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Fashion | By Steph Sison - Feb 20, 2019

24 Local Fashion Designers Who Studied at Slim's Fashion and Arts School

Meet some of the pillars of the local fashion scene!

IMAGE INSTAGRAM/theolivertolentino, michaelcinco5, albertandrada

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Purificacion and Salvacion Lim Higgins, more commonly known as Slim, established a school for Filipinos who aspire to make it big in the fashion scene. We know it today as **Slim's Fashion and Arts School**, and below, we list down its most notable alumni since it first opened its doors in the 1960s.

Albert Andrada

Albert's most popular creation is perhaps the blue gown **Pia Wurtzbach** wore when she won Miss Universe 2015, but this Slim's alumnus boasts of a decades-long career dressing royalty in the Middle East. He became a master of all things luxurious, which has served him well in the development of his design aesthetic. Albert recently decided to return to the Philippines by opening his atelier at Greenbelt 5. He was also recently named "Asia's Most Connected Designer" at the Mercedez Benz Stylo Asian Fashion Week in Kuala Lumpur.

albertandrada
45.5k followers
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1,850 likes
albertandrada
Happy birthday to my Ms Universe @piawurtzbach ! I pray that God will always bless your journey in life. Me and Rene love you so much❤️❤️❤️
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Paris Hilton Wore An Albert Andrada Creation During The Grammy's

Martin Bautista

Martin Bautista's quick rise to fame could be traced back to his very first collection that earned a feature in *Preview* magazine's top collections to see back in 2007. He graduated from the fashion school in 2006 and has since been a favorite of numerous celebrities for his signature glam look that features evening wear in luxe fabrics and accents.

martinmbautista
Etess Arena
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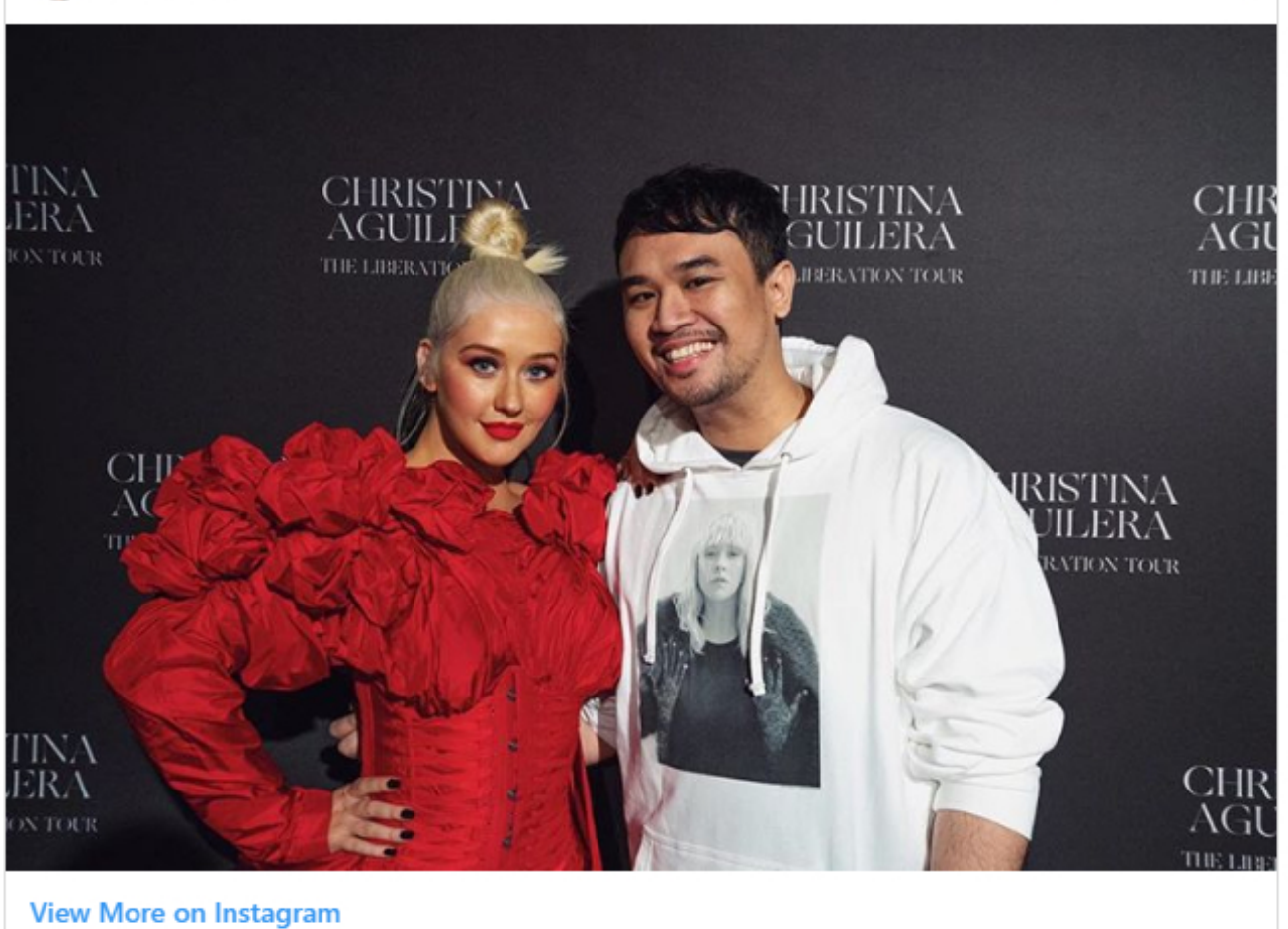

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1,747 likes
martinmbautista
9/28/2018 🎫 Dreams do come true ❤️ Thank you @xtina! Here's to the next chapter... let's do this forever! 💿 #LiberationTour
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Jaz Cerezo

Jaz first studied *Fine Arts* at **FEU** before taking up *Dressmaking and Patternmaking* at Slim's. Upon graduation, Jaz catapulted to fashion fame after her stint on *Project Runway Philippines* and later on caught the eyes of many with her 10-piece collection at Philippine Fashion Week Holiday 2010. The same collection also landed her a spot on *Preview*'s best collections in its August 2010 issue. She is batchmates with Martin Bautista, and like him, Jaz also celebrates the woman's femininity, you can note in her work the adoration of women's curves, silhouettes, and best assets.

jazcerezo
12.2k followers
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295 likes
jazcerezo
Before the show starts 😁
Thank you @mkqua for my glowing skin, auto kirakira makeup and @renzpangilinan for reviving my colored hair with this big, soft,and wavy curls. ❤️❤️❤️
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Michael Cinco

Michael Cinco needs no introduction. This Slim's alum is known for his opulent work and couture gowns that are literally fit for royalty. He has built an empire in the Middle East and has become a sought-after designer of Hollywood stars.

michaelcinco5
Dubai Design District
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1,328 likes
michaelcinco5
New portrait...Shot by the amazing @rozenantonio...Grooming by the great @jojo_dantespadua... #couture #Portrait #BeautywithPhotoshop #thePowerofCoutureContour #myLIFEisFiltered #Dubai #michaelcinco5
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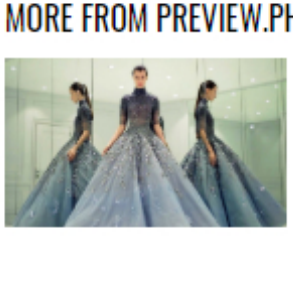
The Reason Why Michael Cinco's Creations Are World-Famous

This Butterfly-Inspired Michael Cinco Gown Turned Heads at Cannes 2018

Pia Wurtzbach's Madame Tussauds Wax Figure Will Be Wearing Michael Cinco

Michael Cinco Talks About The Gowns He Made For The Golden Globes 2019

Phio Enaje

Phio started making clothes at the tender age of 16 as an RTW designer. This Slim's graduate worked as an in-house department store designer before moving from one fashion house to another and later on established his own couture atelier in Makati. He has done over 12 major fashion shows, and like Michael, he also moved to Dubai. Phio ended up working with fellow alumnus **Ezra Santos**.

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Did the image styling for the shoot of this amazing lady @agnessbriggs. #styling #imagestyling #fashion #chic #couture #fashionista #fashionblogger #imageconsultant #image #abudhabi #highfashionshoot #fashion #photographer #mycouture #photo #photograph #luxe #photography #dubai #mystylemyway #transformation #atyourbest #metamorphosis #uae
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Cesar Gaupo

The late Cesar Gaupo was celebrated by many for his huge contribution in the world of fashion. He briefly trained under Salvacion Lim Higgins and **Aureo Alonzo** when he was just 13 years old. His career milestones list: co-founded the **Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines** (FDAP), pioneered ready-to-wear designing with **SM**, and became the Chief Designer of Hong Kong-based brand, **Shanghai Tang**.

