

VILMA!

VOLUME 2. NO. 8 - THE MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE ISSUE - MAY - JUNE 2006

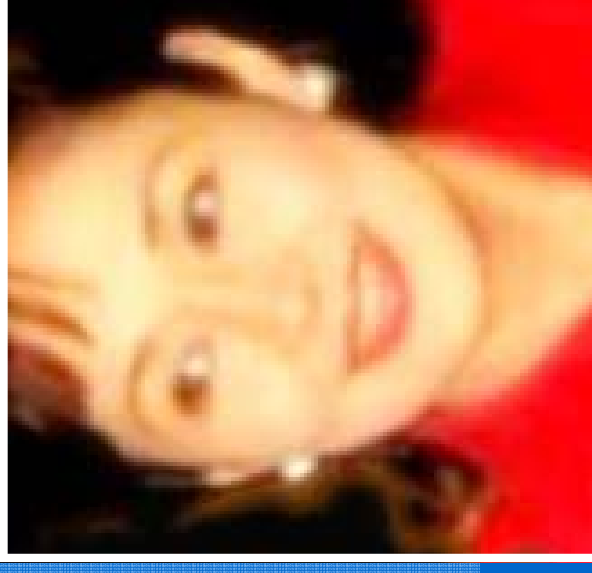
Wirang ina...



...ni Luis at Ryan.



...ng bayan ng Lipa.



...ng mga Vilmanians.



...ng pelikulang tagalog.





{ letters } From around the globe

Literary Moment

Thank you for a wonderful work. Marvelous. Filled with nostalgias and fond memories. Memories that I love to look back very often. Memoirs of Vilmanians are testimonies from the heart. Congratulations to all for a job well done. Thanks to all of you.

Liam

Philippines

Thank you for this.. Super ganda siya... at talagang halatang pinaghirapan ng husto.... all I can say is that "BOW" ako talaga sa dedication n'yo... I hope i can bond with you one of these days... Take care and you be well Jul

Julie

Sweden

In this far side of the globe, the internet is the only source I can use to access the latest news about Ate Vi! Thank you for sending me the literary issue of Vilma! Sa tutoo lang po hindi naman ako nag-subscribe or member ng e-group but because most of my friends knows that I am a Vilmanian, seguro po sila ang nagpadala ng e-mail ko sa inyo. I am so excited to read all the articles, napaiyak po ako ng mabasa ko ang Memoirs of Vilmanians dahil parang nabasa ko po ang mga experiences ko when I am just growing up and also when I am still studying sa UP. Thank you again and I am looking forward to your next issue.

Mildred D.

Spain

Gaya gaya talaga kayong mga Vilmanians. Wala na ba kayong gagawin kundi sundan ang yapak ng aming idolo? Saan n'yo nakuha ang ideya ng Memoirs of Vilmanians kundi sa libro ng mga Noranians!!! Kahit anong gawin n'yo poor second lang ang Vilma n'yo sa no. 1 superstar, Nora Aunor.

Dianne M.

Manila

(Sigh... What a pity. Recently, even Ms. Aunor, herself, admitted "she's down and out" in one of her rare television interviews. Now if only her followers admit this.... -mpj)

HOW TO REACH US:

For submissions, comments, suggestions, contributions, past issues, or to if you want to be included in our mailing list,

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VILMA!

The Vilma Santos Newsletter

Published bi-monthly by members of the four Vilma Santos e-groups.

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

VISION

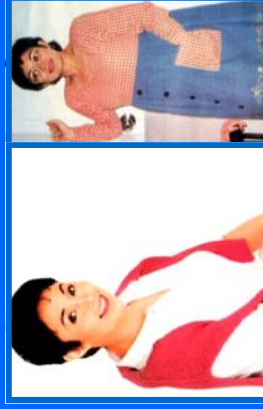
Vilma Santos

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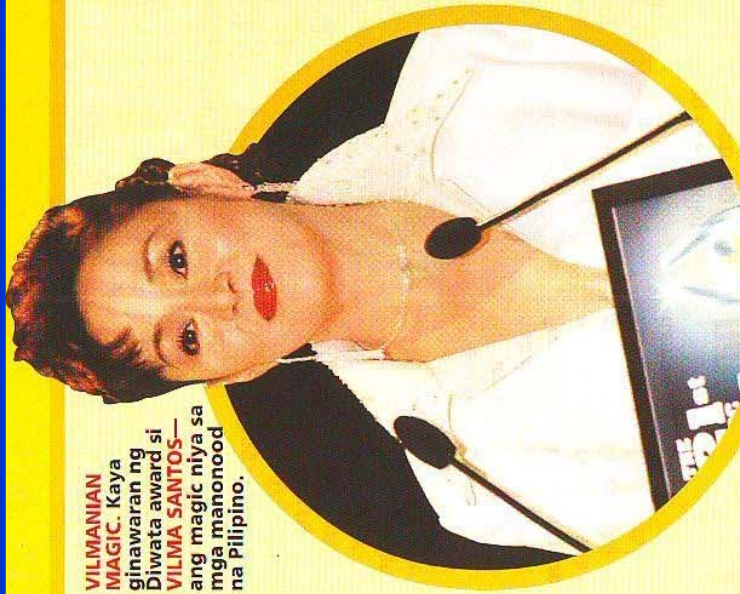


NAKAUSAP ng Hiji si Vilma Santos bago siya umalis papuntang Rome noong March 23 with husband Ralph Recto, son Ryan Christian, at iba pa, para dumalo sa investiture rites ng labinlimang bagong cardinals, kasama na ang bagong cardinal ng Manila, si Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales.

(Personal na inimitahan ang pamilya ni Ate Vi ni Cardinal Rosales, na dating Archbishop ng Lipa City.) Ibinalita ni Ate Vi na tapos na ang kanyang shooting ng *Maalala Mo Kaya* episode with Ricky Davao and Maja Salvador, directed by Olive Lamasan. "One year in the making ito, bale two episodes, but it's really worth it and I'm impressed with the work of Direk Olive," aniya. "It's based on the true story of a woman from Lipa."

Sinabi rin niyang nakatanggap

VILMANIAN MAGIC. Kaya ginawaran ng Diwata award si VILMA SANTOS—ang magic niya sa mga manonood na Filipino.



Vilma was warmly applauded when she delivered a very inspirational message, saying: "I strongly believed in these films with strong messages. "It's about time men believed in women empowerment. Don't underestimate us, women and artists!"

10 NA SIRYAN

HABANG nasa Rome ang pamilya Santos-Recto—kasama rin nila ang mga kapatid ni Ate Vi: na sina Emelyn at Sonny Boy, ang accountant ni Ate Vi na si Aida Fandialan, at ang yaya ni Ryan na si Fely—nag-celebrate ng kanyang 10th birthday si Ryan.

Tumanggap ng 11 toy si Ryan mula sa kanyang amang si Senator Ralph. "Yung extra toy, bonus gift ni Ryan for being on the Top 5 of his class," kuwentuhan ni Ate Vi: via a brief phone chat.

From Rome, dumiretso ang grupo nina Ate Vi sa Los Angeles para dalawin ang iba pa nilang kamag-anak, including Mommy Santos at youngest sister na si Winnie.

"Extended ang birthday celebration ni Ryan," balita pa ni Ate Vi: Dinala raw nila ang bagets sa Disneyland nang weekend na yun. Nag-Royal Carribean Tour naman sila mula April 13 hanggang April 17.

"We'll be back in Manila on April 21 para sa birthday ni Luis. Sayang nga't di siya nakasama. Marami kasi siyang trabahong natangian sa ABS-CBN, ayon pa kay Ate Vi."

MARIO E. BAUTISTA

DIWATA'NG PELIKULANG PIPINOY

siya ng offer to do a stage play in CCP.

Gusto raw nga niyang sumubok gumanap sa entablado dahil ito na lang ang medium na hindi pa niya nagagawa.

"Pero nang sabihin sa akin na kailangang mag-rehearse ako for two months, wala akong nagawa but I still have to attend to my duties as Lipa mayor," sabi pa niya. Ibinalita rin niyang marami ring dumarating sa kanyang ngayong bagong movie offers.

"But most of them are heavy drama. Gusto ko kasi, something lighter that will be more appealing to the masa."

Noong March 8, si Ate Vi ay pinarangalan ng First Diwata Award in celebration of International Women's Day.

It coincided with the 16th International Women's Film Festival by the UP Film Institute.

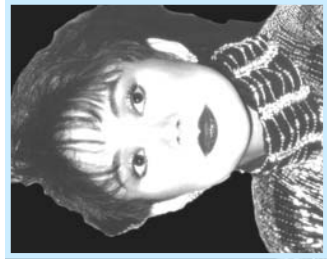
Siya ay ginawaran ng karangalan para sa pagkaganap niya sa mga pelikulang *Sister Stella L., Relasyon, Dolzura Cortez Story, Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?*, and *Dekada 70*, which are all about women empowerment.

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...Bb. Rona Vilma Santos
 Recto... isa kang ulirang
 Ina ng pelikulang
 tagalog, mapanggabary at
 mananawag, ina ng bayan
 ng Lipa... madinat at ma-
 pagbigay na ina ni Luis
 at Ryan... matapat at ma-
 pagmahal na ina ng mga
 tapat-mang
 tagahanga... at ang
 pag-asa ng bayan ng Philipi-
 nas...
 papuri sa iyo...
 isa kang ginoo...
 isang dahilang
 Ina...

decades, coming up with a truly admirable line-up of movies, showing courage in their choice of new challenges and off-beat characters, and maintaining a hold on their fans' affections.

Fans can be pests, that's true. They tend to take their "ownership" over their idols much too seriously, to the extent of stalking them, dictating their love lives and setting up outside expectations. But over the years, they can provide a source of affirmation and validation, especially when the bloom of one's stardom has started to fade.

Neither is this a one-way street. As Pokwang's character reveals, watching Vilma's movies and tracking her career provided her the only source of solace in the years she spent as a contract wife in Korea, looked down upon by her in-laws and reduced to a superfluity. Indeed, amid the vexations of daily life, being a fan provides escape and entertainment, another level of reality and a pleasant diversion. Not a bad bargain, that.

First posted 05:19am (Mla time) April 30, 2006
 By Rina Jimenez-David
 Inquirer



since she has a tendency to let her Filipino lines run together. Bitangcol has yet to feel at ease before the camera, since his acting seems to consist mainly of poses and facial mannerisms. At times, one can even catch him sneaking a furtive look at the camera when he shouldn't.

So it's safe to say that the movie succeeds despite them, which is why I hope producers don't attribute any magical box-office prowess to the youngsters. Instead, they should pay attention to the newly gained clout of Pokwang and Domingo who, like Ai-Ai de las Alas, labored in obscurity before proving that screen charisma has little to do with an actor's looks or figure, and everything to do with the ability to connect with the audience.

Perhaps it also helps that "D' Lucky Ones" takes a fond look at fandom, an occupational hazard for any consumer of entertainment fare, and the lengths fans go just to pay homage to their object of affection, adoration and adulation. The "Nora" and "Vilma" fans are particularly fascinating, since the two women commanded extraordinary levels of loyalty in their heyday and even today, no matter the intriguing twists and turns of their life stories.

MY friend Peachy and I-whom I roped into watching "D' Lucky Ones" after all family members refused my impromptu-tuning-had an interesting discussion about the nature of Vilmanians and Noranians. We both agreed that the overall tone of the movie, which is "happy" and "sunny" and pastel-toned, wouldn't have been possible if it had been about Nora's fans. And this is because Nora's oeuvre is dominated by darker and grimmer movies that don't lend themselves easily to comic parody or satire. I consider myself a Noranian, but the film turned me into a Vilmanian, and when Ate Vi no less turned up at the movie's finale, I felt a thrill, vicariously diving into Pokwang's and Eugene's obsession. I also felt a surge of appreciation and gratitude for the work of Vilma and Nora, who have dominated show business in the last

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

“Ina ng Bayan”



Ina ng bayan. Tamang kataga para sa isang lingkod bayan. Maraming sakripisyo pero lahat ng ito'y ginawa niya upang matupad ang kanyang mga obligasyong pinangako. Ito ang buhay ni Binibining Vilma Santos Recto, ang nirespetong mayor ng Lipa. Nagkataong siya rin ang nanatiling reyna ng pelikulang tagalog, isang aktres. Nagkataong rin siya ang ina ni Luis Manzano at Ryan Christian Recto. Nagkataong siya rin ang sinasambang idolo ng maraming Vilmanians sa buong mundo. At narito ang kabigatan ng kanyang tunay na papel sa buhay. Dahil bukod sa kanyang personal na papel bilang ina ni Luis at Ryan siya rin ang ina ng maraming Vilmanians, ang ina ng mga taong bayan ng Lipa at ang ina ng maraming tauhan ng industriya

ng pelikulang tagalog. Ina yang ito. Dahil ito ang nagbigay sa kanya ng mga pagkakataong gampanan ang isang papel ng mayor na hindi man lang niya iniisip na maging isang politico sa umpisa pa lang. Ito ang kaibahan niya sa ibang lingkod bayan. Tapat niyang pinahalalagahan ang mga tinutumbasan ng tapat at sipag sa paglilingkod. Ina ng bayan. Minsan na ring ibinigay ito sa mga babaeng politico ng nakaraang panahon. Katulad ng dating pangulong Cory Aquino, iba ang bigat ng katagang ito dahil mayroong katapatan sa kahulugan. Walang bahid ng pagkukurwari at walang bahid ng pagadalinangan. Ito ay dahil sa nakikita ng taong bayan ang katapatan at bunga ng lahat ng kanyang mga ginagawa. Para sa mga taong pinagsisilbihan nya. Tama ngang tawagin siyang ina ng bayan.

Para sa industriya ng pelikulang tagalog, ifinuturing rin siyang ang ulirang ina na dapat tularan. Nuong nagsalita siya tungkol sa piracy at sa mga artista na walang trabaho, maraming nakin

ng at tumulong sa pag-puksa ng mga piracy at marami rin ang nag-umpisang magsalita tungkol sa mga problemang kinasusu-ungan ng industriya. Maraming artista ang nagsasabing si Ate Vi ang kanilang role model dahil sa lawak ng kanyang narating. Sa mga tagahanga ni Ate Vi, ang mga pelikulan niya ang isa sa dahilan kung bakit hanggang ngayon ay pinahalalagahan nila ito. Maraming aral at mensahe ang makuha sa mga proyektong ginawa at ginagawa ng kanilang idolo. Para sa maraming Vilmanian ang lahat ng ginagawa niya ay nagdulot ng malalim na kaligayahan kung kaya bukod sa kanilang mga tunay na magulang, para sa kanila'y si Ate Vi ay isang dakilang ina.

Para sa isyung inyong binabasa, ang pagpapahala ng lahat ng mga Vilmanians sa buong mundo'y makikita sa bawat pahina nito. Ito ang “mother's Day” Tribute ng mga Vilmanians sa nag-iisang reyna ng pelikulang tagalog. Iyan si binibining Vilma Santos Recto. Ang dakilang ina ng mga Vilmanians, ni Luis at Ryan, ng mga taga-Lipa at ng bayang Pilipinas.

Papuri sa'yo Ate Vi. Maligayang araw ng Ina.

Nagmamahad,
Rendit Viray

Aka Marcus Peter Lee



Rendit Viray AKA MPL
Is based in London, ON Canada.

The 1st Precious Award



Darling from the Press Award

- Butch Francisco
- Dino Erece
- Mario Bautista
- Ricky Lo

The Annoying Reporter Award

- Alfie Lorenzo
- Abu Tilamsik
- Aurora Veronica

The E-Group Parasite Award

- Dianne DeLosSantos
- Fredda Reyes
- Meng Natividad

The E-Group Outstanding Member of 2005

- Mar Garces
- Franco Gabriel
- Charles Gomez

The E- Group Guardian Award

- Law Eve
- Namprit-Rak-kingkang
- Jojo Lim

The E-Group Member who made-a-difference Award

- Eric Nadurata
- Allan Trambulo
- Jojo Lim

The Honorary Vilmanian Award

- Korina Sanchez' "I am a Vilmanian" proclamation
- Cristy Fermin's snake comparison
- Xavier Limtuaco's "Queenstar" essay

The Outstanding Vilmanian Award

- Willie Fernandez
- Allan Trambulo
- Jojo Lim
- Eric Nadurata

E-mail us your votes: vilmasantosnewsletter@yahoo.ca

From the press At Large : Celebrating fandom

It's been called the "happiest movie" of this summer season, and indeed laughter rings out often and loudly in the movie house while "D' Lucky Ones" is being shown. Much of the credit for the laughter and guffaws, as well as the charm and overall lighthearted feeling of the movie, goes to the tandem of Pokwang and Eugene Domingo. Playing a pair of die-hard Vilmanians (fans of Vilma Santos, for those out of the show-biz loop) who end up lifelong best friends who "pledge" their children to each other, the comedienne ham it up shamelessly and set the film's blistering pace of razor-sharp dialog and comic antics.

The two had previously made a name for themselves as "supporting" characters, comic foil to romantic leads or as "best friends" to beleaguered heroines. Most TV viewers, though, will remember them as "housemaids" in one telenovela and sitcom or another, a role that every aspirant in these parts needs to nail, it seems, before she can join the comic sorority.

They might have been stuck indefinitely in this purgatory of second leads had it not been for "D' Lucky Ones," a movie that puts them front and center, gives them plenty of room and screen time to show off their chops, and allows them to mouth lines that parody the most memorable scenes from Ate Vi's body of work-at once familiar and risible.

While the "lucky ones" in the movie are actually Sandra Park and Joseph Bitangcol, who play Pokwang's and Eugene's "Lucky Girl" and "Lucky Boy" respectively, the movie really centers around the mothers, who so dominate and beguile that I found myself distressed and bothered each time the movie left them and devoted time to the "love story" angle.

I'M sorry to say that Park and Bitangcol, notwithstanding their "real-life" romantic relationship, hardly register any chemistry between them. Park is difficult to understand,

{ essay }

Showbiz Moms...

life, Ryan's intelligence is his charms. He's has his own voice. Very articulate and like Luis has these bubbly personalities. He's a total entertainer. He sings and does acclamation well. A politician in the making. Ate Vi is very vocal about her role as mother. She has rank his being a mother as his number one job. His being a wife, a mayor and an artist in that order. And balancing all of these roles has been very challenging for these golden girl, the Glad Girl who continues to shine and with these excellent balancing act, I give her an overall mark of an **A +**.

2. Sharon Cuneta - Sharon, like her Ate Vi has learned the importance of family at an early age. Her mother and god mother (Helen Gamboa) are good role models for the wife of Senator Pangilinan. Like her Ate Vi, Sharon also have a child from her earlier partner. But this doesn't affect her nurturing all her children as both Vilma and Sharon were lucky enough to have an understanding husbands. Sharon also have publicly showed affection to her eldest child, KC Concepcion. But later on shed her from the public light and like Luis Manzano was encouraged to finished first her schooling before entering any showbiz stints. Sharon also have sacrificed a lot of opportunities to face the role of a mother and wife to Kiko Pangilinan. Her attempt to get pregnant resulted in her deciding to quit her variety show was a reminiscent of Ate Vi's decision back in the 90s. Now more visible as a celebrity mother, Sharon has indeed fulfilled the mother role into a perfect T and for that I am giving her an **A** mark.

3. Hilda Koronel - Not your typical mom, Hilda Koronel has long been criticized earlier for being secretive with her motherhood. Back then being a mother at an early age with different men was a taboo. Hilda learned to be strong and have to work hard for the sake of her children. Her relationship with the late Jan Ilagan have been a public knowledge and yet nothing has been written about her kids and unlike Ate Vi and Sharon, she has never been vocal in giving out any public affections with her kids. But this doesn't mean she is not a loving mom. Protecting her kids from the nastiness of showbusiness and being vocal about her strictness and discipline is a sign of a good mother and this is what our impression of her. I am giving her a two thumbs up and a mark of a **B+**.

4. Janice De Belen - Another actress who has endured the intrigues of showbusiness is Janice De Belen. The sweet actress of Flor De Luna had a colourful love life that resulted in a number of beautiful kids. One from Aga Muhlach and three (2) with another unnamed character actor (sorry I forgot his name). She has become one of those very vocal and concern mom of television (via Sisters) who help a lot of mom in their healthy choices for their family. Cooking up new recipes

Ala-Martha Stewart. She also been very good in giving out advices about marital discord as she experienced a lot of these very public relationships. But all the colourful pillars of her relationships made her strong and determined to work harder, all for the love of her children. Like Hilda Koronel, Janice has been known for not totally dependent of the father of her children financially. And Janice De Belen with her petite built looks like a gigantic figure "I can do this" mom and with that I'll give her a **B +** mark.

5. Lani Mercado— Like all other celebrity mom, Lani Mercado has a bright future in television and movies when love struck her and decided to live a quiet life and sunk into motherhood gracefully. Lani with her very open mindedness has never got into controversy until her feud with Rosanna Roces over the affair of their children. But like a true mother, she has not bad mouth Rosanna instead has given her opportunity to correct whatever harm Roces has done during her tirade outburst in the press. Lani a true concern mother decided to just concentrate with her supportive role as a mom to her children. Like her kids she knows how love can be a beautiful thing and that all she can do is to support and nurture her kids, to make them good choices and to learn from their mistakes. Like all celebrity mom, when she decided to have a quiet life and forgone the opportunity to be a beauty queen or do more movies and tv shows, she has a good job of being a selfless mother and for that we are giving her a **B+** mark.

