



What are your hopes for Philippine theater?

WORDS WORTH By Mons Romulo- Tantoco Updated March 15, 2009 12:00 AM



One of the best examples of educational entertainment for our children and even for us are musicals and plays that are not just entertaining, but also filled with values and lessons to learn from.

With foreign films so easily available to us, local theater is slowly being relegated to the sidelines. In Manila, we are very fortunate to have world-class theater performers who have not lost hope in bringing back the glory of Philippine theater, and perhaps making us the Broadway or West End of Asia.

This week, I decided to ask the cast of *Spelling Bee*, showing at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium from March 20 to April 4, about local theater's future. *Spelling Bee* is a Tony award-winning musical comedy directed by Bobby Garcia. For more information, call Atlantis Productions at 892-7078, 840-1187.

JOEL TRINIDAD: One day, I hope that we can create enough outstanding original material to sustain our own theater industry.

CATHY AZANZA-DY: I hope that theater artists can have substantial income and theatergoing becomes a habit for Filipinos. Also, it would be great to have more productions of all sorts — something that will appeal to the many tastes that exist in our nation.



FELIX RIVERA: Philippine theater doesn't reach as much people because of the stereotype of what theater is all about. I'm hoping people realize it's just the same as TV or film.

NOEL RAYOS: I hope to one day see going to the theater as a regular habit for Pinoys, at par with concerts, sporting events and movies. This will only come with a general education of the youth geared towards theatergoing.

JOHANN DELA FUENTE: I hope that the government will recognize and fund our industry, and that kids who are less fortunate but talented will be given a chance to be a part of great theater productions.

THEA TADIAR: I'd love to see near to full capacity theater houses all over Manila and the major cities around the country.

PHEONA BARANDA: To see it reach audiences of all ages and have Manila as the Broadway of Asia and have shows tour around the country.

RYCHARDE EVERLEY: There is enough talent in the Philippines to stand shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the world but for it to be a self-sustaining industry it needs a larger audience base. Theater is for everyone and not for an elitist group. More shows need to be produced that are fun, enjoyable, and accessible to the general public.

CARLA GUEVARRA-LAFORTEZA: It would be great to have higher talent fees and actual theater actors used as leads. We have a lot of capable theater actors and yet mainstream showbiz actors are cast as a business decision to sell more tickets.

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