

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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### **Pinay Lolas *Flip Out!* at Honolulu Storytelling Performance on October 25 for Filipino-American History Month**

Honolulu, Hawaii—In celebration of Filipino-American History Month, Hawaii Repertory Theatre will present *Flip Out!*, a storytelling performance by three Pinay lolas (Filipino grandmothers) from the Big Island sharing their life stories about growing up Filipino, on Sunday, October 25, 2009, Kawananakoa Backstage Theatre in Nuuanu, for a limited engagement with performances at 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. *Flip Out!* comes to Honolulu after a successful run last month on the Big Island, where the show opened to enthusiastic audiences in Wailea, Volcano, and Hilo.

“We had gotten a grant from the Hawaii County Research and Development Office to conduct culture and arts activities that honored our plantation heritage and looked to the future,” explains Akiko Masuda, the show’s Big Island producer. Masuda debuted *Flip Out!* at the Motonaga Garage Gallery, a refurbished art space and theatre venue in the small plantation town of Wailea on the Big Island. In the weeks following their initial performance, Masuda’s team worked with Hawaii Repertory Theatre to bring *Flip Out!* to Honolulu, in time to commemorate Filipino-American History Month, which is celebrated annually during the month of October.

“We feel fortunate to have crossed paths with this production,” said Brian Lee Sackett, Producing Artistic Director for Hawaii Repertory Theatre. “It’s a perfect fit for our mission; to provide professional quality stage performances from diverse cultures and traditions as a means to educate and entertain our community.”

In a series of comedic monologues, *Flip Out!* cast members Angie Libadisos, Sandra K. Claveria and Lorraine Godoy share their life stories while exploring and exploding myths about growing up Filipino in Hawaii. *Flip Out!* recaptures their profoundly moving and diverse dreams, disappointments, and achievements. With honesty, humor, and at times irreverence, they cut deep to the jugular with stories of the uncanny ways they found to survive.

“*Flip Out!* reminds us that sometimes comedy cuts like a knife and that the performing arts has long played a profound role in the ways that Filipinos have addressed some of the thorniest social and political issues of the day,” noted Dr. Theodore Gonzalves, associate professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, whose American Studies Department is supporting the show.

Nicki Garces, chairwoman of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, Hawaii Chapter, another organization supporting the show, believes *Flip Out!* “also appeals to younger, local Filipinos who often feel disconnected from their parent’s immigrant culture.” But the *Flip Out!* stories also cut across ethnic and cultural lines, according to Amalia Bueno, who saw the show in Wailea and Volcano.

“It’s the universal story of people striving to make a better life for their children by holding on to what’s important—their families, their communities, their humanity,” says Bueno. Darlene Rodrigues, who traveled to the Big Island with Bueno to see the show twice, comments that *Flip Out!* is like “lola’s tonic for the soul.”

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## EVENT DETAILS:

What: *Flip Out!* Storytelling Performance  
Where: Kawananakoa Backstage Theatre at Kawananakoa Intermediate School  
49 Funchal Street (corner of Pauoa Road and Funchal in Nuuanu)  
When: Sunday, October 25, 2009; 1:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$12  
For tickets, call 988-2215 or email [tickets@hawaiireptheatre.org](mailto:tickets@hawaiireptheatre.org)  
For more information, visit [www.hawaiireptheatre.org](http://www.hawaiireptheatre.org)

*Flip Out!* is presented and co-produced by Hawaii Repertory Theatre, with additional support from the Wailea Village Historic Preservation Community, University of Hawaii at Manoa American Studies Department, National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, Hawaii Chapter, and Bueno MediaWorks.

**ATTACHED:** *Flip Out!* flyer as a pdf file.

## CAST BIOS:

**Sandra Keonaonaokamaileopanaewa Claveria** grew up in Keaukaha on the island of Hawaii, the youngest of six children of a Native Hawaiian mother and an immigrant Filipino father who arrived in 1926 to work at the Papa'aloa sugar plantation. An educator, she has taught at Hilo High School, the Kulia I Ka Nu'u Learning Center and is currently an instructor and coordinator for the Human Services Program at Hawaii Community College. A mentor and coach, she has over 20 years of experience in Hawaiian culture, diversity and values education. She has a BA in Sociology and an MA in Education from the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

**Lorraine Godoy** was born in Hilo and raised primarily by a disciplinarian grandmother. She studied theatre arts in England and Switzerland and received a BA in Liberal Studies from Boston University. She worked in the insurance industry in Boston before returning to Hawaii to care for her ailing father. She has been an administrator for a variety of health and human service agencies, including the Big Island Substance Abuse Council, Hawaii Youth at Risk and the Hawaii Island YWCA. Godoy is currently the program manager of the Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council.

**Angie Libadisos** was born in Sampaloc, Manila and arrived in Hawaii in 1952 as a child aboard the steamship President Cleveland. She grew up around downtown Honolulu, where her mother owned and operated Cebu Pool Hall on Hotel Street. She is an actress, comedienne, clown, singer, songwriter, artist and educator with stage and television credits spanning over 30 years. She has spent several of those years touring with children's theatre, performing on stage and facilitating creative drama workshops in public and private schools throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Libadisos is the founding member of Lava Jam Band, which has released a compact disk of "planet-friendly songs for all species."

**Dina Kageler** joins the cast as a singer and guitarist during the show's musical renditions. A visual and performing artist, Dina spent time as a teacher in the Philippines through the Peace Corps in the 1970s. While there, she learned to speak Visayan and Tagalog. She taught the cast the lyrics to the Filipino folks songs featured in the show. Dina also writes and performs music for the Lava Jam Band and currently teaches art to children at a local charter school. She lives in Volcano Village.