

# VILMA!





# Editorial

Marcus Peter Lee

## After "Rosie" & "O" comes "Vilma!"

**P**arang kelan lang when we started this project and now, here we are with our "holiday issue". Marami tayong natutunan at marami rin tayong napaligaya. Someone asked me kung ano bang plano natin about the future of "Vilma!". We haven't think that much until now. Of course we will continue to explore things and be of service to all Vilmanians and Ate Vi. Our purpose is to be the medium for information about Ate Vi and also to entertain all Vilmanians around the globe. We will improve our contents and encourage all Vilmanians to participate.

Eventually, the ultimate dream would be to turn our little newsletter into a full pledged magazine. And maybe be on the publishing market (in the Philippines). That's why it is important for us to remained connected to all Vilmanians in the Philippines. In the long run, we will explore the possibility of having someone in the Philippines to be our business partner. Talking 'bout dreaming big, eh?! If Rosie O'Donnel had her moments in her now closed "Rosie" and Oprah continued her success with her "O" magazine, why wouldn't "Vilma!" or simply "V" be far behind? Nobody have done this in the Philippines. It will be another first for the Star for All Seasons. And just look at all the possibilities. Ate Vi can even use this for her future political ambition as a PR tool. Am I getting too far ahead? Maybe. Sabi nga nila there's no harm in...dreaming! Hehehe....

As we are reaching the end of 2005, It is time to savor the fruits of our labour. It is indeed a very successful year for Ate Vi. We considered it as one of her memorable year in terms of career recognition (political and as an artist) and her personal life. She is indeed (still) on top of her career & all her contemporaries are nowhere to be found. Here in "Vilma!," we must took some time to savor what we have accomplished. Producing a newsletter dedicated to the only Queen in the Philippine Cinema, Dr. Vilma Santos-Recto. It was a brilliant idea. We made history by making our simple newsletter to be the very first in the Philippines. We became so productive, even Mario Bautista acknowledged our effort. We are all willing to preserve the legacy of our one and only idol. And it all showed with our writings. Kudos to Eric Nadurata for his hardwork and for being our "Kuya", to Mar Garces for his wonderful articles, Allan Trambulo for being the goodwill ambassador for all Vilmanians who visited NY/NJ this year, for Willy for his hard work and patience, to all our columnist and staff contributors for being so creative and to all Vilmanians for being vigilant in fighting for our one and only Queen. Alam n'yo na kung sino-sino kayo! I am so proud to be with you guys hand in hand sa pagtatanggol over the hurtful misinformed unsolicited messages and comments posted in our e-groups. And good karma and all, the blessings poured in. Proving that we are all in the good side of the equation, evidence of good karma due to our hard work, loyalty and dedication. For 2006, we will work harder because we have to give Ate Vi our 110 percent and more, all for our love and devotion to the only still standing real superstar of the Philippine Cinema - Dr. Rosa Vilma Santos-Recto! To all Vilmanians around the globe & to our dearest Dr. Vi, Happy Holidays!

Marcus Peter Lee

Team Leader



## Letters

from around the globe

### THE BIRTHDAY ISSUE

Hi! Thank you very much for the 4th issue of Vilma! - The Birthday Issue. Just like Ate Vi, I too is a scorpion. It's my birthday tomorrow, Oct 25th. Hope you will always send me a copy of Vilma! thru email. Just like you and the hundred millions of Vilmanians from all over the globe, wishing Ate Vi & her family the best of everything. As GMA Channel 7 would say: "she is truly the best and the brightest star for all seasons!" Again, thank you and GOD bless.

Paul Anthony Tejada,

Great Britain

Thank you very much! I've received Ate Vi's Birthday Issue talaga namang napakaganda. I haven't read it yet but I got the chance to see it in passing napa-wow ako. You're the best at sa lahat na nag-contribute doon, hats off ako sa inyo, JOB WELL DONE... it's me,

Wonder Sam,

Toronto, ON Canada

I never got a chance to thank you for sending me a copy of

Ate Vi's b-day issue. Thanks a lot... I really, really enjoyed it! I am an Ate Vi fanatic....forever! Any word of the YES mag. contest? Medyo delay dito sa L.A. ang balita & my computer is not hook up at this time. I only using this one at work. Thanks,  
Rob Strong,  
Los Angeles

### Gising na!

Hindi n'yo ba nare-realized na kahit anong gawin n'yo, ang Vilma Santos n'yo will remained number two lang kay Nora Aunor! Kahit na nga nasa U.S. si Ate Guy, eh hindi pa rin maiiwasang banggiting ang name niya kapag nag-ge-guest ang idolo n'yo sa TV. Paano nga kabuntot siya ng kasikatan ng Superstar!

Desiree DeLosantos

New York, USA

(Another creature living in the past, mag-2-2006 na po, gising na! - mpl)



## HOW TO REACH US:

For submissions, comments, suggestions, contributions:

E-mail us: c/o The Editorial Team [vilmasantosnewsletter@yahoo.ca](mailto:vilmasantosnewsletter@yahoo.ca)



# December 2005 - January 2006



## FEATURES >>>

- 8** | "SI VILMA SANTOS...IYAN ANG IDOLO KO AT MAGIGING HUWARAN MO--WALA NANG IBA!" THIS IS THE EXACT WORDS OF NELVIN'S MOM | NELVIN REA
- 11 - 12** | FAMILY ALBUM | ALAN TRAMBULO
- 13** | THE FEMINIST CENTENNIAL FESTIVAL REPORT | JUNE SISON
- 16** | ATE VI: AT 52 STILL GOING STRONG | RICKY LO
- 19 - 21** | SI DARNA AT SI ATE VI | ERIC CUETO



## DEPARTMENTS >>>

- 2** LETTERS
- 2** EDITORIAL | MARCUS PETER LEE
- 4** VS UPDATE | ERIC NADURATA
- 5** LETS BE FRANC | FRANCO GABRIEL
- 6** WILLINGLY | WILLIE FERNANDEZ
- 7** UMBRA ET PENUMBRA | MAR GARCES
- 9 - 10** VITS & PIECES
- 14** SINCERELY YOURS | FATHER J
- 17** VILMANIA | EDDIE LOZANO
- 18** ANYTHING GOES | CHARLIE GOMEZ
- 22 - 23** MOVIE REVIEWS | MAR GARCES AND WILLIE FERNANDEZ



### CORRECTION:

On our last issue, the Gawad Suri article was actually written by our columnist Willie Fernandez and not by our beloved Kuya Eric. We apologized for this mixed-up.



The  
**Vilma Santos**  
newsletter  
is published bi-monthly by members of the four Vilma Santos e-groups.

**Team Leader:**  
Rendt Viray a.k.a.  
Marcus Peter Lee

**Team Writers:**  
Aries  
Willie Fernandez  
Franco Gabriel  
Mar Garces  
Charles Gomez  
Father Juancho Gutierrez  
Eddie Lozano  
Eric Nadurata  
Allan Trambulo

**Guest Writers:**  
Eric Cueto  
Nelvin Rea

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

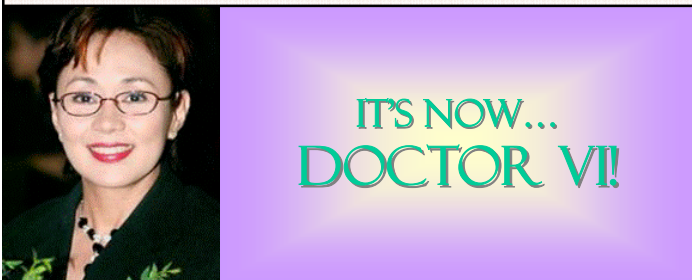
- VISION
- Vilma Santos
- VS - R
- VS Fan Club Canada

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**



**Editor's Note:** The following were Kuya Eric's posted messages from our E-groups. His "VS Update" column will be back next issue.



Yesterday, we attended the taping of Homeboy wherein si Ate Vi was the sole guest ni Mr. Boy Abunda. It was a fun Episode, with a band playing ate Vi's songs like Sixteen, My Boy Lollipop and others, after each commercial gaps. May mga surprise guests din like the Big Brothers evictees and Luis Manzano. According to Mr. Boy the said episode will be aired on Monday, Nov. 21. So, please watch out for it. On Friday, Nov. 18, naka-sked ang last shooting day ni ate Vi for MMK. When we asked her about it she jokingly said, "I have to squeeze that into my schedule, kung hindi baka sa 2008 pa ito maipalabas." sabay tawa. Looks like may isa na namang big award na maibibigay kay ate Vi, hindi ko lang muna sabihin until everything is final. I already asked her about this, pero true to her humble self, hindi pa nag-comment si ate Vi. I will post it here as soon as I get the confirmation. Please continue voting sa Yes Magazine, last time i check wala na ang tally for the "others" category. We have to vote more for ate Vi. Thanks sa lahat for cooperating.

**Honorary Doctorate** - I know that you've read about this already, pero dahil request ng mahal kong kaibigan na si Franco, I will try to write about it. Yesterday, Nov. 10, Mayor Vi or ate Vi for most of us, was conferred with the Honorary Doctorate in Humanities by the Lipa City Colleges. Tama nga si kaibigang Mar, It's really raining as far as awards and recognitions kay ate Vi! And mind you, hindi basta-basta recognitions! Hindi lahat ng tao na nabibigyan ng ganitong recognition. In fact, sa mundo ng showbiz, iilan ang nabigyan nito. Recently, Ms. Rosa Rosal was conferred a similar recognition by FEU.

Aside from her, wala na yata akong matandaan na nabigyan rin. This recognition from the Lipa City Colleges, is just the beginning. Alam ko, marami pang ibang colleges and universities ang susunod, dahil talaga naman deserving si ate Vi. Pero what is an Honorary Doctorate or Doctor Honoris Causa? I've surf the net is this is what I got: read on. --

HONORARY DOCTORATE or doctor honoris causa - The rank of honorary doctorate or doctor honoris causa is an honorific title granted by an exceptional procedure. Originally a university would confer the dignity of doctor honoris causa in order to distinguish a learned person whose knowledge and wisdom were considered exemplary, but also, in return, to pride itself for having recognized and "recruited" among its faculty such an outstanding person. Formerly universities have given some more picturesque titles than doctor honoris causa, like doctor or professor angelicus, eximius, mirabilis, subtilis, illuminatus... The conferring of an honorary doctorate or doctor honoris causa still follows, sometimes, an old protocol (formerly in Latin). Nowadays the attribution of an honorary title such as doctor honoris causa can mean :

- recognizing and distinguishing an outstanding person who contributed notably to his or her field of expertise, higher education or a specific institution
- simultaneously honoring the recipient and the institution
- rewarding or encouraging past or future donations

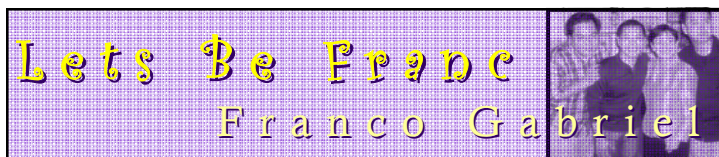
Most regulations insist on the moral qualities of the honorary doctorate recipient, like ris. Another significant criterion for the nomination of a doctor honoris causa is the recognition by his peers. Doctors honoris causa can be seen in all the fields of knowledge, such as arts and letters, exact sciences, social or human sciences, philosophy etc. Honorary distinctions can be of varied levels, the most appreciated one being, of course, that of honorary doctor (doctor honoris causa), although the one of outstanding professor (professor emeritus) is not looked down upon by teachers whose own university would not dare to grant them an honorary doctorate, at least as long as they are active. In agreement with the rules of the Université Multiculturelle Internationale, Epictetus College concedes an honorary master's degree (magister honoris causa) or an honorary doctorate (doctor honoris causa) according to two essential criteria :

- the personal merit of the nominee
- the recognition by his peers

The rank of doctor is recognized in the same way whether it has been obtained on a purely honorary basis or otherwise : it is designated by simply writing Dr. before the name, just as at one time a postgraduate doctorate, a university doctorate and a state doctorate coexisted in France with only one common designation for any of the three.

