

The *Vilma Santos*

Newsletter

V I L M A S A N T O S E - G R O U P S F O R U M

Mano Po 3: My Love

= THE RECORD =

- WINNER OF 8 2004 MFF-P Awards including **BEST PICTURE & BEST ACTRESS!**
- Winner of 3 Awards from the **21ST STAR AWARDS FOR MOVIES WINNER** including **BEST ACTRESS** - Vilma Santos
- **FAP NOMINEE** Best Actress - Vilma Santos
- **28TH GAWAD URIAN AWARDS** Best Actress Nominee - Vilma Santos
- Entered for exhibition in **2005 Shanghai Int'l Film Festival**
- **Gawad Tanglaw** and **Gawad Suri** Winner for Best Actress!

AWARD SEASON ISSUE

The 2004 Awards Season – It Only Just Began

By Mar Garces

When all is said and done, the best actress race contest for 2004 is between forever arch rivals, in alphabetical order, Nora Aunor (Naglalayag) and Vilma Santos (Mano Po III-My Love).

Junior actress Judy Ann Santos was a surprise spoiler when she beats the veteran actresses at the 2nd. EnPress awards for best dramatic actress. She won for Sabel. At the 2004 Manila Film Festival where Sabel was an entry versus Naglalayag. Judy Ann lost to Nora Aunor for best actress. It was a sweet double victory for Judy Ann, beating the two



fierce rivals, but more of a vengeance for her versus Nora, than Vilma, for clobbering the superstar at Enpress for the same movies they appeared in the 2004 MFF. This is Judy Ann's first best actress win. She is also expected to win at the FAMAS where Nora and Vilma, both Hall of Famers, are not in the running. But

because of Judy Ann's double nominations, Sabel and Aishite for best actress, she might just be eclipsed by dark horse Claudine Barreto for her more internalized and powerful performance in Milan.

So far, Nora, minus the YCC, where she almost won as best performer, has garnered these awards for Naglalayag:

- Manila Film Festival
- Brussels Intl. Film Fest.
- First YHC (Young Hearts Club)
- First BALATCA
- Tanglaw (tie with Vilma Santos)
- PASADO

(See: 2004, page 10)

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VS UPDATES BY ERIC NADURATA

Mayor Vi at Lipa Cathedral's 400th

I set my alarm at 3am. I've read in the papers that San Sebastian Cathedral in Lipa City will be celebrating its' 400 anniversary on April 30. The concelebrated mass is at

10am, so I made plans with Cesar, a fellow Vilmanian, to meet at the bus station at 5am. We have to get out of

Manila before 6am, so that we can get to Lipa at least an hour before the mass starts. Dapat maaga para maganda

ang lugar naming sa simbahan! Cesar, for a change was early, I was late. Anyways, we left the bus station at 6am and arrived at Lipa at 8:30am. Ang aga naming, ano? We decided to take breakfast first,

(See VS Updates, page 2)

VS UPDATE . . .



(From front page)...

but while walking for the food chain, a black van stopped beside us. Niloko ko pa si Cesar, "Andito na pala si Ate Vi" pointing at the van, dahil kamukha ng van ni ate Vi. Pero matalas Ang mata ni Cesar. Nakita at nakilala niya ang driver ng van – si Fermin! Si Fermin nga na driver ni ate Vi for the longest time! Bumukas ang pinto Sa harap at bumaba ang isa sa mga security escort ni ate Vi, na si Piolo (kamukha kasi siya ni Piolo), tapos ang isang pinto naman ang bumukas At bumaba si ate Emelyn kasunod si ate Vi! Caught unguarded! Ang dalawang camera na dala ko parehong nasa bag ko pa! Hindi ko alam kung ano ang uunahin ko – ang tignan ng walang sawa ang ganda ni ate Vi at batiin siya o ang kunin ang camera sa bag ko at umpisahan na ang pagkuha ng pictures? I must admit, I've seen her several times, pero kahit ilan beses ko Siyang makita, palagi pa rin akong natutulala! Syempre naman, nasa harap ko yata ang "best actress and most important actress of the country" At isang future national artist

"...ang best actress and most important actress of the country"

Joel Samangan

at Ramon Magsaysay awardee, ayon naman kay garmar! After several minutes, I finally got my camera out of my bag. Nagtig-isa kami ng hawak na camera ni Cesar and we started clicking. Ang ganda talaga ni ate Vi, lalo na sa suot niyang filipina dress na gawa ng kanyang favorite na si JC Buendia. Very tasteful and elegant din ang suot niyang jewelry, south sea pearl earring and pearl choker. Very feminine din ang bulaklak sa buhok niya. She positioned herself, together with Mr. Danny Dolor and other Lipa bigwigs sa may pintuan ng simbahan to greet the visitors.

