in Makati, Lawrence is a typical Taurus. Kind and loyal. Some off topic things about Lawrence's are: favorite dishes are sinigang na baka and halabos na hipon (yummy!) and orange and green are his favorite colours. Somehow, we have the impression that Law_eve loves to shop! When asked, what is the only thing he can't leave without every time he steps out the door, he's reply? His credit card!

We asked Lawrence the following questions....

VS Newsletter: Kung first time mo pa lang na makikilala si Ate Vi, paano ka magpapakilala at ano ang sasabihin mo tungkol sa sarili mo?

Lawrence Monteza: "Hi Ate Vi, ako si Lawrence. (sabay yakap at iyak sa balikat niya). Mahal na mahal kita. Bata pa lang ako idol na kita. Libot ako ng libot sa mga sine pag may film kang showing. Ikaw ang inspirasyon ko bukod sa Panginnoon at pamilya ko."

VSN: Kung bibigyan ka ng chance, anong gusto mong malaman ni Ate Vi at ng mga Vilmanians tungkol sa iyo?

LM: "I started the Yahoo group noong 2000. Dahil nasa Saudi ako noon at wala akong malamang balita kay Ate Vi. Showing noon ang Anak at wala akong makuhang first hand information kung hindi pa ako tatawag sa Manila. Nakikipag-tarayan talaga ako sa ibang fans kapag si Ate Vi ay pinipintasan ng wala sa lugar! Minsan nga sampung noranians ang katabi ko at lahat talaga napatumba ko sa tarayan with matching facts. I still remember that time wala pa ang mga Vilmanians dahil late na silang dumating...hayun talagang straight ang English ko in defending ate Vi with solid facts...kaya natameme ang kabila..."

VSN: Paano nag-umpisa ang pagiging Vilmanian mo?

LM: "1970's. Bale papanhik ako sa kwarto ng tita ko at may narinig ako tugtog. Parang "abadabada.." yong pala si ate Vi yon. Me-I introduced na ng tita ko at may nakita pa akong maliliit na manika na kamukha ni Vilma. Si Wonder Vi daw iyon. Tapos lagi na akong sinasama ng tita ko sa pelikula ni Vilma. Hindi ako nagkamali at magaling din ang tita ko sa pagbigay sa akin ng taong iidolohin dahil ang respetado at mabuting tao si Vilma bukod sa pagiging pinakamahasay na aktres sa ating bansa."

VSN: Anong mga katangian ni Ate Vi katulad ng katangian mo?

LM: "Mapagmahal sa pamilya, vain siguro at matulungin sa iba"

VSN: Anong pinaka-memorable experience about Ate Vi?

LM: "Noon sinama ako ng friend ko sa VIP at napili ako sa Tanungan portion. Naku! naging star ako sa school at sa bahay at may uwi pa akong YC bikini briefs."

VSN: Anong favorite movie at movie dialogues mo ni Ate Vi?

LM: "Paano ba ang Mangarap. Dito ako naunang nakipagsiksikan sa Miramar theratre sa Recto nang hindi kasama tita ko. Ang daming tao sa sine noon at talagang hindi ka makakalabas dahil ang dami talagang tao. Gusto ko yong dialogue niya "paano ba ang mangarap? Kailangan bang nasa itaas ka, habang tumitingin sa ibaba o nasa ibaba ka at tumitingin sa itaas. Paano ba ang mangarap." (something to this effect) Gusto ko rin yong Anak "sana habang hinihitit mo ang sigarilyo mo..." Kabisado ko ito at kapag acting ko na ito palakpakan silang lahat ha-h-ha-ha"

VSN: Anong mga bagay ang ayaw mo sa pagiging Vilmanian mo?

LM: "Wala."

VSN: Anong mga bagay ang gusto mo sa pagiging Vilmanian mo?

LM: "Lahat. Maski walang tulog, maski may bagyo susuungin ko dahil Vilmanian ako!"

VSN: Anong mga bagay ang gusto mo pang matamo ni Ate Vi?

LM: "National Artist award and Ramon Magsaysay. She deserve these recognitions."

VSN: Kumpletuhin mo ang pangungusap na ito: "Ako ay isang Vilmanian dahil..."

LM: "...Naging matalino ako sa pagpili at hindi ko pagsisihan ito kahit kailan."



vilma!

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Ms. Vilma Santos Recto

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Trivia ni Aries

1. Sino ang unang nagbigay ng title na "STAR FOR ALL SEASONS" kay Vilma Santos in the mid 70s, kaya lang hindi gaanong nabigyan ng pansin dahil Ate Vi was known as BOX OFFICE QUEEN that time. Until Chit Guerrero of VIP/VILMA gave the title to Ate Vi in the early 80s?
2. Sino ang former TV personality na identified kay Nora Aunor pero ang favorite actress niya ay si Vilma Santos(Noranians take note)?
3. Sino ang singer and former TV host who confessed that he had a big crush on Vilma Santos but after a couple of years, he ended as lover of Nora Aunor?
4. Sino ang former basketball superstar na gumawa ng pelikula with Nora Aunor but confessed (while promoting their film) on national TV that he and his wife's favorite is Vilma Santos?
5. Sino ang Veteran actress and producer who confessed that since she watched Vilma Santos in Trudis Lilit ay naging Vilmanian na siya?
6. Sino ang TV host and comedienne who first introduced in Vilma Santos movie na naka-take 10 sa scene niya with Ate Vi. He was very nervous and nag-walk out. Pinaki-usapan siya ng kapatid niya who happen to be the producer of the movie. The scene: Hahawakan ni Ate Vi ang private organ niya with matching squeeze.
7. Bago dumating sa buhay ni Ate Vi ang mga Recto, anong prominent clan ang unang nagpahayag ng pagkagusto kay Vilma Santos (Although mas na-identify ang anak nila kay Nora Aunor). They even line produced a movie starring Ate Vi.
8. Sino ang dating mailap na basketball superstar na naging crush ng bayan whom when asked on his first guesting sa SEE TRUE ni ate Luds kung sino ang favorite niya at gustong makasama niya kung gagawa siya ng pelikula, and he answered Vilma Santos, to the dismay of mostly Noranians writers on the panel.