Ang galing, ano? Hindi ba dapat tayo talagang maging happy dahil vilmanian tayo? ;-) So, from now on, will it be Dr. Vilma Santos-Recto na, instead of Ate Vi? Oh, well, life is beautiful.





from child star roles to teen lead roles with ease and success. When Nino reached the awkward age, box-office receipts of his movies were not as good. He had no choice but to accept second or third lead roles like his movie with Aga &



## DARNA AT DING: VILMA & NIÑO'S COMPARATIVE POINT OF VIEW



"Darna at Ding" starring Vilma Santos & Nino Muhlach was shown in 1980. This is Vilma Santos' 4th and last Darna movie. Vilma was in good company with the child superstar Nino Muhlach as her brother sidekick "Ding". The super team zoomed in out of the screen with bravura. Humor is mixed with fantasy, magic and the duo's thrilling encounter with ingenious villains who wants to rule the world adds excitement to this last Vilma's Darna. Among their wicked adversaries was Marissa Delgado as the evil German scientist who summons cadavers from their graves to carry out her grisly plans. An impressive roster of big name stars in cameo roles completed the cast. The movie also stars Celia Rodriguez as Lei Ming the evil witch, Veronica Jones as the hawk woman and Max Alvarado as the giant. Nino Muhlach was the only "Ding" who shared title role and equal billing with the main bida - "Darna", simply because he was the child wonder of the 70's & mid '80's. Most of the child superstars of local movies were girls like Tessie Agana, Snooky Serna & Aiza Seguerra and Onin broke that tradition. They were the child stars who made movie hits one after another, with the plots of their movies revolving around them. They were swamped with movie offers and became busy doing projects one after another. Ate Vi was also considered as a popular child star during the 60's, she made hits like Trudis Liit, Ging etc. and even received her first FAMAS award at a tender age. But as a child star, Ate Vi cannot be compared to Nino. Nino can carry a movie all by himself, while Ate Vi, though she made title role movies which also made good at the box-office, made and accepted a lot of supporting roles as a child star like the role as the young Imee Marcos in "Iginuhit ng Tadhana" or the daughter of Eddie Rodriguez & Lolita Rodriguez in "Hindi Nahahati ang Langit". As one writer said: Nag-rigodon si Vilma as daughter sa triangle nina Eddie Rodriguez, Lolita Rodriguez and Marlene Dauden. Their triangle was a big hit then and Ate Vi almost always acted as daughter to one of them. Nino, on the other hand, maintained his lead role character as a child wonder, if not bida it should be an equal role to the bida like a movie with FPJ or Dolphy & yes with Ate Vi as Ding in the title role. Unfortunately, Nino was not as blessed as Ate Vi, who was able to transcend

Pops (Oks na Oks Pakner) in the 80's, and worst, made an almost extra role in the Judy Ann- Mickey Arroyo movie "Mahal Kita Maging Sino Ka Pa". Table turned and he became the supporting star of his cousin Aga who used to be his extra during the '70s. In fairness, Nino became a business icon though he did not reach the stature of his cousin's (Aga) success as an actor, the former is very much satisfied with his earnings right now, he was the youngest investor at the age of nine when he own a building in San Juan named after him, the El Nino Apartelle. He also owns and manages a bakery that makes delicious ensaymada that melts in the mouth. He is now enjoying the fruit of his labor. The famous child actress Vilma Santos grew up as a beautiful young star and was able to maintain popularity from the '70's up to the present. Her title "Star for all Seasons" fits her well because among her contemporaries, she is the only one who stays on top. She can choose the roles that she wants, and is still deluge with movie offers complete with top billing and huge talent fee, that even the likes of Claudine or Judy Ann can only hope for. And why not? She is the Queen! And she deserves nothing less! She is considered the Box Office Queen of all time. Blessings continued to pour for Vilma, from film awards to public service recognitions. She is also the only actor to have crossed over from showbiz to politics and was graded satisfactorily. And like what Mar Garces, our famous house writed said, "you ain't see nothing yet, the

best is yet to come." What do they have in common (Vilma and Nino)? They are both considered as among the richest celebrities in local industry. In wrapping up, we can say that Nino started as a child wonder & ended up as a successful businessman; he is now accepting small roles. Vilma Santos on the other hand, continues to shine her star and is considered as the longest reigning Queenstar of all time. To you Darna at Ding. Fly high!



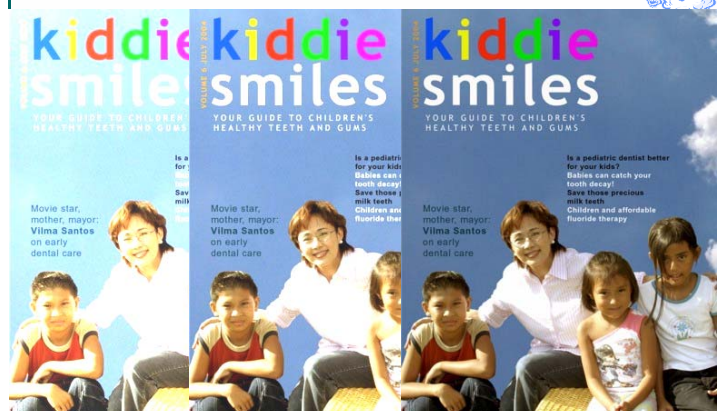


## “MAYOR VILMA, INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDEE!”

**S**ydney, Australia. The Mayor for All Seasons, the 22nd mayor and lone lady mayor of Lipa City, Si Ate Vi ay muling gumawa ng kanyang remarkable performance sa huling termino ng kanyang panunungkulan. Nasa ibang mundo na nga ang pangunahing aktres ng bansa, ang mundo ng pulitika. Mula sa ipinadalang e-mail ni Dr. Noel Ballesteros sa kasanggang Eric Nadurata, ibinalita niya na ang proyekto ni Mayor Vilma Santos sa Lipa na Mga Munting Ngiti ay nagwagi ng unang gantimpala sa public oral health international competition na sponsored ng International Association of Pediatric Dentistry.

Ang Mga Munting Ngiti ay isang community based oral health program para sa mga school children based sa World Health Organization's Basic Package ng Oral Care. Ang San Benito Elementary School sa Lipa ang beneficiary ng naturang proyekto. Ang final judging ng kumpetisyon ay ginanap sa Sydney, Australia noong Nobyembre 1, 2005. Actually, joint project ito ng Philippine Pediatric Dental Society Inc. (PPDSI) at ng City of Lipa. Mula sa walumpung lahok ng tatlumpu't tatlong bansa ay napili ang opisyo ni Mayor Vi at isa itong malaking karangalan ng ating bansa. Tunay ngang maipagmamalaki ng mga Vilmanians si Ate Vi. Hindi lang bilang mahusay na aktres recognized internationally kundi pati ang pagiging public servant. Sa lahat ng pamantayan, maganda at mataas ang performance ratings ni Mayor Vilma Santos sa kanyang mga constituents. She is so far the best politician from showbiz. And no doubt, Mayor Vi is the movie industry's saving grace in the politics. Mayor Vi is not a "trapolitiko". Iba ang kanyang pulitika. Bukal sa kaniyang puso ang pagtulong sa kapwa at sa bayang nasasakupan. Direkta nitong inalam ang mga problema ng kanyang mga kababayan at kakulangang pangangailangan ng lungsod. Naiangat niya ang status at kabuhayan ng Lipa. Nakita nila ang dedikasyon at sinseridad ni Mayor Vi sa kanyang trabaho. And people of Lipa City really love her. Puro papuri ang ating maririnig tungkol sa mabait nilang mayora. Ang layu-layo ng narating ng kanyang kaisipan at kaalaman. Nagbunga na ang kanyang pagsisikap at pag-aaral sa mga bagay-bagay na may kinalaman sa gobyerno. Maganda at mabulaklak ang showbiz at political career ni Mayor Vi. Kaya naman, kinaiingitan siya ng lahat. Mismo!

Hindi nga raw biro ang tumayong punong-bayan pero kailangan na niyang panindigan at ituloy ang nasimulang adhikain. In fact, halos abonado na nga raw ang actress-politician sa dami ng mga lumalapit sa kanya para humingi ng pinansyal na tulong. Kahit hindi taga-Lipa ay nagsasadya sa kanyang opisina para matugunan ang kanilang problema. Hindi naman sila umuuwing luhaan dahil laging bukas ang palad at puso ni Mayor Vi sa mga mahihirap na nangangailangan ng kanyang tulong. Maraming araw sa bawat linggo'y nasa munisipyo ng Lipa si Mayor Vi at nagtatrabaho para sa lahat ng social services na kailangan ng kanyang nasasakupan. Minsan sa aming ginawang panayam sa kanya, nagkuwento si Mayor Vi tungkol sa kanyang trabaho sa City Hall. Nag-sisimula raw siya ng trabaho ng alas-otso ng umaga at karaniwang inaabot siya ng hanggang alas-onse ng gabi sa kanyang opisina. May mga araw naman na nasa Maynila siya para makipag-meeting sa mga opisyal ng gobyerno na hinihingan niya ng tulong para sa kanyang bayan. Inamin din niya ang ilang problema sa kanilang lugar. Napababa na rin niya ang bilang ng mga sugalan at mga gumagamit ng bawal na droga. Sa malao't madali, magbu- bunga ng maganda ang kanyang pagpupunyagi para sa Lipa. Ipinalalagay na kundi man gobernadora ng Batangas, nakatakdrag tumuntong si Mayor Vi sa tanggapan ng Senado o kaya, ng Bise-Presidente ng Pilipinas. Mula roon, abot tanaw at abot kamay na lang ang Malakanyang. "I love you, Ate Vi!", ang animo naghuhumiyaw na pagbati mula sa gallery ng bayan. Kaya hindi na dapat pang pagtakhan if Ate Vi has succeeded in her political endeavor, owing it to the price she had paid, and to her hardships that had paid off. If Ate Vi's so impassioned with her work as Lipa City Mayor, it's because she has this unwavering passion for anything she does, and wants done. Drawing an analogy, Ate Vis' script is the Local Government Code. Her audience represented her constituents who evaluate her performance. Her movies, her projects for Lipenos. Her acting, her implementation of such projects. Her leading man, her real life partner Senator Ralph Recto. Her promo slant, her political slogan And her trophy, the Lipenos' belief and confidence in her. And of course, the winner is ....Mayor Vilma Santos, International Public Service Awardee.



# Ombra Et Penumbra

## Mar Garces



Thanks to the Internet, I was able to do a cursory analysis of the real score between the Vilma Santos & Nora Aunor rivalry, based on the data base from their respective web sites. This piece zeroes in on their battle for the Horror/Fantasy Genre Queenship, which is the theme of the current Vilma! Newsletter.

Nora Aunor was an early '70's phenomenon. She broke the mestiza, statuesque screen diva mould and eclipsed the likes of Susan Roces, Amalia Fuentes, Helen Gamboa, Pilita Corrales, Vilma Valera, Rosemary Sonora, Gina Pareno and Hilda Koronel. The gripo dramatic princess Vilma Santos who is as petite as Nora is really her nemesis.

The 'masa' went gaga over Nora's golden voice, records, magazines and movies. The competitor cum warrior in Vilma Santos did not stop her to join in the fray of juvenile escapist fare of inane musicals about boy meets girl under a mango tree. We saw other 'small' musical stars in Esperanza Fabon, Eddie Peregrina and Co. ad infinitum. Tall is out, petite is in. The Nora-Vilma battle was a lopsided affair at least for a while. The serious acting era will come later. And that is another challenge for any serious Vilma-Nora watcher to do a thesis on.

The 'bomba' craze put a damp on the Nora-Vilma rivalry. As fans grew tired of Nora overall, her dalliance with Tirso Cruz and those silly 'pito-pito' movies directed by Artemio Marquez, Vilma Santos saw an opening. Enterprising and creative directors Joey Gosiengfiao and Elwood Perez saw a goldmine in Vilma Santos. The middle class teeny bopper fans who had purchasing power and discretionary income to plunk on movies and fan mags were bored of the repetitive musical genre. They were looking for something new. It also helped that martial law was declared and the New Society put an

end to the 'ef-ef' mania. Goodbye, 'bomba', hello Vilma!

Vilma Santos filled the moviegoers' void and after the release of Takbo, Vilma, Dali! and Hatinggabi Na, Vilma in 1972, Vilma was on her merry way to the box-office queenship. Nora's handlers couldn't believe that a non-singer rival with a thin voice but a gutsy performer stole the crown from the superstar while she wasn't looking as she continued to sing under a mango tree. The emancipation from Nora Aunor was really made official when Lipad, Darna, Lipad shattered box-office records and gave Erap is My Guy and an FPJ flick stiff competition at the tills, in 1973.

1973 was really Vilma's banner year. She won her first FAMAS for Dama De Noche and kept Nora edgy and on her toes with the successful box-office results of her fantasy flicks in succession: Dyesebel, Anak ng Asuwang, Maria Cinderella, Wonder Vi and Darna and the Giants.

In 1974, Vilma ruled the box-office with FPJ (Batya't Palu-palo) and escapist flicks such as Phantom lady, Kampanerang Kuba and Kamay na Gumagapang. Mathematically speaking, no one contested when Vilma and FPJ were declared 1974's Box-office Queen and King. Actually, there was no turning back for Vilma as she holds the specter and crown as the longest reigning box-office and movie queen (refer to published data base at the Internet).

In 1973, Nora's spin doctors concocted Super Gee as her 'answer' to Vilma's Darna but sadly, it did not ignite the box-office the way Darna and Erap Is My Guy did. Vilma Santos went on to make a total of four Darna movies (Lipad, Darna, Lipad!, Darna and the Giants, Darna and the Planetwomen and Darna at Ding), the most successful Darna franchise. Yes, there was Edna Luna as the original Dyesebel; Rosa Del Rosario as the first Darna; and Nida Blanca as Babang Sputnik. And then there was Nora Aunor as Super Gee. But no other actress has been as popular as the fantasy characters she created than Vilma.

From Darna to Dyesebel, to Kampanerang Kuba. Vilma is the veritable Fantasy/Horror Movie Queen. Generation after generation, she is the Heroine for all Seasons and Reasons. As a bird, Vilma is like an eagle, who soars the skies with majestic flights and easy landings, like her brilliant career. As a plane, she is the supersonic jet whose trajectory is decisive, and travels at almost the speed of light, like her winning streak from all frontiers. Like Darna, she has a golden heart but a nerve of steel, like the competitor and warrior that she is. Don't mess with Vilma Santos.

