

# Abe

VOL 1. NO. 4

ART • BUSINESS • ENTERTAINMENT



Bridging the gap of Filipino art  
and business through film

*Wishing you  
all the  
Hope, Wonder,  
and Joy that the  
Season can bring.*

FILAM CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE  
HOLLYWOOD



# president's note

**A**s 2018 comes to a close and as the holiday season is upon us, I'd like to take this time to reflect upon they year that was.

In 2018 the FilAm Chamber of Commerce began its journey. With lively events at locally owned FilAm restaurants we supported our community by bringing customers and FilAm entertainment to perform. Some of these establishments have become a go to for many of the FilAm entertainers whom now have regular performances at these establishments.

We also saw the rise of Asian American culture thanks to the smash hit Crazy Rich Asians. This film helped to bring exposure to our culture and has started a new trend in Hollywood. With Sandra Oh becoming the very first Asian American to host the Golden Globes, Hollywood is finally beginning to see our faces as we are beginning to break through to the mainstream.

This trend will follow during 2019. As FilAms are the 2nd largest



Asian American population, we too shall break through. There are many doors opening for us and FACCHO isn't afraid step through.

It is time for the rise of FilAms! Reach out, join us and let's work together.

*Craig Wilson*

**Craig Obligation Wilson**  
Founder and President of the FilAm  
Chamber of Commerce of Hollywood

# Abe

VOL. 1 NO. 2

ART • BUSINESS • ENTERTAINMENT

A PUBLICATION OF FILAM  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE -  
HOLLYWOOD

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FACCHO PRESIDENT

**EDWIN A SANTOS**  
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**KATHERINE BERCASIO**  
ART DIRECTOR

**REAL IMAGES**  
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## //SANTA'S PERSPECTIVE:

**W**e are a few days away from the start of the Christmas/New Year's festivities. So, in the spirit of the Yuletide Season, I thought it would be nice to share my holiday wish to you all.

Success is measured of how well you support and guide others. And the reward – you don't have to worry about your success, the rest of the group is doing that for you!

After producing five feature films in fifteen years, I learned that on any film project I produced is a group effort. I mean, this is why I hired certain key personnel to lead their departments based on their specialties; adding their creative expertise to the overall masterpiece.

But, in order to gain that harmonious workflow, you have to let things go and trust the process. Stop being a micro manager instead be available for their questions. Avoid being a control freak instead trust the very people you hired.

Oh, and also, peace, good health, great friendships and a safe & prosperous future!





# Katherine Bercasio

## Board of Director

It takes a whole lot of imagination, passion, and grit to do what she does, but for the past twenty or so years, Katherine has made it seem easy. In fact, when Katherine or Irene, as friends and family call her, is neck-deep in graphic design projects or artist's timetables, that's when she's beaming. That's when she feels most herself.

One can easily blame Irene's ease and excellence in graphic design on her dedication and impeccable work ethic, possibly even on her fascination with the entire visual process. But, anyone who's worked with Irene can easily attest that her brilliance springs far deeper than that. After all, for Katherine, her craft is her calling. And, this indefatigable calling of hers as a graphic designer has left an indelible imprint across the globe.



### GRAPHIC ROOTS

Katherine's trail of achievements began in her native Philippines where she designed the local editions of Cosmopolitan and Maxim magazines as Art Director and Creative Director, respectively, for Summit Media and ABS-CBN, two of the country's leading media companies. Irene remembers these moving milestones very clearly: "Being part of Cosmo and Maxim were some of the best moments of my career—of my life, even. I worked with the most talented people I've ever known, some of

whom have become my lifelong friends." It was during these stints with these global media giants that Katherine developed her global-local duality as an artist. Katherine is able to impressively apply global standards to her visual renders, pushing innovative concepts and applying the best of the world's visual trends. Simultaneously, Irene is also able to give her output that much needed local-audience

flavor. She understands the need to custom-create her work to appeal to localized audiences.

Katherine's talent has gotten her noticed in the Asian publishing circuit as well. Having wanted to expand her skills and learn from more progressive markets, she lent her talent to MediaCorp in Singapore where she enjoyed a craft-enriching two-year stint as

**SINGAPORE WAS CRUCIAL IN MY DEVELOPMENT AS AN ARTIST, IT TAUGHT ME TO LOVE LEARNING AND DEVELOPING MY CRAFT. IT WAS ALSO A THRILL BEING RECOGNIZED OUTSIDE THE COMFY CONFINES OF MY COUNTRY,"**

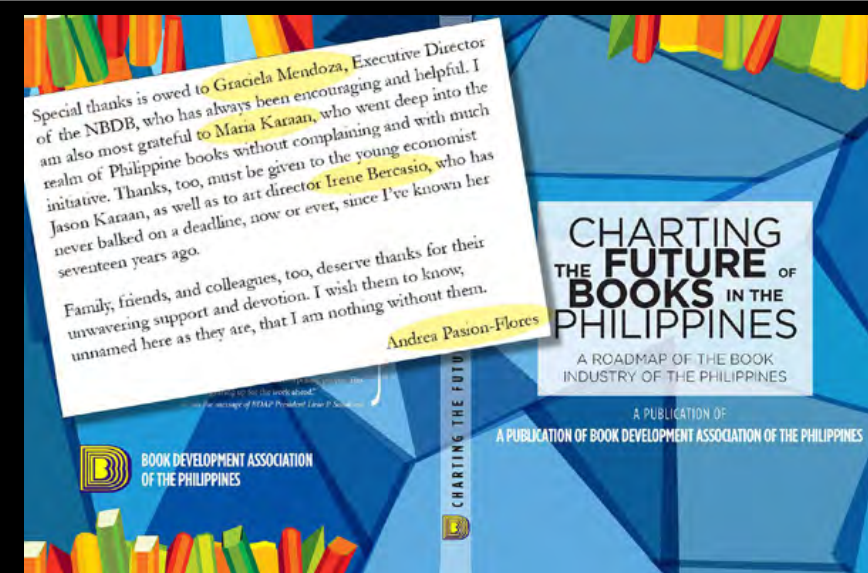
Art Director for the media network's custom publications group and its Electronic Gaming Monthly title. "Singapore was crucial in my development as an artist, it taught

me to love learning and developing my craft. It was also a thrill being recognized outside the comfy confines of my country," says Irene as she reminisces.

