



INTERNATIONAL
SILENTFILM
FESTIVAL
M A N I L A

Accompanied by Live Musical Performances

31 AUG - 3 SEP 2017

Shang Cineplex, Shangri-La Plaza
Mandaluyong City



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LONDON

Message from
Jay Weissberg

Director, Pordenone Silent Film Festival

All lovers of silent film know that look we get when we tell friends and family we're interested in early cinema. There's usually a bit of confusion, followed by a semi-smile of mild recognition: "oh, you mean, like, Charlie Chaplin?" We should be grateful that Chaplin is an enduring part of popular culture, but it remains frustrating that more than three decades of cinema are reduced to one figure. No one finds it strange if we read F. Scott Fitzgerald as well as Orhan Pamuk; few think it odd that we can enjoy both Igor Stravinsky and Katy Perry. Yet for reasons I've never quite understood, the public gives movies a limited sell-by date before tossing them aside, condescendingly relegating them to the domain of "film buffs."

However, those of you reading this know you're acting as a counter-balance to the idea that silent film is a niche interest. You know there's no better way to understand cinema of the present than by knowing its past, and you appreciate that the pure visual beauty of film before the coming of sound speaks on an elemental level to our emotions as well as our intellect. Whether dramas or comedies, travelogues or newsreels, these images from a not so faraway past remind us of the excitement of the medium, and when paired with appropriate music, nothing feels more modern. The good news is that, little by little, we seem to be making an impact, and even as money for restorations gets harder to find, silent film festivals are experiencing a golden age, from San Francisco to Bo'ness, Pordenone to Karlsruhe, Manila to Toronto. I salute the International Silent Film Festival of Manila, and the audiences whose passion for this evergreen art form ensures that the wonders of cinema's first decades continue to move, enchant, and delight people in 2017, just as much as they did in 1917.

Jay Weissberg

Director

Giornate del cinema muto / Pordenone Silent Film Festival



The 11th International Silent Film Festival in Manila

The International Silent Film Festival in Manila (ISFFM), the first of its kind in Asia, is back!

Established in 2007 by Goethe-Institut Philippinen, the Japan Foundation, Manila and Instituto Cervantes, the ISFFM brought to Manila audiences the rare experience of watching silent motion pictures accompanied by Filipino musicians playing live scores. The films, classics from the early decades of the 20th Century, were shown at the Greenbelt Cinema in Makati, with live music provided by bands like Drip, the Makiling Ensemble and Wahijuara.

The success of the first ISFFM encouraged the organizers to do a repeat in 2008, also moving the festival to its present home, the Shang Cineplex in Mandaluyong. Over the years, many other embassies and cultural institutions joined this prestigious festival, so that from three founding members in 2007, the ISFFM now notably boasts of a membership of nine. Italy and France joined in 2008, and the Philippines in 2011. The USA signed up in 2014, Austria in 2015, and the UK in 2016. All these countries will field the best examples of their silent film genres and will have prominent speakers to welcome the viewers or talk about their entries or special features. The Japanese evening, for example, will have a rare performance by Mr. Ichiro Kataoka, a silent film narrator, who will provide a live interpretation of their silent movie, as was done in Japan many years ago. As always, all the much-awaited silent films will be accompanied by live music from notable Filipino bands, thus giving audiences both an exciting visual and aural experience.

The host country, the Philippines, fielded for its first offering in 2011 the classic 1937 silent film *Brides of Sulu* by John Nelson. By 2013, the ISFFM decided to include contemporary Filipino takes on the silent film, namely Raymond Red's *Kamera Obskura* and then Raya Martin's *Indio Nacional* in 2016. In that same year, the ISFFM hosted well-attended discussions on the genre of the silent cinema with noted film historians, the Philippines' Nick Deocampo and Japan's Hidenori Okada. This year, as a new feature, the art organization Para sa Sining will present some short contemporary silent films by young Filipino filmmakers.

We are very honored to have received a congratulatory message from Mr. Jay Weissberg, director of the oldest silent film festival in the world, The Pordenone Silent Film Festival.

Once again, the ISFFM is delighted to welcome you to this unique festival. Let's Rock the Silence!



SPAIN

EL GOLFO

YEAR 1918 **DURATION** 74 mins **DIRECTOR** José de Togores **GENRE** Action/Comedy
CAST Ernesto Vilches, Irene López Heredia, Artemio Pérez, Bueno Antoñito Suárez, José Olózaga

Year 1899: Irene falls while playing in the park and little Ernesto comes to her aid. Irene's mother drops her wallet and when Ernesto picks it up and wants to return it, some men accuse him of having stolen it. Irene defends the boy and when he goes to their house to return the lady's wallet, she is moved by his deed. In return, the lady helps Ernesto get admitted to a school.