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Darna! Zoom, zoom, Vilma Santos!



# PAMANA NI INAY

ni Nelvin M. Rea

**P**agmamahal at biyaya ng Diyos ang siyang naging susi at naglilok sa pagiging Vilmanian ko. Inimulat sa akin ng aking nanay at iniukit niya sa isipan ko na "Si Vilma Santos... iyan ang idolo ko at magiging huwaran mo — wala nang iba!". "Ang pagsunod sa payo ng magulang ay ang pagsunod sa tamang daraanan". Sa mga panahong iyon sa pagiging musmos ko, wala akong panahon kay Vilma...ang nais ko ay maging malaya, ang eskuwela, libangan, at maraming laruan. At siguro dahil sa hirap ng buhay, kailangan kong iwaksi sa isipan ko ang lahat ng NAIS ko. Ang ganang prayoridad ko ay ang tumulong sa lahat ng gawaing bahay, punuin ng tubig ang aming paminggalan, mamulot ng plastik sa dalampasigan at mangahoy sa hulo kasama ng mga kapatid ko. Sa hirap na dinanas ko ay sapat na para makalimutan ko ang makipagsabayan sa mga pangarap ko. Ang kailangan ko'y makagawa ng kaunting halaga upang maisalba ang pang-araw-araw naming gastusin sa bahay at sa aking eskuwela. Ngunit iba ang disiplinang itinuro sa akin ng nanay ko. Sabi niya... dapat daw may pananaw ako... dapat may tinutumbok akong prinsipyo... dapat ang OO ko ay manatiling oo at ang HINDI ko ay dapat na manatiling hindi! Tama nga siya... nagmahal siya ng isang Vilma Santos.

Hindi siya nagbago ng kanyang pag-ibig kay Ate Vi... nanatili siyang matatag...I umalaban hanggang sa huling sandali ng kanyang buhay. At kahit ngayong wala na siya. Hinahangaan ko ang kanyang paninindigan sa isang Vilma Santos. Isang hindi mapapantayang pamana ni Inay sa akin ay ang mamuhay na may isang Vilma Santos sa aking puso.

Ang kasipagan at pagtitiyaga ni Inay sa pagsubaybay kay Vilma ang naging hudyat upang tularan ko siya. Ngunit sa kabila ng kaabalahang ito ay hindi pa rin niya napapabayaan ang lahat ng kanyang mga tungkulin at responsibilidad sa aming mga anak niya. Patuloy pa rin na ang diyos at pamilya ang kanyang numero unong pinagtutuunan niya ng sapat na panahon at oras. Na sa kabila ng aming kahirapan ay nagawa pa rin niya kaming walong magkakapatid na mai-taguyod sa kolehiyo, at malinang sa maayos at madisiplinang pag-uugali. At tulad ni Vilma Santos...siya ang aming tunay na Best Actress.

Sa tuwing makikita ko ang isang Vilma Santos, naaalala ko ang lahat ng mga magagandang ala-ala na kasama si Inay... ang makipagsiksikan sa mga sinehan...ang hitsura ni Inay



pag umiiyak sa mga pelikula ni Ate Vi... ang popcorn habang nanonood ng Vilma Show... ang mga natatagong clippings ni Inay na pangarap niyang maipa-sign kay Ate Vi... ang alkansi-yang tabo pambili ng magasing kober si Ate Vi... ang larawan ni Ate Vi sa kanyang tampipi... at ang di maibentang pananam-palataya niya kay Ate Vi.

At ngayon ang aking panahon. Tulad ng naipangako ko kay Inay, ako ang magpapatuloy sa kanyang pakikibaka upang ipagtanggol si Ate Vi. Ako ang magpapatuloy sa lahat ng kanyang magagandang plano sa pagsubaybay kay Ate Vi. Ako ang magpapamana ng isang Vilma Santos sa lahat ng lahing susunod pa sa akin...sa isip...sa salita...at sa gawa. Anumang bagyo ang dapat kong suungin ay nakahanda ako tulad ng paghahanda niya sa akin ng bata pa ako. Kahit marami ang bumaligtad sa kanilang pananampalataya—mananatili AKO! Hindi ako magiging balimbing at hindi ako magiging Hudas sa aking pananampalataya Kailanman.

Tawasin mo man ako sa mga oras na ito, isan daang porsiyento Vilmanian ako!



**Editor's Note:** Aries Roll-on's colum will be back next issue.



# VITS



## Lea's Back

The movie that gave Vilma's first international best actress is back as the sole entry of the Philippines to the 1st Feminist Film Festival (Nov/05). Also, Vilma was one of the Feminist awardee for her body of work as a film artist.

## 20 - 15 Million

Among the local actresses, Vilma Santos was cited together with Sharon Cuneta as RP movies TOP Female Moneymaker, the counterparts of Julia Roberts and Nicole Kidman in Hollywood. This confirmed Vilma's status as the reigning lone superstar (on its true meaning of the word) in the Philippines. According to a reliable source, Vilma is commanding 20-15 Million pesos TF per film.

## Dito Ba

Kuh Ledesma's first big hit song, The theme song from a Vilma Santos' film "Miss X" which was filmed entirely in Amsterdam.

## "every woman"

"Ishmael Bernal was at his best in social commentary, and in Vilma Santos, he found his ideal "Everywoman," whose broad & enduring appeal & naturalistic acting allowed him to explore contemporary mores & shifting man-woman relationships. But an "iconic" role for Vilma is that of "Sister Stella L.," directed by Mike de Leon for Regal Films, which had Vilma playing a nun reluctantly drawn into the gritty world of labor disputes and political dissent and, after a personal encounter with violence, becomes herself a leader of the struggle." - Rina Jimenez David, Nov 25, 2005 Inquire News Service

## Point: "...December Events."

The year is not finished yet but Vilmanians around the globe should mark some important dates and events in their calendar.

**Hosting Job** - Mother and son will co-host each other sa documentary about Phil.movies this coming **December** entitled PINOY MOVIES, Buhay ka pa? Vilma was so proud that they asked her to host the documentary w/ son Luis dahil ang showbiz ang kanyang pinamulan noon and hanggang ngayon. Mula noong 1950's up to the present situation ng Philippine movies ang kanilang tatalakayin. Abangan natin to sa Abs\_Cbn!! - **Alan Trambulo**

**Star in the Walk of Fame** - Finally, German "Kuya Germs" Moreno's dream of seeing a local version of Hollywood's Walk of Fame is coming true, in Eastwood City, Quezon City. On **Dec. 1**, the first batch of star honorees will be unveiled in glittering ceremonies kicked off with a Mass at 5 p.m. followed by the ribbon-cutting. Star guests will be ushered in on a red carpet. The roll of honor includes (at random), VILMA SANTOS, Atang dela Rama, Rosa del Rosario, Carmen Rosales, Rogelio dela Rosa, Fernando Poe Sr., Eddie Garcia, Dolphy, Gloria Romero, Ramon Revilla Sr., Fernando Poe Jr., Susan Roces, Joseph Estrada...and Amalia Fuentes. - From **Ricky Lo's** Colum.

**Star - Politician of the Year** - Good news! another award will be bestowed to our idol, Mayor Vilma Santos. Nagtext sa akin ang kaibigang Ogie Cruz, a movie writer para ibalita na si Ate Vi ang napili ng kanilang bagong tatag na samahan ng mga showbiz writers bilang Star-Politician of the Year, ang newly formed group called themselves Pen Phils. Entertainment. The awarding will be held on **Dec.9** at Escharcha Hall, Fort Bonifacio. Wala yatang katapusan ang blessings ni ate vi. siempre pa, proud tayong mga vilmanians sa bagong award na ito ng numero unong aktres. - **Willie Fernandez**

Aside from this, Ate Vi's product endorsement of Ariel, a detergent/laundry soap is now all over the airwaves. She also finished her last shooting day for the episode of Maala-ala Mo Kaya and the project under Star Cinema is now on high gear with its casting and planning stages.

## SAY: "Feminist Vilma Santos"

Vilma Santos, cited for achievement in acting, could not make it to the awards-giving rites due to other commitments that had to do with her "real-life" role as mayor of Lipa City. She requested instead Boots Anson-Roa of the Mowelfund, who also sat on the Advisory Committee of The "F Festival," to read her response for her. Here's what Vilma had to say: "I wish I could personally accept this award, but I have to honor my commitment to my constituents which I can't turn my back on or delegate to my staff. Nevertheless, I would like to convey my deepest gratitude to the organizers of the Feminist Centennial Filmfest for honoring me with this award. And I would like to share this award with those women who dare transport to screen characters, stories and issues about women. Our movie producers like Ms Lily Monteverde who daringly produced the movie, 'Sister Stella L'; Ms Charo Santos-Concio who chose me to portray the role of a mother in 'Dekada '70,' 'Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?' and 'Anak'; the scriptwriter of these movies, Ms Luahati Bautista; director Laurice Guillen who directed the movie, 'Dahil Mahal Kita'; Marilou Diaz-Abaya, too; and other female directors and co-workers in the film industry. Through their works, they brought to public attention a wide array and range of problems confronting women, how they courageously, daringly and intelligently cope with and face them, thus, raising the consciousness of our women, helping them gain a deeper understanding of their life and situation and acquire, to borrow the phrase of a film critic, the ability to control their lives and make choices of their own. Who else could best empower our women except our women themselves? May our women therefore continue to play a more active role in advancing the cause of women and in building a better quality of life for our countrymen! Maraming salamat po muli. At mabuhay ang ating kababaihan!" - At Large : Finding our voices First posted 00:51am (Mla time) Dec 09, 2005 By Rina Jimenez-David, Inquirer

## Note Pad: wholesome products

After the success of the Vilma's endorsement of Globe together with her son, Luis Manzano comes another promising product endorsement. This time it's going to be a detergent bar. Yes, the one you use for doing your laundry! Due to strict contract stipulation, Vilmanians are tight lipped about mentioning the name of the product it is obvious that it is going to be Ariel Detergent Bar. The latest publicity that comes out in the open was a brief mentioned of it in Dennis Adobas' column in People's Tonight (Nov. 28/05). Here's the headline: "Mareng Winnie out, Mayor Vi in!" Adoba wrote: "Kapansin-pansin sa mga teaser catchline sa dulo ng TV commercial ng detergent na ini-endorse ni Mareng Winnie ang ang susunod na star endorser nito'y si Vilma Santos. Samples: "Declare Vi for Victory over stains for all seasons...Mayor (instead of may your!) linens be free from all stains!". He then concluded: "Out, Mareng Winnie, in, Mayor Vi!" He then joined veteran actresses, Gloria Romero, Nida Blanca, Charito Solis and comedians Nova Villa and Nanette Inventor as product endorser of household product. Very fitting since Ate Vi is a well known mother and has maintained her family values intact, great for endorsing a wholesome product! -mpl

## Rewind: the year was 1973

One of Ate Vi's banner year was 1973. Not only she earned her first best actress award for 1972's Dama De Noche (FAMAS), she established herself as the most bankable actress of the year. Hit after hit, she broke all box office records!

- **Now and Forever** – With Edgar Mortiz directed by Ishmael Bernal; TIIP Valentine Special (Feb)
- **Tsismosang Tindera** – With Jay Ilagan, Ike Lozada, German Moreno directed by Emmanuel H Borlaza; TIIP "Ang naglalako ng bilasang isda at sariwang balita" (Feb)
- **Lipad, Dama, Lipad** – With Gloria Romero, Celia Rodriguez, Liza Lorena; directed by Emmanuel Borlaza, Elwood Perez, Joey Gosiengfiao; TIIP 23 (Mar)
- **Carinosa** – With Manny DeLeon, yoyoy Villmae, Chanda Romero, Angelito; directed by Romy Susara; TIIP 05 (May)
- **Dyesebel at ang Mahiwagang Kabibe** – With Divina Valencia, Mina Aragon, Rossana Marquez, Romeo Miranda; directed by Emmanuel H Borlaza TTP Tagalog ILANG-ILANG Productions; Winner!!! 8th Manila Film Festival Top Grosser Best Musical Picture. (Jun)
- **Anak ng Aswang** – With Gloria Romero, Daisy Romouldez, Rossana Marquez, Lucita Soriano, Edgar Mortiz, Leopoldo Salcedo, Nick Romano, German Moreno; Roma Films directed by Romy V Susara (Sep)
- **Wonder Vi** – With George Estregan, Marissa Delgado, Nick Romano; directed by Arsenio Boots Bautista JE Productions (Sep)
- **Maria Cinderella** – With Jay Ilagan, Blanca Gomez,, Florence Aguilar, Romeo Miranda; directed by Emmanuel H. Borlaza; TIIP Entry to 43 Quezon City Film Festival (Oct)
- **Darna and the Giants** – With Helen Gamboa, Loretta Marquez, Rossana Marquez, Divina Valencia, Romeo Miranda, Dondon Nakar directed by Emmanuel Borlaza TIIP (Dec)
- **Ophelia at Paris** – Victor Laurel ; directed by Celia Diaz Laurel; Victor Laurel Productions (Jan)



## VITS



**Carlo Aquino**  
Ate Vi's son in monumental movie Bata bata paano ka ginawa? Is now a bonafide contract star of Viva Films & recently starred in an adult themed

movie, "Tuli".