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Cesar Gaupo is a highly respected couturier, fashion, shoe, and home furnishings designer, in the Philippines and abroad. He is identified as one of the pioneers in Philippine fashion industry, especially in ready-to-wear. It was an honour to have him visit us at Calima. #calimajewellery #jewelry #cesargaupo #style #unique #makati #Philippines #fashion
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Filipino Fashion Designer, Cesar Gaupo, Dies at 72

The Philippine Fashion Industry Pays Tribute to Cesar Gaupo

Dom Martin "Gang" Gomez

He was a popular haute couture designer who dressed Manila's fashion elite in the '70s. He trained at Slim's and under the NY Fashion Designers Foundation. Dom was known for clean silhouettes and intricate hand-embroidery on rich fabrics and local textiles like jusi and piña. In 1990, he decided to join the **Monastery of the Transfiguration** in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

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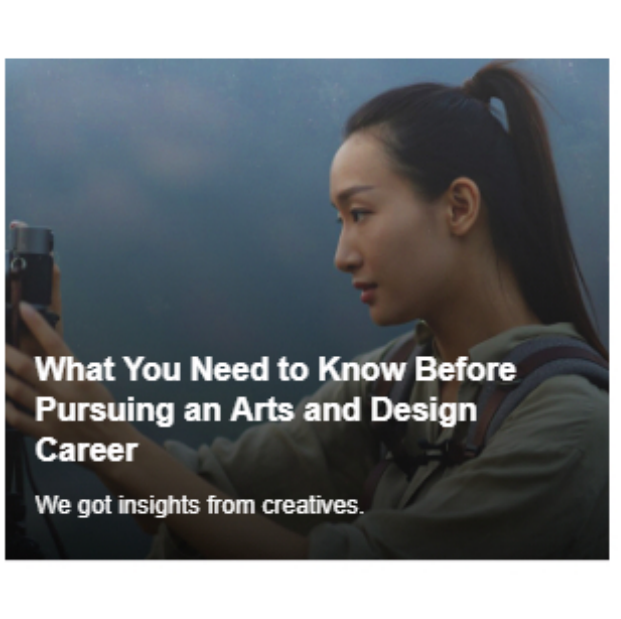
Rikki Jimenez

Rikki studied in Slim's whilst finishing his Interior Design degree at UST College of Fine Arts. He ran a studio from 1970 until 1989 and was also a writer and columnist for *Malaya* and *Manila Bulletin* for 15 years. Before retiring in 2005, he established **Rikki J. & Friends Foundation Inc.**, which aims to provide


What You Need to Know Before Pursuing an Arts and Design Career
We got insights from creatives.

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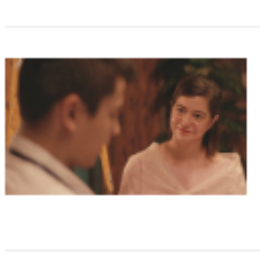
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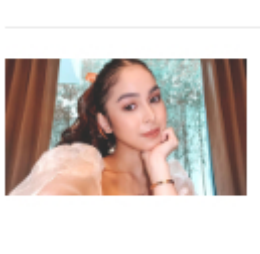
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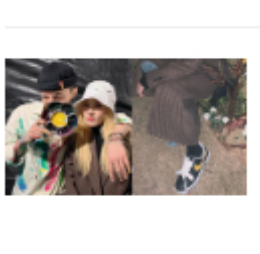
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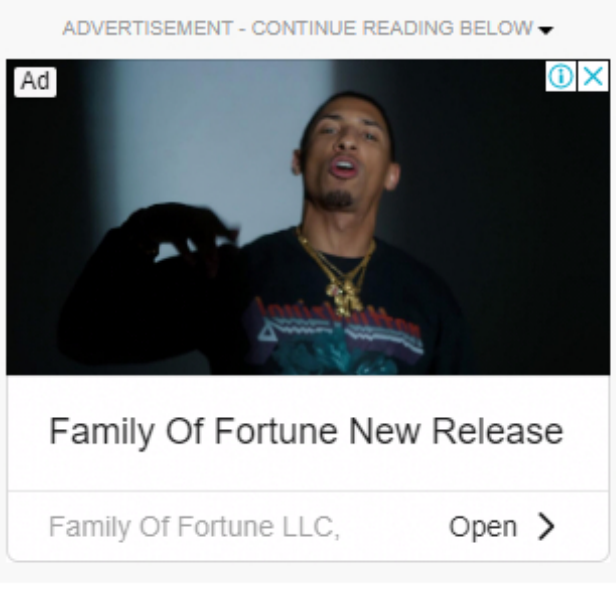
and construct medical facilities.

Aries Lagat

Aries Lagat made waves as the first winner of Project Runway Philippines in 2011, which landed him a spot in *Preview*'s top collections as well.

Pablo Mendez

Pablo jumped into teaching right after graduating Slim's in the '90s. After five months, he went to make a name for himself and earned global fashion awards like the 2002 Best Philippine Representative International Competition for Young Fashion Designer in Paris and the Grand Prize at the Philippine Fashion Designer Competition in 2007. He was also the first Philippine representative to Asian Network Show, International Fashion Fair, and Japan Fashion Week in 2009. In 2010, he returned to Slim's as a part time instructor.



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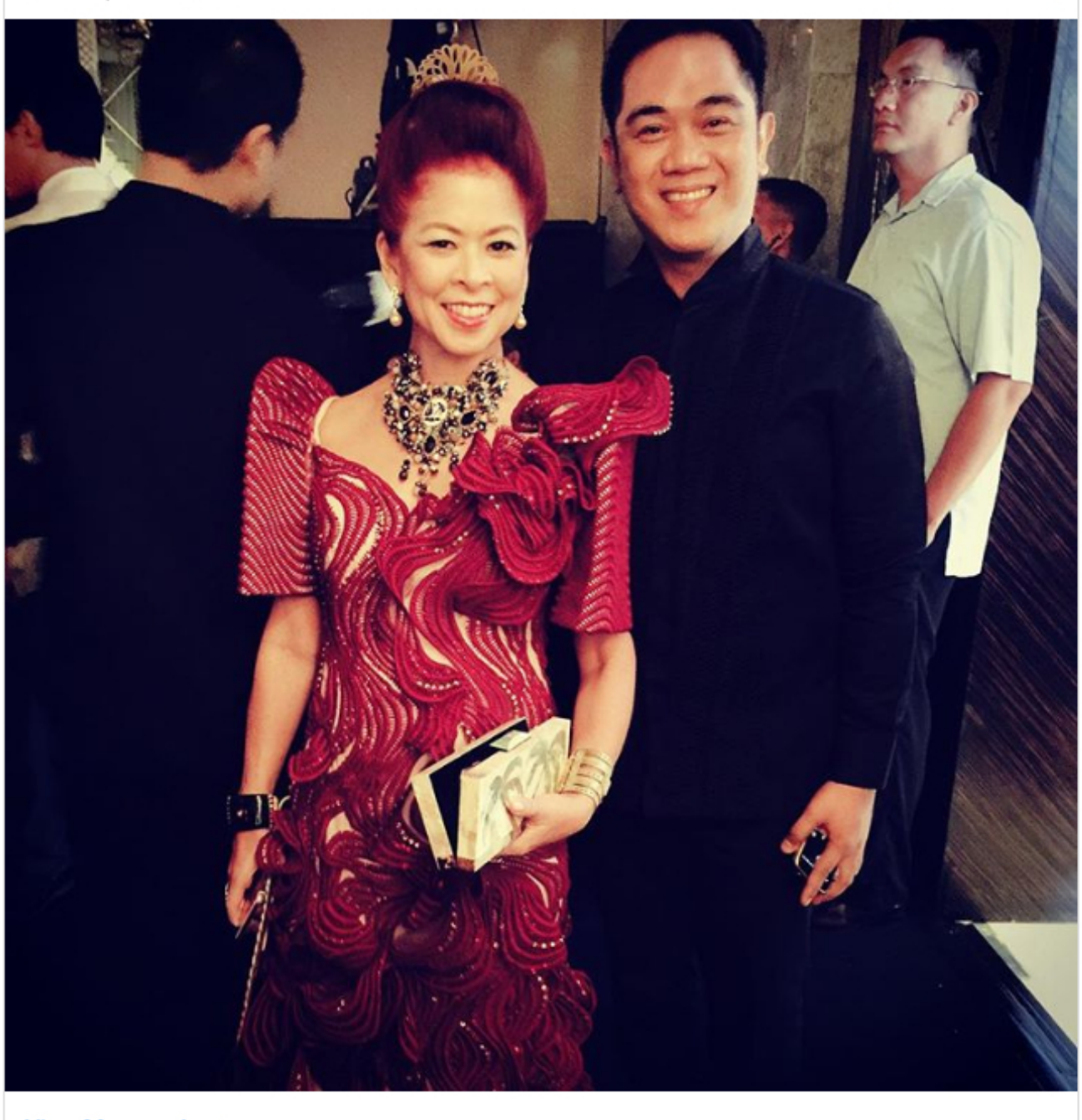

