

A concert experience that's close to home

Written by Administrator
Friday, 13 April 2018 22:39



SUPERSTAR SELFIES: Dingdong Dantes (center) with (from left) Jennylyn Mercado, Betong Sumaya and Lovi Poe. (Photo by GMA Pinoy TV)

By KAY HABANA

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Special to the Filipino Reporter

A press conference was held on April 6, 2018 at the Kalayaan Hall of the Philippine Center in New York to welcome the most awaited artists of GMA Network's biggest stars — Alden Richards, Lovi Poe, Dennis Trillo, Jennylyn Mercado, Betong Sumaya and Dingdong Dantes.

The presser was a prelude to the first of their back-to-back "Sikat Ka, Kapuso!" shows, first in New Jersey followed the next evening in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Media and select members of the Filipino-American community participated in a potpourri of questions thrown at the artists, to which they graciously responded.

Albeit perceptible upon their faces that they were jetlagged and some still recovering from having been sick, each one tactfully engaged in the exchange of conversations.

Delicious food and sweets were beautifully arrayed and generously given at the back of the hall by the sponsors.

Concert proper

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April 7, 2018 at Newark Symphony Hall in New Jersey, 5 p.m. — entryways opened to the public as everybody lit up with energy as the long-awaited show would soon turn into a reality.

Filipinos in the tri-state area came hurrying in, sure of the delight that this melodic celebration would bring.

Indeed, even those from the neighboring country [Canada] couldn't be dissuaded from watching.



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JOB WELL DONE: GMA stars celebrate after their show at Newark Symphony Hall in New Jersey on April 7, 2018. From left, Alden Richards, Jennylyn Mercado, Lovi Poe, Dennis Trillo, Dingdong Dantes and Betong Sumaya. (Photo by GMA Pinoy TV)

All things considered, for the numerous *Pinoys* here abroad, this #SikatKaKapuso show might just be the sustenance of happiness and a definitive remedy to missing our country.

These familiar faces we see on television screens regularly, the music from home, the mushy jokes we chuckle at — they certainly tie individuals together, creating solidarity, despite the various struggles and, on occasion, loneliness with which many of us are confronted.

Cheers and praises, boisterous and clear, welcomed New Jersey's finest in singing during the opening acts of the concert — Angel Ram, Kirby Asunto, Alyssa Shoemaker and Jared Martin.

Every one was inarguably adored by the onlookers.

Their tunes filled the antiquated space of Newark Symphony Hall.

Initially built by the Shriners it was later on renamed to Newark Symphony Hall in 1964.

It highlights a Greek and Egyptian theme inside, as well as marble segments, and a gold-leaf fret work among many.

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This antiquated grandeur contained avid fans and concert-goers for a few hours.

#SikatKaKapuso stars Dennis, Betong, Jennylyn, Lovi, Alden, and Dingdong were a diverse blend.

Each displayed an assortment in style, be it in the way they dressed, talked, sang and moved.

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anti-Racism and anti-Semitism, and anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-trans rights. The event was held at the historic, ornate Regency Theatre in New York City, which is known for its grand architecture and long history of hosting Broadway shows and other theatrical performances. The performer, who is a well-known figure in the music industry, was seen singing into a microphone on the stage. The audience, consisting of many young people, was seen in the foreground, with many holding up their phones to capture the moment. The overall atmosphere was one of excitement and anticipation.

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When I was a young boy, I was always fascinated by the music that came out of the speakers in my living room. I would sit on the floor, listening to the music, and I would imagine that I was part of the band. I would play the guitar, sing into the microphone, and dance to the music. I would be so happy when the music was playing, and I would be so sad when it stopped. I would be so happy when the music was playing, and I would be so sad when it stopped.

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Jennylyn Mercado mingles with the audience. (Photo by GMA Pinoy TV)

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The large crowd at Newark Symphony Hall. (Photo by GMA Pinoy TV)

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Entertainment network's biggest stars showing their appreciation to the fans. (Photo by GMA)

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DESSERAT, CONSILYATE Edna and Baldo Buhayas, (5) Pro, Dingdong Dantes,

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The author (Kay Habana) with Dennis Trillo at Kalayaan Hall in New York.

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The author with Betong Sumaya.

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Blue Sevilla and Kay Habana.