### PLAYING IT FORWARD

While Katherine had been enjoying the fruits of a successful career life, she also felt that there was more she could be and do. At this point, Katherine was looking for a way to provide added dimension to a craft she lived and loved, and she was intent to find a substantial outlet that could somehow make a difference.

Almost serendipitously and upon the invitation of a friend and colleague, Katherine began a new chapter in her career when she entered the academe as a valued faculty member of De La Salle College of Saint Benilde in Manila.



(Above) One of the countless books she designed in the Philippines, Singapore and US (Photo below) Katherine's last term teaching at De La Salle College of Saint Benilde





// **FACCHO'S MOVERS AND SHAKERS**

As a teacher, Irene quickly developed a passion for mentoring, finding meaning in teaching technique and finding purpose in imparting passion. Her students bore witness to her talent and eventually became ambassadors of her dedication and skill.

Aside from training the wide-eyed graphic artists that have since joined the workforce with her mentorship, Irene also volunteered for advocacies she believed in and authored graphic design books that fused her talent for design with her zest for teaching. She co-wrote Brilliant Computing and Graphic Design CC, two books made to test and finetune visual skill. Some other books are in the works and are set to be published this year.

**AMERICAN DREAM**

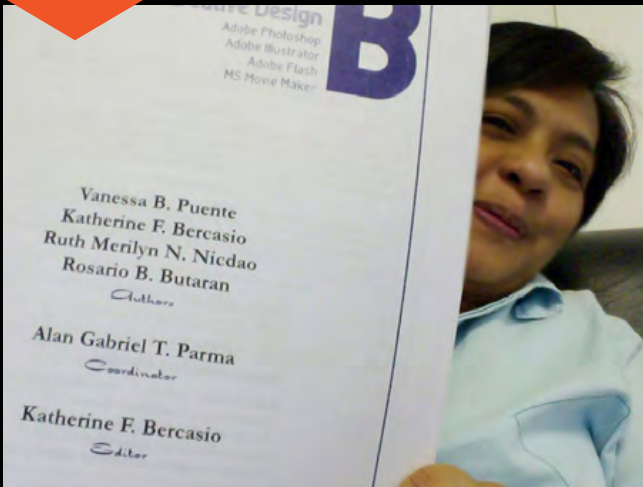
Over the years, Katherine has amassed a wide portfolio of international clients like wizy.io, a software lab for Google Apps, and Franchise Buyer Magazine in Australia, to name a few. She continues to remotely contribute time and talent to the Philippine publishing industry, embracing even its transition to digital platforms with as much dedication and skill.

In the Philippines, Katherine led a fruitful career doing what she loved and knew, so leaving her cushy life and trailblazing career came as a surprise to many. “It definitely wasn’t an easy decision to make,” she shares. But if there’s one thing that trumps Irene’s being a stellar graphic artist, it’s her role as a dutiful daughter. Like many Filipinos who look westward to America for hope and change, Irene heeded the wishes of her mother who then wanted her to brave the Americas for fresh new opportunities. With a few tears and no questions, Katherine devotedly packed her bags and talent and flew across the seas. She initially shuffled back and forth between Georgia, Florida and Michigan

**AS A TEACHER, SHE DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR MENTORING, FINDING MEANING IN TEACHING TECHNIQUE AND FINDING PURPOSE IN IMPARTING PASSION. HER STUDENTS BORE WITNESS TO HER TALENT AND EVENTUALLY BECAME AMBASSADORS OF HER DEDICATION AND SKILL.**



(Above) Katherine’s award from Philippine’s Post Master for her commemorative stamp design  
(Photo below) Katherine’s first edition of Graphic Design Book



Katherine’s recognition for valuable contribution to Philippine American Chamber of South Bay Los Angeles Area- In which she is now one of the elected Board Member for 2019.



but now finds herself based in Los Angeles trying to make her visual imprint in these United States.

Currently, Irene works as a designer for PeraTile, is a freelance visual strategist, is a contributor of various Philippine titles as well as a retained content designer for the Asian content superhouse getcraft.com, and is a consultant for American Geriatric. She is also an active member of both the Fil-Am Creative Network and the Fil-Am Chamber of Commerce-Hollywood (FACCHO) in California. She was recently elected as board member of Filipino American Chamber of Commerce, South Bay Los Angeles Area.

While Katherine’s heart will always belong to the tropical isles of the Philippines, she knows that her being in the US is but another crucial page of her already rich portfolio. While her US stay has only been two sweet years and counting with its fair share of highs and lows, we onlookers know one thing is certain: She’s got this—like she always has.■

From the words of **Zo Aguila**  
(former Editor-In Chief, Cosmopolitan Magazine, Phil.)  
and **Eric Ramos**  
(pioneer Editor-in-Chief, FHM Magazine and Maxim Magazine Philippines)





**FILIPINO  
AMERICAN  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE OF  
HOLLYWOOD  
EXECUTIVE  
OFFICERS'  
AND BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS'  
HOLIDAY WISHES**



Since I shared my Holiday Wish from my Perspectives Section, I asked both our Executive Officers and our Board of Directors what would they want or wish this Holiday Season:

"I want Filipinos to take back their own narrative and Filipino Americans to define what it means to be FilAm. Let's create our narrative."

