

He Didn't Just Perform. He Made a Difference!

Thor Valiente headlines a benefit concert celebrating parents while raising hope for children battling cancer and those living on the streets.

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER

Music took on a deeper meaning as singer, actor, and philanthropist **Thor Valiente** headlined "Make Your Nanay & Tatay Proud: A Concert for a Cause" at Noyptiz in Long Beach, California last Sunday, June 21. More than a showcase of talent, the evening celebrated family, gratitude, and compassion while raising awareness for street children and children battling cancer.

The program featured an impressive lineup of guest performers, including Mariel Tomas, Joel Ortega, Cath Alix, Cristiani Rebada, Janice Javier, and Imelda Bosing, along with a community Zumba headed by Nonie Belarmino, raffles, and heartfelt tributes to mothers and fathers.

Following an inspiring video presentation highlighting his journey from child actor to rising performer, Thor captivated the audience with a dynamic set that included favorites such as *Man's World*, *Magasin*, *Dance With My Father*, an Ogie Alcasid medley, and his original songs *Bahagi* and *#Haha!*.

One of the evening's most touching moments came during the concert's advocacy segment, where Thor shared his passion for helping street children and cancer patients. A longtime supporter of charitable causes, he continues to dedicate a portion of his talent fees to organizations serving vulnerable children, reminding the audience that success is most meaningful when it creates hope for others.

The celebration also included a heartfelt birthday tribute to Thor's grandmother, reflecting the concert's



Photo by Isidric Panganiban

central message of honoring the sacrifices and love of parents and grandparents.

Known as a two-time grand finalist on Tawag ng Tanghalan, an alumnus of The Voice Teens Philippines, and a contestant on Viva's Next Big Star, Thor continues to prove that his artistry extends far beyond the stage. "Make Your Nanay & Tatay Proud" was not only an unforgettable evening of entertainment—it was a powerful reminder that music can inspire, unite communities, and make a lasting difference.

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Father's Day Special

- Thor Valiente's tribute to moms and dads
- Johnny Itliong on his father Larry Itliong's enduring legacy
- Lt. Gov. candidate Gloria Romero celebrates June birthdays and Father's Day

CHAT WITH MIC

Why Larry Itliong's Story Still Matters Today

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER

Some interviews stay with you long after the cameras stop rolling. My conversation with **Johnny Itliong** for *Chat With Mic* was one of those. As the son of labor leader Larry Itliong, Johnny grew up in Delano, California, surrounded by the Filipino farmworkers known as the Manongs. Raised in a Filipino-Mexican household, he learned the values of hard work, self-reliance, and service. Those lessons helped shape him into a licensed electrician, accomplished chef, and community advocate.

Johnny's childhood was also shaped by witnessing the struggles of immigrant farmworkers who labored long hours in the fields for low wages and difficult living conditions. He saw firsthand the sacrifices made by his father and the Manongs, whose efforts helped launch the historic Delano Grape Strike of 1965 and unite Filipino, Mexican, and other farmworkers in the fight for dignity and fairness. Listening to Johnny, I could hear both pride and purpose in his commitment to preserving this important history.

As I listened, I reflected on my own childhood in the Philippines. I remember hearing my parents talk about how scarce and expensive grapes had become. Grapes were a luxury, often brought home as *pasalubong* by relatives returning from the United States. Only years later did I realize that even families thousands of miles away felt the ripple effects of the grape boycott.

Today, Johnny continues to share the stories of the Manongs and ensure that future generations understand the role Filipino-Americans played in labor history. Our conversation reminded me that history lives in people, memories, and stories. Thanks to Johnny Itliong, the voices of the Manongs continue to be heard.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Originally published in *In the Mix Magazine* – Issue Zero: Founder's Edition.