The Concelebrated Mass started exactly at 10am. Si Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles ang main celebrant together with 5 bishops and more than 30 priests of the province. Si Cardinal Vidal of Cebu sana ang magdeliver ng homily, pero dahil hindi pa siya nakabalik mula sa Rome, si Arch. Arguelles na rin ang nagbigay ng homily. (A little trivia lang, si Cardinal Vidal ay dating Archbishop ng Lipa; ang pumalit kay Cardinal Sin as Archbishop of Manila na si Arch. Rosales ay galing din sa Lipa.) The mass is celebrated in Latin – lahat pati ang mga dasal at kanta. Sana andoon si Fr. J para mag-translate. The mass was over at 11:30 at nagkaroon ng konting picture taking with ate Vi, Lipa City officials, Arch. Arguelles and the other celebrants. Filipiniana ang motif ng okasyon at talaga namang nakuha ni ate Vi ang cooperation ng mga taga Lipa. They really came with the best filipiniana attire! Kahit pa nga super init sa loob ng simbahan dahil sa dami ng tao, talaga namang naka saya sila at terno! Napakagandang tignan lalo na iyong mga matatanda na, na halos ay inaakay na pero um-attend pa rin sa misa at naka filipiniana rin. Siguro mga 90% ng dumalo ang naka filipiniana. Sa offer- tory, ang nag-offer ay

tatlong nakasakay sa hammock – isang bata, isang teen-ager, isang magulang at isang matandang lola – to signify the four centuries of the cathedral. Syanga pala, ang tawag ni

Arch. Arguelles kay ate Vi ay "Mayor Ate Vi". Nagulat kami ni Cesar dahil akala naming sanay na ang mga taga-Lipa na makita si ate Vi, pero talaga namang pinagkaguluhan pa rin siya! This

Will explain kung bakit ang ibang pictures na kuha ko ay out of focus o kaya naman ay may ulo na nakuhanan. Meron ngang isang lola na talagang gusto niyang magpa-kuha ng picture kay ate Vi kaya lang wala naman siyang dalang camera. I ended up taking their picture. Sa maigsing pakikipag-usap naming kay ate Vi, nabanggit niya na hindi siya makak-attend sa Cannes dahil papunta siya ng China for a convention

together with Sen. Ralph, VP Noli de Castro and other Senators. Nasabi rin niya na may tatlong shooting days pa siya for MMK, hindi lang niya binanggit kung saan ang location. Very apologetic siya dahil hindi raw niya kami nakausap ng matagal, ang dami kasi ng tao at talagang pinagkakag-uluhan na siya. Anyways, sapat na sa amin ang sandaling pakikiharap niya sa amin at ang makita naming kung gaano pa rin siya

kamahal ng mga taga-Lipa at maging ng mga pari ng Batangas. Sa bus pabalik ng Manila, napag-usapan naming ni Cesar na hindi naming akalain na magiging mayor si ate Vi. Sabi nga si Cesar, tinawag siya

Para sa trabahong ito at hindi niya pinili. Malay natin baka ilan panahon pa Sa Malacanang na ako nakikipagsiksikan at kumu-kuha ng litrato.

- en





LETS BE FRANC BY FRANCO GABRIEL



Director's Cut

Ni Franco Gabriel

It was a boring Sunday afternoon. I was trying to figure out what to do for the whole day. Until I finally decided to watch some old segments of D'Buzz.

These were the episode wherein they interviewed our great Directors including Lino Brocka (RIP), about some award winning movies of Ate Vi & Ate Guy.

Boy & Kris: Good afternoon Philippines, welcome to D' Buzz

Boy: Hi, Maryo J. tanong ko lang kung bakit parehong about monthly period ang title ng "Tagos ng Dugo" at "Naglalayag"?

Mayo J: Continious kasi ang kasi-katan ni Vilma, kung baga sa sweldo, tuloy tuloy ito every month parang menstruation. Kaya tagos ng dugo.

Boy: How about Naglalayag?

Maryo J: It's' about Menopausal period. Well, kung baga sa sweldo, said na ang kay Nora, wala ng pay check, huling patak na. In short, laos na.

Kris: Ikaw naman Tito Eddie (Garcia) how's your directorial job

with Ate Vi in "Sinamba Kita"?

Eddie: Sinasamba kita because I want to worship her at gustong-gusto ko siyang hangaan.

Kris: Eh kumusta naman yung "Atsay" ni Ate Guy.