~ **Craig Obligacion Wilson, President (EO)**



"I want/hope that during this Holiday Season everyone who reads this recognizes the blessings in their lives. We all have negative circumstances we individually deal with, either internally or externally, and it's easy for those negatives to distract us from the good things in our lives. So I hope to whomever is reading this, take this moment right now to think of and acknowledge something great that has happened to you. Congratulate yourself and smile, and remember that feeling. In this coming year ahead, I hope you can join me and all of us at FACCHO creating more of these moments for you and for all in our community. These are the building blocks of happiness. Together, let's build something great."

~ **Jeffrey Bautista (BOD)**



"I wish, my new invention would be a huge success, it will benefit a lot of people worldwide. and I wish I could be a better person in 2019." ~ **Paul Mirador (EO)**



"What I'd like most this Christmas is a happy one with my family; whether we're staying in at home or exploring Los Angeles, as long as we're all happy, healthy, & safe together. & a few more books to add to my personal library since Christmas is the only time I wish for new books every year!"

~ **Tiffany Porter, Secretary (BOD)**



The spirit of Christmas should not just be for one day but for the whole year! Wishing the Fil-Am Community the best for this season and a great year ahead.

~ **Angelo Varsobia (BOD)**



"Two wishes. #1 I wish I have a time machine. #2 -I wish I can learn to say "No"

~ **Katherine Bercasio (BOD)**



"I'd really like to see FACCHO and the FilAm community blossom in 2019 with creativity. We ultimately will thrive, due in part to the involvement of the community, and the commitment of the FACCHO team to deliver outreach and opportunities for the FilAm creatives. Personally, I could lose a couple pounds, lol." ~ **Isabelo Pascual (BOD)**



## REPRESENTATION MATTERS

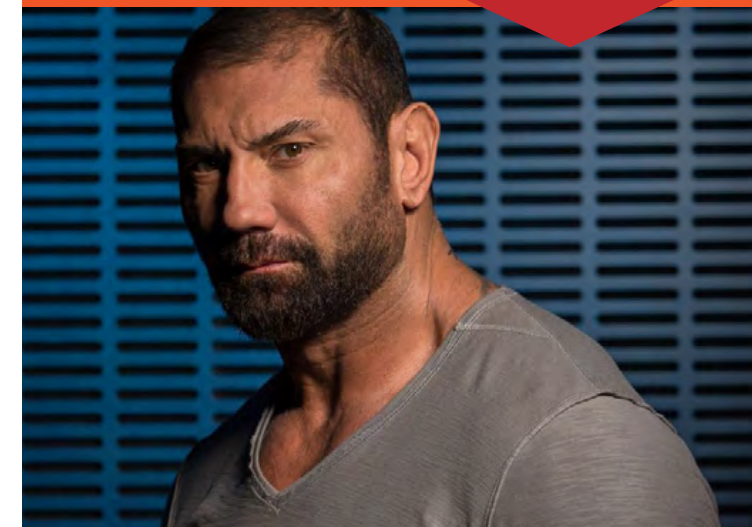
**Bernard Badion** was selected as one of NBC's Writers on the **Verge Class** for the 2018 - 2019 Season.



**Tess Paras** was selected to join the **Creative Team** as **Assistant Director** and **Leslie Anne Huff** was selected as **one of this year's participants** - both for its first **Writers' Room** of the annual **CBS Entertainment Diversity Comedy Showcase** which will take place from January 15 - 18, 2019 in Los Angeles.



**Dave Bautista** will star in **DOGTOWN**. He will also be one of the film's **executive producers**.



**Vanessa Hudgens** joins the second sequel, **BAD BOYS 4 LIFE** starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence.



# 61<sup>ST</sup> GRAMMY AWARD NOMINEES' FILIPINO AND FILAM ARTISTS

The 61st Grammy Awards nominees were announced yesterday and, among the Filipino American talent, the nominees are...

## Best Musical Theater Album ■ **ONCE ON THIS ISLAND**

Phillip Boykin, Merle Dandridge, Quentin Earl Darrington, Hailey Kilgore, Kenita R. Miller, Alex Newell, Isaac Powell & Lea Salonga, principal soloists; Lynn Ahrens, Hunter Arnold, Ken Davenport, Stephen Flaherty & Elliot Scheiner, producers (Stephen Flaherty, composer; Lynn Ahrens, lyricist) (New Broadway Cast).

**FACT:** *This is Lea Salonga's first Grammy nomination.*

## Best New Artist

■ **H.E.R**

## Best Song Written For Visual Media

■ **"Remember Me"**

by Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez, songwriters (Miguel Featuring Natalia Lafourcade)



## Best R&B Performance

■ **"Best Part [ft. Daniel Caesar]" by H.E.R**

## Album Of The Year

■ **"Black Panther: The Album, Music From And Inspired By"** (Various Artists) including the song, "X" by Kendrick Lamar, 2Chainz and Schoolboy Q - Produced by Ramon "Illmind" Ibanga, Jr.

■ **H.E.R., H.E.R**

■ **"Scorpion"** by Drake including the song, "Blue Tint" by Drake Future - Produced by Ramon "Illmind" Ibanga, Jr.

