

# Glamor, Fashion, and Giving Back...A Ball with a Heart

*I was one of the excited attendees of a Glamor event where Manila's crème de la crème – along with a bevy of celebrities and famous personalities – gathered at the Shangri-La The Fort in what was certainly a fabulous event to remember: the 8th Red Charity Gala.*

Ever since the Red Charity Gala was conceived in 2009 by hardworking style and society mavens, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Kaye Tinga, the annual event for a cause has consistently turned the spotlight on the best Filipino creative talents in fashion. Raising funds and building awareness for two significant endeavors: the Philippine Red Cross and the Assumption High School Batch 1981 Foundation.

Indeed, glamour, high fashion, and the desire to give back was the order of the evening as the grand ballroom began to fill with elegantly dressed ladies and gentlemen who came to support a worthwhile cause and to pay homage to this year's designer in focus: the peerless Chito Vijandre.

Preceding the much-awaited fashion show that evening — the affair's pièce de résistance — a charity auction conducted by Tessa Valdez and Tim Yap was held, where guests enthusiastically placed a bid for an exciting array of lots generously provided by the sponsors.

Then, the moment that everyone had been waiting for: the presentation of Chito's 40-piece Filipiniana Haute Couture collection, a mélange that traced the richness of Philippine history and culture —reimagined

and reconfigured. Featuring six suites — an “ethnic suite,” a “revolt suite,” and segments dedicated to Hollywood Glam, flapper girls, and carnival queens — the decidedly maximalist collection was redolent of rich colors, lush textures, and fine embellishments — all expertly sewn by hand.

And as the man of the hour, Chito Vijandre sashayed down the runway in the grand finale — where he was joined by Tessa, Kaye, international model Ivo Buchta, and Ben Chan of Bench, Red Charity Gala's main presenter — a warm, celebratory round of applause greeted the designer. A most heartfelt tribute and fitting conclusion to what will undoubtedly be one of the most memorable events with a heart of 2016. To Kaye and Tessa, congratulations and may you continue to give your heart and effort for a good cause!!!



In Other Worlds

by **Becky Garcia**

L-R: Kaye Tinga, Ivo Buchta, Chito Vijandre, Tessa Valdez, and Ben Chan