### MET

The Metropolitan Theater near Lawton in Manila is undergoing its 6th restoration. Truly deserving of its respect and care, the onced glorified place was the site of Ate Vi's "Vilma" show in the 80s and early 1990s.

### Like Geisha

"While talking to Ziyi Zhang (star of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon & Memoirs of A Geisha) recently, I was reminded her of Ate Vi. Vilma Santos is bright, pretty & a good actress like Ziyi. -

Ruben V. Nepales, Nov 19/05  
Inquirer News Service

### ER's Giovannie Pico

Like her favorite actress Ate Vi, ER's Giovannie Pico was born in Tondo, Manila.

### Her Favorite

When asked by Sen Jinggoy Estrada, "Is there any actor you like?" Thelma Bueson, Catanuan Education Official replied: "Many – you, Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr. & Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos."

### Doctor Vi

It is now Doctor Vi as she received a doctorate degree in Humanities from the Lipa City Colleges in Lipa City, Batangas (November 2005).

# Family Album

By Alan Trambulo



What's your most precious possession???

My family. - "Besides God, my family comes first. My life revolves around my family and everybody knows that. So please meet my family.



Whether with the Santoses or with the Rectos, ang saya-saya ng mga reunions namin. Ako kasi, my real barkada is my family and relatives. We compare notes, we exchange stories. Walang tigil ang kwentuhan... Below, right: Vilma with her Mama Left: With the Rectos.



# Family Album

By Alan Trambulo



Top picture: Vilma with her Mama

What do you usually pray for?

"I offer everything to him. I pray that He guards us always, especially my family." "Please allow us, most especially my family, to be with You in Paradise."

In the meantime, the busy actress-politician looks forward to spending some quiet time with her loved ones - husband Senator Ralph Recto and sons Luis and Christian during the Christmas holidays. Christmas for Vilma means three places: "Lipa, where I spend time with my constituents; Manila, where my family and I live; and the US where my mother lives..."

Below: Carla, Ryan Christian and Luis



## Sulit...

From page 23

still amazes us on how she delivers the lines with varying degree of intensity na naaayon sa bawat bitiwang salita. Alam namin at ng lahat kung gaano kahusay ang isang Vilma Santos, pero sa pelikulang ito ay ipinakita niya, she's not just an instinctive actress, she's soooo brilliant. Maririnig mo ang kaliwa't kanang singhutan at sipunan ng mga katabi ko sa upuan. Hindi ko sila pinapansin dahil tahimik din akong nagpapahid ng luha para hindi mahalata. Bakit sila lang ba ang marunong umiyak? Remarkable din ang akting na ipinakita ni Claudine. Si Baron ay ginulat kami sa quiet acting niya. Amy Austria and Cherry Pie Picache delightful as the earthy DH friends of Josie. The movie is a certified tearjerker. I even found myself on the verge of tears in a couple of scenes. There's nothing great about it. But what makes this movie worth watching is the transformation of Ate Vi as an actor. Anak ang pamagat ng pelikula pero kuwento ito ng isang ina. Lahat ng nakapanood ng pelikulang ito ay isa lang ang kanilang halos na pakorus na sinasabi, ibang klase talagang aktres si Ate Vi, kapos pa kung tutuusin para sa kanya ang taguring Star for All Seasons, dahil walang ibang makagaganap sa ganung uri ng papel ka natural, kungdi isang Vilma Santos lang. Paminsan-minsan mang gumawa ng pelikula si Ate Vi ay sulit naman, wala kang itatapon. Yun naman kasi ang tatak ni isang VILMA SANTOS, ang paggawa ng mga obra maestrang habam panahon nating maaalaala. Basta ang lahat ay pinag-uusapan ang tungkol sa pelikula dahil sa word-of-mouth component ng movie audiences. Anak grossed Php 14 Million on its opening day. Umabot ng Php 200 Million na nationwide box-office take, ranking number 2 sa box-office champion of all times. Talagang ayaw pa rin paawat at nakagugulat ang top box-office performance ng No.1 star-actress ng bansa for so many years now. May mga nagsasabing Php 5 Million ang ibinigay na bonus ng Star Cinema kay Ate Vi at may nang-iintriga naman kung ano daw ang talent fee ng aktres ay iyon din ang katumbas ng bonus nito, Php 10 Million? Naging very generous naman si Ate Vi to share her blessings sa mga miyembro ng showbiz media, na isa rin kami na tumanggap ng biyayang yon galing sa aming hinahangaang aktres.

Make sure that you are included in our

E-mail mailing list!

Its Free and confidential

We don't sell products or sell your info  
to any marketing companies

E-mail us at:

[vilmasantosnewsletter@yahoo.ca](mailto:vilmasantosnewsletter@yahoo.ca)

**VILMA!**

The Vilma Santos Newsletter

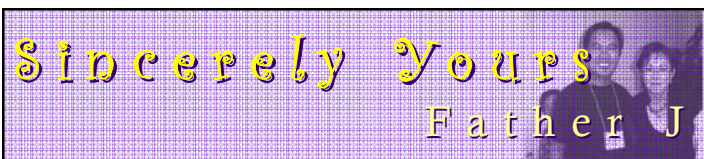
## The Feminist Centennial Festival Report

### Up to the minute reporting by June Sison

Once again, the wind wafts yet another welcome scent of victory for the Philippines Movie Queen and Star for all Seasons at the Feminist Centennial Festival at the Cineplex, Shangri-La Plaza last night. She is indeed a national treasure. We belong to thousands of Filipinos who wish for her to be the next National Artist of the land. Lately, we hear that it will be a choice between her and the late FPJ. For sure, the numerous or countless recognitions, honorary doctorates, lifetime achievements and this latest honor given by the NGO-GO Feminist Centennial Media Committee and the Communication Foundation for Asia cemented Ate Vi's stronger bid to clench the National Artist title. And if this happens, yan ang talagang "heaven"! The awards night was by invitation only. Against our better sense, we tried our luck and waited on cue. There is reason to be optimistic. Our beloved Ate Vi is one of the 6 distinguished honorees. Having prior commitments with her constituents in Lipa, we believe that there must be a representation in her behalf. And our patience paid off. We were accommodated by the working committee at the reception. We proudly introduced ourselves as member of Vision and VSSI (Vilma Santos Solid International). Present to witness the ceremony include Eric, Noel, Al, Zaldy, Paulo and myself. We were a small contingent occupying a better section of the theater against the battalion of diehard Noranians, how did this happened?! Ms. Boots Anson Roa accepted the trophy (in her her behalf) and read the passionate and meaningful thank you message of Ate Vi. some insights. I am posting some of the write-ups included in the festival programme: 6 reasons to celebrate we salute six icons of Philippine cinema... for their invaluable contributions to the film industry... for being legendary... and passionate about their art... and for being women. Marilou Diaz-Abaya, director. Despite the risks of being categorized as a "woman's director", Marilou Diaz-Abaya staked her claim on the genre with the trilogy of films - Moral, Brutal and Karnal - that explored the realities of women's lives and challenged social mores and rigid expectations of women. In the decade of political turmoil and rapid social change, Diaz-Abaya's films, while anchored in intensely personal stories, enlarged upon the intimate limits of women's lives to raise sharp and cutting questions about Philippine society and gender relations, thereby triggering debate, discourse, and ultimately, the transformation of the Filipina's sense of self and her situation. Lualhati Bautista, screenwriter. Known for creating strong, independent women characters asserting their autonomy and engagement in the society, Lualhati Bautista has given today's women compelling role models to provide alternative modes of behavior, attitudes, and relations. At the same time, she uses the women's stories as prisms on the political and social condition illuminating and reflecting women's realities and aspirations in all their vivid color and artist to make films that combine artistry and innovation with commercial viability

and social commentary. Through Star Cinema, Santos-Consio has shown that it is possible to meet the demands of commercial cinema without compromising one's commitment to quality and to delivering meaningful and compelling stories. Lily Yu-Monteverde, producer. Has been "mother" to the Philippine movie industry in so many ways. Through the last four decades, she has produced more than 200 movies, some of them born of her own stories, most shaped by her sensibilities and instincts for what the market wants and demands. Even as the Philippine movie industry struggles out of the doldrums, "Mother" Lily continues to make movies simply because, as she declared at the recent ceremony, she "loves the movies." Even as she kept Regal Films profitable with commercial offerings that covered almost all genres, "Mother" Lily also paid back her debt to the Philippine cinema by financing and allowing the country's foremost film artists to create works that today endure as some of the best Filipino movies ever made. Nora Aunor, actor. Though "icon" is today a much-overused word, to call Nora Aunor an "icon" of Philippine movies would not be an overstatement. From her beginning as a singer and pop idol, Nora tapped unexpected reserves of experience and sensitivity to transform herself into an excellent actor, in the process acquiring a body of work that includes some of the finest movies of "Golden Age" of local cinema in the 1970's and 1980's, particularly Himala, Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos, Ina Ka ng Anak Mo, and Bona. Vilma Santos, actor. From the moment she allowed herself to break out of her "teen-idol" persona in Burlesk Queen, there was no stopping Vilma Santos in her search for artistic maturity and challenge. In the process, she has dared take on roles that could have potentially marred her image but instead provided her depth and complexity as an artist while strengthening her appeal at the box office. The designer-sculptor's words. According to Julie Lluch: "the feminist struggle is not so much about equality as it is about the power and freedom to be truly woman and truly human. Being a woman is to know herself as different and separate, beautiful and free. As she taps the wellspring of the spirit within, she is ready to leap and soar to a fully creative life - a life she share's with man, with whom she builds the kind of world they both want for themselves and their children." At the conclusion of the program, seriously or half in jest, we shook hands and congratulated Ms. Charo Santos-Consio and Director Marilou Diaz-Abaya. We proudly introduced ourselves and averred that the occasion would have been more meaningful and significant had Ate Vi made it to the event and personally accepted her trophy. We told Director Marilou that we are only a small representation of the Vilmanians. We were thrilled and happy when she raised her hand and told us "count me in!" She asked us to extend her regards to Ate Vi and that she truly misses her. Congratulations to all the distinguished honorees most especially to our beloved Ate Vi! Mabuhay po kayo and GOD bless. To the men and women behind the Feminist Centennial Festival and other affiliations and cooperating groups, our heartfelt gratitude and Mabuhay po kayong lahat!!!





**Editor's Note:** The following were taken from Father J's posted messages from our E-groups. His "Sincerely Yours" column will be back next issue.

## Salo-salo ng mga Vilmanians sa Manila

**H**i, everybody! I'm back! This is a little bit late but as the saying goes "it is better late than never". Let me just express my sincerest gratitude to the VILMANIANS I met in Manila. Our first salo-salo happened on November 19th, Saturday. June Sison briefly mentioned about this in one of his postings. I requested Eric N. and Jojo Lim if we could possibly meet at Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas. Both said it's fine. But both requested to move our appointment from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM since they were still coming from work in the morning. That was fine with me too. I arrived at Robinsons Galleria at 11:45 AM. Check myself in at the new Crowne Plaza, the same hotel where Ruffa, weeks earlier, hosted the Christening Party for her younger daughter Venice. Crowne Plaza, by the way, is just adjacent to the mall. You could go directly to the mall from the hotel without leaving the building. Just follow a maze and you'll find yourself inside the mall. At 1:25 PM, with my tsokolate pasalubong for the group, I left my room to meet Eric N and Jojo Lim at National Bookstore, our meeting place. A few yards away from National Bookstore I spotted Eric N and someone else. Even though, I have not met Eric personally, I know his face from the photos posted in our e-groups. He is as approachable and charming as his picture shows. Who was the other person with Eric? Instantly, I recognized his face from one of the photos posted in our e-groups. It was June Sison! How could you possibly forget a face as angelic as the face of June? O, ayan June ha, nakabawi na ako sa sinabi mo about me. He,he,he,he... Eric suggested that we should go to the Food Court so we could sit while waiting for the others. And so we went. A few minutes passed, came Jojo Lim, whom I met in NJ last August and Cesar, a tall, lanky man with a very simple and yet caring heart. Jojo, as always, was very welcoming and warm, qualities that I really like about Jojo. No wonder he is the President of the VILMA SANTOS SOLID INTERNATIONAL. Four more years! Four more years! He,he,he,he... Eric reminded us that we were still waiting for Twinhead. Minutes later, Twinhead showed up. Although, Twinhead is a professional he looks much younger than his age. Well, he is the youngest among us that day. Eric said that only a few VILMANIANS were available for our salo-salo that day. They asked me where I

wanna eat. "Kahit ano puwede" sabi ko. So we decided to go to MAX'S, "the house that the chicken built". The group ordered one of the meal packages good for 10. While having our late lunch, istoryahan, kuwentuhan, biruang umaatikabo. It is also during lunch that I learned that they went to the last taping day of the episode of ATE VI in MMK. Sayang I missed it. I was updated on the latest news about ATE VI and her projects. Towards the end of our lunch, another VILMANIAN joined us, Ricky Abad, another good-hearted VILMANIAN. More kuwentos. More chismis. More tawanan. During lunch a project of the VILMANIANS in the Philippines was brought up. Upon hearing it, it made me so proud to be in the company of these kind hearted souls. It made me so proud to be a VILMANIAN. The VILMANIANS have evolved. And if I was so proud to be counted as a VILMANIAN on that day I am sure that when ATE VI learns about it she will be doubly or even quadruply proud of her VILMANIANS. Mabuhay po ang mga VILMANIANS! Then, just like so many good things never last, we have to end our sumptuous lunch and rancous company. I mean enjoyable company. Jojo mentioned that we shall meet again before I fly back to NJ to meet a few more VILMANIANS. I replied: "Sure. I will be looking forward to it." Then it was time for me to hand to them the bag of chocolates I brought from the Duty Free Shop at the airport. May pa-premyo pag dalawang bag ng chocolates ang binili mo. And so together we left the house that the chicken built. I said goodbye to my fellow VILMANIANS and give them all a hug. While making my way to the hotel, I turned around for the last time and saw each of them waving at me. Buti na lang hindi yung universal sign language. He,he,he,he...Dragging my feet towards the hotel, nakasuot po ako ng mabigat na sapatos that day, I decided to make a simple glance towards my new found friends to see if they are still hanging around....Yup, they were still there! Chit-chatting and waiting for me to disappear. Finally, I reached the elevator, for the last time I turned my head where my new found friends were but I could not see them anymore... Lintek kasing poste ng hotel tinakpan yung view ko. As I rode the elevator.....it is only then that I realized....that I went to the wrong hotel. The elevator I took was for the Holiday Inn and not for Crowne Plaza. Baba, dali, baba!!! Hay buhay!

