

**Love
Love
Love**

THE VILMA SANTOS NEWSLETTER

VILMA!

Volume 2. No. 6 - The Valentine's Day Issue

January 2006 - February 2006



**The Year in Review:
Best and Worst of**

2005





editorial

Marcus Peter Lee

Unang Putok

Unang putok, unang labas. Ito ang ating Love Issue para sa buwan ng Pebrero. Subersibo ba ang dating ng aking titulo? Sa mga marurumi ang isip, keber. "Go to hell" sabi nga ni Ate Vi sa mga love movies niya nuong late 70s at early 80s. Nariyan ang Nakakahiya 1& 2, Nagaapoy na Damdamin, Masarap masakit ang umibig, Romansa at marami pang iba. Kung hindi n'yo napapansin halos lahat ng movies ni Ate Vi ay merong temang pag-ibig. Kung kaya ang isyu na binabasa n'yo ngayon ay kuha sa inspirasyong pag-ibig na dulot ng reyna. Mula sa unang pahina makikita n'yo na pulang pula. Hitik tamis na pagod at pawis ang itinaya ng ating mga manunulat. Sa mga tagasubaybay ng ating munting Vilma! ang aking paumanhin sa pagkakabitin ng ating paglabas ng isyu na ito. Paano naman I still have to work. Career, buhay pamilya, at kaunting social life minsan talagang hindi maiiwasang magahol sa panahon. Lalo pa't apatnaput walong pahina ang ating trinabahong marino. Eto naman po ang bunga.

Mga manamnam na artikulo mula sa ating magagaling na manunulat. Babalikan tanaw natin ang mabungang nakaraang taon. Mula enero hanggang disyembre walang tulak kabigin ang mga nangyari. Sarap basahin! Natatandaan n'yo ba ang pangungulit ko nuon kung saan tinanong ko kayo kung anong pinaka-klasikong pelikula ng reyna? Eto na po ang resulta. Kung wala man ang ilang pelikula ni Ate Vi sa ating listahan hindi nangangahulugang hindi ito karapat-dapat o mababa ang uri nito. Ang ating listahan ay mga pelikulang unang una lalabas sa inyong mga labi kapag sinabing Vilma. Kung kaya tinaguriang klasiko.

Buhay Pag-big ni Rosa Vilma, makulay, tadtad ng tuwa, lungkot at pagpupunyagi. Narating na marahil ng reyna ang tunay na kaligayahan sa piling ni senador Ralph. Ito lamang ang relasyon niyang hindi sya gumawa ng pelikula. Marahil dahil nakaapak ang pundasyon nito sa lupa at walang pantasyang ginagalawan.

Ito ang ating isyu ng pag-ibig. Sa inyong lahat maligayang buwan ng mga puso! Namnamin n'yo ang tamis ng ating unang putok...

Marcus Peter Lee

Editor



Letters

from around the globe



GOOD VIRTUES

It's nice yet painful to bring to mind the prejudices and emotional abuses that we Vilmanians, in one form or another, have gone through. Lalo na nga sa kapaskuhan ng pestibal (MMFF), win or lose si Ate Vi, we (& Ate Vi) are always subject of intimidations, bullying, teasing, humiliating, put-downs. Pero sa halip na todo alburuto tayo, we are taking cue from Ate Vi as role model. Vilmanians are proponents of decency and modesty and we are willing to gain knowledge thru the many lessons in life. we learn to embrace our 'enemies' with kindness and face them with compassion. We conquer their aggression with good virtues. And forever and a day, Vilma Santos comes out very triumphantly and the thunderous victorious cheer by the Vilmanians all over the globe can be heard simultaneously.

Bobby Lopez
USA

PAST ISSUES

Thank you very much. I haven't sleep last night, and I finished reading the two newsletters (Issue 1 & 2). Splendid!!! Yun lang masasabi ko. Work of art nga. Ang galing. Two thumbs up. I was delighted that you had an interview with my friend Lawrence in the 2nd issue. Lawrence is a friend way back pa nung nasa Jeddah kami. If I remember it right, when he initiated the yahoo group, I was the 3rd member. Pag pumupunta sya sa bahay ko sa Jeddah, we talked nothing but Ate Vi. Again, maraming salamat sayo. Cheers!!!

(for past Vilma! issue, send us an e-mail—see below)
Rene

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

TH ANG DATING

What a waste of time! You guys are bunch of "trying-hard!"

Puede ba, if you want to write enroll in a grammar school first or just forget it! Adopt a hobby! How about stamp collecting? On a personal note, you're idol, Vilma Santos remained youthful despite her age. Thanks to plastic surgery?

Donna Santiago

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

(To date, Vilma Santos hasn't done any cosmetic surgery whatsoever! Her youthful looks can be attributed to proper diet, exercises and pure clean living! - mpl)

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VILMA!

The
Vilma Santos
Newsletter

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members of the four Vilma
Santos e-groups.

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To meet the Vilmanians
around the globe visit
our Yahoo E-groups:

VISION

Vilma Santos

VSR

VSCanada

NOTE

In our movie review section last
issue, the article Tagos Ng Dugo
revisited was written by Mar
Garces.

For more information about the Queen of Philippine Cinema, Ms. Vilma Santos-Recto, visit Eric Nadurata's unofficial Vilma Santos Website at:

WWW.VILMASANTOS.NET

Note Pad: EDDIE at VILMA: Hit na Hit as Takilya

60, 000

The amount Luis Manzano donated to the show "Pasko Na, Game Ka Na Ba?" as gifts to a disabled couple and a kid with cancer. Kris Aquino who received the check was so proud of Ate Vi's son's generosity and kindness.

Da King

"(FPJ) loved and respected by everyone...In the movie industry, friendship goes beyond politics."
- Vilma Santos comments during the opening of the FPJ Memorabilia museum at Mowelfund, Dec.13 /05

Ai Ai

"I want to work with Ate Vi (Vilma Santos) in a movie someday...."
Comedian, Ai ai De Las Alas' reply when asked about what she wish for in the future after being in showbusiness for 15 years now in an interview by Inquirer, Jan 6/06.

Death Dance

Vilma Santos' long and agonized "death dance" in "Burlesk Queen."
Wrote Nestor Torre for Inquirer, Jan 7/06 was one of RP movies most awesome moments in Entertainment.

Poverty

Was the main reason why people went to the "Wowowee" show. According to Ate Vi, the stampede tragedy which killed almost a hundred people, was their only hope. She then added that politicians and Wowowee people should stop pointing fingers and take responsibility for their actions.



Pagbabalik-Tanaw: EDDIE at VILMA: Hit na Hit as

Takilya Patok Pang Mr. & Miss R.P. Movies Si Eddie at si Vilma ang nagkamit ng award bilang "Pinakamahusay na actor at actress sa pelikulang 'Nakakahiya'". At hindi lamang iyan. Nakamit din ng pelikulang ito ang mga sumusunod: "Best Picture, best screenplay, best director, best sound, at best film editing awards". Isang bagay lamang ang ikinalulungkot ng mga taga-Bacolod. Hindi nakarating sina Eddie Rodriguez at Vilma Santos upang tanggapin ang kanilang awards. At ang pinakahuling karangalang tinanggap ng dalawang sikat na tambalang Eddie at Vilma ay ang pagkakapili sa kanilang dalawa bilang Mr. & Miss R.P Movies ng taong ito. Isang karan-

galan ang mapiling Mr. & Miss R.P. Movies. Iisa lamang ang kahulugan nito – ang mataas na pagpapahalaga sa kanilang dalawa ng pelikulang Tagalog bilang mga pangunahing alagad ng sining. At hindi naman alangan ang pagkakahirang kina Eddie at Vilma sapagkat kapwa sila dedicated sa kanilang propesyon. Si Eddie, bukod sa isang mahusay na actor, director at prodyuser ay isa pa ring mahusay na scriptwriter. At hindi lamang sa pelikula nagdi-direct si Eddie Rodriguez. Maging sa kanyang weekly tv show, ang "Sanyugto" ay siya rin ang director. - **Sinulat ni Ely L. Jovez, Liwayway Magazine, researched by Charlie Gomez**



Say: "Nora concert: Pinagkaguluhan at 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 successful 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! - **Aries (Egrollon) Tue Jun 14, 2005 11:26 am**

Point: "Top Money Maker of 2005"

Nestor Torre confirmed what all Vilmanians have been talking about for a decades now. Vilma Santos remained to be the highest paid Filipino actress in our country. Torre went so far as comparing her and self confessed Vilmanian, Sharon Cuneta as the equivalent of Julia Roberts and Nicole Kidman in Hollywood. The article by Torre was published in Inquirer on Dec 05, 2005 the same time period when a Hollywood magazine announced their annual top money maker. -mpl



VITS

Top Achiever

Vilma Santos was cited by Showbizpinoy News web-site as one of the Top Achiever of 2005.

6 Million

The income tax debt Ate Vi paid by working back to back between Regal and Viva in the 80s.

Political Plans

When asked about her political plans, Mayor Vi said: "...I want to have a passing grade first when I finish my term as the Mayor of Lipa...Once I finished my term and that the people say that I did a good job, that's the only time I'd think if I will run for a higher office..." - Ricky Calderon, Manila Standard Jan 28-29/06



Rewind: The Tease

A true blooded Vilmanian will not forget the time when a teaser (a very brief

trailer) was shown to the theatres in the summer of 1991. It was Viva films' "Paano Ba Ang Mangarap?" Another box office hit from Vilma Santos and Christopher DeLeon. The teaser (almost worth the whole movie ticket) was the scene where Lisa, played by Vilma discovered that her son (to Eric's brother, Jay Ilagan) was gone courtesy of her evil rich mother-in-law (Armida Sigueon Reyna). Here's the lines and the explosive acting of the Queen. The scene: After running around looking for the baby in all the rooms in second floor of of this huge mansion, Lisa confronted Eric who were stunned to find Lisa's hysterics.

Lisa: *Dinaya n'yo ako! Saan n'yo dinala ang anak ko?!!!*

Eric: *Hindi ko alam!*

Lisa: *Hindi mo alam...Sinungaling!*

Eric: *Lisa, makinig ka muna...*

Lisa: *Kasabwat ka ng ina mo! Alam ko mataagal n'yo nang plano ito!*

Eric: *Ano bang pinagsasabi mo?*

Lisa: *Dinaya n'yo ako! Mga Traydor Kayo! Traydor kayong lahat!*

Eric: *Lisa, huminahon ka baka mapaano ang bata!*

Lisa: *Wala akong pakialam! Ibalik mo sa akin si Jun Jun! Ibalik mo sa akin ang anak ko! Ibalik mo sa akin si Jun Jun! Ibalik mo sa akin.... AHHHH (mahuhulog sa hagdanan)*

Just this scene alone, Vilma should be rewarded that year's best actress award!

Bravo! - mpl

Richard - Vilma

Richard Gutierrez wants to work with Mayor Vilma Santos. Asked why, "Mayor Vilma is a remarkable actress...she's a strong woman, a fighter and a very great actress...working with her would surely be a great challenge." - Reggie Bonoan Manila Standard Today Feb 07/06

Chris' fave film

When asked what is his favorite film, Christopher DeLeon selected "Ipagpatawad Mo" as one of his memorable films. He then added that Vilma is very special to him because she is a very "selfless"

actor- Feb 05, 2006

By Marinel R. Cruz
Inquirer



VS Update

Eric Nadurata



GIFT GIVING FOR KIDS

Last December 14, 2005, the Vilmanians thru the Vilma Santos Solid International (VSSI), in cooperation with the Philippines Pediatric Dental Society, Inc. (PPDSI) led by Dr. Noel Vallesteros and the LOVE Lipa Foundation led by Dr. Elen Villanueva, distributed gifts to 200 kids of Lipa. The project called "Pamaskong Handog sa mga Bata" is an annual gift-giving project of the Love Lipa Foundation and PPDSI. This year the Vilmanians joined in this worthy project. The 200 kids came from five barangays of Lipa, namely San Benito, San Celestino, San Francisco, Sto. Toribio and Malitlit. The gift giving which was held at the Lipa Community Center started at 9 am.

Mayor Vi sent word that she will be late for the affair. She went the night before at a mass to commemorate the first death anniversary of her good friend and co-industry leader Fernando Poe, Jr. It was FPJ's widow herself, Ms. Susan Roces who phoned to invite Mayor Vi. The project started on time, and before the leaders of the three organizations have made their opening remarks, the good mayor arrives. Mayor Vi gave her message and led the gift giving. She can't stay long though, because three pairs are waiting for her at her office to get married.

After the gift giving, members of the VSSI, PPDSI and LOVE Lipa had a late lunch with Mayor Vi. It was a sumptuous lunch, which the Mayor prepared for all of us. The Vilmanians presented Mayor Vi her trophy as the Star-Politician of the Year given by the Philippines Entertainment Newsmaker (PEN). Mayor Vi wasn't able to attend the awards night of



the PEN because it coincided with her first Mayors Cup held in Malarayat, Lipa City. The day ended, but it was a new beginning for the Vilmanians and the VSSI. We have committed ourselves to be involved in other worthy projects such as this. As the announcer says at the start of ate Vi's TV show "Wilma!" "This is just the beginning, folks. Just the beginning."





Lets Be Franc Franco Gabriel

MEET THE PRESS

It was a hot Wednesday afternoon when Jojo Lim, Ariel & I tried hard to beat the traffic. Ate Vi will be holding a post-Christmas party for the press at Max restaurant Eastwood, Libis QC and we need to be there by 12 noon. We reached the place past noon, Ate Vi was not there yet but the whole group of Vilmanians were all visible. Almost 1pm when Ate showed up, ready na kaming salubungin siya mula sa labas. Jojo, Allan, Cesar, Obet, June and yours truly escorted her. Medyo napansin ko ang TV camera kaya nag-senyas na ako kay June, I covered my face, camera shy ako eh. The party was a huge success, pinagkaguluhan si Ate Vi ng TV reporters from different stations. Lunch, raffle and non-stop interview from press people & from TV reporters. I called Mario Bautista after the event, he had a chance to meet Ate Vi for another batch of press party a day before that. We met at 7 pm in Valencia, Greenhills for Mother Lily's thanksgiving party. Jojo, Cesar & Ariel joned me, we greeted Mario a happy birthday. Mario was so accommodating, he introduced me to a bunch of movie press including Ricky Lo & some actors like Ricky Davao. Ricky was all smile, he recognized Cesar & asked him when will the MMK episode be shown, siya ang leading man ni Ate Vi dito. I had a chance to ask Mario some questions while having our dinner. Like what was his first job? "I worked with Manila Times - commercial controller in DZMT" Who was the first celebrity he interviewed: Susan Roces. His favorite films: "Maynila sa Kuko ng Liwanag", "Sister Stella L", "Tanging Yaman", "Ikaw ay Akin", "Biyaya ng Lupa" Celebrities he liked to interview with: Vilma Santos, Armida Sigeon Reyna, Amalia Fuentes, Sharon Cuneta. Who is better actress between Vilma and Nora: "Pareho silang magaling, merong nagagawa ang isa na di magagawa ng isa, mas versatile si Vilma. Personality wise mas gusto ko si Vilma. Malayong malayo. Vilma is open minded & sincere, pareho sila ni Sharon na totoong tao." Was there a time na nagkatampuhan sila ni Ate Vi: "Yes, during the time of Tagos ng Dugo, pero Vi is very broadminded, hindi siya mapagtaning ng sama ng loob. We became more closer after the incident." Hindi nakatiis si Jojo Lim at talagang nagtanong..." Mario, totoo bang after you saw Himala ay sinabi mo raw na mas magaling pala si Nora kaysa sa Relasyon ni Vilma."



Sagot naman ni Mario: "Hindi totoo yan, wala akong sinabing ganyan. Baka dinugtungan na lang nila" After the short interview, we asked the press about their favorite Vilma movie/s. And heres the result:

- Shirley Pizarro** (Bulletin) - Relasyon
- Chit Ramos** - Relasyon, Bata, Bata Paano ka ginawa?
- Jojo Gabinete** - Karma
- Ces Evangelista** - Burlesk Queen
- Ruel Mendoza** - Tagos ng Dugo
- Archie De Calma** - Sister Stella L
- Jun Nardo** - Bata, Bata Paano ka ginawa?
- Dinno Erece** - Sister Stella L, Pagputi ng Uwak Pag-itim ng Tagak
- Billy Balbastro** - Ipagpatawad Mo, Pagputi ng Uwak Pag-itim ng Tagak
- Ben Dela Cruz** - Lipad Darna Lipad, Pahiram ng isang Umaga
- Eugene Asis** - Tag-ulan sa Tag-araw
- Butch Roldan** (Taliba) - Sister Stella L, Tagos ng Dugo
- Bong De Leon** - Rubia Serbios
- Nora Calderon** - Ipagpatawad mo
- Jimmy Navarro** - Anak, Lipad Darna Lipad
- Ricky Lo** - Adultery, Rubia Serbios, Langis at Tubig, Pahiram ng isang umaga
- Melchor Bautista** - Pahiram ng isang Umaga
- Ogie Diaz** - Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-ibig
- Mario Hernando** - Bata bata Paano ka ginawa, Sister Stella L, Relasyon, Pahiram ng isang umaga.
- Joel Lamangan** - (Besides Mano Po 3) Pagputi ng Uwak, Pagitim ng Tagak.

Willingly

Willie Fernandez



ATE VI, KAY SARAP MAG-MAHAL AT MAHALIN!



Kung meron ngang aktres na puwede naming ipagpagawa ng bantayog - si VILMA SANTOS 'yon, ang Star for All Seasons and Reasons at Ina ng Bayan ng Lipa. Bantayog na simbolo ng paghanga sa kanya para siya'y gawing huwaran ng lahat na nagnanais pumasok sa daigdig ng pelikula at ng kapwa artista. Alam niya ang tamang attitude sa kanyang career, kaya naman hanggang ngayon ay patuloy na nagnining-ning ang kanyang bituin. Hindi kumukupas ang husay niya bilang aktres. Versatile, dahil lahat ng role ay kayang-kaya niyang gampanan. Lalong pinapanday ng panahon ang kanyang kakayahan sa pag-arte. Parang siyang alak, habang tumatagal, e, lalong sumasarap. She's the greatest among all the actresses put together. Si Ate Vi nga lamang hanggang ngayon ang nasa kanyang edad na magandang-maganda pa rin, glamoroso at batang-bata sa tunay niyang edad. Kutis at gandang Eskinol pa rin, di ba Allan Trambulo? As a person, she doesn't hide her true feelings. Pag galit, galit talaga siya. She's really a friend for us, the Vilmanians. Sincere and swee. Despite her status, napakababa niya. Siya pa ang kusang bumababa para lang maabot. Hindi lang basta diehard Vilmanian ang inyong lingkod kundi isang "eternal" Vilmanian. May simula pero walang katapusan hanggang sa kabilang buhay. Yes, I breath and exist for Vilma. All my waking hours, si Ate Vi lang yata ang laman ng puso at utak namin. Maging sa pagtulog ay dala-dala namin sa diwa ang ala-ala ng aktres. Kesehodang nakatira kami sa bahay ng kaibigang aktor na si Daniel Fernando, na ngayon ay senior Board Member ng Bulacan. May pagkakataon pa ngang nagseselos ang actor - pulitiko kay Ate Vi sa tuwina'y siya ang paksa ng aming usapan. Alam ni Ate Vi ang tungkol sa sakit ko, hypertension (high blood pressure: 190 over 120). Hindi namin malilimutan 'yung pagtulong niya nang kami'y ma-confine sa hospital. What a big surprise when she gave me a call at nangumusta. Tinanong niya kami kung ano pa ang mga pangangailangan. Siempre, tameme ang inyong lingkod for her nice gesture. Nang lumabas na kami ng hospital, at minsan nang dumalo kami sa shooting ng kanyang pelikula, in one of our friendly tender moments, sinabi ng butihing aktres na siya ang bahala sa mga gamot na kailangan

for my continuous medication. At nabigla kami ng walang atubili binigyan ng "sampung libong" pagmamahal. Naku, muntik nang kaming atakihin sa puso. Hindi namin akalain na ganoon pala niya kami "kamahal". Halos hindi kami makatulog nang gabing 'yon, at sa mga araw na sumunod ay wala kaming bukambibig kungdi ang iniidolong aktres. At some point, mangiyak-ngiyak pa kaming nagkuwento. From one Vilmanians to another. Balak pa nga namin na huwag ipa-encash o papalitan ang "sampung libong" pagmamahal na 'yon. Dala ng katuwaan at pagmamalaki sa sarili, ipina-xerox namin ang pagmamahal. Better still, naghanap pa kami ng colored xerox copier para talagang kuhanang-kuha ang exact copy ng tseke na pirmado ng aming iniidolong aktres. Iba ang "magic" na nagagawa ng pagmamahal, lalo na kung ito'y nangagaling sa isang minamahal at iniidolo pa. There were times, halos hindi na kami makatulong at makakain nang maayos sa kaiisip at kapangarap sa aking idolo for all seasons. Lalong tumingkad ang katuparan na lubos namin siyang "makilala" nang kami'y pumasok sa showbiz media. Inamin na "i will not grow as a writer" dahil talagang laging nananaig ang aking pagiging Vilmanian sa lahat ng oras. Hindi maalis sa amin ang "fan mentality". Pawang maganda at positibo ang sinusulat namin sa aktres sa aming kulom sa mga diariong pinagsusulat. Madalas kaming sermonan ng editor sa tuwing mag-submit ng artikulo na si Ate Vi ang nilalaman. Katuwiran niya, wala na nga bang kaming alam isulat kungdi ang aktres. Basta naman kasi ang subject namin ay si Ate Vi, walang duda, napaka-positibo namin. Hindi dahil mahal namin siya at nag-iisang idolo na hinahangaan sapul sa pagkabata, kungdi dahil ang sarap-sarap niyang iluklok sa pedestal dahil lahat ng bagay sa kanya ay positibo. Showbiz career, political career, o personal na buhay man. Ang dahilan namin "Hindi maisusulat ang kasaysayan ng showbiz kung hindi babanggitin ang kanyang pangalan. Ganun siya katindi!" Right, Marcus? Isang pagbabalik tanaw na di namin malilimutan sa aming pagsusulat ay nang may pina-pagawang assignment sa amin ang editor na dapat tutukan

