

## The Cranberries Bassist Recalls first Manila Visit, looks forward to April Concert

**BULLETIN ENTERTAINMENT EXCLUSIVE**

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The Cranberries returns to Manila in April

Manila, Philippines - One of Ireland's biggest musical imports, The Cranberries, is set to return to Manila for a one-night concert this April. In an exclusive phone interview, bassist Mike Hogan, who is with the band in Australia at the time, recalls the band's first time here in the country.

"We had a look around, it's really a beautiful place," he recalls. But what really struck the band was that, "the audience was energetic,

they would sing along [with us]... we were shocked about that, that they knew all the songs."

Having had a taste of the typical Pinoy welcome, Mike says the band is looking forward to their April 10 show here.

Formed in 1989 in Limerick, Ireland, The Cranberries (with singer Dolores O'Riordan, Mike's brother Noel Hogan on guitars and Fergal Lawler on drums) enjoyed much success with memorable radio-favorite singles like "Dreams" and "Linger" from 1993's "Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?" as well as "Ode To My Family" and the No. 1 hit single "Zombie" from 1994's "No Need to Argue." They released several more albums, the last of which was 2001's "Wake Up And Smell The Coffee" before going on hiatus in 2004.

Mike says they decided to regroup "over a few drinks, chats... [and we] looked back at the 20 years and thought maybe we should get back together." He says they "realized how special The Cranberries was."

They got the band back together in 2009 and immediately launched a reunion tour. "People have been asking us for tours all the time," Mike notes, so it has been easy enough to get back into the groove of things.

Playing together again felt "like we didn't stop," he says. "Even for the first few concerts, it felt better than ever. We are now more relaxed, more matured... less obsessed about things."

The band has come back into a changed musical landscape, thanks to digital music downloads and such. But rather than be discouraged, Mike notes that, "For this reunion tour, we sold out everywhere... We were [actually] shocked to see a much younger audience," which he credits to the Internet. "It was very encouraging for us," he declares.

Although the current tour is billed as "The Greatest Hits Live," the band actually has a new album out called "Roses," which they released just last February. Describing the songs in the new album as "more mellow, spacious," Mike also adds, "It sounds new and fresh because we had been away from each other for a while. But the chemistry, it's there... it's something we didn't have working with other people."

The Cranberries' tour is still well underway, and by April, it will bring the band to Asia. "We have lots of different songs to choose from, so we'll have different setlists everytime we perform so it's not boring," Mike assures.

When The Cranberries returns for their April 10 concert at the Smart Araneta Center, so far their last listed Asian stop before they return to the US, he says, "We might play four to five songs from the new album... but it's the greatest hits tour so it should be fun."

"The Cranberries Live in Manila: The Greatest Hits Concert" is presented by Karpos Multimedia and Midas Promotions, with tickets still available on Ticketnet. For more information, check out TheCranberriesLivePH on Facebook.

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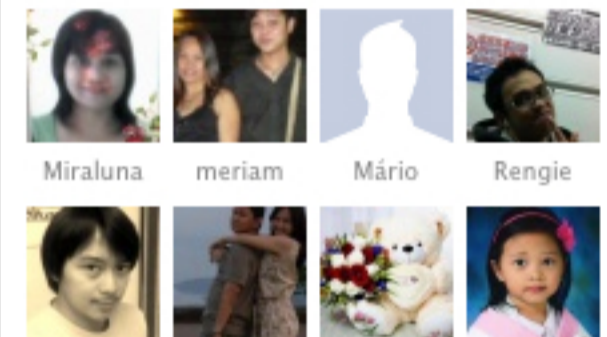
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