

Spanish Embassy to hold concert for Enrique Granados

THE Embassy of Spain in the Philippines and Instituto Cervantes de Manila, in collaboration with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, is set to offer a special concert of piano music and art songs.

Manila-born soprano Andión Fernández and Spanish musician Alberto Urroz will take center



■ Manila-born soprano Andión Fernández

and composer with a uniquely Spanish style.

Manila joins other music-loving cities around the world in doing homage to Granados which comes a hundred years after the artist drowned in the English Channel while attempting in vain to save his wife—tragic casualties of the unrestricted submarine attacks of the First World War.

The concert explores three aspects of Granados' diverse oeuvre for piano, which go far beyond the narrow stereotypes of Spanish music only too familiar in most countries.

Granados' love of old Spanish music is exemplified in his re-composition of Domenico Scarlatti's G major harpsichord sonata, K 520. The ballad *El amor y la muerte* from the monumental



■ Spanish musician Alberto Urroz

piano suite *Goyescas* reveals the profound inspiration Granados drew from Spanish art and culture. Finally, the varied faces of Spanish folk music are represented in three



■ Enrique Granados is a pianist and composer with a uniquely Spanish style

of his colorful *Danzas españolas*.

An unusual but fitting tribute to Granados is offered by the Berlin-based Filipino composer Jeffrey Ching and as following in the Spanish artist's footsteps, he adds his own Sonata Domenica to the 'Scarlattiana' tradition that Granados began. The work is dedicated to Alberto Urroz, who will be giving its world premiere at this concert.

The second half of the program consists of three highly

individual song cycles that illustrate once again the extreme contrasts to be found among Spanish composers: Granados' *Tonadillas en estilo antiguo*, Mompou's *Combat del somní*, and De Falla's well-known *Siete canciones populares españolas*.

Entrance is free on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information please log on to Instituto Cervantes' Facebook page www.facebook.com/InstitutoCervantesManila.



CANADIAN ENVOY VISITS DOLE SECRETARY Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello 3rd (right) receives a token of appreciation from Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Neil Reeder during the latter's courtesy call at the Office of the Secretary in Intramuros, Manila. PHOTO BY JOMAR LAGMAY, LCO

JDS Fellows Batch 14 to be sent off to Japan

MAKOTO IYORI, the Embassy of Japan's Minister for Economic Affairs led the send-off ceremony for the 14th batch of Fellows of the project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid (JDS) at Astoria Plaza in Pasig City.

Also in attendance at the ceremony on August 4 were Deputy Director General of National Economic and Development Authority Rolando Tungpalan, and other representatives from different government agencies in the Philippines.

The JDS project is a scholarship project financed by the government of Japan through its Official Development Assistance - Grant Aid Program. The aim of the project is to enhance the JDS Fellows' expertise in their respective fields, such as financial reform, investment and SME promotion policy; capacity development of government officials; transportation infrastructure and; regional development administrative in Mindanao and or support for establishment of Bangsamoro autonomous government.

The project also aims to help build a pool of future Filipino leaders from various governmental institutions as well as non-government organizations located in Mindanao region. The JDS Fellows are expected to contribute to the country's overall socio-economic development by returning to and working in the Philippines.

A total of 20 persons comprise the 14th batch of JDS Fellows from the Philippines. The Philippines have a total of 299 JDS Fellows up to this date, including the said batch.

Belonging Organizations of 14th batch JDS Fellows are:

- * National Economic and Development Authority (including regional offices)
- * Philippine Statistic Authority
- * Department of Health - Regional Office 8
- * Commission on Population - Regional Office 5
- * Metropolitan Manila Development Authority
- * Department of Public Works and Highways - Regional Office 1
- * Sugar Regulatory Administration, an attached agency of Department of Agriculture
- * Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, an attached agency of Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- * Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas - ARMM Office
- * Development Bank of the Philippines (including Regional Office 11)
- * Office of the Ombudsman (including Regional Office 11)
- * Commission on Audit - Regional Office 1
- * Adat-Betad Inc. (NGO)
- * United Youth for Peace and Development (NGO)

Accepting Universities in Japan are:

- * International University of Japan (Graduate School of International Relations, International Development Program)
 - * Kobe University (Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Special Course for Development Policy)
 - * International Christian University (School of Arts and Sciences, Public Policy and Social Research Program)
 - * Meiji University (Graduate School of Governance Studies, Governance Studies)
 - * Nagoya University (Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Nagoya University Global Environmental Leaders Program (NUGELP))
 - * National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (Graduate School of Policy Studies, One-Year Master's Program of Public Policy)
 - * Hiroshima University (Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation, Development Technology Course)
- This year's application period will begin soon. Young government officials and those who are engaged in Mindanao or Bangsamoro regional development are encouraged to apply.
- For more information, please visit <http://jds-scholarship.org/country/philippines/> or contact the JICE JDS Project Office in the Philippines: Tel (0)2-753-3261, E-mail: jds.philippines@jice.org