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at tapusin sa aming kolum. Kung kaya't nang makatanggap kami ng tawag sa telepono mula sa kaibigang Vilmanian na merong taping si Ate Vi sa ABS-CBN, pansumandali naming iniwan ang mesa sa opisina para lamang puntahan, mayakap at mahagkan ang hinahanggang aktres. Pagbalik namin sa opisina, e ano pa nga ba ang dapat asahan. Sermon na naman ang bumungad sa amin at muntik nang ikawala ng aming kolum. Sa mga ganitong pagkakataon, lagi na, nakakalimot kami sa aming sarili na kami ay isang manunulat. Kahit sa mga TV guestings ng aktres, naroroon kami sa kalipunan ng mga kasamahang Vilmanians at sumasabay sa kanilang pagtili, pagtawa, sigawan at palakpakan. May pagkakataon pa ngang nakikipagtarayan kami sa kampo ng mga Noranians. Di lamang busog sa damdamin kungdi pati ang tiyan kapag kapiling namin si Ate Vi. Ang turing niya sa amin ay isang kapamilya at kaibigan. Walang pinipili, matanda o bata, babae o lalaki ay pantay-pantay ang pagtingin. Lubha siyang maalahanin sa aming kapakanan. Walang pagkakataon na hindi nakikihabito si Ate Vi at nakikipagkuwentuhan pa. Bungad agad niya sa mga fans "Kumusta na kayo? kumain na ba kayo? anong latest?, o di ba, tsismis pa rin ang tumbok ni Ate Vi? Nakakatuwang isipin na talagang naglalaan siya ng sapat na oras para sa mga dumadayong fans mula pa sa malalayong probinsiya. She has a ready smile for everyone. She, too, has this becoming habit of patting your back or your arms, which undeniably gives the illusions of warmth and closeness. Lalo pa ngang tumindi at naging malalim ang aming "samahan" ni Ate Vi nang isang araw, nakatanggap kami ng tawag sa telepono mula sa kapatid niyang si Ate Emelyn. Siempre pa, nasorpresa kami. Bungad agad niya "Willie, may gustong makipag-usap sa 'yo" at sa kabilang linya ay ang tinig ni Ate Vi na nangungumusta. Sumunod na ang kuwentuhan tungkol sa nakalululang pagtanggap ng publiko sa monster hit na "Anak" sa takilya. Alam kasi niya na naglilibot kami sa mga sinehan para lang makita ang mahabang pila ng mga manonood. Dahil na rin seguro sa laking katuwaan ni Ate Vi, pinapunta niya kami sa bahay niya sa Green Meadows at inabutan kami ng sobre ng kanyang pagmamahal bilang bonus ng pelikula. Laking tuwa namin nang ipagkatiwala sa amin ang pagbibigay pa ng iba pang mga sobre sa mga manunulat na tumulong sa promo ng nasabing pelikula. Tunay ngang marunong mag-share ng blessings si Ate Vi sa mga kaibigang writers at mga tagahanga kaya naman patuloy na pinagpapala siya ni Lord. Hindi marunong magsuot ng maskara si Ate Vi, kung ano siya sa harap ng kamera ay 'yun ang ugali niya sa mga panahong pribado siya. Mahal na mahal namin si Ate Vi at siya lang ang artistang inilagay namin sa puso. And i'm proud to be a VILMANIAN forever. O di kana nag-iisa, Mar Garces. Tunay ngang nakapag-ambag siya ng ningning, kulay at kabuluhan di lamang sa amin, kundi sa kabuuan ng industriya ng pelikula at pulitika. MABUHAY KA LAGI, ATE VI!



Tatak Vilma...

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life - women and the American Dream. Enter Bembol Roco, in a great performance as Boyet's Kuya who is a bagito green card holder in America. He was in the opening scene of the movie where he owns his business and lives comfortably and pays someone to make him coffee. Rosa Mia are Roco and De Leon's battered mother who suffers from the physically abusive second husband (a geriatric Irishman), and verbalized regrets for leaving the Philippines. She has the best lines in the movie and summarized the movie's theme: "Kung uuwi ako sa Pilipinas ay kung patay na ako. Ayokong umuwi ng buhay at malaman nila na ang hirap ng buhay dito - kayod ka talaga to survive, at di pinupulot ang dolyar, ubas at mansanas sa daan. Ang dami kong dinaanang hirap para lang magka green card." Vilma Santos as PX is most effective in her scenes as a dumped/bitter girlfriend of Laurel, as a conflicted girlfriend of De Leon, and as a grateful soul who thanks Roco for saving her from paying her overdue rent to her white landlord. Her PX is a toned down Sandra of Ikaw Ay Akin. She says to Roco: "Dati, sa konting pagkain, I offer myself to be laid. Napakabait mo." Roco answers back: "Hindi ganoon kababa ang tingin ko sa sarili ko." You see, Roco falls for the beautiful PX too and was upset to learn that PX is already making it with his brother, which drove him to drink and was depressed for a while. Panoorin na lang ninyo ang movie. The movie's hopeful view of America begins with Perry Como singing White Christmas as Roco, in a dream scene, cavorts in the snow in slow motion. In his dying scene in the arms of his brother De Leon, Roco whispers "ni hindi ko man lang nakita ang snow", and the above Winter Wonderland scene was replayed, while Boyet's cry for help fell on deaf American ears. Vilma was deported after Laurel clandestinely reported her to the INS which arrested her at her birthday party. Her farewell scene with De Leon, handcuffed and all in a train station was one of the best scenes in the movie. The movie has a happy ending, with De Leon finding Santos, a flower picker amidst a field of white daisies with Benguet/Baguio as a backdrop. In a typical Elwood Perez slow mo fashion, amidst the daisy flower plantation, the box office love team of all time hugged and lived happily ever after. As credits rolled, Florante's song Pinay played on. Pinay, American Style. Ang ganda! Vilma Santos yata iyan!



For the latest about Vilma Santos -
the Filipino Cinematic Diva,
visit or join,

**Vilma Santos - Star For All
Seasons Yahoo Group!**

<http://movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/VilmaSantos>

Umbra Et Penumbra

Mario O. Garces

God is Love

I thank my alma mater for the academic freedom that taught me to love and respect others. Like lifestyles. Points of view. Different cultures. My classroom and personal readings enlightened me not to be a bigot and a hypocrite like the New Testament pharisees. Human as I am, I still slip into becoming a pharisee: uncaring, insensitive, opinionated. Even when I should be therapeutic to my clients who test your limits as a caregiver, I lose my cool sometimes. I am forever grateful to the various campus organizations who guided me to these truths: "But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is LOVE. "1 Cor. 13:13. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." "God is Love." But does God love the gender benders as much as He loves the prostitutes, the dishonest tax collectors, the outcasts of society? Will gays go to heaven? The answers are all in the Holy Book. "Seek ye the truth and the truth will set you free." The '70s is my favorite decade. I saw Vilma and Nora metamorphosed into acting titans. I still believe that despite the great chasm between their lives now, there is no lost love and respect between the two. I also believe that something great will happen to Nora Aunor from her current crisis. I don't know what it is - spiritual, emotional or financial, it will be positive. If Vilma decides not to go on with politics and go back to her first love, the movies, then the probability that she and Nora will reunite in a movie project, or even on stage - will be high. Deep in their hearts, they want a Lolita Rodriguez/Charito Solis-like collaboration. A better version of the battle of wits and innate talents. They want to really test each other's skills. From Young Love, Pinagbuklod ng Pag-ibig, Ikaw ay Akin to T-Bird at Ako, and a hundred acting awards between them, they are more than ready to join forces together and make history. One sweet day! It will definitely put a closure to their never-ending rivalry. Or revive their battle royale for acting supremacy. We didn't see these in the Nida/Gloria, Susan/Amalia, even Sharon/Maricel



eras. Their reunion will not only benefit them, but also the Filipinos. Diamonds when polished together become the best precious jewels. When Vilma Santos decides to play mother to three gay sons in a movie tentatively titled Flores de Mara, which is a light comedy/drama or dramedy, she confirms she is really wise with her career moves. It will definitely make money and win awards for the right reasons and seasons. Homophobia is slowly being replaced with understanding and tolerance. Gender bender movies like Brokeback Mountain, Transamerica and Capote, and not to forget Boys Don't Cry and American Beauty make good materials for Psych and Sociology 101, and harvest a slew of awards. How will Vilma (Mara) show love to her children "despite of who they are?" This is called Agape Love. Will Vilma do an Anak reprise or will she surpass herself and surprise us all again? When T-bird Nora, a successful defense lawyer falls for Vilma a nightclub dancer in T-Bird at Ako, Nora emoted an Eros kind of love. "I will make you win the case (of murder) if you sleep with me and be my lover," she proposes. Since this is a "for the fans movie" and unlike Boys Don't Cry with graphic lesbo scenes, Eros did not succeed. The movie disappoints. There is a resolution but it is all fantasy, just like the movies. Would the movie been handled differently if Bernal or Brocka directed it? And before Kiss of the Spider Woman, Boys Don't Cry, American Beauty and Brokeback Mountain, there was Tubog Sa Ginto and Maynila Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag by the heroic Lino Brocka. Bernal did Brocka better with his more contemporary and in your face treatments of gender bender themes in Broken Marriage and City After Dark. The subplot Le affair between Len Santos, a costume/set designer and his lover, the young upstart Lito Pimentel in Broken Marriage, who are co-boarders by the 'separated' from his wife Vilma Santos, Christopher De Leon, reminds us of scenes from a Truffaut movie, like Day for Night. Bernardo Bernardo and his Urian

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winning performance in *City After Dark* as himself, Marilou Diaz-Abaya's *Moral*, Laurice Guillen's *American Adobo* and other movies like *Pusong Mamon*, *So Happy Together*, *Ang Lalaki sa Buhay ni Selya*, *Sa Paraiso ni Efren*, *Masahista*, *Ang Pagdadalaga ni Max Oliveros* and the soon to be shown *Kaleldo* (featuring the luminous performance by Cherry Pie-Picache) - all proved that Filipino artists can compete with the best of Hollywood when it comes to depicting the phenomenon of the times - love of a different kind. A love that will never grow old. As terribly missed Nora Aunor sang in *T-Bird at Ako*: "Paano na nga ba ito, ako ba'y himala ng panahon?" He or she can be your sister, brother, son, daughter, cousin, nephew, niece, your patient, neighbor, officemates and friend. It will be exciting to see Vilma Santos in her bold, inventive, smart decision to play Mara to her 'flores.' She has truly evolved from a naive Baby Vi to a loving, caring, understanding, sympathetic and hardworking Mayor to her fellow Filipino constituents - male, female, old, young, rich, poor, straight or gay. As an actress/film practitioner, she has played with aplomb disparate roles such as a burlesk queen, prostitute, serial killer, rape/AIDS/cancer victim, the other woman, an activist nun, mother/wife of mentally/physically challenged and even *Mother Courage* in the classic movie *Dekada '70*. Not to be outdone is Nora Aunor who has realistically portrayed a doomed NPA amazon, an abused housemaid, a latent lesbian, a faith healer, an avenging killer, a fanatic fan, a rape victim, dual/triple role, a deaf mute and a middle-aged woman in love with a younger man, and more. The most beloved actresses are still in the hearts and minds of their legion of fans. We don't know if they have contact with each other. All we know is that they fell in and out of love, are loving mothers to their children, and the best actresses the Philippines has ever had. Even in their fiercest of rivalries, they did not kill each other with words. They even became mag-kumare. All Vilma had to do is to reach out and touch Nora's heart. She went to her rival's parents wake and agreed to stand as Kiko's godmother. Says Vilma to the late Nick Joaquin: "If Vilma is there, Nora is there. There was a point in our career [note that Vilma uses the collective singular] when we were both so affected that the rivalry became a personal feud between us. There was even a point in our career when we were fighting each other - for honors, for awards, for acting prizes. But there also came a point in our career when we realized we were not getting any

younger and we started becoming very close. I think that was the time her father died and I went to the wake. We hadn't been together since we did a movie together when we were feuding hotly: no talking to each other during the shooting; she stayed on one side with her fans, and I stayed on the other side with my fans: no communication. But when I attended her father's wake, that was when we realized we could be friends. And we started helping each other: She'd invited me to guest on her TV show, and vice-versa. Then her mother died and again I went to the wake. And that was the time when Nora and I became so close we were telling each other the most intimate details of our life." On either actress' house wall, we could most likely see this prayer by Saint Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is discord, union;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Now if only their fans will say the same prayer. After all, LOVE CONQUERS EVERYTHING!



FEATURES

ANG MAKULAY NA BUHAY PAG-IBIG NI ROSA VILMA

ni Willie Fernandez



Makulay ding masasabi ang kabanatang may kinalaman sa buhay-pag-ibig ng ating hinahangaang at iniidolong aktris na si Rosa Vilma Santos. Bukod sa kanyang record bilang the greatest actress of all times and the reigning movie queen of the local cinema ay naitala rin ang kasaysayan ng kanyang pag-ibig. In her heyday, si Vilma Santos ang most desired at most desirable actress, at ang record niyang 'yon ang nangingibabaw in an industry which feeds on gossip and intrigue. Truly, the Star for All Seasons and Reasons has the longest line of suitors and admirers, barring none. In and out of showbiz, Ate Vi would easily be the most desired star of them all. And to think that she's not the typical sex symbol of our parochial mold. In matters of the heart, Ate Vi had many romantic interludes with these interesting men in and out of showbiz world. Considers the names that the rumor mill has linked to her: Edgar Mortiz, Eddie Peregrina, Jay Ilagan, Jojit Paredes, Ronnie Henares, Erik Espina, Bongbong Marcos, Dave Brodette, Junior, FPJ, Meng Fei, Dolphy, Jimmy Morato, Rollie Quizon, Bambol Roco, Eugene Torre, Boyet de Leon, Mark Gil, Zaldy Zshornack, Jun Arestorenas, Eddie Rodriguez, Ricky Belmonte, Romeo Vasquez, Mat Ranillo, Joey Stevens, Lito Lapid, Glenn Capacio, Paul Alvarez, Alvin Patrimonio, Dante Silverio, Edu Manzano, Philip Salvador, Miguel Rodriguez, Ronnie Ricketts, Aga Muhlach, Eric Quizon, Gabby Concepcion, Nonoy Zuniga, Jolly Benitez, and Senator Ralph Recto. Her lovelife is one of the movielands' most colorful and also the stormiest. Like the other actresses who fell in love and fell out of love, Ate Vi has had her share of sad valentines.

But while she loved, she loved to the fullest and gave her all. And when she got separated from her first husband, Edu Manzano, she did not linger on the broken pieces of a love affair turned sour. There was no bitterness or rancour. After all, that bond gave her a son, Luis Manzano. Maraming makukulay na episodes sa buhay-pag-ibig ni Ate Vi. Merong totoo, meron namang nanatiling tsismis lang. Sa pagpapakasal niya kay Senator Ralph Recto ay naipinid na ang chapters na ito sa lovelife ng actress-politician. Mahirap ang maging Vilma Santos. Isa kang "Star for All Seasons", libu-libo ang mga tagahanga, sinasamba at iniidolo. Napakahirap humanap ng Mr.Right Man na aangkop sa pagiging Vilma Santos niya sa loob at labas ng daigdig ng pelikula. Her being number one star-actress poses a different problem to suitors of lesser means. Of the sundry men that the rumor mill has identified with her, Ate Vi admits to having had real relationships with only five: Edgar Mortiz, her first boyfriend; Ronnie Henares, to whom she was engaged; Romeo Vasquez, her controversial beau; Edu Manzano, to whom she was married and eventually divorced; and Senator Ralph Recto, her longest affair, the only boyfriend she had after her first marriage broke-up and the father of her child, Ryan Christian. Ate Vi learned different things in the seasons she spent with them. Si Edgar Mortiz ay isang bahagi ng puppy love ni Ate Vi. Itinuring na subok na matibay, subok na matatag ang kanilang tambalan. Mula nang magkatambal sa pelikula, nagkaroon din sila ng mga TV shows tulad ng "The Sensations" at "Edgar Loves Vilma". Si Bobot ay ang first love ni Ate Vi. Tumagal din ang relasyon ng dalawa na umabot ng tatlong taon na mahigit. Akala nila ay panghabambuhay na ang kanilang relasyon but it suddenly ended on April 28, 1974.

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Sa kung anong tunay na dahilan ng kanilang break-up ay hindi naging malinaw. In fact, naging very close nga sila ni Edgar at pati ang kani-kanilang pamilya to the point na ang patayo pa sila ng bahay na magkatabi lamang sa isang suburban subdivision. Dahil sa magkaibang estado nila, mas sikat si Ate Vi noon kaysa sa kanyang screen partner, at hindi pag-usad ng career ni Bobot ay nagbunga ng kanilang argumento. Siguro nga, isa sa mga dahilan ng kanilang paghihiwalay. Career move, ika nga. Even now that they lead separate lives, Vilma and Edgar have remained the best of friends. Taong 1975, a year after she had ended her colorful involvement with Edgar, pumasok naman sa eksena ang elitistang singer na si Ronnie Henares. In a way, matagal nang magkakilala ang dalawa pero nagkaroon lang sila ng pagkakataong maging close nang mag-guest si Ronnie sa drama anthology ni Ate Vi ang "Dalambuhay ni Rosa Vilma". Inamin naman ni Ate Vi sa mga interviews na si Ronnie ang siyang naging instrumento niya na matutong magsalita ng wastong English-bagay na hindi naman ikinahihiyang aminin ng aktres. He taught her how to pronounce English words. Malapit sa isa't isa ang pamilya nilang dalawa. Muntik na rin silang lumagay sa tahimik pero hindi maiwasan 'yung nagkaroon sila ng sigalot sa kanilang pagitan, at hindi na nga naisakatuparan pa ang planong humarap ng altar. Nangibabaw pa rin ang obligasyon ni Ate Vi sa kanyang pamilya at dedication sa career kaya eventually ay sa paghihiwalay rin nagtapos ang dapat sana'y makulay na episode sa kanyang buhay. Romeo Vasquez is an oddity in Vilma's life. Hindi akalain ng lahat na ang isang notorious playboy and balikbayan actor would capture the heart of the then elusive Ate Vi. Nagkaroon sila ng affair which lasted for more than a year.

Kilala si Bobby sa pagiging bohemyo kaya naman walang kakilala si Ate Vi na bumoto sa aktor. Ate Vi was love struck at talagang na head-over heels in love. Nagsimula ang kanilang affair sa set ng kanilang pelikulang "Nag-aapoy na

Damdamin". True to this title, nagliyab silang dalawa at tunay ngang nag-apoy ang kanilang damdamin. May plano pa nga sila ni Bobby na magpakasal sa Europe. Talagang Ate Vi was ready to give up her life as an actress and would settle with the actor abroad. And with her relationship with Bobby, nag-surface ang bagong Vilma Santos.

Ate Vi realized that she can't sacrifice everything for love. Nagising siya sa katotohanan at nagkamali kung kaya nagdesisyon siyang kumalas sa bohemyong aktor. Nagkulay rosas noon ang mundo ni Ate Vi at ibinigay ng buong laya ang sarili't pag-ibig sa isang Mr. Edu Manzano na kung saan nagbunga yun ng isang Lucky. Umusbong ang pagkakakilala nila ni Doods sa Cebu City, kung saan nagkasabay sila sa flight paluwas ng Maynila. Nag-shooting kasi noon si Ate Vi ng pelikulang "Yakapin Mo Ako Lalaking Matapang" at parang pinagtiyap ng panahon na magkrus ang kanilang landas. Ibang klase ang ginawang panunuyo ni Doods sa aktres. Naroon ang yayain nito si Ate Vi na kumain sa turo-turo. Nahulog ang loob ng aktres na siempre pa na humantong sa kanilang pagpapakasal. Bale sa abroad, sa Las Vegas naganap ang kanilang kasal. Hindi naging matagumpay ang kanilang pagsasama dahil na rin sa baon ng utang sa BIR nang panahong 'yon. Akala ng lahat ay si Esu na ang Mr. Right Guy kay Ate Vi. Hindi pala. Ang isang masaya, makulay, masiglang simula'y sa paghihiwalay din nauwi. Mga tatlong taon lamang silang nagsama pero nanatiling mabuting magkaibigan sila. Sa Guam naaprubahan ang divorce nila on July 25, 1986 or thereabouts. Ang inaakala ni Ate Vi na mahihirapan niyang hanapin ang tamang lalaki sa kanyang buhay ay natagpuan sa katauhan ni Senator Ralph Recto. Despite a 10-year age gap, her marriage with Ralph has weathered all storms and is now into its 20 years. And it is still going strong. Ang kay Edgar, kay Ronnie, kay Romeo, kay Edu ay pawang mga kasaysayang puwede natin isapelikula. Dahil bahagi na lamang sila ng kahapong may tamis at pait sa gunita. Cute ang sa kanila ni Bobot. Masaya ang kay Ronnie. Maligaya ang kay Bobby. Makasaysayan ang kay Doods. Pero ang kay Senator Ralph Recto ay pinakamaigting na relasyong hinding-hindi malilimot ng isang Vilma Santos. One thing is most important at this time in Vilma's life-her marriage with Senator Ralph Recto, ostensibly destined to be the most important in her life from now on.