Other notable moms are:

- **Marecel Soriano** - Becoming a successful single mom a number of times is not a joke. **B+**
- **Kuh Ledesma** - A super modern mom, popular for instilling a liberal and open minded ideas with her children. **B**.
- **Lorna Tolentino** - Being a mom and maintained your glamorous career life is hard for some and LT has become a role model of some sort to some. **C+**
- **Zsa Zsa Padilla** - Juggling a singing and television career with occasional brilliant acting stints with a very big family are a magical tasks for the Zsa Zsa. Viagra or not, she found love with older comedian Dolphy and earned her instant motherhood role perfectly. **A**
- **Ai-ai De Las Alas** - A hard-working dragon. **B**
- **Charlene Gonzales** - A lovable modern mom. **B**
- **Ruffa Gutierrez** - A jet setter career mom. **B**
- **Nora Aunor** - A not so good mom who need understanding and support. **D**
- **Rosanna Roces** - Public outburst and not so smart choices made her a not so good role model for mothers. **C-**
- **Alma Moreno** - liberal but supportive mom of her kids. **B**

{ VS Update } Eric Nadurata

Si Ate Vi, Gintong Ina

In 1997, Dove Foundation awarded Ms. Vilma Santos the Celebrity Mother of Gintong Ina Award. This award is very special to ate Vi, because the role of a mother is far more important than her illustrious career. Not that she loves her movie career less, but she knows that being a mother is a lifetime commitment. At walang retakes, pag nagkamali ka. Talagang celebrity, dahil sa dalawang beses niyang pagsisilang ay parehong front page siya sa mga newspapers! Meron bang nakagawa ng ganoon? Si ate Vi lang at wala ng iba. Ate Vi's dedication as a mother was documented many times by writers from showbiz, politics and even the business sector.

In 1995, the late Inday Badiday wrote at the Phil. Daily Inquirer the following. "WHEN Vilma Santos cried unabashedly for the second time in front of a big crowd of movie reporters (which was later recorded on TV), I sensed that the tears no longer hinted sadness over the demise of her popular show nor her temporary vacation from showbiz. Those were joyous tears that could only be shed by a woman who's happily in love and who'll stop at nothing to make her husband happy and their relationship more beautiful than ever. She later confided, in between sobs, that she was proud of and glad for herself for having arrived at a major decision even if it would mean some sacrifices. 'Sabagay, parang hindi na rin sacrifice,' she qualified. 'Akala ko, sa pelikula lang nangyayari ito, pero kahit ano pala, pwede mong gawin para sa taong minamahal mo.'

But hasn't she been there before? 'I was young, carefree and ambitious. I was probably more in love with my career. Hindi ko namamalayan, naisasakripisyo ko na pala ang personal life ko noon.'

How did Ralph Recto react to her decision? 'I could see happiness in his eyes,' she beamed. 'But I felt, parang nalungkot din siya, parang nanghinayang



not because I'd be losing a lot in terms of financial rewards and other opportunities but because he knows that showbiz is a big part of my life.'

It was at this point when I asked: 'Is he worth it, Vi?' Either I had grown too cynical or thought I was an expert on men. 'Oh, yes, Ate Luds,' she said, eyes brimming with happiness. After flashing a sweet smile, she added pointedly: 'Oh, yes!' Because I have always believed in Vi's words, I decided to make no further comments. >>>

Showbiz Moms

Ni Rendt Viray

How do you rate a person who sacrifice their own personal lives just for your own happiness? We are talking about our own moms. They gave us life. They nurture us and guide us to the right path. Showbiz moms are no different to ordinary moms. They all wanted the same bright future with their kids. They work harder as all the suburban moms or working moms. From Madonna to Britney Spears, they made headlines because of their controversial way of nurturing their kids. Some or unconventional, some are quite risky. In the Philippines, motherhood brings out the maturity and the best characters of all our celebrities. If we mark each, **A** for the best mom to **F** for failing mark, who tops our list?

1. **Vilma Santos** - When you hear all the good deeds that you son has been doing, helping out people who are less fortunate, donating money and has become very respectful of your colleague, a mother would certainly feel proud. Mother Vilma evidently nurtured son, Luis Manzano into that right path. He certainly become a role model for the youth. Ate Vi's transformation from a liberated, feminist, modern woman to a real life working mom has its ups and down. From working consecutive films just to pay her tax debts while pregnant to Luis or giving up her top rated TV show to get pregnant again to her youngest, Ryan. All the ups and down certainly taught her how to balance her family life & career. Although both Luis and now Ryan has their own personal yayas, mom Vi remained connected and involved in the upbringing and nurturing of her sons. Everyone knows how she loves her children, the "I love you Lucky" during her now defunct variety show was a very public showing of affection. Although during this times, both Vilma and Edu begged the press not to include their son in their write-ups. They successfully protected their son's privacy with some sort of normalcy very seldom seen in a celebrities and children. Vilma and Edu encouraged openness and both stifled the importance of education. Luis remained hidden from the public eye until his decision to try the modeling and vj stint. He became a hot property not only because of his genes but because of his true talent. He has this exciting, bubbly traits that is noticeable. Ate Vi's 2nd son, Ryan, is also a total de-

From page 43

- Did you know that Vilma co-starred with Anthony Castelo in Pakawalan Mo Ako (1981) directed by Elwood Perez and Nonoy Zuñiga in Never Ever Say Goodbye (1982) directed by Gil M. Porfes?
- Did you know that director Emmanuel H. Borlaza, who used to direct Vilma in the '70s, last worked with her in Ibigay Mo sa Akin ang Bukas in 1987?
- Did you know that Vilma is the only actress who has worked with the following award-winning Filipino directors? Aside from Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal, Vilma was directed by Celso Ad Castillo (Burllesk Queen, Pagpufi ng Uwak, Pagitim ng Tagak), Gil M. Portes (Miss X, Never Ever Say Goodbye), Danny Zialcita (Langis at Tubig, Karma, Gaano Kadalas ang Minsan, T-bird at Ako), Mike de Leon (Sister Stella L), Marilou Diaz Abaya (Alyas Baby Tsina, Minsan Pa Nating Hagkan ang Nakaraan), Laurice Guillen (Kapag Langit ang Humatol, Ipagpatawad Mo, Dolzura Cortez Story), Maryo J. de los Reyes (Tagos ng Dugo, Sinungaling Mong Pusa), Chito Roño (Ikaw Lamang, Bata, Bata Paano Ka Ginawa?, Dekada 70), Jose Javier Reyes (Naglisang Bituin), Rory Quintos (Anak) and now by Joel Lamangan in Mano Po 3.
- Did you know that Vilma has won the following awards? Urian, eight; Famas, five; Star Awards, five; Film Academy, four; Movie Magazine Awards, four; Metro Manila Film Festival, three; Catholic Mass Media Awards, two; Young Critics Circle, two; Pasado Awards, two; Fame Magazine Awards, two; Cinema Rave, two and one each from Manila Film Festival, SIAF Jolo Critics Awards, Gawad Tanglaw, Let's Talk Movies Awards, Cinemascoop Awards, Bacolod Film Festival and Channel 2 Viewers Choice. She has two international awards from the Brussels Independent Film Festival for Bata, Bata Paano Ka Ginawa? and Cinemanila International Film Festival for Dekada 70 both directed by Chito Roño. She is the youngest actress to be elevated to the Famas Hall of Fame in 1989 at the age of 36. She won for Dama de Noche (1972), Pakawalan Mo Ako (1981), Relasyon (1982), Tagos ng Dugo (1987) and Ibulong Mo sa Diyos (1988). She has two Famas Circle of Excellence awards (1992 and 1993), Film Academy (1997) and Famas (1998) Lifetime Achievement awards and two Urian Best Actress ng Dekada for the '80s and the '90s. Interesting, isn't it? Hope you had a grand time reading those trivia as much as I did.

here and she needs to take a good rest. Hindi rin pahinga sa 'kin because I have to work kahit na sa malayo kami. Pero sandali lang kami talaga. I'd like to reiterate that Vi's staying in showbusiness.'

On having a child: 'What Vi and I wish is a child who can be a future movie star like her or a politician like me. Or both, why not? Kung hindi pa maging fruitful ngayon, well, we'll try our luck next time. There's no need to hurry. I do believe that it will happen in God's time.'

More dreams for Vi: 'In a way, Vi's decision to quit her show is a sign of her maturity. She's definitely growing up some more. In the process, she can educate a lot of people aside from entertaining them. She can share her gift to those who believe in her. I want her to be more productive. Lahat naman po tayong mga Pilipino ay kailangang alagaan natin at palakihin pa natin ang talentong ibinigay sa atin ng Panginoon''.

This article came out after ate Vi bid goodbye to her long running TV show, to give Ralph a baby. A big sacrifice, considering that she's earning millions of pesos a month for that show!

Ms. Rina Jimenez-David, a known political columnist, wrote this also at the PDI: "A FEW weeks ago, I dreamt I had a baby."

I don't even know if the baby was a girl or a boy. All I remember is that my family was having a picnic and I was carrying a laughing infant, about five months old, dressed in a white terry-cloth overall, its hood snug over its head, and we were all chuckling and cooing over the baby's antics. When I told him about my dream the next morning, the hubby looked at me askance, with a scowl that seemed to ask: 'So what do you want me to do about it?' Approaching 35, my self-imposed deadline for pregnancy, I would often day-dream about having a third child. But I was brought up short, when, sharing this possibility with the hubby, he pointed

But if you were in my place, wouldn't you want to know Ralph's own feelings?

Ralph Recto has always impressed me as a gentleman of the first order. While he has no qualms about being lampooned a 'Mr. Vilma Santos', he has conveniently distanced himself from the image of his wife as a star for all seasons. After all, he's also a star in his own right, a budding politician who's destined to become an important figure, not to mention his famous surname and illustrious background. Movie writers are always frustrated with Ralph who very rarely grants interviews. The frustration grows even more when he talks because he manages to keep their love life 'sacred'.

But Ralph must have been overwhelmed by his wife's public display of her love for him that he has allowed himself to be on the spot and say a mouthful.

On their relationship: 'We've been fair to each other ever since and that's one of the reasons our union works. She's already in showbiz when I met her. Vilma Santos na siya, hindi ko na puwedeng baguhin 'yun. I admire her work. I want her to work because I know she'll grow some more. I'm not the type who believes his wife should stay at home. She also understands I will always be in public service.'

On Vi's decision: 'Nothing to worry about because she's not quitting for good. She'll be back soon, perhaps in a better show with a better format. Hindi naman panghabangbuhay 'yung sing-and-dance career na ginagawa niya sa TV. Pero ipinagmamataki ko talaga na may legacy nang maiwan si Vi. I have been amused by people's reactions to her decision. 'Yung isang kaibigan ko ngang hindi naman taga-showbiz, ibinalita sa 'kin na nalulungkot daw ang buong bayan nila dahil mawawala na ang show ni Vi. 'Yung iba, they're happy for us, especially for Vi who'll have more time for me daw. Actually, hindi naman ako nagko-complain sa schedule niya talaga because she doesn't also complain about mine.' On their vacation: 'It's for Vi's benefit. She's pressured

Magkaroon ng projects para makatulong sa mga nangai-gailangan at maipagmamalaki ni Ate Vi ang kanyang mga Vilmanions.

10. Kung makakausap mo ngayon si Ate Vi, anong unang unang sasabihin mo sa kanya at anong unang-unang gusto mong malamang personal na hindi mo pa alam tungkol sa kanya?

Di ko alam kung mayroon lalabas sa bibig ko kung makakaharap at makausap ko siya. Dahil nun nakausap ko siya last August 2005 sa phone di ko alam kung ano ang sasabihin ko sa kanya dahil di pa rin ako makapaniwala na kausap ko siya parang isang napakagandang panaginip lang yun. Nang matapos lang yun sandaling yun bago ko nasabi sa sarili ko bakit di ko sinabi ang ganyan o ganito. Ang personal na gusto kong malaman sa kanya ay kung mayroon na bang pagkakataon na nagka harap silang lahat ni Ralph, Edu, at siya. Ano ang naging pakiramdam niya? Did that moment make her feel uncomfortable? Kung hindi pa nangyari yun sa kanila ano ang gagawin niya sa mga pagkakataon na yun? Paano naging _expression niya ang HEAVEN? Dahil ba palayaw ni Ronnie Henares sa kanya or dahil mahilig niyang banggiin yun HEAVEN kaya naging palayaw sa kanya ni Ronnie Henares?

11. Kung makakausap mo ngayon si Ate Vi, anong mga bagay tungkol sa'yo ang gusto mong malaman ni Ate Vi?

Sasabihin ko sa kanya na hindi ako nalulungkot pag nasa trabaho ang asawa at nasa school ang mga anak ko because she is keeping me company at home. I watch her tapes hindi ako nagsawa maski ulitin ko ito. I have friends in the egroups that I can talk to about our mutual interest/love that is Ate Vi. She also keeps me company when I'm driving. I almost always play her CD when I take my kids to school and when I pick them up from school. Sinasabayan ko pa siya at minsan napapasayaw pa nga. Maski nga yun daughter ko gusto yun mga songs niya sa CD. Fan na rin siya ni ate Vi and she loves her VILMA SHOWS specially mga opening numbers.

12. Kung "mother" ka na ngayon, anong mga bagay ang natutunan mo sa pagiging Vilmanian mo na ina-apply mo sa pagiging ina? O kung hindi ka naman "mother" ano sa palagay mo ang natutunan mo na puede mong i-apply kapag naging ina ka na?

"I chose to be a domestic engineer. In my own little way I'm giving back by volunteering at my kids school. I enjoy being around children they make me feel appreciated." - Jeannie Wong

Because of Ate Vi's financial situation at the time she was with Edu she had to work so hard that lead to her separation from Edu. But Lucky was never neglected. From the papers that we have read from various sources that Lucky grown to be a nice young man with both of his feet on the ground. Kris Aquino mentioned in The Buzz: Kahanga hanga ang pagpapalaki ni Ate Vi and Edu kay Lucky because Lucky knows how to share his blessing with the less fortunate. He wrote two checks for the contestants in PGKNB without Kris mentioning it in The Buzz no one would even know what he did since it wasn't done in front of the camera.

After ate Vi remarried, at the height of her career she quit her Vilma Show to conceive a baby. This showed how important family was to her. Ate Vi is the mayor of Lipa for three terms now and that only shows that the people of Lipa appreciate her work. She is the mother of the whole Lipa City and that is not an easy job. She knows how to balance her time. Like Ate Vi, my priority is my family. I chose to be a domestic engineer. In my own little way I'm giving back by volunteering at my kids school. I enjoy being around children they make me feel appreciated.

13. Sa palagay mo anong mga na-itulong ni Ate Vi sa iyong buhay bilang babae?

Ate Vi's movies Bata..., Anak, etc... tackled women issues. Her life & her movies are like women's mirror. As the saying goes: if there's a will there's a way. If a man can do it so does a woman maybe even better than the man. Women shouldn't be underestimated and should be treated equal like what ate Vi's speech at the Diwata Awards.

14. Kumpletuhin mo ang pangungusap na ito: "Ako ay Vilmanian dahil..." (pahiram, Dubai) Kahit kailan man hindi ako magiging isang You know Who. Kasi ate Vi is a good role model.

out: 'We hardly have enough time to share with the two kids we have. It would be unfair (to the child) to have a third child when we're so busy.' A few days after turning 40, long past the deadline, I fell into an unexplainable blue funk, sunk so deep into despondency I couldn't even work up the energy to write a column for two straight days. It was, I realize now, a 'mid-life crisis episode', but after my dream, I have another explanation: I was bidding my 'child-bearing years' goodbye. Our dream analyst Lucito de Jesus may offer a more cogent and reasoned explanation for my 'dream' baby (which reminds me, I did plan to write a note to him about it). But I have come up with my own theory: Even if I had rationally and reasonably accepted the fact that I would no longer be getting pregnant, my subconscious was expressing a barely suppressed yearning to hold an infant in my arms again and call the baby mine. Which is why I felt for Vilma Santos, reading about her tearful press conference in which she announced that she was putting a stop not just to her frenetic dance numbers on her weekly TV show, but to her entire showbiz career, in a last-ditch attempt to bear Ralph Recto's child. I have often thought it evidence that God has been playing favorites that he should make me around the same age as the Star for All Seasons and yet make Ms. Santos look two decades younger. But Eskinol and good genes can only go so far. Inside, the plumbing ages at the same inexorable pace. It is entirely possible for Vilma Santos to get pregnant again, but it will be more difficult to bring the pregnancy to full term without complications. Which is why pregnancy at her age exacts such a heavy price: the abandonment of what for Vilma before she became a congressman's wife had been the central focus of her life. How to explain the value of Vilma's sacrifice? The only way I can understand it, is to wonder how I would feel if I had been asked to stop writing."

Another respected writer, a former Press Secretary of the Aquino administration and founder of FOCAP, the late Mr. Teodoro C. Benigno wrote at The Phil. Star: "No, she was never Venus carved out of a marble statue, or a vamp which she acted out in one or two movies, or a heifer in heat like Sharon Stone. She was not made for

any of these roles. If imagination were needed to describe Vilma Santos, she would be the girl inside a floor-length shower curtain of sheer gossamer and white lace. On cue, she would come out adorably pretty and entrancing, all lighted up like a Christmas tree, eyes merry and twinkling, the child in her in perpetual battle with the woman in her. The world of entertainment shook mightily several days ago when Vilma, unable to hold back her tears, announced her 15-year-old TV show Vilma on GMA-7 would end very soon. And, yes, she would also stop starring in movies. Why? I suppose nobody else but Vilma Santos could have decided the way she did. She wanted to have a baby with husband Ralph Recto. She wanted to conceive so avidly, so insatiably and desperately she was laying her whole career on the line.

I think I know how she feels. Many, many years ago Sophia Loren felt the same way. Twice, she had a miscarriage, unable to carry a baby inside her womb for more than three months. Sophia and Carlo Ponti were at their wits' end. When finally she got pregnant for a third time, the whole world of Sophia Loren stopped. Carlo Ponti, on medical advice, hustled her off to a hotel beside a lake in Geneva. There she stayed in bed for nine months, hardly moving, no telephone calls. Only television. She ate her meals in bed. A doctor was in constant attendance. For Vilma and Ralph, it's like waiting for Godot. Remember Samuel Beckett's Waiting for Godot? It's an allegory. Two persons wait for somebody who could be God, the waiting almost a cry of impotence, grief and helplessness seeking the miracle of creation, seeking God's intercession. Is not all that is wondrously alive His? Except that God helps only those who help themselves. Ralph and Vilma cannot have a baby until now because both – due to their busy lives and careers – have always missed the perfect trysting hour in bed. The time to make love was when Ralph was at his best and lustiest and Vilma at her most fertile period. And that never happened. Now, it will happen, or should be guaranteed to happen. Love will still be a many-splendored thing to be performed in the

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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

boudoir. There will be no recourse to artificial insemination or in vitro fertilization. Not yet anyway. If this last chance at having a baby in the normal way under ideal conditions should fail, then and only then will they resort to in vitro. We have to give it to Vilma and Ralph. Finally we find two people who listen to whispers of the beautifudes, who consider having a baby much more important than all the spires and gilded temples of Apollo. Hundreds of couples in the same predicament will just adopt a baby and that's that. But Vilma is the Eternal Woman in the sense that love and what love creates should seek no other outlet than Nature's way. Even if what is to be set aside is one of the most successful and spectacular careers in the movie and entertainment world. Once, when I co-hosted with her during the 25th anniversary of GMA-7, we conversed on the side about her having a baby with Ralph. And she said, 'Tito Teddy, talagang sabik na sabik na kami, please for us.' We did a boogie number then, and the audience lapped it up. Vilma just loves to dance, but dances will be verboten after Vilma on GMA-7 closes down. Anything strenuous will be verboten. For if life should ever flicker in her womb, Vilma will do as Sophia Loren did, nurse that first divine shudder of sperm and egg into a fetus. From there, she has to protect her womb with its unborn child like a fortress against the elements.

Vilma's is now the cry over the precipice for the Creator to render her pregnant through Ralph. It has been the cry of mothers and would-be mothers since time immemorial. As a volcano wants to emit the first murmur of pregnancy, so does a mother. Vilma has had a son with Edu Manzano, her first husband, but life today would be almost meaningless without a child with Ralph. It was with her sick and bedridden son Lucky that I saw her for the first time at the Makati Medical emergency ward three or four years ago. She was Vilma with-out make-up, Vilma forlorn and seemingly all alone in this world, Vilma so suddenly vulnerable and helpless. I wanted to talk to her but didn't. I felt this would be violating the temple of her loneliness, her desire to be alone with her stricken son. It was the first time I ever saw her in person. And so I wrote about that experience in my column titled Vilma: Vamp or Virgin? The morning the column



appeared, Vilma called me up from a shooting location, saying she liked the column very much. I told her later I was thrilled no end by her calling up, a thrill I never felt when talking with VIPs over the phone. And now, Vilma is bidding goodbye. She has not been fetichized like Nora Aunor, with whom she grew up in the movies and the entertainment world. But she stood her own, lasted and endured even as I

ment. She won a clutch of awards and acting honors. She could emote, she could laugh and cry, she could dance, she could entertain.

