

Old habits returning

curtains and — aieeee! — a torch singer. When my friend complained that her pasta was overcooked, the waiter snottily replied, "You're just not used to homemade pasta."

My friend was incensed. My ears are still ringing; I doubt that the waiter has

He was the king who saved the Jews!" Then he reminded us of the story of Esther the Jewish girl who was taken into King Xerxes' harem, and how she persuaded Xerxes to spare her people from a massacre planned by his underlings. Cuisine and history — they should always go together.

Filipina New Yorker receives nine international awards

Carissa Villacorta, the 27-year-old author of the book *Surreality*, garnered four communicator awards, including an Award of Excellence for the copywriting of *Surreality*. The book was published by the UST Publishing House in celebration of the school's 400th anniversary.

Villacorta, together with her creative director John Paul Su of JPSU Multimedia Productions, also received two Platinum Hermes Creative Awards as author of the book and as writer and executive producer of its promotional video. The Hermes Creative Awards is an international competition for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing and design of traditional materials and programs, and emerging technologies, administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, consisting of several thousand members. Hermes award makers are the same makers of the Golden Globe.

Villacorta also received three Bronze Telly Awards for her *Surreality* video in three categories: Excellence in Low-Budget Productions, Promotional Pieces, and Promotional Music Video.



Carissa by the display window of Borders New York for the launch of *Surreality*.

In October 2006, Villacorta became the first Filipino author to launch at a Borders bookstore in the United States.

For more information, or to get a copy of the book, visit www.carissavillacorta.com or National Bookstore and Powerbooks.

Carissa works at the community and cultural section of the Philippine Consulate General in New York and writes on the side about personalities, events and places in New York.

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