

## “BUBBLES, HUWAG MO AKO IIWAN!”

By: Bubbles Juarez-Ponce

EDSEL AND I MET EACH OTHER AT THE RIGHT TIME and the right place. We met each other last year, at the wedding of Alex Silva's brother (Alex is my brother-in-law, Lia's husband), who happens to be Edsel's cousin. This was in June of 2000, only my second month here in the US. I had not met many guys, yet. So it was perfect timing. We were constantly being set up with each other by his cousin. And with that constant push, we would go out frequently with his group. Eventually, it was just the two of us going out. I guess by that time, the attraction between us grew.

Both of us had never thought of getting married yet, especially me. When I got to the US, my main focus was to get a job and earn money. Little did I know that when I got here I would find someone and get married. Friends ask me the same question every time, "Did you ever think that when you got to the U.S. you'd get married?" And my answer every time is a big "NO!" It just goes to show that you never know until it hits you. Here's one big example--ME!

Edsel has proven himself well to me. He would constantly travel all the way from San Jose to Pittsburg just to see me.

He is really *masipag* (hard-working) and *matiyaga* (patient). I guess those two characteristics made me think hard about him. Besides, he is a very good person.

After a few months of going out, and after all the trials and problems we encountered, the more it became clear that he really was serious about me and committed to me. The final moment was when he proposed to me by surprise. He didn't want me to go back to the Philippines and leave him behind. He wanted me to stay and just be with him. That is why he decided to ask me to marry him and it was a big surprise for me. Actually, it was a happy surprise. You know when you watch movies and the girl is teary-eyed and shows a big happiness within her? That was truly how I was. "*Parang sine бага!*" (just like in the movies) I know it sounds corny, but that's how I felt.

So we were off to Vegas after a month and we got married there. No one knew about it because we wanted to keep it between just the two of us, a very solemn secret. Then, later on, we told everybody about it. We plan to have a small celebration with the family next year on February 16, 2002, at the church this time. Don't worry, we still want to share our exchange of vows with you and we hope to see you next year! LL

## BAGONG BAHAY, HINIHINTAY “BABES”

by Jorge Laico

ELEVEN YEARS AGO, I CAME WITH 2 SUITCASES, 2 BALLET shoes, \$1400 in my pocket and a determination not to ask my folks, half way around the world, for money. I almost did, when it was gone in 3 months. *Kapit sa patalim!* (Hold on to the blade!) was my motto. Jumping from city to city, one ballet company to another--living as an artist is hard. Starving artist is not just a figure of speech. After 300 different ballets, performing in 40 states, and chasing a dream, I stumbled upon Kansas City. The big town in the middle of nowhere as I call it.

I joined the Kansas City Ballet. I figured that if I was staying here long enough, I should buy a house and not pay rent. So I did. I was so overwhelmed the first 3 weeks. The house needs a lot of cosmetic work. The first month I was so happy I didn't work on it, but just partied and crashed in different rooms. When I woke up, I couldn't believe that I was sleeping in my own place. Never in my life did I expect to be able to do this on my own. Especially after I had fired Erin because she passed the age of 26 (just kidding!!!), I didn't think it was possible. Now, when I wake up, I have a song in my heart and a dance of joy in my body. I always have the music pumping because I can, and jam to it a lot, alone or with friends. I have renovated 6 rooms in 6 months and there's more to do. It's an old house, built in 1919. So I'm trying a mix of the old and the new style. Every day a little fix here and there, but I take time to enjoy it. It's not complete by far because I am busy with the Nutcracker now but it's fully functional, a fully functional babe lair.

I also have the most beautiful tree on the block. That's what my neighbors say. My neighbor's little kids love playing with its leaves. Wish they'd pick them up and bag it for me. The tree is so colorful this autumn. I see it every morning from my window when I wake up, and say to myself, "I am so lucky!" LL

## A Tagalog Lesson for an English Teacher

**Jeff Villasenor, English teacher:** Carlo, what's the root word and conjugation for "to be nervous" in Tagalog?

**Carlo Santayana, Tagalog speaker:** *Kaba\**. To conjugate: *kinaba, kinakaba, kakaba*.

**Jeff:** What's the root word for "to go down"?

**Carlo:** *Baba*. To conjugate: *bumaba, bumababa, bababa*.

**Jeff:** What's the root word for "surprised" or "amazed"?

**Carlo:** *Taka*.

**Jeff:** So how do you say "I'm surprised you're nervous because you're going down"?

**Carlo:** *Kata-kataka na kakaba-kaba ka kasi bababa ka*.

**Jeff:** Wow! I'll stick to Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

**Carlo:** In the Philippines, if you're from Famfanga province, you would say: Feter Fifer ficked a feck of fick-led feffers.

**Jeff:** That's crazy. Carlo, is this your car?

**Carlo:** *Auto mo ba 'to?*

**Jeff:** So, now you're teaching me Japanese?

\*Real Filipinos never say *a* as in gay but *á* as in abracadabra LL