

## More Than Music, It's an Experience

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER



Photo by Mic Diaz

What began as a one-off performance among friends has evolved into one of the most distinctive live acts in the Filipino-American music scene. **Playback Jukebox**—featuring **Paco Arespacochaga**, **Benjie Collantes**, and **JJ Buencamino**—was never part of a grand master plan. In fact, the band didn't even have a name when they played their first show.

What brought them together was a shared love of music, particularly New Wave, alternative, and pop influences from the 1980s and beyond. Drawing from decades of experience as musicians, performers, producers, and songwriters, the trio discovered a creative chemistry that continues to fuel the band's growth and success.

For Playback Jukebox, music is not simply about playing songs—it's about ownership. Whether performing an original composition or reimagining a beloved classic, the group believes every artist should bring something meaningful to the stage.

Their original songs, including "Malabo," "Won't You Come Home (I'm Sorry)," and "Autumn," balance infectious melodies with themes of love, hope, and human connection.

Beyond the music, Playback Jukebox has built a loyal following through its energetic performances and musicianship. Blending nostalgia with originality, the band creates an experience that resonates with audiences across generations.

As Playback Jukebox continues to perform in the United States and the Philippines, the band remains committed to creating memorable musical experiences that celebrate the enduring power of music.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

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Never miss an issue of *In the Mix Magazine* (Quarterly) and *In the Mix Weekly* newsletter.

## CHAT WITH MIC

# Taking a Chance on Yourself

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER

Filmmaker **Edrian Pangilinan** returned to *Chat With Mic* to talk about his new film, *Colorette*, and the personal journey that inspired its story.

Written, directed and produced by Pangilinan, *Colorette* explores coming of age later in life. Its central character, Izzy, is in his 30s and finds himself wanting more from life, but unsure how to move forward. Through a series of experiences, he ultimately faces a decision Pangilinan knows personally: whether to remain comfortable or choose himself.

Much of Pangilinan's storytelling begins with his own experiences. After years in San Diego, he eventually made the move to Los Angeles, describing it as a decision to "take a chance on myself and take a bet on myself." That transition became part of the inspiration behind *Colorette*.

The filmmaker also reflected on how his work has evolved. While previous projects explored heavier emotions, *Colorette* allowed him to imagine something brighter—stories with more hope, color and possibility. For Pangilinan, authentic representation begins with telling the stories we know and speaking our truths unapologetically.

At the heart of his journey is a lesson he continues to learn himself: accepting who you are can be the beginning of moving forward.

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

Check out the full interview in *Chat With Mic* on the Mic Diaz Presents Youtube channel.



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



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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Not Every Singer Is a Performer

BY PACO ARESPACOHAGA

The gap between singing karaoke in front of strangers and performing on stage is not nearly as wide as many people think. In fact, there are plenty of karaoke singers who can sing just as well as some performers. Talent alone is not what separates the two. The difference is found somewhere else: purpose.

Most people sing karaoke for themselves. It's a chance to relax, have fun, blow off steam, and enjoy music. There is nothing wrong with that.

Performing is different. A performer steps onto a stage with the intention of sharing something with others. The music is no longer just for personal enjoyment. It becomes a vehicle for connection. Every song is an opportunity to move people, make them smile, bring back memories, lift their spirits, or help them forget their problems for a few hours.

That responsibility requires commitment. The audience sees a two-hour show. They don't see the countless hours spent rehearsing. They don't see the money invested in instruments, equipment, transportation, wardrobe, lessons, and training. They don't see the sacrifices made along the way—missed weekends, long drives, late nights, and the discipline required to keep improving year after year.

Yet performers continue because they understand that what they do is bigger than themselves.

The applause is nice. But those things are not the reason most performers keep showing up. They keep showing up because they love music and want to share that love with others.

When a performer walks off stage knowing that someone sang along, danced, smiled, remembered a special moment, or felt a little better than they did before the first note was played, then the mission was accomplished.

That's the difference. One is entertainment for yourself. The other is service through music.



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## ART &amp; CULTURE

# House and Disco Take Over DTLA

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER

Downtown Los Angeles turned into a dance floor over the course of one summer week, with house music at **Gloria Molina Grand Park's Sunday Sessions** on July 19 and disco at **The Music Center's Dance DTLA** on July 24.

Sunday Sessions brought house music to Grand Park with a Baile World-curated lineup featuring CQUESTT, Spifiorita, Dos Flakos and Josh Peace. The free outdoor gathering combined music, dancing and community in the heart of DTLA.

Five days later, **Dance DTLA: Disco** brought the sounds and moves of the disco era to Jerry Moss Plaza. Dancers of all experience levels joined a free lesson before the plaza transformed into an open-air dance party.

Together, the two events showed how Downtown Los Angeles' public spaces continue to bring people together through music, movement and community.



Photos by Mic Diaz



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month

ArtNight DTLA, Spring St., Broadway and Grand Ave.

### Every Friday this Summer!

- Barnsdall Friday Wine Nights, Barnsdall Art Park
- Chinatown Summer Nights, Central Plaza, Chinatown
- Dance DTLA, The Music Center, DTLA
- KCRW Summer Friday Nights, various locations

### Every Sunday

Smorgasburg, Row DTLA