## Best R&B Song

■ **"Focus" by H.E.R**

## Best R&B Album

■ **H.E.R., H.E.R**

## Best Urban Contemporary Album

■ **"Everything Is Love"** by The Carters including the song "Heard About Us" by Jay Z and Beyonce - Produced by Ramon "Illmind" Ibanga, Jr.

**The Grammy Awards will take place on February 10, 2018 at Los Angeles' Staples Center. The broadcast will air live on CBS from 8:00pm to 11:30pm ET/PT.**

# 76<sup>TH</sup> GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINEES' FILIPINO AMERICAN TALENT/PROGRAM

The 76th Golden Globe Awards were announced and, among the Filipino American talent in front of, and behind-the-scenes in programming, the nominees are...

## Best Performance by an Actor In A Limited Series or Made-For-Television-Movie

■ DARREN CRISS as 'Andrew Cunanan' in FX's "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"

**FACT:** If Darren Criss wins in this category, he will become the **FIRST FILIPINO AMERICAN ACTOR** to win a Golden Globe.

## Best Television Series - Comedy

■ NBC's "The Good Place" starring MANNY JACINTO  
■ Showtime's "Kidding" starring GINGER GONZAGA

## Best Television - Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television

■ FX's "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story" with DARREN CRISS, JON JON BRIONES, CARLIN JAMES, ISA BRIONES, ALBERTO ISSAC, RUBEN MADERA and ZEDRICK RESTAURO

## Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy

■ Warner Brothers Studios' "Crazy Rich Asians" starring NICO SANTOS and featuring KRIS AQUINO

## Best Motion Picture - Animated

■ Sony Pictures' "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" with the voice of 'Gwen Stacy' by HAILEE STEINFELD and with animators LOUIE DEL CARMEN, JOHN BUTIU and RYAN RUBI.

■ Walt Disney Studios' "Ralph Breaks The Internet," story by JOSIE TRINIDAD and with the voice of 'Mo's Mom' by NICOLE SCHERZINGER



## Best Motion Picture - Drama

■ Walt Disney Studios' "Black Panther" with visual designer ANTHONY FRANCISCO  
Warner Brothers Studios' "A Star Is Born" with cinematographer MATTHEW LIBATIQUE

**The 76th Golden Globes Awards will be awarded on Sunday, January 6, 2019 which will air live on NBC at 8:00pm Eastern/5:00pm Pacific. Presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.**



# 25<sup>TH</sup> SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARD FILAM NOMINEES & PROGRAMS

The 25th Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards' nominees were announced honoring the best achievements in film and television performances for the year 2018 and, among the Filipino American talent, the nominees are...

## Outstanding Performance By A Male Actor in a Television Movie or Limited Series:

■ Darren Criss for his work as 'Andrew Cunanan' in FX's "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"

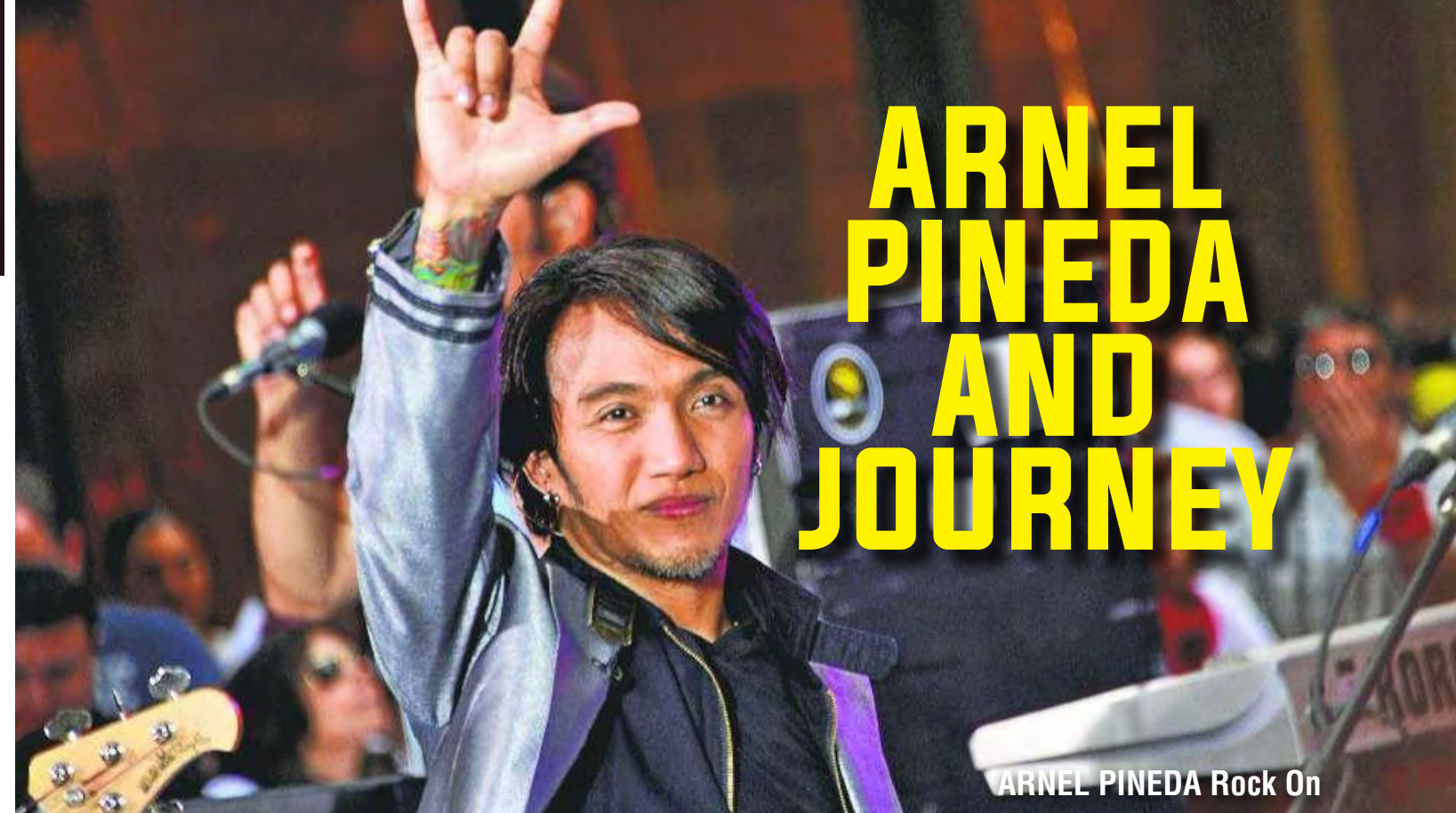
## Outstanding Performance By A Cast In A Motion Picture:

■ Nico Santos and the cast of Warner Brothers' "Crazy Rich Asians."



The 25th Annual SAG Awards ceremony will be simulcast live from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on TNT and TBS on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 8:00pm ET/ at 5:00pm PT.

TWENTY FIFTH ANNUAL  
**SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARDS**  
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF  
OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES



ARNEL PINEDA Rock On

Warner Brothers is in negotiations to license the original Journey songs, most written by original lead singer Steve Perry and lead guitarist Neal Schon, and the studio acquired rights to the 2012 documentary film, "Don't Stop Believin': Everyman's Journey."

They are re-teaming with their "Crazy Rich Asians" director Jon M. Chu to chronicle the journey of Arnel Pineda, a Filipino

singer rescued from obscurity by a YouTube video that led him to

become the new lead singer of the iconic '80s arena rock band, Journey. ■

## JOURNEY





**1** Darren Criss is the first Filipino American actor to win an Emmy Award for his work on the acclaimed television series, "American Crime Story: The Assassination of Gianni Versace."

**2** Mikhail Red's "Birdshot" is the first Philippine film to debut and stream on Netflix USA.

**3** Maine Mendoza is the first Pilipina influencer to collaborate with the makeup brand MAC Cosmetics, joining the ranks of international



artists like Ariana Grande, Mariah Carey, Rihanna and Nicki Minaj.

**4** Brillante Mendoza's "AMO" is the first Philippine episodic television series to debut and stream on Netflix USA.

# TOP TEN FILIPINO *Notables* OF 2018



**5** Lea Salonga earns her first Grammy nomination for her work in the Broadway production "Once on This Island".

**6** Bulosan Center for Filipino studies opens at the University of California, Davis.

**7** Dave Bautista signs with Creative Arts Agency in Beverly Hills, CA.

**8** Dancer Hannahlei Cabanilla of Anaheim, CA, won "So You Think You Can Dance," Season 15 becoming the first Filipina American to do so.

**9** Model Kelsey Merritt made history as she became the first Filipina American to walk the Victoria's Secret runway.

**10** Pia Wurtzbach becomes the first Pilipina to get a wax figure at Madame Tussauds in Hong Kong.





# THREE FILIPINO AMERICAN FILMMAKERS INVITED TO THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURES ARTS AND SCIENCES' CLASS OF 2018

**T**he Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) has released its 2018 list of invitations for membership; 928 individuals from 59 countries!

Among the Filipino Americans professionals invited to join AMPAS' Class of 2018 are documentary filmmakers Marty Syjuco and Claire Aguilar as well as visual effects artist Maricel Pagulayan (the latter as Member-at-Large).

**Marty Syjuco** is an Emmy® Award-nominated independent producer and documentary filmmaker.

Originally from the Philippines, Marty moved to New York City in 2000 and worked in Business Affairs and Home Video at USA Films followed by Film Distribution at Focus Features, booking

the theatrical releases of independent, commercial and Academy-Award-winning films. In 2004 he took a leap of faith to pursue his passion: documentary filmmaking.

In 2005, he co-produced

his first film, the one-hour documentary "Atrapado en la injusticia" (Caught in an Injustice), which was broadcast in Spain on Canal Cuatro and received a Special Jury Prize at the 15th International TV3/



Actual Awards. The evolution of the story and the reception and acclaim from the Spanish public has spurred him to expand the short into a feature-length documentary. Together with filmmaking partner Michael Collins, Marty spent seven years in production on "Give Up Tomorrow", working to bring this striking story from his homeland to a broader Western audience.

After celebrating its world premiere at the 2011 Tribeca Film Festival, "Give Up Tomorrow" went on to play in more than 70 festivals in over 35 countries, winning 18 international awards including seven audience awards, four human rights awards, and the Activism Award at Michael Moore's Traverse City Film Festival.

The film was a co-production with ITVS and commissioned by Nick Fraser for BBC Storyville, with additional support from Sundance, Tribeca, CAAM, Fledgling Fund, Bertha and BRITDOC, among others. "Give Up Tomorrow" has enjoyed international broadcast in over ten territories, including BBC, Canal+ and PBS, as part of



POV's 25th anniversary season.

Additionally the film has received recognition from the Grierson British Awards, the Cinema Eye Honors, and Amnesty International's Media Awards. In 2013 "Give Up Tomorrow" was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Investigative Journalism and was a finalist for the Puma Impact Award.