■ Send-off ceremony for the 14th batch of JDS fellows

Danish film 'Rosita' premiered at 12th Cinemalaya

DANISH film *Rosita*, in which acclaimed actress Mercedes Cabral plays the title role, had its Asian and Philippine premiere at the 12th Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival on August 13 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Cabral, who portrays a Filipina mail-order bride torn between an old man and his son, graced the film's screening, which is part of Cinemalaya's Indie Nation section. She is known for her remarkable roles in *Brillante Mendoza's* award-winning films *Serbis*, *Kinatay*, and *Thy Womb* before she won her first Best Actress award at the 2015 World Premieres Film Festival for Alvin Yapan's *An Kubo sa Kawayanan*.

It was Mendoza who recommended Cabral to Danish filmmaker Frederikke Aspöck when they met at the Marrakech Film Festival in Morocco. Aspöck eventually won Best Director for *Rosita* at the Moscow International Film Festival last year.

The female director broke into the international film festival scene when she bagged the Premier Prix de la Cinéfondation at the Cannes Film Festival in 2004 for her short film *Happy Now*. Aspöck's feature film debut *Labrador (Out Of Bounds)* also made the rounds of international film festivals and also got favorable nods from critics worldwide.

In *Rosita*, Cabral stars with internation-

ally recognized Danish actors Jens Albinus, who portrays the middle-aged widower Ulrik, and Mikkel Boe Følsgaard, who plays the role of his son Johannes, along with Julie Agnete Vang, Mads Riisom, Lise Baastrup, and Jacob Moth-Poulsen.

Since the story is set in a small fishing village in the northern tip of Denmark, Cabral and her manager Shandii Bacolod, also an independent filmmaker, stayed for two months in Copenhagen and the fishing town of Hirtshals, where adjustment to the weather became their major problem.

"It was winter when we went there for the shoot. It was snowing hard and we were able to experience how they shoot films in Denmark. They are very professional. They shot for eight hours a day. Sometimes, it would only take them six hours before packing up," Bacolod recounted.

Rosita, which premiered last year at Copenhagen in Denmark, is Cabral's third international project after working with celebrated South Korean filmmaker Park Chan-wook in the vampire thriller and Cannes Film Festival Jury Prize winner *Thirst* in 2009. She has since starred in the Kuwaiti drama series *Saq Al Bamboo (The Bamboo Stalk)* and will soon appear in another international production, *Tilt* by writer and director Samir Arabzadeh of Sweden.



■ Mercedes Cabral and Mikkel Boe Følsgaard in 'Rosita'

JICC calls Filipino HS students to join international film fest

THE Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC) of the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, in cooperation with the National Youth Commission (NYC), is now accepting entries for the Asian International Children's Film Festival 2016.

The Film Festival was launched to serve as a platform for creative interaction and cultural exchange among young filmmakers by allowing them to share their thoughts on certain universal topics through short films. This year, the festival will be focusing on the theme "Something I Dislike."

All Filipino high school students, except those who have already been to Japan as part of previous Asian International Children's Film Festivals, are encouraged to join and submit their own three-minute videos effectively exploring the theme of this year's festival. Deadline for submission of entries is on September 2.

The top three finalists from the Philippines

will be sent to Japan for the international leg of the competition to be held on November 26. All expenses to be incurred in relation to this event will be borne by the Government of Japan through the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS2016) Program.

The JENESYS2016 Program aims to strengthen international relations among the youths of Southeast Asia and Japan by facilitating various cultural and academic exchanges.

To join the competition, please download the official forms and guidelines from the Embassy of Japan website www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp.

For other inquiries, please call the Japan Information and Culture Center at 551-5710 local 4210 or 2313 or send an e-mail at kouhou@ma.mofa.go.jp. You may also direct your questions to the office of the National Youth Commission at info@nyc.gov.ph or call the number 416-2833.

Exclusive!

Aga Muhlach returns to ABS-CBN as judge in new reality show

PLUS: JaDine in Greece; Coco Martin's brother debuts in Cinemalaya entry

NOW ready for his much awaited return to the Kapamilya network, Aga Muhlach is finally back in ABS-CBN after a three-year stint in another network.

Aga was last seen in the sitcom *That's My Doc* before moving to TV5. The multi-awarded actor admitted he was looking forward to getting back to doing more quality projects with his return to his original home network.

Aga will be one of the judges along with Vice Ganda, Yeng Constantino and Sandara Park in the new ABS-CBN reality show, *Pinoy Boyband Superstar*.