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Tessa Prieto Valdes @seaprincess888 in custom made Pablo Mendez fully embroidered three dimensional Terno gown 🖤
#custommadepablomendez #pablomendezdesigns

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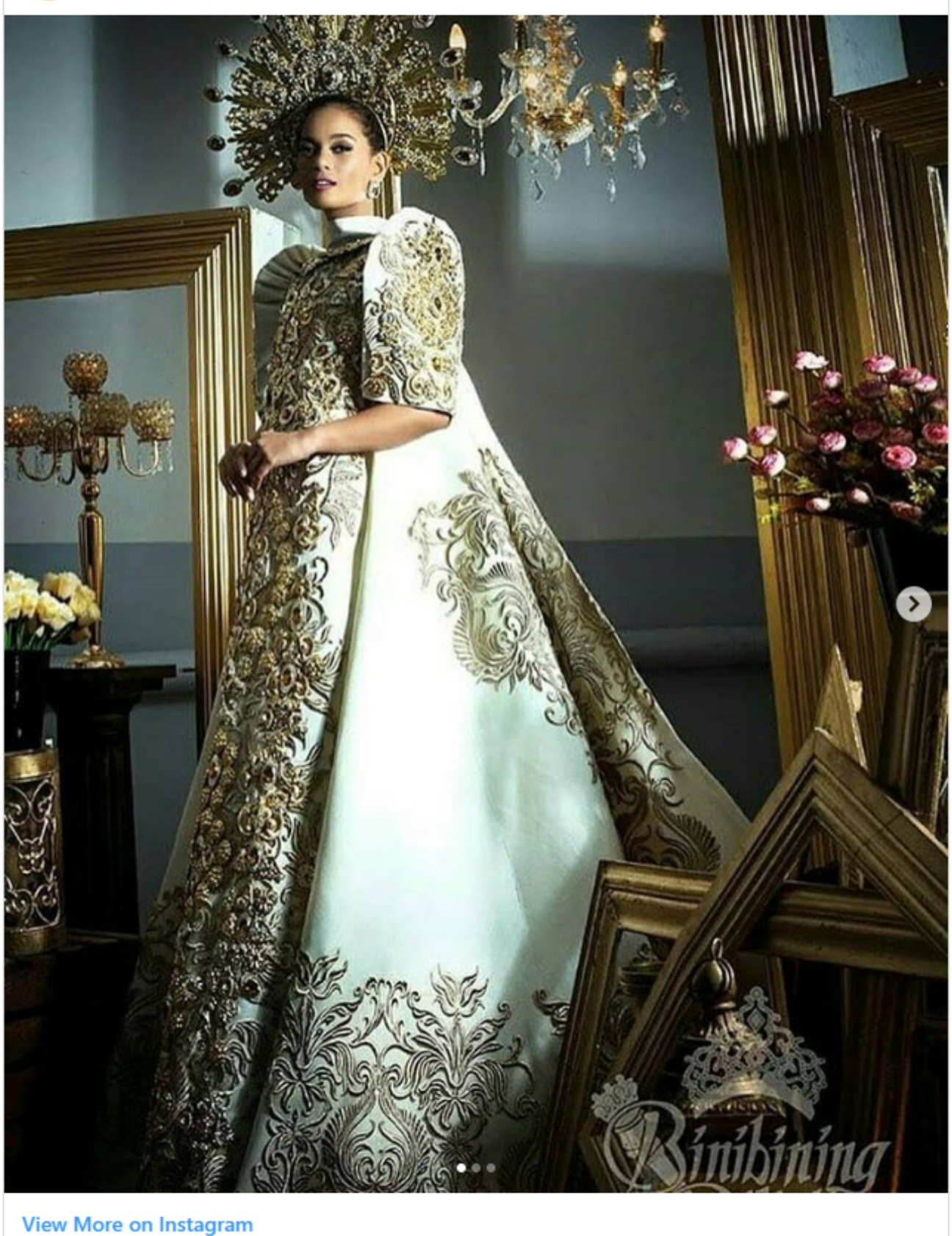

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Tita Lavinia: So, before I go bat shit crazy covering the Met Ball here is: WHAT WOULD LAVINIA WEAR TO THE BALL HAD SHE BEEN INVITED 😂? Yep, kung imbitado ako I'd probably go all out with all our Catholic hugot since may K tayo dyan. Here is my all time favorite NatCos by @pablomendeziii (headdress and all) worn by one of the most beautiful Binibinis evah! - Charmaine Elime back in 2017.

I'm still waiting for the likes of SJP and Kendall Jenner to complete my review so get ready for some flash fashion flooding!
#nationalacostume #philippines #charmaineelima #pablomendez #metgala2018 #metgala #whatwouldlaviniaweartotheball
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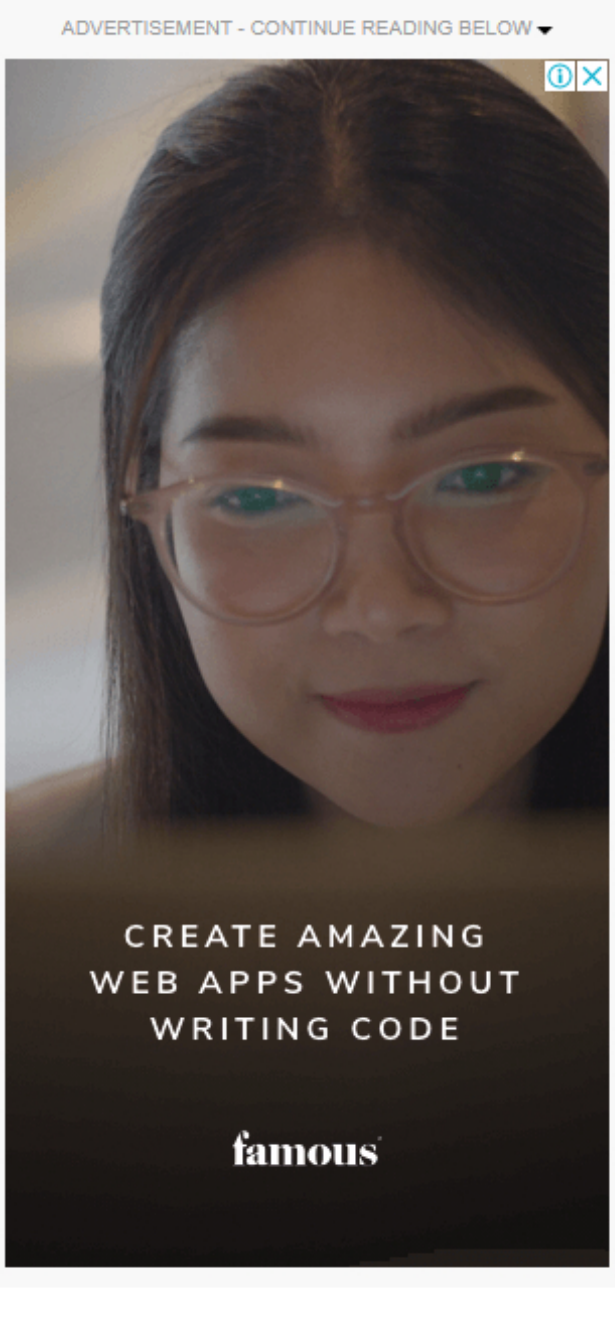

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Eddie Ocampo

Eddie Ocampo had a degree in Architecture before pursuing a career in fashion. He was dubbed fashion's golden boy in 1964 and worked with top designer **Jean Louis** in the USA. His career dressing Hollywood stars started with celebrities in television series such as *Dallas* and *Knotts Landing*.

Oskar Peralta

Oskar was the school's first ever student in 1960 and credits its founder and his mentor, Salvacion Lim Higgins, with suggesting he spell his name with a 'K'. After graduating Slim's, he became a member of the prestigious Fashion Guild as well as a founding member of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP). He was also the first Filipino ever to have a design featured in *Vogue* magazine.

Alex Pigao

Alex got his big break in the local fashion scene after winning the Best Collection Award at Philippine Fashion Week back in 2009.

