

Pinoys danced the night away in FWA fundraising

By NENE MARTIN

I had a tumble as I danced the konga, but The Breeze played on, and the rave went on. The speeches were brilliant, the audience appreciative and receptive, the fundraising was marvellously productive. These sum up the enjoyable 19th Philippine National Day Dinner-Dance of Filipino Women's Association (FWA) UK held at the Empire Napoleon, Café Royal off Regents Street, 9th June 2007.

It was a sultry Saturday night and as the guests filtered through the prestigious portals of the Empire Napoleon everything was perfectly in place from the FWA UK ladies in their lovely "ternos" at the Reception desk down to the elegant programs on the tables. The PND Coordinator, Imee Pinto, who is also the vice-chair, had gone through the briefing of the duties of each working committee member for it seemed the millionth time and the night went on a remarkable clockwork precision mode.

When, at last, the Honorary President and Founder of FWA UK, Mrs. Angeles

Quimson arrived followed by the entrance of the Patron, Mrs Lydia Baskinas Espiritu in the arms of her husband, H.E. Ambassador of the Court of St. James Edgardo Espiritu, Elsie Sebastian, the master of ceremonies, signalled the start of the program with the singing of the Philippine and the British national anthems and a short prayer followed by the dinner with hot smoked salmon and rocket fishcake for the vegetarians and garlic and herb marinated chicken fillet for the non-vegetarians with chardonnay and merlot.

The speeches followed. Marina Castillo, the incumbent Chairperson, welcomed



The beautiful Pinays of FWA.

Photo by Gordon Geraldo

everyone warmly and enjoined all to help in the fundraising by buying more raffle tickets. The Ambassador's speech should swell each FWA heart with pride, for he said, "The FWA UK deserves plaudits and commendation for all the other educational and welfare projects it has initiated in the Philippines...that appeal to the Filipino community's social consciousness, and mobilize their resources." The Patron, Mrs Lydia Espiritu, injected a lighthearted jab saying, "How good to be the last speaker

for everything nice has been said" but she expressed her pride to be connected with the association and its laudable efforts to make the quality of life of the children in need to be more meaningful and enriching.

In appreciation to Mrs. Lydia Espiritu, Marina Castillo called on the Vice-Chair, Imee Pinto to present a bouquet and subsequently called the members of the Executive Committee 2006-2007, and presented them to the gathering with her deep gratitude for the contributions they have done to make the affair a success.

Lahing Kayumanggi Dance Troupe, who recently went to the Philippines to receive their Banaag Presidential Award from President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, took the hall down with a spectacular medley of Filipino folk dances. Truly, they are our great ambassador of Philippine culture.

Then Breeze took over with their non-stop rendition of popular dance pieces to the delight of equally the young and the not-too-young. The give-aways of lovely native fans in different colours donated by Mrs Liza Stewart came handy as the night became steamy. ☺