Eddie: I directed her for that dahil gustong gusto ko siyang paglinisin ng kubeta. Sumingit naman si Garmar

Garmar: Kayo po Mr. Lino Brocka, ano po ang masasabi ninyo sa "Hahamakin ang Lahat" na masterpiece nyo for Ate Vi noon.

Lino(RIP): Kaya nga "Hahamakin ang Lahat" because Vilma is exceptional among others, angkat siya sa lahat, gusto ko siyang idolohin.

Garmar: And why "Ina ka ng anak mo" for Ate Guy?

Lino: Dahil gusto ko siyang murahin.

Garmar: Plangana

Allan: Kuya Mar naman, luma na yang expression mo.

Garmar: Ano na ba ang uso?

Allan: Tarush !!!

Boy: Hello, Gil (Portes). Bakit ba Miss X ang title ng movie mo with Vilma?

Gil: Eh, kasi misterios siya at meron siyang X factor.

Boy: Bakit naman "Bulaklak ng City Jail" ang title ng kay Nora?

Gil: Dahil doon siya nababagay.

Boy: Sobra ka naman Gil, I believe that Guy is innocent.

Wonder Sam: Helllllooooo, ok ka lang Boy?

Gil: May isa pa kong ginawa para sa kanya. Yung Merika.

Eric: Sige nga Sam, pagdugtungin mo nga ang pamagat. Ingatz ka sa sagot mo.

Sam: Bulaklak ng City Jail sa Merika?

Kris: KOREK

Boy: Hay naku, wala akong makuhang matinong sagot sa

mga ito, at sumisingit pa ang mga Vilmanians na bisita ni Kris. Mabuti pa ay tanungin na lang natin si Mr. Leroy Salvador.

Leroy(RIP): Hi, Boy kumusta ka na.

Boy: Mabuti naman po. Titio Leroy, kaya ba "Beloved" ang movie mo with Nora ay dahil she is as lovely as ever?

Leroy: Never.....Beloved dahil malapit na siyang mapunta sa "Bilibid".

Marcus Lee: Korek !!!

- fg

“Bakit Bulaklak ng City Jail ang title ng kay Nora? Dahil doon siya nababagay!”



VILMA'S GALLERY



Christopher De Leon and Ate Vi at Last year's Metro Manila Film Festival

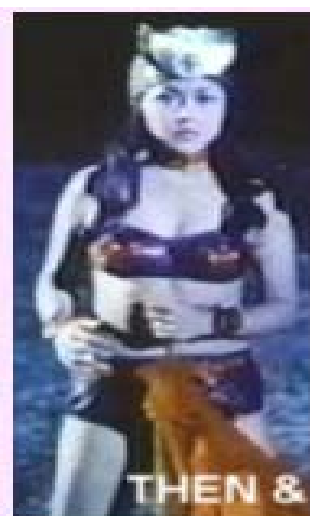


Ate Vi as presenter at the 2nd Golden Screen Awards



Victorious at the 21st Star Awards and glamorous in her white combo

DARNA AND KAMPANERANG KUBA 2005



Angel Locsin and Ann Curtis are in a very hot seat trying very hard to surpassed Vilma Santos record as the most successful Darna and Kampanerang Kuba, this time on small screen.

All about Awards... From page 7

She also affected us with her tour de force portrayal of a modern mistress in Relasyon, an activist nun in SSL, a dying cancer stricken career woman in Pahiram, a mother of autistic child in Ipagpatawad, an AIDS patient in Dolzura, an awaken mother to an activist rebel in Dekada and just recently a modern crime crusader torn between two lovers in Mano Po 3! From fantasy to reality, her filmography deserve the most important awards in Philippine movie history – the National Artist honor.

The Future – As we all know Vilma has surpassed all of her contemporaries, including Nora Aunor. The future for our idol has become more exciting than ever. Vilma admittedly said that she wanted to stay in show business for as long as she still enjoys it, just like her idol, Gloria Romero, playing grandmother roles. But that's not gonna happen right now, Vilma still commands the leading roles. She can still carry a film and portray roles that's younger than her real age (Thanks to her youthful looks and clean lifestyles). Projects are still pouring' in. And again, unlike her contemporaries, she remained choosy and committed, to do "never been done" projects, a well known secret of her longevity. Indeed, her future remained bright and truly exciting! - - ml

PINOY AMERICAN STYLE

BY MAR GARCES



Vilma Santos, ang ulirang Ina

Ni Mar Garces

Whether in reel or real life, Vilma Santos is an epitome of an ideal mother.