### **Salo-salo ng mga VILMANIANS sa Manila: Part 2**

Around Nov. 25th when I got another text from Eric N. asking me if Nov. 29th, Tuesday is fine with me for a dinner/salo-salo ng mga VILMANIANS. The venue will be in SM Mega Mall. I looked into my schedule and found out that I also have a luncheon appointment in Mega Mall that day. So I texted Eric back and said the day and the venue were perfect for me. Come Nov. 29th. I was in SM Mega Mall at 11:30 AM waiting for my luncheon appointment. My friends texted me that they were waiting for me at Souper Bowl Restaurant. To make the long story short, my friends and I ended our sumptuous lunch at around 3:00 PM. But I am not meeting Eric, Jojo and company until 6:30 PM. So while waiting for my dinner appointment with the group I avail myself of the Head/Scalp Massage in one the Spas around the Mall. I was back in Mega Mall at 6:25 PM. 6:30 PM I got a text messages from Eric and Jojo informing me that they are waiting for me in Kamayan Restaurant which is on the 4th floor of SM Mega Mall. So I went my way to Kamayan Restaurant. From a distance I could already see Eric N., Jojo and June Sison. There

**Turn to next page →**

**Salo-salo** (from page 14)

was another person with them. I greeted Jojo, Eric and June. They introduced me to Joey, another Vilmanian, a seaman by profession. By the way, thank you so much Joey for the nice jacket you gave me. Nag-abala ka pa. Salamat ng marami uli. Eric then informed me that we are still waiting for a few more VILMANIANS. While waiting for others to arrive, I decided to give Josie Cohen of Amsterdam a call since she has some pasalubong for Eric and Jojo. Though the connection was not that clear Eric and Jojo were able to talk to Josie briefly. A few minutes later, four more VILMANIANS came: Jay, Al, Obet and Cesar. Except for Cesar whom I met at our first salo-salo, it was my first time to meet the other three. Now since everybody was there we decided to go into the Restaurant. For those who don't know, Kamayan is a buffet restaurant. You have a choice whether you'll just have Filipino dishes or Japanese dishes or both. Except for Al, everybody opted for the Filipino dishes. During dinner, we had some serious but interesting discussions on the position of the Church on certain issues. A few of them asked me my personal opinion on certain things. Parang yung format that Marcus wanted me to have in my column sa newsletter ang nangyari. Kaya nga lang personal akong tinatanong and not thru e-mail. Believe me I have learned a lot from them too. In between these little discussions that were going on Eric kept on prompting Jojo to give ATE VI a call. Finally, Jojo did. But there was no answer on the other line. Jojo texted Ate Vi just to let her know that her VILMANIANS are in Kamayan Restaurant that night. Jojo also called Franco of San Francisco to let him know that we were having dinner that night. I spoke to Franco briefly over the phone. For those who have been to Kamayan before you know that there is a string band with a lead singer that goes around in the restaurant and sing for the customers. They take special requests too. When they came to our table. The group requested a few songs from ATE VI's movies like Bato sa Buhangin, etc. The final song we requested was the Pinoy Big Brother Song, a big hit in the Philippines right now, in honor of Ate Vi's guest appearance at the said show a week or two earlier. Towards the end of the dinner, Ed, another VILMANIAN and a professor from U.P., who worked hard for the GAWAD PLARIDEL award of ATE VI, joined us. He was also there to invite the group to see the premiere of Ang Pagdadadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros which was being shown at SM Mega Mall that night. Also at the table the group reached the final consensus about the project I mentioned in the Part 1 of the salo-salo ng mga VILMANIANS. Just like in the Part 1, we have to end our dinner and go our separate ways. They asked me if I wanted to see the premiere of Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros. Much as I wanted to, I can not because my family was there to pick me up. On our way out of the restaurant, came Twinhead. He was late because he got Jojo's text message only 30 minutes earlier. I said hello and

goodbye to Twinhead and to the others too. I promised that I will see them again the next time I am in Manila. They all went one way and I went the opposite direction where my family was waiting for me. Right after we separated I begun to have this terrible back pain. I told my mom about it. When we got home I went straight to bed because of my back pain. That night I left my cell phone in our living room. I usually have it with me all night except that night. The following day, upon waking me up with still a back pain, my sister told me that my phone was ringing last night. I looked into my cell phone to see who called me the night before. It was Jojo Lim. He was calling me to let me know that Ate Vi called him last night and was expecting my call. Jojo said that I should send Ate Vi a text message first before I call her to let her know that I will be calling her. Jojo also, passed to me the text message that Ate Vi sent her: "Send my love to Fr. J" Sayang I missed the chance to talk to her or send her a text message while I was in Manila. Never got the chance to do so because the back pain I was having at that time was the beginning of my 10-day illness. I did not realize that I had contracted a viral infection a few days before I left Manila. When I got back to NJ, I was really, really sick. I was so sick that I was bedridden for 6 days. That's why it took me more than a week of my arrival in NJ before I could post a message in our e-groups. Thank God I am on my way to recovery. One of these days I might send a text message to ATE VI too. To let her know how sorry I am that I missed the chance to talk to her or send her text messages while I was in Manila. I truly hope that she will respond to me text messages. Let me end this story by thanking all the gracious, generous and good-hearted VILMANIANS that I have met in Manila: Jojo, Eric, June, Cesar, Twinhead, Ricky Abad, Joey, Ed from U.P., Obet, Jay and Al. Salamat po ng marami sa inyong napakainit na pagtanggap sa akin. You're the best! I am proud to be a VILMANIAN like you. Take care my friends, till we see each other again. May you have a grace-filled Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year! Fr. J





## Ate Vi: 52 and Still Going Strong

Article posted at Inquirer, November 08, 2005 by Ricky Lo



For anyone who has ever said that 50 is over the hill has obviously never met Vilma Santos. The actress known to legions of fans as "Ate Vi" turned 52 last week on November 3. And the indefatigable woman is still going strong.

She is a drama actress of the highest caliber. She is a well-respected Mayor of Lipa City. She is a loving mother and supportive wife. She truly is worthy of the tag "Star For All Seasons" with a wide range of acting capabilities.

In the '60s she played the maltreated Trudis Liit and captured the heart of a nation with her copious tears. In the late '80s to the early '90s, she entertained with hit songs and dance numbers on "Vilma in Person (VIP)," her variety show. Another pop culture phenomenon that sprung from this show was the phrase "I love you Lucky," a personal greeting Vilma would give on air to her son Luis Manzano.

Vilma's dramatic prowess was in the spotlight once again with her participation in the hit trilogy "Mano Po." A forthcoming movie, *Ako Legal Wife*, where she shares the playbill with Zsa Zsa Padilla is going to be a comedy.

Yes, Vilma has an amazing record as an actress, documented by trophies which could fill up a museum.

Even with all these accolades, Vilma sees herself as only a 9 out of 10. Bakit naman? "Because I think there's still much room for improvement. Acting is a never-ending process of learning," she told Ricky Lo of *Showbiz Stripped* in an exclusive interview.

She has filmed over 200 movies since 1963's *Trudis Liit*. Of them all, she names *Relasyon*, *Ipagpatawad Mo* and *Broken Marriage* as her top three although she says she can name more than 30 films that are her personal favorites.

Should Vilma have her way she wants to be remembered as "somebody who has contributed to the industry, no matter how small my contribution may be. If they talk about the industry and they mention my name, okay na sa akin 'yon."

Lately, she has been taking it easy. Her schedule is not as hectic as it once was in her younger days. She prefers now to devote her time to being a wife and mother. She told Ricky Lo that her priorities are now as follows: family, her work in Lipa City and then acting.

The years have not always been kind to Ate Vi and she has had her fair share of scandals and intrigues. But through it all, she maintains an air of dignity and grace. Is it this inner poise that helps her continue to look young and beautiful? What is her secret? "Being happy, I think. Happiness can light up your face."

She doesn't follow any strict diets, choosing instead to eat moderately and exercise on a regular basis. At 52, Vilma must have entertained thoughts on her mortality and getting older. We were pleasantly surprised to find out that this is not the case at all. Sabi ni Vi

"It's easier to think how to grow old gracefully than how to stay young forever. Nobody stays young forever, 'no?"

Has Vilma always been this calm and serene? Is this how she captured the hearts of so many men in her colorful past? Candidly, Ate Vi said that it wasn't always like this. "Ay, salbahe ako noong araw! Maldita ako. At that time, when I was in love, wala akong pakialam, pati shooting kinakalimutan ko. Remember my disappearing acts? I was in love then. I've matured a lot since then. Dapat lang! One thing I can say is that all my 'exes' became my good friends."

That is true, especially if you take her former marriage to Edu Manzano as an example. The couple called it quits four years into their marriage but continued to be in constant contact – both for the sake of their son, Luis, and also because this is the kind of person that Vilma is.

Her second marriage, to Senator Ralph Recto was like a second lease on life. They have been together for more than two decades. Vilma explains "Masyadong malawak ang utak niya. He's a big help in my being a public servant. One lesson I've learned from Ralph is to say 'I'm sorry.' Dati, I wouldn't say 'I'm sorry' kahit may kasalanan ako."

Admitting to imperfection and allowing herself to continue to better her person is one of the hallmark reasons that Vilma is still on top of the ever-changing showbiz A-list. Even in her private life, inaamin niya that she is not perfect. "I'm not the kind of wife who cooks for her husband and who irons his clothes."

Instead, Ralph has found in Vi, a wife that is always ready to listen to her husband. She often listens to Ralph rehearse his speeches and is at the ready with her comments. But it doesn't always have to be just about politics. "Ralph and I can talk about anything under the sun" she proudly notes.

Ate Vi as a mother naman is just as successful. She owns up to the fact that Luis did not get as much attention in his formative years as Christian does now, mainly due to the fact that she was neck-deep in so many issues when Luis was younger.

"I had a difficult time when I was pregnant with Christian, kaya tutok na tutok ako sa kanya. With Luis, medyo napabaya ko ng konti because I was burdened with so many problems (with the BIR, etc.) when he was a kid. But I'm making up for it. If he has a problem, I'd set aside everything to listen to him."

It doesn't seem to have hurt Luis all that badly. The child we all knew as "Lucky" is now a respected young man who knows what he wants in his life. Just like his mom no?

When asked if she had any special birthday wishes, Vilma had this to say "Ay naku, nahihya na ako sa Diyos. I can't ask for anything. He has given me more than enough. I can eat anything I want; I can travel; I'm happy with my family. My only wish is for my family to be safe and healthy."





# VILMANIA

## Eddie Lozano



**Vilma Santos - the  
All Time Fantasy  
Movie Queen**



**W**hy? Pati ba naman sa fantasy films si ate Vi pa rin ang Reyna? Why kaya? There are more than a thousand reasons why. No other actress, past and present has successfully transform from one super heroine to another. Think of Darna, Kampanerang Kuba, Dyesebel and immediately the name of Queen Vi will surface in your mind. Nanjan pa ang Wonder Vi, Vilma and the Beep Beep Minica at ang Phantom Lady. Mayron ngang isa jan na pilit sumabay pero sumablay naman hayun at Super 'G'apang sa takilya.

Darna x4

Si Queen Vi lang po ang nag-iisang aktres na gumanap ng Darna ng apat na beses at ang lahat ng mga ito ay pawang nagsipagtagumpay sa takilya. Sino ang makakalimot na ang respectable actress in the person of Ms. Gloria Romero ay papayag na maging Babaing Impakta? Ang pabulosong Celia Rodriguez bilang Valentina at isa pang mahusay na aktres na si Liza Lorena bilang Babaing Lawin sa Lipad Darna Lipad? Sumabog ang takilya sa mga sinehan, pinilahan ng lahat ng klaseng tao, bata, matanda, lalaki, babae, bakla, tomboy. Tinaguriang super blockbuster ang Lipad Darna Lipad ni ate Vi. Marami ang napatunganga, namangha, napatingala at humanga sa taas ng lipad ni Darna sa himpapawid.

