

BRIDGING
the
GAPS

KULTURA PILIPINAS

Filipino Culture Night through Dance, Fashion and song
Free
Agate Hall Auditorium (18th & Agate)
May 10th
6:30 p.m. doors open • 7-9:00 p.m. show

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Adam Jones Emerald

Erika Bulay practices a traditional dance for her peers Thursday. Bulay is part of a group performing in 'Bridging the Gaps' for Filipino Culture Night today at Agate Hall.

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Kultura Pilipinas returns culture night to campus

■ Kultura Pilipinas push to revive their annual culture event tonight with martial arts and a fashion show

ground rap partner Kalamandikii during the performance. He said members have worked hard to revive the club and reestablish the Filipino culture at the University, with great success.

By Caron Alarab for the Emerald

Kultura Pilipinas will host "Bridging the Gaps," its first Filipino culture night event since 1999, today in the Agate Hall Auditorium.

"We have made the presence of Filipino culture on campus known," Boyce said. "This revival year has allowed Kultura Pilipinas to come back and be here to stay."

KP Co-Director Christine Cruz said the show will celebrate Filipino culture with a skit depicting a "typical Filipino household," various cultural dances, a fashion show, martial arts demonstrations and a presentation about famous Filipino entertainers like Enrique Iglesias and Foxy Brown.

During the performance, KP members will engage the audience in a language lesson, teaching them basic Filipino words and phrases. At the end of the night, everyone will sing a modern-day acoustic song together.

Cruz, who is half Filipino, said she only recently began to identify with her heritage, which is why she decided to take on a strong role in the organization of this year's culture night.

Cruz and Boyce said concepts of togetherness and community have been the driving forces behind the effort to reinforce the existence of Kultura Pilipinas on campus.

"Filipinos have such a beautiful culture," she said. "Our history's been erased."

"Filipinos are one of the most welcoming and hospitable people you'll ever meet," Cruz said. "This culture night will represent the true meaning of Filipino culture and heritage through its warmth and hospitality."

Cruz said the character she plays in the skit, Lola, acts like the stereotypical Filipino grandmother.

Cruz said 70 percent of club members aren't even Filipino by heritage.

"I'm going to act with the best of my ability by imagining my Filipino grandfather speaking to me," she said. "It always puts a smile on my face when I think about my grandparents."

"We are always looking for new members and welcome them with wide open arms," she said.

KP Co-Director Jeff Boyce will be rapping in Tagalog, the national Filipino language, with under-

Admission is free. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the event begins at 7 p.m. The auditorium is located on 17th Avenue and Agate Street.

Caron Alarab is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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