This is my tribute to Vilma Santos, ang Uilirang Ina. She has had faults or wrong choices in life. Like her, we all make mistakes. As the years go by, we learn from those missteps, wisen up and change for the better. I could write a book about Vilma, and perhaps one of the most poignant chapters will be about her as a mother. Oh yeah, we've had 'mother' role figures in showbiz via the late Ms. Rita Gomez, the original bad girl, or her 'arch rival' Ms. Celia Rodriguez. Then there's Mother Lily, the matriarch of Regal studios. There is the protective Amalia Fuentes, who at daughter Liezl's prime, was the best known mother/actress of the Philippines. At one time, Nora Aunor was a picture of a happy family with real son Ian De Leon and a battalion of adopted children who appeared on movies together with either Christopher De Leon or Tirso Cruz as father figures. In films, some of Nora's most memorable characters are mothers: Bulaklak sa City Jail, Andrea, and Pacita Madrigal.

But no one is as beloved a Mother Figure than the QueenStar, Ms. Vilma Santos. Remember the "I love you

Lucky!" days when, after a grueling VIP/Vilma live show, mother Vi would say those endearing words to her son waiting at home? Those were the most famous greetings that were heard every Friday, from Luzon to Mindanao, year after year. "I love you, Lucky!" The words say it all, from a loving, doting, responsible mother. At the height of her TV (top rating Vilma!) and movie career (prime movie roles and box-office triumphs in the 90's), Vilma mad a tough choice: to give new husband Sen. Ralph Recto a child. In her farewell Vilma! show, she tearfully said goodbye to fame and fortune, and her fans, to give way to family/motherhood. Why even megastar Sharon Cuneta was all praises to the Real Queen for the tough but wise decision she ever made. No success in life can ever replace a failed family. Even then, Ms. Vilma Santos was admirable for her brave, smart decisions. Risking her career, even her life, she went through a most delicate pregnancy the Philippines had been a voyeur to. She had to be literally carried to the bathroom in order not to bleed and lose the baby. What a sacrifice from a mother and wife. And how God blessed her with a new son, Ryan Christopher Recto. And oh how avid fan Sharon Cuneta followed in her idol's footsteps. Two great mothers. Two great superstars. When they appear in a film 2gether?

As to films, no other actress has essayed a gamut of credible mother roles, than Vilma Santos.

Broken Marriage – failure as a wife, but NEVER as a mother.

Aida Macaraeg – her poignant moments with her son, unforgettable. Lino Brocka could not have found a better Macaraeg.

Dolzura Cortez – on her deathbed, dying from AIDS, she tells her mother Charito Solis (SLN) – "ang mga anak ko, huwag ninyong pababayaan ang mga anak ko." Urian was won over. Bow! Award, oh! Grand slam number two, oh!

Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-Ibig? – as a 'surrogate' mother to Val (Tonton Gutierrez).

Remember the lines, "si Val, si Vall"? Best picture!

Ipagpatawad Mo – "si Jun-Jun!". Ugrian jurors made the right choice. Best actress of '91.

As Lea in **Bata-Bata** – son screams "hindi totoo `yan. `hindi totoo `yan!" Mother and son scenes. Mother and daughter scenes. Mother and children scenes. Unforgettable. Grand slam nga, eh! Number three!

As Josie in **Anak** – wa na ko say. BOW! WOW! POW! PMPC Star, PASADO and CMMA did the right thing. Awards! Oscar foreign language film entry.

Amanda Bartolome (**Dekada '70**) . Mother Courage, Nestor Torre describes Vilma of her character and brilliant performance. Grand slam number four. Second trip to the Oscar foreign language film category as an entry.

Lilia (**Mano Po 3**) – "pati ba ikaw iiwan mo ako – sabagay, sanay na ako ng iniwan?" A well written role for Vilma (si Nestor Torre ulit, oh!) as mother, wife, abandoned girlfriend, anti-crime crusader. The envelope, please! Kayo, may maidadagdag pa ba kayo? Vilma Santos has done it all. Been there, done that.

Next stop, the MMK role as mother to a child with cerebral palsy. And the mother of three gay sons in Flores de Mara. Kapanapanabik! As for me, Vilma's best mother role is that of being mother to sons Lucky and Ryan, and to her constituents in Lipa city who voted her,

in a landslide, three times, for being an excellent, incomparable INA NG LIPA. Bow!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, MAYOR VILMA SANTOS-RECTO!