For more information about the most successful DARNA,
Ms. Vilma Santos-Recto, visit Eric Cueto's DARNA website at:

WWW.MARSRAVELO.COM

FEATURES:

THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

THE BEST & WORST OF 2005

by Rendt Viray



The year was fruitful for Vilma Santos. She didn't do any movie but earned recognition for her body of works as an actor and public servant. In addition she continued her success as product endorser. In addition to this was appearances in television and abroad. By January of this year, she was cited by different newspapers and movie scribes as one of the top achievers of 2005. And what happened to her contemporaries? Sharon failed as a movie producer and had not so rosy result in her concert abroad. Marecel Sorinao won a best actress award from EnPress but this didn't rekindled any public interest on her small screen venture via Vietnam Rose. The show wasn't renewed after its lackluster run. And speaking of tv stints, Looks like Lorna would be content hosting talk shows. No Lorna movies too last year. And Nora...how can we forget her? She got busted possessing illegal drugs in the United States, told the authority she wasn't given an interpreter, settled this charges by accepting a diversion to rehab program. Adding some contradiction to her defense, when asked by the judge if she needs an interpreter during her last court appearance she bluntly said: "I don't need one, I am fluent in English!!!" The judge just sighed. "To top it all, her fans seems unfazed with her downfall, they invented an international award and was totally in denial of the negative

impact on their idol's behavior particularly, the youth. No doubt, Nora's not a superstar anymore! How about the pretenders to the throne? Claudine had a war of words with her sister Gretchen and earned her first major award by winning the Luna Awards. Her movie Dubai was a big hit. In contrast, Judy Ann Santos, her rival, didn't do a movie but rewarded with her first prestigious major award, the Urian. In addition, her fantasy television show wasn't renewed by GMA and to top it all she was charged by the BIR with evading income taxes. Positive & negative results, how do you balance? Judy Ann and Claudine had a mixed bags of results. When the year ends, the press proclaimed Susan Roces as top achiever of 2005. The widow of presidential candidate, FPJ. She was indeed very active last year. She participated in a failed People Power and organized a series of events commemorating FPJ's legacy, the latest was the exhibition of FPJ film memorabilia. With all of this attention, one might give her the top honor of 2005 Top Achiever but with all due respect to her, how would someone give this honor to her when she failed to achieve her top goal, that is to topple Gloria and proved that she cheated. Also, she failed to consolidate and reconciled the opposition party. We can set aside our biases and just talk about the facts. Once we done that, the facts will speak the truth. Vilma Santos was the top achiever of 2005, period. Now, Let's look back... and savour the sweet-ness of 2005.

JANUARY



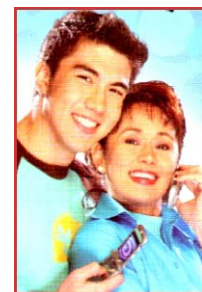
"Best Actress of all time"

Fresh from winning several awards from last year's December Film festival (which includes Best picture and best actress for Vilma), "Mano Po 3: My Love" ranked fourth in gross earnings - a cool 84 Million! But this success was overshadowed by the litany of tabloid articles by Alfie Lorenzo including his nasty write-up about Ate Vi's haggard looks during the awards ceremony. All of it were lies, as many pictures will prove it, Vilma remained youthful despite her true age! In the early part of January, in radio show of Cristy Fermin, Ate Vi pleaded with her ever loyal Vilmanians to just ignore Mr. Lorenzo. And so, the boiling anger by the Vilmanians died down! It was also in this month that Vilmanians found out about the revolutionary projects by Star Cinema, titled "Flores De Mara." Vilma will play a mother to a three gay sons. There were also some talks about Ate Vi doing a movie under Tony Gloria's Unitel Pictures. Yes, the same company who gave us "American Adobo." It will be directed by Laurice Guillen and another project with Joel Lamangan but as we all now know, no project had materialized. By the later part of January, Nonoy Lauzon, a YCC member wrote a controversial article in Saksi Ngayon, declaring Vilma Santos, "the Philippine cinema's best actress of all time!" Not surprisingly this article irked Noranians (including some of YCC members.) Ironically, Nonoy Lauzon's arguments seemed too premature as Vilma Santos was proclaimed Gawad Tanglaw Best Actress of the year together with her kumare, Nora Aunor. I guess even the Gawad Tanglaw judges were blinded by Aunor's over the top acting in "Naglalaba" ops "Naglalayag."

By the start of Feb, Billy Balbastro confirmed, in his Abante column that MP3 was a big hit. In the early part of February, Vilma managed to squeeze in her tight schedule a guest appearance in her ex-husband's tv show "Okey fine whatever." Speaking of tv show, there were talks about Ate Vi reprising her variety show "Vilma!" For many Vilmanians abroad, this is the start of a historic year when the producer ng Phil.Fiesta NY/NJ had their first meeting with Ate Vi. Sad to say, Ate Vi can't give her "yes" yet to the project as there were so many details that needs to be ironed out. This month was also the start of Vilma's emergence as the top product endorser. With the confidentiality issue always in the air, Vilmanians can't seem to find way of to control leakage of what product Ate Vi have agreed to endorse. By the second week of February, we found out that Vilma Santos was proclaimed the Gawad Suri Best Actress and MP3 the Best Picture. Then the PMPC list of nominees came and Vilma Santos was nominated for best actress for MP3, not to be outdone, the renegade group EnPress announced their Golden Screen Awards Nominees with Vilma Santos part to their Best Actress in Dramatic Motion Picture. With lots of talks about the MP3 snobbery at EnPress' Golden Screen, Vilmanians hailed an Ateneo student by creating a new title for Vilma. Xavier Limtuaco of Makati City suggested that we should change Vilma's current title to "Queenstar" because her current title "Star for All Seasons" undermines her status and achievements as a movie queen and all-time Best Actress, and we can't agree more!...ending the month love, Vilma received the title, "All-Time Favorite Actress" award from Guillermo Mendoza Foundation!



"QueenStar"



FEBRUARY

March



"Star Award's Best Actress"

March started with Vilmanians savoring the comeback of Vilma in a dramatic role in small screen, Charo Santos asked Vilma to do special episode of Maalala Mo Kaya... Vilmanians also happy to find out that Vilma will be attending both PMPC & EnPress awards ceremonies. Later, with her beautiful JC Buendia pink gown, Vilmanians proved their sportsmanship when Judy Ann Santos was adjudged by the Golden Screen as their best actress for "Sabel." EnPress president Jun Nardo confirmed that Vilma didn't walk out of the Golden Screen awards night. By mid March PASADO proclaimed Vilma and Nora as co-winners of their Best Actress title. Then came the PMPC's Star Awards and low and behold, Vilma Santos received her sixth Star Best Actress! Despite the post awards night scandal of vote buying, no one questioned Vilma's wins. Also in mid March there was a talk of Lotlot DeLeon being linked to Ramon Recto and that Lotlot was sighted in the Recto's residence in Lipa City. On a lighter note, Vilma officiated the civil wedding of comedian Willie Revillame with model Liz Almor0. Then Alfie Lorenzo started his devilish tongue again with his criticism of Ate Vi's hosting performance at the Star Awards, obviously sourgraping. Vilmanians ignored him. Then came Ricky Jimenez's best Dress List proclaiming Ate Vi as the Best Dressed List - Hall of Famer. There were some nasty e-mails that initiated by a Noranian that involves Cristy Fermin's article. This parasite edited out the article and posted it in Vilma E-groups which resulted a huge reactions from Vilmanians. Thankfully it was cleared and ended with the culprit being exposed. With Angel Locsin dressed as the new Darna, many movie aficionado proclaimed that the most successful Darna of all time was Ate Vi. Another irritating event of this month was People's Choice on line voting done by FAP. In question was the low turn outs of votes for Ate Vi. Headed by Mar Garces, the Vilmanians sent an open letter to the FAP organization with pending result.

April started with unbelievable response from the FAP stating that "Vilma got 220 votes only." Shouting foul and conspiracy, Vilmanians all over the globe sent a strong message to FAP, "clean up your act!" But this scandal was overshadowed by the arrest of Nora Aunor for shabu possession in LOS ANGELES airport! Meanwhile, Butch Francisco in his Philippine Star article proclaimed Vilma Santos' performance in MP3, riveting and the only reason why the film did not fall apart. Ate Vi spent the first weekend of this month in Punta Fuego sa Nasugbu, Batangas w/ her family. Also during this week, she confirmed that she will not attend FAMAS. Also early this month, there was news that Claudine Baretto will play Vilma's daughter in Maalala Mo Kaya's Mother's Day Special. The FAP conspiracy theory continued during the second week of April, as Ate Vi's name wasn't included in their partial list of nominees. Not worried for one bit, Ate Vi was interviewed at Startalk and Mahal's request to Ate Vi officiating her civil wedding. Also, Ate Vi's Munting Ngiti dental project for kids of Lipa was launched. At the end, FAP realized that they will look fool without Ate Vi in their list of nominees, so Ate Vi was included in their best actress nominees. Then the release of Star Cinema's Vilma Santos DVD collection and MP3 DVD made Vilmanians around the globe rejoiced! By later part of April, Vima became UP Gawad Plaridel finalist and news came out that Dekada 70 will be exhibited in "the Cinema of the World" segment of Cannes Film Festival. Also, a news came out that Claudine Baretto will no longer play the daughter of Ate Vi in the MMK Special. By the end of April, two of Vilma's successful roles were reprised by two young starlets, Angel Locsin as Darna and Anne Curtis as Kampanerang Kuba. By this time, Vilma already started shooting the MMK episode. Then another good news, the Gawad Urian gave Vilma another nomination for MP3.



April

"Riveting"

May



“The Singing Sensation”

May brought the Vilma Santos legacy in the forefront by two heated tv rating competition between Kuba vs. Darna (Ann Curtis vs. Angel Locsin). The success of MP3 didn't end in December, It was entered in 2005 Shanghai International Filmfest. Meanwhile while her drug case was pending, Nora Aunor did a string of concert in the States. Not surprisingly the results were dismal. Then on May 13th came the news about U.P.'s Gawad Plaridel Final Selection was Over and the winner will be announce on June 15th. Vilma was one of three finalist. The awards season continued with Claudine Baretto winning the LUNA BEST ACTRESS (Film Academy of the Philippines). Then the inaugural issue of Vilma! was released with positive feedback from all Vilmanians around the globe. At the same time, Noranians released their book about their experiences being a Noranian. The third week of May brought us the news that Luis joined the cast of Kampanerang Kuba as Pablo, ang kargador. Luis was reported courting Toni Gonzaga. During this time Ate Vi gave her support to fellow Lipanian and eventual winner Ryan Sabaybay in Star Dance. Perhaps the most exciting and latest confrontation between Vilmanians and Noranians happened this month at Rated K talk show. Korina Sanchez visibly sided with Vilmanians. The end of May brought some bad news to all Vilmanians as Ate Vi got ill and cancelled her shooting for MMK. On a lighter note, Vicor music re-released all of her 70's recorded songs.

The month of June brought us some bad news with Juday being proclaimed by the Gawad Urian as their best actress. The early week brought us news about Willie Revillame' bride fainted on her wedding day. Mayor Vilma Santos was one of 30 pairs of sponsors. Then came the big news, Vilma Santos won the UP Gawad Plaridel. At the same time, her Globe Telecom Commercial aired with so much funfare. This is the first time Luis was featured together with his superstar mom. The second week of June, Ate Vi was featured in Magandang Umaga Pilipinas during the Lipa City Foundation Week with her constituents. By mid June, Ate Vi and Luis got ill with a flu. At the same time the 2nd issue of Vilma newsletter was released. With the purpose of combining the two actresses fan base, IkawAyAkin e-group was created and received poor reception from Vilmanians. Then the Darna vs Kuba rating competitions ended with Kuba muscled out Darna. GMA Channel 7 in the meantime planned of resurrect bakekang, the Nora Aunor starrer but failed as no one wants the project. By third week of June, Jun Nardo mentioned the 2nd issue of Vilma! in his Abante daily colum. Then the good news, after winning the Gawad Plaridel Vilma confirmed her trip to join the Fiesta Filipino celebration in NY/NJ. In the mix of these lovely news was the death of Jaime Cardinal Sin. Another news, Luis Manzano made headline as he helped a victim of a broken family in an episode of At Home Ka Dito. Then came the new version of Luis and Vilma's Globe tv ads. Another bright news was Mario Bautista's article about our Vilma newsletter in his daily colum for People's Journal. The month of June ended with Claudine Baretto as FAMAS best actress and Dekada 70's strong showing at Cannes resulted with the film being invited to the 2005 Brussels International Film Festival.

June



“The American Visits”

July brought us some changes. The Vilma Santos Newsletter changed its name to just Vilma! while Dekada 70 and 3 other films were acclaimed in Cannes, Vilma Santos received the UP Gawad Plaridel Award. Then came news about the comeback of child actor Terence who co-starred as Vilma's child in the movie *Ipagpatawad Mo*. Now a grown-up, he wished to do movie with Vilma again, this time as her leading man. Vilmanians sent a letter to GMA Channel 7 requesting a DVD collection of the Vilma! shows with no response. During the first week of July, the press publicity of Ate Vi's trip to the NY/NJ exploded. And speaking of pr, Jun Nardo and Mario Baustista (again) gave us some free publicity by mentioning our newsletter in their daily columns. Also, ER's Giovannie Pico pronounced that her favorite local actor is Vilma Santos. Then came the news about a possible Vilma-Christopher movie entry in the MMFFP 2005 - "Huling Habilin ng Puso." Supposed to be under the direction of Francis Villacorta and produced by Magnifico producer, Madame Violet, the project was rejected by the filmfest screening committee. Perhaps the month of July can be summed up by what reporter, Bong de Leon wrote in his daily column for People's Journal, "NORA AND VI, POLES APART NOW."

July



"National Artist Preview"



August

"Yes! For Ate Vi!"

August started rosy for e-group VISION as Philstar reporter Ricky Lo wrote an article promoting it. The early week of August brought another award for Ate Vi, she won the GAWAD SURI. Also, there was a speculation about the possibility of Vilma Santos running as congresswoman for Batangas. But Vilma have the same response. She hasn't made up her mind yet. Adding insult to the a shameful drug scandal, Nora Aunor and her fans tops the shameful headline again. This time Nora wasn't at fault but her fans. Inventing an international best actress for their idol (Provincetown International Film Festival). Even Boy Abunda was embarrassed with this desperate move by his fellow Noranians. By second week, Vilma was asked to read the story of life of Nana Masay for possible film project. In terms of her public role as mayor, Vilma's project "Mga Munting Ngiti" has made it as one of the 6 major finalist in the oral health international competition in Australia. Then on Aug 20th & 21st, as promised, Mayor Vi and Sen. Ralph Recto traveled abroad to join the Filipinos celebrate their Philippine Fiesta in New Jersey/New York. The special appearance was huge success. Ate Vi's niece Carla Cervantes joined Vision by the end of August. Also, a reliable source brought some news of another product endorsement for Ate Vi. In addition, Ate Vi and Ralph Recto were in the cover of Mr & Ms magazine (see page 45). Then came another on-line contest, YES magazine's was perhaps the most competitive as Vilmanian showed their fighting mood and loyalty all for their love of the Queen! Btw, Ate Vi joined Vision by end of August, She's the 303rd member!

September started with some news about a Vilma - Maricel film project. It eventually died down. Ate Vi had a busy first week of September making an appearance in her ex-husband sitcom, "Ok Fine Whatever!" The episode was aired in the third week of September. She also started to shoot the MMK Special and slated to do a tv commercial for Ariel detergent bar. Also, Vilma was the cover of the Philippine Pediatric Dental Society Inc.'s Kiddie Smiles Magazine. Meanwhile, Ate Vi's young son, Ryan Christian was in TV Patrol. The scoop? He was being offered a role in "Goin' Bulilit." Queen Vi was featured in Insider Magazine by the second week of September. A real feat for fellow Vilmanian, Mar O. Garces' article was published in the same magazine. Mar's article was about the Ate Vi's trip to the U.S. Another article about the Ate Vi U.S. trip was featured in Yes Magazine. Speaking of Yes magazine. They had an on-line popularity contest where fans are allowed to vote for their favorite celebrities in different categories. One was for the actress of the year, in which Vilmanians diligently votes daily. By the end of September, Vilma was still trailing Nora. On Political side, Ate Vi's been very busy with her agriculture development plan for the city of Lipa.

"Post-script New York"



September



October

"Mayor in Action"

Ate Vi's 70's leading man Ernie Garcia exhibited her art work at Megamall A. early October. At the same time Vilma came on top of the Yes Mag's popularity voting contest. With this good news came the bad news according to Mario Bautista, Ate Vi's kumare tested positive on using drugs. Another bad news was the death of Juancho Gutierrez, Gloria Romero's long time partner due to diabetes complications. In contrast, happiness to Vilmanians continued as the October issue of Yes magazine came out with featured articles about Ate Vi! Dekada 70 continued its impressive resume with a strong showing at the 6th Annual San Diego Asian Film Festival. Ate Vi also continued her hectic schedule as mayor with the launching of her happy day care club. She also has some delicate matters to deal with as links about her product endorsements keeps on popping out everywhere. In addition, she had her last shooting day of Maalaala Mo Kaya. By mid October, Vilma Santos' leads at Yes Magazine's contest went to 81,951 crashing all her competitor but Marecel Soriano's fans will not be denied of a repeat of last year's winner they built an ally with the Noranians as, Noranians realized it will be impossible to defeat the Vilmanians so they started to encourage everyone to vote for her. As the MMK ends its shootings, early press release revealed that Maja Salvador plays Vilma's daughter in this special MMK. Then by end of October, Mayor Vilma was on her mayor in action mood again as she promoted Lipa's Kapeng Barako to CHANEL 2's "MAGANDANG UMGA PILIPINAS" Lastly, another good news to end the month of October, Ate Vi's fim "Bata bata Paano Ka Ginawa" was exhibited in the Feminist Film Festival.

The undisputed Queen of Philippine Cinema Ms. Vilma Santos-Recto
visit Eric Nadurata's unofficial Vilma Santos Website at:

WWW.VILMASANTOS.NET

FILMOGRAPHY * RECENT AND OLD ARTICLES * PHOTOS * LINKS
BIOGRAPHY * LATEST NEWS * AND MORE!

November started for Vilmanians with an awesome cover story by Ms. Marra PL. Lanot for Mr. & Ms. magazine. Lanot chronicled Recto's courtship that ends with a grand wedding. The start of November also brought us Philippines' first place win for Ate Vi's dental project "Mga Munting Ngiti" at International Association of Pediatric Dentistry's Bright Smiles Bright Futures Award. Her birthday celebration started with a special editon of Showbiz Stripped. She was then serenaded by her constituents in Lipa with Luis and Ryan's presence. Also, in her Lipa celebration, PBB evictees, Rico, Bob and Racquel were among her special guests. Meanwhile Mario Bautista wrote in his daily colum that there was television project that will feature Darna meeting Dyesebel! In Showbiz Stripped show meanwhile, a rare appearance by Luis Manzano and dad, Edu proved got a high viewership rating. Speaking of Luis, he got astring of nominations from Star Awards for his television work. Also in mid Nov, now becoming popular, our house writer Mar Garces' article titled "Diva to Diva" was featured at S magazine. Ate Vi had a string of television appearances. An interview with Ali Sotto and D'buzz at first. Followed by a surprise guest at ABS' Pinoy Big Brothers, Boy Abunda's Homeboy and finally at Pete Lacaba's Retrospektib: Buhay at Panahon. Another exciting event happened by mid November was when she received a doctorate degree (PhD in Humanities) from the Lipa City Colleges. With all these exposure came a public apology from Mother Lily who promised Ate Vi, MP3 will be the last of its Mano Po franchises. Mother Lily produced another one via "MP4: ako legal wife." In addition to these exciting week, Ate Vi received a lifetime achievement award from the Feminist Centennial Film Festival. Her Bata Bata Paano Ka Ginawa was exhibited with an SRO crowd. Another good news was Ate Vi finally completed her MMK special. In the mixed of all these exciting events and news, her Ariel laundry detergent tv ads aired with so much excitements. Then came Ate Vi's being included in the list of celebrities that will be immortalized by ala-Hollywood style, Walk Fame, organized by German Moreno. By the end of November, Vilma received another award, PEN's Star-Politician of the Year. She ended her birthday month by hosting a documentary with her son, Luis, entitled "PINOY MOVIES, Buhay ka pa?"

"Doctor Vi"

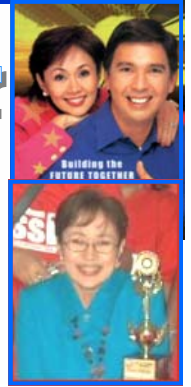


November



December

"Woman of the Year"



December started with Ate Vi's surprised

visit to John Santos' Zirkoh Bar show. John is famous with her Vilma Santos impersonation. There was also a news about Ate Vi doing a CCP stage play. At the same time, Luis Manzano was proclaimed the Star Awards' Best Talent Search Hosts for the "Star Circle Teen Quest." Speaking of recognitions, Vilmanians were the proudest fans of them all when an article came out proclaiming Vilma Santos as one of the two Top Female Money-makers in RP Movies (the other one was Sharon Cuneta). This was despite her not having a new film for 2005. By the end came with a change of heart by Alfie Lorenzo. Gone are the nasty articles, instead he wrote down some nicer pieces. But ofcourse the articles still focuses on her protégé Judy Ann Santos. Then Eric Cueto's interview with Ate Vi was posted in the Mar Ravelo's web site. On a personal note, Ate Vi and Senator Ralp Recto celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. Ate Vi also attended a number of FPJ event. She was personally invited by FPJ's widow, her Tita, Susan Roces to one of them. With the Christmas coming, Ate Vi together with the Vilmanians (and other organizers) made the children of Lipa happy with the a Christmas "Gift-giving" event. In a related news about charity and kindness, Luis Manzano surprised The Buzz hosts Kris Aquino by handing out 2 checks worth 30,000 pesos each for 2 couple who were both physically disabled. On a funny side of showbiz news came when Ai Ai Delas Alan was offered the role of Bakekang. Noranians don't like her to star in this re-make because she publicly admitted she's a Vilmanian. And Vilmanian doesn't like the project either because Bakekang is a Nora Aunor film. Speaking of Nora Aunor, the judge accepted her plea bargain and allowed her to enter a rehab-drug program. She was featured in CNN and Noranians were shameless to proclaimed this was a feat for Filipinos. Speaking of life in the U.S. former "Apat na Sikat" member Winnie Santos was featured in an article. She now works in real estates. By the end of the 2005 Ricky Lo proclaimed Susan Roces as Woman of the Year. I disagreed. Why? Just re-read this article and you'll know what I meant. The facts speaks louder, Vilma Santos was the Woman of Year.