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906 followers
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alexmedinapigao

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Loretto Popioco

Loretto Popioco was both a fashion designer and a fashion illustrator who studied at Slim's in the early '70s. He even collaborated with designer **Barge Ramos** to publish *Pinoy Dressing: Weaving Culture Into Fashion*.

Milka Quin

Milka left her banking career and started to study fashion at Slim's. She joined and won *Project Runway Philippines* in 2012 before setting up her own brand. She later on returned to Slim's to study more and also teach. She handles a new course at the school that teaches *British Bespoke Tailoring*.

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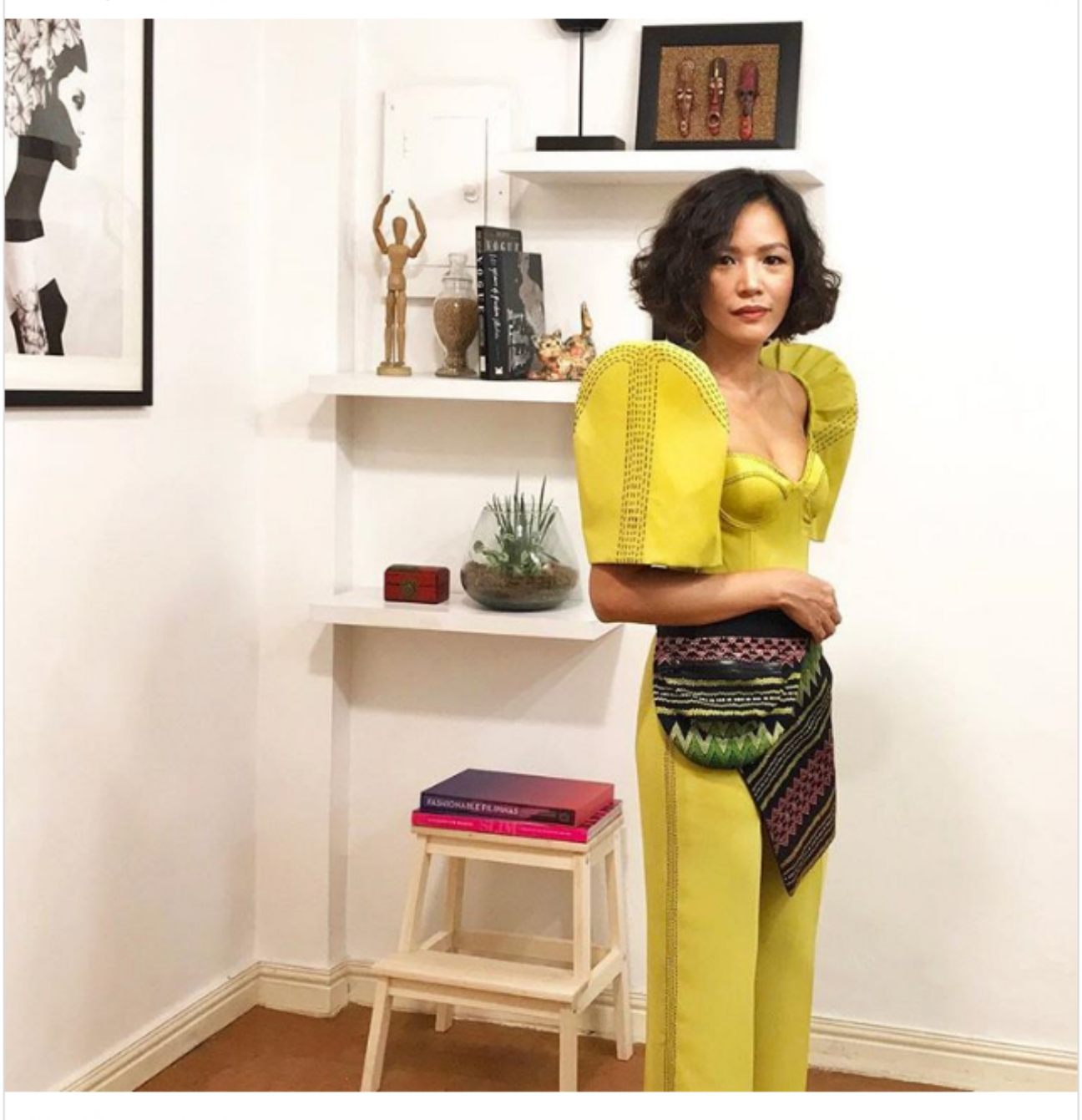

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For we are still on a #ternocon high
.
Chartreuse yellow bustier jumpsuit terno paired with my woven utility wrap
.
#ternocon2018
#filipiniana
#ternosleeves
#butterflysleeves
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#ihatecarryingbags
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EST. 1954 Shakey's PIZZA PARLOR
HOLIDAY CHEERS -BUNDLE-
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Aaron Quitoles

Aaron Quitoles' sartorial flair for modern and minimalist urban wear landed him a spot in *Preview*'s Emerging Talent in 2017.

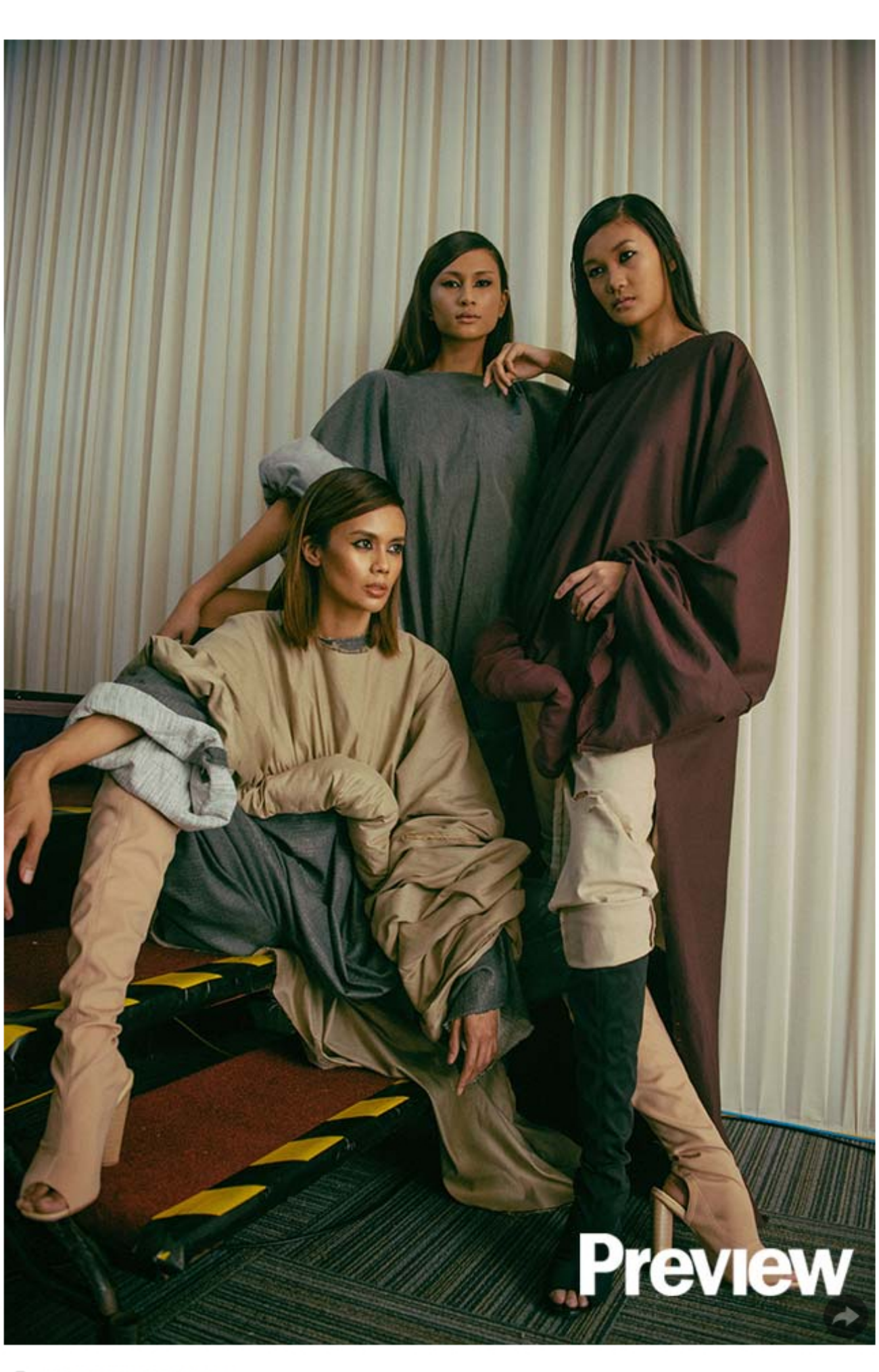
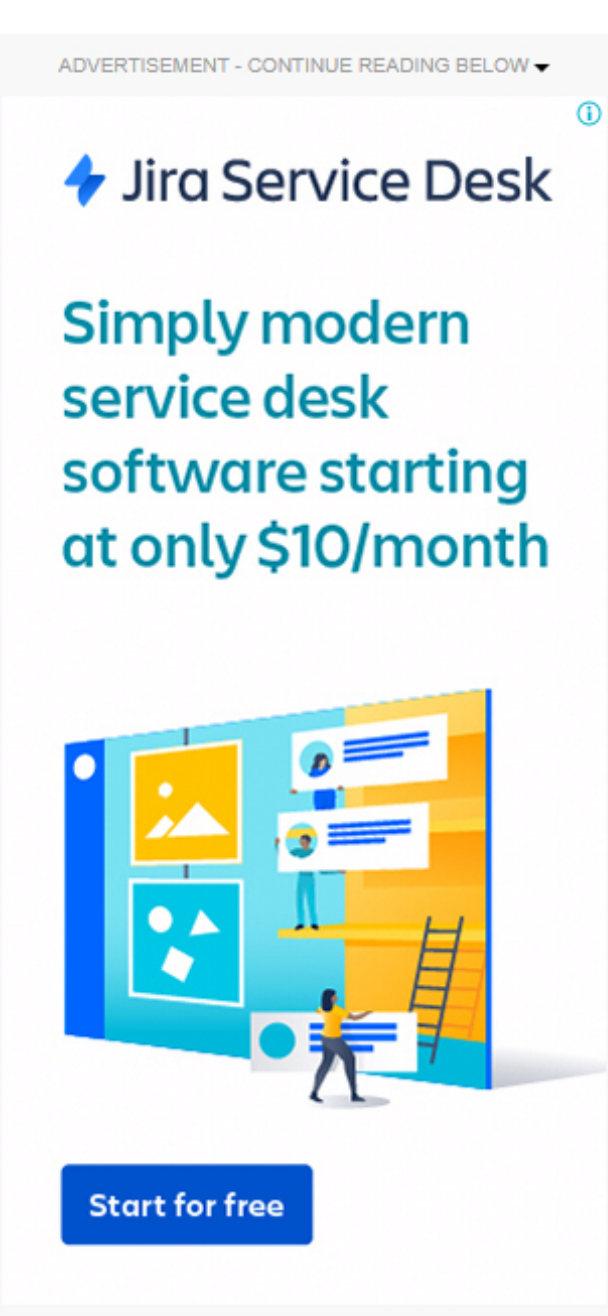