She was a good girl who could not be a vamp no matter how she sometimes tried in the movies. Most of all, she was a perfectionist. Once I asked Lea Salonga who she admired most in the world of entertainment. Among the names she mentioned in the US was Barbara Streisand. 'I admire her a lot, she is a perfectionist,' Lea said. When it came to the Philippines, Lea mentioned only two names if I recall, the first Vilma Santos. 'She too is a perfectionist,' Lea told me. This is the supreme accolade an internationally celebrated performer like

{ featured vilmanian }

Jeanie Wong

Para siyang Eveready battery, she keeps goin' and goin' and goin'... Mabilis pa siya sa kidlat. Iyan si Jeannie Wong. Siya ang roving reporter ng ating E-groups at ng mga Vilmanians. Wala naman siya sa Pilipinas but this doesn't stop her in seeking all the news and articles about Ate Vi. Napakasiyag nya at matyaga ang puri ng mga Vilmanians sa kanya. At hindi lang iyan, katulad ng mangilang-ngilang babae na miyembro sa ating e-groups, makikita ang katapatan, pantay na pagtingin at pagmamalasakit sa kapwa Vilmanians. Iyan ang tatak ni Ms. Wong. Buwan ng hulyo ipinanganak si Jeannie (July 18), kitang kita ang pagiging simpleng tao niya dahil sa kahit sa pagkain ang gusto niya: "Basta Masarap, ok na" ang sabi pa niya. Isa sa mga pinakakaabalahan ni Jeannie ay ang pag-subok ng mga bagong putihe. Sa kasalukyan, naninirahan si Jeannie sa California, USA. Eto ang mga kasagutan niya sa ating ilang katanungan:

1. Saan nag-umpisa ang pagiging Vilmanian mo?

Simula ng napanood ko si Vilma sa Trudis Lilit sa TV noong bata pa ako napahanga na niya ako sa galing niya sa pag arte. It was aired for whole week, wala kaming ginawa kundi panoorin siya buong linggo at di kami nagsawa na panoorin ito.

2. Anong mga bagay ang nakita mo kay Ate Vi na wala sa ibang artista?

Incomparable si Vilma Santos, tugma ang pagkabit ng Star for All Seasons dahil siya ang Nag-iisang Bituin.

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

That was when Ate Vi was in NY for the NJ Pinoy Fiesta. It was around 11:00am. I was watching MMK on cable channel 8. Our home phone rang. Alan T. called (Thanks, Alan!) and passed the phone to someone and guess who was on the other end? Si Ate Vi nga! Naka-usap ko si Ate Vi. She was having lunch with the Vilmanians at the Radisson Hotel, NY. Never in my wildest dream na makausap ko siya. That moment was HEAVEN!

4. Anong pinaka-high and low moments mo bilang Vilmanian?

Low Moments: Pag may hindi magandang balita ako narinig

o nababasa tungkol sa kanya.

High Moments: Mga magandang balita tungkol kay ate Vi katulad ng UP Gawad Plaridel, Doctorate Degree, Grand Slam, International Awards, DLucky Ones movie Tribute to her, anyone mentioning how much they love, adore Ate Vi. I could go on and on baka maubusan tayo ng space.

5. Magkuwento ka ng mga maliit na bagay na nagpa-paalala sa'yo na iba talaga si Ate Vi kumpara sa ibang artista.

Na hindi siya maramot na bigyan ng halaga ang pagmamahal sa kanya ng mga taong sumosoporta sa kanya katulad ng pagsagot niya ng text messages sa kanya, ang pagposting sa egroups all these little things nabibigay ng kaligayahan sa amin.

6. Gaano mo kamahal si Ate Vi?

Pagmahal mo ang isang tao na mi miss mo siya. Yun bang you can't get enough of her. That's how I'm with ate Vi, I just can't get enough of her.

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

Maganda na ang kinalalagan ni Ate Vi, siguro mayroon pa rin siyang mga wishes and whatever she is wishing for I'm also wishing for her. Gusto ko na maging First Lady siya ng Pilipinas kasi alam kong marami silang mag asawang matutulungan. Saka mas maddalas na natin siya makikita sa TV, sa iba't ibang media pag First Lady na siya.

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

I think lahat halos na role nagampanan na niya pero sana magawa niya yun Nana Masay role. Bagay sa kanya yun, an International Award role for her maybe OSCAR AWARD.

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

That one day, everyone get to meet each other (sana magka tugma ang mga schedules) and bond with ate Vi.



Motherhood. Womanhood. It has long been believed that the former is the be-all and end-all of the latter. Our culture dictates this. Our society has its own standard boxes of what constitutes a good woman and of what necessitates a good mother. If you don't fit this box, then you suffer the consequences.

LEA BUSTAMANTE (Vilma Santos), a mother of two and a woman who chooses to live differently, is learning how to deal with these consequences. Her eldest is OJIE (Carlo Aquino), an outspoken boy on his peak of puberty. Her youngest is MAYA (Serena Dairymple), a precocious and equally outspoken six-year old. Both have different fathers. Neither is married to Lea.

Lea was once married to Ojie's father, RAFFY (Ariel Rivera). But he had to leave for his job and she had to stay for hers. Hence, they separated. Now, Lea lives with Maya's father, DING (Albert Martinez), a mama's boy who is constantly at the beck and call of his mother. This infuriates Lea because it reminds her that Ding is not married to her and they are not his priority. Nevertheless, Lea is sure she can handle herself and her children without anyone's help.

Her world gets shaken however when Raffy goes back to the Philippines. She knows she still loves him but that there is no chance for a reconciliation. Raffy came back with a new wife on the family way. Ojie begins to see his father during weekends. Lea sees how father and son thirst for the bond they should have started forming a long time ago. She also sees how much Maya misses her brother so much whenever he spends his time with his father. Matters get worse when Raffy voices his desire to take Ojie with him and his new wife to America. With a fearful

heart and a great respect for her son, Lea leaves the decision to Ojie. Before he even makes a decision, he and Maya suffer an accident. The mother gets blamed. Her job gets blamed.

Lea works in a survival center for women in crisis and is continually exposed to the adverse effects of how society can become a victim of its own ideology. Lea considers herself emancipated from these labels. She has her own sense of motherhood, of womanhood, of what is true and good and beautiful. But now, she is being accused by both fathers of not being a good mother, and of being a woman of twisted priorities. In this susceptible state, Lea finds solace in the company of Johnny (Raymond Bagatsing), a colleague and a friend from the center.

As if her life wasn't complicated enough, she receives yet another bomb. Ding breaks up with her after a long absence, apparently after getting married to a girl he got pregnant. Ding wants to take Maya too. With a broken spirit, a confused heart and great reverence for Maya as with Ojie, Lea lets her children decide about their life. In these moments of vulnerability, Lea confronts her worth and the needs of her soul which the men in her life never really fulfilled - her being a woman and a mother. Is living the life she wants worth losing the children she loves?

With a broken spirit, a confused heart and great reverence for Maya as with Ojie, Lea lets her children decide about their life. In these moments of vulnerability, Lea confronts her worth and the needs of her soul which the men in her life never really fulfilled - her being a woman and a mother. Is living the life she wants worth losing the children she loves? - **Source:** http://www.abs-cbn.com/starcinema/movies/bata_bata/index_bata.html

Ate Vi Amidst Mortals

From an old article of Good Housekeeping Magazine, June 2000 issue. Here's their interview to Ms. Vilma Santos during the press conference of her movie "Anak"
GH: What is your greatest fear as a Mother?
VS: Siguro yung time na malalayo na sila sa akin. Mga lalake ang anak ko eh, so sila yung aalis. Ang talagang takot ko eh baka pag may sariling pamilya na sila, they'll already forget about me. That's why I'm enjoying my time with them right now. I would say na maswerte ako especially with Luis. He's a very good young man liberated but with limitations. Yung Mama ko hinawakan ako dati sa leeg. Ngayon kailangan kang sumunod sa generation. Dati 2 o'clock uwian na ang mga bata. Ngayon kainitan pa lang nila yan. Inaabot sila ng umaga, mga 6 am kung umuwi. You have to adjust.

What's your greatest joy?

Being a mother is my greatest joy.

How would you handle if your kids were to rebel?

I think rebellion is part of growing up. Ginawa ko rin yan nung bata pa ako. Alam ninyo yan. But I think there will come a point when the child will get tired of it. So as a parent, you have to be understanding. Like my Mama! Mama ko hanggang ngayon magkasama pa rin kami.

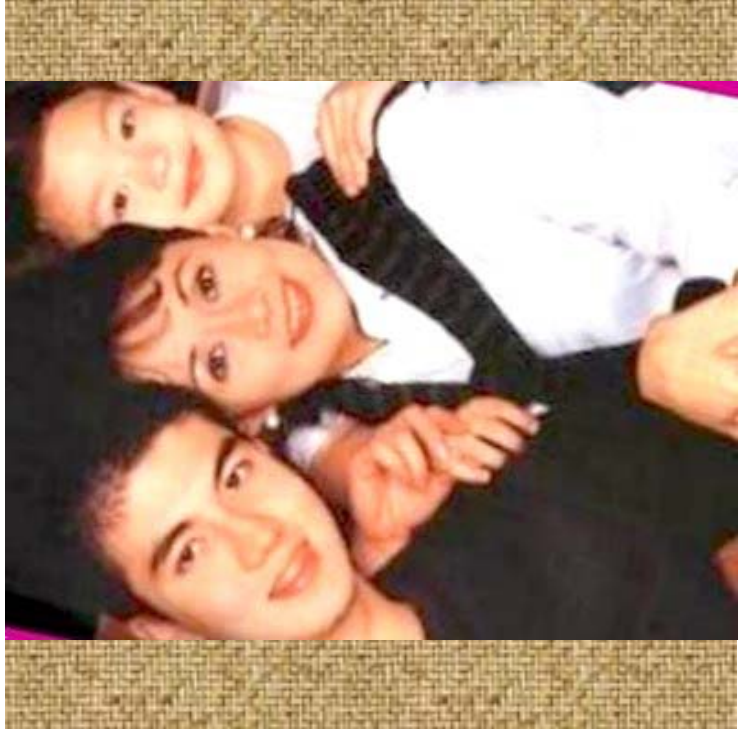
They're calling you the mother of Lipa. Has being a mother helped you in your functions as a mayor?

Yes, I think my being a mother is a plus factor. I run Lipa as I would run my household. Sa bahay, ang importante ayusin ang budget, yung edukasyon ng mga bata, at kung may pagkain syempre. Ganon din sa Lipa. First, I put the house in order, meaning City Hall. And my priorities are health and education.

Does being a movie star helped?

I guess, advantage din if you come from showbiz, kasi napapatawad ka nila. If you commit a little mistake, may allowance sila. Kasi they still see me as Vilma Santos the actress.

How would you differentiate the fulfillment you get from showbiz and politics?



Lea Salonga can confer on a fellow performer. What is more, never did the taint of lurid scandal smear Vilma's name. Bye Vilma, have your baby. Hope you have twins."

These writers said it all. Iba talaga si ate Vi. Talagang karapat-dapat na hangaan at bigyan ng respeto. Maswerte sina Luis at Ryan dahil may ina sila na gaya ni ate Vi. Masuerte rin si Sen. Ralph dahil may asawa siyang gaya ni ate Vi. Masuerte si Mama Santos (at maging si Papa Santos) dahil may anak silang gaya ni ate Vi, sina Emelyn, Maritess, Winnie at Sonny dahil may kapatid silang gaya ni ate Vi. Masuerte tayong mga Vilmanians dahil may hinahangaan taong gaya ni ate Vi. Masuerte ang buong Pilipinas dahil may isang Vilma Santos na nagbigay ningning sa pelikulang Pilipino. Sa mga kasamahan kong Vilmanians, let us strive to be good more than to be happy. After all, not everything that will make us happy is good, but everything that is good will make us happy. Ingatz po tayong lahat.



Eric Nadurata is based in Manila. He is the proud owner of the unofficial Vilma Santos Web-site.

It's different. Sa showbiz, spoiled ka dito. There's a lot of adulation but in politics, you get respect. Ibang kind of fulfillment. But I don't have a political agenda. Bahala na ang partido diyán. That's why I'm not comfortable with these politicians. They still have a year and a half left but they're already preparing for the next election. They can still do so much more.

They say that your kumare Nora Aunor is planning to run. What do you think of this?

Anybody can run. Pero hindi madali. Madaling tumulong pero iba yung nasa gobyerno ka. When I was starting out, I had to learn everything. These politicians, they always talk in acronyms. I had to learn that. The procedures, the budget, the legislations. Ralph used to give me these tutorials. We would talk every night. Finally, I just said, "Ralph, enough! My brain is full!"

How do you balance your political career with your home life?

My first priority is still my family. My constituents know this. When Christian was hospitalized, I stayed by his bedside the whole week. It didn't matter if all the paper works had to be brought to Manila everyday as long as I could be there when my son needs me.

How do you spend special time with Luis and Christian?

Sunday is really for the family. Yan yung tipong walang liguan. Kung ano ang hitsura mo sa umaga, ganoon ka pa rin sa hapon. We go swimming, we eat out, watch TV or just play around the house. My sons are both in their formative years. Christian is four, Luis is 19. That's why it's very important that I'm there when they need me.

Would you mind if we talk about Luis?

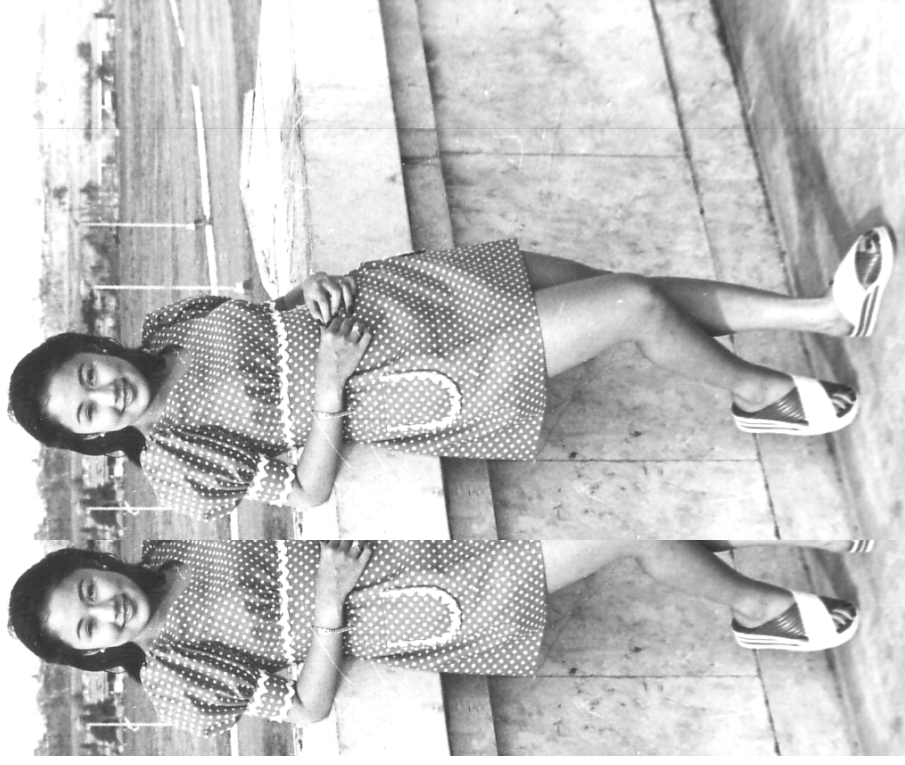
I don't have the right to talk about his life. Oh, he goes out with girls and he tells me, but I'd rather not say anything. Buhay niya yan eh.

How would you react to news, for example that Luis gone to bed with this or that girl? What makes you think that he hasn't yet?

Please naman, my son is already 19.

How would you characterize your relationship with Luis?

Every other Saturday, I would have one-on-one talks with Luis. I think that now, our relationship is more like friends than mother and son. I ask him kung anong gimik niya. Minsan, nag-aaway din kami. Sometimes, he would say, "Mommy, you're not listening to me." So, I keep quiet. He has a radio but I'm not the type who would call him every now and then and ask, "O nasaan ka na?" I trust my son, the radio is for emergencies. There are rules. He can't go out on school days. And no overnight with friends,



pero sila, pwedeng matulog sa bahay.

How about Edu?

Edu still takes care of Luis's education, and they always talk. If he feels that he can't tell something to Edu, he'll go to Ralph. Hay naku, mas mataas na si Luis kay Edu, malapit nang abutan si Ralph. Edung-Edu siya pati pag-joke, yung mga manerisms, mga actions, pero mas maputi si Luis kay Edu.

What about Christian?

I think siya ang artista. Yung bully. Haharap yan sa salamin, mag-e-emote. Sabi nga ni Mama parang ako daw nung bata. Mahilig sa picture taking. Siya pa nga ang tatawag sa iyo. Luis was never like that.

With that, I packed my bags, and said a quick thank you to give way the tons of other reporters milling around the studio. But Ate Vi was not going to let me leave in a hurry. She looked me straight in the eye, waved goodbye, gave one of her easy smiles and said, "I'll see you! I'll see you!" And I believed.



Franco Gabriel is based in California, USA. He is big fan of Ate Vi.

- Did you know that her busiest year was 1970 when she made 25 films? That is having two Vilma Santos movies shown every month. These were Young Love, Mardy, I Do Love You, Song and Lovers, My Pledge of Love, Love is for the Two of Us, From the Bottom of My Heart, Bulaklak at Paru-Paro, Mother Song, The Young Idols, Sixteen, Because You're Mine, Love Letters, Ding Dong, Sweethearts, Give Me Your Love, Mga Batang Bangketa, I Love You Honey, Edgar Loves Vilma, Sapagka't Sila'y Aming Mga Anak, Vilma My Darling, Nobody's Child, May Hangganan ang Pag-ibig, Baby Vi and Renee Rose.

- Did you know that Vilma or Vi was used in some of her earlier films? Edgar Loves Vilma, Vilma, My Darling and Baby Vi in 1970; Takbo Vilma Dali, Hatinggabi na Vilma and Tatlong Mukha ni Rosa Vilma in 1972; Wonder Vi in 1973; Vilma and the Beep, Beep Minica in 1974 and Vilma Veinte Nueve in 1975.

- Did you know that she is the only actress to portray Mars Ravelo's Darna four times with different child actors as Ding? These were Angelito in Lipad Darna Lipad, a trilogy directed by Emmanuel H. Borlaza; Joey Gosiengfiao and Elwood Perez, Dondon Nakar in Darna and the Giants (1973) directed by Borlaza; Bentot Jr. in Darna vs. the Planet Women (1975) directed by Armando Garces and Niño Muhlach in Darna at Ding (1980) directed by Erastheo Navoa Jr. and Cloyd Robinson.

- Did you know that Vilma and arch rival Nora Aunor shared top billing in four films? The first was Young Love in 1970 (with Tiso Cruz III and Edgar Moritz) followed by Pinagbuklod ng Pag-ibig (Nora was paired with Tiso while Vilma with Romeo Vasquez), Ikaw Ay Akin (with Christopher de Leon) and T-Bird at Ako in 1982.

- Did you know that after working together in Mga Tigre ng Sierra Cruz (1974) and Modelong Tanso (1979), Vilma and the late Charito Solis were co-stars in Ipagpatawad Mo (1991) and Dalzura Cortez Story (1993) both directed by Laurice Guillen?

- Did you know that Vilma was only paired twice with ex-husband Edu Manzano as compared to Christopher de

Leon's 22 times? These were Romansa in 1980 and Palimos ng Pag-ibig in 1986?

- Did you know that prior to co-starring with Snooky Serma in Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow (1986) and Hahamakin Lahat (1990), Vilma and Snooky were in Sweethearts in 1970? Co-starring with them aside from Edgar Moritz and former child actor Arnold Gamba were Snooky's parents Von Serma and Mila Ocampo.

- Did you know that the late Ishmael Bernal's first film with Vilma was Now and Forever (1973) with Edgar Moritz?
- Did you know that before he was Vilma's leading man in Makahiya at Talahib, Rudy Fernandez played a supporting role in Ibong Lukaret? Both films were released in 1975.

- Did you know that former movie queen Amalia Fuentes did not only co-star with Vilma in Mga Reynang Walang Trono (1976) but co-directed it as well with Fely Crisostomo? They were co-stars in Asawa Ko, Huwag Mong Agawin in 1986.

- Did you know that before she shared equal billing with Vilma and Boyet in Magkaribal (1979), just like ex-boyfriend Rudy Fernandez, Alma Moreno played a supporting role in Tag-ulan sa Tag-araw (1975)?

- Did you know that before she played the ghost role in Haplos (1982) with Vilma and Boyet, Rio Locsin had a below the title billing in Simulang Walang Katapusan directed by Luis Enriquez (aka Eddie Rodriguez) and Disco Fever in 1978?

- Did you know that Sheryl Cruz has appeared with Vilma before in Candy (Vilma in a cameo role) and Good Morning Sunshine (1980) directed by Ishmael Bernal? Mano Po 3 is their third film together.

- Did you know that Vilma was directed by Lino Brocka in three movies but did not win any award? These were Rubia Servios (1978), Adultery: Aida Macaraeg (1984) and Hahamakin Lahat (1990). However, she won multiple Best Actress awards in three films directed by the late Ishmael Bernal considered as the rival of Brocka. These were Relasyon (1982), Broken Marriage (1983) and Pahiram ng Isang Umaga (1989).

{ re-print }

Why I love Vilma ... (and facts about Ate Vi)

By Bam Salvani, 2006-01-11

I admit I am a Vilma Santos fan. I love the actress since I could remember and that was long, long before she became the Star for All Seasons, a respectable thespian and well-loved Lipa Mayor that she is now —that dates back to days when common television sets were still in black and white and inventing remote controls were still not even thought of; and yes, when movies shown in downtown theaters (what with its layouts printed in streamers yet) were announced, with matching loud music and in large speakers, using old jeeps going around the city —recofida-style. That was in late '70s when I would be amazed watching Vilma's movie layouts in newspapers (Miss X, Pinay: American Style, Halik sa Paa, Halik sa Kamay, Pagpuhi ng Uwak, Pag-itiim ng Tagak, Rock, Baby, Rock, Darna at Ding, Modelong Tanso, etc.), hoping and wishing that my parents would bring me to the theaters to watch those films. But when you're still so young and in your shorts yet, parents are extra wary and kids just have to follow the strict rules they set.

