

# Martin & Gary...

From on Page 4

Ba Entertainment, Inc., a group of Fil-Am nurses in CT in their first concert venture, with Carousel Pinoy as line producer.

"Martin and Gary gave a superb show that everyone kept talking about it, prompting these nurses (producers) to bring them back to the East Coast and this time in Connecticut," Edmund quoted Terry Badiola of Carousel Pinoy as saying.

Di Ba Entertainment says it is restaging the "concert event of the year" in response to strong public clamor to fly back the reigning kings of Philippine music.

The staging of Martin and Gary's show at Mohegan Sun Arena (located within the luxurious Mohegan Sun Casino & Resort) will come one day after the Black Eyed Peas take center stage in the same venue.

Reminded Edmund, "Black Eyed Peas, of course, is one of the world's most popular bands, with one of its members a true-blooded Filipino, Allan Pineda (a.k.a. apl.de.ap). Its song Boom Boom Pow is the most downloaded single in 2009."

### Melason taking the US by storm

Here's another report from Edmund Silvestre: *If you think only Filipinos back home are going crazy about the real-life love team of the year, well, think again.*

*The funny and sometimes melodramatic love story of Pinoy Big Brother Double Up housemates Melissa "Melai" Cantiveros and Jason Francisco, more popularly known as Melason, has also taken the homes of America's TFC subscribers by storm — coast to coast!*

*Their interesting friendship that blossomed into something more special (and helped pushed PBB's TV ratings) has also caught the imagination of many loyal TFC viewers since Day 1.*

*The story of a pretty boy known in the PBB as "Astig ng Mindoro" (think of Robin Padilla) falling for a not-so-pretty but obviously funny and adorable girl known as "Kenkay ng Gen-San" (think of Pokwang) is something that rarely happens in real life and usually only on the silver screen.*

*But to see their remarkable love unfold before our very eyes can be considered a unique event on Philippine television. Indeed, Kuya knows how to tickle the viewers, and tune in.*

*"Melason is giving not only great entertainment, but also hope sa mga hindi kagandahan o kaguwapuhan," said Grace Yago Tiburcio, a young mother of two from Nashville, Tennessee. "But Melissa is a different case. Her ginintuang puso, sunny disposition in life, at 'yung pagiging nakakatawa niya talaga help her shine through. Gumaganda talaga siya at makakalimutan mong*

*hindi siya stunning like other housemates."*

*Rolly Montemayor of Las Vegas, Nevada, said he's too old to watch PBB, but he makes it a point to catch it every now and then especially if Melason is the focus of the day.*

*"Walang ngang nakakaalam dito na sinu-subaybayan ko 'yang Melason na 'yan until I discovered na 'yung ilang kakilala ko eh nakikiloko rin kasi pinapanood daw ng mga misis nila," laughed Rolly, a former IBC 13 cameraman. Nakakatuwa kasi sila eh, nakaka-relax panoorin."*

*Lily Rosana, a registered nurse from Carteret, N.J. and a mother of three boys, said she follows the latest season of PBB the same way she got glued before to her most favorite teleserye of all time, Tayong Dalawa.*

*"Sa hospital nga we talk about Melason and we have a nurse there who's really updated at siya ang nagkukuwento pag nami-miss namin ang isang episode," she said. "I really love Melai and I hope sila talaga ang magkatuluyan ni Jason. Ayoko lang 'yung kinakawawa nila ngayon si Jason kapalit ng tricycle. Nakaka-worried lang kasi baka akalain ng iba eh okay lang na kawawain o paglaruan ang kasambahay. I just thought it's a wrong message kaya dapat i-clear na tine-test lang si Jason. Alam mo naman marami sa atin nang-aapi ng katulong."*

*"I love the part when they kidnapped Melissa, it was so sweet of Jason and his friends," said Baby Lantin, a new grandmother from Queens, New York. "Mukha ngang na-inlove talaga 'yung lalaki."*

Although Melason is a smash hit on PBB, there's no guarantee Melissa and Jason can sustain their new-found fame outside Big Brother's house, unless ABS-CBN is willing to push and mold the two housemates into important stars by giving them acting workshops, personality development, and good projects, among other things.