Hindi pa nasiyahan ang mga tao, muling pumaimbulog sa ere si Reyna Vilma sa Darna and the Giants, at muli sa Darna and the Planetwomen at muli pa sa Darna at Ding. Marami na ang naging Darna before and after ate Vi, but most, if not all of them are just one-time Darna. Ngayon, sino ang Darna ng mga Darna, sino pa kundi ang Reyna ng mga Reyna, si Queen Vilma!

The Dyesebel Charm

Marami ang nakasaksi kung paano nakipagsabayan si Dyesebel sa Ang Agila at ang Lawin ni late FPJ and Former President Erap. Dalawa sa pinakamalalaking ibon ng industriya, nilunod ng isang sirena. It was

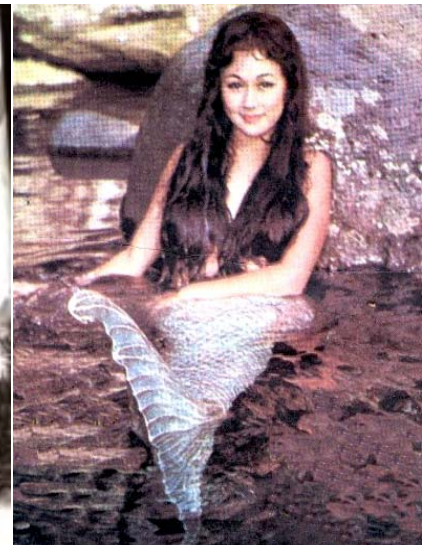
actually a feat for Dyesebel to beat Agila at Lawin sa takilya. Just imagine, two top action stars together in a film against Dyesebel! I remember very well na na-pre-empt pa nga ang Dyesebel dahil the original movie starring Edna Luna was shown before our Queen Vi's Manila Filmfest entry hit the wide screen. But still, Dyesebel at ang Mahiwagang Kabibe turned out to be a big big winner at the tills.

Ibat ibang aktres na ang gumanap ng Dyesebel after ate Vi pero nananatili pa rin siyang nakatatak sa isipan ng mga tao and not Alma, Alice or even Charlene or Edna Luna. Pero bakit si Queen Vi? Kasi nga po, iba ang charisma ng ating Reyna. She has this certain magnetic charm na mahirap ipaliwanag.

The Beauty Within

Lately nga, Andang (for Sandra) of Kampanerang Kuba fame had joined the fantaserye club. Ginawa nga lamang Imang ang pangalan, short for Fatima. Pinapangit, pinagmukhang mabantot at sooper du-gyot, pero lovable pa rin si Andang. Kinawawa, kinutya, inalipusta pero wagi pa rin sa bandang huli. Sounds familiar, right? Di ba gan-yan din ang naranasan ni ate Vi at patuloy na naranasan sa mga taong nabubuhay sa nakaraan at pinagtampuhan na ng panahon? Pero, naririto pa rin si Queen Vi at patuloy na nagbibigay kasiyahan sa mas nakararaming tao, dahil ang naging pananggalang niya ay katatagan at bukal na kagandahan ng loob. Ang mga karangalang patuloy na inaani ni ate Vi ay hindi lamang pansarili kundi para sa buong bansang Pilipinas at mga Pilipino.

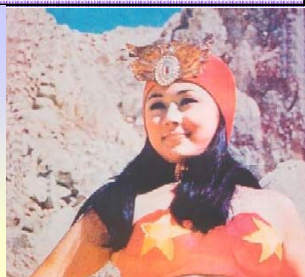
Sino ngayon ang maaaring bumura o pantayan man lamang ang record ni ate Vi sa pagiging All Time Queen of Fantasy Films? Oooooops, sorry! Wala pa akong natatanaw. Kayo meron ba?



# Anything Goes

Charlie Gomez

## ANG MAKULAY NA DAIGDIG NI ROSA VILMA



**M**akulay ngang matatawag ang daigdig ng isang Rosa Vilma Santos. Kumbaga sa isang pelikulang pantasya, ito'y puno ng kapapanabik, kamanghamangha, at kagilagilalas na mga tagpo na sadyang magbibigay sigla at tuwa sa puso't isipan ng isang humahanga at nagmamahal sa tunay na Reyna ng Pelikulang Pilipino. Bawat kabanata ng kanyang buhay ay pakakaabangan-abangan mo tulad ng trilogy episode sa "Lipad Darna Lipad", kung saan isa-isang nakalaban ni Ate Vi as Darna (first of her four Darna outings) ang kanyang mga naging kaaway na babaing manananggal, Valentina at babaing-lawin na buong husay na ginampanan naman nina Gloria Romero, Celia Rodriguez at Lisa Lorena, respectively in that order. Tulad ng excitement at suspense ng pakikipaglaban ni Darna sa babaing-manananggal sa may tore ng simbahan, kay Valentina sa rooftop ng Hasmin Hotel sa may Sta. Mesa, sa babaing-lawin sa isang bulubunduking lugar sa Pilipinas, na isa-isang pinabagsak ni Darna ang kanyang mga katunggali, gayundin ang naganap sa bawat tagumpay na tinatamasa ngayon ng kinikilala at nirespetong haligi ng Pelikulang Pilipino, si Ms. Rosa Vilma Santos. Ang dati-rating second fiddle lamang ngayo'y numero uno na at patuloy na namamayagpag. Apat na dekada ang nakalilipas, subalit patuloy pa ring bumubulusok paitaas. Ang dating luhaan sa ilang mga award-giving nights, ngayo'y may 50 plus and more acting awards na bilang isang mahusay na aktres. Tulad ni Darna, si Vilma'y lumilipad ng buong tayog at buong inam. Lipad Vilma Lipad! Makulay ngang mababanggit ang bawat yugto ng kaniyang buhay gaya ng mga pelikulang kanyang ginampanan na puno ng adventures at pakikipaglaban saan mang larangan, saan mang lugar, ano mang oras o panahon. Mistula siyang si "Wonder Vi" ng kagubatan – Reyna at kahanga-hanga sa galing. Nagtatagumpay kahit sa anu mang uri ng kaaway sa kagubatan – sa lunsod man o lalawigan. Para siyang si Dyesebel ng karagatan na kahit man nilait-lait, pinagtawanan, at pinagkakitaan sa taglay niyang kaanyuhan, ay nahalina pa rin niya ang puso ng kanyang mangingibig at ng mga taong nasa paligid niya. Siya'y tulad ni Phantom Lady – matatag, matapang at handang lumaban ano mang panganiib at pagsubok ang kaharapin. Humahagupit niyang latigo ay tulad din ng bawat kilos at galaw ng isang Vilma Santos – tumatagos sa puso ng bawat manonood, ng

bawat tumatangkilik sa Pelikulang Pilipino, sa mga nagmamahal at patuloy na humahanga sa kaniya. Animo'y siya si Vivian Volta. Maliksi, malakas at puno ng determinasyong magapi ang umaapi at pilit siyang binabagsak. Tsako na kanyang gamit na sadyang mabilis at pupuksain ang bawat dampian nito ay tulad din ng mga makabuluhang hakbangin ng isang Vilma Santos – mabisa at dagling nagdudulot ng tiyak na tagumpay. Mala "Maria Cinderella" nga ang kanyang buhay. May drama subalit may saya rin. Bumabangon sa pagkakaapi at lumalaban. Kahali-halina ang ganda. Kaakit-akit ang mukha. Parang "Kampanerang Kuba" na sa likod pala ng anyong iyon ay naroroon ang busilak at dalisay niyang puso, ang kinang at ganda ng kaniyang ugali at tunay na mukha. Siya si Rosa Vilma Santos. Malapantasyang mang maihahambing ang kanyang buhay at daigdig na ginagalawan, nandoroon pa rin naman ang katotohanang may isang Vilma Santos na lumaban at nagpunyagi taglay ang determinasyon, isang busilak na puso at matibay na pananalig sa Poong Maykapal. Tagumpay na hindi kathang-isip lamang, hindi bunga ng mahinasyong kaisipan, kungdi ng sipag, tiyaga at determinasyong magtagumpay. Rosa Vilma Santos – tunay ka ngang kahanga-hanga. At bago ko po tapusin ang article na ito, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our beloved Queen for winning in her "Munting Ngiti" project in Sydney, Australia. Also for being hailed as one of the outstanding women of Philippine Cinema in the on-going Feminist Film Festival, and for the Doctorate award in Humanities that Lipa College bestowed upon her. Yan ang tagumpay. Yan ang Vilma Santos. Truly, the Icon of Victory.

Karagdagan....

Pasko na! Parang kaylan lang, Disyembre na pala. Malamig na ang simoy ng hangin. Naaamoy-amoy ko na ang samyo ng bibingka at puto-bumbong. Simbang-gabi ay malapit na. Pasko na nga! At tuwing sumasapit ang kapaskuhan, di lamang ang mga regalong matatanggap ang ating pinakakaabangan, di lamang ang mga bagong damit at sapatos ang ating inaasam, (kahit na nga ang buhay sa ngayon ay sadyang mahirap), di lamang Jingle Bells at Holy Night ang nais nating pakinggan, kungdi higit sa lahat kapag dumarating ang Disyembre, pinakakaabangan-abagan din natin ang taunang Metro Manila Film Festival kung saan magagandang pelikula ang magtatagisan sa takilya at maging sa awards man. Mga pantasyang pelikula ang tiyak na muling mamayagpag. Sayang nga lamang walang entry ang tunay na Reyna ng mga pelikulang pantasya, walang iba kungdi ang Nag-iisang Bituin ng Pinilakang-Tabing, Ms. Vilma Santos. Gayunpaman, hangad natin ang tagumpay ng taunang Metro Manila Film Festival. Sapagkat ang tagumpay nito'y, tagumpay din ng buong industriya ng Pelikulang Pilipino. Nawa'y sa mga pelikulang ito na kalahok, pantasya man o hindi, masalamin ang tunay na kalagayan ng buhay – na sa gitna ng kahirapan, pagsubok at kaapihan, ay may pagasa at tagumpay na naghihintay. Maligayang Pasko po sa lahat. Sa aking mga kapwa Vilmanians for Life, may you have a blessed and truly merry Christmas. -cg





## SI DARNA AT SI ATE VI! By Eric Cueto



**D**arna has been portrayed by no less than nine actresses in 12 feature films. Rosa del Rosario first wore the scarlet two-piece in May 1951. She reprised the role after three months. Liza Moreno, Eva Montes and Gina Pareño followed her. The inter-galactic pebble found its way to Vilma Santos' throat in 1973 via the flick "Lipad, Darna, Lipad!" Santos, now the mayor of Lipa City in Batangas, is probably the most popular Darna, with a total of four movies in a span of seven years.

Rio Locsin squeezed in a portrayal in 1979 with "Bira, Darna, Bira!" But Santos made a comeback, with the legendary Niño Muhlach as Ding, in 1980's "Darna and Ding."

**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 thus divided into three separate segments, directed by three different directors. In Darna's case, the three directors were Maning Borlaza, Joey Gosiengfao, and Elwood Perez—three names that promised an adventure that could do Andy Warhol proud.

First episode: "Ang Impakta" Starring Gloria Romero as Miss Luna, Narda's school teacher who has a dark secret.

She is actually a flying blood sucking creature at night. In this thrilling episode she knows the secret identity of Narda. The most memorable part was when Ms. Luna asked Narda to help her with some paper works. Little that she know, while she was busy checking the papers Ms. Luna excused herself, she then went to the next room and transformed into a scary vampire. Ding found out that Ms. Luna is the vampire and Narda forgot to bring the magical stone, he rushed to her sister who then was being struggled by the monster. As soon as he got there, he threw the stone to her much terrified sister and she immediately changed to Darna. Followed was the famous aerial fight scene. Nanette Medved and Bing Loyzaga tried to copy the infamous fight scene in 1990 Viva films Darna. Episode one was directed by Maning Borlaza. Vilma also had to battle with Celia Rodriguez, who played a campy Valentina, a supermodel by day and a snake priestess by night. One scene has the actress naked in bed being caressed by a dozen snakes. Indeed, with the likes of Gosiengfao, Perez, and Borlaza at the helm, Darna is sure to get stuck in grotesque situations reminiscent of the Rocky Horror Movie. Their take on Darna is sometimes too risqué and violent for little children; but as a camp fest, the movie works.

In the next episode, Valentina, tried to steal Narda's magical stone. Also, there was a scene where Valentina dressed up as Darna. I love the exciting part where Darna and Valentina battled on top of a high rise building. Darna, was almost a no match to her mortal enemy. Dangerously armed with lazer beams coming out from Valentina's eyes, Darna was helpless and knocked down several times. Until, she stumbled upon into a piece of broken mirror and used it as a shield againts Valentina's deadly lazer beams. Darna quickly made her looked in the mirror. Her lazer beams bounced back and she turned into a stone. From the roof, Valentina fell hard on the ground and broked into shattered pieces. Anjanette Abayarri and Cherrie Gil almost did the same scene in "Darna, Ang Pagbabalik!" Second Episode was directed by Elwood Perez.