Early '80s was the time when I, kind of, rebelled. Meaning, it was during this time that I learned how to trick out my parents by going to school on Saturdays for our supposedly English club meetings, but was actually enjoying hours and hours of my time inside the theater watching Karma, Sinasamba Kita, Paano Ba ang Mangarap?, Gaano Kadalas Ang Minsan?, Ayokong Maging Kerida, Relasyon, Broken Marriage and other Vilma movies. Ang saya ko 'nun, grabe! But before things get misconstrued, my love for Vilma does not mean I feel the opposite for her arch-rival, the Superstar Nora Aunor. I also like Nora and, in fact, also did watch her films — but Vilma is really something else. Maybe it is because I see Vilma as a more interesting figure and a worth-emulating icon. (Seeing her enjoy the respect of the people in the whole film industry through the years is enough proof that Vilma is not just a damn great actress, but a woman of wisdom, knowledge and integrity.) I remember watching Nora's Himala and Vilma's Haplos, both Metro Manila Film fest entries in 1982, in

just one afternoon. First, I went to see Himala then hopped in to another nearby moviehouse to watch Haplos. Both actresses gave truly commendable performances but I was more convinced that Ate Guy really did better in Himala. See, no biases here. Anyway, a solid Vilma Santos fan Jeannie Wong posted in the actress' website an old article by another obviously Vilma admirer, the respectable entertainment writer and editor Ricky Lo, from his widely-read column Funfare in The Philippine Star (dated November 3, 2004) which, I bet, all Vilmanians will find interesting. I did enjoy it to the hilt and would love to share it with you. Read on:

VILMA: 51 LOOKING 25 Vilma Santos, Star for All Seasons (and, if I may add, Reasons) is turning 51 today. She doesn't look it, does she (although she's "pure gold" any way you look at her)? She looks, hmmmm, 25, doesn't she? As a nod to Vilma (who will forever be Ate Vi to her fans no matter how old she may be) on this her red-letter day, Funfare is paying her a tribute with the following piece by Funfare's Toronto-based "international correspondent" Ferdinand Lapuz who made a list of Ate Vi's films in a span of four decades (beginning 1963):

- Did you know that Ate Vi made around 197 films from 1963 to 2002? This includes cameo appearances in Dugo at Pagibig sa Kapirasong Lupa, Mga Mata ni Angelita, Huwag Hamakin Hostess (with Nora Aunor and Alma Moreno with Vilma getting Orestes Ojeda in the end), Candy, No Other Love, Charot, Rizal Alih and Engkanto.
- Did you know that the only years Vilma did not make any film were in 1995, 1999 and 2003?
- Did you know that she co-starred with her two favorite actresses in her two films? Lolita Rodriguez in Trudis Liit which opened on Feb. 21, 1963 and Gloria Romero in Anak, Ang Iyong Ina which opened on April 7, 1963 both at Life Theater?
- Did you know that Eddie Garcia also appeared in Anak, Ang Iyong Ina? He later directed her in films like Sinasamba Kita (1982) and Imortal (1989) and will appear together in Mano Po 3.
- Did you know that the late Rita Gomez was also in Anak, Ang Iyong Ina? She later appeared with Vilma in Takbo, Vilma, Dali in 1972 directed by Joey Gosiengfiao.

{ Vilmania } Eddie Lozano



Sa buwang ito ay ipinagaliwang natin ang araw ng isang espesyal na tao na inihandog sa atin ng Panginoon. Nararapat lamang na bigyan natin ng parangal ang taong nagbuwis ng buhay upang magsilang ng panibagong buhay, ang ating Ina, Happy Mother's Day po sa lahat ng mga Nanay at magiging Nanay! Aside from giving honors to our own Mother, may isa pang natafanging Ina na nararapat bigyan ng sapat na karangalan.

SIYA SI VILMA.....ANG MADRE SUPERIORA

To her sons Luis and Ryan.....

To have the most celebrated star of Philippine Cinema as mother is more than enough reason for brothers Luis and Ryan to be swollen with pride, but they were not raised to have this kind of mentality. Luis is fast becoming a major television host but still keeps both his feet on the ground. Not a few can vouch that he is a responsible young man that at his age he already knows how to share his blessings to the needy and value the lives of the people around him. I was deeply touched to learn from Kris Aquino, that Luis has handed over two checks to be donated to two families, win or lose when he joined Game KNB. Sinabi pa ni Kris na kahanga-hanga ang pagpapalaki ni ate Vi and Edu sa kanilang anak.

Biliang magulang, obligasyon nila na bigyan hindi lamang ng magandang buhay ang kanilang mga anak kundi patakinin ang mga ito upang maging responsableng miyembro ng lipunan at mamamayan. Sa isang banda naman, sa murang edad, ay kakikitaan na rin ang bunsong si Ryan ng perseverance upang mabigyang kasiyahan ang kanyang magulang.

He has been reaping honors not just in the academic discipline but in the field of sports as well. Being the other half of the parents, Mommy Vi has successfully and continuously succeeding as the mother of the family. That is what we call responsible parenthood. Ang mga tungkulin na ito ay maging gumpay na naipamulat at naipapamulat ni Mommy Vi sa kanyang mga anak. Yan si Mommy Vi, isang ulirang Ina hindi lamang ng kanyang pamilya kundi ng pamilyang Pilipino.

To the City of Lipa.....

The extraordinary and the longest reigning Queen of the Philippine Movies Vilma Santos entered the world of politics without a bit of experience in running a government. Mayor Vi was belittled at first and the self proclaimed political analysts and traditional politicians had questioned her credibility and know-how in running the City of Lipa, and the rest of history. The people had passed their judgment. A landslide Victory for the inexperienced Movie Queen, not once, not twice, but thrice! She continued to polish her craft. She left no stone unturned in order to learn how it is to govern a city by enrolling in a crash management course in the University of the Philippines. And now Lipa City is considered as one of the most progressive, successful and well governed cities in the country. For every plan, for every decision the Good Mayor is always taking into consideration the welfare of the city and her constituents. In return, the people always, show their endless support for every project that is launched for the betterment of the community. Mayor Vi continues to receive awards and recognition both in the Philippines and abroad for her accomplishments as a Mayor, thus giving honors, not only to the Filipino people but to our country as well. Do you know of any other actor-politician who has an untarnished image in this field? That is Mayor Vi..... the Mother of Lipa City.

To her Vilmanians.....

Mula noon hanggang ngayon ang pagmamahal ng Vilmanians kay ate Vi ay lalong tumatag, lalong tumitibay. Hindi na nga lamang paghanga ang lalong tumibay, lalo pang lumalim ang respeto. Dahil sa isang Vilma Santos, lahat ng kanyang mga tagahanga sa buong mundo ay nagkakaiba, nagkakaunawaan at umiisip ng paraan kung paano makakatulong sa kapwa sa abot ng kanilang makakaya. Ang kanyang mga tagahanga ay hindi lamang mga orin-naryong tao, marami din na mga kapwa niya artista na self

{ Willingly } Willie Fernandez

Kayamanan ng Industriya Si Vilma

The moment we saw the nine-year old Vilma Santos on the big screen in VP Pictures "Trudis Liit" in 1963 in my hometown, San Pablo City, Laguna, many of us immediately claimed her as one of our own. From director Jose de Villa's "historic" movie and People Pictures "Ging" directed by Cirio H. Santiego and Teodorico Santos, the public's fascination with Vilma Santos has grown through the years. May mga panahon noong aming kabataan na tila bale-wala at nakakalimutan ko siya dahil ako'y abala rin sa ibang bagay. For a time, pasulpo't-sulpo't lang ang consciousness at interest ko sa isang Vilma Santos dahil Susanian pa noon kami. Nahahati kasi ang paghanga ko noon sa dalawang aktres pero walang dudang napakalaking bahagi nito ang nakalaan kay Ate Vi.

Na lalong tumingkad at nagkaroon ng katuparan nang makita ko ang Star for All Seasons in person sa unang pagkakataon at makilalang lubusan nang akoy pumasok sa showbiz media. We have watched the meteoric rise of stars and their fall from grace. But one star has remained undimmed by showbiz turbulent clouds. Gayunman, kahit makaraan ang 43 na taon ng pagiging nasa limelight tuwina, ang Vilma Santos mystique ay 'di nagdiliim kailanman. Patuloy ito sa kanyang pagniningning hanggang sa kasalukuyang panahon. No other tag, aptly describes the staying power of Ate Vi, local cinema's enduring box-office attraction. Endearily called as "Star for All Seasons" by friends, supporters and diehard fans alike, Vilma has proven herself to be more durable than the taxing compositions of the silver screen and life itself. With 43 years in the entertainment business, Vilma today is considered an institution and icon in local cinema. She has learn what it takes to stay on top of the heap. Not everybody has the chance to become a multi-awarded actress and box-office queen but Ate Vi has proved herself successful in both aspects. She has already won more than 50 acting trophies and each new film, she does enjoy both artistic and box-office success. Hindi lang star si Ate Vi, my fellow Vilmanians would quick to point out, kundi nag-iisang Reyna sa lahat ng panahon, di ba Mar Garces? Box-office and acting wise, numero uno pa rin ang actress-politician. Reyna ngang maituturing, hindi lang sa kasalukuyang panahon kundi sa nakalipas na apat na dekada ng pamamayagpag niya. Kung ang test ng strength niya bilang top actress of local cinema ay ang pananatiling mabango sa mga producers, walang dudang pasadong-pasado si Ate Vi. Pinag-aagawan ang kanyang serbisyo ng Star Cinema, Regal, Unitel at iba pang independent movie companies.

at iba pang independent movie companies.

at iba pang independent movie companies.

at iba pang independent movie companies.



at iba pang independent movie companies.

at iba pang independent movie companies.

at iba pang independent movie companies.

at iba pang independent movie companies.

Eddie Lozano is based in Middle East. His favorite Vilma film is Anak.

Hangga't May Isang Vilma Santos... (Mula sa pahina 37)

ikihain para sa mga kapwa ko Vilmanians. Tulad ng nararamdaman ng iba, masarap at ganado akong magsulat kung ang pangunahing aktres ang bidang persona sa aking mga kathang akda. Matalas ang aking sintido kapag si Ate Vi ang sentro ng adyenda sa aking pag-isip.... maraming mensahe ang kanyang kaamuan at kagandahan...nakabiliib ang kanyang liderato at serbisyo...kapurihan...ang kanyang kasikatan at pagganap. Matalino--masipag--maingat--may pagtanaw ng utang na loob--may takot sa Diyos--may prinsipyo. Dahil kay Vilma Santos, dedikasyon ko bilang isang maka-Vilma ang makapag-ambag ng isang konsepto sa panulat na magsisilbing sisidlan ng mga magagandang ala-ala ng walang kupas na samahang mga solidong Vilmanians. Hindi ako magsasawang magsulat para sa aking idalo at para sa lahat ng nagmamahal kay Ate Vi. Kahit sabihin ng karamihan na hindi ako magandang sumulat at baduy ang pagkakasalin nito ay wala akong pakialam. Magsusulat pa rin ako hangga't may isang Vilma Santos, hangga't mayroong gustong magbasa, hangga't may Vilmanians. Para sa inyo, hindi ako mapapagod! Neivin M. Rea Maka-Vilma!



{ re-print }

“Vilma mag a teaser to Vilma tell-all book”

by Nestor Cuartero, MovieGoer Jan 17, 2006

A DEFINITIVE book on the life and times of Vilma Santos, successful actress-turned successful mayor will soon be written. Mayor Vilma confirmed this yesterday during an intimate lunch with old friends in media at Le Souffle in Rockwell, Makati. 'Many people have been asking me,' she said, 'breaking into that characteristic naughty giggle. Vilma said the book, when written, is meant to inspire, empower other women. This, she said, will be the only reason why she will ever agree to have a book written on her life, controversial as it were. Vilma's life is a moving success story. She has beautifully transformed from a child star to teenage sensation to dramatic actress and box office queen to a respected and multi-awarded local government official. Her crossover from show business to politics has been awe-inspiring. Listen to how Mayor Vi now talks. It is always with confidence and a good grasp of the subject matter. Meanwhile, in the absence of that all-knowing Vilma biography, a 50-page glossy magazine has been published by the unified fans of the actress known collectively as Vilma Santos Solid Philippines. The magazine is called Vilma and is a veritable history of the star for all seasons. The magazine contains articles chronicling the many successes of the actress, including a reprint of a story written about Mayor Vi by the late Nick Joaquin who called her the Glad Girl. More than the stories in the collection, the wealth of pictures presented therein will surely bring joy not only to followers of the actress but to lovers of local film history. The multiple spreads on Vilma's filmography is complete with nostalgic layouts of the movies she has appeared in. The layouts date back to 1963 when Vilma made a splash in the tearjerker, Trudis Liit. The magazine also carries rare pictures, film reviews, and print ads made by the actress. At the sight of her old photos in the magazine, Vilma was reminded of Lipad, Darna, Lipad, which she considers her best Darna movie. She was sad that she could no longer get a copy of the film. She has copies of certain titles, some of which she had reproduced into VHS format, others in disc form. The Vilma magazine might as well have been a book, considering the length and broadness of its coverage. It is the perfect preface to the next ambitious project film lovers can watch out for, which is the authoritative Vilma Santos biography. Copies of the Vilma magazine are available through Jojo Lim, president of VS Solid Philippines at 0917-663-9013.



Makikita rin na puno ng family pictures sa loob ng office ni Mayor Vi. A lot of cute portraits of Vi na visible sa loob ng dinning room ni Vi.

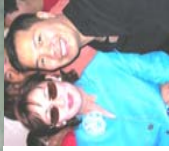


The Recto family. A very happy and proud Vilma with Lucky, Ryan Christian and Ralph Recto.



The Recto family recent picture.

Can't help to noticed , even her wall clock is her family pictures. We all now that Vi's top priority is her family , secondly is LIPA and then third is her showbiz career. This her last term as a mayor. "I want my projects to get finished. I want to graduate as mayor with a diploma," Ate Vi once said. It was a very fulfilling day for me at nakita ko ang loob at labas ng Lipa office ni Mayor Vi. Sa labas ay bumili ako ng bottled water at nakita ko ang Mayor's permit na to at talagang may picture po si ako to complete my unforgettable trip to Lipa. Salamat po.



Allan Trambulo is based in New York, NY USA. He is the proud owner and moderator of VISION.

Vilma Santos is Vilma Santos sa anumang lengguwahe. Matatag, walang kupas, sikat at mahusay na aktres. May karapatan na rin siyang matawag na ALAMAT ng ating panahon: bilang bituin, aktres, babae at lingkod-bayan. Nasalo na yata ni Ate Vi ang lahat ng uri ng biyaya sa langit na hinihiling ng sinuman sa atin, hawak na niya ang pinakamalaking bituin na hanggang ngayoy inasinta pa lang maraming artista, narating na niya ang pinakamataas na antos ng tagumpay pero ang isang Vilma Santos ay nanatiling nakatapak sa lupa ang kanyang mga paa. Hindi kailanman pumasok sa kan-ayang ulo ang tinatamang tagumpay. Ang Ate Vi na nakilalang Trudis Liit ay walang pagbabago. Mapagkumbaba, madalahanin, hindi nalalasing sa tagumpay, marespeto at higit sa lahat, marunong magpahalaga sa kanyang kapwa. Dun mo tuloy masasabi na si Ate Vi ay hindi lang isang idolo, kundi magandang ehemplo pa sa aming mga tagahanga niya. Tunay ngang nakakaugos nang milya-milya ang isang Vilma Santos sa kanyang mga dinatnan (Tita Glo at Swanie), kapanabayan (Nora, Hilda at Lorna) at nagdating ang (Sharon at Maricel) at mga young superstars kuno (Judy Ann at Claudine). Ang tinaguriang nag-iisang Superstar na dinaig ng droga at alak ang disiplina, itayo mo man ay kusang nagpapatihiga, kaya naman walang direksiyon ang buhay, di ba Noranians? Parang sumobra ang kamalasan nitong tinatagaw nilang sopastar.Parang sopas na lang siya ngayon, wala nang star, tapos hindi pa mainit. Sumabit pa sa pag-inom ng shabuko at tinakot na makulong kaya inaming guilty. Lubos na pagkilala sa tainatawag na "body of works" ni ate Vi sa mahigit na apat na apat na dekada bilang "aktres ng pinakamataas na orden". Ipinakahulugang piling-pili ang mga papel na ginagampanan ni Ate Vi sa buong karera niya. Taliwas ito sa karaniwang ugaling-sakmal dito, sakmal doon upang mapag-usapan lang muli ang laos na aktres na pili nagbabalik sa isang digital movie na ididirehe pa naman ng isang has been din na aktres na walang kaalaman sa directing. Susme, asan pa kaya dadamputin ang career ng shabu queen?

Her colleagues admire Vilmas' career path and most of the aspiring actors want to pattern theirs with her. But Vilma is truly an exception , one of a kind. And for almost four decades now, she continues to reign as the true movie queen in this side of planet. Ayon nga sa nererespetong aktres na si Armida Siguion Reyna "Magmula nang mapanoood ko ang Trudis Liit, naging fan na fan na ako ni Vilma" Ibig sabihin, mula sa unang pelikula ni Ate Vi ay naging tagahanga na nito ang beteranang aktres. How wonderful naman. That's one hell of a compliment one actor can get from another

respected person belonging to the same field. Kahit nga ang sumisikat na young actress na si Angel Locsin ay very vocal sa pagsasabing isa siyang Vilmanian at gusto niyang sundan ang yapak ng numero unong aktres ng bansa. And would you believe na ang pogiing-pogiing si Richard Gutierrez ay nagpahayag din na it would be a fulfillment kung makakagawa siya ng pelikula kung makapareha si Ate Vi dahil fave actress daw niya ito.In an interview, nag-spark pa nga ang eyes nito before giving the name "Vilma Santos". "She seems to be a powerful woman and great actress. Combined, iba ang dating niya sa lahat!" Ayon naman sa mahusay at hinahangaang broadcaster na si Korina Sanchez, "Laging pandlo, laging bida, tulad niya'y ginto, walang kupas ang kinang. Habang buhay, habang panahon!" Mula naman sa testimonial ng producer na si Donna Villa " Hindi kumpleto at walang katuturan ang pagiging producer ko kung hindi ako makagawa ng pelikula na bida ang hinahangaan kong si Vilma Santos." Mataray naman ang naging pahayag ni direkt Jerry Sineneng," Maidirek ko lang si Vilma Santos ay puwede na akong magretire." Vilma Santos, the greatest actress of the century as reportedly according to Manunuri critic Mario Hermando, will be turning 53 on November 3,but the years certainly do not show on her face. My favorite actress excelled in everthing she did-in both life and career.

As an actress, she has the most number of acting awards and the longest reigning movie queen and box-office champion. As TV host, she had the best variety show in television that ran for many years. As a mayor of beloved Lipa City, her reputation is untarnished. Ate Vi is really an accomplished woman. Why? Even her recording of Sweet Sixteen was certified gold kay Ate Vi angkop na angkop ang awiting "Handog", hindi lang dahil sa ang kanyang tiyan at bulsa ay biglang nagkalaman dahil sa matinding suportra sa kanya ng publiko at patuloy na pamamayagpag bilang numero unong aktres ng industriya, kungdi dahil sa kasaysayang kanyang iwanan sa ating lahat.

MABUHAY KA-STAR FOR ALL SEASONS AND QUEENSTAR and LIPA CITY MAYOR DR VILMA SANTOS.



Willie Fernandez is a professional movie writer in the Philippines, Davao City (Philippines) is his home. Willie is also one of our best house writer!

{ Umbrab Et Penumbra } Mario O. Garces

Vilma Santos,

The Quintessential Mother

Yes, Virginia, there are superstar mothers and children celebrities in Pinoy showbiz. The late Nida Blanca has one child, a daughter named Katie. Ageless movie queen Gloria Romero has an unica hija in Marifess Gutierrez. Amalia Fuentes Liezl gave Snooky a run for her money in tot superstardom in the early 70's. Nora Aunor's only biological child, Ian De Leon, son of Christopher De Leon, appeared in movies together with Ampon Queen Nora Aunor and the rest of D' Adopted Ones. Hilda Koronel, a very private person, as we all know has a love child with the late Jay Ilagan but no one has ever seen the fruit of their union in public. Like Nora, Hilda has a few adopted ones herself but they remain private citizens, like their mother Hilda. Susan Roces and the late Charito Solis did not have biological children but nonetheless proved that they can be excellent surrogate mothers on and off screen. The late Ms. Rita Gomez had a son from different fathers, the most famous of which is Ronald Bregendahl, the spelling bee champion and a once upon actor who was excellent as the insatiable sex maniac of a husband to wife Anna Marin in the classic morality play, the movie Moral. The recluse and enigmatic Lolita Rodriguez, like Hilda, has children who successfully kept them from showbiz circus. Boots-Anson Roa has four children but none of them entered showbiz. Maricel Soriano has two adopted children and neither one is in showbiz. Sharon Cuneta has three girls, the most famous of which is KC Concepcion, now a college student and has yet to appear in a movie. Protective Sharon sees to it that she finishes college first. KC, who looks like her dad Gabby Concepcion has only appeared in a musical-play.