-mg

VITS & PIECES

- Vilma Santos has been awarded by the Guillermo Mendoza Scholarship Foundation as their choice for their All Time Favorite Actress.
- Vilma's guesting to the drama anthology show Maalaala Mo Kaya has been dragged into controversy due to allegation that MMK staff breached their agreement with an unnamed hospital, shooting beyond the agreed time and taping the hospital's cerebral palsy patients. Sources said that Vilma has nothing to do with the controversy. The episode is yet to be schedule by ABS-CBN.
- Vilma has earned a nomination from the prestigious Plaridel Awards from UP Film Institute.
- Luna Awards, Philippines' version of OSCAR is slated to give out their hardware this Sat. May 14. Vilmanians are all gearing up for another memorable victory for Ate Vi and this will follow by critic's URIAN Awards on June 4th.
- Unfortunately, Mayor Vi will not be able to attend the Luna Awards due to her scheduled trip with her senator husband Ralp Recto to China. She will accompany him together with Vice President Noli DeCastro. Looks like mayor Vi is preparing for a future higher political position or is it his' husband's ambition?
- Lately the Recto's are all praise of mayor Vi's presence in Lipa politics. They pointed out, Vilma is a big asset in the Rectos' political future.

Did you know...

- All of the three Mano Po films won the best float in the Manila Film Festival's annual parade.
- Pagbigyan Mo Ang Puso Ko, the theme song for MP3 sung by Karylle & Jerome John Hughes won the festival's best original song
- Karylle is the daughter of Zsa Zsa Padilla who sung the theme song Hiram in Vilma Santos' starrer, Palimos Ng Paglbig
- Zsa Zsa Padilla is the step mother of actor Rolly Quizon? Rolly co-starred with Vilma in 1977 MMFF entry Burlesk Queen and won the best actor award
- Aside from a best actress trophy, Vilma Santos received a medal for winning the best actress in 1977 MMFF for Burlesk Queen
- The director of Burlesk Queen was Celso Ad Castillo who also directed the first Vilma Santos-Christopher De Leon film, Tag-Ulan sa Tag-Araw.
- Christopher De Leon didn't win any award as Emil in Relasyon opposite Vilma Santos, won all of the Best Actress of 1982.
- "Love and respect were the two things that AIDS patients would like people to give them" was the message of Vilma on her acceptance speech at Star Awards where she won best actress for Dolzura Cortez.
- As Malou in Relasyon, Vilma works at Planetarium in Luneta.
- Both Bata bata Paano Ka Ginawa and Dekada 70 were directed by Chito Rono. Both films gave Vilma International recognition.



**Top 10
awarded films
list**

RELASYON
DEKADA 70
BATABATA PAANO KA
GINAWA
DOLZURA CORTES
PAHIRAM NG ISANG
UMAGA
IPAGPATAWAD MO
BURLESK QUEEN
DAMA DE NOCHE
TRUDIS LIIT
MANO POSMY LOVE



AT IBA'T IBA PA

BY MARCUS LEE

All about awards

Ni Marcus Lee

First of all, I would like to welcome you all to our first e-groups newsletter. This project is dedicated to our one and only idol, Ms. Vilma Santos Recto and to all Vilmanians around the globe. Our maiden issue is about "Awards"; it is very timely since its still award season in our country. We are very hopeful that ate Vi will reaped more awards due to her impressive performance in MP3.

The ultimate win – For all Vilmanians, who can forget 1983? It's the ultimate win for our idol. 1982 ended with Nora Aunor winning the December film festival for Himala. Everyone are predicting about her winning all the awards for that year. But Vilma is Nora's true tormentor because as the award season in 1983 begins (remember they honoring the films from the previous year), all award giving bodies lined up and unanimously gave the best actress awards to Vilma! Bernal may have been a true actor's director but without ate Vi's maturing talent, no one can perform as effective as Malou in Relasyon! And FAMAS, CMMA, URIAN & FAP, all agreed resulting a true GRAND SLAM! Impressive indeed. This is a vindication of all the heartaches she suffered in the 70s.

The Milestone Move – No longer a sweet teenager, Vilma's milestone, career move was through Burlesk Queen. By 1977, Vilma's reinvention of her image began with her feminist look at her personal life. She no longer care

about the gossip and bad publicity that her relationship with Romeo Vasquez has created. Concentrating with her movies, Vilma accepted daring roles like Dalawang Pugad, Isang Ibon, Nag-aapoy Na Damdamin, Tag-ulan sa Tag-araw. And also as producer, she created some of the best films of that decade, like Mga Rosas Sa Putikan, Halik sa Paa, Halik sa Kamay, and the ultimate, Pagputi Ng Uwak, Pagtim ng Tagak (an almost grand slam winner for best picture). She is one of the very first independent producer in the country. But the most daring of them all was Burlesk Queen. Ian films bet all of its money to this project and it paid off because not only it is the top grosser of the film festival it also reaped almost all of the festival's awards! Sourgraping, the Nora Aunor camp complained but to no avail, All awards were never returned as what the news said few days after it was given. Burlesk Queen established Vilma Santos name as the number one actress in the Philippines. She was featured in Times Magazine in its coverage of the news around the globe.

