

MIKEY BUSTOS

In search of his roots, identity... and ants

Interview by
Luciana Cunha Franca

QH chats with Filipino-Canadian singer-comedian **Mikey Bustos**, who's here in town to amuse viewers in a night of singing and laughter, multi-cultural style.



It is remarkable to encounter a true artist, someone who not only expresses his untamed creative side but also meaningful humorous representations with substance.

That is how we see performer Mikey Bustos: a runner-up in the Canadian Idol talent show, a recording artist, actor, comedian, singer-songwriter, product endorser, and an entrepreneur. Through his performances, he shares his dreams and passions and shows how being true to oneself can lead to success.

QH: Hi, Mikey! Let us know more about you, your background, and vision.

MB: Hello! Yes, I am a Filipino born and raised in Toronto, Canada by two migrant Filipino parents. I am a singer, actor, comedian, Youtuber, and entrepreneur. I migrated to the Philippines in 2011 and currently live in Manila. I love the arts, sciences, and am pretty much living life day to day, and hoping to do good in the world as best as I can while treasuring every moment as it comes.

QH: You were tagged by a Canadian music magazine as a man with "the voice of an angel". You've also bagged awards, among them the Top YouTube Personality Award (Philippines) at the Influence Asia Awards in Singapore last December 2015. You are one of the most celebrated Filipino YouTube sensations. How do you feel about all that?

MB: Wow! I forgot all that! Haha! I am super grateful for the blessings that have come my way over the years, but in my little world I feel the same as I always have since before all those milestones. These achievements were all because of the support of my followers so I see them all as our collective achievements, not just mine.

QH: You sing and do comedy acts as well. Would you say you are more of a singer, or a comedian?

MB: I think inside I feel like more of a singer but I think inside I feel like more of a singer but people

also find me funny. Comedy is something I happened to stumble into, thanks to YouTube. I have been singing my entire life. I think whether I would call myself more of a comedian or a singer would depend on whose lens you are looking through.

QH: One of your biggest social media hits is the Filipino Accent Tutorial back in 2011. What is the story behind it?

MB: In 2011, I made a New Year's resolution to upload one video to my YouTube channel every single day. They were daily videos of various things. One day, I figured I would put up a video about how to copy my parents' Filipino accent. The rest was history. Pinoyboy was born and completely defined my channel and direction in life. It was totally amazing!

QH: How do you get inspiration for all your subjects and acts? How do you relate to the portrayals of your YouTube characters?

MB: I think the characters I play in my videos are real extensions of my personality, and since they are genuine and honest portrayals, I think others also can identify with the characters since we Filipinos, regardless of where we are or were born, share common quirks and ways. My parents, and now living life in the Philippines, give me endless material.

QH: Amongst the parodies and spoofs you have made, which is your favourite, which is the most controversial, and why?

MB: Wow! You are making me choose a favourite child! Haha! I like them all for various reasons. I think the video Filipino Mythical Creatures rap is among my top favourites just because we pulled off miracles filming that video in just a day.



The most controversial was probably the Filipino Accent Tutorial because some Filipinos first watching it might misinterpret it as degrading the Filipino accent, which it wasn't. It was the complete opposite of degrading it, actually.

QH: We found out that you love ants. Your intensive interest in them landed you features on Animal Planet and Discovery Channel. What is it about ants that fascinates you?

MB: They are so much like humans and they teach us about ourselves and the entire planet. Remember when I said I love science? I run an ant business (www.antscanada.com), a passion project that turned into a full out company.

QH: What do you want both enthusiasts and haters to realize and dig deep and learn from what you are doing?

MB: Perhaps the overall message in my videos is to celebrate who you are, whatever that means to you, and do it in the best way you can!

QH: How do you handle negative criticism? How do you manage haters and negative vibes given that you are in a controversial industry?

MB: I don't manage them. I simply don't notice them. I put my work and message out there and people are completely free to feel how they want about it – good or bad. That is the essence of art, right?

QH: If you could work with a certain famous celebrity, who would that be and why?

MB: I would love to work with Lady Gaga. We are the same person in so many ways, and I think we would create some cool things! I would also love to collaborate with the creators who run the channel Epic Rap Battles on Youtube. They inspired my whole Rap Playlist on my channel.

QH: After all the endeavours you've undertaken and the successes you've accomplished, do you still have anything more you want to achieve?

MB: Yes, but those are secrets. ■

Enjoy a night of song and laughter with Mikey Bustos:

Event: YouTube Sensation Mikey Bustos Live in Doha

Date: March 3, 2017

Time: 8:00 PM (gates open at 6:00 PM)

Venue: Doha Marriott Hotel grass area

Tickets: Purchase online at www.aynatickets.com/event/eventdetail/54

Contact: Email info@aynatickets.com or call +974 5590 8770

Mikey Bustos on Social Media:

Facebook: fb.com/mikeybustos, fb.com/mikeyjbustos, fb.com/antscanada

YouTube: mikeybustovideos, mikeybustomusic, antscanada

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