Year 1907: Ernesto tries to go abroad to work but is arrested at the border. Again, Irene's family helps him and pays for his trip to the United States. Irene, in the meantime, has been committed to a foolish Marquis as willed by her parents.

Year 1916: The Marquis, now engaged to Irene leads a dissolute life amassing debts. Meanwhile Ernesto, successful in the iron industry in Nebraska, is now in Spain on a business trip, learns about Irene's squandering fiancé and offers to shoulder his debts. Irene and Ernesto then start a relationship that drives the Marquis into jealous rage.



Musical score by

Talahib

First founded as a folk quartet, Talahib is a world-music rock band formed in 2000. Over time, they have developed a genuine style, paying homage to the Filipino heritage with a medley of native instruments and homegrown music.

Members:

Janis Ann Añonuevo (vocals), Bonjo Agustin (vocals, acoustic guitar), Noel Taylo (vocals, percussion), Burn Belacho (guitar, hegalong), Mrk Estandarte (bass guitar), Domeng Molina (percussion), Max Celada (percussion), Jones de Vera (percussion), Darrel Roberto (drums)



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Film courtesy of





UK

UNDERGROUND

YEAR 1928 **DURATION** 94 mins **DIRECTOR** Anthony Asquith **GENRE** Drama
CAST Brian Aherne, Elissa Landi, Cyril McLaglen

A BFI restoration of Anthony Asquith's subterranean tale of love, jealousy and murder.

More than any other film from Britain's silent canon, *Underground* (introducing itself as a 'story of ordinary workaday people whose names are just Nell, Bill, Kate and Bert') evokes the life of the ordinary Londoner with its scenes of the bustling Underground – the behaviour of the passengers is strikingly familiar – and the capital's parks, double-decker buses, pubs and shabby bedsits. From his own screenplay Asquith balances the light and dark sides of city life, aided by a superb cast of Brian Aherne and Elissa Landi as the nice young lovers and Norah Baring and Cyril McLaglen as their unhappy counterparts.

The 26-year-old's direction is assured, efficient and spare, with some remarkably cinematic flourishes, clearly inspired by contemporary German and Russian filmmaking but with a few tricks of his own, climaxing with a thrilling chase scene across the rooftops of the Lots Road power station. He was one of few in the British industry to match the audacity of Hitchcock. – Bryony Dixon.

The restoration of *Underground* was made possible by the generous support of Simon W Hessel.

Presented by



Musical score by

Goodleaf

Year 2005 found dub rising from the musically dormant town of Malabon. On the frontline stood Goodleaf. Initially composed of Ian Cruz as bass guidance, dub organiser/ melodica/mutated vocals Edy Varde, keyboards/stony fingers Jolly Navarro, and Felix Peloton percussion/spoken dub manifesto. The group is now rounded off with the additional ambient guitar of Ryan Goan, the drum beats of Jas Sonido and percussion banging of Bobby "Dubby" Maltizo.

Goodleaf minister their music with various influences, such as Ambient, Trip Hop, Post Punk, Vintage Dub from King Tubby to Jah Shaka. Their first album, *Dub Pilipinas*, was their first LP to be released on Inity Records.

Only a chosen few can recognise their musical divergence from popular music, but in the long run, nobody is immune to the infectious groove of Goodleaf.



1 SEP (FRI) / 9:30 PM



THE NEW ENCHANTMENT

L'Inhumaine

YEAR 1923 DURATION 135 MINS DIRECTOR Marcel L'Herbier GENRE Drama
CAST Jaque Catelain, Léonid Walter de Malte and Philippe Hériat

Claire Lescot, a famous singer who lives in the outskirts of Paris, is courted by many men, including Djorah de Nopur, a maharaja, and Einar Norsen, a young Swedish scientist. At her lavish parties, she enjoys their amorous attention but remains emotionally aloof and heartlessly taunts them. When she is told that Norsen has killed himself because of her, she shows no feelings. Outraged by her coldness, the audience boos her at her next concert. She visits the tomb in which Norsen's body lies, and as she admits her feelings for him she discovers that he is alive; his death was feigned. Djorah is jealous of their new relationship and causes Claire to be bitten by a poisonous snake. Her body is brought to Norsen's laboratory, where he, through science, brings Claire back to life.