FLASHBACK 2005



BYE BYE DR. PHIL... HELLO, DOCTOR VI!

By Eric Nadurata

Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto was given an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities by the Lipa City Public College (LCPC) last November 10, 2005. The Doctorate degree was given after resolution no. 01-05 of the Academic Council was passed. The head of the Academic Council, Dr. Armando Badillo and the Board of Trustees, including City Administrator Mr. Pedrito Martin M. Dijan, approved the resolution. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) also approved the resolution on May 11, 2005. The resolution states that they acknowledge the leadership and talent of Mayor Vi not only in the art of Film, but also her sincerity and effective management as a Mayor and for being a good role model for a new Filipina – beautiful inside and out. It is further stressed in the resolution that the life of Mayor Vi as a public servant and as a multi-awarded actress clearly mirrors her deep understanding of how she can serve the public, her respect for human dignity and her genuine belief in the goodness of men to serve and help one another. Dr. Cristeto Pamplona, Schools division superintendent of DepEd Lipa; Atty. Joel Montealto, City Legal Officer; Lipa City Councilor Romy Macasaet and Ronaldo de Castro, City Personnel Officer completes the LCPC Academic Council.



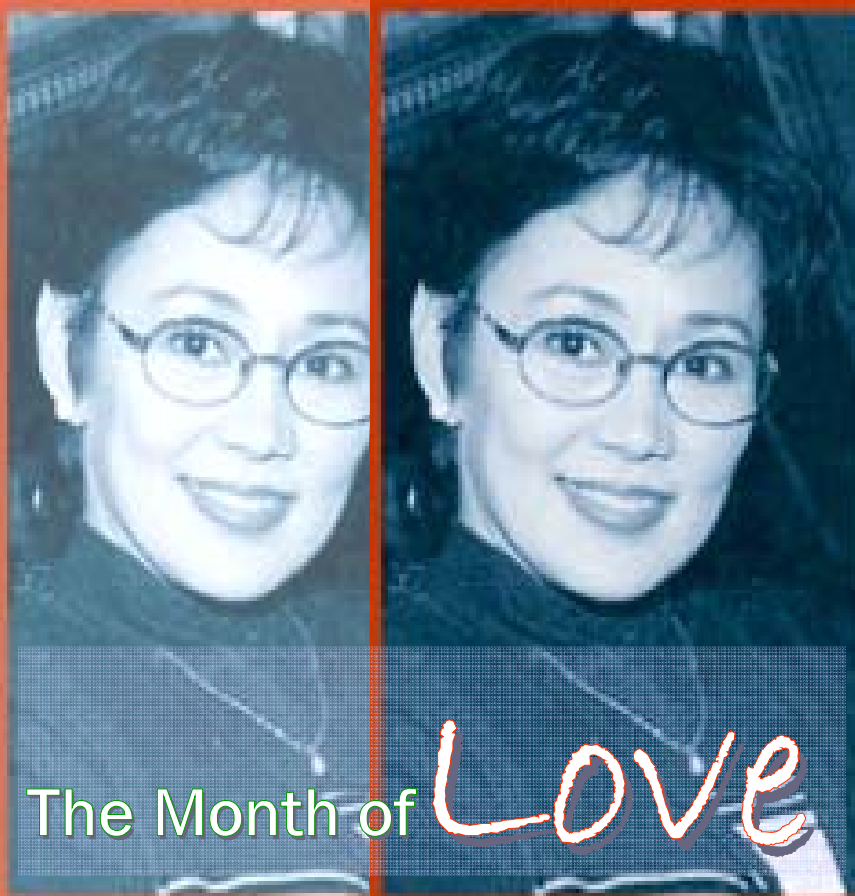
SINCERELY YOURS FATHER J



Since this issue of our newsletter is coming out this month of February allow me to reflect on the meaning of love and its meaning in our lives. This thing which we

That is why the most perfect definition of love is God. God is love and love is God. Another quality of a true Christian love is universal. Our love must extend to all: rich and poor, young and old, Vilmanians and non-Vilmanians. Our love must be for everyone. Our love must be universal. The final quality of a true Christian love is characterized by our willingness to forgive. Being human, we hurt one another. And if we truly love one another, then we must be willing to forgive one another. And not just seven times but seventy times seven times. Who can best exemplify love in one's life than

the love of Vilma Santos as a mother, wife, mayor and actress. The love of Vilma as a mother to Luis and Ryan has been associated with unselfishness, intense devotion and great self-sacrifice. Vilma's love as a wife to Senator Ralph Recto has been associated with giving, understanding and faithfulness. While the love of Vilma as a Mayor of Lipa City has been associated with universal, heroism and willingness to extend her hand to the most in need in Lipa City. And as an actress, the love of a Vilma Santos to us Vilmanians has been associated with gratitude, sincerity and loyalty. And so my fellow Vilmanians, may we celebrate this month of love remembering the kind of love Vilma Santos has shown us. Her love as a mother, wife, mayor and actress is truly a wonderful example for us Vilmanians of what a true Christian love is: giving, forgiving and universal. May we always look at the life of a Vilma Santos and see that it is a life lived in love. To Ate Vi and to all the Vilmanians, Happy Valentine's Day!



call LOVE and which makes the world go around evokes in people's minds the great loveteams in our world and literary history such as Anthony and Cleopatra, Romeo and Juliet, Tarzan and Jane. For us Vilmanians, however, LOVE evokes in our minds the different loveteams Vilma had in her movie career such as Vilma and Edgar, Vilma and Christopher, Vilma and Edu and more. But what is really love? What is the Christian meaning of love? For us who are Christians, love is the single most important teaching of Jesus in the Bible. Jesus in his lifetime indicated the three qualities of a true Christian love. The first quality of a true Christian love is the ability to sacrifice for others. Love is essentially the gift of oneself to another.

No need to be lonely in that artic
cold winter nights!
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FEATURES



What's
Love
 Got To Do
 With It?
**Isang Gabi
 Tatlong
 Reyna**
 By Mario O. Garces



One rainy Friday night in August, 1990, all roads led to the Metropolitan Theater where the top-rating and the most-awarded musical-variety TV show VILMA! would air one of its most-watched episodes, ever. Vilma Santos, who would turn 37 that year, was on cloud nine. She was the toast of the town, in both movies and television. Her Lino Brocka-directed movie Hahamakin Lahat was a commercial and critical success. Come hell or high water (there was a tropical storm), fans queued at the SRO theaters and saw her out and out Cruella Deville role as Gabby Concepcion's paramour. Some like her bad. Vilma, the versatile actress scored again. Earlier, she won her first of six Star PMPC and her fourth Urian best actress awards for her 'best' performance in years in Pahiram ng Isang Umaga, which was directed by Ishmael Bernal. She also just finished Kapag Langit ang Humatol with Laurice Guillen at the helm. At the PMPC Star Awards for TV, Vilma's show harvested the biggest awards. And on that particular rainy night at the jam packed Metropolitan Theater, Vilma Santos was paying tribute to a Movie Queen she loved dearly and who reciprocated that love. Amalia Fuentes was the special guest, who just turned 50. Vilma! was giving her a tribute, with special appearances of former Sampaguita Productions 'stars.' Everybody knew that despite the infamous Romeo Vasquez/Vilma Santos affair Amalia and Vilma remained the best of friends. With a sincere, charismatic and humble La Vilma, who could resist her charm? Yes, the original Taray Queen, forceful and outspoken former queen of Philippine movies, she with a strong personality but with the most beautiful face in Philippine cinema, acquiesced to her friend's request to grace the most-

watched TV show. Love begets love. Respect begets respect. The retired and reclusive Amalia Fuentes could not say no to the current darling of Philippine movies. To recall, the senior and junior movie queens appeared in these movies: Bulaklak at Paru-paro (1970), Mga Reynang Walang Trono (1976) and Asawa Ko, Huwag Mong Agawin (1986). Amalia directed Vilma's episode in Mga Reyna and agreed to second billing to Vilma in Asawa Ko. No doubt about it, Amalia Muhlach Sumilang Fuentes, is a Vilmanian. To seal their sisterhood and camaraderie, Vilma is Ninang to Liezl Martinez and to the latter's son Alfonso. Why, Liezl even sang a song 'Wind Beneath My Wings' to her surprised mother that night which drove the strong-willed and still beautiful Amalia to tears. A Kodak moment, indeed. Priceless! While interviewing the three Muhlach generations, Fuentes, Liezl and young daughter Aliyanna, Amalia revealed to Vilma that she is protective of her 'unica hija' Liezl. "Ay naku, I think I also have become like my Mom, I'm also very protective of my children," Liezl remarks. Ex-Sampaguita stars Luis Gonzales and German Moreno served as Vilma's co-hosts who provided comic relief as they recalled their Sampaguita days with Amalia Fuentes. Debonair Eddie Gutierrez also came to greet Amalia a Happy Birthday. Then Daisy Romualdez, Amalia's contemporary and best friend danced the mambo/cha-cha with dancing queen Vilma, along with Kuya Germs and Luis Gonzalez. "I messed up that dance number," Daisy gamely confesses, "wala kasing practice." On her friend Nena (Amalia), Daisy admires her colleague for being frank and outspoken like her. "Nagkasundo kami kaagad dahil pareho kaming prangka ni Nena, hindi kami plastik," she bemuses. The highlight of the evening was

Turn to next page

when Vilma introduced another special guest, the other Queen of Philippine movies, Amalia's rival, Ms. Susan Roces. Radiant and regal in her Susan Roces hairdo and dark, glossy gown, Ms. Roces was po-



lite and generous with her comments on her kumare-rival. Vilma, obviously starstruck, throws a question to Susan: "What can you say about Ate Nena as being mataray and you Ate Susan as soft-spoken?" Susan: "I'd like to make a correction Vi, Amalia is not mataray, she is just outspoken, pero nasa lugar, so there's a difference there." Applause from the audience. "Alam mo ba Vi na my mother dotes on Amalia dahil pareho silang prangka? Sabi ng Mommy ko, iyang si Susan hindi pumaris kay Amalia, prangka at di iyakin." Amalia on Susan: "I want to be like Susan dahil she is so sweet and soft-spoken. Doon nga sa weekly sessions namin, sabi ni Doctor Perez, why don't you be like Susan, matiyaga sa fans, ikaw, sumakit lang ang ulo mo, ayaw mo nang harapin ang fans." Guffaws and chuckles. The conversation turns serious. Vilma: "How did you handle the competition? Did the intrigues get in your way, affected you?" Susan, smiling sweetly, with a politically correct comment: "Hindi naman. We were in the same movie company and we were treated fairly. We're like one big family. In your case with Nora, and Gloria Romero and Nida Blanca, it's different. Magka-iba kayo ng movie companies." Vilma: "Ay ang sarap, sana, one of these days magksama rin kami ni Nora Aunor like this one, Ate Susan and Ate Nena, together." Amalia Fuentes, Susan Roces and Vilma Santos. Isang Gabi, Tatlong Reyna. Susan, a movie queen, honoring a rival-friend movie queen Amalia on her 50th. birthday. Amalia confessed on the show and thanked Susan for throwing a surprise birthday party for her days before the Vilma show. What's love got to do with it? In the case of Susan and Amalia, it's love. In the case of Vilma and Amalia, it's also love. Diva to diva. Competitors can be friends. May it also happen to Vilma Santos and Nora Aunor. Rivals on the silver screen, friends for life. After all, love conquers all. It is more permanent than fleeting fame and fortune.



FLASHBACK ARTICLE 2005

VILMA SANTOS: Kasalanan

Bang Sambahin Ka?

ni Aries Rollon

Ano ba, wala ka na bang gagawin maghapon kundi gumupit ng mga articles at pictures ni Vilma Santos? That was my mother always asked me more or less 20 years ago. But what can I Do? I really admired Vilma Santos. Minsan tinatanong ko ang sarili ko kung normal pa ba ang ginagawa ko? Wala bang mali sa inaasal ko? Bakit ako ganito? Bakit sobra sobra ang paghanga at panahong inuukol ko kay Vilma Santos? Ako lang ba ang ganito? Na-addict ako kay Vilma Santos. Natatandaan ko noong high school pa lang ako, hindi naman ako actually ganoon ka devoted as Vilma Santos fan. But I really admire her dahil na rin sa impluwensya ng mother at mga pinsan ko. Yes napaanood ko na ang mga pelikula nya sa TV and to think na ang first movie na napanood ko sa sine ay ang LIPAD DARNA LIPAD. Sometimes sinasabi ko rin sa Nanay ko na nahawa lang naman ako sa kanya. Kaya lang mas naging malala lang ang Vilma fever ko. Actually hindi nga ako mahilig sa showbiz at wala akong panahon sa mga artista. But when I started watching Vilma on television and started watching her good movies, nagsimula na ang hysteria sa buhay ko. Ano ba ang meron si Vilma na wala ang iba? Well, hindi ko na siguro kailangang isa-isahin ang mga achievements niya. Tanging manhid at walang pakiramdam ang hindi nakakaalam. Personally, of course hindi ko siya kilala at hindi rin ako interesado sa pinagdaanan niya. Ang alam ko lang, heto nalulong ako kay Vilma. Vilma, Vilma puro nalang Vilma. Bakit pati sa panaginip Vilma pa rin. Nasasaktan ako kapag mayroong hindi magandang sinasabi kay Vilma. Nagmumura ako at nakikipag-away kapag may pumipintas kay Vilma. Naghanap ako ng mapapangasawa na kamukha ni Vilma. But

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FACTS

Vilma & Her Leading Men Through The Years

by Willie Fernandez



(The one in **RED** font is a must see film, List of films may not be complete).

1. **Edgar Mortiz** - Young Love, My Pledge of Love, Sixteen, Love Letters, Eternally, Dulce Corazon, **Dama de Noche**, Edgar Loves Vilma, Aloha My Love, Remembrance
2. **Jay Ilagan** - **Inspiration**, Ang Konduktora, Tsismosang Tindera, Ang Hiwaga ni Mariang Cinderella, **Paano Ba Ang Mangarap**, **Sister Stella L**, Coed
3. **Manny de Leon** - Teenage Senorita, Carinosa
4. **Eddie Peregrina** - I Do Love You, Mardy, Mother Song
5. **Walter Navarro** - Sweet, Sweet Love, Dalagang Nayon
6. **Tirso Cruz** - Dingdong, Nobody's Child, Give Me your Love
7. **Ed Finlan** - Baby Vi
8. **Victor Wood** - Little Darling
9. **Romy Mallari** - Love Letters, I Love You Honey
10. **Nick Romano** - 3 Mukha ni Rosa Vilma, Phantom Lady, Wonder Vi
11. **Romeo Miranda** - Kamay na Gumagapang, Vilma and the Beep Minica
12. **George Estregan** - Wonder Vi
13. **Jojit Paredes** - Tok, Tok Palatok
14. **Ernie Garcia** - Takbo, Vilma Dali, Hatinggabi na Vilma, **Lipad Darna Lipad**
15. **Fernando Poe Jr.** - **Batya't Palu-Palo**, **Bato sa Buhangin**, Ikaw ang Mahal Ko
16. **Eddie Rodriguez** - **Nakakahiya Part 1 and 2**, Simula ng Walang Hanggan, **Hiwalay**
17. **Rudy Fernandez** - Ibong Lukaret, **Makahiya at Talahib**, Bertang Kerengkeng
18. **Paolo Romero** - Ikaw Lamang
19. **Chiquito** - Teribol Dobil
20. **Jun Arestorenas** - **Vilma Viente Nueve**, Mapagbigay ang Mister Ko
21. **Romeo Enriquez** - Mga Rosas sa Putikan
22. **Victor Laurel** - Ophelia at Paris, Disco Fever, Pinay American Style
23. **Joseph Estrada** - King Khayam and I
24. **Romeo Vasques** - **Nag-aapoy na Damdamin**, Ayaw Kong Maging Kerida, Pinagbuklod ng Pagibig, Swing it Baby, Pagibig ko sayo lang Ibigay, Gusto Kita Mahal Ko Siya
25. **Mat Ranillo** - **Dalawang Pugad**, **Isang Ibon**, Kampus, Masarap Masakit ang Umibig, **Rubia Servios**
26. **Rolly Quizon** - **Burlesk Queen**, Rock Baby Rock
27. **Anthony Alonzo** - **Susan Kelly, Edad 20**
28. **Tito, Vic and Joey** - **Rock**, **Baby Rock**, Doctor, Doctor We Are Sick
29. **Ronald Carveau** - **Halik sa Paa**, **Halik sa Kamay**
30. **Christopher de Leon** - **Tag-ulan sa Tag-araw**, **Ikaw ay Akin**, **Imortal**, **Dekada 70**, **Mano Po 3**, **Ipagpatawad Mo**, **Magkaribal**, **Relasyon**, **Haplos**, **Sinasamba Kita**, Pinay American Style, **Broken Mariange**, Masarap Masakit ang Umibig, Nakawin Natin ang Bawat Sandali, Disco Fever, Gusto Kita Mahal Ko Siya, **Pakawalan Mo Ako**, **Minsan Pa Nating Hagkan ang Nakaraan**
31. **Dolphy** - **Buhay Artista Ngayon**
32. **Junior** - Good Morning Sunshine
33. **Lloyd Samartino** - Good Morning Sunshine
34. **Mark Gil** - **Miss X**
35. **Lito Lapid** - Yakapin Mo Ako Lalaking Matapang
36. **Edu Manzano** - Romansa, Palimos ng Pag-ibig
37. **Dindo Fernando** - **Langis at Tubig**, **Gaano Kadalas ang Minsan**, **Baby Tsina**, **Karma**, **Langis At Tubig**, **Hiwalay**, **T-Bird At Ako**
38. **Anthony Castelo** - **Pakawalan Mo Ako**
39. **Ronaldo Valdez** - **Karma**
40. **Gabby Conception** - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, **Pahiram ng Isang Umaga**
41. **Michael de Mesa** - **Tagos ng Dugo**
42. **Joey Marquez** - **Tagos ng Dugo**
43. **Francis Arnaiz** - **Tagos ng Dugo**
44. **Tonton Gutierrez** - **Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-ibig**
45. **Ricky Davao** - **Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-ibig**
46. **Richard Gomez** - Ibigay Mo Sa Akin ang Bukas, **Kapag Langit ang Humatol**
47. **Gary Valenciano** - Ibulong Mo sa Diyos
48. **Eric Quizon** - **Hahamakin ang Lahat**, **Pahiram ng Isang Umaga**
49. **Ramon Revilla Sr.** - Arrest Risal Ali
50. **Aga Muhlach** - **Sinungaling Mong Puso**
51. **Cesar Montano** - Ikaw Lang
52. **Ronnie Ricketts** - Ikaw Lang
53. **Eugene Torre** - Basta't Isipin Mong Mahal Kita
54. **Miguel Rodriguez** - **Tagos ng Dugo**, Ibulong Mo sa Diyos
55. **Dante Rivero** - **Susan Kelly Edad 20**
56. **Nonoy Zuniga** - Never Ever Say Goodbye
57. **Roel Vergel de Dios** - Promo Girl
58. **Ricky Belmonte** - Promo Girl
59. **Bembol Rocco** - **Pagputi ng Uwak**, **Pag-itm ng Tagak**, Coed
60. **Eddie Gutierrez** - Promo Girl
61. **Eddie Garcia** - Mga Reynang Walang Trono, Minsan Pang Hagkan Natin ang Nakaraan
62. **Philip Salvador** - Adultery, Baby Tsina, Rubia Servios
63. **Ronnie Henares** - Let's Do The Salsa
64. **Zandro Zamora** - Darna and the Planetwomen
65. **Meng Fei** - Twin Fist for Justice
66. **Joel Torre** - Anak, Lipa Massacre
67. **Orestes Ojeda** - Ibigay Mo Sa Akin ang Bukas
68. **Ariel Rivera** - Bata, Bata, Paano ka Ginawa
69. **Bong Revilla** - Relax Ka Lang, Sagot Kita
70. **Jay Manalo** - Mano Po 3: My Love





Kasalanan

ba...

