



Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines

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Fil-Am Musical Felix Starro Extends Run in New York



Fil-Am performers Caitlin Cisco, Ryan James Ortega, Francisca Muñoz, Nacho Tambunting, Ching Valdes-Aran and Diane Phelan perform on stage at the musical Felix Starro. (Photo by Richard Termine)

9 September 2019, New York – The world premiere of Felix Starro, the first off-Broadway musical created by Fil-Ams, was extended by Mayi Theater Company in New York in response to popular demand and critical acclaim. The show which was originally scheduled to run from 23 August to 15 September at the Theater Row has been extended to 21 September to enable more people to see the show.

Consul General Claro S. Cristobal, who attended the 2nd night of the musical, praised the artistry and creativity of the Filipino-Americans who created the show which is now reaping very positive reviews in New York's theater scene. He said that Felix Starro once again

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proves that Filipinos, with their extraordinary gifts and talents, are very much capable of producing world-class art and performances.

Based on a powerful short story by acclaimed writer Lysley Tenorio, *Felix Starro* marks the first-time-ever a musical created by Filipino Americans will be presented Off-Broadway. *Felix Starro* features lyrics by Jessica Hagedorn and score by Fabian Obispo, and is based on the powerful short story by Fil-Am writer Lysley Tenorio. The musical is directed by Ma-Yi Artistic Director Ralph B. Peña and features choreography by Brandon Bieber.

The cast for the musical includes Alan Ariano (*The King and I*, *Miss Saigon*) as Felix Starro, Caitlin Cisco (*The Hundred We Are*) as Crystal, Francisca Muñoz as Mrs. Delgado, Ryan James Ortega as Bobby/Ramon, Diane Phelan (*School of Rock*) as Charma, Nacho Tambunting (NBC's *Rise*) as Junior, and Ching Valdes-Aran as Flora.

The story revolves around protagonist Felix Starro who is a famous faith healer in the Philippines whose clients included celebrities and big politicians. After falling on hard times, Felix decides to go to San Francisco for one last healing mission with ailing Filipinos. Junior, his nineteen-year-old grandson, goes along as his assistant. Unbeknownst to Felix, Junior has plans of his own.

The Philippine Consulate General in New York encourages kababayans in the area to support Fil-Ams in the arts and theater scenes. END