



Broadway's "Miss Saigon" in Hollywood, Fil-Am Actors in Lead Roles



Kim (Emily Bautista) with Chris (Anthony Festa) in "Miss Saigon." (Photo by Matthew Murphy)

31 July 2019, Los Angeles – The Philippine Consulate General ladies joined the Asian American community in Los Angeles in welcoming to Hollywood one of the longest-running Broadway shows in the musical theater history, "Miss Saigon." "Miss Saigon" was the creation of Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg, who also created "Les Miserables."

The 2017 national tour of the musical's Broadway revival brings it to L.A.'s storied Pantages Theater, Hollywood with Filipino-American stage actors, Emily Bautista and Eymard Cabling, in the lead characters of "Kim" and "Engineer" respectively.

"Miss Saigon" resonates with Asian-Americans, including Filipino-Americans, as it tells a story of a young Vietnamese girl who fell in love with an American soldier during the Vietnam War. It is an epic adaptation of Giacomo Puccini's "Madama Butterfly", a story of a Japanese geisha, Madame Butterfly, who suffered the same fate as Kim's.

The legendary musical is close to the hearts of Filipinos due to Lea Salonga's casting to originate the role of "Kim" in 1989, paving the way for her to eventually become the first Asian to win the Tony Award for best actress in 1991 for playing said role. Since then, many other Filipinos and actors all over the world of Filipino descent have headlined the play's cast.



Internationally-acclaimed impresario Cameron Mackintosh produced the staging of “Miss Saigon” at the Pantages, which will run from 16 July 2019 to 11 August 2019. The musical has won over 30 major awards since its inception in 1989 including three Tony Awards. END.

Consul Rea Oreta (second from the left) is accompanied by Information Officer Mary Grace (Joss) Leaño, Executive Assistant Georgina Omega-Diaz, ATN Officer Judelyn Cuaresma and Cultural Officer Dolor Sales.