It will be recalled that a couple of years ago, escort girl-turned-actress Keanna Reeves won the hearts of millions of PBB Celebrity Edition viewers with her funny antics and genuine warmth inside the PBB house. Her victory as that season's Pinoy Big Winner was sealed when the former Rustom Padilla (now BB Gandanghari) chose the kind-hearted Keanna, among the many housemates, to reveal his biggest secret.

Many predicted that Keanna was destined to stardom in the league of Ai-Ai de las Alas. She was given a major TV show (Aalog-alog) and two major motion pictures (Reyna and Binibining K), not to mention guestings, but for whatever reason, Keanna failed to sustain her popularity outside the PBB house.

But for now, everyone sees Melissa and Jason as ABS-CBN's newest goldmine. ■

## TROY MONTERO HOSTS NEW SHOW ON IMMIGRATION

# Immigration experts

## Featuring 7 immigration lawyers from Reeves & Associates

STARTING Jan 31, Sunday at 4:30pm, a new weekly immigration show will go on air in America to help Filipino-American families with various immigration concerns. Titled *Immigration Experts*, the TV magazine show will be hosted by popular Fil-Am actor/host/singer/model Troy Montero. The new show will present various immigration concerns which will be discussed by 7 lawyers who are all immigration experts from the law firm Reeves and Associates, the leading immigration firm in the United States.

For nearly 30 years, Reeves & Associates has provided quality immigration legal services to the business community, families and individuals seeking visas, residency, citizenship or relief from detention and deportation proceedings. Known for its extraordinary commitment to clients, the firm's extensive record of experience - tens of thousands of successful cases - has earned it a strong reputation among clients, peers, US Citizenship and Immigration Services and immigration judges. In fact, the *IndUS Business Journal* named Reeves & Associates one of the "Top Immigration Law Firms" in the United States in 2006 and 2007. In addition, its founder, Atty. Robert Reeves, and one of the partners, Nancy Miller, were voted by their peers as Super Lawyers in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 as published in *Los Angeles Magazine* and the *Los Angeles* distribution of *The New York Times Magazine*.

With the *Immigration Experts* TV show, the general public can now also benefit from the firm's comprehensive knowledge, experience, and expertise in the field of immigration. Just by watching the weekly 30 minute show, viewers will gain access to the firm's vast knowledge of immigration law and ability to find cost-effective solutions from the seven immigration experts: all partners of Reeves & Associates - they are Robert Reeves, Nancy Miller, Joseph Elias, Flomy Diza, Jeremiah Johnson, May Zhang, and Jeff Khurgel.

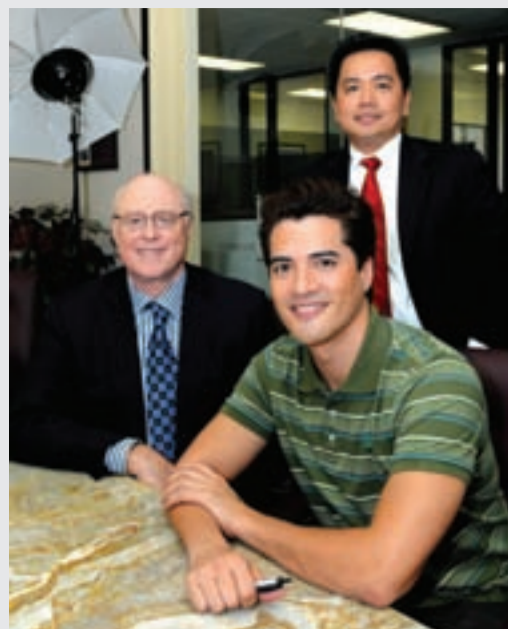
"The expertise of our lawyers will set our show apart from what is currently out there," explained Atty. Reeves. "Our lawyers deal with everyday real people. They know what they're doing and they provide real solutions. We're coming out with this show to educate people and warn them about the various immigration traps and pitfalls that Filipinos often fall into. For the first time, there will be a TV show that will feature the expertise of not just one, but seven immigration experts, who will all be giving their advice on different aspects of US Immigration. Each partner will give a detailed analysis of the subject that is being tackled. They will explain what you need to know and what it takes to be successful in this difficult and complex world of immigration. This show will be totally different from the current immigration shows being aired now. Immigration Experts will be known for its down-to-earth, solid, no bull, straight-forward talk about immigration," said Attorney Reeves.