And now, Vilma Santos. The most famous celebrity mother of the Philippines has earned the title Ina ng Lipa and more, without really trying. Looking back, especially during her happy-go-lucky days, the Filipino fans never imagined that she would be that good a mother. She was busy making movies and had a dizzying social life. Her chief rival got domesticated early and raised a child ahead of Vilma by at least five years. Ian must be at least 5 or 6 six years old when Vilma's eldest son Luis Manzano saw the light of day on April 21, 1981. As we all know, the Star for All Season's life was changed forever when her Lucky was born. Reeling from bankruptcy and overdue income tax, Vilma almost lost her



shirt. But God smiled at Vilma, and as Lucky was growing up, her career took a positive turn. Her Viva and Regal movies were breaking box-office records. Her acting awards and box-office titles grew by leaps and bounds. Her VIP/Vilma! musical-variety show was a ratings champ and the most-awarded show in its genre. And the most famous and endearing words of a busy yet caring and responsible mother were heard from the Philippines and around the world as she says goodnight to her millions of Vilma! televiewers every Friday night: "I LOVE YOU, LUCKY!" Following her then husband's wish to keep away their only son from the limelight, and from harm's way, Vilma acquiesced. The most the TV audience got a glimpse of Lucky was through magazines and a brief pan of TV camera on little Luis while Mommy Vi was performing at the Met Theater. Vilma's 'protective' and 'disciplined' side as far as raising Luis paid handsome dividends. The Lucky son grew up like her famous Mom: professional, disciplined, respectful and considerate of others, polite, humble, and wise with money.' And let us not forget that he finished college, through Vilma and ex-husband Edu Manzano's prodding and encouragement. Ah, a college degree, the one thing that no one can steal from someone and a shelter or a shield during rainy days. When Vilma turned her back on showbiz momentarily to give birth to Ryan-Christian Recto, she became every parent's hero and role model. Instantly, she is the Queen of Sacrifice, making the likes of



Pagpasok ko sa loob ng office ni Mayor Vi, eto ang bubulaga sa yo. The tables and chairs ay made of narra wood w/ reddish brown varnish. Talagang ma feel mo na mamahaling ang furniture na ito. Bagay na bagay ang trono na ito sa pag-upo ng ating reyna.



Makikita mo rin and mga countless awards ni Vi sa pagiging outstanding leadership and mayorship ni Mayor sa ibat-ibang organizations. Sabi nga ng secretary nya: "marami pa yan, nasa loob ng isang room, masyado na kasing marami."



Sa tapat ng table ni Vi, meron pa isang table para sa kanya. Sa likod nito meron kwarto na dinning room nya. dito sa kumakain. Meron syang microwave, fridge at TV. Meron din sofa for elegant entertaining ni Mayor Vi.

I can't help at talagang umupo ako sa siya ni Vi feeling Mayor din ako at sa table nya meron syang namang sya bagong award of certificate. Ay sobra na awards ni Vi! Sabi ko sa sarili ko.



{ vision gallery } Allan Trambulo

BEST ACTRESS OF ALL TIME

Vilma Santos is the most awarded actress (50 plus and counting) and keeps on collecting them with every box-office hit and critically -acclaimed movie, with a record 8 Urjan, 5 Famas, 4 Fap, 6 Star, 2 Int'l Awards and the most recent U.P. Gawad Plaridel Award..



Actual trophies and awards of Ate Vi. Right now it's in a secured room and it will be transfer when she moves in sa bagong bahay nya sa Alabang this summer. (photos by Ate Aida). Below: Mayor Vi accepting "Key of New Jersey" during her NY-NJ visit 2005



MAYOR VILMA SANTOS RECTO: THE MOTHER OF LIPA CITY



It was a sunny day and i decided to go to Lipa City w/ my cousins. It'll be my first after so many years 16 yrs to be exact since the last time i went to Lipa. I'd like to share to those Vilmanians na di pa nakakapunta sa Lipa specially Vilmanians abroad.

Pictures taken in front of Lipa Municipal Hall.



Sugod ako at bitbit ko ang pinsan ko para dalhin ako sa Lipa. Unfortunately wala si Mayor Vi at meron syang speaking engagement sa Chinese Chambers Commerce (Anvil). With her permission na ka all access pass ako sa Lipa especially sa loob ng office n'ya. Na-alihw ako dahil pag pasok ko pa lang na kita ko ang picture potrait ni Vi kasama ang mga past mayors ng Lipa. Ang ganda at kagalang galang ang beauty ni Mayor Vi.



Sharon Cuneta and other mother-celebrities 'cry' out of awe and respect for the Beloved Movie Queen. At the peak of her dancing and acting career, Vilma had to choose: family or career. She chose wisely, and again, God smiled at her. More blessings poured in. Landside first-term win as Lipa city mayor. First International best actress win (Brussels). The Top Grosser of All Time via the gargantuan hit Anak (before Ang Tanging Ina, the first feature film that paid tribute to Ate Vi), to adding another Box-office title to her already long list of box-office and movie queen titles.

And that was only the beginning folks, only the beginning, as the announcer would say at her Vilma! show after her spectacular and jaw-dropping grand opening musical number. Vilma Santos' winning streak continues. On her last term as Mayor and at her age when movie queens are retired or playing second fiddle to newcomers, Vilma Santos is having it all. It's only the beginning folks, only the beginning. Highest movie talent fee, along with Sharon Cuneta. More prestigious awards left and right for her successful dual careers as actress-politician. U.P. Gawad Plaridel, U.P. Diwata Award, Centennial Feminist Awardee, and International Public Service Award (Sydney, Australia). She has earned a PhD degree, honors causa for Humanities from Lipa City College.

The other celebrity winner of this caliber is Rosa Rosal and nobody else. More Lifetime achievement awards from Apari to Jolo, to as far-flung as California. A successful feature film tribute to and spoof of her colorful and award-studded performances on film, appropriately titled, D'Lucky Ones. A potential ratings winner and possibly another award-winning performance as a Mother of a child afflicted with cerebral palsy, in the much-awaited two-part showing of her MMK telemovie on ABS-CBN, coming soon to TV on Mother's Day.

In keeping with the trend but making a difference in the Year of the Queer, viz, Ang Pagdadalaga ni Max Oliveros, Kaleido, Ang Masahista and Manay Po, all eyes are focused on the Mother and Gay Son team of a Star Cinema feature film starring the next National Artist Awardee Vilma Santos and the promising and talented actor John Lloyd Cruz, to be directed by Olivia Lamasan. Could EnPress best actress in a comedy be far behind? Talk of Vilma Santos, the Most Awarded and Most Versatile Filipina Actress.

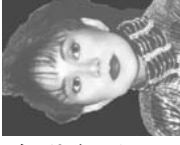
The secret of the Glad Girl's success? Family comes first. No success in life can ever replace the failure at home. The

The secret of the Glad Girl's success?

Family comes first. No success in life can ever replace the failure at home.

rewards are but icing on the cake for the 'supreme sacrifice', hard work, grit and determination. From her credible and memorable screen performances as a mother in Broken Marriage, Dolzura Cortez, Anak, Bata-bata, Ipagpatawad Mo and Dekada '70, to her sacrifices as a real mother to Luis and Ryan, even to her constituents in Lipa city, the mother in Vilma Santos reigns supreme.

From reel to reel, she is the Quintessential Mother and Ina ng Lipa. May she live long to inspire the Mothers and Mothers to be. And our sons and daughters, to be an Ideal Parent, like Ate Vi.



Mario O. Garces is bases in New Jersey, USA. His recent writings has been published in entertainment magazines in the Philippines. (no available picture of Mar)



{ VITS }

Vilmanian

"Dapat sana'y hindi si Inang (Olivia Lamasan) ang magdairék dahil may gagawin siyang movie ni Showie (Sharon Cuneta). Eh, palibhasa Vilmanian si Showie, pumayag siyang sa akin na si Inang," ani Ate Vi. - "Sharon nagparaya kay Ate Vi" ni Beth Gerena, People's Tonight 4/28/2006

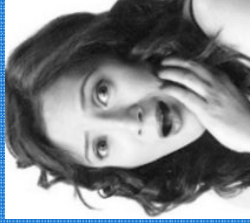
19.7%

The May 4th telecast of "Maabala Mo Kaya" television special starring Ate Vi has defeated the competition. "Magpakalanman got 18.3% versus Ate Vi special episode MMK which rated 19.7%." - Willie Fernandez as posted in E-Groups

D' Lucky Ones

D' Lucky Ones did an amazing P8.5 million first-day gross receipt! Director Wenn Deramas' tribute to Ms. Vilma Santos-Recto - Philippine Tribune Life Section 04/27/06

Another Vilmanian



"...trabaho lang naman ito... isa pa alam hindi papatulan ni Ate Vi ang ganyang intriga. Hindi ko inagawan si Ate Vi ng pelikula, Vilmanian ako noh..." - Cheri Pie Picache when asked about her new movie Manay Po, March 2006

Notepad: Mayor Vi vs Batangas Gov.

LIPA CITY—Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos has assailed Batangas Gov. Amando Sanchez over his plan to close a public hospital here. During the weekly flag-raising ceremony, the movie actress-turned-politician voiced her opposition to the impending closure of the Lipa District Hospital in Barangay Siete, which is being run and funded by the provincial government. In front of some 500 employees, Santos said she could not understand why the governor pushed for the shutting down of the hospital when many residents of Lipa and nearby towns benefit from its services. She said that if money was the problem, the city government could easily make adjustments to salvage the hospital from permanent closure. "If politics is the only reason, I am ready to fight them," Santos was quoted as telling the crowd. City Hall employees and officials interviewed by the Inquirer said Santos' speech drew loud cheers from the crowd which backed the mayor's stand on the issue. Many saw the incident as the start of a political fallout between Santos and Sanchez, a well-known ally of Santos' husband, administration Sen. Ralph Recto. Employees said Sanchez, who was identified in a Senate hearing as one of the biggest jueteng lords in the country, might have wanted to get back at Santos after she reportedly showed her interest in running for governor in the 2007 local elections. In an interview at her office, Santos clarified that her speech was never meant to challenge the governor to an election showdown or to start a political fight between them. She said that when she said she was ready to fight Sanchez, she was talking about the hospital closure. "I don't have any intention to make this a political issue ... When I said I'm ready to fight (Sanchez), what I meant was I'm ready to fight for the (LDH) and let the people know the real issue," the mayor said. Santos, however, admitted that she was irked after learning from Board Member Marc Leviste that the original plan was to close the hospital on May 6. -

By **Marlon Ramos, Apr 25/06 Inquirer**

Say: Mayor Vi advocates milk education

Multi-awarded actress and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos Recto plays a new leading role as the advocate of a nationwide milk education campaign called "Laki Sa Gatas," in partnership with Bear Brand, the Philippines' leading milk brand by sales. Bear Brand is manufactured by Nestlé, the global authority on milk and the world's largest food-based nutrition, health and wellness company. The campaign aims to promote, primarily among mothers, the nutritional importance of milk in light of declining milk consumption in the country. During the campaign's launch at the Padre Valerio Malabanan Elementary School in Lipa, Mayor Vi said that given the value of milk for children, mothers should make sure that their kids drink "not just one but two glasses of milk everyday" to meet their nutritional requirements. She said that health is her top priority both as mother and city mayor, and good nutrition should not be compromised, especially in difficult times. - **By Isah V. Red, Manila Standard Apr 28/06**



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From page 36

Type who would subject herself to indignities just so her coming child can have a name and possibly better upbringing. Boyet is the unloved son who would ditch his sophisticated girlfriend (Amy Austria, who is still uncomfortable in such role, so she doesn't fare too well here) for this martyr-type who's been impregnated by his brother. Now, any of these characters may exist, if by a long chance. But to have them all together living under the same roof is stretching the bounds of possibility much too much. Furthermore, it could have been a better ending had the Viva bosses decided to stop at that scene where Vilma finds herself left alone on Christmas in the rich surroundings she has always dreamt of. Now only the household help can give her token solace by way of a collective gift. It is a poignant scene, stylistically done to proper effect with the usual Viva-film theme wafting through in support of silent montage. It could have been a good open ending, with overtones of irony laying themselves squarely on Vilma's character. But no, of course one can't disappoint the followers of the original comics serial. So the story goes on through further typical maneuverings until we're given at least a semblance of a happy ending. A missed chance, I say. - **Alfred A. Yuson Philippines Daily Inquirer - 17 July 1983**

Other Notable Mother roles or Parental Related Roles:

- **Mano Po 3: My Love**
- **Palimos Ng Pag-Ibig**
- **Adultery: Alda Macaraeg**
- **Hanggang Ngayon Ika'y Minamahal**
- **Broken Marriage**
- **Muling Buksan Ang Puso**
- **Gaano Kadalas Ang Minsan**
- **Ex-Wife**
- **Saan Nagtatago Ang Pag-Ibig**
- **Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**
- **Lipa: Arraia Masacre**

{ essay } Nelvin Rea

Hangga't May Isang Vilma Santos

Hindi ako mahilig magsulat. Mas gugustuhin ko pa ang mamingwit ng isda sa laot o magbilad ng inaning palay sa highway. Ang alam ko, ang pagsusulat ay isang bokasyon na kailangang pagtuunan ng malaking oras at panahon. At iyon ang kulang sa akin. Sa tulad kong abala sa trabaho at sa mga sibikong aktibidades ay mahirap akong kumbinsihin ang aking sarili sa koda ng pagsusulat. Sa larangan ng pre-belehiyong pagtula, pag-arte at talumpati ay maikokon-sedera ako. Sa konseptong pansuporta o debate kahit pa paano'y di naman ako pahuuli. Subalit ang kahiligan ko ang pagsusulat ay isang maunsiyaring pangarap na kahit sa ak-ing diwa ay hindi man lang ito sumagi. Subalit sa bawat pagkakataon ang lahat ay maaring magbago... maging malaya... positibo... determinado. Iisa lang ang naging literal na dahilan kung bakit ako naanganyong magsulat---ang maging kabahagi sa espasyo ng lumalaking pamilya ng nag-iisang Vilma Santos---ang mga loyal na Vilmanians. Na sila ay naglilingkod na may kaakibat na saktipisyo at pagtitis nang walang hindangad na kapalit at halaga. Na hindi man lang kayang sukatin ng anumang materyal na bagay ang kanilang isan daang porsiyentog paninindigan anumang unos...balakid...ingay...isyu! Kay Vilma Santos... maraming magagandang kuwento... maraming gawaing katiada na dapat isulat... maraming positibong pananaw na dapat mataman ng tao--- at sa paniniwalang iyan ako nagsimulang magsulat! Ang pamamaraan ko sa pagsusulat ay hindi kas-ing galing at hindi kasing bigat ng mga artikulo ng mga magagaling nating mga Vilmanians. Alam ko na marami pa akong dapat pagdaanan at isaalang-alang upang mai-balanse ko ang kaalamang katulad ng sa kanila. Ang kanilang mga intelehenteng komposisyon ay salamin ng kanilang walang humpay na pag-ibig at dedikasyon sa nag-iisang bituin ng lahat ng panahon--Rosa Vilma Santos.Ang kanilang mensahe sa panulat ang maddal na pinagkukuhanan ko ng enerhiya upang makabuo ng isang angkop na

Sundan sa pahina 41

POINT: “Regalo” a television Event

Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos, a multi-awarded dramatic actress, an exemplary wife and mother and a model public official, is so work-oriented that she can only make a few television appearances every year...Mayor Vi gives a bravura performance, which has become her trademark. She gives up her acting mannerisms for a fresh attack of a mother's role that makes it an outstanding interpretation. Regalo relives the tale of Daisy Hernandez, a devoted wife and dedicated mother whose child suffers from cerebral palsy...Although screened in black and white, Regalo's exceptional quality was immediately evident during the media preview. Everything about this episode is non-artsy as director Olive opted for a straightforward presentation to bring out the drama without seeming contrived. Acting is likewise direct to the point, clearly the episode's main strength. Although Mayor Vi is likelier higher in delivering her role, Maja showed that she has the makings of another Vilma Santos. Pitting them together was a casting triumph. Although Regalo is a small story, cast and crew imparted it with enough realism to turn it into a domestic epic of sorts. Regalo, written by Dado Lumibao, is a clear proof of MMK's superiority as a drama anthology, making it the longest running ABS-CBN show right now. It is not afraid to defy convention, tell real-life stories with themes of rape, homosexuality, or physical disability, just as it delivers contemporary stories of love and sacrifice, family dramas and teen stories. And it does this with critically acclaimed actors and directors, award-winning stories, and visual treats that have semblances of films rarely seen on television (read: high production values unconstrained by small-screen budgetary pegs). This makes Maalaala Mo Kaya a world-class drama anthology. Regalo is MMK's Mother's Day presentation with excellent actors Ricky Davao and Erich Gonzales in supporting roles. - **BUZZSTATION** by **Edgar Cruz 05/04/2006**

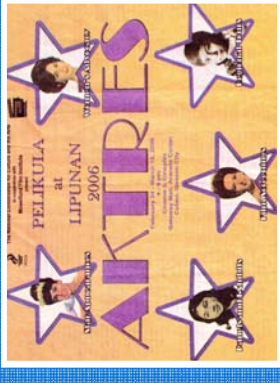
{ VITS }

Daisy & April Hernandez

The names of mother and daughter played by Vilma Santos and Maja Salvador in Maalaala Mo Kaya Television special.

776

The number of episodes before Vilma Santos appeared in its 15th Year Anniversary of drama show Maalaala Mo Kaya.



Coming Soon

The success of screening of Vilma Santos films in March via Pelikula at Lipunan galvanized another Vilma project, this time by Vilmanians in November this year. Films and memorabilia will be exhibited during this month long event.

Another



"...Maja showed that she has the makings of another Vilma Santos...." - BUZZSTATION by Edgar Cruz 05/04/2006

REWIND: Taxes and the young stars

Young stars should take care of their finances and pay their taxes. This advice came from Vilma Santos, whose assets were frozen by the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the '80s for non-payment of income tax. "But I know what [other stars] are going through right now—it's not easy. When you're young, somebody else handles your money. When you start having problems, then you start wondering what happened to your earnings," she added. She considers herself lucky to have recovered from the brush with the BIR even if her marriage to Edu Manzano suffered from it. "Edu wanted me to be Mrs. Manzano, to lie low from show biz. But I had to work and pay my debts. I survived and recovered. Not everybody is as lucky." Surprised Vilma was surprised to learn that



Luis, her son by Edu, paid a bigger income tax than she did this year. "For the first time in my life, I felt insecure," Vilma said, laughing. "Luis was earning more—I told myself, this couldn't happen. But it's happening." She described Luis as a good person who wants to enjoy life. "[And] the girls! I know my son, he's definitely no longer a virgin. But I still don't want him to get married and make me a grandmother," Vilma admitted. "He just turned 25!" Direk Vi? The actress...observed that today's young stars are all talented. "And beautiful," she gushed. "They can dance, sing, they can do anything. But the problem there is, it's hard to stand out. During my time, it was a one-on-one with Nora (Aunor) and me." - **First posted 10:19pm (Mia time) May 03, 2006** By **Nini Valera Inquirer**

In-insinuate din niya na the birth delivery (as specified in the opening scene) can cause oxygen deprivation that may affect the brain development of the child, thus creating immaturity in vasomotor coordination such as hearing, speech and hand movement. nilinaw rin niya na ang emotional refrigeration (yaong rejection nina Chris, Delia at Vivian) can cause the intensification of the disease. However, na-establish din niya ang love and care ng parents (ni Vilma) at sibling (ng kapatid na normal) will be more than enough to push the child to develop little by little. This time Laurice Guillen has hit the pot. The movie turned out to be artificially made and yet the commercial value of it did not suffer. Bumalik na ang aesthetic eye ni Direktora Guillen. Thank God, a film like this comes once in a while to give us enter-educational (learning with pleasure) milieu. - **Payak, Natural, Kakaibal! Movie Review by Ces Ysobel Orsal**

5. PAANO BA ANG MANGARAP? (1983) - Lisa's Story

What the critics said: PAANO BA ANG MANGARAP? rates high for its slickness and production gloss, something that its producers, Viva Films, shouldn't hope would last them more than two seasons. Eddie Garcia is a good director. He stages his scenes well, with a minimum of fuss and a modicum of winning faith in narrative intimacy. Viva's movies are well-structured, well-paced, and at their best show how the cosmopolitan Filipino behaves under romantic stress. But if you get past that level and dig into substance, you encounter that self-same compost pit wherein all the biodegradable scraps of melodrama you can find southeast of your favorite mother's kitchen have been thrown. Such is the case, to a most lamentable extreme, with Paano Ba ang Mangarap? It's well-acted, well-done, tastefully correct in elementary mode. But it is strictly local comics fare, this well-wrought turn of circumstantial twist and escalating conflicts which all spell high drama. Viva makes films that are at best our answer to Hollywoodian slick, the stuff of which The Other Side of Midnight and Imitation of Life are prime generational examples. The Barbra Cartlands and Harold Robbinses turned celluloid; Mills and Boon on the big screen. Here you have two fine actors, Christopher de Leon and Vilma Santos, waxing once again with their special chemistry. Boyet is so good he can, by merely varying his inflection, go through a simple line like "Tama na..." three times and prove positively sensitive and believable each time. Subtlety of feeling is shared equally well by Vilma Santos. They are both aware of the value of underplaying their emotional scenes, so much so that in any confrontation with other thespians who play their role to the hilt, these two, Boyet and Vilma, come out on top through the simple process of undercutting. Vic Silayan and Perla Bautista are equally good in Paano Ba ang Mangarap?, but it is Moody Diaz who wins us over by applying a different tack in her "mayordama" role, something that is usually played for laughs and other such effects by less gifted, or less imaginative, performers. Armida Siguion-Reyna is hampered by her termagant mother-in-law role, the catch-all character of cruelty spawned by all the soap opera dramas of Philippine comics and radio serials. And she plays this thoroughly unbelievable character, typecast as she already is, much to the hilt. That fantasy scene where she makes out like a satanic figure, though well-shot by Romy Vifug, is quite embarrassing for a picture like this, except of course we know that it is based on a comics serial where such fictive excesses may appear. Here is where this otherwise finely-crafted film suffers. Viva knew it had to be faithful to the comics serial, so in effect opted for the surefire commercial draw at the expense of a truly artistic, credible film. I'm not saying that a character like Mrs. Monteverde does not, or cannot, exist. Perhaps one in a million. Filipino mothers can be as overbearing, prejudiced, unfeeling, and downright cruel. But to have a situation where an improbable character like her meets up with other improbable characters like the one Vilma and Christopher play, is stacking up the cards too much on the side of atrocious melodrama. Vilma is the martyr

Turn to page 37



Achievements:

- One of 1983 top grosser-films

{ Sincerely yours } Father Juacho Gutierrez

(Editor's Note: Due to his recent surgery, Father J's column is not available. His column will be back next issue. The following is his posted message in our e-groups.)