The hurtful Lost – Ironically, the following year Ian films went to the other camp and produced one of the most stereotypical film of all times, Atsay. Directed by Eddie Garcia, Nora Aunor gave her most over rated performance of all time. Avoiding the scandal of the previous years and aim at vindicating Nora Aunor, the festival judges gave her the Best Performer award over Vilma Santos' impressive performance in Rubia Servios. Isagani Cruz, a well respected critics during that time emphasized the hardship and delicate direction of Lino Brocka that is being the total craftsmanship of the Rubia was far more superior than

Atsay. Cruz even pointed out that although Nora and Vilma both gave splendid performances, Vilma's role was far more demanding and difficult. And everyone agreed including all Noranians. And so, as history will tell, it was the sweetest victory of Nora and Noranians over us. It was also hurtful because as the victory spread around the archipelago, the news about Ate Vi committing suicide came out. True it was a big disappointment and Marichu Vera Perez attested, she and Vilma cried all night after the awards night but the suicide rumor was just a myth. Vilma will learned from this lost and as we all remember, a lesson learned, she will never expect to win. She'll do her job and let them decide if she is deserving of their accolades. The 80's will proves to be more fruitful, kind and respectful of her effort to give her fans and movie aficionados every cent of their movie ticket.

From fantasy to reality – As the 70's box office queen, Vilma reinvent herself so many times. She was the disco queen, the action hero (darna, vivian volta, wonder vi), physically disabled bell ringer (kampanerang kuba), a mermaid (dyesebel) to name a few. But in order to transform herself into a maturing actor and get notice for her acting talent, Vilma accepted daring roles which gave her so many awards (almost 70 to this date!) but the most revealing thing about this reinventions was the intrinsic value of all this important roles. The feminism, activism and social issues tackled and explored in these films are the most important contribution to the real world and the real human condition in our country. From the ill fated dancer in Burlesk Queen, to the liberal minded, suicidal designer in Ikaw Ay Akin to a desperate lover to Tag-ulan sa Tag Araw to a more rebellious wife in Broken Marriage, Vilma gave us a true to life picture of what are the most common sufferings of Filipinos. What are the real conditions that most of us cant voice out. True to its form, her films current as we still continue to experience all this social issues. Poverty and helplessness among the common Filipino problems.

(Continue in page 4)



ANYTHING GOES

BY CHARLIE GOMEZ



We are Family

By Charlie Gomez

Hi to all wonderful and good-hearted Vilmanians all over the globe. Welcome to the very first issue of our Newsletter.

Yes, our newsletter. This is ours and I'm glad to be a part of it. Thanks to Marcus for the trust. It's indeed a pleasure and a privilege.

This newsletter is conceived purposely for all of us – us, who for the love of the Philippines' greatest actress of all time, the Star for All Seasons, the QueenStar, the Honorable Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto, have found ourselves through the wonders of this technology, called the Net, chatting, smiling, laughing, encouraging, and comforting one another, developing a kind of relationship that transcends borders, climates and languages, and a relationship that encompasses all genders, ages and time.

The phrase of one popular song aptly befits us, that is, "we are family".

Yes, we are. You are a brother, a sister, a father and a mother, and a friend – rolled into one.

Yan ang mga Vilmanians. Iisang Pamilya, iisang puso na nagmamahal sa Nag-iisang Reyna at Nag-iisang Bituin, Ms. Vilma Santos-Recto. And since we are one family, in heart, soul and body, it's my pleasure to inform everyone that starting from this maiden issue and thereafter, yours truly will be a part of this newsletter, bringing to everyone - to all Vilmanians in every nook of the world, all sorts of topics and subjects under the sun, that I believe will surely inspire, encourage, strengthen, and comfort every Vilmanians wherever they may be, and whatever they may be into. Thus, the name of this column will be known as "Anything Goes..." The same title we used of my radio program way, way back during my DZME days. But that's another story. Hope, I can dwell on it in the next. As the name implies, this column is for all. Everything that will perk up our minds and hearts, everything that will bring us laughter and hope - that would be the goal of this column. So join me in this endeavor, as well as our colleagues who contributed to finally give birth to the very first newsletter made for Ate Vi and all Vilmanians. Special mention is given to the V-5 (ala Voltes Five) comprising of Marcus, GarMar, Franco, Eric N. and yours truly.

