

**Asia Society and FAM (Filipino American Museum)**

Present

*A 'Golden' Opportunity:  
Filipino New York Stories*



Visual design by Common Space Studio



**Friday, December 4, 8:00 P.M.**

**FAM**

*A 'Golden' Opportunity: Filipino New York Stories*

Co-presented by FAM (Filipino American Museum).

Curated with Nancy Bulalacao-Leung.

Meet the extraordinary people responsible for the Filipino Renaissance in New York—an unprecedented upswell of creativity, leadership, and style within the Filipino community. In this exuberant cabaret-style program, Filipino New Yorkers will recount the moments that shaped their lives—in five-minute, story slam style. Join us for this celebration of identity and community followed by a reception with DJ GetLive!.

Sound design by Stephen Decker

Visual design by Common Space Studio

## ABOUT THE STORYTELLERS

**NEIL ARMSTRONG** was born and bred in NYC. DJ Neil Armstrong turned his love of music and hip hop culture into a career that has allowed him to play music for the masses all over the world – from small 100 person venues to large scale music festivals with thousands in attendance.

Neil initially gained notoriety for his mixtape projects, which showcased his DJ skills as well as his vast eclectic knowledge of music. The growing audience lead him to work with brands such as Adidas and Undefeated, which in turn led to working with large scale related industry entities like the NBA, BMW, and VH1 to name a few.

Eventually Neil's reputation landed him a spot as Jay-Z's tour DJ. From 2008-2010 he backed up Jay-Z on 4 tours around North America, Europe and Africa. Neil held down the turntables for the televised 9/11 tribute at Madison Square Garden, and performed in front of 120,000 plus at the Glastonbury Festival in England. By far the highlight was performing for the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama. This was the 1st time in history turntables and scratching were present for a celebration of this magnitude.

**LIZ CASASOLA** is a singer/actor/producer based in NYC. She is Co-Founder of Broadway Barkada, a collective of Filipino artists with professional credits in the performing arts, using their talents to raise funds and awareness for various organizations at home in the U.S. as well as in the Philippines. They have performed at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, The Alvin Ailey Studios, and The Cutting Room. She had the honor of singing for the President of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino III, during his Inaugural Ball in 2010. She has been seen in *IMELDA: A New Musical*, *MISS SAIGON*, and *DOGEATERS* at The Public Theater, and *SHOUT! The Mod Musical*. She can be heard on Grammy-nominated band, Boukman Eksperyans' album. She held a sold-out concert at NY's famed Crash Mansion. On television, she has appeared in *Saturday Night Live*, and *Sex & the City*. She co-produced Lea Salonga's sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall hailed by *Playbill* as one of the "Top 10 Best of 2005." Recipient of Filipino American National Historical Society's Outstanding Artist Award and Bayani (Hero) Award.

**JASON CONCEPCION** is a New York native, a writer, most recently at the recently deceased website *Grantland*, and person who does not speak Tagalog even a little bit.

**MICHAEL DADAP** was born in Hinunangan, Leyte to a family of musicians. He started out as a jazz and folk musician before turning to classical guitar. A graduate of the University of the Philippines, with a major in philosophy in 1971, he came to New York to study music theory and classical guitar at Mannes College of Music, and studied composition and conducting at Julliard. His successful Carnegie Recital Hall debut in 1974 was followed by extensive concert tours in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Mr. Dadap dedicates a large portion of his career to the appreciation of Filipino folk music, pioneering the awareness of the Philippine Rondalla in the United States. He is the founding music director of the Iskwelahang Pilipino Rondalla of Boston Massachusetts. He travels annually to the Philippines to serve as visiting professor at Silliman University, in Dumaguete. Mr. Dadap is a strong advocate for developing and building a high level Orchestra of Plucked Instruments, (Orchestra sin Arco) also known in his country as the Rondalla. His first published book, *A Complete Method for the Virtuoso Bandurria*, is now widely used among folkloric Instrumental Ensembles in the Philippines and here in the United States. His song cycle, *Mga Awit Ng Pagibig*, scored for voice, cello and piano, was featured in the 39th Season gala of Ballet Philippines in October 2008 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

He is the Music/Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Children's Orchestra Society in New York.

**CHRISTELLE DE CASTRO** is a Photographer, Filmmaker, and Art Director based in New York City. She is known for her iconic images of musicians, artists, and muses. Her love of portraiture gives her images a deeply intimate point of view, be it in her fashion, editorial or commercial work. In 2012, Christelle founded STONEMAN, a creative agency providing Art Direction, Production, and Consulting for fashion and music labels. She is Creative Director of Top Rank Magazine and is an Advisory Board Member for the Filipino American Museum. Please visit [www.christelledecastro.com](http://www.christelledecastro.com) to view her work.

**SARAH GAMBITO** is the author of the poetry collections *Delivered* (Persea Books) and *Matadora* (Alice James Books). Her honors include the Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award from Poets and Writers and grants and fellowships from The New York Foundation for the Arts, Urban Artists Initiative and The MacDowell Colony. She is Associate Professor of English/Director of Creative Writing at Fordham University and co-founder of Kundiman, a non-profit organization serving Asian American writers.