Musical score by

HeloïseLaHarpe

HeloïseLaHarpe is a French-Vietnamese harpist and singer who recently moved to Manila. For the International Silent Film Festival, HeloïseLaHarpe forms a trio with jazz pianist Ryan Villamor and percussionist Aldous Castro. Their musical collaboration will illustrate Marcel Herbier's *L'Inhumaine* through audio landscapes with jazz and electro-acoustic influences and classical and contemporary explorations.

HeloïseLaHarpe on electronic harp and voice
Ryan Villamor on piano and synthesizer
Aldous Castro on percussions and handpans



Presented by





A PERFECT FAMILY

Una famiglia perfetta

YEAR 2017 **DURATION** 70 MINS **DIRECTOR** Ruben Maria Soriquez **GENRE** Drama
CAST Ruben Maria Soriquez, Lanie Martin Gumarang, Kim Soriquez, Red Ibasco

A crime takes place within a family of three: father, mother and little son. But who really does get killed? Or does everything just happen inside the mind of their little son?

Presentation by **Ruben Maria Soriquez**, director.

It took 10 years to complete this experimental silent film shot in 6 different countries. Ten years mostly because I wanted my son to play the role of my son, and so I had to wait for him to first see the light of this world, and then I had to wait for him to be able to act. And while waiting for some years to pass by, I shot family life moments, just like anybody does, but with the aim to use them in this experimental silent film. Shot in 6 different countries because wherever I would go for business I would take my family along to shot scenes for this project, which to me is a sort of Oniric-Documentary-Crime story. I wanted to explore what could happen if a devastating tragedy took place in a normal family, my own family for instance. And as well explore forboding and dreams as possible tools to avoid it.

Why a silent film in 2017? After watching "The Artist" a few years ago I told myself I would do a silent film sooner or later. I found that reading a film is a deep and interactive experience to me.



Musical score by Tom's Story

Created in 2010, TOM'S STORY is an instrumental rock trio comprised by Gabba Santiago, guitar, Tom Naval, bass and Christer de Guia, drums.

In 2016, the trio released a follow up with their debut album Tom's Story which has landed them features in many magazines, locally and overseas. "The songs sculpt impressions, moos into your psyche, while the songs themselves are sculptures – structured and aesthetically pleasing to the senses."

The band has played numerous shows around Metro Manila and took part in festivals like Wanderland Music Festival (PH), TTNG (UK) and Mylets (US) to name few.

Tom's Story is a crowd favorite, consistently drawing a solid response from the live show audience and garnering recognition among press, not just within the instrumental rock community, but the local music scene as a whole. Their rhapsodizing energy onstage, dynamically charged sets have gained favorable feedback from gig-goers, social media, and online press



Presented by





JAPAN

DRAGNET GIRL

非常線の女 (*Hijosen no Onna*)

YEAR 1933 DURATION 100 min DIRECTOR Yasujiro Ozu GENRE Drama

CAST Kinuyo Tanaka, Joji Oka, Sumiko Mizukubo, Hideo Mitsui, Yumeko Aizome

A bodyguard commits robbery to help a subordinate in trouble and plans to make a getaway, but is confronted by his lover, a typist who by night inhabits the world of the yakuza...



Presented by



Musical score by

The Celso Espejo Rondalla

The Celso Espejo Rondalla (CER) is one of the Philippines world class string ensembles founded in 2002 by Maestro Celso Espejo, the group's conductor and one of the pillars of the Philippine Rondalla. The CER is composed of three generations of outstanding rondalla players and have been invited to perform in various occasions nationally and internationally. In 2012, the group represented the Philippines in the 3rd International Music Festival in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. A year after, the group performed at the 65th Anniversary of the Embassy of the Philippines in Rome, Italy, the India International Center Experience: Festival of The Arts in New Delhi India (2013) and the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran, Iran.



Ichiro KATAOKA

Benshi (silent film narrator)

Throughout the world, silent films were shown with musical accompaniment. However, the silent films screened in Japan from the turn of the century to the mid-1930s were not only accompanied by live music but also a performer, known as a *katsudo benshi* or *benshi* for short, delivering live performance acting as a narrator, actor and storyteller. Standing next to the screen, *benshi* provides everything an audience may need to fully appreciate a silent film. Some of the *benshis* were stars and had their own followers, making them more of a catch than the movie itself. With the coming of sound film, *benshi* disappeared but a small number of *benshi* continued to perform along with silent film screenings, keeping this unique tradition and art of narration alive. Ichiro Kataoka is one of the best-known active professional *benshi* in Japan today. He has been narrating more than 350 silent films not only in Japan but internationally, having been invited to perform at festivals and special screenings around the world including Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden and United States. A star student of master *benshi* Midori Sawato, he is also a film and television performer, a voice actor for animation and video games.





