

Lorli chairs SoHo Int'l Filmfest advisory board

Written by Special to the Filipino Reporter



Lorli Villanueva (l.) with legendary film director John Gallagher.

Award-winning Filipino actress Lorli Villanueva has formally joined the NYC-based SoHo International Film Festival (SIFFNYC) as chairman of its board advisory, while her daughter Sibyl Reymundo Santiago (a.k.a. Princess Reymundo) was named managing director and head of marketing.

Villanueva, who starred in highly-acclaimed Filipino films like “Oro Plata Mata” and “Bayan Ko: Kapit sa Patalim,” said the festival, now on its second year, is attracting more entries from independent filmmakers worldwide following the huge success of last year’s inaugural event.

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This year's screenings will be held from April 15 to 21 at Quad Cinema at 34 West 13th Street, with a star-studded red carpet opening night on April 15 to be led by SIFFNYC founder and chief executive Jorge Ballos, managing partner Noli Parumog, executive director Michelle Vzemin von Chudenitz, and president and program coordinator Luis Pedron.

Villanueva said the awards gala night is slated on April 22 with the presentation of the very first SIFFNYC Icon Award to honor NY film artists who have achieved a high degree of creative excellence over the years.

The very first awardee will be Frank Vincent, noted for his unforgettable performances in classic films like "Raging Bull," "Goodfellas," "Casino" and the smash HBO mob series "Sopranos."



Sibyl Reymundo Santiago (c.) with John Gallagher (l.) and legendary actor Frank Vincent.

“Everyone was so thrilled when Frank Vincent accepted the award and invitation from SIFFNYC,” said Villanueva, a member of Hollywood’s Screen Actor’s Guild and American Theater’s Actor’s Equity and currently deputy chairman of the Graduate Education and Special Education at Touro College in Manhattan.

“His name alone has already added more prestige and credence to this festival and we are all very honored to have him,” she added.

The presenter of the Icon Award will be announced later.

“I think it’s a surprise that everyone should watch out for,” Villanueva said.

The festival will also feature “An Evening with Frank Vincent,” to be hosted by the legendary film director John Gallagher (“The Deli,” “Blue Moon”) who, incidentally, will be directing Frank Vincent in his upcoming feature comedy “Fickle.”

Vincent’s 60-plus film credits include “Do The Right Thing,” “Jungle Fever,” “Night Falls on Manhattan” and “The Pope of Greenwich Village,” all filmed in New York City.

He also voiced Great White in “A Shark Tale.”

Visit www.siffnyc.net or e-mail info@siffnyc.net for more information about the festival.

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Lorli Villanueva with actor Franky G.