PHOTO BY ANDREA BELDUA

James Reyes

James Reyes is a man of the arts in its truest sense. Prior to graduating from the **University of the Philippines** with a degree in Fine Arts, James was an award-winning ad agency art director from **Campaigns and Grey**. He then decided to take up fashion and studied at Slim's before jumping into theater where he designed costumes for musicals.



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Autumn... and bangs! Hahaha #Kyoto2017

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In 2002, he was a finalist in the Young Designers Competition where he showcased his work—designs that bear references to architectural and geometric shapes—in Paris, France. Later on, he became the president of the **Young Designers Guild**, an invite-only organization.

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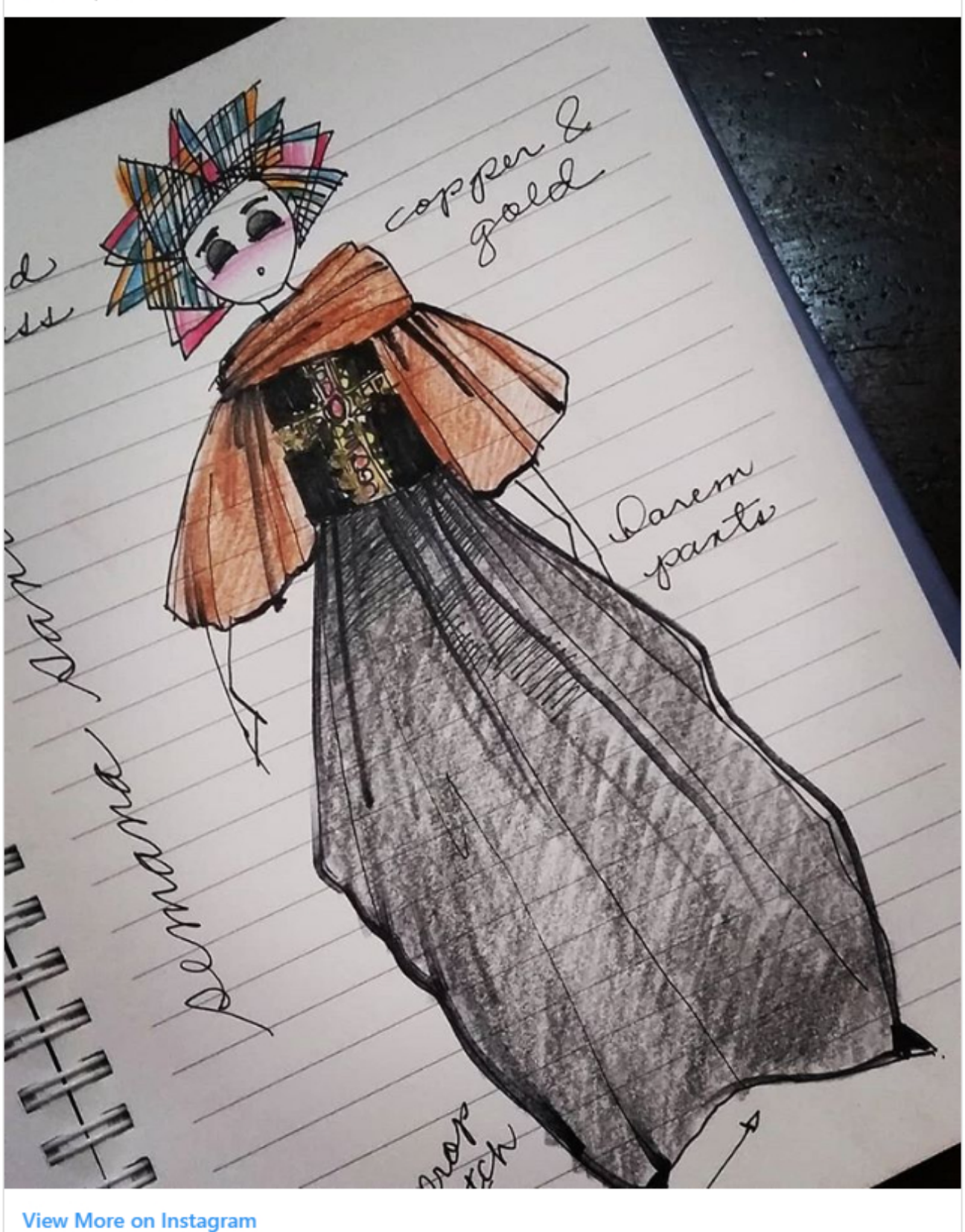

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Joe Salazar

Joe Salazar was known for his ornate take on ternos, evening wear, and classic pieces, giving these garments a modern spin. He was the first prestigious **Ramon Valera** awardee and was recently nominated as National Artist. He passed in 2002 due to cancer.

Joey Samson

Joey Samson is beloved by his distinct minimalist aand androgynous aesthetics that come in deconstructed forms. This take on avant-garde design is combined with his sharp tailoring techniques that truly stands out above the rest.

Like James Reyes, Joey was also a finalist at the 2000 Young Designers Competition in Paris and was also honored at the 2017 Red Charity Gala. He also designed retail capsule collections for **Human** and **Regatta**. Before studying at Slim's, Joey graduated **De La Salle University, Dasmarinas** with a degree in Biology.

EST. 1954 Shakey's PIZZA PARLOR
HOLIDAY CHEERS -BUNDLE-
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PHOTO BY RYAN ONG

Ezra Santos

Ezra Santos' fashion pedigree started at Slim's. Later on, he became the first Filipino designer to establish his own haute couture atelier in Dubai in 2008. His avant-garde couture work is highly respected and celebrated across the world as he became a staple feature in international runway shows, websites, and magazines.

ezracouture
181.8k followers
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EZRA
COUTURE

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ezracouture

Thank you so much Harbin Fashion Week Mr and Mrs Ross , Kovit Ang for a wonderful experience ... to all the staff of Ezra Couture ❤
Special thanks to @ari15anover
To all the models and everyone who made our stay in Harbin amazing ❤
@misterkovit
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Shakey's
PIZZA PARLOR
HOLIDAY CHEERS
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Zenaida Tecson

Zenaida was one of the first batch of students (along with Oskar Peralta and Eddie Ocampo) trained under Slim's. Following her fashion education in the country, she moved on to study Interior Design and Costume Design in the US. She returned to Manila and started practicing interior designing and delved into the furniture industry. When the **Philippine Opera Company** formed, she began designing for them as their Costume Director. Notably, she designed costumes for staged plays like *Hansel & Gretel, Once on this Island, Julius Caesar*, and *Carmen and Harana*.