Aside from its meaty content, *Immigration Experts* will also have a different look that viewers will find exciting. "The show will have a polished, CNN-type look. The graphics will be great and everything will be viewer-friendly," said Pedring Lopez, the show's director and CEO of the Makati-based production agency, We Love Post, who are the production people involved in the show.

The handsome host will also be busy behind the scenes. Troy (born Cody Andrew Garabato Miller III on July 30, 1977 in Tacoma, Washington) is the agency's Marketing Director, who has been busy in the production of TV commercials in the Philippines. "I have always dreamed of being involved behind the camera. I will likewise be conducting one-on-one interviews with people and with the lawyers on particular topics," said Troy, who can relate to the show's concept, being a Fil-Am who has lived both in America and in Manila.

*Immigration Experts* is yet another testament to Reeves & Associates' strong passion and genuine concern for immigrants. Don't miss the show as it premieres on January 31, 2010 at 4:30pm over KSCIS-18 and Time Warner Cable Los Angeles, KTSF-26 San Francisco, KBTV Ch 8 Central Valley and New York. For a 24/7 webcast, go to [www.immigrationexperts.tv](http://www.immigrationexperts.tv).

\*Advertising Supplement



Clockwise from left: Atty. Robert Reeves, Atty. Flomy Diza and Troy Montero. Photo by Bert Jaurigue

# Hong Kong 2 Food District Market opens second store in West Covina

WEST COVINA - More than three hundred residents of this city trooped to the Saturday, December 9, opening of the second Hong Kong 2 Food District Market in the San Gabriel Valley. The 31,000 square-foot facility is located in a commercial plaza along South Glendora Avenue, about one mile south of the 10 Freeway.

HK D2 President Tommy Li, the youthful head of the company that owns the new supermarket, welcomed guest in a short speech. "I am so excited for the opening of our second store," Li told the guests and customers before the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "I would like to say thank the city of West Covina for helping us in provide a

safe address for all HK D2 customers."

The Li family invested more than \$1 million in this second store. This would translate into \$36,000 in sales taxes that would go into the West Covina city coffers. The supermarket also created 50 new jobs for the community. "The \$36,000 in sales taxes to the city will provide services that we need so dearly," said Mayor Pro Tem Steve Herfert, who represented Mayor Shelley Sanderson, who came down with the flu. Herfert thanked the Li family for their decision to make a substantial investment during a recession. "We'd like to thank the Li family for bringing their business here in West Covina, with the economy the way it is," Herfert declared. "They have the guts to open a business and to employ people. It's a big decision by anybody. We respect people that put their names on a business and open their door because it is not an easy thing to do."

The supermarket is located in a large commercial center on 987 South Glendora Avenue, just south of the Westfield Mall. The plaza is home to several restaurants, including World Buffet, Beijing Cuisine Garden and Bronco's Grill.

Entering the supermarket, a newspaper reporter was surprised at the store's spaciousness, with ample floor space for shoppers and their shopping carts to move around in and not bump each other. The seafood section has several huge tanks where live crabs, lobsters and fish are displayed to maximum advantage. The dressed, frozen seafood are in glass covered displays that discourages flies from touching them. And the produce sections are arrayed in carefully arranged stacks, and the fruits and vegetables looked at the top of freshness.

The opening ceremonies were memorable for its traditional Chinese flavor, with four dragon dancers prancing and jumping around, delighting the guests, young and old. At the door of the supermarket, there's a shrine with food offerings. A side room had been converted into a buffet dining area where the distinguished guests were treated to roast pig, steamed chicken, chow mien, and other delicious Chinese entrees and desserts.

Said Council Member Mike Touhey: "I'm very happy; we are very



The face of the latest Hong Kong 2 Food District Market.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony, with company president Tommy Li (second from right), and invited guests, including West Covina Mayor Pro Tem Steve Herfert, Council Member Mike Touhey, and Chamber of Commerce president Mike Miller. Photos by Rene Villaroman

fortunate to have the Li family for making this investment in our community. They have been great friends of the City of West Covina for many years, and we're glad that they are able to do this."

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