He is the producer for the critically raved "Call Her Ganda," a human rights and LGBTQ documentary directed by award-winning filmmaker and cinematographer, PJ Raval currently making the film festival rounds. It recently won

the Grand Jury Prize at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival this year.

**Claire Aguilar** is an award-winning film curator, film festival director and public television commissioning editor and broadcaster, bringing compelling creative documentaries and innovative content to audiences around the world.

In 2017, she was appointed Director of Programming & Policy at International Documentary Association (IDA).

Claire is the former Director of Programming and Industry Engagement at Sheffield Doc/





# RENE GUBE AND RAIN VALDEZ

## *in Girls Code*

Fest, one of the leading festivals for documentary and digital media.

At the Independent Television Service (ITVS), she served as Executive Content Advisor and Vice President of Programming.

She co-curated the Emmy and Peabody awarded series Independent Lens, a prominent showcase of independently produced programs on PBS. She has curated film and media exhibitions for the American Film Institute, the Los Angeles Asian American Film and Video Festival, and the Wexner Center for the Arts. She has served as a programming consultant and panelist for the Ford

Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Rockefeller Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, the Pew Fellowships in the Arts and many other media and funding organizations. A second-generation Filipina American, she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications Studies and a Master of Arts in Film and Television Studies from UCLA. She is Vice President of the Board of Women Make Movies, and serves on the Executive boards of Firelight Media, European Documentary Network (EDN) and the Why Foundation.

Her credits include "The

Interrupters" and "Last Train Home."

Born and raised in the US except for two years when she lived and went to a high school in the Philippines, **Maricel Pagulayan** is a Filipino American visual effects producer and artist in Hollywood. Her credits include "Avatar," "The Smurfs," "The Smurfs 2," "Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation," "Spider-man: Homecoming" and the upcoming 2019 Warner Brothers motion picture, "Godzilla: King of the Monsters." ■

It was announced earlier this year that a half-hour women-in-the-workplace comedy from "New Girl" writer-producer Kim Rosenstock, "Freaks and Geeks" creator and "Ghostbusters" helmer Paul Feig, Paramount Television and Anonymous Content was in development.

That show is GIRLS CODE

where a self-centered tech CEO teams up with a community-building social entrepreneur to form an all-women tech company.

Joining the ensemble cast is Filipino American actor and writer Rene Gube ("Crazy Ex-Girlfriend") to play the burnt-out but hardworking Chief

Operating Officer of Lighthouse Industries.

Trans Filipina American actress Rain Valdez was also added to the cast as 'Ro.'

The upcoming "Girls Code" does not have a set release date as it is in post-production however it may premiere on Freeform. ■







## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018:

- Parol Parade & Holiday Festival at 5pm in Historic Filipinotown, Los Angeles.
- Premiere Screening of THREE WORDS TO FOREVER with Kathryn Bernardo live in person at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium in Pasadena.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018:

- Brewyard's Anniversary Party 3 - The Catz Pajama Jammy Jam, 12pm at Brewyard Beer Company in Glendale.
- PWC Holiday Potluck Party! at 5pm at the Pilipino Workers Center in Historic Filipinotown, Los Angeles.
- Joe Bataan at the Microsoft Theatre, 7:30pm in DTLA.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018:

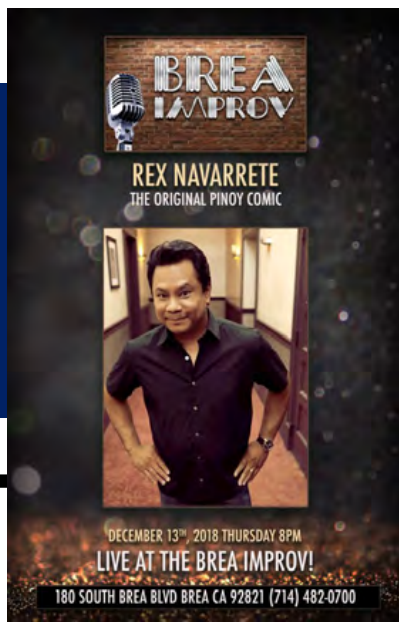
- Filipino AF Mixer & Fundraiser, 2pm at Brewyard Beer Company in Glendale.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018:

- Fil-Am Chamber of Commerce of Hollywood: General Assembly, 9am at Lay Bare Waxing Salon, Studio City.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018:

- Stand-up comedian Rex Navarrete, 8pm at Brea Improv, Brea, CA.



## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018:

- Asian AF Presents: Filipino AF (Special Holiday Edition!) at 9:30pm at the Inner Sanctum Cafe Stage in Hollywood. Free admission.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018:

- TFC's 2018 Tikim Filipino Food Fun Run Los Angeles from 10am to 1pm at Los Angeles State Historic Park.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018:

- SIPA's Annual Holiday Festival & Toy Distribution at 9am in Historic Filipinotown, Los Angeles.
- FilAm Creative Holiday Party, 6pm at Barkada in Hollywood.
- FACLA's FilAm Community Christmas Party, 6:30pm at the Filipino American Community Christmas Party in Historic Filipinotown, Los Angeles.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018:

- Miscellaneous Brown's Karaoke Comedy Holiday Spectacular, 7pm at the Brewyard Beer Company in Glendale.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2018:

- Christmas and New Years Dinner, Dance and Party!, 7pm at SMR Dance Center in Montclair, CA.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018:

- Christine Gambito: HappySlip Live, 7pm at the San Jose Improv in San Jose, CA.