Aga recently had a meeting with the people behind the upcoming new talent show and was accompanied by his manager Ethel Ramos. He was quick to accept the offer to be part of the show although there were apprehensions because of his weight gain. So his only request was that he be given enough time to lose weight.

And guess what? *The Voice Kids* mentor Lea Salonga was instrumental in convincing Aga

to take on the job.

"Lea called Aga and convinced him to accept the offer," says our source. Aga and Lea have been friends for more than two decades now.

Being one of the ultimate matinee idols during the '80s, Aga has continually proven to be a consistent box-office actor and his career has spanned more than three decades in showbiz already. With more than 60 movies under his belt, we can certainly expect Aga to focus on working hard on his road to a leaner physique. Lately, the talented actor has been sharing photos of him and wife Charlene jogging together and working out hard.

If plans push through, the 46-year-old actor's contract signing which marks his return to ABS-CBN will happen this week.



RIPPLES
ERIC JOHN SALUT

In their new teleserye *Till I Met You*, James Reid and Nadine Lustre play business partners in a wedding and events company. This time, part of the series takes place in Greece where fans can expect scenic and romantic locations that the European country is known for.

Director Antonette Jadaone and the production team flew ahead of the cast in order to do an ocular inspection of the locations for the show. Antonette was also joined by Dreamscape Business Unit Heads Julie Anne Benitez and Kylie Manalo Balagtas, writer Shugo Praico and executive producers Arnel Nacario and Marissa Kalaw.

During the trip, Jadine was joined by *Till I Met You* fellow cast members Carmina Villarroel, Angel Aquino, Zoren Legaspi and JC Santos where they wasted no time in shooting the important scenes.

"They arrived in the morning, had a few hours rest then started shooting scenes immediately. The first scenes were shot inside the Athens airport. Then on the second day they shot in the most popular spots in Athens," shares a Dreamscape insider.

After Athens, the group is set to fly to the Greek city of Santorini to shoot more scenes. Santorini was also the location of the 2008 Star Cinema film *For the First Time* starring KC Concepcion and Richard Gutierrez.

The only cast member of the show that was not able to join the cast was Pokwang due to a scheduling conflict. The talented comedienne had to do a show in two cities in the US which was set at the same time as the *Till I Met You* shoot in Greece. But Pokwang had already shot initial scenes for the show with Jadine in Subic prior to leaving for abroad. The cast of *TIMY* is expected to return to Manila on August 23.

Gauging from the pre promotions staged by Dreamscape, it looks like *Till I Met You* is going



■ Aga Muhlach with Lea Salonga (middle) and wife Charlene Gonzales

to be a major TV event for 2016. It was also revealed that *TIMY* will premiere on August 29 in ABS-CBN primetime block.

It definitely looks like good acting runs in the family. Currently making a name for himself in the industry is Ronwaldo Martin, the younger brother of television king Coco Martin. And just like his older brother, Ronwaldo is starting out by making a mark in the indie movie scene. The younger Martin admits he has always looked up to his Kuya Coco not just in terms of acting but also as a responsible member of their family.

As he makes his Cinemalaya debut this year with the film entry *Pamilya Ordinaryo*, Ronwaldo plays the role of a teenage parent who lives on the streets and resorts to stealing for the survival of his young family. During the gala premiere of the film, Coco Martin showed support by attending the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival gala night and could not hide his excitement how proud he was of Ronwaldo's performance and how he thinks his younger brother has the potential to surpass him when it comes to acting. The Ang Probinsyano actor also admitted to looking forward to working with his brother in the future.

For his independent film work, Ronwaldo has already received nominations for Best Actor in the 2015 MMFF New Wave category, Best Performer in Young Critics Circle, Best New Actor in the International Film-maker Film Festival London, and Rising Male Star Award at the 2016 Worldfest Houston International Film Festival.



■ Ronwaldo Martin



■ Nadine Lustre and James Reid flew to Greece for their new teleserye 'Till I Met You'



■ JaDine with 'TIMY' co-star JC Santos (right)

»globalspotlight



■ Darth Vader

'Star Wars' trailer teases return of Darth Vader

LOS ANGELES: The second and latest trailer for the hotly-anticipated *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* gave fans the first new footage of Darth Vader in more than a decade.

The 135-second teaser treated fans to a sweeping space-scapes, all manner of Imperial battleships, laser fire everywhere and a suitably portentous Forest Whitaker.

The highlight was undoubtedly a one-second cameo by a certain Dark Lord of the Sith in full villainous black regalia, his back to the camera, breathing like someone had just stamped on his inhaler.