From Page 24

of course, my wife for the past thirteen years ay hindi naman kamukha ni Vilma. Iisa lang si Vilma Santos and she's incomparable. Nobody comes close to the One and only Star For All Seasons. She was branded as poor second sa tinaguriang phenomenal Star. Marami ang nooy nagsasabi na siya ay hanggang doon lang, laging sunod lang ang pangalan sa naging Superstar. Ngunit ang panahon ay sadyang nag-iiba, ang poor second nasa TOP of the World na ngayon. Sa tatlong dekada na nagdaan walang nakahadlang sa kinang ng Bituin ng lahat ng panahon. Pinataob niya ang lahat ng bituin na minsay kuminang at nabigyan ng pagkakataon. Walang pelikula o episode ng Vilma ang pinalagpas ko. Sa tuwing may ipalalabas na pelikula si Vilma, nagsisimba ako at pinagdadasal na sana kumita. Mas maraming beses na ipinagdadal ko si Vilma compare sa mga kamag-anak ko. Maraming beses akong umuuwi ng maaga mula sa trabaho para pumila sa Metropolitan theater just to watch Vilma. Ilang beses ko bang isinama ang girlfriend ko na ngayon ay misis ko na na makipag-date to watch Vilma? Part of my budget ang pampanood ng Vilma movies. Hindi kukulangin ang tatlong ulit na pinanonood ko ang pelikula ni Vilma. Umulan, umaraw, may baha man o bagyo, first day of showing palang nakapila na ako. I devoted more than half of my prime as single man to Vilma, which I haven't done sa kahit sino sa buhay ko. Until I finally got married and blessed with two lovely daughters. Actually, I got married on the same year that Vilma got married to Sen. Ralph Recto. Medyo nag lie low na ako sa pagiging Vilma fanatic, but still hindi pa rin nagbago ang paghanga at pagmamahal ko kay Vilma. Bawat yugto at kababata ng pagiging public figure nya ay aking inaabangan. Minsan nga sobrang ambisyon na ang pinapangarap ko. Maging Presidente sana ng Pilipinas si Vilma Santos. Why not? Her credibility and performance as Lipa City mayor for the past seven years speak for herself. Nobody can oppose to her because she is a woman of wisdom, with great moral values and never been tainted or involved in corruption. May takot siya sa Diyos. Nang magdesisyon akong manirahan sa ibang bansa, ang isa sa inaalala ko ay ang mapalayo kay Vilma. Ngunit kinakailangan, katulad ng isa sa mahalagang natutuhan ko ko ka Vilma, naging priority ko ang aking pamilya. Bagamat nasa malayong lugar na ako, nanalaytay parin sa dugo ko ang pagiging Vilmanian ko. Hindi siya maalis sa sistema ko. Hindi nagbago ang paghanga ko. Hanggang ngayon Sina-samba ko siya. Kasalanan ba ito? Kung ito ay Kasalanan, ayaw kong mawasto. Sa pagkakamali ayaw kong gumising. Hanggang sa kabilang buhay mananatili siya sa puso ko. Sa katanungang ako lang ba ang ganito? No, I realize and proven na hindi ako nag-iisa. Maraming Pilipino ang true blooded Vilmanians na nakakalat sa lahat ng sulok ng mundo. Lahat ng artista may humahanga, ngunit hindi lahat ng humahanga ay nagmamahal. Dito naiiba si Vilma Santos dahil minamahal at inspirasyon siya ng mga humahanga sa kanya. And to all Vilmanians around the Globe, be proud of being one. Hindi tayo nagkamali, napakasarap maging isang Vilmanian.



The 1st Precious Award

Coming Soon!

See the complete list of nominees on our next issue of Vilma! - The literary Issue
March - April 2005!

Flash back 2005... Lucky Charm (from page 43)

masses. His team up with Lorna in Bayarang Puso (another May-December affair) was just a mild hit therefore, the Vilma-Aga formula was more accepted. Bong Revilla- Vilma-Bong chemistry clicks. "Relaks ka lang, Sagot Kita" made tons of money in box-office, that gave Bong his first Box-office King award in GMSF, I wonder why Ate Vi was not crowned as Box Office Queen? Well, like what garmar says "win some, loose some".

Tony Santos Sr(SLN) - Siya si Ka Dencio sa Sister Stella L. "Sa tinagal-tagal ko sa showbiz, ngayon lang ako nanalo ng Best Supporting award at Vilma Santos pa ang kapareha ko, swerte talaga sa akin yang si Vilma" during his interview in Vilma show's 25th anniversary. Katarungan para kay Ka Dencio!



Remembering Vilma's stellar, colorful and brightest movie and political career would not be complete if you don't visit and join, VSR

**Vilma Santos
Restrospective
Yahoo Group!**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VS-R>

VILMANIA

Eddie Lozano



My Love for Ate Vi



You are the sunshine of my life, that's why I'll always be around...you are the apple of my eyes, forever you'll stay in my heart. Malalim na rin ang ugat ng pagmamahal ko kay ate Vi, simula sa pagkabata at matutong humanga, siya lamang talaga ang una at wala nang iba pa. Noong elementary ako ay picture ni ate Vi as in picture talaga ang nasa cover ng notebook ko, mostly nga black and white pa. Dahil ang aming ama ay hindi mahilig sa mga palabas na tagalog, ang aming tv ay laging nasa may English na palabas. Kaya kadalasan, kapag palabas na ang D' Sensations, ay nakikipanood ako sa kapitbahay, maliban na lamang kung nasa duty si ama. Hindi nga ba't mayroon pa siyang Dulambuhay ni Rosa Vilma, at yung sitcom with Nida Blanca and Rod Navarro, yung Kelan Pa? Remember ba ninyo yon? Kahit pa noon sa D' Sensations, ang most awaited na portion ay ang dance number ni ate Vi. Doon ko siya nakitang sumayaw ng singkil, Tahitian at kung anu-anong sayaw pa, pero ang talagang nagaya ko ng husto ay yung 'penguin' na hanggang ngayon ay sinasayaw ko pa rin, kahit na nga tumatalbog-talbog yung tiyan ko. Nung mabuwag ang love team na subok na matibay, subok na matatag, kay ate Vi ako pumanig, dahil kahit na sino naman ang ka-partner niya ay okay lang sa akin, and then I realized na Solid Vilmanian ako. Those were the days na wala akong pakialam kung maganda o hindi ang pelikula ni ate Vi, ang importante sa akin ay enjoyment at makita siya sa wide screen at sa pagbabaka-sakaling mag-theater tour siya, kaya most of the time, ay sa opening day ako nanonood. Nag-aaral pa man ako hanggang sa magka-trabaho ay ganun pa rin ang aking naging routine kapag may pelikula si ate Vi. Ilang beses ko na rin siyang nakita ng personal, malapitan man o malayuan pero hindi ako nagkalakas ng loob na batiin siya, hanggang tingin na lamang ako't nagpipigil ng damdamin at baka bigla akong mapatili. Katulad ng mga nabanggit ko noon, yung makita ko lang siya ng personal ay nangingilid na ang luha ko sa sobrang kasiyahan, ano pa kayang mangyayari kung ma-experience ko ang katulad ng kay Kuya Father J and bespren Charls, to name a few? Remember Kuya Father

ang experiences natin kapag nanonood tayo ng parade of stars sa Roxas Boulevard? Hindi man tayo magkakilala at magkasama, pero iisa ang ating ginagawa, ang humabol sa karosa ng Reyna Vilma na talaga namang may magnetic charm. Labis na kalungkutan ang naghahari sa aking puso sa tuwing siya'y madadapa, ngunit buong pagmamalaki at nag-uumapaw na kaligayahan naman ang kapalit sa bawat pagtayo at pagpupunyagi ng ating Reyna na lampasan ang bawat pagsubok na dumaan sa kanya. Sa bawat, diyaryo o magasin, ang unang hanap ko ay balitang ate Vi, tanong nga sa akin ng kasamahan ko noon sa trabaho sa Pinas, bakit kapag nagbabasa ka ng diyaro, tabloid man o broadsheet, sa entertainment ka nag-uumpisa? Because of ate Vi, ang sagot ko. Open naman ang aking pagiging Vilmanian although wala akong sinalihan na fan club. Dahil kay ate Vi ay nagkaroon ako ng maraming kaibigan na hindi ko man nakikita ng personal ay mararamdaman naman ang sinseridad sa bawat salitang binibitawan and again, I have to mention the Kuya of all the Vilmanians, friendship Eric Nadurata na labs na labs ko din dahil siya talaga ang nagbigay ng daan sa akin upang matuklasan ang Vilma egroups na noon ko pa hinahanap-hanap. Sa paglipas ng panahon, ang pagmamahal ko kay ate Vi ay lalong tumitindi, dahil hindi na lamang siya isang alagad ng sining, kundi isang huwaring punong bayan at higit sa lahat, tunay namang bukod na pinagpala sa artistang lahat. Si Sister Stella L ngayon ay isa nang Madre Superiora ng kanyang pamilya at ng bayan ng Lipa. At si ako naman ngayon, from a Vilma fan, to a Solid Vilmanian and now an Eternal Vilmanian. Ate Vi, oh ate Vi, ano nga bang mayroon ka at patuloy ka naming minamahal ng ganito? Salamat, salamat dahil sa ang nag-iisang ikaw ay ikaw...isang totoong tao, sa isip, sa salita at sa gawa. Umaraw man o bumagyo, kumulog, kumidlat, lumindol, ang nag-iisang Vilma Santos ng mundo ay nananatiling matatag sa kanyang pedestal, walang kapantay at walang maaaring pumantay. Ang nag-iisang Bituin sa lahat ng panahon. Ang tunay na Reyna ng Pelikulang Pilipino...Her Majesty, Queen Vilma Santos-Recto!



A TRIBUTE TO MS.VILMA SANTOS RECTO
"QUEEN OF PHILIPPINE CINEMA"

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DUBAI

Charlie Gomez



LOVE IS ON THE AIR - Iba't ibang Mukha ng Pag-ibig

February na pala! It's the month of love. Ang panahon ng pag-ibig. Kapag dumaratal ang buwan na ito, mamamalas mo sa paligid ang iba't ibang hugis, mukha at anyo ng pu-song umiibig at nagmamahal. "Love (indeed) is on the air". At dahil ito'y buwan ng pag-ibig, ang issue po ng VILMA! ay may temang "Love, Love, Love". Ano nga ba ang pag-ibig sa isang Vilma Santos? Umiibig pa ba ang isang Vilma Santos? May panahon pa ba sa pag-ibig ang tinaguriang Star for All Seasons at three-termed City Mayor of Lipa? Nang aking nakaniig ang Nag-iisang Bituin at Reyna ng Pelikulang Pilipino sa party na ibinigay niya sa press people nung 18 January 2006 sa Max's Restaurant, Eastwood, Libis, aking naaninag na ang Star for All Seasons ay blooming with love. Tigib siya ng pag-ibig. Sa kanyang pusong busilak ay nananalaytay ang tapat niyang pagmamahal - una sa kaniyang pamilya, kay Sen. Ralph Recto, kay Luis at kay Ryan; pangalawa sa kan-yang mga constituents bilang Ina at Mayora ng City of Lipa; pangatlo, sa kanyang propesyon bilang numero uno at premyadong aktres ng bansa, at higit sa lahat sa kanyang mga tapat na tagahanga, ang mga Vilmanians. Kaya naman kahit na sa edad na sinkwenta'y dos, ay mistulang beinte-singko lamang ang petite, napakaganda at napakalambing na Vilma Santos. Ang dahilan ng taglay niyang kagandahang panlabas ay ang kagandahan ng kanyang puso na puno ng pag-ibig sa mga taong nagmamahal sa kaniya at patuloy na naniniwala sa kaniyang kakayahan. Dagdag pa ang kanyang positive outlook in life. Makikita ang kaniyang pag-ibig sa kung paano niya binibigyan ng panahon at binubuhusan ng atensiyon ang bawat kaniyang ginagawa. Bilang esposo ni Sen. Ralph, di naman daw siya yung tipikal na maybahay na nagluluto, naglalaba at naghahanda ng mga susuutin ng kaniyang asawa, subalit she see to it na nandun pa rin yung respeto nila sa bawat isa bilang mag-asawa. Besides, naga-gawa pa rin naman nila na lumabas na sila lamang, away from the public and their tasks as public servants, kapag si-



la'y nagbabakasyon, tulad ng tumungo sila sa Spain at nung sila'y maimbitahan sa New York's Filipino Fiesta nung na-karaang taon. Bilang butihing ina nina Luis at Ryan, hindi matatawaran ang pagmamahal na iniukol ni Ate Vi sa kanila. Makikita ito sa kung papaano lumaki ng matino at maayos si Luis na ngayon ay isa sa mga pinaka-popular at hinahangaang TV host and personality, at actor ng kasalukuyang hen-erasyon, tulad din ng kanyang ina. Mamamalas din ito sa kung papaano naririnig ng milyun-milyong Pilipino tuwing linggo ang katagang "I Love you, Lucky" kapag nagtatapos na ang lingguhan niyang TV show na VILMA! Matatandaan din na isinakripisyo ni Ate Vi ang kanyang popular na show para la-mang maisilang ng maayos si Ryan Christian Recto. Come to think of it, napakaselan ng kaniyang pagdadalang-tao noon kay Ryan. Ito'y isang larawan ng tunay na pag-ibig. Pag-ibig ng isang ina sa kaniyang anak. Dakila ka, Ate Vi. Dakila ang iyong pagmamahal. Bilang Mayora ng Lipa City, siya ay tinata-guriang Ina at Ilaw ng Lipa. Banggit ni Ate Vi sa interview sa kanya ng press, na kung papaano raw niya inaalagaan at mi-namahal ang kanyang pamilya, ay ganun din ang ibinibigay niya sa kanyang mga constituents sa Lipa. Kung hangad ni Ate Vi ang magandang kalusugan sa kaniyang mga anak, ga-yundin ang nais niya sa mga taga-Lipa. Kung paano hinangad ni Ate Vi na magkaroon ng magandang edukasyon sina Luis at Ryan, gayundin ang nais ni Ate Vi sa mga kabataan ng Lipa. Ang kalusugan at edukasyon ang isa sa mga 10-point Agenda ni Ate Vi sa Lipa City. At bilang aktres sa mundo ng Pelikulang Pilipino kung saan apat na dekada na ang kanyang pamamay-agpag bilang pangunahing aktres at nag-iisang Bituin at Reyna ng Pelikulang Pilipino, ito'y dahil na rin sa kakaibang pag-ibig

Turn to next page

na iniukol ni Ate Vi sa propesyong ito. She always put her heart in every movie projects she did. Kaya naman ang resulta, she's the most awarded actress in town, the reigning Movie Queen of Philippine Cinema, and still popular among the present generations despite of emergence of new stars and young actors and actresses. All because of love. At ma-

**"Dubai"
na raw ang
itatawag
niya sa akin,
at pangata-
wanan ko na
raw iyon"**



papasubalian pa ba ang kakaibang pag-ibig ni Ate Vi sa kanyang mga tagahanga? Mapalad ang inyong lingkod na ito'y mapatunayan ko sa aking pagbabakasyon kamakailan lamang. Sa unang pagtagtagpo pa lamang namin ni Ate Vi sa kaniyang opisina sa Lipa, ay nadama ko na ang kakaibang pagmamahal na ibinigay niya sa kaniyang mga tagahanga. Magiliw niya akong sinalubong at kinamayan, at idinampi pa niya ang kanyang kamay sa aking mga pisngi. Hindi-hindi ko makakalimutan ang pagkakataong iyon. Nung kami nama'y magkatagpong muli sa press party sa Libis, buong lambing taglay ang kakaiba niyang nigiti na binansagan niya ang inyong lingkod ng bagong pangalan. "Dubai" na raw ang itatawag niya sa akin, at pangatawan ko na raw iyon. Galing sa isang Vilma Santos, who can say otherwise? Nung ako nama'y nasa Lipa Fiesta,

buong pagmamahal niya akong dinampian ng halik nang iabot ko sa kaniya ang aking handog. Bagama't pagod sa buong gabing iyon, nandun pa rin ang tatak niyang ngiti. Iba-ibang nga ang isang Vilma Santos. At nang gabing pabalik na ako rito sa aking pinagtrabauhan sa Gitnang Silangan, she sweetly called me to say "hello" and bid her best wishes. Iyon ang gabing di ko makakalimutan. Kumpletong-kumpleto ang pagiging Vilmanian ko. Kumpleto dahil sa kakaibang pag-ibig na iniukol ng nag-iisang Vilma Santos. Ano nga ba ang mukha ng pag-ibig? Ito'y maisasalarawan tunay ng isang Vilma Santos. Salamat po Ate Vi sa iyong pagmamahal. At bago po ako tuluyang magtapos at magsabing till nest issue of VILMA!, nais kong ipahatid ang aking pasasalamat sa mga Vilmanians na nagbigay ng oras at panahon sa inyong lingkod tulad ni Ate Vi sa aking pagbabakasyon. Unang-una, salamat kay frendship Eric sa walang sawa niyang pagsuporta at sa mga VCDs ni Ate Vi na kanyang ibinigay, kay La Presidentia Jojo Lim, kay Alan for his thoughtfulness, kay Franco, kay



June Sison (thanks for the gift), kay Jonathan (aka twinhead), kay Willie F., kay Cesar, kay Al, kay Orly, kay Obet, kay Bobby, at sa iba pa na di ko na matandaan ang mga pangalan. Maraming-maraming salamat po. Ibang uri ng pagmamahal ang madarama mo kapag kasama ang mga Vilmanians. Pagmamahal bilang isang pamilya na nagmamahal sa isang karapat-dapat mahal na si Ms. Vilma Santos-Recto. Indeed, "love is on the air".



TRIVIA

Macth the first name with the last name of these Vilma film roles:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Sister Stella | A. Bustamante |
| 2. Amanda | B. Castaneda |
| 3. Dolzura | C. Chiong Yang |
| 4. Rubia | D. Bartolome |
| 5. Aida | E. Legaspi |
| 6. Marilou | F. Servios |
| 7. Leah | G. Macaraeg |
| | H. Cortez |

THE CLASSIC VILMA SANTOS MOVIES

by Rendt Viray

What movie comes to your mind when you hear the name Vilma Santos? Is it Celso Ad Castillo's comeback film "Burlesk Dancer?" The unique fantasy trilogy "Lipad Darna Lipad?" Or Lino Brocka's obra "Rubia Servios?" Would the roles, scenes or dialogues plays important factors in choosing your favorites? Would Chato's death dance in Burlesk Queen, "Ding ang Bato!" lines in Lipad Darna Lipad, or Marilou's cry for help in "Relasyon" made these films unforgettable? Every Vilmanian have their favorites. But what makes it a classic Vilma movie? Is it the performance or the overall film production? Does the film have to be a box office hit or critically acclaimed? I think, the answer lies on each individual experiences. Although Vilma's performance and the over all production plays an important factor, it is the emotions we felt when we watch all these films that made it a classic. It is that inexplicable joy or sadness that leaves a hole or fullness in our heart, soul and mind. It is these reasons why these films unforgettable. People will definitely remember the death dance in Burlesk Queen or the death beach scene in Pahiram. Both poignant yet different. People will remember their childhood in any of her Darna movies. And how about that revenge scenes in "Rubia Servios", you felt like killing that rapist, Philip Salvador, yourself! All of these scenes. All of these films. Made us cry, laugh and felt triumphant. It became "classic Vilma Santos films"-unforgettable, priceless. We compiled what critics said about these films and see what you think. Of all of her 200 plus films, here are our top 10. Read on.

1. RELASYON (1982) "Vilma Santos represents womanhood in the film...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... Vilma Santos' acting is adequate and extraordinary..." - **"A Deep, Psychological Film" by Isagani Cruz, Parade 21 July 1982.** "Vilma Santos confidently showed she felt the character she was portraying. Her depiction of feelings and emotions easily involve the viewers to share in her conflicts and joys. In this film, she has peeled-off apprehensions in her acting. Christopher de Leon has also been supportive in emphasizing the characterization of Marilou. He suitably complements Vilma's acting." - **"Star View" by Lawrence delos Trinos Star Monthly Magazine Vol. 1 No. 10 July 1982** "VILMA SANTOS holds the first ace on acting this year with her terrific performance in Relasyon - the range is wide, the insight deep, hardly a false note in the entire performance - she was always in control, even when she seemed totally lost in her role...basta magaling si Vilma, tapos!" - **Freelance by Ador Cs Tariman**



FACTS: Vilma Santos's first best actress grand slam win.

FICTION: Vilma Santos' wins can be attributed to her connection to Imelda Marcos.

(That's absurd.)



FACTS: The film won 10 out of 13 Awards at the 1977 Metro Manila film festival including Best Actress for Vilma Santos.

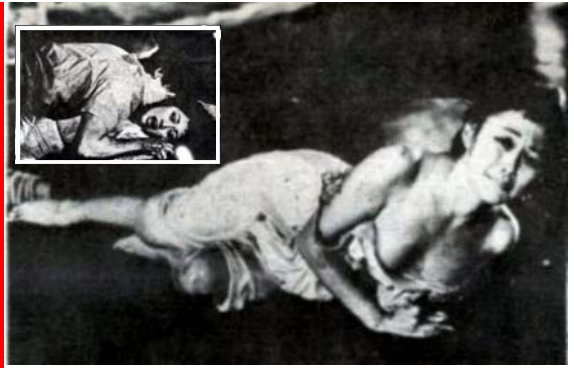
FICTION: All of the awards that's been given to the film has been given back due to the investigation that the verdict were rigged.

(Up to this date, Vilma still has her medal and award.)