# LEA SALONGA AND EVA NOBLEZADA STAR IN DIANE PARAGAS' *Yellow Rose*

Having known about this project since late July, 2018 as I was approached to help produce, it's been officially announced that 1991 Tony Award Winner, Lea Salonga and 2017 Tony Award Nominee Eva Noblezada – both having

played the lead role of Kim on “Miss Saigon” – will star in the dramatic independent film, YELLOW ROSE.

Directed by Diane Paragas, YELLOW ROSE is about a 17-year old Filipino American girl from Texas who secretly dreams

of becoming a country music star of old. When her mom is arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, she runs away and is forced to embark on a journey to forge her own path or face deportation with her mother back to the Philippines.

This will mark Noblezada's feature film debut. She will headline the film which also stars the aforementioned Salonga, country music artist Dale Watson, Gustavo Gomez (“The Walking Dead,” “Animal Kingdom”), Libby Villari (“Boyhood,” “Friday Night Lights”) and Princess Punzalan (“Mulawin,” “Mula sa Puso”). The film features original music composed and performed by the cast and director.

Paragas is an award winning documentary film director and commercial director. Her films have appeared on PBS, Discovery Channel and BET. She began her career in advertising then went on to work at MTV and for Discovery Asia. She is also the founder and owner of New York City based Civilian Studios.

Not only will she be directing,

Paragas will also serve as a producer along with Cecilia Mejia (“Call Her Ganda”), Orian Williams, Rey Cuervo (“Lumpia With A Vengeance,” “Ulam: Main Dish,” “Motherland”), and Co-Producer Jeremiah Abraham (Warner Brothers Entertainment, IW Group, Founder of BakitWhy.Com).

YELLOW ROSE is supported by New York based Asian CineVision, the Cinematrografo International Film Festival (ABS-CBN Global), and was awarded the Ravenal Foundation Feature Film Grant earlier this year by the New York Women in Film & Television. ~ Edwin Santos







## FILIPINA INDIAN AMERICAN VEENA SUD (CREATOR, NETFLIX'S "SEVEN SECONDS") CALLS FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN HOLLYWOOD

Filipina Indian creator/writer/director/producer Veena Sud (Netflix's "Seven Seconds," AMC's "The Killing," CBS' "Cold Case") calls for systematic change in the entertainment industry and how her cultural identity informs her work.

"This is why diversity is an imperative. Not a luxury, not a fad, not the banal task of "eating your vegetables". It is the necessary act of leveling the playing field, considering those who are truly the best and brightest. It is simply opening

the window to everything this world has to offer. There are over 118 million of these windows in living rooms across America. TV has that power to show who we are and who we hope to be. It's time to push aside those musty drapes and let in some light upon the great and varied expanse of humanity. All those untold stories, all those unsung heroes."

"I suspect many of you came to this town hoping for the same. What we do matters profoundly, especially now—which projects

we create, greenlight, celebrate; whose faces and bodies and lived experiences we put up on our screens. Art matters in a way it hasn't for a long time."

Read her entire guest column here:



She also spoke to Deadline's Dino-Ray Ramos. Below are excerpts from his interview.

Dino-Ray Ramos: What did Asian representation in entertainment look like for you growing up?

Veena Sud: What Asian representation? Other than the movie Gandhi and the extras in Vietnam war films, no one who looked like me was on TV or in film. No one had speaking roles except for the cartoon character Apu and the singing Filipinos playing Puerto Ricans in "West Side Story". That's what it looked like.

Dino-Ray Ramos: "Seven Seconds" is inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement. How has cultural movements and your Filipino and Indian heritage informed your work?

Veena Sud: Certainly, my own lived experiences have influenced my work. When I entered this industry in 2002, stories about Indians and Filipinos weren't exactly marquee material — see

"Asian representation" above — so I wrote "universal" stories and got in brown folks and women who weren't sporting bikinis as much as I was could. But to be clear, no writer should be mandated to write only her own "culture" — all sorts of characters live in us. Like Stephen Holder in "The Killing" and Fish Rinaldi in "Seven Seconds" — somewhere inside of me is a snarky, ex-addict, dog-obsessed white boy who keeps popping out.

Read her interview by Dino-Ray Ramos here:





# FILIPINO FAN FAVORITES' CATRIONA GRAY AND H'HEN NIÊ OF MISS UNIVERSE 2018



*Congratulations to*  
**FILIPINA AUSTRALIAN**  
**CATRIONA ELISA MAGNAYON GRAY**  
**AS SHE BECAME MISS UNIVERSE LAST WEEK.**



She is the Philippines' fourth Miss Universe queen after Pia Wurtzbach in 2015, Margarita Moran in 1973 and Gloria Diaz in 1969 at the 67th annual event, this year taking place in Bangkok, Thailand.

In Philippine pageant history, she is the first Philippine national to represent the country in both the Miss World and Miss Universe competitions.

She is a former martial artist and fashion runway model (which the latter profession was greatly displayed on her Miss Universe runway walks during

the preliminaries such as her slow-mo twirl that prompt Tyra Banks do a double-take praise on social media as well as her lava walk when she wore her red flowing dress towards the crown.

Another Miss Universe 2018 contestant, Miss Vietnam H'Hen Niê was also a fan favorite for Filipinos worldwide as they also cheered her on when she reached the Top 5 after being criticized for her English by Miss USA.