New conversations every week on *Chat With Mic* Talk Show at Mic Diaz Presents Youtube Channel



Photo's by Zylar Ricaforte

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COMMUNITY

Father's Day and June Birthdays Bring Leaders Together

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER



Photos by Andy Edralin

A Father's Day celebration and June birthday gathering became an opportunity for community dialogue as **Lt. Gov. candidate Gloria Romero** met with Filipino-American supporters, leaders and residents during a meet-and-greet and strategic planning session held on June 24 in Burbank.

The intimate gathering gave Romero the chance to get to know members of the Filipino-American community, hear their perspectives, and share her vision for California. Guests enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship while discussing issues affecting families, education, public safety, and civic engagement.

A former California State Senator and the first woman to serve as California Senate Majority Leader, Romero has long advocated for education reform, government accountability, and expanding opportunities for California families. Her campaign for lieutenant governor focuses on affordability, economic growth, and empowering communities throughout the state.

More than a political event, the gathering reflected the importance of building relationships and encouraging greater civic participation within the Filipino American community. The Father's Day celebration and recognition of June birthdays added a warm, personal touch to an afternoon centered on conversation, connection, and community.



FROM THE PUBLISHER

From My Journey to Yours

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER

"You only see the breadcrumbs when you look back."



Looking back, I can see how every step prepared me for what would become Mic Diaz Presents. From Grand Performances and the L.A. Daily News to Tower Records, UC Berkeley, Stanford, and USC, each experience taught me something new—marketing, fundraising, storytelling, publishing, event production, media, and relationship building.

During the pandemic, I launched online shows that gave people a platform to share their stories. What began as a way to keep our community connected grew into something much bigger.

Today, Mic Diaz Presents is a multimedia company built on storytelling, culture, and community. Through *In the Mix Magazine*, *In the Mix Weekly*, *Chat With Mic*, live events, photography, digital media, and strategic marketing, we help individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and creatives amplify their voices and connect with new audiences.

Every opportunity, every challenge, and every lesson has led me here. Looking back, I see God's hand guiding the journey every step of the way.

Everyone has a story worth telling. Let us help you share your story, build your brand, connect with the people who need to hear it, and make a lasting impact.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 28

Miss Philippines USA 2026 Runway Challenge & Presentation of Candidates at Hotel Indigo, DTLA

JULY 3

City of La Mirada 4th of July Celebration feat. Purple Generation and Honore

JULY 4

City of L.A. 4th of July Celebration at Gloria Molina Grand Park feat. Tatiana Tate and Jungle Fire

JULY 5

Self-Evident Truths Art Exhibition feat. Eliseo Art Silva at Avenue 50 Studio in Highland Park

JULY 9

DTLA ArtNight on Grand Ave. feat. Yoko Ono at The Broad, special collections at MOCA, and '80s music at Grand Performances at California Plaza

JULY 10

The Art of Crossfade at Grand Performances at California Plaza • Dance DTLA: Salsa at Jerry Moss Plaza, The Music Center

JULY 11 & 12

45th Lotus Festival at Echo Park Lake in Los Angeles feat. host country Sri Lanka

JULY 14

Bastille Day (French National Day) Celebration at California Plaza, DTLA

JULY 16

Garth Garcia Sings the Classics at Catalina Jazz Club

JULY 17

Miss Philippines USA 2026 Acoustic Night at Korner Hut, Historic Filipinotown, Los Angeles

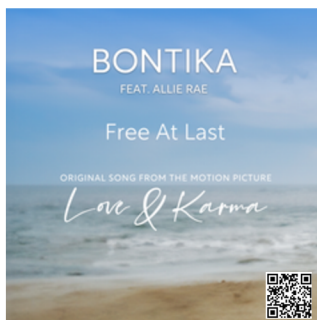
JULY 18

Rey Zipagan Art Exhibition at ROK Art Gallery, 5029 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles

JULY 18

WONDER-FULL Tribute to the Music of Stevie Wonder feat. DJ Spinna, DJ Monalisa, Tatiana Tate and more!

LISTEN TO THE SOUNDTRACK OF OUR COMMUNITY.



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