2. BURLESK QUEEN (1977) - "...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... para kay Celso...ang tao ay hindi basta maghuhubad at magtatalik. Maraming pangyayari sa buhay ang dapat munang linawin at unawain, at iyon ang basehan ng kasaysayan." - **Jun Cruz Reyes, Miyembro, Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, Manila magazine - Dec. 1-31, 1977** "(about the hospital scene with Vilma and Leopoldo Salcedo) Tuloy-tuloy 'yun. nag-experiment ako noong una, kumuha ako ng second take, pero di ko na rin tinapos. Perfect na iyong una. Alam mo bang nang gawin namin ang eksenang iyon tatlo kaming umiiyak sa set? Ako, si Vilma, at si Leopoldo? Dalang-dala si Leopoldo sa pagsasalita ni Vilma, lumuha siya kahit patay siya dapat doon. Buti na lang di siya nakuha ng kamera...(Kung Nahirapan ka ba kay Vilma?) ...Oo, hindi sa acting dahil mahusay talaga siya kundi sa scheduling. Alam mo kasi it takes time before I can really get into the mood of a picture, mga two weeks, tapos kapag nandiyan na, that's the stage when I'm ready to give my life to the project. Tapos biglang walang shooting ng two weeks dahil busy siya sa ibang pelikula..." - **Ricardo Lee interviewed Director Celso Ad Castillo, Manila magazine - Dec. 1- 31, 1977**

3. RUBIA SERVIOS (1978) - "The second rape scene in "Rubia Servios"

which stars Vilma Santos, is reminiscent of the rape scene in "Santiago", shown in 1970. Instead of Caridad Sanchez as the wife who is assaulted in full view of husband Mario O'Hara, it has Vilma Santos and Mat Ranillo III. This coincidence is not surprising since Brocka also directed Santiago, and O'Hara, who has since graduated from supporting roles, is the scriptwriter for "Rubia Servios". Vilma does not expose much skin and Philip Salvador (as the attacker) has his pants on, but the scene could well be one of the most realistic rape scenes on screen in a long, long time. The anguish in Vilma's face and the lust in Philip's eyes blended so well the effect was dramatic rather than sensual. The real climax of the film, however, is the killing of Philip by Vilma with a paddle aboard a motorboat at sea. Lino Brocka, who directs Vilma for the first time, succeeded in muffling her sobs even in the most hysterical moments. To our mind, "Rubia Servios" is geared towards mature audiences. It is engrossing despite the lack of fancy camera shots and an almost chronological presentation." - **Vilma's Violation** by Ricky Lo



FACTS: Vilma Santos lost The Best Performer Award in this 1978 Metro Manila Film Festival to rival Nora Aunor. Admittedly, this was the most painful lost she experienced in her whole career. With its "For Adults Only rating" in consideration, the film still managed to end up as one of the Festival's top grosser.

FICTION: Vilma committed suicide after her lost, luckily Manay Ichu, her Rubia Servios producer came and rescued her.

(Both Manay Ichu and Vilma managed to get drunk but Vilma did not commit suicide.)



4. DOLZURA CORTEZ (1993)- Dahil Mahal Kita a k a Because I Love

You: The Dolzura Cortez Story 1994-Philippines- This Philippine drama chronicles the colorful life of Dolzura Cortez, the first publicly recognized AIDS patient in the Philippines. The film begins with a brief examination of Cortez's pre-AIDS life. Initially she lived in a small village with her cruel husband and three kids. The spunky woman leaves them and moves to the big city where she engages in several affairs. Her second marriage to a rich foreigner does not last long. To support her children, Dolly begins an all woman "contract worker" agency. This also serves to facilitate her love of night-life. Tragedy comes to Dolzura after she collapses on a dance floor one night and learns that she has full-blown AIDS. At a Manila hospital she meets ex-lover Paulo, an AIDS researcher who encourages to tell her story publicly. The courageous woman does and she becomes instrumental in spreading AIDS awareness to the islands. ~

FACTS: Vilma Santos' earned her 2nd Best Actress grand slam wins.

FICTION: Dolzura Cortez wanted Nora Aunor to play herself in this film. Aunor declined.

(No. No. No. That's the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard - Simon Cowell from AI)

Sandra Brennan, All Movie Guide, The New York Times "Still bearing activist weight is Vilma's effort in Laurice Guillen's Dahil Mahal Kita: The Dolzura Cortez Story in which she fleshes out a body and a mind for a person with AIDS. This initiative constitutes an advocacy not only for people afflicted with the dreaded pandemic, but also for women who have to overcome strata of ostracism in the process of survival and resist their being reduced to an aberration, in this case, a pathology." - **"Vilma As Activist" Hot Seat by Patrick Flores, Manila Standard Today Jan 11, 2003**

5. PAHIRAM NG ISANG UMAGA (1989) - "...a striking

part of the movie (was when), Juliet watching intently as morticians work on her father's remains, as everyone weeps when the coffin is lowered to its final resting place, and during the ritualistic pasiyam, the nine-day novena for the dead. It's as though Juliet can see herself in her father's lifeless body while mourners mill around it. The attempts to raise the level of the melodrama and present insights on life and death provide the movie its greatest strength - and wide appeal. How strangely ironic that a movie dealing with death could have so much life." - **"A Look at Death and the Affirmation of Life" by Mario A. Hernando, Malaya - 5 March 1989** "...Vi goes to the kitchen to prepare breakfast at habang nagbabati siya ng itlog, doon pa lang ipinakitang una siyang nag-breakdown. And this is shown nang nakatalikod siya sa camera. No overly ornate kind of emoting na akting na akting ang dating. Pero damang-dama mo pa rin...she becomes the part (lalo na sa eksena nila ni Gabby Concepcion sa simbahan na binalikan nila kung paano sila nagkasira), and if you notice that she is good, well, salamat po...Sa second viewing ng movie namin lalong napansin ang subtle nuances ng performance ni Vi, up to her death scene which confirms our supposition that the movie is not really so much about death than a celebration of life..'yan ang opinion namin..." - **Mas Mahusay si Vilma Kaysa kay Nora"**



FACTS: Vilma Santos won her first PMPC Star Awards Best Actress.

FICTION: Mario Bautista fought hard to make sure Nora Aunor won the Star Awards.

(It was actually the opposite!)



FACTS: Lipad Darna Lipad broke all box office records and made Vilma as the most successful Darna to date.

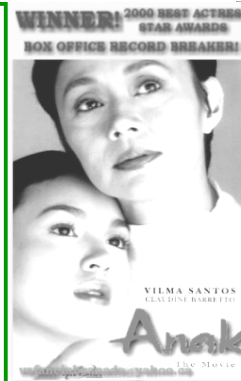
FICTION: Vilma's line "Ang bato, Ding!" came from Nora's drug vices since the late 70s.

(Now, that's cruel. Sorry...)

6. LIPAD, DARNA, LIPAD (1973) - "the quintessential action-

fantasy Pinoy flick that appeals to all ages, from generation to generation. This movie is a major milestone for Vilma because it proved that she could really carry a solo movie and bring in the dough (up to now of course!). Vilma's Darna franchise is the most memorable and successful of all Pinoy fantasy-action genre. Imitated but never equalled, Vilma's Darna lives on. Unforgettable. Memorable. It grows on you. No Pinoy kid ever grows up without being a part of the Darna magic. Vilma, practically flew at the top of the box office in Sine Pilipino's trend setting trilogy "Lipad, Darna, Lipad!" Many fans consider Lipad, Darna, Lipad, as one of the most entertaining Darna movies ever. After all, who could forget that climactic aerial battle scene between Darna and the Impakta (Gloria Romero)? That shot of Romero impaled in a giant crucifix ensconced on top of a church tops any gory scene in The Omen. The enormous success of Lipad, Darna, Lipad led to three more Darna movies with Vilma Santos. As a result, the star for all seasons became the star for all Darnas—Santos played her four times, more than any other actress in the superheroine's history. "Lipad, Darna, Lipad!" were divided into three separate segments, directed by three different directors. In Darna's case, the three directors were Maning Borlaza, Joey Goesiengfao, and Elwood Perez—three names that promised an adventure that could do Andy Warhol proud." - **Eric Cueto, Mar Ravelo's Darna Web-site.**

7. ANAK (2000) - "Limning complex emotions with subtlety and humor, pic resists melodrama until the dam abruptly burst after 90 minutes; ill-judged pileup of crying scenes, plot crises and more crying ensues...That's too bad, since early reels observe parent-child relationships with considerable delicacy... veteran local star Santos is in fine form, while barretto lends impressive shading to what might have been a stock sexy "bad girl" role..." - **by Dennis Harvey, Variety Magazine 19 March 2001** "The slick production is turned into art by its star Vilma Santos. Her magnetic star quality makes her look so wrong for the part and yet she makes it all her own. She's a natural comedienne and a great tragedienne-her look of resignation is heartbreaking. Vilma discards the glittering clothes and make-up for Anak, but she still looks youthful. It wouldn't come as a surprise if the sensitive young actor playing her son would go on to play her leading man a few years from now." - **"All hers to give" Film Watch by Dennis Ladaw**



FACTS: Official Philippine Entry to the 73rd Academy Awards Best Foreign Film. Anak grosses 14 Million Pesos, a record breaking for a Filipino film!

FICTION: Vilma can't portray a poverty stricken maid or "atsay" role, that role only suited Nora!

(Tell that to the marines!)



FACTS: Vilma Santos admittedly confessed SSL was a flop at the box office.

FICTION: Vilma was overshadowed by the supporting cast of this film.

(The Urian critics disagreed! They gave Vilma, her third consecutive best actress! Hah! Beat that!)

8. SISTER STELLA L. (1984) - "...For a heart-warming film, the entire cast deserves congratulations, particularly Vilma Santos who reveals another aspect of her multi-faceted talent. From her usual soft and sweet romantic roles, she can be transformed into a strong and militant woman without losing any of her charm and beauty. Jay Ilagan, Tony Santos, Anita Linda and Liza Lorena are also in their best form. Mike de Leon as director, Jose F. Lacaba as scriptwriter are likewise to be congratulated for making a truly human film and for contributing to the cause of workers for justice and of the religious for the recognition of their social role. Not to be overlooked is the producer Lily Monteverde of Regal Films who has this time shifted from puerile erotic dramas to make a courageous film for which she will always be well remembered." - **"More Than Just Entertainment" by Alice G. Guillermo, Who Magazine, 30 May 1984** "...De Leon's film was to have had special screenings, on the unanimous request of the Cannes' board of critics. Sister Stella L., however, suffered from the rush of subtitling work that descended upon Cannes' select group of translators and De Leon opted not to show the film without subtitles. He nevertheless had the distinct honor of holding a retrospective under the sponsorship of the French Cinematheque right after the festival. The film eventually competed at the Venice Film Festival. Under its original title Sangandaan (Crossroads), Sister Stella L. was invited to the Venice Film Festival in 1984, the second Filipino film (after Genghis Khan in 1951) to be honored with such recognition." - **"Two Filipino Films Make Waves in France" by Agustin L. Sotto and Pet Cleto, Philippine Panorama - 02 December 1984**

9. DEKADA 70 (2002) - "Santos' Amanda effortlessly and movingly chronicles the changed consciousness of the family and the country, with understatement her most reliable tool. Pic begins and ends with images of Santos at the forefront of a political demonstration, and nothing, from first image to last, for 128 minutes, is allowed to spontaneously or slyly deviate from the logic of her consciousness-raising." - **Ronnie Scheib, Variety Magazine** "Last seen in ANAK (SFIAAFF '01), Vilma Santos delivers an understated, profoundly moving performance as the matriarch whose awakening redefines the traditional mother and wife role she donned for years. This is the story of an incredible character that survived an unforgettable decade."

-Michael Magnaye - **The 22nd San Fransisco Asian-American Film Festival, (2004)**. "As Amanda, Vilma Santos shows again why Brocka, before he died, had likened her to water. "She can register anything," he said. In "Dekada", its the same Santos of vigor and transparency. The only difference is the depth, the resonance, and the greater confidence. Can she ever go wrong?" - **"Dekada '70 makes the creative leap of faith" by Lito B. Zulueta, Philippine Daily Inquirer 30 December 2002**



FACTS: Vilma Santos' 4th Grand Slam wins for Best Actresses. The film was exhibited in last year's "Cinema of the world" section at Cannes. Philippines' Official Entry at the 76th Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film. Vilma's 4th Grandslam Best Actress wins.

FICTION: Dekasa 70 was written by Lualhati Bautista for Nora Aunor.

(Wishful thinking! Hmmm...Maybe the maid's role!)



FACTS: Bata's first day opening gross was 5.2 million pesos. Another record breaking for Vilma. The film earned her a third grandslam best actress wins and her very first international recognition, winning the Brussel International film festival's best actress award .

FICTION: The film was offered to Nora Aunor.

(Dream on, Noranians!).



10. BATA BATA PAANO KA GINAWA? (1998) - "Sa

tingin ko, sa Bata, Bata... pinakamagaling si Vilma Santos. Sa dami ng kanyang award, may ibubuga pa pala siya. Iba ang akting niya rito...Halatang feel na feel ni Vilma Santos ang kanyang papel dahil, gaya ng karakter ni Lea Bustamante, dalawa ang anak ni Vilma sa magkaibang lalake." - **Marra Pl. Lanot Diario Uno, p.4 16 Sept. 1998** "And Vilma Santosis more than up to the challenge. Gone are the hysterically flapping hands, the melodramatic emoting, all the trademark acting tics. In their place is a heartfelt performance that distills Lea's essence to an exquisite point-no movements are wasted, no gestures are overwrought. ...Vilma rolls them on her tongue like the finest wine; when Lea is on the verge of breaking down, Vilma remains true to the spirit of her character... If the Lipa City mayor decides never to do another movie again, she can retire assured that her last performance-in a career already studded with formidable portrayals-may conceivably have been her best." - **Andrew E. Pardes, Manila Times, p9 13 Sept 1998**



FEATURE

LOVE, MOVIES AND VILMA SANTOS

(SOME LIKE HER BAD)

BY MARIO O. GARCES



Vilma Santos' love affair with the Filipino masses and cine-astes began in 1963 when her first movie Trudis Liit was shown at Life theater. As an orphan who suffered abuse in the hands of Bella Flores, along with her younger sister Connie Angeles, the movie endeared her to the viewing public. The critics were so impressed with her initial foray in movies that her first of fifty plus acting awards, a FAMAS best child actress trophy kept her awake after the awards night and producers kept knocking on her door. She became every mother's daughter and every tyke's heroine. Soon, Anak, Ang Iyong Ina and Ging followed and the new Tessie Agana is born. The Gripo Queen is on every movie goer's heart and mind, including her silent admirer in Iriga city, Nora C. Villamayor. Unlike Tessie Agana, Shirley Temple, Judy Garland, Liezl, Snooky and Nino Muhlach whose careers dimmed and were forgotten when they became adult performers, Vilma Santos, now in her fifties, still remains one of the most beloved, respected and sought after Pinoy celebrities. She also survived the Nora Aunor mania. In her awkward, pubescent years, her acting talent was polished by performing with dramatic giants Eddie Rodriguez, Marlene Dauden, Gloria Romero, Ms. Rita Gomez and Lolita Rodriguez. She won her second acting award in a supporting role as a conflicted daughter in Kasalanan Kaya? where she shared dramatic scenes with Lolita, Eddie E. and Marlene. Thanks to her talent, perseverance and wise decisions on love, family and dual careers as mayor/actress, and some luck along the way, Vilma Santos, fondly called by her constituents/fans as Mayor Vi, Ate Vi, or Doctor Vi (she was given the Honorary causa, PhD degree in Humanities by Lipa City College for her outstanding achievements as mayor — >



LOVE



LOVE



LOVE

continues to inspire. Movie moguls, scriptwriters, directors, advertising agencies and even the CCP's Tanghalang Pilipino (live stage experts) are queuing to get her services - despite her hefty talent fee and hectic, dizzying schedule. It seems that Pinoys can't get enough of Vilma Santos. Her movies broke box-office records. She danced her way to the most awarded musical-variety show ever, Vilma!, got the most prestigious and the most number of acting honors for her wide range of roles that rival U.S.' Meryl Streep and England's Vanessa Redgrave. Critics here and abroad fall in love and are in awe of her unforgettable performances. And speaking of love, from the common, to the sublime, to the forbidden, I can't recall any Filipino actor who so realistically and powerfully emoted the power of love in all its glory on the screen. Here are some of my favorites, at random. Note the common thread in my list: a selfish kind of love, very unlike Vilma Santos in real life but so credible on the screen. She has the stuff of acting legends: versatility. No wonder, she is the Queen of Re-invention and the Most Awarded Actress of the Philippines. Dama De Noche - in a dual role, she won her first FAMAS award in this movie. As a deranged Rossana and a naive Armida who fall in love for the same man, Edgar Mortiz, Vilma would reprise her 'lukreng' role in Ikaw Ay Akin - as Sandra, the edgy, 'cooky', insecure, Valium-popping, manic-depressive daughter of a philandering father who steals Nora Aunor's live-in boyfriend (Christopher De Leon). She finds solace, emotional security and unconditional love in the arms of De Leon but won't share him with the long-suffering and hurting Nora (Tere), De Leon's lover who also loves him to death. A menage a trois sans hysterics and the predictable 'sampalan' blues. Vilma steals the movie especially via her breakdown scene upon discovering that her father's mistress is her best friend, Ellen Esguerra. Bernal, Santos, Aunor and

De Leon and the triumph of restraint are written in this classic movie. A must-see for wanna be actresses/actors/directors. Vilma has a more daring, mentally-imbalanced role as a serial killer Pina in Tagos ng Dugo - Hell knows no fury than a woman raped, abused and ignored. Vilma's best scenes are not those when she kills her predators but on flashbacks in a mental hospital when she reaches out to her psychiatrist for love and affection and is ignored, and her jealous reaction to Francis Arnaiz's reconciliation with his girlfriend. The late Brocka drew the 'meanest' side of Vilma in Hahamakin Lahat - Another 'deranged' role, a mean to the bone bitch role where Vilma fleshes out an evil incarnate Lucinda who loves selfishly and shows no remorse. Says Mario Bautista in his review: Naturally, ang bigat ng pelikula'y nakaatang sa mga balikay ni Vilma Santos bilang pangunahing tauhan (lahat ng iba'y supporting lamang). Ang mga viewers natin ay nasanay na sa heroine sa kuwentong komiks na laging inaapi at nakakabawi sa bandang huli, and playing the role of an anti-heroine is not the best things you can do in local films. Nagsugal si Vilma and she comes up with one of the best characterizations she has done so far sa buong career niya. Marami siyang mga eksenang tiyak na pag-uusapan dito, tulad ng pagmamakaawa niya nang ginugulpi na siya ni Gabby, ang pagsagot niya sa telepono na magkasalungat ang kanyang boses at tono, ang mga tagpo ng panlalait niya sa kanyang ina (Perla Bautista), at ang final scene na naghiganti siay pero drained na sa emosyon ang mukha niya. Tiyak na isa na naman siya sa strongest contenders for best actress para rito. (For the record, she lost to the formidable Nora Aunor as Andrea in the 1990 awards season but breaks her rival's trip to a grand slam win in 1991 (Pacita Madrigal) when she wins in Ipagpawad Mo at the Urian). Vilma's other wicked role was



in the commercially and artistically hit movie as the avenging Florida in *Kapag Langit ang Humatol* - In the hands of a lesser director, Vilma Santos would have given justice to her role as the stepped on Florida who comes back to get even with her tormentor Octavia (the great Gloria Romero). But with Laurice Guillen at the helm, she made sure that Vilma gave her best. Mario Bautista (again) writes: Ang high point ng istorya ay ang confrontation ni Florida sa pangunahing umapi sa kanya, si Octavia, at nangyari nang buhusan niya si Octavia ng alak sa mukha saka siya humalakhak. As usual, Vilma is superb, lalo na sa tagpong inumangan niya ng baril si Richard at finally ay marealize niyang anak nga niya si Carmina. In 1992, Vilma has another 'bad girl' role, in-the box-office hit May-December movie *Sinungaling Mong Puso* - Vilma is unhappily married to Gabby Concepcion. Aga Muhlach and Aiko Melendez are a newly married young couple. Vilma and Aga succumb to the forbidden love and a menage a trois is born, along with its bad consequences. Again, Mario Bautista writes in his review: Hanggang sa tagpong barilin niya si Gabby with grief and anguish written all over her, Vilma gives a performance that is worthy of another best actress award. How strange life can be, really! Ang husay-husay ni Vi rito. My other favorite movies where Vilma show her range as an actress who can play maverick/inventive roles are *Dolzura Cortez* and *Bata, Bata*. *Dolzura Cortez* - As a woman with AIDS, Vilma wins her second of four grand slams in this movie which is based on a true story. From a naive second wife of a bigamist/abusive husband to a bar girl/prostitute, Vilma bravely tackles the role of a woman wronged (again) and a victim of poverty with aplomb. As *Dolzura*, Vilma paints a human being, not just a caricature of society's outcasts who is capable of reciprocating love and nurturing children, but is trapped in the cycle of poverty and igno-

rance. A memorable performance from a heart-wrenching movie. Vilma tops herself as a feminist, liberated single mother who loves men but shun marriage in her most fun to watch 'bad' girl, 'good' girl movie classic *Bata, Bata* - where Ms. Santos wins her third of four grand slams (a record in Philippine cinema). As a free spirited social worker of battered women, Lea, whose out of control libido produces two kids from different fathers, Vilma again shocks and surprises her fans with a confident, luminous performance that also won her her first (Brussels) of two International best actress awards. Critic Nestor Torre writes on Vilma's role: That's one thing with Lea that surprises and perhaps even shocks some members of the audience. Unlike some other women who keep their sexy thoughts to themselves, she articulates them in colorful language, without blushing. This forthrightness has a positive if sometimes "embarrassing" effect on her children, who have been brought up to be similarly forthright and argumentative. Lea also wears her heart on her sleeve in relation to her work, which involves her in helping aggrieved and battered women fight for their rights....but these weaker elements pale in comparison to the movie's admirable strengths, led by its insightful script and direction, excellent performances by Vilma Santos and Carlo Aquino, and most significant of all, the movie's evocation of real life being lived with courage and zest. From reel to real, and soon the legitimate stage, Vilma Santos seems to have it all. The most awarded and versatile actress and one of the two highest paid actresses in the Philippines; and a successful three-term Lipa city mayor, Vilma has essayed various shades of love onscreen. As a capable mayor, she went one step higher: loving her neighbor as she loves herself, by serving her Lipa constituents to the max. Most importantly, she loves and fears God first, her family second, and her dual careers last. Love begets love. No wonder she is blessed! So how do you spell love? VILMA SANTOS.