Edward Teng

The name Edward Teng is synonymous to opulent bridal gowns. This Slim's graduate has made it big in the wedding industry and built a career from couture gowns that spelled extravagance, elegance, and luxury.

edwardtengcollections
8,599 followers
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Muslim wedding....thanks po sa picture... Fully beaded gown with embroidery ......#edwardteng #edwardtengcollections #edwardtengcreations #weddinggownsbyedwardteng #bridalgownsbyedwardteng #gownsbyedwardteng

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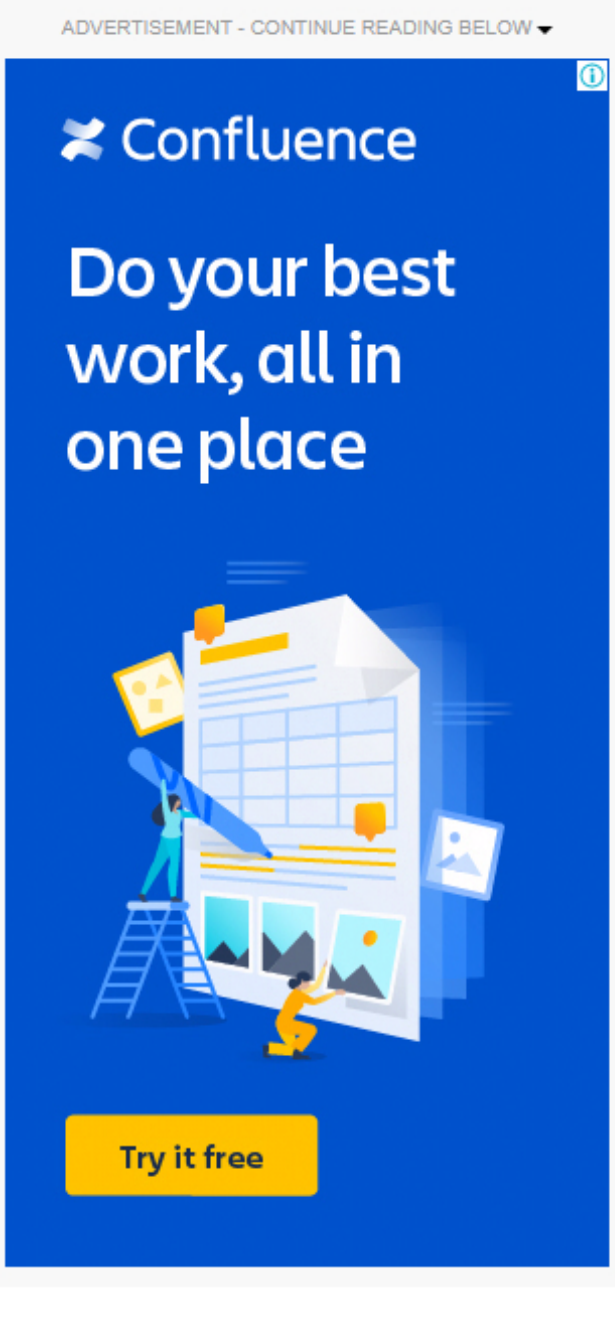

Oliver Tolentino

Oliver began his career in Manila in the late '90s upon graduating Slim's. His career as a fashion designer took off as he became the first ever Philippines-based fashion designer to expand into the United States. He opened his Los Angeles boutique in 2009 and was dubbed as the "Valentino of the Philippines." Now, he continues to dress both Philippine stars and Hollywood celebrities.

theolivertolentino
156.4k followers
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theolivertolentino

Enjoying the Golden Globes #goldenglobes #globes #goldenglobes2019
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Oliver Tolentino At The Golden Globes

Jessica Sanchez Wears Oliver Tolentino

Kelly Preston Wears Oliver Tolentino At Cannes

Filipino Designer Oliver Tolentino's Dresses Make It To The Oscars

Chito Vijandre

Chito Vijandre is one of the country's pillars of fashion. After studying at Slim's in the 1970s, he went on to become a successful fashion designer and was also one of the founding members of the FDAP (He even created the association's logo). In the 1990s, his creativity took him beyond the confines of fashion and he established his iconic lifestyle shop, **Firma**, with his partner **Ricky Toledo**. The shop is known for its eclectic and luxurious home ware and accessories. In 2016, he was honored at the Red Charity Gala where he took us to an opulent time travel that featured glorious period garments.

rickytchitov
Musée d'Orsay
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Happy Valentines everyone!!! ❤
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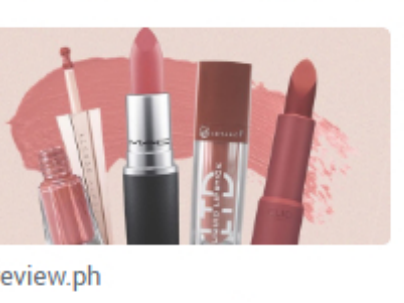
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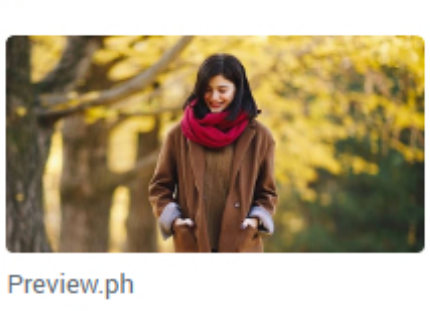
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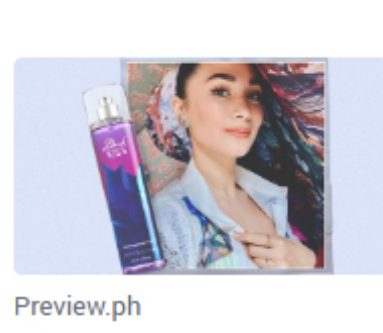
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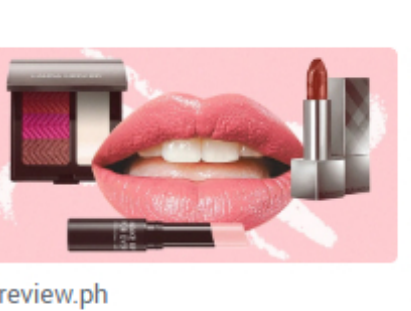
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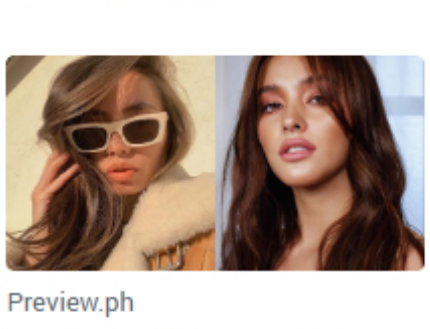
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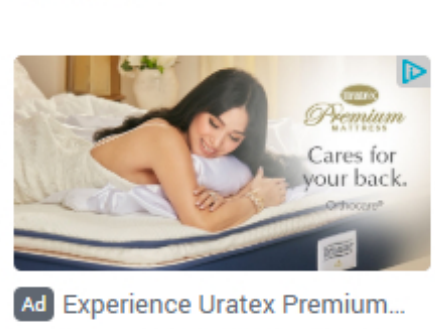
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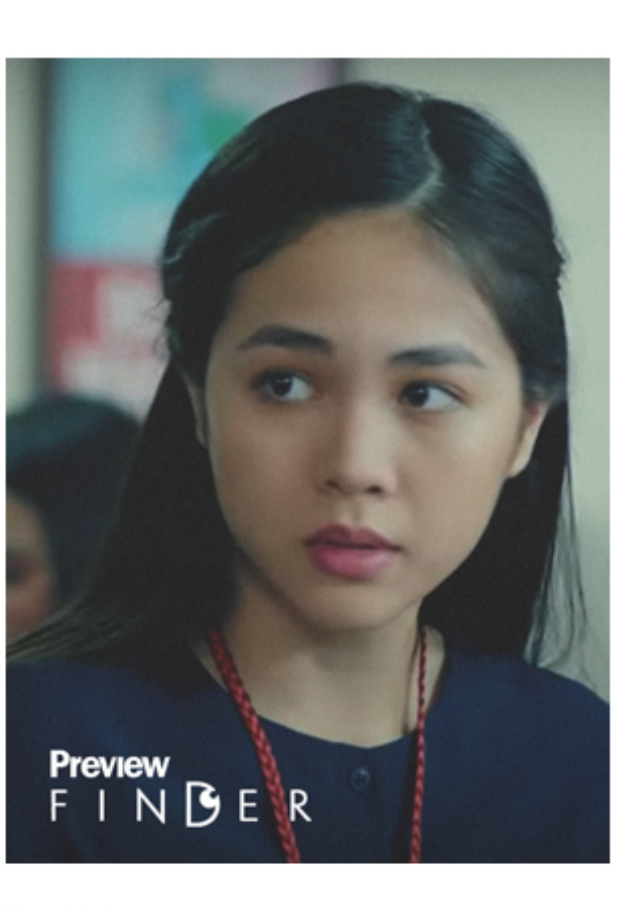
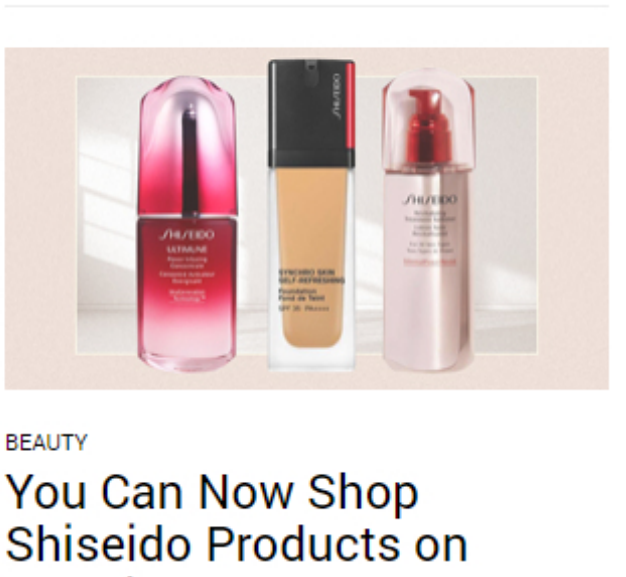
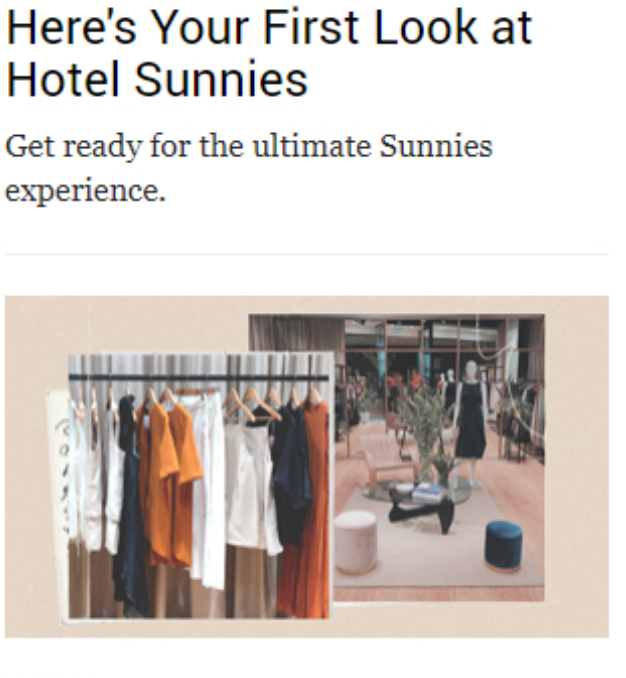


