

An entertainingly loaded weekend...

Pinoy Musik Festival & Expo de Mayo Concludes With A Blast!

By Gem Yatco



Sam Milby performing in front of a large audience at the recent Pinoy Musik Festival last May 17 & 18 at the Meadowlands Expo Center • Secaucus, New Jersey

Pinoy Musik Festival is another additional feather to the Special Edition Press, Inc.'s cap, with the **2nd Annual Pinoy Musik Festival & Expo de Mayo** event held last **May 17-18**. The well planned, aesthetically conceived and equally coordinated music event gave the Filipino-American community a most-deserved mid-spring breather and entertainment by way of a huge musical production from a roster of talented and

executive Vice President, **Mila Mendez**, clearly emphasized as her husband and SEP's President, **Nanding Mendez**, instantly essays in support: "This is a very opportune time to discover, listen and appreciate our own brand of music which could be at par, if not even better, than their mainstream counterparts!"

The Venue's Physical Set-up

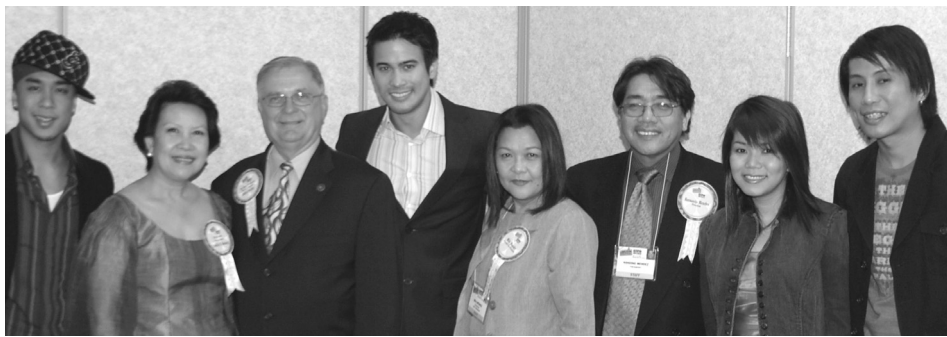
The new lay-out for the visually organ-

ized floor plan gave both the exhibitors' booths, the sponsors' kiosks and the center stage within the immediate access of the event goers. This year's corporate

last December 15 of this year, were interpreted by **Noel Gamboa**, **Geraldine Bernales**, **Maureen Javier**, **Cienesse Lontok** and **Joe Valledo**, all Fil-Am recording artists. "**Nandito Lang Ako**" by **Rodio "Jojo Chua" Batayen** won the Grand Prize, "**Kailan Kaya**" by Jay Alvin Consigo, "**Season of Love**" by **Sheila Marie Pamfilo**,

their slapstick style of comedy, tickled their audience's funny bones with their own brand of comic singing and joking repertoire.

Earlier in the second day, being a Sunday, the event kicked-off with a **Mass** officiated by **Fr. Donato Cabardo** followed by a spiritual performance by world-renowned Christian recording artist **Steve Kuban**. Other featured event was the simultaneous chess game by



Opening Ceremony with Kris Lawrence, Hon. Congen Cecille Rebong, Secaucus Deputy Mayor John Reilley, Sam Milby, Mila Mendez, Nanding Mendez, MYMP Juris Hernandez and Chin Alcantara.

ethnically diverse performing artists: one of ABS-CBN's top talents, **Sam Milby**, as the celebrity group's standard bearer and the show's top-stellar, *Star In A Million* winner **Kris Lawrence**, the acoustic tandem of **Juris Hernandez** and **Chin Alcantara** collectively known as **MYMP**, MTB's *Star Quest* finalist **Divo Bayer**, sing-along master and stand-up comedian Rey Anthony Francisco aka **Rey Kilay** and one time Lani Misalucha's vocal dead-ringer Edward Raphael, Jr. aka **Poca**.

