OPPA
ORIGINAL PILIPINO PERFORMING ARTS

A Decade of Uplifting Filipino Talent through Newport World Resorts' OPPA Foundation

Nurturing the Philippines' Gem

What makes a country truly shine? Is it its landmarks, its resources, or something deeper: the talent and dreams of its people waiting to be realized?

At Newport World Resorts (NWR), the answer is clear: it is the immeasurable talent of Filipinos, ready to be discovered, polished, and showcased to the world.

Being the pioneer integrated resort in the Philippines comes with a responsibility to culture and community. NWR invested in developing local talent, making it the first and only integrated resort in the Philippines to have a foundation dedicated to performing arts.

The Rise of the Philippines' First and Only IR-owned Performing Arts Foundation

In 2015, NWR established the Original Pilipino Performing Arts (OPPA) Foundation, pioneering a visionary initiative dedicated to nurturing Filipino artists and uplifting the performing arts industry to global standards.

OPPA's comprehensive scholarship program covers full tuition fees, specialized training, thesis and recital expenses, books, and living allowances. Crucially, scholars also gain mentorship from industry leaders and performance opportunities in productions at Newport World Resorts' own 1,700-seat theater, creating a direct pathway into professional performing arts careers.

From humble beginnings with its first batch of scholars in 2016, OPPA Foundation has significantly expanded its reach, granting 128 full scholarships across diverse disciplines such as theater arts, music, creative writing, dance, film, and technical theater. In the year 2025, it supports 76 active scholars, opening doors that turn aspirations into lasting success stories.

Celebrating 10 Years of Uplifting Filipino Talent

In just a decade, OPPA Foundation has reshaped the future of Filipino talent.

- *Granted 128 scholarships since 2015*
- *PHP 47 M (USD 825,000) has been disbursed to support the scholars*
- *Partnered with 9 prestigious Philippine universities*
- *Produced alumni who have performed on local and global competitions and productions*

The Stories of OPPA Scholars

Brothers Eduardson and Emmerson Evangelio graduated with a Bachelor of Performing Arts in Dance from De La Salle–College of St. Benilde under full OPPA Foundation scholarships. With mentorship from leading industry figures, they trained rigorously and performed across the country with top ballet companies, including Ballet Philippines, Ballet Manila, and Philippine Ballet Theatre.

Emmerson represented the Philippines in the 2019 Asia Pacific Dance Festival in Hawaii, while Eduardson was a Grand Finalist at the Asian Grand Prix International Ballet Competition in Hong Kong. In 2023, the duo achieved a shared dream: performing in Newport World Resorts' Ang Huling El Bimbo The Musical, the country's most-watched musical.

"When I got accepted as an OPPA Foundation scholar, many doors and multiple opportunities opened for me. I performed in different theaters, schools, cities, and provinces which helped me learn and grow as an artist. Along the way, I gained friendships, valuable connections, and memorable experiences that I will always hold onto."

Emmerson Evangelio
Ballet Dancer
OPPA Scholar Batch 2018

For Mickey Jacinto, who found fulfillment and growth in performing, completing his master's degree opened limitless opportunities as an educator and a performer. Through the support of OPPA Foundation, Jacinto graduated at the University of Santo Tomas with the degree Master of Arts in Orchestral Conducting.

Now, his baton gave life to the music of Newport World Resorts' major theatrical productions Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!, Ang Huling El Bimbo, Buruguduystunstugudunstuy: Ang Parokya ni Edgar Musical, Delia D.: A Musical Featuring the Songs of Jonathan Manalo, and the upcoming Shrek The Musical.

"OPPA Foundation has continuously valued their scholars' gifts of artistry and talent. They have made it a point that these gifts are constantly shared and nurtured by featuring their scholars on occasional performances at Newport World Resorts. Exposures such as these are what we direly need as performers and musicians."

At its heart, OPPA Foundation believes the Philippines is a diamond in the rough—a nation bursting with talent awaiting discovery and the opportunity to shine globally. This conviction drives NWR's unwavering commitment to empowering future generations of Filipino artists, making OPPA Foundation a benchmark of CSR excellence.

With passion, precision, and purpose, OPPA Foundation continues to uplift Filipino talent: one performance, one dream, one artist at a time.