PHILIPPINES

TAGLISH

YEAR 2012 **DURATION** 70 mins **DIRECTOR** Gym Lumbera **GENRE** Drama
CAST Dado Javier and Loleng Hernandez-Javier

Taglish. At first, there was Tagalog, Gym Lumbera's short and, to his mind, unfinished narrative about the infidelity that comes between a husband and wife in their twilight years, shot on film and reflecting his own real-life infidelity.. And then there was a storm, a real storm and not a metaphorical one, that flooded his house and submerged, and subsequently damaged, the only copy of Tagalog. This damaged version, entitled English, became the missing piece that completed the film. The new work is named after Taglish, the bastard hybrid, some say corruption, of Tagalog and English, and has become a meditation on love and language and the ways in which we betray and destroy them.



Musical score by

Kapitan Kulam

Kapitan Kulam, formed in 2016, is an instrumental stoner-metal quartet featuring members of the shoegaze unit Pastilan Dong, and spoken-word-jazz combo Radioactive Sago Project. Through low-end guitar riffs, feedback, and other experimental noises using samplers, Kapitan Kulam explores the various registers and intensities of the genre. KK are: Eric Melendez (bass), Kaloy Olavides (guitar), Lourd de Veyra (guitar), and Jay Gapasin (drums, sampler). The band is now finishing their first independently produced album.



Presented by





AUSTRIA

CAFÉ ELEKTRIC

YEAR 1927 **DURATION** 90 MINS **DIRECTOR** Gustav Ucicky **GENRE** Drama
CAST Willi Forst, Marlene Dietrich, Fritz Alberti

In 1920s Vienna, Erni (Marlene Dietrich), daughter of wealthy industrialist Göttliger (Fritz Alberti), falls for the pickpocket Fredl (Willi Forst). Fredl however is in love with Hansi (Nina Vanna), a prostitute. At the Café Elektrik where the Viennese are free to do what can't be done anywhere else, their fates intertwine.

Produced by Sascha-Film, the first major film studio in Vienna, Café Elektrik remains on the list of Austrian films to watch. Sascha-Film founder Count Alexander "Sascha" Kolowrat-Krakowsky was influential due to his pioneering work as an Austrian film producer and helped establish the careers of directors and actors he worked with. Famous German actress Marlene Dietrich, for example, was first recognized as a film actress through Café Elektrik. Count Kolowrat-Krakowsky produced more than 100 feature films from 1911 until before his death in December 1927. Café Elektrik was the last film he made and released.



Musical score by

Rivermaya

Rivermaya is one of the Philippines' most successful bands with over a dozen all-original albums released. The band also made an impact in South East Asia with their international album and has done multiple shows throughout the years in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, and Singapore. They are set to release their new record 'Sa Kabila Ng Lahat' towards the end of the year.



Presented by





GERMANY

PANDORA'S BOX

YEAR 1929 **DURATION** 131 MINS **DIRECTOR** Georg Wilhelm Pabst **GENRE** Drama
CAST Louise Brooks, Fritz Kortner, Franz Lederer, Carl Goetz and Alice Roberte

Based on two plays by Frank Wedekind, "Pandora's Box" follows the story of Lulu (Louise Brooks) a seductive, thoughtless young woman whose raw sexuality and uninhibited nature bring ruin to herself and those who love her. Brook's portrayal of Lulu sporting the bobbed hairstyle iconic of the "flapper" woman of the 1920s elevated her into a star. Sensationally modern, the film is notable for its lesbian subplot and is one of silent cinema's great masterworks.



Presented by



Musical score by

Sandwich

Composed of Raymund Marasigan (vocals, guitars), Diego Castillo (guitars), Mike Dizon (drums), Myrene Academia (bass) and Mong Alcaraz (guitars), Sandwich plays music which could be generally categorized as alternative to rock. They have been making music for more than a decade now and still continue to live up to their passion – a trademark of energetic performances.





U.S.