It was the first glimpse of the character since 2005's *Revenge of the Sith*, and came at the climax of the clip.

Forbes magazine's film writer Scott Mendelson called it a "terrific piece of stand-alone entertainment as well as rock-solid marketing."

The year's *Star Wars* story, *Rogue One* is set just before *A New Hope*—the original film in the blockbuster series—and stars Felicity Jones

alongside Mads Mikkelsen and Whitaker.

It has not been revealed which actor has been hired for Vader's latest big screen outing, due to hit theaters in the United States on December 16.

The character was voiced in the original trilogy by James Earl Jones, now 85, while 81-year-old David Prowse donned the iconic cape and helmet.

The other Jone—Felicity—who was Oscar-nominated for her role opposite Eddie Redmayne in *The Theory of Everything*, plays rebel Jyn Erso, who has notched up a string of convictions for forgery, assault and theft.

She is sent on a mission to help investigate "a major weapons test"—better known as the Death Star in development—and find out how to destroy it.

Last year's *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* made more than \$2 billion worldwide, and analysts have backed *Rogue One* to dominate this year's box office.

AFP

Cory Vidanes, Malou Santos recognized globally as 'Filipinas of Distinction'

ABS-CBN Corporation's Chief Operating Officer of Broadcast Cory Vidanes and ABS-CBN Chief Operating Officer of Star Creatives Malou Santos have been selected as Most Influential Filipina Women in the World (Global FWN100™) by the Filipina Women's Network.

The Global FWN100 Award™ recognizes 100 women of Philippine ancestry who are changing the face of leadership in the global workplace, having reached status for outstanding work in their respective fields and are recognized for their achievement and contributions to society, mentorship and legacy. Vidanes and Santos were selected from an outstanding field of nominees from around the world.

Vidanes was selected under the Builders category. This award honors Filipina women for demonstrating exceptional business impact at a large workplace environment; displaying deep passion for a cause through collaborative initiatives or alliances on behalf of her own organization; and demonstrating high potential and skill with measurable results in the private sector or public sector. "Buildership" is about building better organizations or leading broken organizations to adjust, repair, and re-align.

Santos, on the other hand, was selected under the Founder and Pioneer award category. This award honors Filipina women in their capacities as the chief executive, president, executive director or founder of a company, community organization, non-profit, or busi-



■ Cory Vidanes

ness venture that they helped start, build or significantly grow. This award category is for the trailblazers who have marshaled resources and applied innovative practices, processes and/or technologies in a new and groundbreaking way to address significant business or organizational opportunity.

"The Global FWN100™ women are dynamic entrepreneurs, rising stars under age 35, practitioners, behind-the-scene leaders, community, government and corporate managers and executives who have moved through the ranks in large organizations, nonprofits, and government agencies. They are inspiring examples of women doing extraordinary work who will motivate our youth and future leaders," said Josephine Romero, chair of the Global FWN100™ Worldwide Search and Selection Committee.



■ Malou Santos

"They were selected based on the size and scope of their positions, influence in their industries and their communities, board affiliations and other leadership roles."

The Global FWN100 Award™ is a working recognition award with a meaningful purpose and FWN's 2020 Vision: a Filipina woman leader in every sector of the global economy by 2020. The awardees are asked to re-invent themselves by paying forward, mentoring a young Filipina woman and bring her to the Filipina Leadership Global Summit on August 21-24, 2016 in Cebu, Philippines at the Shangri-La Mactan.

"Cory Vidanes and Malou Santos are now partners in helping FWN develop the Filipina community's pipeline of qualified leaders to increase the odds that some will rise to the 'president'

position in all sectors of the global economy," added Marily Mondejar, FWN's founder & CEO. "We gather all these amazing women at the Filipina Summit to inspire each other and create synergy. We interview each awardee so that their collective stories of how they disrupted their professional and personal lives will be part the largest recorded diaspora in modern times."

"The summit's theme this year is Influence. Accelerate. Action. Seeing all the Awardees on stage during the gala awards ceremony assures me that the future of our young Pinay sisters is solid," said Susie Quesada, president of Ramar Foods and FWN president. "Awardees often share this inspiring evening with their mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sons, spouses, partners, young women and men, mentors and bosses from their organizations."

The Filipina Summit's aspirational sessions include "Smart. Young. Unintimidated. Next Generation Leaders. Yes. We. Are.", Make Me A Filipina Millionaire, and Make Me A Filipina CEO. The popular "Pinay Speed Mentoring" with selected 100 young Filipina professionals who will meet and learn from the Global FWN100™ awardees is much awaited. Topic sessions include: STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics), Economic Empowerment, Health and Well-Being, Violence Against Women, and Entrepreneurship Breakthroughs.