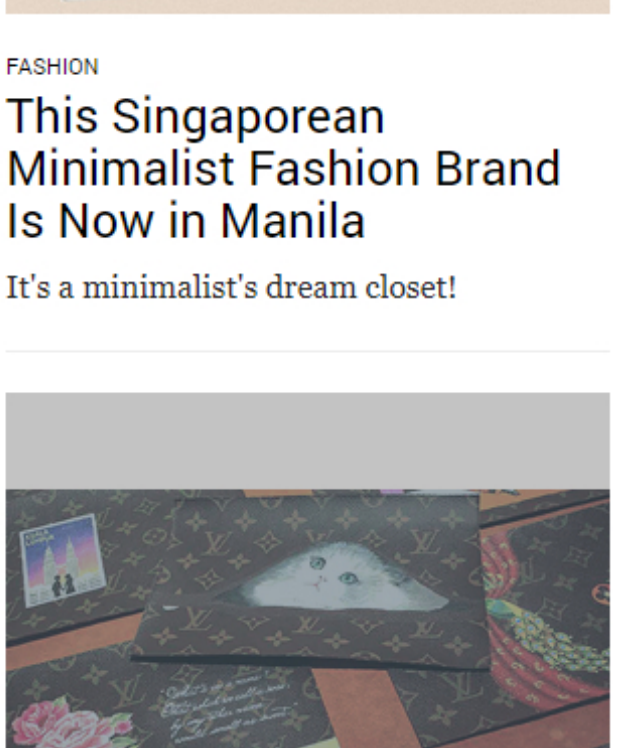
CULTURE
Janella Salvador and Jane de Leon Team Up for a Thrilling Horror Movie
Plus, all the other movies that are coming out this week!

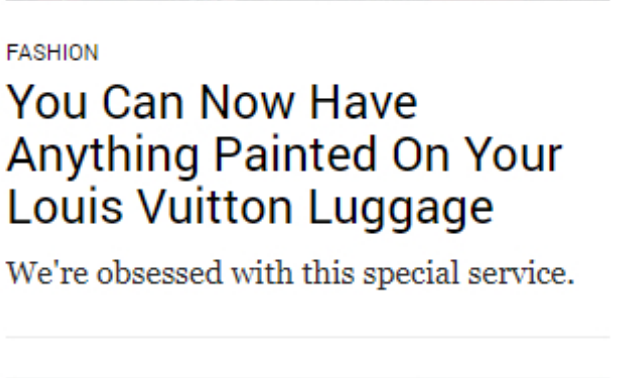

BEAUTY
You Can Now Shop Shiseido Products on Lazada
Don't miss out on their 1-day-only deals!

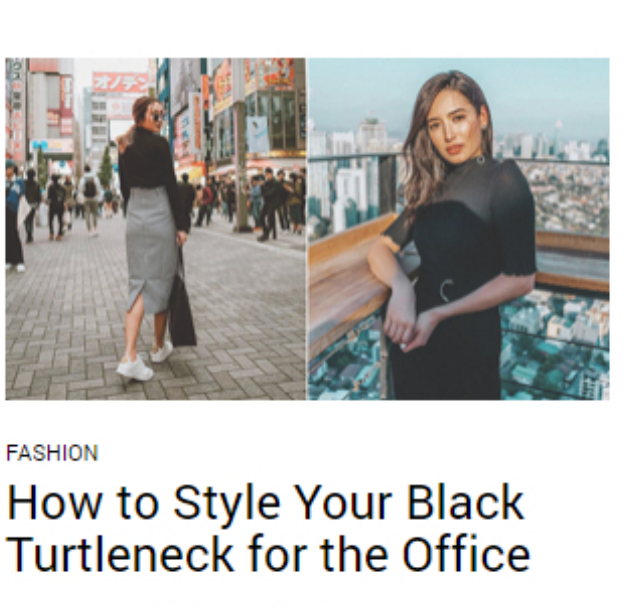
HOTEL SUNNIES

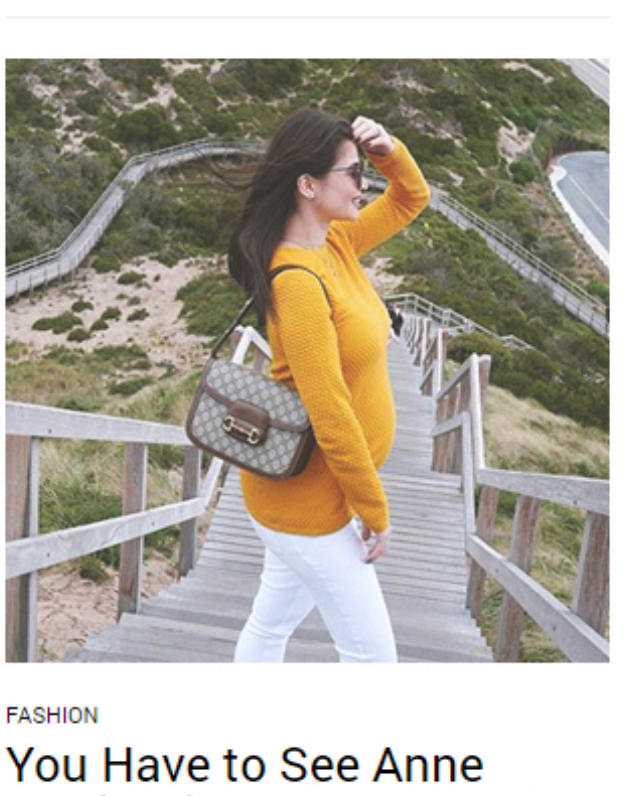
CULTURE
Here's Your First Look at Hotel Sunnies
Get ready for the ultimate Sunnies experience.