THE GENERAL

YEAR 1926 **DURATION** 75 mins **DIRECTOR** Clyde Bruckman and Buster Keaton
GENRE Action/Comedy **CAST** Buster Keaton, Marion Mack, Glen Cavender, Jim Farley

One of the most revered comedies of the silent era, "The General" tells the story of ill-fated Southern railroad engineer Johnny Gray (Buster Keaton) facing off against Union soldiers during the American Civil War. When Johnny's fiancée, Annabelle Lee (Marion Mack), is accidentally taken away while on a train stolen by Northern forces, Gray relentlessly pursues the soldiers, using various modes of transportation in comic action scenes that highlight Keaton's boundless wit and dexterity.



Presented by



Musical score by

Flippin Soul Stompers

From generations, Manila has heard over a thousand of bands in various genres and styles. Little did people know that most of today's music was formed through the classier tunes of soul music. Envisioned in bringing the masses back to root of modern music, a six-membered ensemble with veteran musicians from Pu3ska, Tropical Depression, and Juan Pablo Dream; and fresh talents came together and formed the Flippin Soul Stompers. As fans of soul music, the band follows the examples of Otis Redding, James Brown, Curtis Mayfield and the Impressions, The Funk Brothers, and Booker T and the MG's – a fine indication that the band fully expresses Motown, Stax, Funk, and Blues. Surely followers of the scene and new listeners will not be disappointed.



31 AUG-3 SEP



Marianing by Nikolo Salazar

The Silent Film Exhibition

Para Sa Sining

August 31 – September 3 | Grand Atrium, 2nd floor

Now on its 11th installment, the International Silent Film Festival has expanded to also become a platform for contemporary films of young, emerging artists. Short, silent films will be exhibited for the duration of the festival at the Shangri-La's East Wing.

Detailed program to follow

3 SEP (SUN) / 2:00 PM / 7:15 PM / 9:30 PM

Musika X Pelikula

Para Sa Sining

September 3 | Grand Atrium, 2nd floor

Celebrating the culmination of intergenerational, intercultural collaborations through film & music, a stage will be opened for the new generation of Filipino artists. The live-scoring of the short, silent films will be staged at the 2nd Level Grand Atrium during the last day of the festival. There will be four (4) different sets of collaborative performances.

2:00 pm | 7:15 pm | 9:30 pm

Detailed program to follow



Mukha by Noah del Rosario



PARA SA SINING

ABOUT PARA SA SINING

Para Sa Sining is a non-profit organization that advocates for Philippine art and culture. More than being an organization, Para Sa Sining is a **community of creative collaborators**— artists, volunteers, enthusiasts, curators, designers, educators, students, arts managers, researchers, collectives, organizations.


With the vision to **create a collaborative community** through Philippine art & culture, Para Sa Sining has established four (4) key programs: Katha, Sikuna, Hiraya and Salin. **Katha** is a **Collaborative Event Series** where two (2) art forms are merged for every production, such as Musika-Pelikula, Musika-SiningBiswal, Teatro-Arktectura and Tula-Sayaw. **Sikuna** is a **Collaborative Arts Festival** that celebrates different art forms through various types of performances and activities. **Hiraya** is a **Collaborative Arts Education Program** focused on facilitating workshops in different communities. And, **Salin** is a two-part program focused on creating platforms **for Conversations on Art & through Art**.

Apart from establishing productions and programs, Para Sa Sining also collaborates with artists and collectives to co-produce different projects. Collaborative works in the past year include the **WSK Festival** of the Recently Possible 2016, 22nd **Fête dela Musique** - Fusion Stage, and the **Rebelde Film Camp** Year 3 held at Banaue, Ifugao.

Since **2014**, Para Sa Sining has involved **more than 400 artists and volunteers** who contribute to different productions and programs.

Follow Para Sa Sining (@ParaSaSining) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more info and updates.



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11th

INTERNATIONAL SILENT FILM FESTIVAL MANILA

FILM SCHEDULE

31 August (Thursday)

8:00 pm - *El Golfo* (Spain)

1 September (Friday)

7:30 pm - *Underground* (UK)

9:30 pm - *The New Enchantment / L'inhumaine* (France)

2 September (Saturday)

3:00 pm - *A Perfect Family / Una famiglia perfetta* (Italy)

5:30 pm - *Dragnet Girl / 非常線の女 (Hijosen no Onna)* (Japan)

8:00 pm - *Taglish* (Philippines)

3 September (Sunday)

3:00 pm - *Café Elektric* (Austria)

5:00 pm - *Pandora's Box* (Germany)

8:00 pm - *The General* (U.S.)

SIDE EVENTS (PARA SA SINING)

31 August–3 September

The Silent Film Exhibition

3 September (Sunday)

2:00 PM / 7:15 PM / 9:30 PM

Musika X Pelikula