





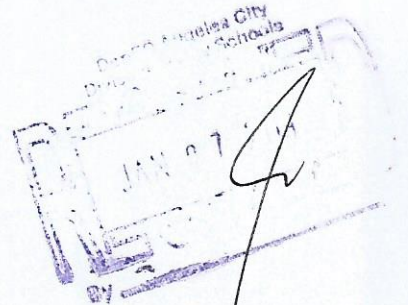


**HOLY ANGEL  
UNIVERSITY**

**CENTER FOR  
KAPAMPANGAN  
STUDIES**

December 6, 2018

**Mrs. Leilani S. Cunanan, CESO VI.**  
Division Superintendent of Angeles city  
Angeles City



Dear **Ms. Cunanan:**

The Holy Angel University Center for Kapampangan Studies has produced its second Kapampangan indie film entitled **ARIA**, about a woman fighting for something all her life: first, as a pre-war zarzuela star fighting for love, then as a HUKBALAHAP guerrilla fighting for her nation's liberation, and finally, as a 94-year old war veteran fighting to have her discontinued pension restored. **Aria** is a historical movie with Kapampangan dialogue and English subtitles. The film is a tribute to all HUKBALAHAP guerrillas who sacrificed their life and personal happiness but never got the same recognition and appreciation that soldiers got from government. It is classified "PG" (Parental Guidance) by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), that is, underage students can watch it provided they are accompanied by a parent or a faculty member. Please see trailer in the accompanying DVD.

We would like to request your endorsement of the film as part of our invitation to public and private schools to watch it at P150 per student (and free of charge for faculty and employees).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**ROBERT P. TANTINGCO**

Director

Center for Kapampangan Studies

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### **SYNOPSIS:**

A musical-theatre actress falls for a Communist ideologue in the Philippine countryside during the golden years before World War II. The outbreak of war separates them and suspends their campaign for social reform. They run into each other in the resistance movement, where the actress has become a performer in the movement's propaganda unit and the ideologue an armed guerrilla in its military unit. As the war deepens, she outgrows her passive role in the resistance and yearns to participate in actual combat, until a mysterious female bandit shows up and lures her into joining her rogue group.

The story is told in flashbacks from the point of view of a war veteran who has been deprived of her monthly pension due to a bureaucratic snag.

### **LOGLINE:**

*Aria* is the sad song of one woman's personal struggle for freedom echoing an entire nation's fight for liberation.

### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:**

After telling the charming little story of friendship between Pampanga's king of poets and a young boy in *Ari: My Life with a King*, producer/screenwriter Sir Robby Tandingan offered me another Kapampangan story that, according to him, needed to be told to the world: the story of



Indang Pining, a 94-year-old war veteran who was a pre-war zarzuela actress who joined the HUKBALAHAP (Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon). She was one of the many unsung heroes who fought to liberate our country during the Japanese Occupation. What makes her story so compelling to me is, despite her old age, she never stopped fighting for the right reasons. I was moved by how passionately Sir Robby told the story and how proud he was of the patriotism of our Huk guerrillas who are the unsung, undervalued heroes of World War II. I realized how important and necessary these stories are today—stories that inspire us to stand up and do something for the things that truly matter in life, like freedom and love.

Directing the film has proven to be more difficult than I had expected it to be but in the end, the whole experience has taught me to be more understanding, more appreciative, and braver to fight for the things I truly believe in. I can say that *Aria* has been one of the most challenging movies I have done so far but because of the kindness of many people I'm happy to say that it was all worth it, especially after seeing the finished product.

# “ARIA”

Country of Origin: Philippines  
Language: Kapampangan with English Subtitles  
Year of Production: 2018

|               |        |                                      |             |
|---------------|--------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Sound:        | 5.1    | Running Time:                        | 02:06:35:00 |
| Aspect Ratio: | 16 x 9 | Size of File in Gigabytes (Approx.): |             |
| Genre:        | Drama  | Screen Ratio:                        | 16 x 9      |

World Premiere Venue: UPFI, Manila, Philippines  
Link to the Trailer:

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS:**

### **Starring:**

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Liya Sarmiento | Pining |
| Jay Garcia     | David  |

### **Co-starring:**

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Cecile Yumul           | Cora          |
| Eufrocina Peña         | Indang Pining |
| Cindy Lapid            | Liwayway      |
| Pearl Lagman           | Delia         |
| Ryan Ronquillo         | Maning        |
| Eler Delos Reyes       | Stan          |
| Samantha Bucu          | Kapitana      |
| Romeo Rodriguez        | Don Teban     |
| Rina Alarcon           | Doña Luding   |
| Hernand Tulud          | Don Luis      |
| Jacqueline Soto Cortez | Doña Ester    |
| Maria Rosette Aquino   | Meding        |
| May Gosioco            | Conching      |
| Nevicshky Calma        | Rita          |



**PRODUCTION STAFF:**

Director: CARLO ENCISO CATU  
Executive Producer: LUIS MARIA R. CALINGO, JOLY ANICETO,  
ROBBY TANTINGCO, JIM BALTAZAR  
Producer: FERDINAND LAPUZ  
Line Producer: MYRA LOPEZ  
Screenplay: ROBBY TANTINGCO and CARLO ENCISO CATU  
Story: ROBBY TANTINGCO  
Cinematography: NEIL DAZA  
Production Design: KYLE JUMAINE FRANCISCO and JONATHAN DAVID  
Editing: MAI CALAPARDO  
Musical Score: JAKE ABELLA  
Sound Design: IMMANUEL VERONA and GILBERT OBISPO  
Color Grading: MARILEN MAGSAYSAY  
Costume Design: JONA BALLARAN  
Hair and Makeup Design: XIA ENCISO CATU  
Assistant Directors: STEPHANIE BROCKA and TIN VELASCO  
Production Manager: RHODA MERCADO  
Prod. Design Consultant: ALEX CASTRO  
Associate Producers: JONEL DIAZ, MELISSA ANGARA and LIA PANGILINAN





### **DIRECTOR'S PROFILE**

Date and Place of Birth: September 26, 1993 in Angeles City, Philippines

1091 T. Claudio Street, Lourdes Sur East, Angeles City, Philippines

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[carloencisocatu@gmail.com](mailto:carloencisocatu@gmail.com)

CARLO ENCISO CATU is a Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate of Holy Angel University, Angeles City. He started as a stage director and actor as well as director/scriptwriter of short films, some of which won in the CineKabalen, a regional film festival in Pampanga. His first full-length feature film, *ARI: My Life with a King*, has been named one of the 50 Best Filipino Films of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It won, among other awards, Best World Film in Harlem, Best Debut Feature at the All Lights India International Film Festival, Best Film Award (New Wave Category) at the Metro Manila Film Festival, and several awards at the Urian, Famas and Young Critics Circle. His second film *Kung Paano Hihintayin ang Dapithapon*, won Best Film in this year's Cinemalaya Film Festival and his third, *Mga Anak ng Kamote*, is an entry at the recent ToFarm Film Festival.

### **SALES CONTACT/PRINT SOURCE:**

#### **FERDINAND LAPUZ**

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Philippines

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[ignatiusfilms@yahoo.ca](mailto:ignatiusfilms@yahoo.ca)

### **PRODUCTION COMPANY:**

#### **HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY**

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# Aria