9. Sino ang unang Best Actress winner ng FAMAS whom when asked kung magkakaroon ng remake ang movie kung saan sya nanalo, she replied with matching taray, "Huwag nalang i-remake kung hindi rin lang si Vilma Santos ang gaganapl"
10. Ano ang title ng pelikula ni Ate Vi kung saan sinayaw nya ang national dance na singkil na naging main attraction ng movie.

Turn to page 13 for the answers

Concert ni Nora sa New York Dinumog!

I was suddenly stop while walking on 34th St. New York City on the evening of June 11, 2005. A huge crowd lined up on the street where Elgin Theatre is located. Everybody is so excited, some are just buying their tickets at the gate which is more expensive. For curiosity sake and to see NORA how she performed, I also lined up and buy my ticket. Sa maniwala kayo guys punong puno ang venue at talagang sigawan at hiyawan ang tao sa kasabikang makita at marinig ang unang song number ni NORA. Nakikisigaw na rin ako kahit hindi naman talaga ako fan ni NORA pero gusto ko rin ang boses at mga songs niya. Talagang succesful ang concert dahil nga puno contrary sa naging concert niya sa San Diego California. Ang ganda ng ayos ng stage at talagang state of the art ang props, ika nga pinagkagastusan talaga. Ay naku sigawan at hiyawan ang mga tao. Then nag-iba iba na ang kulay ng ilaw at biglang litaw ang spotlight, hudyat na magsisimula na ang show. At ng marinig ang voice over, Hiyawan talaga ang tao. Kagulo, sigawan at nagsimula ng mag hysteria ng sabihin ng voice over. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... THE ONE AND ONLY... NORA.....JONES. O ano akala nyo Si Nora Aunor. Ano kayo Hibang?! - a

Viva La Vilma (from page 8)

various award-winning movies she did with country's finest directors such as in Celso Ad Castillo's epics, "Tag-ulan sa Tag-araw", "Pagputi ng Uwak, Pag-itim ng Tagak" and "Burlesk Queen". In the late Lino Brocka's "Rubia Servios", "Aida Macaraeg: Adultery", and "Hahamakin Lahat", and in the late Ishmael Bernal's "Relasyon", "Broken Marriage", "Ikaw ay Akin", "Dalawang Pugad, Isang Ibon" and "Pahiram ng Isang Umaga". In Mike De Leon's "Sister Stella L", Chito Rono's "Ikaw Lang", "Bata... Bata... Paano Ka Ginawa?" and "Dekada 70", and Gil Portes' "Miss X". In Danny Lialcita's "Gaano Kadalas ang Minsan", "Langis at Tubig", "Karma" and "T-Bird At Ako", and Laurice Guillen's "Ipagpatawad Mo", "Kapag Langit ang Humatol", "Dahil Mahal Kita (The Dolzura Cortez Story)". In Eddie Garcia's "Sinasamba Kita", "Paano Ba ang Mangarap?", and "Immortal", and in Marilou Diaz Abaya's "Alyas Baby Tsina" and "Minsan Pa Nating Hagkan ang Nakaraan".

Indeed, that's versatility at its peak that only La Vilma possesses.

Shall I need to say more? But let's finish it anyway.

V - is for Victorious and Versatility.

I - is for ingenuity. The QueenStar never stop reinventing herself. She has a lot of creativity in her sleeves. Her latest project would be another off beat role, Star Cinema's "Flores De Mara". She will be playing a mother to three gay sons.

L - is for longevity. At 51, she still commands the highest pay in Philippine movie world. She was recently named the All-Time Favorite Actress by Guillermo Mendoza Foundation. What's the secret of her longevity? It's her dedication and love to her career and her humility.

M - is for magnanimity. Vilma's kindness and benevolence to both her family, her constituents in Lipa and to her millions of adoring fans are shining testimonies of her being God-fearing and magnanimity of her heart. She's both a blessing and a blessed lady.

A - is for affinity. Vilma is not just an actress, an A1 star, Mayor, but a friend, a sister, and a mother to millions and millions of Vilmanias at every nook of the world, and in all strata of life. She is a part of the family.

Remember, the adage "We are family"? That's what we are. Therefore, the next time we say V-I-L-M-A, there's only one "beautiful woman" that will come up to our mind, none other than the woman of substance, Lady Vilma.

Long Live the Queen! Viva La Vilma!

-cg

Alin ang na-iba?

