

XB GenSAN takes home 'Showtime' P1-million grand prize

By NEIL RAMOS Manila Bulletin

Making a big comeback to ultimately win the P1-million grand prize in the first-ever "Showtime" grand finals is the dance group, XB GenSAN.

Already ousted a few weeks ago, the dance group got back in the game as a "wild card" pick by show hosts Vhong Navarro, Anne Curtis, Kim Atienza, and resident judge Vice Ganda.

XB GenSAN [Extreme Boyz Gensan of General Santos City] proved they were worthy of the chance, imparting a heartfelt performance that was ultimately well-received by the huge crowd that swarmed the Ynares Gym in Antipolo City.

Impressed as well were the show's judges — which include roughly 40 other celebrities, Alex De Rossi, Priscilla Meirelles, Dennis Padilla, Jett Pangan, Robert Sena, Jhong Hilario, and Jon Avila — that gave the group a huge 9.875 as final score.

The members of the group were in tears after receiving kudos for their performance from Vice Ganda.

"Ipinakita ninyo na hindi sapat na dahilan ang failure ninyo yesterday to try and do better today," Vice Ganda said.

The show started with a number of rousing performances from the hosts: Vhong Navarro danced; Jugs Jugueta and Teddy Corpuz sang "Liwanag sa Dilim"; Anne Curtis sang "On The Wings Of Love" while attached to a harness; Kim Atienza did "Kiss" and Vice Ganda made a Madonna-like rendition of "Vogue."

Giving XB GenSAN a good fight were Mortal Combat; the Show Gays of Quezon City, who flaunted once again daring acrobatics as highlight to their performance; Kasibulan with their imaginative use of "hand miming"; and the Boys Unlimited Dancers, with their tight choreography.

According to Vice Ganda, judging for the grand finals is the most challenging task.

"Mahirap. Alam ko kasi 'yung pinagdaanan nila [the groups]. Nasubaybayan ko sila ng nine months. Mahirap talaga," he said.

Navarro, on the other hand, admired the dedication shown by each of the finalists.

"For me, they are all winners. The joy and amusement they have brought to Filipinos already make each one of them a champion," he said.

Curtis was tearful all throughout the show but expressed excitement for the upcoming season.

"Where else can you see hosts, judges, crew, director, and the audience all game to dance and sing together? We are a family here and this makes us even more motivated to work harder in our second season," Curtis shared.

The much-anticipated season 2 of the show begins Monday, July 26, after "Simply KC."

The first season finalists are:

- Kasibulan
- Perlas ng Silangan
- Mortal Combat and the Show Gays
- Beat Guys
- San Jose
- Savannah Kids Ballroom Dancers
- Philippine Island Assassins
- Enlighten Black Theater Group
- E-Crew
- Boyz Unlimited Dancers
- XBGenSan