Awards Seasons

Our dear friend, Marcus, requested me to come up with an article about this year's awards seasons as an opening salvo for my column. I wish to, but time is so elusive that I can't really find time to sit and write one.

Suffice to say, I believe everyone is doubly excited in the coming FAP awards night on May 14, as well as of URIAN on June 4, where Ate Vi is both nominated in this two award-giving

body for her sterling performance in the third opus of Mano Po, which is now called Mano Po 3. By the way, I heard, there's a fourth one being cooked up by Regal. Ano ba yan, Mader? Akala ko final na ang MP3? Kunsabagay, nothing is permanent in this celluloid world, except the word permanent itself.

Sa mga Vilmanians na nasa Pilipinas, I'm sure sila'y handing-handa na magbigay suporta sa ating Reyna sa darating na FAP and URIAN Awards Night. Malayo man kami sa inyo, we'll be cheering with you every time the name of Ate Vi is called and mentioned. At lalo na kapag tinawag ang kaniyang pangalan bilang nagwagi sa Best Actress Award. Di lang hiya, kungdi may kasama pang talon yan at pagluha ng kagalakan. There's no stopping for the victory of Queen Vi.

Kami na kapamilya n'yo sa Gitnang Silangan, sa Amerika o sa Europa at sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo, ay nakikiisa sa pagtataguyod sa ating pinakamamahal na Reyna, si Reyna VILMA. At bago po ako magtapos, ako'y bumabati ng Happy Mother's Day sa aking pinakamamahal na ina at sa lahat ng mga Tanging Ina ng kani-kanilang tahanan, gayundin sa Ulirang Ina ng Lipa at Ulirang Ina ni Luis at Ryan, at Ulirang Ina ng mga Vilmanians – Ms Vilm Santos-Recto.

Nagpupugay po sa inyong lahat,

Ang inyong kaibigan at kapamilya,

Charlz

(makikita si Charlz na sumasayaw ng breakdance to the tune of "we are family... we are family...")

- CG

FLASHBACK REVIEWS



Puna at Puri

Mario E. Bautista

People's Journal

July 1982

Dalawang magagandang pelikula ang sabay na itinatanghal ngayon. Ito'y ang "Relasyon" ni Ishmael Bernal at "Hubad na Gubat" ng baguhang si Lito Tiongson. Sa taong ito, tatlong pa lamang ang talagang namumukod tangi para sa amin. Ang "Ito Ba Ang Ating Mga Anak" ni Bernal, "In This Corner" ni Brocka at ngayon nga'y ang "Relasyon" ni Bernal na naman.

Napakahusay ni Vilma Santos sa papel ng pangunahing tauhan, isang dalagang umibig sa isang may asawa. It's one hell of a role and a heaven of a performance. Kasama si Vilma sa lahat ng eksena sa pelikula at talagang ito na ang pinakamabigat na papel na napaatang sa mga balikat ng isang local actress mula ng gampanan ni Gina Alajar and lead role sa "Salome". This time, sigurado nang mano-nominate si Vilma sa Urian (ito lamang ang award na hindi niya napa-pagwagihan) at malamang na ang mag-ing pinakamahigpit niyang kalaban dito ay si Nora Aunor na very demanding din ang role sa "Himala" (na si Bernal din ang direktor). Ito'y kung matatapos ang ECP project na ito sa taong ito na sa palagay nami'y hindi kahit gusto ng ECP na isali ito sa filmfest sa Disyembre. Dinalirot ng "Relasyon" ang lahat ng mga anggulong maaaring suutan ng isang

babaing nagiging kerida. Maraming madamdaming tagpo sa pelikula, lalo na ang death scene ni Christopher de Leon na tuhog ang pagkakakuha. Bagay na bagay kay Jimi Melendez ang papel niya bilang torpeng talisuyo ni Vilma. Hit na hit siya sa audience.

Hanggang ngayon ay patuloy na dumarag sa dito sa amin ang mga sulat na pumupuri sa acting ni Vilma Santos sa "Relasyon". Sabi ni Nelda Santiago ng Arellano St., Marikina : "Napakagaling ni Vilma at kahit hindi pa ako nagiging kerida, para bang na identify ako sa kanya." Sabi naman ni Hector Cruz ng 14 Malaya St., Q.C. : "Maraming nasasabi ang mga mata ni Vilma lalo sa mga eksenang wala siyang dialogue. Pati pilikmata niya ay umaarte. Dapat lang na magka award siya rito. Magaling din sina Jimi Melendez at Beth Mondragon." Ayon naman kay H. Santillan III ng UP Village : Hindi kami fan ni Vilma pero kung ganito ng ganito ang performances niya, dapat siguro'y maging fan na nga niya kami. Tour de force ang acting niya at dapat ilagay sa textbook on acting. Hindi mapapantayan ang rapport nila ni Christopher de Leon." May iba pang mga sulat pero hindi na namin masisipi sa kakulangan ng espasyo.