For more information about the Queen of Philippine Cinema, Ms. Vilma Santos-Recto, visit Eric Nadurata's unofficial Vilma Santos Website at:

WWW.VILMASANTOS.NET

flashback Movie Review

Rubia Servios and Atsay

By Isagani Cruz

Undoubtedly, the two best entries in the 1978 Metro Manila Film Festival are “Atsay” and “Rubia Servios”. “Atsay” is remarkable in several ways. It has a strong social message, aimed at primarily those who forget that maids are also human beings. In the character of Mrs. Anton (Angie Ferro), screenwriter Edgar M. Reyes is able to embody the thousand faults which middle-class housewives are heir to. “Atsay” can also pride itself on being truly Filipino. Its mood is set by its Pilipino credits (in sharp contrast to the English credits of the other entries). The film deliberately exploits local color, dwelling not only on rural but also on picturesque urban scenes. The story, needless to say, can happen only in the Philippines, where domestics and beerhouses are national institutions. But the most striking thing about “Atsay” is its cinematography (Romeo Vitug). The slow dissolves, the multiple exposures (such as the brilliant train sequence), the surprising angles, the flawless composition—these border on genius. The cinematography is so extraordinary, in fact, that it covers a multitude of sins. The most grievous sin of all is the ending. In the end, Nelia (Nora Aunor), after having been humiliated, beaten, raped, dehumanized by the vultures of the city, decides to stay in the city anyway in the hope that an impoverished construction worker (Ronald Corveau) will make her live happily ever after. Such ending, while assuring the viewer that human nature is not totally evil, is unmotivated and, in fact, goes against the very theme of the story. For “Atsay” is the story of how the city dehumanizes, of how human beings become swine (this point is made through blatant symbolism in a shot of Nelia inside a cage-like jeep), of how Manila is a prison (note Vitug’s several shots of cage-like structures). “Atsay” is a story of how individuals are no match against the cruelty of the city. The construction worker, for example, becomes the victim of a construction accident. A young pretty virgin from the province is raped while she’s drugged. A kind-hearted old man is shot down while protesting against exploitation. The ending of “Atsay” contradicts the film’s affirmations. It would have been much more in keeping with the theme (not to mention the current concerns of the national

human settlements program), if Nelia were shown rejecting the city and, in hope, returning to her province for a new life.

“Rubia Servios”, on the other hand, does not dilute the message. Willy (Phillip Salvador), the son of a powerful and wealthy figure, is portrayed as totally evil, devoid of any redeeming quality. To screenwriter Mario O’Hara and director Lino Brocka, the province is the same as the city. Rubia Servios (Vilma Santos) is raped both in the city and in the country. Rubia kills Willy in the country. Violence unites all places. It is the “unity” of conception, scripting, design, and direction, in fact, that “Rubia Servios” is superior to “Atsay”. Lino Brocka does not waste shots in his attempt to create a Filipino classical tragedy. He subordinates everything to the building up of one emotion in the viewer, that of hatred of Willy. So despicable does Willy become at the end that, when he is murdered by Rubia, no viewer can say that Rubia is at fault. And yet, morally speaking, no one is allowed to take the law into his own hands. The law, in fact, put Willy in prison for the first rape. There is no reason to think that the law will not put Willy to death for the second rape. By conditioning the reader to condone Rubia’s revenge, Brocka succeeds in questioning one of our deeply-rooted moral beliefs. The unity that characterizes “Rubia Servios” contrasts sharply with the tendency of Eddie Garcia in “Atsay” to exploit Vitug’s versatility even at the expense of tightness. There are shots in “Atsay”, for example, which could easily be cut without hurting the film’s integrity. Even the train sequence, one of the best sequences in “Atsay”, is far too long. “Rubia Servios” is Lino Brocka’s film; “Atsay” is Romeo Vitug’s. Nora does an excellent acting job; but so does Vilma Santos, and “Rubia” is a much more demanding and difficult role. Edgardo M. Reyes is an established literary figure, but Mario O’Hara is much better screenwriter. Overall, “Atsay” may be much more impressive than “Rubia Servios”. In terms of challenging our moral and legal convictions, however, “Rubia Servios” is much more significant. **From: TV Times Magazine, 1979**

“Nora does an excellent acting job; but so does Vilma Santos, and “Rubia” is a much more demanding and difficult role.”



Movie RE-Review

Tatak Vilma Santos Ni Mario Garces



Ang sarap balikan ng mga pelikula ng the Premier Actress of the Land. Mga pelikulang may mga temang napapanahon kahit sabihin pang luma na ang mga ito. May tatak Vilma Santos.

GING (1964) - all of 11 years, here is the newly-crowned FAMAS best child actress sa isa sa mga title roles niya bilang anak ng laos na artista (Olivia Cenizal) na nalumpo after she gave birth to Ging (Vilma). Ang ama ni Ging ay isang bit player na Mama's boy, si Jose Padilla, Jr. (SLN) whose mother is the screen's perennial conravidita, Etang Discher (SLN), mother of the late Panchito. Padilla abandoned Ging and her mother on her mother's wishes so he won't be dropped from her "pamana" (will). Mother and daughter lived in a slum area. Their squalid lives are made bearable with the presence of a cantankerous neighbor Aruray and her son who was sired by a black G.I. named George. Aruray's son is about Ging's age. They practically were street urchins who beat the other kids in soliciting alms, thanks to Ging's histrionics: she would fake syncope (play dead) and "kawawa" by relating her sad plight as an abandoned poor daughter with a paraplegic of a mother - through a song that would drive her audience at a restaurant to tears and pity - and would give her free food and money. The ploy works all the time.

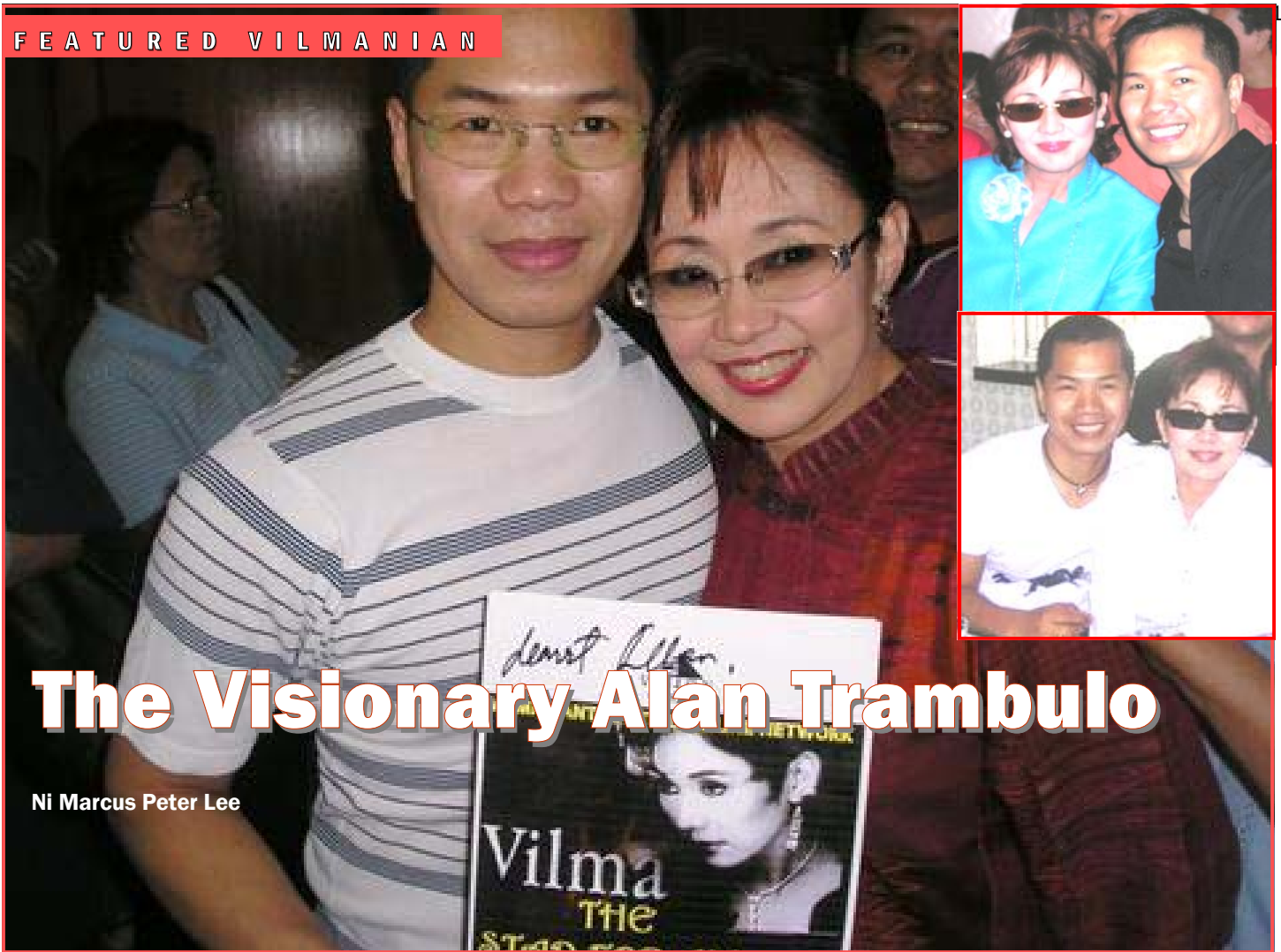
Little did Ging realize that an unscrupulous couple, racketeers Ramon D'Salva and Carol Varga were observing her in a restaurant and saw in her a goldmine: they would adopt her and make them rich as her talent manager. Talk of child exploitation. Reluctant at first, Ging agrees to go with the evil couple provided she would go to school and that they would send her alcoholic mother (bagay na bagay ito sa isang artista) to the hospital for treatment. Of course, the evil and scheming couple reneged on their promises. They exploited Ging by forcing her to work overtime and would starve her so she wouldn't grow up and lose her audience. Luckily, she has a guardian angel in Georgie Quizon, Dolphy's earthy brother who, along with Aruray provided comic relief, and who would protect Vilma from her exploiters. Young Vilma's raw, innate tal-

ent surfaces most especially in her scenes where she vacillates or mulls in leaving her mother. Her final goodbye scene with her mother is heartbreaking, enough a motivation for a Vilma fan Nora Aunor in Iriga city to follow in her footsteps. "One day, I wanna be like Vilma, I will sing and make people cry. Love that "gripo" princess to death. Idol ko siya." Shot in black and white and adapted from the comics to the screen by Mars Ravelo, the movie was directed by Cirio Santiago and Teodorico Santos. The movie is a must have for any true blue Vilmanian. Listang-lista at ang husay ni Vilma rito. Narooong kumanta siya (the voice over seemed like her singing voice), sumayaw at nagdrama. Luma si Madonna doon sa isang parang La Isla Bonita number niya. One memorable scene was when she was singing her signature song to the audience of her longing to see her mother and her father - the camera captures her pain and agony and the deep wound she suffers from her abusers - a poignant scene, complete with tears and and a well-internalized acting. Bravo! Karapat-dapat na U.P. Gawad Plaridel Awardee - maliit pa lang ang dyaske, ang husay talaga. Sa katunayan, some scenes from Ging were included in the audio-visual presentation at both the FAMAS Hall of Fame awards and the recent U.P. Gawad Plaridel coronation of the Summa Cum Laude of All Philippine Actors. Ang galing-galing mo talaga, Rosa Vilma Tuazon Santos-Recto!



PINAY, AMERICAN STYLE (1979) - shot in New York city and directed by Elwood Perez, this film seems to be a precursor to Miss X (1980) 'Merika (1984) starring Nora Aunor and Milan (2004), even Anak (2000) and Dubai (2005). Talaga bang masarap ang buhay sa ibang bansa? Bakit nagpapakamatay sa green card ang mga Pinoy? PX, mahal na mahal kita, PX, I love you walang iba. Paula Xavier or PX (Vilma Santos) is a TNT like boyfriend Victor Laurel (what an effective undersated performance) who leaves her as his live-in to be engaged to an American to get a green card who promises Vilma to divorce the White girl and to marry PX so they could live happily forever after. Not. Vilma is pissed that Laurel dropped her for good and he left her with unpaid rent and a broken heart. Enter Boyet De Leon, as Vilma's next boyfriend who has two jobs who has been around long enough to know what he wants in

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The Visionary Alan Trambulo

Ni Marcus Peter Lee

Thank you Mr. Moderator for making this e-group SO OPEN. As in OWPEN WIDE or OHHHPENNN. So open na "parang carinderiang bukas sa lahat ng gusting lumafang.", (tama ba?) to borrow Ate Vi's line. So open for everybody to see and throw at. I first thought, "Why not make this e-group super-extra-exclusive like ICON???", para patas ang defenses. (Note: ICON really screens and requires new members to compose at least 200 words of praises for Nora. Pata-taiin ka ng pilit kahit wala ka nang maisip na angkop or appropriate words...Vilmanians are so secured anyway with Ate Vi, that anything you throw at them would not affect or make their idol less of a true real Queenstar that she really is." said one of our e-group member who called himself Powder. Very revealing comment. Frankly totoong totoo ang posted message na ito. When I joined Vision and started to get to know him I felt the sincerity and openness. Walang kaplastikan at talagang makikita mo na taos puso siyang makipag-usap. Sino ba naman ang taong magbibigay ng oras at tatawagan ka long distance direct from New York. So talagang extra special ang dating. And compared to the other camp, Vision has become an icon of all e-groups. Sampu isang pera ang dami ng e-group sa kabila pero matutumbasan ba nila ang Vision when comes to information, up to the minute news,

excellent photos and links and to top it all, it has become a meeting ground for events. Dito nag-umpisa para ma-push ang planong pagbisita ni Ate Vi sa New York di ba? Ito rin ang isa sa mga e-group kung saan all the fans can post a message if someone needs helps or to do some fundraising para sa mga noteworthy causes. And who is the mastermind? The Visionary Allan Trambulo! Homebase niya ang New York city. Just imagine, Pacific Ocean ang pagitan and yet parang nasa kabilang bakod lang siya! Like a true New Yorker, he likes different kind of cuisines, Cuban, Japanese, Thai and ofcourse Filipino. He's an Aquarius. Which makes total sense dahil most Aquarius are creative and fun loving people. Another tid-bits info about Alan is he likes to shopping and be surrounded by beautiful things (and people! - - like the Vilmanians!). We asked him these questions:

1. Saan nag-umpisa ang pagiging Vilmanian mo?

Lipad Darna Lipad.. Ang unang movie ni Vi na napanood ko sa amin sinehan sa Batangas. I was 6yrs old at kasama ko ang buong pamilya ko. Last full show na kami nanood kasi during the day sold out ang ticket at wala ka nang silya maupuan. Sigawan at palakpakan kami kay Darna Vi. After the movie, wala lang , sigaw ako ng sigaw ng "Darna!". Ang mukha ni Ate Vi ang nakikita sa panaginip ko habang hinabol ako ni Gloria Romero na gumanap na aswang. She saved my life so many



times sa aking nightmare kay aswang Gloria. She became my heroine. Iba ang naging impact sa akin ni Darna dahil di lang isang hero sa aking musmos na pag-iisip ang ibinigay nya, she gave me a superwoman, a role

model sa persona ni La Santos. My family is all Vilmanian, specially my sister who keep copying the styles of Vilma, from her hair styles to fashion. My sister Carol even sneaked me in sa controversial movie ni Ate Vi, "Rubia Servious" sa Magalles Theater noon .Habang hinuhubog ako ng aking kapatid na maging Vilmanian, i became aware sa mga nagaganap sa showbiz. Ang awayan Vi-Guy fanatics. Lumaban at nakipag-sabunatan din ako sa bestfriend ko na Noranian na para sa amin ay katuwaan lamang. Ang pakikipagtalo sa aking kapatid na lalake over basketball versus Vilma show. Magdama-gan puyatan sa awards nights , win or lose si Mayor. Through the years, di nagbago ang paghanga ko sa kanya, but lalo pang tumindi...sobra! Wala na makakapigil pa sa akin pagiging isang "VILMANIAN" .

2. Anong mga bagay ang nakita mo kay Ate Vi na wala sa ibang artista? Her Durability and Longevity.... my God, 4 decades na syang Reyna ng Phil.Movies..laban kayo dyan. I guess blessing ito sa kanya and at the same time credit goes to her , kasi di naman bito-biro ang maging isang Vilma Santos . Super galing nyan' dinala ang sarili lalo na sa pagharap nya sa tao that leads her sa political arena. And Sincerity niya. super!. I asked Vi one time, . Sabi ko , buti natatandaan mo lahat ang mga names ng mga tao nakikilala mo? sabi nya "It's a gift Alan, meron talagang taong ganoon..." Pero sa isip ko, hindi ...ikaw lang ang ganyan na kilala ko, ultimo ordinaryong tao from 20yrs na di nya nakikita ,nakilala pa nya.. Well, definitely , its a gift.... from God.

3. Anong Vilma moments na feel mo eh part ka ng events na ito kung kaya maituturing mo itong pinaka unforgettable?

Definetly, 'yung NY-NJ visit nya sa Phil.Fiesta 05. Grabe ang experienced ko sa kanya. Unforgettable dahil we communicate almost everyday. Yong closed door meeting namin ng producer , i saw her other side. For being frank and honest nya sa nararamdaman nya. I know she was death tired from her trip sa NY, pero sige pa rin sya basta para sa Vilmanians ito. Very quick lang, alam nyo i was with her sa loob ng hotel room niya while she was being prep by her makeup artist, busy na ang lahat , i voluntarily ironed her outfit that day. Just imagine, pina-plantsa ko ang suit ni Ate Vi for the show.

I was nervous to death kasi baka masunog ko ang pantalon ni Vi. Hate ko pa naman ang mag plantsa. Pero sa kanya , kinaya ko..hahaha. A black suit that was so plain and simple but when she wore it na she looks like a million dollar baby.

4. Anong pinaka-high and low moments mo bilang Vilmanian? High moments: Definetly yong first phone conversation namin ni Vi. I introduced myself and asked her permission to do her a website. Wala lang , speechless to the max ako. First meeting namin sa Startalk. I was hearing her saying... Where's Alan? Where's Alan? Imagine, she's looking for me. Lahat ng first sa akin ni Vi...heaven sa akin. Low Moments: Yon' wala kang magawa dahil nasa ibang bansa ka. You can't do anything physically to participate or join sa mga group efforts ng mga Vilmanians. Kaya i tried to go home at least every other year or pag meron talagang important affair or movie si Vilma. But i try to help naman sa financial needs if there's a fund raising we need to do like yon sa VISION fund for Vilmanians at recently sa Wowowee stampede.

5. Magkuwento ka ng mga maliliit na bagay na nagpapaalala sa'yo na iba talaga si Ate Vi kumpara sa ibang artista.

I can't compare si Vi sa iba , kasi si Ate Vi lang naman ang nag-iisang artista na minahal ko eh. Masarap bigyan ng gifts si Ate Vi, once i gave her a bag, she told me "swerte sa akin itong bag na bigay mo Alan". Heaven sa akin yan dahil she really appreciate my gifts sa kanya. She'll appreciate you by doing like a " thank you and luv u " text. Mga suprise telephone calls na ma-sha-shock ka na lang like Vi calling you to say na" i luv Alan" or to find out kung okey ka lang. No comparison to others kasi wala katulad si Vi. Nag-iisa lang sya for me.

6. Gaano mo kamahal si Ate Vi?

Alam mo, sana noon pa meron na akong communication kay Vi and sa mga active na Vilmanians, parang bitin ako dahil di ko naranasan ang mga naganap noon panahon kainitan ng mga fans and up to now. Ngayong , i was given a chance, bumabawi ako talaga at i hope alam ni Vi na di sa haba

ng pinagsamahan na susukat ang pagmamahal sa kanya , kundi sa value ng pinagsamahan. Siguro di na kailangang e-measure pa ang love ko kay Vi, si Vi na lang ang tanungin natin.... hahahaha.

7. Ano sa tingin mo ang kinalalagyan ngayon ni Ate Vi? At anong mga bagay pa ang gusto mong marating ni Ate Vi?

Alam ng lahat happy na si Vi sa kinalalagyan niya ngayon. She's very satisfied na and it's shows naman. But deep inside , i know meron pa rin syang mga secret wishes and likes , na i hope ma- granted ng Lord sa itaas. Basta kung

(Turn to next page)

“...I was hearing her saying... Where's Alan? Where's Alan? Imagine, she's looking for me...”

meron syang gustong pasukin or marating pa sa buhay nya , I'm just here to support her all the way.

8. Meron pa bang dream role para sayo na hindi pa nagagampanan ni Ate Vi?

Herself, an autobiographical movie. Sort of a Maalaala Mo Kaya anniversary done on the big screen. I'm sure all of us will surely love to know all about Vilma from her conception to stardom to the present status of the movie queen. Sana nga matuloy kasi very colorful ang buhay ni Ate Vi.

9. Bilang aktibong miyembro ng grupo, anong mga bagay ang pinapangarap mong mangyari para sa mga Vilmanians?

Sabay na tayong nag mature kasama si Ate Vi, i said this kasi lately may mga projects ang Vilmanians na di lamang para kay Vi kung di para sa mga mahihirap or kapus palad. I like it kasi iba na ang meaning ng isang pagiging Vilmanian natin, meron nang PUSO. Yes, we help because we want Vilma happy or proud of us but also to be a role model sa ibang fans club. It's nice to hear... .."Ay sa Vilmanians galing ang tulong na to". Just continue supporting each other me projects or wala ..