“...pinakamamahal na Mayor Ate Vi...”

Magandang araw/gabi po sa inyong lahat! Ito po si Fr. J nagbabalik. Napkarami ko pong dapat pasalamatn for the prayers they have said for the success of my recent surgery. Unang-una na po ang ating pinakamamahal na Mayor Ate Vi.

Sa nag-iisang Reyna ng Pelikulang Pilipino, Ms. Vilma Santos, marami pong salamat sa inyong pagdarasal at pag-alala sa aking kalagayan. Sa awa po naman ng Diyos, ako po ay unti-unti ng gumagaling. Your genuine concern about me and every Vilmanian is commendable. Tunay po kayong kahanga-hanga Mayor Ate Vi. You are not just our common love and interest, you are also a positive role model for us on how to be a caring, forgiving and loving human person. With millions of Vilmanians, I am proud to profess to the whole world that I am indeed a Vilmanian in body, mind and spirit. Sabi nga po ni Nell Alejandro, may your tribe increase!

To President Jojo, thank you for the copy of the Libis Christmas Party of the Vilmanians with Ate Vi. Ditto for your prayers and concern. You are one of the first Vilmanians I have ever met in this world. I thank God for giving me that chance. For your excellent and pastoral leadership of the Vilmanian Family, mabuhay po kayo El Presidente!

To Vice-President Eric, salamat din po sa mga dasal at pag-alala. Your prayers and expression of support are greatly appreciated. Di ka lang Vice-President namin, kuya ka pa ng lahat. The Big Brother of the group. Very approachable and humble. Tunay na maasahan. Handa tulungan sinuman. Laging may oras para sa lahat. Ingat ka palagi, my dear friend.

To Secretary June, I always admire you for the way you write with class and finesse. Your command of the English language is superb. I have so much to learn from you. Salamat sa mga magaganda mong sinulat about me. I can say the same thing about you: a beautiful person inside and out. Witty and funny. Can't wait to see you again in August, kaibigan.

To Bobby, your style of writing is a class by itself. Kahanga-hanga. Nailiba. Grade A! Your intelligence, sense of humor and your logical reasoning about things never stop amazing me. Combined this with your warm personality, you are truly an amazing person. In good times and in bad times, you are a friend in word and in deed. For this, I am truly blessed.

To my 2 favorite Titos: Tito Liam and Tito Joey, thank you for the VCD Movies of Mayor Ate Vi. I received them yesterday. I tried to watch Dalawang Pugad Isang Ibon, a movie of Mayor Ate Vi with Romeo Vasquez but my DVD player is not working. I'll try watching it in my laptop DVD player. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are legendary. Tito Liam, can't wait to finally meet you in August. Masayahin. Walang pretention. Tunay na tao. Tito Joey I hope we could meet again. You are one the most thoughtful person I have ever met. Humble and God-fearing. Napakabait. God bless you both for being so kind and generous to us.

To Al, walang katulad, walang kapantay. Mapagkakati-walaan. Everytime I see your name in our e-groups I get excited because I know that I will be reading something funny, colorful and full of informations about Mayor Ate Vi and my fellow Vilmanians. By the way, just to let you know that your series of Alam Niyo Ba? are now in my hiwagang baul together with the bato of Darna, palikpak ni Dyesebel, Minica ni Vilma, kandila ni Kampanerang Kuba at marami pang iba. Huwag ka sanang magsasawa sapagkat hindi rin kaming magsasawa sa pagbasa ng iyong ALAM NIYO BA? Salamat uli Al.

To Cesar, Obet, Jay, Twinhead, Ed Piano, Ricky, at sa lahat pang mga Vilmanians na meet ko na sa Pilipinas. Miss you all. I still remember each and everyone of you. How could I forget the warm reception you have accorded me last year. Sana magkita-kita tayong muli sa darating na Agosto. And for those whom I haven't met yet, Noel, Nar, Nelvin, Ruben, Kristine, Weng at marami pang iba, I hope I will have the honor to meet you someday. You are all a blessing to the Vilmanian Family. I'm sure that there is no boring moments with you guys. Iba talaga ang mga Vilmanians, kapamilya na, kapuso pa.



Father Juacho Gutierrez is based in USA, and is a clergy. His regular column will be back next issue.

{ Anything Goes } Charlie Gomez

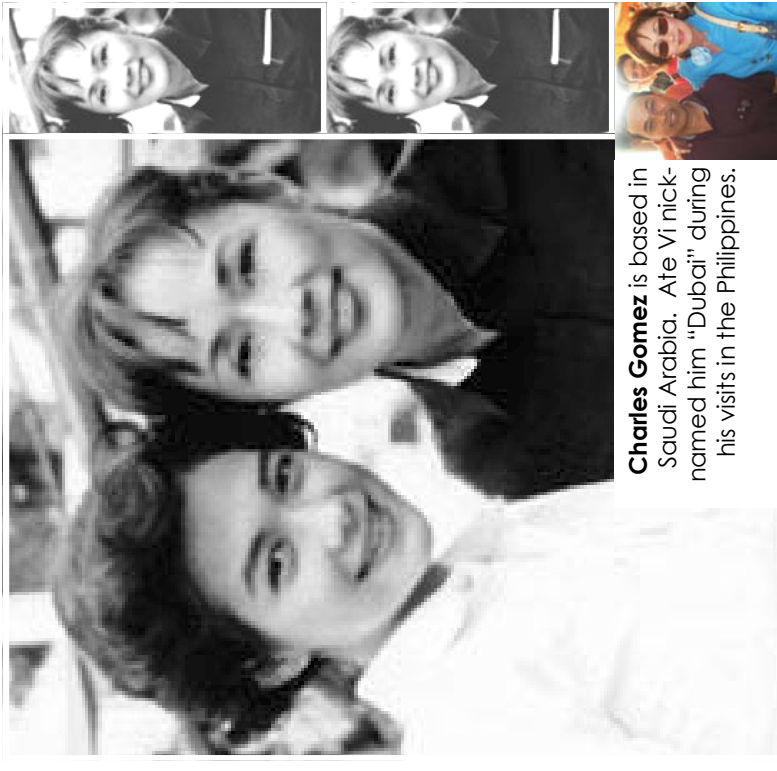
(Editor's Note: Charlie Gomez regular column will be back in our next issue. The following is an article written by our favorite writer Mario Bautista in his Peoples Journal column about Maalaala Mo Kaya and D'Lucky Ones.)

A great acting vehicle for Vi

It's obvious that ABS-CBN values Vilma Santos so much. After making a movie that is an unabashed tribute to her from start to finish, "D Lucky Ones," they now feature her in the 15th anniversary presentation of "Maalaala Mo Kaya." "We love Vi as she's not only a nice person but also a true professional, a committed artist who loves her craft," says Charo Santos, top ABS-CBN executive and host of "Maalaala Mo Kaya." "Fan na niya ako since her Vi and Bobot days and I've seen her evolution as a person and as an actress. Kahanga-hanga talaga siya at ang kanyang magandang kalooban, it just radiates. You cannot fake that dahil galing talaga 'yun sa loob. We've long been inviting her to guest in 'Maalaala' and she was the one who gave us this story of Mrs. Daisy Hernandez, a mother so devoted to her eldest daughter who had cerebral palsy." "I met Daisy at the SPED, special education school for special children, in Lipa," says Ate Vi. "I met her daughter, April. Then I didn't see her for sometime and I found April has died na pala. I told her to write down her story then I gave it to Malou Santos who thought of doing it for 'Maalaala.' We started taping this last year, pero magka-conflict ang skeds namin ni Direk Olive Lamasan, so it took 6 and a half days to tape it over a period of one year at natiyempo sa anniversary ng 'Maalaala' at pang-Mother's Day presentation pa." "This is the show's 777th episode," adds Charo. "'Maalaala' has been made into a film in 1994 that gave awards to its stars, Alko Melendez and Chin Chin Gutierrez. It has given the break to many directors like Wenn Deramas, Jerry Sineneng, Roy Quintos, Gilbert Perez, Mac Alejandre, Lauren Dyogi, Ricky Davao and Michael de Mesa. We're proud to have Vi for our anniversary show that will be shown on May 4 and 11." We've seen the preview of the episode, entitled "Regalo," and it's really a tearjerker that aims to wring your tears ducts dry. Her fans will surely be proud of their idol anew as she shines in several scenes where she gets to deliver kilometeric lines. It's a great acting vehicle for any actress worth her salt and Ate Vi truly does justice to the role of a mother who does everything to support her disabled child only to lose her later to a viral infection. All throughout the death and wake of April

(convincingly played by Maja Salvador), Vilma is not shown crying at all. She finally breaks down after the funeral while talking to her husband (Ricky Davao, who's equally great) and delivers some lines that will surely be added to the list of classic dialogues she has uttered in her past films and that were all used in "D Lucky Ones." "If you're a parent with a special child, you'd be able to identify with her role. But even if you're not, you'd still be affected by this true story of unconditional love and sacrifice.

Incidentally, we finally got to see "D Lucky Ones" and we'd like to congratulate Director Wenn Deramas for succeeding to make us laugh. There are many hilarious scenes in the movie that even non-Vilmanians will appreciate, thanks to the fine performances of Eugene Domingo, Sandara Park and Pokwang. Eugene is the best among them as she doesn't exert too much effort in tickling us. Sandy is also a natural comedienne, but Pokwang can go over the top at the times she should have been restrained a bit. The film has two highlights. First is the dance showdown between Eugene and Pokwang at the Phi Bar where they get to re-create the intricate production numbers Ate Vi used to do in her TV show. The second one is the film's climax where Ate Vi makes a special guest appearance to reconcile the warring Eugene and Pokwang and then does a dance number with the entire cast. Most local comedies fail to make us laugh, but this one really works.



Charles Gomez is based in Saudi Arabia. Ate Vi nicknamed him "Dubai" during his visits in the Philippines.



Achievements:

- Gawad URIAN Best actress
- Movie Magazine Awards
- Intrigue Magazine Reader's Choice Award

saan ang sinaspician ay nagwi-withdraw sa reyalidad ng buhay. Nananatili sila sa sariling daigdig na nilikha ng isip at pantasya.) dahil sa autistic child (Edward Carlos Garcia) unti-unting nawasak ang pamilya nina Vilma. Vilma vowed to protect and care for the child because she felt this is the only way a mother can assure herself that everything can be given to the son. (Pinatunayan nga ng pelikula na mas apt ang title na Paano Ba Ang Maging Ina ito kaysa roon sa ginawa ni Nora Aunor). On the other hand, nire-reject ni Chris at ng kanyang family (Delia Razon, et al) ang bata dahil nakababawas ito sa dignidad ng family stature nila. The conflict progresses to give us the different views on how to accept the frailties of people within our family. Para bang kung paano tatanggapin ng magulang na may anak siyang may butas sa puso or worst bakla. The father and mother image were deliberately explored at sa tuing mag-aaway sina Vi at Boyet, parang nakikita natin ang ating mga magulang na nagtatalo, the scenes were too real for comfort.

Nadale ng Viva ang kiliti ng masa. Hindi mo nga kailangang bigyan ng heavy stuff ang tao para masabing matino ang pelikula. Tama na nga sa mga politicized films or pa-social relevance. Bug-bog na bugbog na ang ganitong tema sa mga diyaryo at sensayunalismo ng TV Patrol ng Chan-nel 2. Mas kinagugusto ng balana ang mga pelikulang nakasentro sa mga karaniwang problema ng tao, lalo na't may kindalaman sa ordinaryong relasyong pantao. Napapanahan ang story ng "ipagpatawad". Simple. Natural na pinakilos ng mga tauhan ng dula na halos parang hindi mo namamalayang pelikula lang pala ito. Aakalain mo ngang nakinood ka lang sa isang scenario sa buhay ng kapitbahay mo. Ganito katindi ang tama ng pelikula sa manonood. This is indeed a very special movie for Boyet and Vi. Santos is again in the running for Best Actress. She was able to sink her teeth to the role of a disturbed mother torn in the love and responsibilities for her husband and the abnormal child. Except for some restless gestication of the hands, damang-dama mong buong katawan niya ay nilukuban ng kaakuan ng role. All her scenes can be considered highlights, because she was consistently good in them. Her duro scene with Boyet was satisfactorily blocked and orchestrated. So far here, Vilma has an edge over Ruffa Gutierrez, Mona Liza, Janice de Belen and Lorna Tolentino in the acting derby next year. De Leon was able to regain his acting brilliance in this movie. hindi puwersado. Cool, less facial contortion which became evident in some recent films he made. I like him better here than in "Salingin" and "Makiusap sa Dios". Nakababagbag-damdamin 'yung paghingi niya ng tawad sa anak. The monologue, which started sa pasakalye to reconcile ended in pained catharsis, that even a man with a heart of stone would melt in depression. As a team, gamay na gamay na nina Vi at Boyet ang isa't isa. Actually, sa tender moments nila, you don't see them as the stars. You are made to believe they were really husband and wife. They were too relaxed. Their movements were free and natural. This is really what we call team acting. Walang sapawan. The movie added more luster with the convincing portrayal of the kids. (Edward Garcia, Bennet Ignacio at Terence Baylon) who played Vi's children. Special mention dito si Garcia na gumamap na 3-year old Junjun. Ang nuances niya ng ritualistic hand movements and echolalic speech (symptom ng autism) ay talagang believable. He is not even conscious of the camera. Not to be outdone ay ang great support nina Charito Solis, as the choleric mother of Vi; Joonee gamboa, as the phlegmatic father; Ruby Rodriguez, as the yaya na talagang agaw-eksena, lalo na sa carnival scene; Bing Loyzaga, na mas improved and better version ni Gretchen Barretto sa movie; at Vivian Foz, as the wronged confused sister of Vi. Exceptional din ang cinematography and lighting works ng movie. As usual, expected sa Viva melodrama ang glossy, fabulous setting na nag-capitalized sa affluent house interior. kaya lang, parang di tugma ang theme song ni Janno Gibbs sa story. But more than this, laudable ang script ni Ms. Lamasan. Veritable na may research work ang writer. Dahil na-inform niya nag madla tungkol sa autism na dominant sa mga batang lalaki ngayon. Naipabatid niya na autism is detect-able at the first two years, when the child is suffering from hearing and speech impairment.

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{ Memoirs of Vilmanians }

Gloria de Guzman

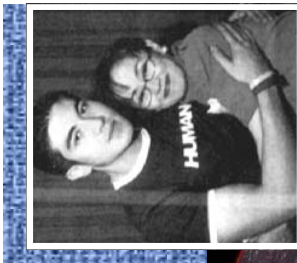
I would like to share to all of you how I became a die hard vilmanian in the early part of 1970 naglihi ako sa pang apat na anak namin at ang napaglihian ko ay si vilma santos, pag may pumipintas sa kanya noon ay inaaway ko saka pag may nakita akong picture niya kahit nasa putikan ay kinukuha ko at nilinis ko ganyan ako ka dedicated kay vilma santos noon tapos sumulat ako sa kanya sabi ko kung puede sanang paddalan ako ng kanyang picture na may dedication sa likod kasi kako naglihihi at gusto ko talaga yon galing sa kanya marami kako nabibili sa bangkeita noon pero ang gusto ko kako ay galing mismo sa kanya sa kabutihang palad sumagot yon president ng vilma-edgar fans club na si aling maring yata ang pangalan at ang apelyido yata ay marin kaya lang nakalimutan ko na talaga pinadalan ako ng litrato ni vilma na may dedication sa likod kaya tuwang tuwa ako noon tapos sabi sa akin kung gusto ko raw makita si vilma at punitahan ko raw siya sa bahay niya at isasama ako sa bahay ni vilma eh nagkataon na taga caloocan din pala siya malapit lang sa aming bahay kaya nagpunta ako at doon na nagsimula ang pagpunta ko kay vilma napakabait ng mga magulang ni vilma na sila mr. amado santos (sumalangit nawa ang kanyang kaluluwa) at si mama santos ganooon din sa mga kapatid niya doon sa project 6 sila noon nakatira at magkatalikuran pa ang bahay nila ni edgar alam niyo ba na noong marchial law ay nandoon ako sa kanila at nagulat pa si vilma dahil nandoon kami siguro mga sampu kaming vilmanians doon namin nalaman na ang araw na iyon ay marcial law sabi sa amin ni vilma noon lumabas at nakipagupas sa amin ay nagtaka siya bakit nandoon kami eh marchial law kaya raw niya nalaman ay walang newspaper at balita sa radyo sabi pa sa amin ay panooiin namin ang pelikula niyang konduktora katambal niya si jay ilagan sabi sa amin magkitakita kami sa globe theater at kung sakali na babarilin daw kami ng mga sundalo ay at least sabay sabay kaming mamatay tapos sumagot si tess yon kapatid niya maliliit pa sila noon nandoon din si winnie at kumakain pa ng ice cream sabi ni tess eh dapat magdasal na lang kayo bakit sasabihin mong sabay sabay kayong mamatay kasi ang akala ng mga tao noon ay pag marcial law ay puede kang barilin ng mga sundalo eh hindi naman pala o mahaba na ang posting ko kaya itutuloy ko na lang uli sa susunod mag kapwa ko vilmanian maraming salamt uli ha at lagi kayong magiingat saan man kayo naroroon bye inuulit ko nga pala ang pasasalamat

ko sa inyong lahat napakabuti niyo talaga hindi ako nagkamali ng pagidolo kay vilma sana lalo pa siyang magtagumpay sa susunod marami pa akong ikukuwento sa inyo bye God bless us all Nay Glo. **(E-Group Posted Message on May 2, 2006)**

Nelvin Rea

A genuine gold measures it's purity when exposed through fire. Brotherhood's test of loyalty depends on it's final rites hazing. You will be called a lawyer once you've passed the bar exams. And you'll be pinned SOLID Vilmanians because you are born in the named VILMA SANTOS. Vilmanians' first choice is Vilma Santos. Vilmanians' first love is Vilma Santos. It's very easy to become a Vilmanian but to live as a true-solid Vilmanian is so testful and challenging. If you love Vilma Santos--show it! If you believe Vilma Santos--preach it! Ask yourselves...Where are you when Vilma was suffering in the fiery darts of the iconians pushing her down? When Vilma was crying in emptiness, would you share your helping hands? Aren't you there in Vilma's shoulder when she was lost during Rubia - atsay era? How many times you fight for her? My fellow Vilmanians, please don't be Judas of your loyalty. Being a Vilmanian has no reward but it is more than a treasure. It is a life-testimonial revelations. If you have many enemies because of Vilma Santos--atlast you're a Vilmanian! If many people laugh at you because you idolize the Queenstar, so what at least you are very proud to be a part of that big as Vilma Santos' throne. "Diba...kaaway niya, kaaway mo rin..lahat ng mahal niya, mahal mo rin". I'm a tough-minded Vilmanian --a complete Vilmanian. And because of Vilma Santos, nagkasama-sama tayo. we could communicate each other with the same spirit. one mind. one accord. one place. Kahit mawala man ang iba- I never never never leave her. I never play my faith to Ate Vi. Nasimulan ko ito, tatapusin ko. My Dear Vilmanians finish the race we have been started. **(E-Group Posted Message on March 20, 2006)**

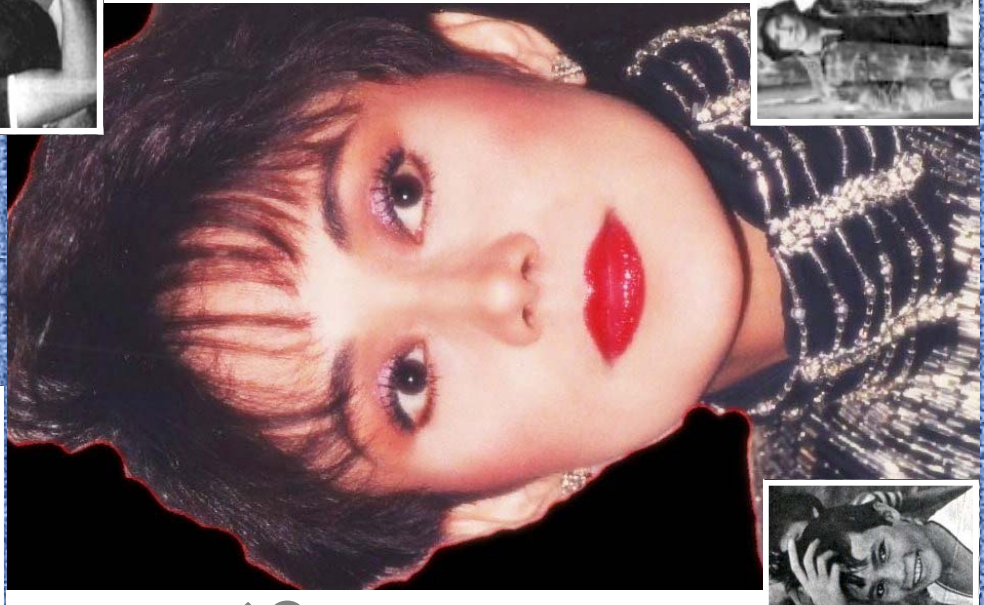




{ feature }

Vilma Santos as a Mother

By Mario O. Garces



Whether in reel or real life, Vilma Santos is an epitome of an ideal mother. This is my tribute to Vilma Santos, ang Ulirang Ina. She has had faults or wrong choices in life. Like her, we all make mistakes. As the years go by, we learn from those missteps, wisen up and change for the better. I could write a book about Vilma, and perhaps one of the most poignant chapters will be about her as a mother.