The final episode was "Babaing Lawin" (Hawk Woman), starring Liza Lorena as Babaing Lawin. I barely remember this one, there was this scene where Narda and Ding got caught and almost drowned in a quick sand. In Hawk Woman's cave there's this stream, that can make her wings disappear by walking across to it. There was also this character named ->



Agila, a bird man played by Rod Dasco, he's like the Hawk Woman's mate. There was some fight scenes in the cave between Hawk Woman and Darna. At the end of the story Darna and Hawk Woman,

mend their ways. Vilma Santos was the second actress to play both "Narda and Darna" first was Liza Moreno in Sputnik VS. Darna. The famous expression- "Ding, ang bato... Dali" was originated in "Lipad, Darna, Lipad". It did not come from the comics.

Vilma did have one important asset that easily made the role all her own—she had the box office clout. Lipad, Darna, Lipad, (1973) was a certified blockbuster, and not just because of the millions of Vilmanians. Local movie fans suddenly seemed to have a penchant for movies about superheroes.



**Darna And The Giants** (Dec. 22,1973) Tagalog Ilang-Ilang Productions, Official Entry for 1973 Manila Film festival.

For the second time around Vilma, proves that her first Darna was no fluke. Darna And The Giants vanquished all of her box office competitors. Very creative special effects by Tommy Marcelino consider it was made early in the 70's. Sex kitten Divina Valencia as one of the giants as well as Ike Lozada, Max Alvarado, Zandro Zamora and many more. Vilma was the third actress to play the dual role of a teen-age Narda, Darna. Gina Pareno had two alter ego's in her own version as well as Liza Moreno played Narda and Darna in Sputnik VS. Darna. Vilma also changed Darna's transformation in all of her Darna films by using a flash of light instead of the thick smoke. She dons a retro version of Darna with shiny gold and red costume and matching platform boots. In this film Vilma was no hold bars. Romy V. Susara and Leody M. Diaz choreographed Darna's awesome fight scenes. Continuing where "Lipad, Darna, Lipad" left off, Narda (Vilma Santos) and Ding (Dondon Nakar) encountered their greatest challenge yet - The Alien Warrior Queen- "X3X" (Helen Gamboa) and her alien minions. In this latest adventure, X3X terrorizes Narda's village and captures several of the townsfolk and transforming them into mindless Giants who went on a rampage across the countryside in the hopes of conquering the earth without the use of nuclear weapons. When Narda's suitor Romy (Romeo Miranda) is captured, the threat of the alien Queen becomes personal.

With a Global threat such as this, will Darna's courage and powers be up to the challenge? Watch and find out!! "Darna and the Giants" Also stars- Katy Dela Cruz as "Lola", and an all-star cast of 70's icons with cameos from Leopoldo Salcedo, Edgar Mortiz, Eddie Peregrina, Nick Romano, Lotis Key, Tony Ferrer (as Falcon) & more. "Darna and the Giants" produced by Tagalog-Ilang Ilang production and directed by Emmanuel H. Borlaza with Darna Theme composed by Sunny Ilacad (Vicor).

**Darna VS. The Planet Women** (Dec. 25,1975) Tagalog Ilang-Ilang Productions, Christmas Presentation. In this 1975 film (the 3rd in a 4 Darna film franchise), the story of Darna is rebooted as this new installment is NOT a continuation of the 1st and 2nd films. In this revamped version, Narda (Vilma Santos) is a cripple who dreams of accomplishing great things for the betterment of humankind despite her physical limitations. One day, she discovers her suitor (Zandro Zamora) paralyzed after having been attacked by a UFO. Together with her brother Ding (Bentot Jr.), she prays for help and offers to sacrifice herself for the sake of her suitor's survival. A voice from beyond answers and sends her an enchanted amulet of power. The power of Darna contained within the magic pebble. With her newfound powers, she battles The Planet Women-Alien Amazons who are trying to transport the Earth to their own star system.

**Darna at Ding** (Feb. 8,1980) produced by D' Wonder Films - Vilma Santos donned her Darna costume for the last time in 1980 with Darna at Ding. For the first time, Ding was mentioned in the title. And why not? The kid was now played by Niño Muhlach, the most popular child star of the day. The company that produced it, D'Wonder films, belonged to the Muhlach's family. The Wonder films tried to capture the magic of 1973 monster hit "Lipad, Darna, Lipad ". By recasting some of the original cast of Vilma's first Darna movie. Celia Rodriguez declined to play Valentina, instead they tailored a new character for her as Lei Ming the sorceress. Then Veronica Jones was asked to play Valentina but, ended up playing the role of Hawk Woman. Max Alvarado reprised his role as the Giant. Marissa Delgado also joined the cast as Dr. Vontesberg. The movie started on how Narda got her power as Darna. As soon as Narda transformed into Darna, she ->



quickly started her adventure with Ding fighting the Hawk Woman. And soon after Darna and Ding found a giant and both lost the fight to Darna. As the story unfold Dr. Vontesberg pretended as a good samaritan with an evil plan to destroy the towns people who killed her grandfather mistakenly accused as a devil worshipper. Dr. Vontesberg summoned the dead and terrorized the townspeople. Narda was captured by the mad Dr. Vontesberg and showed her how she operates her plans. Ding got on time to rescue her helpless sister and they both stopped Vontesberg evil plans. Then, Darna and Ding flew their way to the city. And on their way, they captured a bunch of loose prisoners, after this scene was a long lots of talking non-action scenes. Finally, Lei Ming and Darna measured their strength and powers. Lei Ming created an evil Darna to destroy the real Darna. At the end Lei Ming lose and took her own life. Vilma finally relinquished the role of Darna to Sharon Cuneta, who appeared in a cameo role as Darna, in 1986's Captain Barbel, also a Mars Ravelo classic creation. Years after, Dawn Zulueta was rumored to play Darna but the role of our beloved superheroine went to Nanette Medved who would have preferred to play Valentina.



**Editor's note:** Vilma Santos was indeed the most successful Darna in history of this franchise. Eric Cueto who is also the web master of the Mars Ravelo (the creator of Darna) web-site recent interviewed the Star for All Season about her stint as Darna.

Eric C : Ate Vi, ano ang pinaka paborito mo sa lahat ng Darna movies mo?

Ate Vi: Syempre Lipad Darna Lipad, yon kasi ang unang Darna ko at maganda talaga. May copy ka ba nito?

Eric C: Wala din ako nito eh, hayaan mo at kapag naka hanap ako bibigyan kita. Paano ka nag handa sa movie na ito, nagkaroon ka ba ng special training sa mga fight scenes mo dito bago nag umpisa ang filming? I heard si Tony Ferrer daw ang isa sa mga nag guide sa iyo.

Ate Vi : walang training sa set na talaga bago mag umpisa ang shooting namin. Hindi si Tony ang nag guide sa akin, yong mga

stuntman lile SOS daredevils.

Eric C : Hindi ka ba nahirapan sa mga stunts mo?

Ate Vi: Hindi naman, kasi may pagka tomboy din ako noong araw kaya madali kong napag aralan. Actually minsan nga nag karoon ng aksidente na kailangan ko na mag tumbling at sasaluhin ako ng stuntman ang nangyari nasipa ko sya sa mukha kaya putok yong ilong nya at kailangang dalahin sya sa hospital, ako naman nauntog sa bato kaya ang sakit ng ulo ko.

Eric C: I heard din na nilagnat ka noong first time ka eksena mo ay mga ahas?

Ate Vi : Oo totoo yon! natakot ako sa mga ahas first shooting day yata namin yon sa may roof top ng isang building sa may Santa Mesa. Isang lingo akong nagkalagnat yata noon? then bago uulit kami mag shooting pinahahawakan na muna nila sa akin yong mga snakes para masanay na ako.

Eric C : how's Celia as Valentina and Gloria as Impakta?

Ate Vi : Celia, she's really good! and Tita Glo was so scary as Impakta, I love her so much.

Eric C : How about Liza?

Ate Vi: She's good too! I remember ang costume nya ay yong parang sheep skin at may pair of wings sya. Sa may Antipolo kinunan yong episode ng Babaing Lawin.

Eric C: May aerial fight scenes ba kayo ni Liza?

Ate Vi : Wala, sa land land lang kami nag laban mostly sa cave. I remember kami ni Tita Glo nag laban kami sa ere, naka tayo kami sa parang stage then madilim yong background at yong kalahati ng katawani Tita Glo ay may takip na itim na tela, at may malaking electric fan na naka tapat sa amin.

Eric C : May scene ba dito na nakuha mo yong bato mo sa shooting star?

Ate Vi: May power na ako ni Darna sa umpisa pa lang ng story, sa Darna VS. The Planetwomen yong may nahulog na bato mula sa sky.

**Turn to page 24**



## Movie Reviews

### TAGOS NG DUGO the original Naglalayag, revisited

The story revolves around Pina, a woman haunted by her past traumatic experiences. She always feels afraid at the sight of blood. Whenever she is physically or emotionally injured, she experiences the so-called "post-traumatic syndrome," which persuades her to kill every man who has hurt her. She disguises herself as a prostitute with different personalities, and becomes a mysterious murderer. (reprint) The Review The future National Artist for Film and recent U.P. Gawad Plaridel and Gawad Suri awardee Vilma Santos has done a gamut of roles. She is the only Filipina actress on record who has the most impressive resume of great performances (and is credible in any role, including Darna, the Pinoy female version of Superman), and has amassed 50 plus acting trophies. The Variety magazine and the world film community has dubbed her the Filipino Cinematic Diva and the Meryl Streep of the Philippines. If her luck continues, she may end up in Guinness' Almanac as an actor with the most number of acting awards. One of my favorite Vilma characters is that of Pina, a serial killer, in *Tagos ng Dugo*. Directed by Mario J. Delos Reyes, it won four best actress awards for Vilma: her second CMMA, fourth FAMAS, and two from magazine polls. When it comes to edgy, neurotic, complex roles, leave it to Versatile Vilma, the Meryl Streep-like cerebral and intuitive actress who was born to play them. Vilma's foray into the "luka-luka" genre began in *Dama De Noche* where she plays twin sisters, one of which is, you bet, neurotic. Bernal's classic *Ikaw Ay Akin* is best remembered for the manic-depressive, chain-smoking, Valium-popping, liberated, free-spirit Sandra (Vilma). Says critic Mario Bautista in his review: As the uptight Sandra, Vilma Santos has the script's choicest, wittiest lines. She makes the most of them and gives a fairly accurate portrait of an emotionally insecure young woman. She likewise handles her final breakdown exceedingly well. There is a common thread in classic films like *Broken Marriage*, *Relasyon*, *Tagos ng Dugo*, *Bata, Bata*, *Dolzura Cortez* and *Hahamakin Lahat*. Outstanding films, thanks to Vilma's perfect portrayal of women on the verge of a nervous breakdown. It is no wonder that the late National Artist Lino Brocka quoted: "Vilma can do any role now. She registers like water, she has overtaken Nora Aunor." The U.P. MassCom jurors concurred with Brocka and gave Vilma that seal of approval by giving her the National Artist award precursor, the prestigious U.P. Gawad Plaridel for excellence in film acting. And oh yes, let us not forget the Gawad Suri Award. In layman's terms, she is the best in the business, period! Back to *Tagos ng Dugo*. At best, it is Vilma's most emotionally and physically, albeit, draining role. Maryo J. made Vilma succeed to say more with less as we will find out. In the opening scene, Pina's medical history is revealed: schizophrenia, painful menstruation, manic-depressive. Then we see the pubescent Pina screaming and writhing in pain on her first menstruation, calls out to her mother: "Inay!" The luminous Alicia Alonzo plays her mother and tells her "dalaga ka na!" Menarche and puberty did not

sit well with Pina. While menstruating, she discovers of her father's affair with a circus girl who her father accidentally kills in the "knife roulette" show, as the victim's blood spills on her face. The girl's family gets even, kills her whole family one night, while she gets raped. *Tagos ng Dugo*. Here's the message: hell hath no fury than a woman violated while having painful menstruation. She has bridges to burn and many losses in her life. She has become a lost and tormented soul. A victim. A monster is born. Oscar best actress Charleze Theron may have taken an inspiration from Vilma's Pina. Flash forward: Orphan and just released from a mental institution, the grown-up Pina is seen staying with her aunt Caridad Sanchez and her husband, a police officer, Tony Santos, Sr. This is where Pina's "calvary" as victim (again) begins. So many men, so many abusers, or so we thought. Enter Michael De Mesa, Santos, Sr.'s nephew who has lust at first sight on Pina. "Malagu, 'ne?" (She's beautiful), De Mesa gushes on the coy and evasive Pina. In *Kapampangan*, Tony tells De Mesa that she was just released from the mental hospital. Michael attempts to enter Pina's room one night but is unsuccessful. Next to *Dekada '70* perhaps, this is one movie where Vilma succeeded in quiet scenes, by just using her eyes. Whether she writhes quietly in pain during her period or is scared of the inevitable such as Michael's evil intent, this is the vintage Vilma now. Less is more. The triumph of restraint and hard work. Versatile, Inc. She meets the nice and good-looking cop (Francis Arnaiz) in the police station where she works as a sloppy, unfocused canteen helper who gets easily rattled by men around her, earning the ire of her boss Lucita Soriano. "Ano ba Pina, ang tanga-tanga mo. Ang dami mo nang nabasag na baso, hah?" Arnaiz is different: caring, sensitive, a gentleman. She is Pina's crush and hero. She steals her crush's photo ID and in her secret hideaway, kisses the photo, followed by a nervous, hysterical laughter, reminiscent of her confrontation scene with Gloria Romero in *Kapag Langit ang Humatol?*. Enter a notorious rapist who is now in jail who held Vilma by the neck and mashes her breasts. Vilma becomes hysterical and cries unconsolably even after Arnaiz and the cops come to her rescue. This scene is again Vintage Vilma. When the rapist is released from prison, he chooses Vilma as his first victim and in the rape attempt, Arnaiz shoots him dead. Again, blood droops on Pina's face. *Tagos ng Dugo*. Next thing we know, De Mesa almost succeeds in raping her but falls off the window when Vilma fights back. She uses Michael's knife to scare him off. Now wiser, stronger, sophisticated and smarter, Pina finds solace and a sanctuary in an abandoned house across from where she lives. She learns how to apply mascara and wig. A aerial killer is born. This is where she plans her revenge. So many men, so little time. It's payback time. In the wise use of flashbacks, we learn that Pina is violated again and again by the very people who should be helping her cope with her unstable mental status, one of which is the evil warden Lito Pimentel. She falls in love with her therapist who politely turns her down. It is a series of painful abuse and rejection for the sad, sad life of Pina. We also learn that she has a brother/sailor who sends her monthly stipend which she never benefits from and in his last visit, Pina begs him to stay with him. In multiple flashbacks, we see a helpless victim, Pina crying out for love and acceptance. Nobody seems to listen. A dysfunctional family. Abused physically and emotionally. Neglected. Rejected. Unwanted. Tormented. Untreated