FASHION
This Singaporean Minimalist Fashion Brand Is Now in Manila
It's a minimalist's dream closet!


FASHION
You Can Now Have Anything Painted On Your Louis Vuitton Luggage
We're obsessed with this special service.


BEAUTY
16 Best Toners for Smooth, Glowing Skin, According to Your Skin Type
It's an essential step you definitely you shouldn't skip!

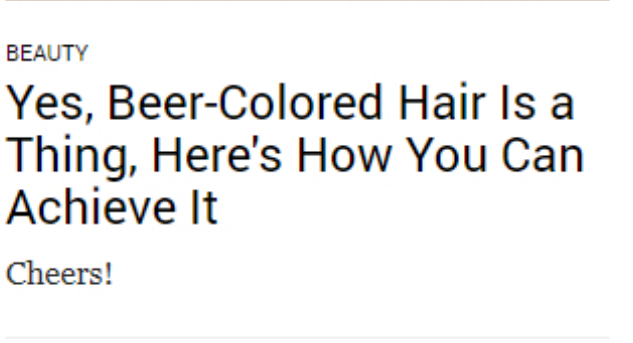

FASHION
How to Style Your Black Turtleneck for the Office
Maximize this wardrobe basic.

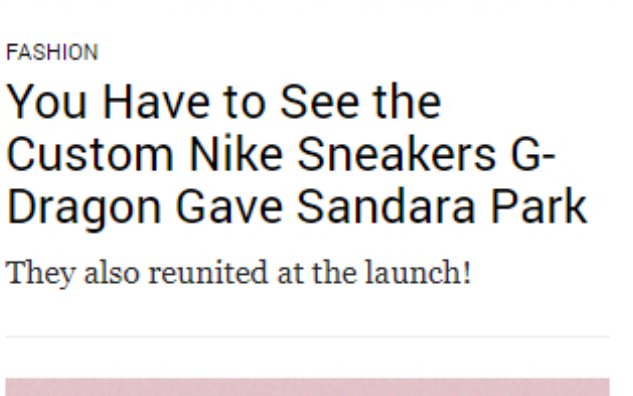

FASHION
You Have to See Anne Curtis' First OOTD Proudly Showing Off Her Baby Bump
We love her brand new designer arm candy, too!

FASHION
Miles Ocampo's Japan OOTDs Look Like They Came Straight Out of a Postcard
The actress traveled to Fukuoka and Saga!

CULTURE
The Philippines Might Be Pushing for a Visa-Free Entry to South Korea
It's not going to be that simple, though.

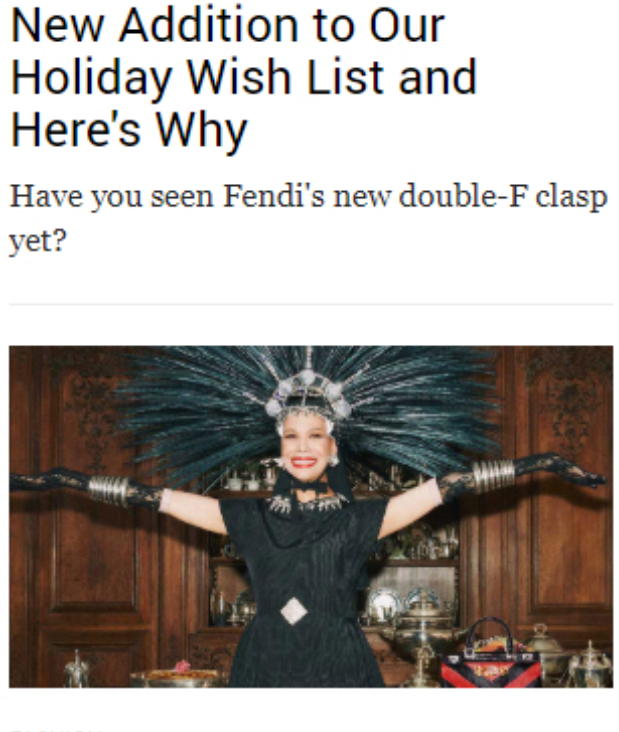
BEAUTY
Yes, Beer-Colored Hair Is a Thing, Here's How You Can Achieve It
Cheers!

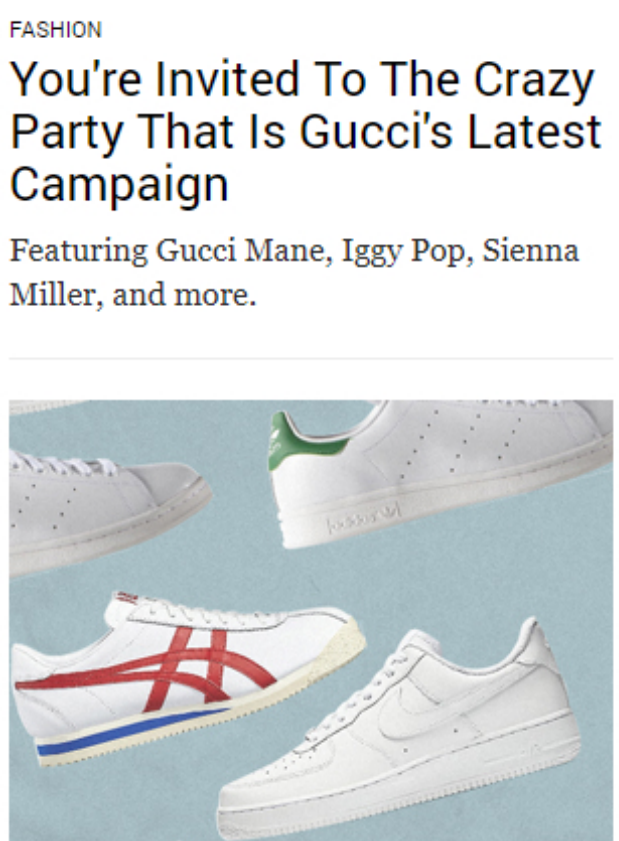

FASHION
You Have to See the Custom Nike Sneakers G-Dragon Gave Sandara Park
They also reunited at the launch!

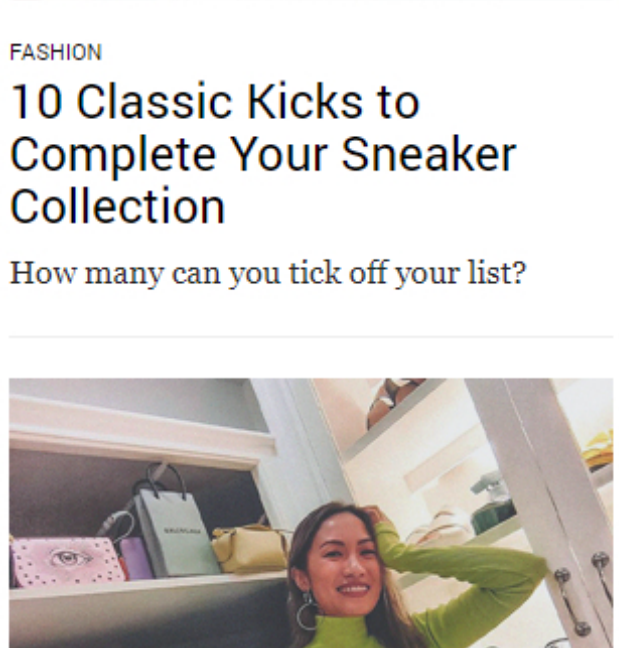

BEAUTY
FYI, the Way You Part Your Hair Could Be the Reason Behind Your Hair Fall
It's time for a change!

FASHION
6 Styling Tricks That Became Popular Because of Heart Evangelista
She's a real trendsetter!

FASHION
This Designer Bag Is the New Addition to Our Holiday Wish List and Here's Why
Have you seen Fendi's new double-F clasp yet?


FASHION
You're Invited To The Crazy Party That Is Gucci's Latest Campaign
Featuring Gucci Mane, Iggy Pop, Sienna Miller, and more.


FASHION
10 Classic Kicks to Complete Your Sneaker Collection
How many can you tick off your list?


FASHION
5 Designer Bags Laureen Uy Does Not Regret Splurging On
These are totally worth it!

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