

Disney's Anna Maria now a Broadway star

Written by Special to the Filipino Reporter
Friday, 02 September 2011 19:28



Anna Maria Perez de Tagle (left) with her famous grandmother Sylvia La Torre.

Anna Maria Perez de Tagle, best known for her roles in Disney Channel's hits series "Hannah Montana" and the TV movie "Camp Rock" (1 & 2), will make her Broadway debut in the upcoming revival and 40th anniversary production of the rock musical "Godspell" at Circle in the Square Theatre in Manhattan, it was announced by producer Ken Davenport.

"Godspell," a hip musical re-telling of biblical parables and the passion of Christ, is directed by Daniel Goldstein and choreographed by Tony Award nominee Christopher Gattelli ("South Pacific").

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Conceived and originally directed by John-Michael Tebelak, with music and new lyrics by Academy and Grammy Award winner Stephen Schwartz ("Wicked," "Pippin"), "Godspell" has continued to electrify audiences across the country since its original New York premiere in May 1971.

The musical was both an Off-Broadway and Broadway smash in the 70s, with its Tony-nominated score showcasing instantly recognizable hits such as "Day by Day," "Turn Back, O Man," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "Prepare Ye the Way," and "Light of the World."

It closed on Broadway in 1977.

Anna Maria joins previously announced cast members Hunter Parrish (as Jesus), Wallace Smith (as Judas), Uzo Aduba, Nick Blaemire, Celisse Henderson, Morgan James, Telly Leung and Lindsay Mendez.

Anna's Maria's whole family, that includes her legendary grandmother, "kundiman" singer and actress Sylvia La Torre, are expected to attend the opening preview on Oct. 13, with an official opening set for Nov. 7.

"Broadway is really a part of Anna Maria's career plan as she dreams of following the footsteps of her role model, Lea Salonga," says a family member.

"This is a dream come true for Anna Maria."

Producers say Anna Maria's exquisite singing voice and extensive acting experience won't go unnoticed in "Godspell."

Now all grown-up at 20, the San Francisco-California-born hottie triple threats began her career

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onstage, starring in regional productions of "Cinderella," "Bugsy Malone," "The Wiz" and "The King and I."

Aside from "Hannah Montana" and "Camp Rock," she also starred in the motion picture revival of "Fame," and is one of the actresses reportedly being considered for the lead role in the movie version of "Miss Saigon."

Last year, she toured with the Jonas Brothers and Demi Lovato in North and South America as an opener and performer throughout the show.

She recently performed at the Ronald Reagan 100th Centennial Birthday Celebration, in front of former First Lady Nancy Reagan and hundreds of dignitaries at the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California.

She also has a guest role in the upcoming new animated television show for Dreamworks "How To Train Your Dragon."

Anna Maria, exclusively managed by the Jonas group and represented by the United Talent Agency, also models for Macy's, Levi's, Teh Gap, Old Navy, Mervyn's, and Leapfrog.

She's a spokesperson for Ellegirl's model search.

Visit www.annamariaperezdetagle.com; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ampdt; and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/annamariaPDT

Visit www.godspell.com for more tickets and other information.

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Anna Maria at the 2011 Daytime Emmy Awards.