Turn to next page ->

chemical imbalance. A perfect scenario for the birth of a schizophrenic, manic-depressive serial killer. Disguised as a prostitute, she kills her tormentors one by one with a knife she steals from De Mesa, with the exception of a druggie, the excellent Richard Gomez in cameo role. Here is a performance that is Vilma Santos' gift to the world, right there in the dark theater and on the silver screen. Are killers made or born? Is society or family to blame for sociopaths? Are menarche and the drive to kill symbiotic? In a touching scene where she literally shreds Arnaiz's stolen photo with her teeth (Arnaiz reconciles with and will marry her fiancée) out of jealousy, and rejection, Pina plans to make it out with Arnaiz in a hotel where the cops hang out to have a good time and where Arnaiz will screw a prosti as the boys' "gift" to him. Vilma is that prosti. When Aranaiz discovers it is the demented Pina, he takes pity on her and prepares to put on his clothes. What, rejected again? Pina pleads Arnaiz to love her, hug her, kiss her. She will take no for an answer. Like a raving lunatic, she strikes Arnaiz with the knife. Meanwhile, little did Pina know that Caridad and Santos, Jr. discovers her dark secret and desperately calls the boys to watch out for Pina, the deranged murderer who might be stalking on Arnaiz. Sanches and Santos, Jr. either fumbles with the phone number or gets a busy signal. Wala pa kasing cell phone noon, eh! Next thing we know, the cops run to save Arnaiz from Pina. The hunter is now the hunted. What they discover in the room is a wounded but still alive Arnaiz who cries: "Huwag!" as his colleagues aim their guns at the crazed woman with thick mascara and wig. In a memorable and touching scene, the camera pans on a screaming, out of control, bloodied, lost her sanity Pina, angry one moment, repentant ("di ko sinasadya!") the next, and then mumbles incoherently. Prison bars are etched across her whole body, and the movie ends. Pina is Vilma and Vilma is Pina. This is their story. This is their movie. This is acting at its best. Thank God, Mayor Vilma Santos has come to the rescue of the Pina's in this world. Unlike the superheroine and fictitious Darna who kicks butt as she battles with the forces of darkness and defend the people, here is Vilma, the philanthropist and the Mother Theresa of her generation, in the flesh, reaching out to the poorest of the poor of her Lipa constituents. Through her loving heart and helping hands, she has actually helped thousands of society's outcasts, the poor and the needy. This is the Vilma Santos today: successful, revered, in demand, a winner in all fronts. A National Treasure! Who would have thought that the second fiddle to another actress will become the greatest film practitioner of all time and a capable Mayor? A great actress and an excellent Mayor. Nobody does it better.



## Anak: Akting Lang ni Ate Vi, Sulit Na!

by Willie Fernandez

Sabado ang aming regular movie day at ang SM Megamall ang paborito naming theater complex na pinupuntahan dahil nga for the usual amenities-restoran, shopping mall at iba pang panoorin Tunay ngang kamangha-mangha ang aming nasaksihan nang Sabado 'yon, May 13, 2000 dahil punum-puno ang apat na sinehang pinaglabasan ng pelikulang "Anak" ni Vilma Santos. The movie opened

May 10, 2000, Wednesday. Kasama ang ilang kaibigang Vilmanians, hindi namin ininda ang hirap at haba ng pila ng mga manonood. Sa totoo lang, may advantage na agad sa mga manonood pag pelikula ni Ate Vi ang panonoorin dahil nga Vilma Santos 'yan. Pangit man ang istorya basta ang bidang aktres ay si Ate Vi, may mapupuri ka namang akting. Sa puntong ito, hindi ka bibiguan ng aktres, at kadalasan pa nga lalagpasan pa niya ang ating expectations gaya sa Anak. Masasabi naming sa akting lang ni Ate Vi, sulit na ang oras mo sa pelikulang ito. In fairness, well made for a melodrama ang Anak. At saka worth the price of admission na Php 50. Kung tutuusin, kasabay noon ang pagpapalabas ng pelikulang Music of the Heart na pinagbibidahan naman ni Meryl Streep na magkatulad ang tema-tungkol sa mga single mothers na nagtataguyod sa buhay ng kanilang mga anak. Pero kung akting at akting din lamang ang pag-uusapan, hindi naman mahuhuli si Ate Vi kay Meryl Streep. Kahit sabihing paborito namin ang numero unong aktres at long time fan niya kami. Produced by Star Cinema and directed by Rory B. Quintos from a story by Ricky Lee and Raymond Lee, Vilma again plays a mother. This time in conflict with her three children who can't accept the reality that their mother has to sacrifice the family to work as a domestic helper in Hongkong, only to come home 6 years later finding in shambles the same family that she's working hard to keep intact. Ate Vi plays the role of Josie, a DH in Hongkong who, for a number of years, has not come home in her desire to bring more dollars to her family. Pagakatapos ng anim na taon bilang DH sa Hongkong, bumalik sa Pinas si Josie para makapiling ang mga anak pero hindi na sila nagkakilanlan ng mga ugali. Slowly, she realizes that her children resented her absence. Her eldest, Carla played by Claudine Barretto has become a rebellious adolescent. Naging adik at palapat-lapat ng lalake. Maiinis ka talaga sa kanyang pagrerebelde. Isinisasi sa pagtatrabaho ng ina sa Hongkong ang kanyang panlalake, paglalasing, paninigarilyo at pagkawala ng direksyon sa buhay. Her second child, the only boy, Michael played by Baron Geisler has turned to be a wayward kid. Her youngest na si Daday played by Sheila May Alvar hardly recognizes her. Simple lang ang istorya. Pinatingkad lang ang pelikula ng matitinding dialogues. Tamang-tama ang pasok ng flashback scenes na nagpapaliwanag sa behavior ng mga tauhan. Kung tutuusi'y hindi na iba ang tema ng pelikula, pero ang pagkakaiba nito ay ang mga artistang nagbibigay buhay sa papel na kanilang ginagampanan. Damang-dama namin ang panonood, naluluha-luha na kami sa mga eksenang napapanood. Grabeng lines, nanggagaling sa puso kaya tumatagos sa puso. Pagdating sa paglilitanya ni Ate Vi nang tuhog na tuhog, yung makapanindig-balahibong linyang marami siyang pinalampas na pagkalam ng sikmura para lang maipadala niya ang pambili sa kanyang mga anak. Ibang klase. Masikip sa dibdib, tahimik kang luluha dahil sapul na sapul ka ng kanyang pagganap. Sa tunay na buhay nga nama'y mas masakit at nakakakuha ng simpatiya ang paimpit na pag-iyak, at yun si Josie na ginagampanan ni buong ningning ni Ate Vi. Walang pakialam ang aktres sa magiging hitsura niya sa telon. Sinunod ni Ate Vi ang kagustuhan ng direktor. Ginawa niya ang hinihingi ng papel na maging deglamorize para mas maging makatotohanan ang kanyang pagbibigay buhay. Sa kanyang pag-iyak ay masisilip mo ang nagagait din niyang mga ugat sa leeg at kamay niya. Sa eksenang talagang sinusumbatan na niya si Claudine, she

Turn to page 12

## What's next for **VILMA!**

- The Year in REVIEW
- The Classic Vilma movies
- Vilma Santos' Leading Men
- Willie Fernandez chronicled Ate Vi's  
lovelife  
And More!  
February - March 2006

### From page 21

Eric C: Excited ka ba ng i offer sa iyo ang Darna for the first time at may napanood ka ba na Darna movies before your Darna?

Ate Vi: Napanood ko yong Darna ni Eva Montes sa sine at yong Kay Rosa Del Rosario sa tv. Napanood ko din yong Darna ang Pagbabalik sa tv, i don't really care about it, kasi parang tinipid yong movie.

Of course excited ako ng i alok sa akin ang Darna. I remember nagpaalam pa ako sa mga madre sa school na pinapasukan ko noon, kasi diba na ka two piece si Darna at okay naman sa kanila, kasi nga hindi naman daw bastos yong character ni Darna, superheroine nga sya eh. Tinanong ko rin yong mga fans noon at medyo nga worried din sila sa costume baka daw bastusin ako. Kaya nga noong una sa pictorials ng promo ng movie naka body stocking ako, kaya lang hindi talaga magandang lumabas nakakataba yong stocking. William Leary and Douglas Quijano convinced me na tangalin ko yong stocking sa press con ng Darna. I remember nasa bathroom pa nga ako noon at mag papalit na ko ng Darna costume ko, then tinangal ko na rin kasi sabi nila " Vi, masagwa talaga yong stocking bakit di mo sila gulatin lumabas ka ng walang stocking tuta! may ipapakita ka naman". At yon na lumabas na ko ng walang body stocking.

Eric C: What do you think of Angel as Darna?

Ate Vi: She's doing great sa tv series nya na Darna. Napapanood ko ito at bagay sa kanya tama yong ginagawa nya sa mga fight scenes nya, believable talaga! kasi pag Darna ka kailangan di ka malamya at mai papakita mo na kaya mo talagang mag patumba ng mga kalaban mo.

Eric : Do you mind na mag guest appearance sa Darna movie or

tv?

Ate Vi: I don't mind basta ba maganda yong role. Noong araw sa Darna ni Dolphy inalok ako na mag pasa ng bato kay Dolphy, pero pregnant ako noon kay Lucky.

Eric C: Ano pa yong mga memorable experience mo about Darna?

Ate Vi: Yong flying scenes, mahirap talaga yon kasi kailangang i balance mo yong katawan sa 3 maninipis na bakal na nakasasalo sa katawan ko, at may malaking electric fan na nakatapat sa may mukha ko kaya sakit talaga sa ulo after takes. Also natatandaan ko rin yong lumilipad ako papuntang Maynila na background music na My Beautiful Baloon. I also remember si Angelito pa ang Ding ko sa Lipad Darna Lipad.

Eric C: May naitabi ka ba na Darna memorabilia?

Ate Vi : Wala, binabalik namin yon sa studio like costumes.

Eric C: Ano ang pagkakaiba ng Darna noon at ngayon?

Ate Vi: Ngayon mas advance na ang technology at computerized na talaga, madali ng gawin yong mga mahihirap na scenes. Noon pag nag Narda ako naka steady talaga yong camera tapos bihis agad balif sa dating pwesto, ngayon halos computer na talaga lahat.

Eric C: Ate Vi, nagawa mo na halos lahat ang hindi na lang is to play the role of Impakta or Aswang will you consider na lumabas ng isa sa mga villainess sa Darna like Gloria Romero noon?

Ate Vi : Naku mukha na ba akong impakta! (sabay halakhak) actually may ginawa na kong Aswang yong " Anak ng Aswang" pero hindi ako ang aswang si Tita Glo. Actually very interesting yang role na yan at challenging, i don't mind playing those kind of roles na kontrabida, basta ba maganda ang story.

Eric C: Tekang muna ate Vi, kailan mo ba ipapasa sa akin ang bato?

Ate Vi : ( sabay tawa) Hay naku! hindi pa panahon para ipasa ko sa iyo ang bato.

Eric C: Ate for the last time sumigaw ka ng Darna please!

Ate Vi : Baka magising ang mga tao dito sa hotel madaling araw na.

Eric C : Pls ate Vi. ( Medyo pabiro pang isinigaw ni ate ang Darna)

Ate Vi : Jworna (pa cute pa sya dito ha!) then di ba meron pang sumigaw ng Daarna, na parang hirap sya sa pag sigaw di ba?

Eric C : kilala ko yong mga sumigaw ng ganoon ate Vi.

(then finally medyo nag emote muna si ate at sabay taas ng kamay)

Ate Vi : DARNA!!!

Eric C : no pa naman di halos hinimatay ako sa tuwa imagine in person talaga narinig namin na sumigaw si Ate Vi ng Darna at palakpakan ang mga Vilmanians na nakipag puyatan sa pakikipag chikahan sa Darna for all seasons, na kahit walang make up ay super ganda pa rin.



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**