Achievements:

- Winner of 2 Awards at the 2003 Makati CineManila International Film Festival
- Philippines' Official Entry at the 76th Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film
- Official Entry to Cannes International Film Festival
- Film Desk of the Young Critics Circle
- Gawad Sineng-Sine
- PASADO Awards
- Star Awards
- Film Academy of the Phils.
- Gawad URIAN
- Gawad TANGLOW
- Cinema One's RAVE Awards
- Critic's Choice - Best Performer
- People's Choice - Best Performer
- Makati CineManila International Film Festival



as scheduling problems, bugged the production. Finally, the film is in the can, and the big question on everyone's mind is: is it worth the long wait? The trouble with long waits is that people tend to expect a lot from a much-anticipated movie, especially one as heavily hyped as "Dekada." There is also the tendency to make comparisons with similar movies like Mike de Leon's "Sister Stella L," which also topbilled Santos. The reason "Sister Stella L" will probably end up better appreciated is that the movie was shown during the martial law era. The movie was relevant to the times and Vilma was portraying an activist nun, a role not usually associated with the Star for all seasons. "Dekada," on the other hand, is being screened at a time when the memories of martial law have regrettably faded. Many of our young people were not even around in the '70s. In fact, we are told that, when Chito Rono was shooting the scene at Sto. Domingo church where the wake for the martyred Ninoy Aquino was held, he could not get the right mood from the crowd. The people didn't even remember who Ninoy was! When he told the extras to make believe it was Rico Yan in the coffin, he finally got the right emotional response. The problems faced by the family i "Dekada" may not resonate well with today's families who did not suffer under the martial law regime. The problems they face today have to do more with economics and security rather than with the suppression of their freedoms: In other words, how to make ends meet and how to avoid being a victim of terrorists-as well as cell phone snatchers! Although "Dekada" is set during the martial law era, it focuses more on the development of the character of the mother, played by Vilma, from a timid housewife to an empowered one, after the death of her son and the imprisonment of another son. Moviegoers might find this characterization similar to the one Vilma portrayed in a previous movie. They might also find the first two reels of the movie too heavy on dialogue. Since the movie revolves around a family, the movie takes time to flesh out the different family members in the story (Vilma, Christopher de Leon, Marvin Agustin, Piolo Pascual, Carlos Agassi, Danilo Barrios and John W. Sace). Each of the children must be given his moment for the audience to appreciate his role. As the mother, Vilma does justice to her character, holding back her strong emotions until the end, when she finally confronts Christopher de Leon and wants to break up with him. Despite the many tragic events that befall her character, Vilma chooses to underplay her role except at key points towards the end of the movie. Boyet is his usual competent self as the chauvinistic husband of Vilma who is forced to change when his wife breaks out of her shell. Piolo Pascual also deserves mention for his realistic portrayal of the activist turned NPA rebel. So, is "Dekada '70" worth the long wait? If you don't have exceedingly great expectations of this movie, the answer is yes. It is definitely a landmark movie that people must watch to remind them of a tumultuous period in Philippine history. -

Dekada '70 dramatizes a woman's empowerment in a time of turmoil by Edmund L. Sicam Philippine Daily Inquirer

Ipagpatawad Mo (1991)

What's the critics said: Payak, makabuluhan ngunit kakaibang pelikula ang "ipagpatawad Mo" ng Viva Films. Sapat ngang ipakipaglaban ng Vilma Santos at Christopher de Leon tandem ang paghahanap ng ibang klaseng script na lalo pang mapatingkad sa status nila bilang mga aktor sa makatuturang kahulugan nito. Mapatad sila sa panulat ni Olivia lamasan ng isang story na tumatalakay sa reaksiyon ng isang pamilya sa pagkakaroon ng abnormal na anak. Hinugot ni Ms. Lamasan ang autism syndrome na first time na inilantad sa Pilipino screen, bagamat tinangka na rin itong ipaliwanag sa "Rain Man" ni Dustin Hoffman sa Hollywood. Sa story, sina Vilma at Christopher ay intelihente (TV broadcaster at lawyer respectively) at matagumpay na indibidwal. Maykaya sila sa buhay ngunit nagkaanak ng autistic. (Ang autism, ayon sa mga madren psychologists na sina Bernard Rimland at lauretta bender, ay isang uri ng infantile psychosis na kung

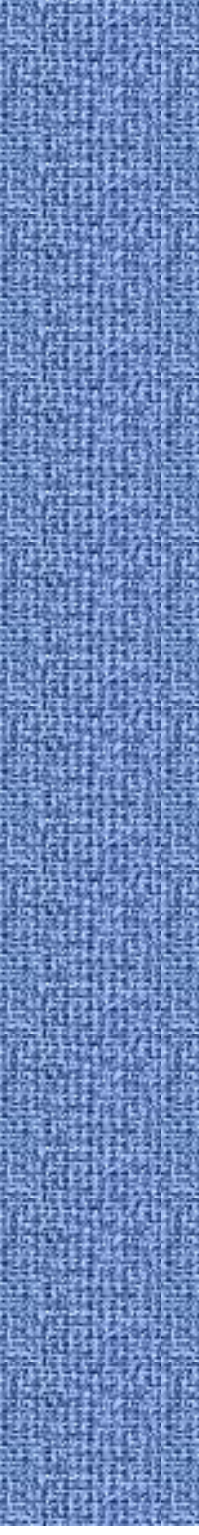
sa magkaibang lalake. Tinanong ko si Chito Rono kung naiimpluwensiyan na siya sa pagpili niya ng iba pang darat-ing na proyekto. "Oo, definitely", wika ng direktor, "kumbaga, may standard na ako, lato na sa may kinalaman sa kababaihan." - **Marra Pi. Lanot, Diario Uno, 16 Sept 1998**

2. Anak (2000) - Josie's Story

What's the critics said: By now every film reviewer in town has already said his piece about the currently showing Star Cinema , movie "Anak". No doubt a box-office hit (the biggest since the phenomenal "Isusumbong Kita sa Tatay Ko"), this movie by Rory Quintos, however, received mixed reviews from our local film critics. I saw the movie myself and below is my opinion of the film. As we already know, "Anak" casts Vilma Santos as a domestic helper who has spent years slaving it out in Hong Kong. The movie wisely chooses not to concentrate on the cruelty and abuse most overseas contract workers experience in the hands of their employers abroad since there had been at least four local films that had already tackled such topic in the past: the two "Flor Contemplacion" movie versions (with Nora Aunor and Helen Gamboa), and the Carlo Cappa film on Delia Maga (with Gina Alajar) and "The Sarah Batabagan Story." "Anak" chooses, instead, to focus on what happens to a family home when a mother leaves it to work abroad. In the story by Ricky and Raymond Lee, Vilma leaves behind three young children in the care of her husband, Joel Torre, to work as a DH in the former British Crown Colony. When she decides to come home for good, she starts questioning the wisdom of having left for abroad - especially after realizing that she has become a stranger to her three kids. It is easy to understand why "Anak" became a blockbuster hit. For one, the movie really plays to the gallery - especially in the beginning. And this is minus point for the film because it goes way overboard with its crowd-pleasing scenes - to the point that the viewer already feels awkward and uncomfortable. The movie, fortunately, compensates for such excesses by tackling the subject matter in the most realistic manner possible. A lot of women who have worked as domestic helpers abroad must have identified with most of the scenes depicted in "Anak". In fact, I've met a couple of them who have come to me to say that they shed tears over Vilma's confrontation scenes with Claudine Barretto (who plays her insolent daughter). But again, even in the dramatic scenes, this film has the tendency to go to the extreme end in order to wring the tear ducts of the viewer. Actually, this film does not only tug at your heartstrings. It also tries to escape every nerve ending in your body. But despite its excesses, "Anak" is still a quality movie. It is a very well-made commercial film with a heart. This movie has three things going for it: a relevant subject matter , its thorough research and the wonderful performance of Vilma Santos. In this film, Vilma goes through a wide range of emotions from a spoiler of a mother to one who has had it with her ingrate of a daughter - and from a fun-loving barkada (to fellow domestic helpers Amy Austria and Cherry Pie Pilcache) who knows how to appreciate the simple joys of life to that of a breadwinner willing to slave it out for the sake of her children. This may not be a classic Vilma Santos performance in the tradition of "Sister Stella L", "Relasyon", and "Bata, Bata...Paano ka Ginawa?", but it is definitely an inspired one. In fact, no other actress could have pulled it off the way she did - marvelously, if I may say. - **Another view on "Anak" The Reviewer by Butch Francisco People's Journal - 26 May 2000**



- Star Awards
- Gawad Sineng-Sine
- PASADO
- Official Philippine Entry to the 73rd Academy Awards Best Foreign Film
- P14 million opening gross earnings



Oh yeah, we've had `mother' role figures in showbiz via the late Ms. Rita Gomez, the original bad girl, or her `arch rival' Ms. Celia Rodriguez. Then there's Mother Lily, the matriarch of Regal studios. There is the protective Amalia Fuentes, who at daughter Liezl's prime, was the best known mother/actress of the Philippines. At one time, Nora Aunor was a picture of a happy family with real son Ian De Leon and a battalion of adopted children who appeared on movies together with either Christopher De Leon or Tirso Cruz as father figures. In films, some of Nora's most memorable characters are mothers: Bulaklak sa City Jail, Andrea, and Pacita Madrigal. But no one is as beloved a Mother Figure than the QueenStar, Ms. Vilma Santos. Remember the "love you Lucky!" days when, after a grueling VIP/Vilma live show, mother Vi would say those endearing words to her son waiting at home? Those were the most famous greetings that were heard every Friday, from Luzon to Mindanao, year after year. "I love you, Lucky!" The words say it all, from a loving, dotting, responsible mother. At the height of her TV (top rating Vilma!) and movie career (prime movie roles and box-office triumphs in the 90s), Vilma had a tough choice: to give new husband Sen. Ralph Recto a child. In her farewell Vilma! show, she tearfully said goodbye to fame and fortune, and her fans, to give way to family/motherhood. Why even megastar Sharon Cuneta was all praises to the Real Queen for the tough but wise decision she ever made. No success in life can ever replace a failed family. Even then, Ms. Vilma Santos was admirable for her brave, smart decisions. Risking her career, even her life, she went through a most delicate pregnancy the Philippines had been a voyeur to. She had to be literally carried to the bathroom in order not to bleed and lose the baby. What a sacrifice from a mother and wife. And how God blessed her with a new son, Ryan Christopher Recto. And oh how avid fan Sharon Cuneta followed in her idol's footsteps. Two great mothers. Two great superstars. (When they appear in a film 2gether? As to films, no other actress has essayed a gamut of credible mother

roles, than Vilma Santos.

Broken Marriage – failure as a wife, but NEVER as a mother. Aida Macaraeg. – her poignant moments with her son, unforgettable. Lino Brocka could not have found a better Aida.

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

Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-Ibig? – as a `surrogate' mother to Val (Tonton Gutierrez). Remember the lines, "si Val, si Vall"? Best picture!

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

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

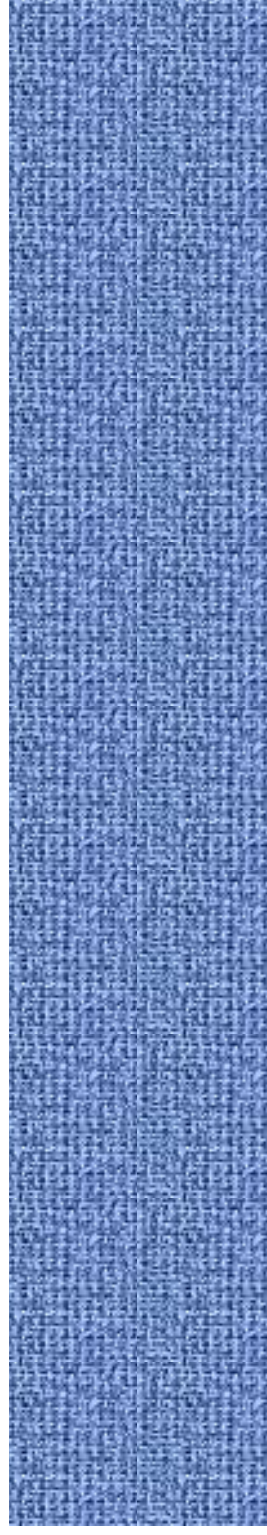
As Josie in **Anak** – wa na ko say. BOW! WOW! POW! PMPC Star, PASADO and CMMMA did the right thing. Awards! Oscar foreign language film entry.

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

Lilia (**Mano Po 3**) – "pati ba ikaw iiwan mo ako – sabagay, sanay na ako ng iniwan?" A well written role for Vilma (si Nestor Torre ulit, oh!) as mother, wife, abandoned girlfriend, anti-crime crusader. The envelope, please!

Kayo, may maidadagdag pa ba kayo? Vilma Santos has done it all. Been there, done that.

As for me, Vilma's best mother role is that of being mother to sons Lucky and Ryan, and to her constituents in Lipa city who voted her, in a landslide, three times, for being an excellent, incomparable INA NG LIPA. Bow! HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, MAYOR VILMA SANTOS-RECTO!



INA AT ANAK, OFWS

Tawagin nyo na lang akong Rante. Florante Villalobos Ancheta ang buong pangalan at tubong Lemery, Batangas. Pangalawa ako sa anim na magkakapatid. Mahirap lang kami noon, mekaniko ang aking ama at sa bahay lang ang aking ina. Sa tindi ng hirap ng buhay, nagkasakit ang aking ama dahil sa kasipagan nyang magtrabaho simula umaga hanggang gabi upang sa ganoon ay may maipantustos siya sa aming mga pangangailangan. At yung kasipagan na yon ang siyang gumupo sa malakas niyang pangangatawan. Nuong magkasakit ang tatay ko ay nuon naisipan ng nanay ko ang maghanap ng aming ikabubuhay. Pero ano ang makikitang trabaho ng isang ina na elementary lang ang natapos at nakapag-asawa kaagad sa edad na kinse anyos. Isa lang ang pwede at iyon ay ang pagiging domestic helper sa ibang bansa.

December 13, 1980, araw ng Linggo ang schedule ng flight niya papuntang Saudi Arabia, araw naman ng Sabado ng hapon binawian ng buhay ang aking ama. Ito na yata ang pinakamasakit na dagok sa buhay namin. Kung masakit sa akin, mas masakit sa aking ina ang mga pangyayari. Wala pang 24 oras na namamatay ang aking ama ay ipinalibing na namin siya, Linggo ng umaga noon. Linggo ng tanghali kailangan eh nasa airport (MIA) na ang inay dahil alas-tres ng hapon ang flight niya. Kaming anim na magkakapatid ang naghatid sa kanya sa airport.

Matapos ang kanyang mga tagubilin sa amin ay isa-isa niya kaming inakap nang mahigpit tapos nagiretso na para sa isang ina na hindi makapiling ang kanyang mga anak? Doon ko siya hinangaan, sa tibay ng kanyang dibdib. Naging praktikal lang siya at wala siyang nasa isip kundi ang mabigyan kami ng magandang kinabukasan. 16 na taon pa lang ako ng dumating ang ita-hedyang ito sa aming buhay. Nasa kolehiyo ako noon sa Batangas City at kumuha ng kursong Commerce. Yung kuya Edgar ko ay nagtatrabaho na

noon kaya lang ay pa-ekstra-ekstra lang sa NAWASA. Ang sweldo niya ay kulang pa sa kanyang bisyo sa katawan, may pagkaireresponsible siya.

Kaya ako bale ang tumayong ama't ina sa bahay namin. Hindi birong hirap ang dinanas ko. Napilitan akong magcommute araw-araw. Tuwing umaga matapos ayusin ang gamit ng mga kapatid ko sa iskwela (2 ang nasa high school: si Jojo at si Alvin, 2 ang nasa elementary: si Lorie at si Bong) at matapos maibigay ang mga baon nila, ako naman ang magbibiyahen papuntang iskwela sa Batangas City.

Halos kulang-kulang isang oras din ang biyahe, madlikabok at sira-sira pa ang kaisada noong panahong iyon. Magtataksilim na kung umuwi ako ng bahay galing iskwela. Bugbog ang katawan ko sa biyahe araw-araw... Kesa tumira sa boarding house eh mas pinili ko ang mag-commute para makasama ko ang mga kapatid ko at may mag-asikaso sa kamila. Limang araw na bugbog ang katawan sa pagod sa biyahe at pagpasok sa iskwela.

Dalawang araw naman ay para sa paglalaba ng mga uniforms ng mga kapatid ko at saka pamamalanisa. Hindi ako nahihiyang makita ng mga kapitbahay ko na kalalaki kong tao eh naglalaba, namamalengke, nagluluto at nagpaplanisa. Kung araw naman ng Linggo naman ay nagsa-sakristan ako sa parokya ng Lemery. At sa bakanteng oras ko ako nag-aaral at nangangarap na sana ay makaraos na kami sa kahirapan at guminhawa nawa ang aming pamumuhay.

Vilma Santos' 5 Ultimate Mother Roles

by Rendt Viray

Five of the most memorable roles that Vilma Santos has done in the past were the mother roles. Whether the liberated career woman or a poor hard working domestic helper in Hongkong, Vilma has given us the ultimate mother roles, one that has to sacrifice their own happiness for the sake of their children. All these roles conveyed their undying, unconditional love for their children. Below are Vilma Santos' ultimate mother roles (at least in our opinion). These films gave us laughter, tears, courage, and hope that life will be brighter for our children...



1. Bata Bata Paano Ka Ginawa (1998) - Lea's Story

What's the critics said: "Ngayon, pagkaraan ng halos 20 taon, sa wakas, mayroon na namang pelikulang pambabae, na para rin sa kalalalahan- ang Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa? Ang sine ay batay sa nobela ni Lualhati Bautista, na sinulat din ng awtor para sa sine, at dinirek ni Chito Rono. Nakakagulat din na nagawa at all ang sine. congrats sa Star Cinema, ang prodyuser. Ang nobela mismo'y bomba na noong una itong inilimbag. Maraming nagkagusto, maraming na-shock. Ang kuwento ay tungkol kay Lea Bustamante, isang ina, asawa, aktibista, Filipina, isang superwoman. Marami ang karanasan sa buhay si Lea na nakakatulong sa kanyang pagkamulat at sa kanyang pagdadala ng mga krisis sa personal na buhay at sa lipunan. Habang tinutulungan niya ang sarili niya'y tinutulungan din niya ang iba pang mga babae na biktima ng pang-aabuso. Ang Bata, Bata... higit sa lahat, ay tungkol sa relasyon ng mga magulang at mga anak. Ang kinabukasan ay para sa mga bata, at kung hindi aagapan ang wastong pag-iisip ng mga bata habang bata pa sila, huli na bago mamalayan nila na hindi pala sila preparado at hindi kayang harapin ang realidad. Napakaraming pangayari at diyologo na magaganda sa nobela na nawala sa pelikula. Ayon kay Lualhati, pinili lamang niya ang cinematic at ang maddaling maintindihan ng manonood. Kinailangan ding igstian ang orihinal na kuwento para magkasya sa dalawang oras. Pero okey ang pagkakaigsi. Nakapanghinayang, pero hindi nabawasan ang kagan-dahan ng istorya. Maraming nakakatuwang eksena at linya. Nang ipalabas ang pelikula sa University of the Philippines Film Center, malakas ang tawanan at matunog ang palakpakan mula umpisa hanggang katapusan ng palabas. Pambihirang mangyari iyon. Marami rin ang nagsabing panonoorin nila uli ang Bata, Bata... sa sinehan. Sa tingin ko, sa Bata, Bata... pinakamagaling si Vilma Santos. Sa dami ng kanyang award, may ibubuga pa pala siya. Iba ang aktng niya rito. Sa tulong ni Chito Rono, mlawak din ang ipinalabas na emusyon. Halatang feel na feel ni Vilma Santos ang kanyang papel dahil, gaya ng karakter ni Lea Bustamante, dalawa ang anak ni Vilma

Achievements

- Film Desk of the Young Critics Circle
- Gawad URIAN
- Star Awards
- Film Academy of the Phils.
- Gawad Sineng-Sine
- PASADO Awards
- Jolo Critics Awards
- Brussels International Film Festival



NENA ALACIO - Parehaong pang light ang dating.

VAN MANALO - Wala pwede magpataab kay Vilma! Pwede ba?

NAR SANTANDER - Vilma.

BONG MORI - I haven't seen MMK last night. I could easily watch it in d bar, but we had a very selective customers. If Mader Time change me from shrieking fan 2 a silent fan, Mader Destiny brutally made me 2 just a plain businessman with no time 4 showbiz (choz). Sana man lang gradual changes from fleeting butterfly 2 social butterfly, not from caterpillar 2 ananda. (Chairing). Will it be another laurel 4 Vi? is d performance trully exceptional that could match relasyon, burlesk queen, dolzura and ang galing galing mo mis. jones?