From humble beginnings, H'Hen used to work on a coffee farm to assist her family's living

when she was young. As per the Rade people's matrilineal customs, Rade women tend to start a family at a young age. However, H'Hen refused to follow this tradition and decided to continue her studying at her own expense. She studied at the Business Finance Program at the College of Foreign Economic Relations. She worked as a domestic helper for a year to pay the bills while she was in college. When H'Hen was doing her internship at a bank, she started receiving support to become a model. In 2014,



shortly after graduating from college, she was discovered by the Vietnamese designer Đ M nh C ng at the start of her modeling career. As she gained interest in the industry, she auditioned for Season 6 of “Vietnam’s Next Top Model” in 2015 and became a finalist. She ultimately placed 9th in the reality TV competition. She then entered the Miss Universe Vietnam in 2017 and onward to Miss Universe in 2018.

Taking no prisoners from the preliminaries to the coronation, she broke typical beauty standards by wearing pants, embraced her golden tan skin, and rocked her pixie cut hair.



Both with boss level fierceness and empowering individualism balanced with her grace and elegance, she splayed audiences,

television viewers and her critics & bullies with her definition and presentation of what the modern woman should be today. ■



# MOVIES TO WATCH!



**BITTER MELON** directed by H.P. Mendoza and starring Jon Norman Schneider and Patrick Epino opens Friday, December 7, 2018 at select theaters.



**SECOND ACT** starring Vanessa Hudgens and Charlyne Yi opens Friday, December 21, 2018 in theaters nationwide.



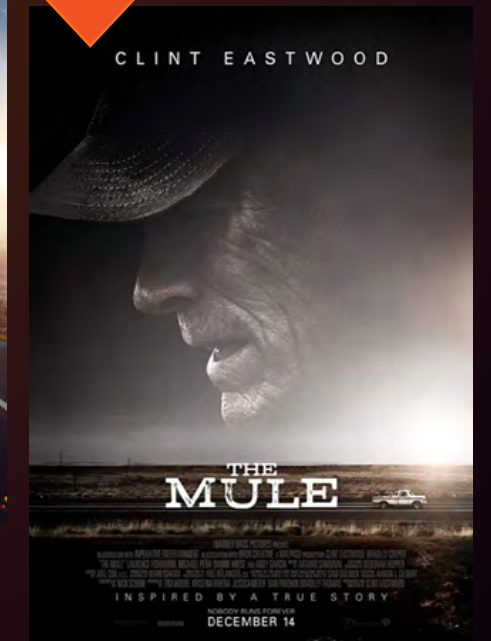
**THREE WORDS TO FOREVER** starring Sharon Cuneta, Richard Gomez and Kathryn Bernardo opens Friday, December 7, 2018 at select theaters.

**ULAM**, a documentary film about Filipino food directed by Alexandra Cuervo opens on Thursday, December 13 in Los Angeles.



**BUMBLEBEE** starring Hailee Steinfeld opens Friday, December 21, 2018 in theaters nationwide.

**THE MULE** co-starring Eugene Cordero opens Friday, December 14, 2018 in theaters nationwide.







# CBS SOLD TELEVISION CITY FOR \$750 MILLION

**C**BS on Monday announced an agreement to sell the 25-acre CBS Television City property and soundstage operation at 7800 Beverly Blvd. to Los Angeles-based real estate developer Hackman Capital Partners for \$750 million. As part of the agreement, Hackman Capital will gain the rights to use the Television City trademark in

connection with its operations on the property.

Once the deal is finalized, CBS' remaining lot will be the 40-acre CBS Studios Center in Studio City, which will continue to act as the company's primary production facility. The San Fernando Valley campus, located at 4024 Radford Ave., is home to local television stations KCBS and KCAL.

The Television City transaction will not affect CBS programs produced on the studio campus, as the broadcast network will continue to shoot shows at the property for the next five years or longer. CBS will also retain office space for CBS Studios International's U.S. headquarters and other company departments currently housed on the site.

Among the shows currently in

production at the Fairfax lot: talk show "The Late Late Late Show" with James Corden; long-running game show "The Price is Right"; and soap operas "The Bold and the Beautiful" and "The Young and the Restless."

"The sale of Television City unlocks significant value, increasing CBS' financial flexibility, including the ability to redeploy capital for strategic

growth initiatives such as additional content investment," Joseph Ianniello, CBS Corp.'s acting chief executive, said in a statement. "At the same time, we will be transitioning this venerable site to a new owner who is committed to

its legacy as both a cultural landmark and modern production facility. Hackman Capital has demonstrated terrific stewardship of classic properties, including their development of the landmark Culver Studios." ■

**SOURCE:** *San Fernando Valley Business Journal* <<http://www.sfvbj.com/news/2018/dec/10/cbs-sells-television-city-retains-studio-city-prod/>>





## Business Incubation: From Concepts to Profits



## DEMENTIA: UPCLOSE AND PERSONAL SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE 2018

*Preserving family relationships at the onset of Dementia*

# DEMENTIA

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or perception

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guys in their eyes.



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Dementia...5.7 Million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. By 2050 this number is projected to rise to nearly 14 million. Every 65 seconds, someone in the United States develops the disease. No doubt you know someone who has been affected and if not, you will. Those living with dementia don't have to struggle alone. The mission of the Dementia: Up close and Personal (DUCP) workshop is to provide hope, relief and support as we educate individuals and families throughout their journey with dementia. We are here to help.

### THE EVENT

The workshop calls on participants of all ages and abilities to take action to help support in the practical strategies, risk reduction, communication strategies, and understanding behavior of people with dementia. Supporting the DUCP workshops puts you front and center with family members and community members seeking to learn more about Dementia. Your support enables families to access these workshops at no charge. DUCP workshops are well-attended and are hosted in a variety of venues.





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\*Facts About Life 2011 from LIMRA International-A marketing research organization in the financial services industry. Its worldwide members include life/health insurance companies and financial services companies.

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