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MYMP Juris Hernandez and Chin Alcantara, Kris Lawrence & Divo Bayer

sponsors are **MYX**, **Aryty.com/Gorilla Mobile**, **MoneyGram**, **Citibank**, **NJ Transit**, **Asian Journal Publications**, **Western Union**, **Tancinco Law Offices**, **Mama Sita's** and **Philippine Fiesta**.

The Twin-day Musical Extravaganza

Filipino music genius – the late **George Canceso** was honored with a fitting tribute through the vocal renditions of **JP Balingit**, **Golda dela Merced**, **Joe Valledo**, **Genalyn Viola**, and **Rachelle Daus**.

Other musically talented Pinoyos who shared their vocal gifts, individually or in-group, were **RJ Solis**, **Erica Jones**, **Roland de Castro**, **Andy Roda**, **Simply Rhythm Band**, **Miguel Braganza's Group**, **Youth Pop Ensemble**, **Lavendi**, **Flip D Skript**, **Friends– Gilbert Laurel**, **Eric Celerio** and **Ramon Tarrayo**.

The top five winning entries of the 1st Pinoy Musik Festival **Songwriting Competition** launched in the Philippines



www.pinoymusikfestival.com



Busy Sponsors & Exhibitors at the Trade Pavilion

Visitor's Food Court

"**Habang Tumatagal**" by **Marevic Parcon** and "**You Are Mine**" by **Nemz Danuco**, bagged the 4 runner-up prizes.

Performers during the **Bandfest** included: Connecticut's up and coming band inine-five, one-year-old **Illustration**, Pinoy rock band **The Grudge**, the all-young **Emanon**



Songwriting Competition interpreters Noel Gamboa, Geraldine Bernales, Maureen Javier, Cienesse Lontok & Rachel Daus

Band, Ateneo-dominated **Iskulbluekul**, La Salle-exponent **It's Simply Green**, the all-around **Simply Rhythm Band**, the highly-energetic **WarholSoup**, **Paper June** and **Soulful**.

Philippine festivities are characterized primarily by a long selection of sumptuous food, varied sources of merriment and a musical-comedy show. The comedic singing tandem of **Renato "Porky" Gomez** and **Romeo "Choppy" Vargas**, known for

Filipino Chess Super Grandmaster Mark Paragua, coordinated by **Nonoy Rafael**. The



pavilion was sponsored by the **United Staffing Registry, Inc.** dba **United Home Care**.

Definitely, the main event was reserved to spotlight the celebrity guests. **Star Records' Divo Bayer** rendered his numbers while he exuded that enigmatic charm on stage, utilizing his Asian-appeal to its fullest. **Kris Lawrence**, wowed the audience with his passionate rendition of some popular cuts from his self-titled album. The tandem of **Juris** and **Chin** of **MYMP** was sure-fire winner.

And pandemonium broke loose even before the "Star of the Show" was called on stage. Just the mere mention of his name was more than enough to get everybody off their seats, kept their necks out-stretched and yelled to the top of their voices... especially so when **Sam Milby** appeared in person... presented himself and waved to his boisterous audience. The Fil-Am Big Brother alumnus, with his boy-next-door image, gamely serenaded his fans with choice pieces he had gainfully mastered...and sung them effortlessly amidst an almost topsy-turvy chaotic crowd.

Suffice it to say that the two-day Pinoy Musik Festival successfully met what its producers primarily aimed for. The organizers welcome supporters, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers and donors for their future events and projects. To reach Mila or Nanding Mendez, call (212) 682-6610, email: sepmgzn@aol.com

"The principal objective of the Pinoy Musik Festival is to give Fil-Am talents chances to showcase their innate aesthetic capabilities in an accessibly appropriate avenues that they maybe heard and recognized in the mainstream limelight." – *Mila Mendez*

Not only the performing artists are given this rare opportunity but the budding song-writers and composers, as well." The petite but smart lady producer and SEP's



Rey Kilay, Poca & PorkChop Duo—Choppy & Porky