

## An Open Letter To: Paul Basinilio, Concert Director

Good Day Direk Paul Basinilio!

Before anything else, allow me to express my admiration and appreciation for your work on Sarah's previous concerts. Direk Paul, you brought out the best in Sarah in her two latest concerts.. To all the creative teams, production teams, and all people behind 24/SG and Perfect 10, you did an outstanding job!

24/SG is a creative masterpiece. It showed that the Filipino artists can stage world-class concerts with mind-blowing effects, without having to compensate for talent. Personally, it is my favorite concert of hers.

Perfect 10, in contrast, was a showcase of Sarah's musicality. It was a well done show, limiting the special effects and sing-and-dance productions to showcase Sarah's vocal prowess. The stage lights and song choices were outstanding, complementing Sarah's excellent showmanship. It allowed Sarah to say what she truly feels, and it is the greatest experience a fan can get: to be connected to his/her idol, witnessing her transformation to a brand new artist. Truly, it was a Perfect 10.

With an upcoming concert this November, I felt the need to write an open letter to you. Please do not take this as "telling you what to do," or being "meddlesome." I am writing this, because I know that you have the creative power and mind that this industry needs. Obviously, you have more knowledge than I, and you know more about the things I'm going to talk about. I have some comments and suggestions, from the stand point of a fan, that I think the producers and creative teams need to know. I know that not all of these are feasible and practical, but I hope you take time to read these sentiments.

The first thing I want to say is that many fans can only watch Sarah's concerts through her concert DVD's. Even though her concerts are spectacular, the video quality is somewhat below par. I don't know if it has something to do with the budget, but the video quality is not what many expected. We hope to see an aspect ratio of 16:9, or a widescreen format, shot in 1080p.

I also noticed the camera movements and positioning. I think it would be good if you use wide angle lenses for crowd shots, to give a sense of scale. Oftentimes, the audience looks boring, dark, and small. Perhaps it's just because of lighting, but having wide angle shots would help establish that she performs in a big and spacious area. It would also help in adding variety to the depth of field, and it would also increase what we could see. I noticed that in shots focused on Sarah, it seems like the stairs is right behind her. With almost a square format of video, it is hard to visualize what kind of stage she is in at the moment.

If the budget allows it, I also hope for better camera movement, in the sense that it wouldn't look hand-held. You could place camera sliders/dollies in between audiences. You could use drones, which are now becoming common in concert scenes. Most of all, I think it's time that VIVA invest in steadicams, to give a more fluid motion to the camera shots.

With regards to her performances and production numbers, there is nothing I could say. They're perfect as it is, and I only have some requests as to what she could still do.

Actually, I have many requests that I'm sure you and Sarah could pull off. I want to hear her perform most of her original songs. Most of them are unheard of, but really good. There are powerful ballads, and there are dance and show songs, like *You Mean The World To Me*, *Dulo*, *Last Night of Our Lives*, etc. Perhaps you could find a DJ who would remaster and prepare an arrangement for her songs, like the *PopDanthology* of Daniel Kim, which is a mash-up of the hits of the year. Sir Louie Ocampo or a DJ could rearrange a song to give it a "dance break," like her *Where Have You Been* number.

I'm also hoping to see her in a dance a capella or show choir number, inspired by *Pitch Perfect* or *Glee*. (Here is *Glee's Somebody to Love*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDkhFFDZHi4>). Could she perhaps do it with her Voice Artists, or a local choir/chorale? We also want to see her play the guitar, as she already can play a little guitar because of her previous movie with Piolo Pascual.

Another thing that fans want to see is a mosh pit, or an extended stage set-up. Araneta is a fairly small venue compared to international concert stages, but I think you could manage it. It may seem to limit the number of audience by consuming space, but you could still fit that many people in the standing area of the moshpit. It helps the fans be closer to her, and it also establishes a nice visual on video. I also hope to see a more dynamic floor. It could perhaps be made of lighted acrylic, with LED lights. Or perhaps, it could be made with a video floor, or LED Panels.

And since we're on the subject of fans, I hope to have a more alive audience. I know that it's up to us to be lively, and sing and dance to the beat, but I hope that there's some kind of reminder, so that when we watch the DVD, we could see people jumping and dancing, and not a group of people glued to their smartphones and cameras. The producers could give all the people glowsticks, or light sticks. It is a really awesome trend in Kpop concerts and even in western concerts. When captured on video, it adds dimension and space, showing that there are thousands of people watching, instead of just black emptiness. In fact, some concerts utilize a radio controlled bracelet light, that you could give to the audience to sync with the beat. (Here is a link to Coldplay's concert: [https://youtu.be/\\_H7qdv9xWM](https://youtu.be/_H7qdv9xWM)).

Here are some concert shots that I think you guys could achieve:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zlot0i3Zykw>
- [https://youtu.be/MkdcU9kMlag?list=PLebSiRxx\\_voiz3Siy812hj2MrmizQcdzX](https://youtu.be/MkdcU9kMlag?list=PLebSiRxx_voiz3Siy812hj2MrmizQcdzX)

Here are some pictures that I edited, which fans have wished for her next concert. There are also some pictures from foreign concerts, which I think would be a good inspiration.



Here are some concert stages that I think would be awesome.



Here is a wide angle shot of Araneta Coliseum



Congratulations in advance, Direk Paul. I cannot contain my excitement for her next concert. I am so grateful for your hard work and your passion when it comes to Sarah Geronimo's concerts and music videos. I know that you will continue to be an awesome director!

Thank you so much for your consideration,

Nathan\_sarahg