BOBBY BANTILING - Siempre c Ate Vi although mahusay ca maja, sa trailer pa lang yung umiyak c Vi, umiiyak din me, kainis nga bitin next week pa uli.

FLAVIANO LIRIO - Di makakaarte c maja kung walang isang Vilma Santos. walang kupas.

MELCHOR BAUTISTA - Ang tindi ni super Ate Vi! Palalamunin ng alikabok ang makakalaban. Kukurutin ko ang Ate Vi na yan! Grabeeee!

ED PIANO - Far superior naman acting ni Vi: consistent, textured, more matured, ibang level, maraming bagong ipinakita, confident but controlled. C maja, charming, refreshing. Surprisingly, she delivered credible acting. Mahirap yung role, needs research. Duda lang ako sa ilang scenes kung ganun talaga ang may cerebral paissy, parang female version ni bentot ang pagkadeliver.

JEAN DOLOR - Yung nanood dito sa amin c maja ang pinuri. Kc nga iba ang role nya. Kahit ako humanga sa kanya. Nang makita ko cya sa homeboy di ko akataing ganoon cya kahusay. Cguro nga dahil may dugo cyang salvador. Pero magaling din c vi at saka next week pa. Naroon nga ang highlights. Naiyak ako nung cla ni erich at ricky.

So, ayang ang mga reaksiyon ng mga nanood kagabi sa MMK Regalo episode Part 1. Para sa akin, kanya kanyang opinyon lang naman yan at dapat nating irespeto, pareho silang magaling pero si VILMA ay pang-Best Actress at si Maja ay pang-Best Supporting Actress lang kasi ang istorya talaga ay nakasentro kay Vi at saka sa lahat ng scenes ay andun sya. Yun lang. Hanggang sa susunod..... **From: Alfonso Valencia 04 May 2006**

Diyan umiikot ang aking mundo sa loob ng isang linggo.

Unang sweldo ni Inay ay pinadala kaagad sa amin. Mahahabang sulatan at tawagan sa telepono upang mairaos ang pangungulila sa isa't isa. Hanggang sa lumipas ang mga taon at ako'y nakatapos ng kolehiyo. Hindi umuwi si Inay sa 2 taon niyang kontrata bagkus ay nag-extend siya ng dalawa pang taon at nag-balikbayan siya sa para sa aking graduation.

Proud ako para sa kanya na kanit isang domestic helper eto at umakyat siya sa entablado para igawad ang medalya ng karangalan sa pagtapos ko bilang cum laude. Proud na proud din si Inay sa akin dahil sa halip na mapabayaang ko ang aking pag-aaral dahil sa pag-aasikaso ko sa mga kapatid ko eh nakatapos pa ako at nagkamit ng karangalan.

Muli ay umalis siya patungong Germany upang doon naman mamasukan bilang baby sitter. Heto naman ako at ganap ng isang professional ay katulong na niya sa pagbuhay sa aking mga kapatid. Lumipas ang panahon at sumapit ang taong 1990 noong maisipan kong mag-abroad din. Sa kabutihang palad ay natanggap ako sa Saudi Aramco bilang isang accountant. Maganda ang trabaho ko at malaki ang sweldo. Makalipas ang apat na taon ay nakapagpatayo ako ng bahay. Yung bahay namin na dati ay isang maliit at halos hindi na makita sa gitna ng kalye dahil nasa likuran iyon at natatakpan ng isang malaking bahay, pero ngayon ay kitang-kita mo kahit nasa malayo ka na dahil 3-storey na bahay ang aking ipinatayo. Para bagang isang kabute na biglang umusbong sa kinalalagan. Iyon ang dream house ko na matagal ko ng

pinapangarap at nabigyan naman ng katuparan. Diyan ako hinangaan ng mga kapitbahay sa lugal namin at nagdarasal sila na sana paglaki ng kaniang mga anak ay maging katulad ko rin sila. Napakasarap pakinggan ng mga katagang iyon.

At ngayong taong 2000 ay sampung taon na ako rito sa Saudi Aramco. Nasa Germany pa rin ang Inay ko at nagtrabaho sa edad na 54. Si Kuya Edgar ay may 3 anak na. Si Alvin ay may 2 anak na. Si Lorie ay may 4 na anak na.

Ito ang buhay na naranasan ko. Ang magkaroon ng isang OFW sa miyembro ng pamilya iyon ang Inay ko at ang maranasan naman ang maging isa ring OFW at iyon ay walang iba kundi ako.

Editor's note: This is a new section dedicated to all Vilmanians, who would like to share their personal stories. Stories that may not be related to Ate Vi. When we conceptualized this section, by mere coincidence Rante Acheta submitted this award winning article. An article about his life in Saudi Arabia and his Family. Inspired by Ate Vi's movie "Anak," "Ina at Anak, OFWs" was cited as one of the best in the Star Cinema's essay writing contest in year 2000 - mpl.



<http://www.geocities.com/ofwpublication/ffc.html>

Saudi-based OFWs among essay-writing contest winners

Six Saudi-based OFWs were among the winners in the recently concluded essay-writing contest of the Anak: Buhay OFW website of ABS CBN.

Marlon Mesina grabbed the major prize in the "Buhay OFW" category along with two other OFWs in Singapore and Hong Kong. In the "Bida Ngayon" category, Fred Arzobal was one of three major winners. Mesina's entry was entitled "Palay sa Disyerto," while Arzobal's was "Finding Good Fortune Overseas."

Aside from Mesina and Arzobal, four other KSA OFWs made it as consolation prize winners. They were Norberto Rondario (Heroes are Forever), Federico Rae Nagtalong (Homecoming), **Rante Ancheta (Ina at Anak, OFWs)** and Emar Bayani Raw (Time Stood Still Where Peace Seems to be Endless).

{ cover story }



VILMA, ALL-SEASONS MOM

by Willie Fernandez

Probably, one of the busiest women on this planet, Ate Vi gives Darna, tough fight when it comes to accomplishing super-human feat. She is able to juggle three careers very well and smoothly. She is a well respected, much - admired actress, a very efficient and very effective public servant, and a very wonderful mom, too, on top of all that. Caring for her sons, Luis and Ryan Christian and her constituents in Lipa City brings out the MOTHER in the Star for All Seasons. "I guess he most important thing in my life right now is being a mother, kahit ngayong mayor ako, kahit balik-balik, binebiyahe ko ang Lipa-Manila, Manila-Lipa para lang sa gabi makasama ko ang mga anak ko. Para may time akong patulugin si Christian and at the same time, I have time for Luis para kumustahin siya. Nagda-dialogue kami." Ate Vi relates.

In spite of being a full-time politician, Mayor Vi plays wife and mother everyday-to her senator-husband Ralph and her boys Luis and Ryan Christian. Luis at 23 is graduating this year with a Hotel and Restaurant Management course and has been pursuing a career on television and modeling for two years already. Her second son, Ryan Christian is still in the grade school at La Salle where he made it to the Top 5. He also got a few medals last year in the oratorical contest. He doesn't want the tag, Mama's boy. Ate Vi allowed Christian to appear in sitcom Okay, Fine Whatever and

Goin Bulliit. Ate Vi gives her weekends to her family. Politics is a demanding calling but she makes it a point to spend Saturday and Sunday with her son, Christian. There is such thing as "quality time". "Weekends are really sacred for us. No one can disturb us, except kung talagang emergency. We eat outside, we go swimming, watch TV in the house together." she says. As a mother, Ate Vi is very proud of her son, Luis' recent achievements in the field of entertainment. But her biggest sacrifice as a mother-and for this she earned my

undying respect - was when she risked her career to give birth to Ryan Christian. Ate Vi was then hosting her top rated musical variety show on GMA-7, VILMA. But in her desire to give Ralph their own child, she resigned to rest and get pregnant. She had a difficult pregnancy and had to have complete bed rest so as not to lose the baby. On March 25,1996, she gave birth to Ryan Christian. Her greatest fear as a mother is the time when her sons must leave home to live their own lives and have their own families. "Sana they won't forget me. I'm a liberal mom and I understand na may sarili silang buhay. I won't meddle in their private lives pero kailangan nandoon pa rin ang respeto nila sa akin bilang nanay nila." Ate Vi added. Ofcourse, Ate Vi manages to be the mistress of the manor, the homemaker. She has the time still to choose the menu for the day. "Isa lang ang alam niyang lutuin, meal-in-one. Kapag may nakikita siyang nagluluto, tinatanging niya kung paano ito ginagawa. She is interested in cooking, she just doesn't have time to learn." Ate Emelyn relates. As a movie star - politician, Lipa City Mayor and Star for All Seasons Vilma Santos marks her golden year, her 43rd year in show business and her first decade in politics. Ate Vi is enjoying her status as a mother, wife and a woman. "Now, I know what they mean when people would say

"Her greatest fear as a mother is the time when her sons must leave home to live their own lives and have their own families"

{ e-group posted message }

Vilma Santos Versus Maja Salvador

Nag-text ako kaninang umaga sa mga Vilmanians at mga close friends ko kung sino sa tingin nila ang mas mahusay kina Ms. Vilma Santos at Maja Salvador sa MMK Regalo episode part one. Eto ang mga sagot nila.....

PONTI REYES - May mga eksena taken from Ipagpatawad, Anak, Bata, Dolzura at Dekada. No doubt, even simple scene, ate vi shines. Mas bigat role ni Maja.

NELVIN REA - C Vi. Bakit?

WILLIE FERNANDEZ - D consistent c maja. she looks sin2 sin2 at a may sakit. Galing Ate Vi dun umiinom ng beer, seducing ricky, dance, laugh, cried and kiss ricky, different emotions.

MANNY NAVA - C maja kc sawa ka na kay ate vi un ang totoo.

RENE NOVISTEROS - Si VILMA ang mas magaling para sa akin, Ai! In fairness hanga rin ako kay Maja. Baguhan pa lang sya pero very effective ang role nya. Parang totoo talaga, ryt? I really like the story! Powerful pa rin performance ni ate Vi! Unang eksena pa lang kagabi, tumulo na agad ang luha ko. Ate Vi is really the Best Actress! Ai, sulit ba ang panonood mo ng MMK kagabi? Sobrang LUPEET ang acting ni ate vi! Parang vintage wine, habang tumatagal lalong gumagaling. Physically demanding ang role ni maja but ate vi shines in every scene. Simple man ito. Ate Vi delivers a gamot of emotions.

JONATHAN MANGAOANG - Equally gud but vi is d lead star-rer. Parang Vi-Serena sa bata2, walang itulak kabigin.

RONNIE GAN - Si Ate Vi of course. Sa first part ang dami nyang highlights. Super galing si Vi. Maja is good in some scenes. How's d rating? Malakas ba?

NOEL DE GUZMAN - Cyempre para sa akin c vilma pa din. Mabi-gat nga lang ang role ni maja dahil sa abnormal person cya at sa kanya umilikot at nakasentro ang story, pero nangingibabaw pa rin ang acting ni vilma. Agree Ai?

ARIEL CUIZON - Hindi pa naman buo yung movie. Pero para sa akin, c Vi, dahil sa sa kanya nakasentro yung story, kung paano

dahin ng isang ina ang kalbanyo at pang-unawa na nararam-daman nya sa pagkakaroon ng isang anak na may kapan-sanan, although magaling din c maja pero l?3 na sya ng movie lumabas. Ano sa palagay mo?

OBET SAPIN - Al naman kailangan pa bang imemorize yan. He he! Syempre si Maja, chating! C Ate Vi of course. D nga consistent c maja. Walang tatalo sa bravura acting ni ate vi.

CESAR SANTIAGO - Cyempre c Ate Vi! Kahit c negra pa un di nila kayang talunin c Vi. Lalo cyang gumagaling.

RUBEN LITAN - Ay ang hirap sagutin hahahaha kailangan pa bang imemorize yan hahaha grabe ang galing ni ate vi.

ORLY MALONZO - Di dapat naman magcompare, ang layo nila, pareho clang magaling. Pero syempre, Vilma pa rin.

VER TOLENTINO - C Ate Vi. Lalo na sa kasunod?

ERIC NADURATA - Physically challenging ang role ni maja and she lived up 2 it, but Ate Vi's role has a wider range of emotions and she delivered magnificently.

JAY RIFAREAL - Si Ate Vi pa rin kasi nararamdaman hanggang buto ang hirap at pasakit nya bilang isang ina sa telesine. Mat-indi ang mga atake nya dito. Very consistent si maja in fairness. May kinabukasan sa showbiz.

JOJO LIM - Ciempre c Vilma, sentro ng story c april pero full length exposure c Vi, cya ang nagkuento ng buhay at dami nyang highlights, lalo pa sa 2nd half ng story, but maja is very good magaling cya.

JUNE SISON - Masangat ang aktng ni Ate Vi she will move u to tears with her scenes and how she delivers her dialogues but i can't say less about maja, she is a revelation.

PAOLO SALAS - Ano bang klaseng tanong yan? My God! ur comparing Ate Vi with a newbie? Nxt question pls. CLARISSE PILANDE - C Ate Vi but of course. pero in fairness may future talaga c maja.

TED COLEGIO - Hay naku d ako nakapanood kc sira ang tv ko, d ko alam kung sino nakasira. Kc d b may kasama ako 2 na pinsan ko! Pagbukas ko kagabi wala lumalabas! Kainis!

Turn to next page

{ e-group posted message } “Ate Vi, pwede na akong mamatay”

This was said at least three times by long time Vilma followers who have seen her for the first time at last Saturdays' Vilma fans day. To some, this may sound morbid but it is really a confirmation of their happiness to see her face-to-face and have the chance to ask her the questions that they have always wanted to ask. The entire second floor of the restaurant was already filled with Vilmanians by 11 am. We had our lunch a few minutes before noon. The advance party of ate Vi, composed of ate Aida, and her staff in Lipa like Winnie, Weng, Dong and Carding arrived before noon. Ate Vi, who came with sister, ate Emelyn, arrived at about 1:30 pm. We opened the program with a prayer followed by an opening remark by Willie Fernandez. VSSI Pres. Jojo Lim followed with his reports about the group. Yours truly followed with our special projects. I mentioned all the four yahoo groups and the groups' moderators. (Lawrence, we miss you. I told ate Vi that you're working for a call center at nasa night shift ka kaya hindi ka naka-attend. Hope you can give me your new number. Kaya pala wala kang reply sa texts naming ni Jojo). I also mentioned about John/AA's book drive project and the drop off points around the world. I also thank ate Vi in behalf of all the yahoo group members. I told her that her messages means a lot to all of us, on which she replied that she enjoyed reading all our postings. She even mentioned the names of those who post often. She also said that she learns of the latest news on the postings like the Loren interview on Lea Sa-longa. O di ba, talagang nagbabasa siya? I also mentioned to ate Vi how glad we all are that we made the right choice in choosing her as our fave. June Sison came next and he made a roll call on all the yahoo group members ending with a special message from Henry Llaneza. Ate Vi talked next. She said that she finished the MMK episode the day before. It's going to be aired as MMK's Mothers Day offering. She won't be doing Flores de Mara afterall. A new script about a mother with a gay son to be played by John Lloyd Cruz is being readied for a September play date.

Kasama rin sa movie ang magaling na child actress na si Sharlene San Pedro, si Gigi ng "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit" at ang nag-i-impersonate kay Korina Sanchez as Korina K. Kanchez sa "Going Bullit". Shooting will start by May. Hopefully. Hehehe... Ate Vi also said the bad news that she may not be able to make the stage play for CCP. CCP wants her to rehearse 3 days a week for two months and their play date is August, kaya mukhang hindi ito magagawa ni ate Vi sa ngayon, dahil bukod sa film niya sa Star Cinema, pupunta pa siya sa US for the tribute. Ate Vi also said that she's very happy to see that her vilmanians have grown up. Sumasabay na rin sa mga community works. She also answered questions from the vilmanians. One asked if she has copies of her Vilma! Shows. Sabi ni ate Vi, na kay Chit Guerrero ang mga ito, I-request raw niya kay Chit na mabigyan tayo ng copies kahit iyong mga pabulosang opening numbers lang niya, pagbalik niya from abroad. Another one, si Chef Nar, asked about her old LPs and songs. Unfortunately, wala raw kasing royalty ang mga artists dito sa Pilipinas kaya wala silang control sa mga ito. She was asked by Liam who among her leading men she misses most to work with, aside from Christopher de Leon. Sina Dindo Fernando ("A very good actor at kasundo ko talagang ka-trabaho") and Gabby Concepcion ("Isang napakagaling na character actor at ninong siya ni Ryan.") We didn't know na meron patlang inihanda na raffle. Ang unang nabunot ni ate Vi ay ang pangalan ni June Sison na nanalo ng food warmer plus P500. Ako po naman ay nanalo ng Black & Decker flat iron. Batiin nating lahat si Alfons Al Valencia na nanalo ng personal ref. Halos lahat ay nabunot ang pangalan at nakapag-uwi ng regalo o kaya ay cash. Tunay ngang super saya ng araw na iyon. I ended my report by saying "thank you ate Vi for being a good role model for all of us. Mamamatay ako at muling mabubuhay, pero vilmanian pa rin." This was met by a warm applause of approval by the vilmanians present. I'm sure tayo dito sa egroup ganun din, di ba? Picture taking was made by tables para hindi magulo. Attached ay ang pic namin sa table namin with ate Vi. (See our Gallery sections for the pictures -mp) **From: Eric Nadurata,**

Sun, 19 Mar 2006

iba ang babae. May mga bagay na magagaw nila better. I like my work as the lady mayor of Lipa City. I feel that people come to me because I am approachable. Mas may puso. May family-oriented." Kapag tao na kasi ang nagdidikta ay walang matigas na puso ng politiko na hindi lumalambot, kahit pa gusto na niyang mamahinga ay mas magiging malakas pa rin ang kaway ng publiko at pagseserbisyo. Ang boses ng mayoryang taga-Batangas na ang nagsasabing kay Mayor Vi para tumakbong gobernador ng kaniyang probinsiya. Nakikiusap ang mga ito na napa-ganda at napaangat na niya ang estado ng Lipa City, kaya kung maadiri ay ang mas malaking responsibilidad naman bilang gobernador ang kanyang pasukin. "Of course, I'd like to thank them for the trust. Ang sarap-sarap marinig ang mga papuri at pagpapalakas nila ng loob sa akin to run for a higher post as governor. Mga religious groups tulad ng Iglesia ni Kristo, mga pari at mga madre na ang naghikayat sa akin na tumakbong governor. Sila daw ang bahala sa akin. Pero wala pa talaga akong desisyon o political agenda sa ngayon. Marami pa akong mga proyekto na dapat pagtuunan ng pansin at tapusin sa king huling termino." paliwanag ng walang kupas pa ring aktres nung fans day na ginanap sa Max's Resto sa Eastwood, Libis Quezon City. Antimano naman na inamin ng buhiting Ina ng Bayan ng Lipa that being a mayor of a city and a governor of a province were two differ-

But over above the scope of responsibilities na nakaakibat nun, Ate Vi believes that it's not the end of the road para maisakatuparan niya ang marami pa niyang plano para sa siyudad na kanyang sinasakupan. On top of that, "maramo!" ang mga Lipen-ayaw nilang I-focus ni Ate Vi ang kanyang panahon sa buong Batangas. Kunsabagay, hindi natim masisi ang mga kababayan ni Ate Vi (although dapat din naman nilang hayaan na i-expand ng kaniyang mayor ang political horizon nito, no!). Saksi kami sa mga testimonials ng mga constituents ng aktres-politiko kun paanong naisakatuparan ni Mayor Vi na mailagay sa Top Ten Cities of the Philippines ang bayag similangan ng kanyang mahal na espaso na si Senator Ralph Recto, ang Lipa City. As in every part of the universe, hindi naman totally mae-eliminate ang drug problem, but to Ate Vi's credit, since she became a mayor noong unang panunungkulan pa lang niya, drug menace has dropped considerably. O, di ba, tunay ngang Ina ng mga Kabataan sa Lipa si Mayor Vi. During her regular barangay visits, karaniwan nang tinatanong ni Mayor Vi kung ano ang mga problema ng mga ito- regardless kung kapanalig niya o hindi ang kanyang kausap. Kitang-kita rin namin 'yon kung paanong hindi maipinta ang mga ngiti ng mga empleyado ng City Hall -they all want back in the position. Ang problema nga lang, huling termino na ito ng buhiting Ina ng Lipa City, Mayor Vilma Santos. Forty-three years in showbiz, the "Burlesk Queen", Bobot's love team, Lucky's and Ryan's mom, awarded time and again, Senator Ralph's dear wife, muse of Lipa City, the Queenstar and Star for All Seasons, Mayor Doctor Vilma Santos has really come a

long, long way. There is no end to learning. Ate Vi points out. She is already vocal about not resting on her laurels. She attributes her successes to a lot of hard work and focus. Ate Vi is the best example of a popular movie star whose love life and career are both flourishing well, and she has no one to thank but the Lord for the graces she and her family continue to receive from Him. Despite her busy schedule, Ate Vi's values and priorities remain sure and steadfast. Indeed, that is what a true Star for All Seasons is all about.





ASAP (April 2006)

Ate Vi joined the ASAP staff and fans for Luis Manzano's surprise birthday Celebration, fresh from her European and American vacations.



VSSI Fans Day (March 2006)

Fans Day with our beloved Ate Vi brought joy and laughter for Vilmanians!



D'LUCKY ONES PREMIERE NIGHT (April 2006)

With the real Lucky present, Vilmanians had a blast during the premiere night of the movie, "D'Lucky Ones", a tribute film to the real superstar of any seasons, Ms. Vilma Santos Recto!