**KATE GAVINO** is a writer and illustrator living in Brooklyn. She is the creator of the blog, *Last Night's Reading*, which was recently released as a book by Penguin Paperbacks. Her work has been featured on *Buzzfeed*, *The Guardian*, *O Magazine*, *Rookie*, *The Rumpus*, and *Brooklyn Magazine*.

**SUSIE IBARRA** is a Composer/Percussionist and Faculty in Music and Advancement in Public Action at Bennington College. Ibarra creates live and immersive music that explores rhythm, indigenous practices and interaction with cities and the natural world. With Bennington students, Ibarra founded a Sister City Partnership with Tagum City, Mindanao and Bennington, Vermont. At the Center for Advancement of Public Action her work and teaching focus on Rebuilding Cities with the Arts, Art in the Public Realm and Human Rights extended equally to women and girls. Her work includes *Mirrows and Water*, a composition and sonic installation commissioned for Ai Wei Wei's *Circle of Animals/Zodiac Signs* at the sculpture trail of the National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, Wyoming 2015; *We Float*, a 2014 commission by Ecstatic Music Festival with singer songwriter Mirah; and *The Cotabato Sessions*, a digital music film and album that captures one family legacy of gong-chime kulintang music in Mindanao, Philippines. Susie Ibarra is a Yamaha, Paiste and Vic Firth Drum Artist. She is a 2014 TEDSenior Fellow. [www.Susieibarra.com](http://www.Susieibarra.com)

**LUCILLE JAVIER** specializes in free-hand paintings. She works at Sally Hershberger Downtown, with a diverse skill set and the natural artistic ability to paint the perfect, customized color for her clients to suit their own taste and needs that exceeds expectations. She is also the co-founder—with Mark Bustos—of #BeawesomeToSomebody, where they continue to give back to underprivileged children in their community Pampanga, Philippines and New York.

**JOSE LLANA** most recently starred as The King opposite Kelli O'Hara in Lincoln Center Theater's Tony-winning revival of *The King & I*. Other Broadway: *Wonderland*; *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Drama Desk Award), *Flower Drum Song*, *RENT*, *Streetcorner Symphony*, *The King & I* (1996 Revival). Off-Broadway/Concerts: *Here Lies Love* (Public, Lortel Nom.); *Lincoln Center American Songbook Series* (Kaplan Penthouse); *Ragtime* (Avery Fisher Hall), *Falling For Eve (York)*, *On the Town* (Delacorte), *Saturn Returns (Public)*. Regional: *Oliver!* (Papermill); *Martin Guerre* (Guthrie); *Ballad of Little Jo* (Steppenwolf, Jefferson Nom.); *Candide* (Prince Theater, Barrymore Nom). TV/Film: *Sex and the City*; *Hitch*. Solo album: *VIVA Philippines label*. Training: Manhattan School of Music.  
www.josellana.com @thejosellana

**NICKY PARAISO**, currently Programming Director for The Club at La MaMa and Curator for La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival, has been a downtown mainstay for the last four decades, whether as a champion and presenter of other artists' work as he often is now, as well as presenting his own complicated, intimate solo pieces, or collaborating with living legends of innovation and audacity like playwright/actor Jeff Weiss, composer Meredith Monk, or choreographer Yoshiko Chuma's School of Hard Knocks, among many others. His first professional job as an actor was at La MaMa in 1979 in Jeff Weiss's 5½ hour play, *Dark Twist*. He has performed with both Ma-Yi Theatre Company and National Asian American Theatre Company. Paraiso's awards include a 1987 BESSIE New York Dance & Performance Award; a 2004 Spencer Cherashore Fund grant for mid-career actors; a 2005 NY Innovative Theater Award; and the 2012 BAX Arts and Artists in Progress Arts Manager Award. Nicky is a graduate of Oberlin College & Conservatory and NYU's Graduate Acting Program. He thanks his Filipino mentors & colleagues, especially Jessica Hagedorn, Mia Katigbak, Ralph B. Peña, and Ching Valdes-Aran, soul-mates all.

**NICOLE ADRIENNE PONSECA** is a New York City-based restaurateur of two groundbreaking Filipino establishments. Regarding Nicole Ponseca, Chef Miguel Trinidad and Company, *The Washington Post* stated that, “The influence these two restaurants have had on Filipino-American restaurants is immeasurable.” *The New York Times* declared Maharlika as “an empire in the making.” *Michelin* guide has reviewed Maharlika since the restaurant's first year of operations. Additionally, Jeepney has been awarded “Best Burger” by *Time Out* readers, as well as two-stars in *The New York Times*. Nicole is credited as a pioneer, who pushes Filipino food and culture towards the mainstream. Nicole is a public speaker focusing on entrepreneurship and diversity.

**JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and filmmaker whose work centers on the changing American identity. He is the founder of Define American, a non-profit media and culture organization that seeks to elevate the conversation around immigration and citizenship in America, and the founder and editor of #EmergingUS, a digital magazine focusing on race, immigration, and identity in a multicultural America that will launch in 2016. In 2015, MTV aired, as part of its “Look Different” campaign, *White People*, a television special he produced and directed on what it means to be young and white in contemporary America.

In June 2011, the *New York Times Magazine* published a groundbreaking essay he wrote in which he revealed and chronicled his life in America as an undocumented immigrant. A year later, he appeared on the cover of *TIME* magazine worldwide with fellow undocumented immigrants as part of a follow-up cover story he wrote. He then produced and directed “Documented,” a documentary feature film on his undocumented experience. It was released theatrically and broadcast on CNN in 2014, and is now available on various digital platforms.

**JAMIESON WEBSTER** is a psychoanalyst in New York City. She teaches at Eugene Lang College at The New School and supervises doctoral students at The City University of New York. She is the author of *The Life and Death of Psychoanalysis* (Karnac, 2011) and with Simon Critchley co-authored *Stay, Illusion! The Hamlet Doctrine* (Random House, 2012). She has written for *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The London Review of Books*, *Apology Magazine*, *Cabinet*, and *Playboy*. She has published clinical and theoretical papers in many psychoanalytic journals.

### **ABOUT FAM (Filipino American Museum)**

The Filipino American Museum is a platform for artists of Filipino descent and for work that captures and contextualizes the Filipino experience in America. FAM is a fluid space for the active investigation and expression of ideas at the intersection of contemporary art, culture and community. [www.filipinoamericanmuseum.com](http://www.filipinoamericanmuseum.com)

### **ABOUT THE CO-CURATOR**

**NANCY BULALACAO-LEUNG** has been creating public programs for the Asian American community for over 20 years. She has worked for organizations and institutions that include Asian American Writers' Workshop, Asia Society, and Museum of Chinese in America. She was cofounder of Poets Theater and is currently principal at FAM (Filipino American Museum).

### **ABOUT THE SOUND DESIGNER**

**STEPHEN MIGUEL DECKER** is an artist currently based in New York City. He has participated in a yearlong residency program with artist-collective ALLGOLD at the MoMA PS1 Print Shop, presented an evening-long performance to inaugurate the Filipino American Museum and is a frequent collaborator with fashion label Lactic Incorporated. Forthcoming activities include a regular radio show on the London-based station NTS, a course on experimental publishing at the Parsons School of Design with Inva Çota and a series of events, as part of ALLGOLD, at the 2016 Queens International.

### **ABOUT THE VISUAL DESIGNER**

**JON SANTOS** is a multi-disciplinary artist working in video, sound, performance and sculpture. Recent projects include *The Last Weekend* with Peter Coffin, *Telegraph* at the Storefront for Art and Architecture Gala and *Social Mirroring* at the New Museum. He is currently an adjunct professor at Pratt Institute. Santos is the principal of Common Space Studio, a multidisciplinary design and art studio nominated for the 2012 James Beard Foundation award for Outstanding Restaurant Graphics. He has presented his work at Pecha Kucha New York and his work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *VMagazine*, *Dossier Journal*, *Paper*, *Casa Vogue*, *Bidoun*, *the Fader*, *Casa Brutus*, *Communication Arts*, *+81* and *I.D.* He currently lives and works in New York City.

Asia Society is grateful for the support of  
*The Philippine Gold Benefit Committee*

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# Philippine**GOLD**

Treasures of  
Forgotten Kingdoms

PHILIPPINE GOLD: TREASURES OF FORGOTTEN KINGDOMS  
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## **About Performing Arts at Asia Society**

Asia Society's Performing Arts Program is an intrinsic component of Asia Society's commitment to sharing vital aspects of Asian culture by placing creative expression at the center of a more comprehensive understanding of culture. Whether it is experimental artists exploring new territory or traditional artists bringing to life the voices of a great legacy, the Performing Arts Program has created a powerful platform for connecting and engaging with Asian culture within a deeper cultural context. We have presented extraordinary artists from renowned names such as Lang Lang, Tan Dun, Abida Parveen, Shen Wei, David Henry Hwang, Sardono and Malavika Sarukkai, to the latest emerging voices. Beginning in 1957, with New York's first performance by Indian maestro Ravi Shankar, the Performing Arts Program has since presented over a thousand performances, including original commissioned work from Asian and Asian-American artists, as well as American artists influenced by Asia, such as Phillip Glass and Vijay Iyer. From Indonesian hip-hop to electronica from Shanghai; experimental dance to the deeply moving traditions of India's *Kuttiyatam*, Burmese *Zat Pwe* or Chinese *Kunqu* opera, we foster artistic exchange and provide creative opportunities for artists. For more information, please visit [AsiaSociety.org](http://AsiaSociety.org)

### **Asia Society Staff:**

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*In conjunction with the exhibition **Philippine Gold: Treasures of Forgotten Kingdoms**, on view September 11, 2015 through January 3, 2016.*