A Deep, Psychological Film

by Isagani Cruz

Parade magazine - 21 July 1982

FINALLY in Ishmael Bernal's Relasyon, we have a film made explicitly for adults. There is no explicit sex sequence (adults don't really go for that sort of thing, only adolescent boys do). But the psychological problems faced by the film are comprehensible only to adults, those who know what it means to live with someone one loves (or, at least, used to love). This film is, thus, not entertaining in the usual prurient sense, but in a deeper, psychological, intellectual sense.

There are basically two themes that this film tackles: sex roles and divorce.

Vilma Santos represents womanhood in the film: Christopher de Leon represents manhood. The Filipina woman is commonly thought of as a martir or long-suffering masochist. Santos portrays a mistress who is an out-and-out martir. She serves De Leon hand and foot, ministering to his every need, including fetching beer for him, washing his clothes, serving as his shoulder to cry on, even baby-sitting his child. In return, all she gets from De Leon is chauvinistic love, void of tenderness, full of immature aggressiveness.

De Leon represents chauvinist maleness. He portrays a character who is totally insensitive to his woman's needs. He wants the house done exactly to his own taste. He expects his woman to be there when he needs her, but does not even think that he should be there when she wants him. He finds nothing wrong with having a wife and a mistress at the same time. On the other hand, he sees everything wrong with Santos entertaining suitor Jimi Melendez in the house. He's even jealous of Manny Castaneda, Santos' gay acquaintance. In short, he is selfishness personified.



**"Dinalirot ng
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Mario Bautista**



VILMA SANTOS
E-GROUPS

VILMA SANTOS E-GROUPS FORUM

Creators: Marcus Lee (Canada), Mar Garces (U.S.), Franco Gabriel (U. S.), Eric Nadurata (Philippines) and Charles Gomez (Middle East)

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Vilmanians from Canada, check this e-group!

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

The Star For All Season e-group!

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

The original e-group and one of the best in visuals and informations!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VilmaSantosVISION>

Rich in information, user friendly e-group about Ate Vi!

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

And for all information about Ate Vi, Check this wonderful

website by our very own, Eric N!

<http://www.vilmasantos.net>

(From Front Page... The Awards Season...)

Vilma Santos has won the following so far for Mano Po III:

- Metro Manila Film Festival
- First Gawad Suri
- Tanglaw (tie with Nora Aunor)
- PMPC Star

Based on the above trend, Nora and Vilma have the lion's share of awards. With the FAP and the Urian waiting in the wings to crown their choices, it looks like there is no potential grand slam winner. Vilma holds the most number of grand slams, four in all to Nora's one.

Technically even if Nora wins in the FAP and Urian, Vilma still holds the record of the actress with the most acting trophies won ever since she won as best a child actress at the FAMAS in 1963.

But Nora will have an uphill climb at the FAP and Urian as Vilma's riveting and intense performance in MP3 matches if not eclipses her marvelous performance in Naglalayag.

It also doesn't help that she was arrested at

the LA airport for shabu and glass pipe possession which may turn off FAP voters. As in the Oscars where 'peer to peer endearment' factor helps win votes, that 'dark episode' in Nora's troubled life may turn in her favor, because of sympathy votes You know how Filipinos are suckers for sob stories.

As far as the Urian is concerned, which is looked up to in the industry as the most credible award-giving body, my prediction is that it is a toss up, or a tie, as the group is notorious for having the most 'tie' wins in award-giving business. But if Ugrian should know better, Vilma Santos should win solo as she has given a better performance than Nora. Not only does she hold the movie together but is given more situations to show her range as an actress, From Nestor Torre's review:

"We liked the way Vilma Santos' character was written, as a former activist who became a crusader against crime and corruption.

It was also good that the movie's central conflict revolved around her, so Vilma

was given every opportunity to display her acting prowess."

That said, I predict a FAP and Ugrian sweep for Vilma Santos, not because I am a Vilmanian, but because Ms. Santos' performance is the best last year.

- mg



“Walang Batas na nagsasabing bawal magmahal ng dalawang lalake!!!”