10. Kumpletuhin mo ang pangungusap na ito: "Ako ay Vilmanian dahil..." para sa kanya, tayong mga Vilmanians ay inspiration sa kanya. She gets her energy and motivation sa atin. For that, i salute her. Dapat lahat ng artista katulad ni Vi, me respeto at pagmamahal sa mga fans and she gave that to us. Tanong nga ng partner ko.." Miss Vi, where do you get your energy? sagot ni Vi, It's my happiness , sa mga Vilmanians na up to now ay nakasuporta at nagmamahal pa rin sa akin. ... My love and admiration for Vilma is forever and unconditional. Vilma is one of my inspiration in life, at yan ang totoo! PEACE.



FLASHBACK 2005

Lucky Charm si Vilma!

Ni Franco Gabriel

"Nahawa ako sa swerte ni Vilma" Bong Revilla laughed

during his acceptance speech for Box Office King in Guillermo Mendoza Scholarship Foundation Award. Sa totoo lang, the moment a star teamed up with Vilma Santos, expect that a new fortune will start to shine. Here are some example:

Piolo Pascual - his first time to work with Ate Vi in Dekada '70. First Best Supporting Actor award and yes, it was a grand slam, lucky you, Piolo when it rains it pours.

Tonton Gutierrez - same with Piolo a buena mano team up with Ate Vi and a buena mano award, I cant remember how many times he won in Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-ibig with but it's famous line "Si Val, si Val, si Val palagi na lang si Val....Si Val na walang malay" will be remembered forever.

Carlo Aquino - first team-up with Ate Vi as her son in Bata, Bata Paano ka Ginawa, after he did the movie is the start of a new career that the talent was molded with the help of a Queenstar. He won several awards for Best Supporting Actor and Best Child Actor in different award giving bodies.

Serena Darrymple - another talented childstar worked with Ate Vi in a blockbuster hit Bata Bata Paano ka Ginawa. She won both Best Child Actress & Best Supporting Actress during the awards season.

Rollie Quizon - After doing multiple comedy films, he team up with Vilma Santos in a classic Burlesk Queen & brought home the trophy of Best Actor in 1977 Metro Manila Filmfestival. Muntik pang mabawi but since Ate Vi always bring fortune the award is still in their hands.

Eric Quizon - He won Best Supporting Actor for Pahiram ng isang Umaga, I am not sure though if he had one for Hahamakin ang Lahat. But definitely, these two movies of his with Vilma were big success in Box Office.

Aga Muhlach - Sinungaling mong Puso was a big hit. He was very lucky to team up with Ate Vi in this May-December affair because not all this kind of strange love story hits the

(Sunda sa pahina 26)



Alan Trambulo of Vislon with Charles Gomez of VSR

FLASHBACK 2005

Remembering Joe

Quirino

Ni Aries aka "egrollon2001"

Feb 23, 2005

I am urging all Vilmanians to say a little prayer to the late Joe Quirino on his 10th death Anniversary. I just would like to share with you how JQ admired and fought for Ate Vi. During the MMFF when ate Vi won in Karma. It was a triple tie between Ate Vi, Gina Alajar and Charo Santos. JQ as one of board of jurors defended why ate Vi should win. On the second deliberation JQ convinced one of the jurors and ate Vi won by 1 point. JQ lambasted on his TV program the jurors in the MMFF when ate Vi was not even nominated for her performance in Langis At Tubig. The nominees are Nora Aunor for Bona; Nora Aunor for Kung Akoy Ilwan Mo and Amy Austria for Brutal. Its good that Amy won. JQ said that Ate Vi is good in langis compared to Nora in Kung Akoy Ilwan. Obiously that was manipulated by Dean Lukresia Kasilag who was the Board Chairman that time and a certified Noranian. Kawawa talaga si Ate Vi basta involved si Kasilag lagi syang nabibiktima. Remember Rubia Serbios and Atsay. JQ always regarded Ate Vi as the real Queen of Philippine movies and a certified box Office Queen. I remember one time in an awarding ceremonies when JQ has to present the Best Actress award with Pilar Pilapil. Nora Aunor won that time. And JQ said before he announce the winner. Sasabihin ko pa ba kung sino ang winner, alam na naman natin kung sino ang panalo. Obviously disappointed s'ya sa results. Nora got mad at JQ kinabukasan sa interview sa kanya. I dont remember what year was that. I remeber when JQ program was No. 1 noon at talagang basta nag guest sa kanya si Ate Vi laging special. Hindi sya pumapayag na hindi sasayaw si Ate Vi. JQ said that Ate Vi is the best dancer of all times. Nobody comes close to her said JQ.



QueenStar, new title for Vilma?

FUNFARE By Ricardo F. Lo

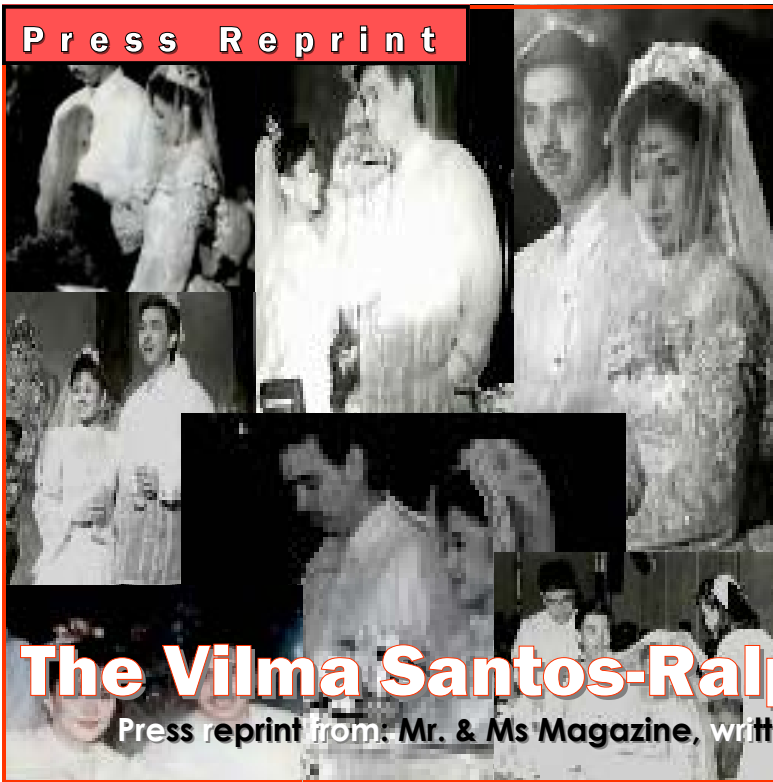
The Philippine Star 02/21/2005

Is the title Star For All Seasons not enough for Vilma Santos?

Not if you ask an Ateneo student who wrote a paper for his film course in school and proposed that the title "Queenstar" fits Vilma better. Listen to what reader Xavier Limtuaco of Makati City has to say: My best friend wrote a paper on his Film Course at the Ateneo on what the appropriate title should be for Ms. Vilma Santos. He proposed the title "Queenstar" because her current title "Star for All Seasons" undermines her status and achievements as a movie queen and all-time Best Actress. He got an "A" from Father Nick Cruz for his paper. "Star for all Seasons" sounds so plain when compared to the strength or magnitude of "Superstar" and "Megastar" which is why he thought of "Queenstar." I loved the title because I was proposing myself to change her title to "Queen for all Seasons." With "Star for all Seasons" Vilma is simply a star with no adjective describing her star status. "Queenstar" befits Ate Vi to a T because she has been Box-Office Queen many times and she has been called "Queen Vi" many times as well. Vilma is the only movie queen to have successfully combined commercial and artistic success unlike most movie queens or dramatic actresses who can not have the best of both worlds. I hope that your column could push for the new title for Ate Vi since she deserves a better and more appropriate title. "Queenstar" is a title Vilma richly deserves in view of her outstanding artistic achievements in local show business then... until now when, after 42 years in the business, she is still at the peak of her career with projects lined up for her by major film studios like Regal, Star Cinema and Unitel. Hail to Vilma Santos, Queenstar!

Sincerely,

Xavier Limtuaco



The Vilma Santos-Ralph Recto Romance

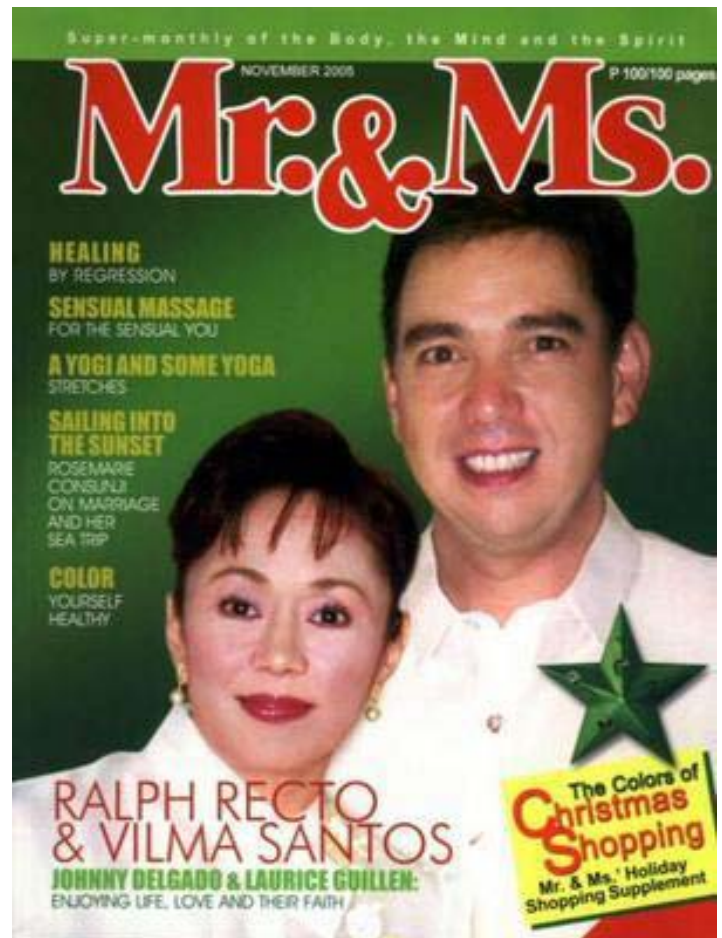
Press reprint from: Mr. & Ms Magazine, written by Ms. Marra PL. Lanot, Nov 2005

How else to explain why so many are joining beauty contests and, win or lose, more often than not, marrying a rich guy? A penniless, pretty lass with bountiful physical assets in, say, showbiz, has more chances than others of attracting and bagging a representative, a senator, a businessman, a somebody with huge financial assets. The Vilma Santos-Ralph Recto romance is like a Cinderella story except that by the time Vilma married Ralph, she was no longer a pauper. She wasn't looking for a prince or a moneyed papa, for, after all, she was the multi-awarded actor Vilma Santos, the Star for All Seasons. In other words, he was rich, and she, too, was rich. The difference is that he was born rich, and she was not to the wealthy born. The love story began 20 years ago, in July 1985. For the first time after a one-and-a-half years of being separated from then husband, actor Edu Manzano, Vilma came out of seclusion. Although Vilma and Edu were living separate lives, residing in different houses, Vilma remained constant, maintaining a semblance of fidelity, because, she reasoned out, she was still legally his wife. She didn't want to give people an opportunity to wag their tongue, to misunderstand or judge her, she avoided getting stoned by negative opinions of her. But when she found out Edu was dating other women, she decided it was time for her to have fun herself, to spread her wings, and to find a life. "Ba't ako magpapaka-martir?" Vi pouted. Finally heeding friends who had been advising her to go out and enjoy herself, she dressed up and accepted an invitation to King Kong disco bar, which was owned by director Marilou Diaz-Abaya. So, there she was chatting and laughing with friends Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Maryo J. delos Reyes, Charito Solis, Charlie Peralta, and Greg de Guzman, swaying and stomping under the strobe lights, and feeling free. Then, a tall, mestizo guy approached Vilma and introduced himself: "Excuse me, my name is Ralph Recto. May I have this dance with you?" Vilma snubbed him; no, she did not want to dance with that boy. Was it because she didn't know him or was it because she was still hurting from a failed marriage? The guy was persistent and patiently waited until he asked her again. Charito

Solis nudged Vilma: "Four am na, pagbigyan mo na, isayaw mo na." And so, the reluctant Vilma danced with Ralph. While dancing, reports Vilma, Ralph asked her: "Do you know my father?" "No," Vilma answered. "Do you know Assemblyman Raffy Recto?" Ralph continued. "No," Vilma replied. "Are you interested in politics?" Ralph ventured. "No," Vilma shrugged. After the dance, he asked Vilma: "Are you coming back here next Saturday?" Vilma: "Maybe." Then, he got her phone number and brought his partner back to her table. "At my first glimpse of her, I found her attractive," say Ralph, "I didn't know that she was the Star for All Seasons, so to speak." It was only when he went back to his table that he found out who that attractive young woman was. His barkada from Greenhills told him that the person he was dancing with was Vilma Santos the actor. All he knew was she was named "Vilma" and that she was "A joyful person." The funny thing is he had only recently seen the Vilma starrer Sister Stella L. Vilma surmises that maybe he did not recognize her because she was wearing an off-shoulder attire, which was, of course, very different from a nun's habit. Ralph called up Vilma the following day, and "she obliged me to meet with her again the following week in the same place, the same disco." "Why? Well, Vilma's first impression of Ralph was that he was "Very intelligent, down-to-earth, tisoy (mahilig ako sa tisoy)." And so, they did see each other again a week later. Another week after, recalls Ralph, "we had a private dinner. I felt we would have a meaningful relationship." That private dinner was with his parents in Greenhills. Vilma was at once nervous and excited. They knew her background, she didn't hide from Ralph who or what she really was - that she was 32, that she was married, had one child, had been grist for gossip columnists, had not had higher education, etc. By this time, Vilma knew he was only 21, single, a graduating student at the De La Salle University taking up Economics, and a member of an illustrious Spanish-speaking family. Edu Manzano, meanwhile, drifted further away from Vilma. Being an American citizen, Edu had married Vilma in

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Las Vegas, and then divorced her in Guam. Three to four months after their first encounter, Vilma and Ralph went MU, or mutual understanding, which is the first stage of today's couples' relationship. Mutual understanding meant that they could see each other as often as they liked, but neither one was committed to the other. In other words, in principle, both could go out on a date with other persons, but they might show a special devotion, a special friendship, love and understanding—that is, the two on MU—for one another. Those happy, carefree days would see Ralph attending the shooting of *Tagos ng Dugo* by Maryo J. He would come from school, stay in his car, wait for her, and then bring her home to Magallanes. In Magallanes, Vilma recounts: "Magkukuwentuhan kami ni Ralph tungkol sa lahat ng bagay, about everything under the sun. Inaabot kami hanggang sa pagdating ng diyaryo ng 6:30 am. Hindi naming namamalayan na maliwanag na pala, na umaga na." Vilma sizes Ralph up: "Matalino, maraming alam, pero hindi mayabang. Inisip ko na marami akong matututunan dito." They enjoyed each other's company while going places, eating pizza, and having "gimmicks" and so on. Vilma analyses his appeal to her: "Baka nadala niya ako sa kabataan niya, kasi di ko naranasan iyon noong bata ako." She concentrated on her work as a child, and has done almost nothing but work ever since. Vilma and Ralph lived in for seven years. She was not prepared to get married then because she had to attend to her career and her small child by Edu, Lucky. Ralph, on the other hand, wanted to be more stable in his profession and his finances. Then, after seven years of living in, Ralph ran for Congress and asked Vilma to campaign for him in Batangas. Vilma accompanied him all over the province. She experienced the hardship of going from city to city, from barrio to barrio. She had a taste of politics. If she was willing to make that sacrifice for him, Vilma thought, "siguro mahal ko itong taong ito." Ralph told Vilma, "Win or lose, let's get married." "You know," Vilma warned him, "hindi ako madaling maging asawa. Mahihirapan ka, kilala ako sa Pilipinas." It would be quite difficult for him to do any hanky-panky because he would easily be found out since Vilma is so popular that almost everything and anything the nosey press would sniff would immediately be reported in the media. The brave Ralph was not intimidated, and at 2 pm of December 11, 1992, they officially tied the knot in a splendid wedding ceremony in Lipa, Batangas. Some 500-700 guests from politics and showbiz witnessed the exchange of vows. It must have been a relatively blissful union since they already had a chance to get to know each other up close when they were living in. Relates Ralph: "For me, the most trying period in our relationship was the first seven years." The proverbial seven-year-itch happened to both Vilma and Ralph before their wedding. Ralph lived in his condo in Greenhills, but he telephoned Lucky almost every day, pretending or so it seemed, that his concern was only Lucky and not Vilma. Lucky missed his Tito Ralph, and after two weeks, thanks to Lucky, Ralph returned. Vilma, the mother and wife, observes that "the whole time of marriage is a period of adjustment. Habang tumatanda ka, nag-iiba ang priorities mo sa buhay, so mga every five years, kailangang pag-isipan mo ang priorities mo." "There are times you have to listen to your children. They should retain an old sense of values, like respect for elders, how to properly treat people. You must talk openly with your spouse and your children, you must trust your children, you communicate with them, you text them. You must also know



how to let go." Like other typical couples, they undergo moments of discord. Sometimes, even when they're in a bad mood, they still greet each other good morning and good night with a kiss, but a quick, cold one, like they're merely fulfilling an obligation, a task, so that they can attend to other "more important" matters of the day. However, no problem is unsolvable. Sometimes, they let a month go by in ill humor until things cool off a bit. At the end of 30 days of silence, they would go "Can we talk?" They find dialogue most effective. No vitriolic physical or verbal barbs, just civilized talk. Both believe that support for each other is very important in a relationship. "It's important to support each other's ambitions, dreams, goals in life. Walang inggitan," Vilma advises couples. "A career woman has to adjust to a relationship, work on it, get off her pedestal. I learned to say 'I'm Sorry.'" In their political life, Ralph seeks Vilma's opinion on some of his speeches. Vilma tells him, for example, "to stress this point or ito, heavy, mabigat or 'yan, tanggalin mo 'yan..." Also, Vilma confides that she doesn't compete with Ralph. "In fact, as mayor, I receive guidance from him in making decisions." Vilma claims they are both broadminded. How long has Vilma been mayor of Lipa? "This is my last term. I've been mayor for three terms na, three years per term, so a total of nine years. I have been serving Lipa for almost eight years now." This celebrity couple also lives ordinary lives. For example, Ralph treats Vilma like any other ordinary person, and not like a VIP. Vilma reveals: "Hindi porke Vilma Santos ako and I'm earning a lot, e, wala na siyang ibibigay na allowance sa akin. He takes care of the maintenance of the house. He's the provider." In the last five or six years, Vilma and Ralph have tried to spend more time with each other in

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spite of their busy schedule. They have been traveling alone, just the two of them, and sometimes with their children Lucky or Luis, now 24 years old, and Ryan, aged 9. Together, they go swimming, bowling, boating, meditating, playing golf, watching television, etc. Right after Ate Vi, aka Mayor Vi, was given the Gawad Plaridel last July 4, 2005, which is sponsored by the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communications, at the Film Institute's Cine Adarna, husband and wife took a grand vacation. They spent 14 days in Europe, came back to the Philippines for a while, and hied off to Los Angeles, USA, for five days, and to New York and New Jersey for four days. In New Jersey, Vilma cut the ribbon at the opening of the four-year old Philippine Fiesta Exposition Center. "She's an excellent mother," gushes Ralph. "She takes good care of me and her children. She's a loving person. Sometimes, she's hardheaded. But I can live with that. I've learned to live with it. And sometimes, I could be hard-headed, too. (Smiles) I've no complaints. She is what she is and I love her for what she is. She's now more concerned about social and political issues." How does Ralph for his part keep their relationship going? "We count our blessings. Both of us have been blessed." Although Vilma doesn't cook, she sees to it that the cook, upon her culinary guidance, serves Ralph his favorite dish such as baked pasta, which contains corned beef, cream of mushroom, parmesan cheese, and sweet corn. Says Vilma: "My immediate family comes first. I do my part as a mother and as a woman. I don't plan my life. It's enough that I live comfortably, my family is fine." Their terms of endearment for each other are "Papa" and "Mommy." Has the tag 'Mr. Vilma Santos' ever, ever affected Ralph at any point in his life? "No, it has not affected me in a negative way," explains Ralph, "It has helped me tremendously. Being Mr. Vilma Santos made it easier for me to identify with the masses. As a kid, my professors in school would tag me as the grandson of the great Claro M. Recto. So I was used to it. I've always thought of it positively. There's nothing in their relationship that he wants to forget. "The relationship is incomplete if I will forget even just a tiny bit of it. There's nothing I would want to forget or change. I have no complaints about our relationship. I've been blessed by this relationship. I'm the luckiest man alive. I hope she feels the same way, too. With a wife like Vi, children like Lucky and Ryan, how can I complain? Why would I want to forget any part of this wonderful and blessed relationship?" In fact, Ralph will always happily remember "achieving milestones in our life together—getting married, having children, watching them grow up, participating in school activities, helping each other make our community better. Of course, traveling together. I suppose our happiest times are yet to come—which is, growing old together." The Vilma Santos-Ralph Recto romance, despite all the zigging and zagging, sounds almost like a fairy tale. Yes, perhaps, politics and showbiz do go together.



Pictures courtesy of Eric Nadurata.



VILMA!

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 March 2006

Before Lisa Marie Priestly or even Madonna and before all that facial surgeries, Michael Jackson shared a sweet moments with Vilma. This was when The Jackson Five visited the Philippines in the 70s.



< very hip and cool!

hair to die for! >

< check out the nose!

< where's the beef?

< before Avril Lavigne, Vi did the COOL tie!

< ebony and ivory!

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