

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED PHILIPPINE CINEMA

SHOWING 8 - 14 FEBRUARY 2017

AT ASIA SOCIETY HONG KONG CENTER

***Featuring “SUNDAY BEAUTY QUEEN”,
Metro Manila Film Festival 2016 Best Picture***

27th January 2017, Manila, Philippines – Hong Kongers and Filipinos in Hong Kong SAR will have a rare opportunity to experience a selection of award-winning new cinema from the Philippines, this 8–14 February, at **“SPOTLIGHT: PHILIPPINE CINEMA 2017.”**

“SPOTLIGHT: PHILIPPINE CINEMA 2017” explores unique insights on universal themes of love, identity, history, and gender, while also offering a focus on the 21st century overseas Filipino experience. **“SPOTLIGHT: PHILIPPINE CINEMA 2017”** is co-presented by Asia Society Philippines and Asia Society Hong Kong, in partnership with the Film Development Council of the Philippines, the Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong, and sponsored by Micro-D International, a leading Philippine IT infrastructure and managed services provider.

All films will be screened at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, located at 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong, Tel: +852-2103-9511. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://ticketing.asiasociety.org.hk/>.

SPECIAL HONG KONG MOVIE PREMIERE: “SUNDAY BEAUTY QUEEN”

Highlight of the screenings will be the Hong Kong premiere of **“Sunday Beauty Queen”**, Best Picture Awardee of the 2016 Metro Manila Film Festival, the Philippine capital’s annual film festival, and a warm-hearted, sentimental look at a unique aspect of the Hong Kong overseas worker experience. Prestigious Hollywood industry bible, US magazine **Variety**, called **“Sunday Beauty Queen”**, “an engaging documentary on Filipina overseas workers’ self-empowerment through beauty pageants.”

“For generations, Filipino caregivers have been an intricate part of the lives of so many Hong Kongers. But there is still so much that employers and employees don’t understand about the other. We’re certain that **“Sunday Beauty Queen”** will not only entertain, bring a smile to your face, and maybe a tear also, but in its own small, profound way, help to bring down barriers and cross cultural divides. We’re incredibly proud to sponsor its Hong Kong premiere with the Asia Society Hong Kong,” said Ms. Suyin Liu Lee, Executive Director of Asia Society Philippines.

The Hong Kong premiere of **“SUNDAY BEAUTY QUEEN”** is scheduled for 7pm on Wednesday, 8th February. A reception for ticket holders will precede the screening at 6:30pm. The cast of the movie will participate in a question and answer session immediately after the film.

COLORFUL, DIVERSE FILM OFFERINGS

The lineup of films being featured in **“SPOTLIGHT: PHILIPPINE CINEMA 2017”** have toured international festivals, been critically acclaimed and offer Hong Kongers a unique view into the dynamic, diverse and sometimes challenging contemporary Filipino experience.

The second day of screenings kicks off with **“Entre Medio del Fin (“In the Middle of an End”)**, a film on the unique struggles of a couple living in the Philippines’ deep south. This is followed by **“Sakaling Hindi Makarating” (“The Amazing Journey of the Letters”)**, a journey of emotional and physical exploration across the Philippines’ 7,000 islands. **“Imbisibol” (“Invisible”)** follows with its touching story of overseas Filipinos working in Japan. The showcase closes with a unique perspective on the Philippines’ dramatic history from World War II-onwards that is told through the memories of an 105-year old American woman who married into one of the Philippines’ prominent clans, in **“Curiosity, Adventure and Love”**.

Following is the screening schedule for **“SPOTLIGHT: PHILIPPINE CINEMA 2017”**

Wednesday, 8th February –

7PM – Sunday Beauty Queen

Saturday, 11th February –

3PM – (Double Billing) Entre Medio del Fin
Sakaling Hindi Makarating

6PM - Imbisibol

Tuesday, 14th February –

7PM - Curiosity, Adventure and Love

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER THROUGH FILM

“Asia Society was originally founded to foster greater understanding between Asia and the West. Today, Asia Society Centers across Asia also focus on breaking down cultural and other boundaries between Asia’s many peoples. We hope everyone who is fortunate to attend **“SPOTLIGHT: PHILIPPINE CINEMA 2017”** will come away enlightened, maybe inspired, but certainly, with a better understanding of the rapidly evolving, 21st century Philippines,” remarked Ms. Lee.

“Hong Kong and the Philippines share a long and intimate history through the Filipinos who work here, the Chinese diaspora in the Philippines, but there is still a lack of genuine understanding of each other and much we can learn from each other. **“SPOTLIGHT: PHILIPPINE CINEMA 2017”** enables us to understand deeper our friends through unique insights and perspectives as captured through these films,” said S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

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Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong SAR, and sponsored by Micro-D International, a leading Philippine IT infrastructure and managed services provider. The Filipino Channel serves as a media partner. It is also supported by San Miguel Brewery Hong Kong Limited and El Nido Resorts.

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ABOUT ASIA SOCIETY PHILIPPINES

Asia Society Philippines is the sole Southeast Asian center of the 12 centers of Asia Society worldwide. A non-profit organization, Asia Society Philippines seeks to improve greater people-to-people understanding and respect between Asia and the West, between Asia's many peoples, and among Filipinos. Through its programs in public policy, business, and arts and culture, Asia Society Philippines seeks to make a meaningful contribution in the work towards a more united, peaceful and progressive world. More information about Asia Society Philippines can be accessed at <http://asiasociety.org/philippines/about-asia-society>.

ABOUT ASIA SOCIETY HONG KONG

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a leading non-governmental organization and intellectual hub that fosters cross-cultural understanding and promotes dialogue and better understanding of Asia. The Center provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a brighter shared future across the fields of arts and culture, business and policy, and education. Learn more about Asia Society Hong Kong Center at <http://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/about-us>.

ABOUT THE FILM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) is the government-backed lead agency for film in the Philippines ensuring that the economic, cultural and educational aspects of film are effectively represented at home and abroad. Information on the FDCP can be found on fdcp.ph.