

**CINEMALAYA FILM CONGRESS 2010**  
**Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival**  
**July 13-14, 2010 \* Cultural Center of the Philippines**

Theme: **Liberating the Indie Film 2000-2009**

**RATIONALE**

It has been ten years since the first screening of *Still Lives* by Jon Red, the first full-length indie film on digital video format. Since then and because of the inexpensive DV technology, a whole new generation of talented filmmakers has risen, creating a veritable indie film movement in the last decade. With the help of organizations like Cinemalaya and Cinema One as well as of new enlightened producers, indie films have proliferated, accounting for about 70 to 80 percent of the total film output of the country since 2000, truly an unprecedented phenomenon. Today, it has become, as it were, the "mainstream", if only in terms of number.

But indie filmmakers have distinguished themselves not only in the quantity but especially in the quality of their works. Indie films have circled the globe many times over, participating in major and minor film festivals both here and abroad and reaping prestigious awards in all categories from even the most revered festivals, such as Cannes, Venice and Berlin. For the first time in the history of the Filipino cinema, a Filipino was acclaimed Best Director at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival. And there is no sign that the recognitions will abate any time soon.

But even as the Philippines is now recognized in the film world as an important producer of quality films and has been called the leading indie film-producing country in Southeast Asia, the achievements of our filmmakers have been qualified, not only by the fact that indie films have remained largely unappreciated by the majority of Filipino audiences, but especially because queries have been raised as to whether many of these films are truly "independent". Concretely, many have asked the following questions: Do our filmmakers actually make films for festivals abroad rather than for their own people? Is this the reason why many of these festival films focus on abject poverty and its attendant "evils" because this is the kind of spectacle that first world film festivals would sit up to watch? Are many gay films masquerading as indie really nothing but soft porn with artistic pretensions? Why the obsession with violence and the violent? Are the marginalized (blind, deaf, mute, children, disabled, regional types) actually sensationalized in films made about them? More generally, what are the tangible contributions of indie films?

As the new decade begins, perhaps it is time to look back and sincerely and carefully assess the achievements of indie films and filmmakers, to see for ourselves if the indie films of the past decade have in fact stayed true to their artistic vision and to identify the real significance of these films to the Filipino cinema in particular and the Filipino society in general.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To examine the myriad notions of "independence" in Filipino indie films of 2000-2009, especially those on inexpensive digital video format;
- 2) To evaluate the content and form of specific Filipino indie films of 2000-2009 from the point of view of their "independence" – from the dictates of traditional cinematic conventions, social, political and cultural expectations, artistic "self-expression" and ambition, moral and religious regulations and commercial considerations;
- 3) To identify specific ways in which particular indie films of 2000-2009 have succeeded or failed in liberating themselves from all these conventions, especially those that impinge unconsciously on the filmmaking process; and
- 4) To examine how the filmmakers have resolved conflicts between their commitment to pursue an artistic vision and the need or desire to reach out to all types of audiences, from the elite to the popular.

## CONGRESS PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE

### DAY 1 (July 13, 2010, Tuesday)

8:00 – 8:45 AM	Registration	
8:45 – 10:00 AM	Opening Session	
	Welcome Remarks	<b>Nestor O. Jardin</b> <i>Festival Director</i>
	Keynote Address: <b>The New Indie Film 2000-2009</b>	<b>Nicanor G. Tiongson</b> <i>Congress Director</i>
10:00 – 11:30	<b>Panel 1: Portraits of Poverty</b>	
	Speakers: <b>Eli Guieb</b> <b>Justino Dormiendo</b>	
	Reactor: <b>Tito Valiente</b>	
	Moderator: <b>Flordeliz Abanto</b> <i>President, Philippine Association of Communication Educators (PACE)</i>	
11:30 – 12:00 NN	Open Forum	
12:00 – 1:30 PM	Lunch Break	
1:30 – 3:15	<b>Panel 2: Gallery of Gays</b>	
	Speakers: <b>Gary Devilles</b> <b>Yason Banal</b>	
	Reactor: <b>Danton Remoto</b>	
	Moderator: <b>Tracy Montelibano-Aquino</b> <i>San Beda College – Alabang</i>	
	Open Forum	

3:15 – 5:00      **Panel 3:      The Vicious and the Violent**

Speakers:      **Lito Zulueta**  
                     **Patrick Campos**

Reactor:        **Nestor Castro**

Moderator:     **Jag Garcia**  
                     *College of Saint Benilde*

Open Forum

**DAY 2 (July 14, 2010, Wednesday)**

9:30 – 10:45 AM      **Panel 4:      Images of the Marginalized**

Speakers:      **Roland Tolentino**  
                     **Bienvenido Lumbera**

Reactor:        **Liza Martinez**

Moderator:     **Chi-Chi Fajardo-Robles**  
                     *University of Asia and the Pacific/  
                     Ateneo de Manila University*

Open Forum

10:45 – 12:00 NN      **Panel 5:      Filmic Styles: From Neo-Realism to Revised Genre**

Speakers:      **Francis Cruz**  
                     **Alvin Yapan**

Reactor:        **Ed Cabagnot**

Moderator:     **Ed Lejano**  
                     *Director, UP Film Institute*

Open Forum

12:00 – 1:30 PM Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:30 **Panel 6: Artistic Vision Vis-à-vis Market Demands**

Speakers: **Clodualdo del Mundo, Jr.**  
**Mario Hernando**

Reactor: **Juaniyo Arcellana**

Moderator: **Libay Cantor**  
*UP Film Institute*

Open Forum

3:30 – 4:00 **Congress Panel Reports**

Rapporteurs: Irene Zamora  
Joni Gutierrez  
Cenon Palomares  
Nonoy Lauzon  
Nikki Garde-Torres  
Jane Vinculado

4:00 – 5:00 Summary of Recommendations and Resolutions  
**Nicanor G. Tiongson**  
*Congress Director*

Closing Remarks

**Nestor O. Jardin**  
*Festival Director*