

Honolulu Museum of Art

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FILIPINO FILM FESTIVAL FEATURES NEW BIOPICS ON PACQUIAO AND THE FATHER OF THE NATION

Fest programming includes Filipino art tours and storytelling by Lopaka Kapanui; month ends with two acclaimed Southeast Asian films

WHAT: Filipino Film Festival, South East Asian Cinema

WHEN: April 2–24, 2016

TICKETS: Regular screenings: \$10 general admission, \$8 museum members. Admission is free for kids 17 and under

INFO: 532-6097, ddt@honolulumuseum.org, www.honolulumuseum.org (publishable)

High-res images available on request

HONOLULU, HAWAI‘I—The [Filipino Film Festival](#) is among the museum’s fastest growing cinematic events. With a lineup of films that have achieved wide acclaim on the international festival circuit, this year’s festival shows no signs of slowing down. “Many people don’t realize that Filipino cinema is in the midst of its third Golden Era,” says theater director Taylor Chang. “The quality and breadth of films being produced in the Philippines is at a peak. It’s fascinating how the general public hasn’t yet realized how innovative and exciting the Southeast Asian film industry is. Movie-lovers should really keep an eye on what’s going on in Southeast Asia because, I would argue, it’s where the future leaders of cinema will emerge if they haven’t already.”

The films have been carefully curated and arranged to provide a cinematic experience that’s greater than the sum of its parts for anybody who wants to watch multiple films in the festival. “Community engagement was a priority in putting this festival together,” says committee member Ethel Ward. “I first came to Hawai‘i as a student at the [East-West Center](#), and so I understand the importance of cultural interchange. That’s part of why we are so excited to have this festival at the museum, because it gives us a platform to reach people not just in the Filipino community, but in all of the different communities that exist here in Hawai‘i.”

The festival begins with [Bonifacio: Ang Unan Pangula](#) (*Bonifacio: The First President*), about revolutionary Andrés Bonifacio. While never elected president, Bonifacio was the leader of the Philippines Revolution (1896-1902), and is widely considered to be the person who should have been the first President of the Philippine Republic. The biopic is told from the perspective of three high school students on a tour in a museum—fitting for HoMA—whose experience of the artifacts on view become links to the past.

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Honolulu Museum of Art
Spalding House
2411 Makiki Heights Drive

Honolulu Museum of Art
First Hawaiian Center
999 Bishop Street

Honolulu Museum of Art
School
1111 Victoria Street

Honolulu Museum of Art
Doris Duke Theatre
Entrance on Kinau Street

Nick Joaquin is arguably the most famous figure in Filipino literature. In his honor the festival presents a double feature screening of [Portrait of an Artist as a Filipino](#), which is based off of Joaquin's most famous play of the same title—and [Dahling Nick](#)—a docudrama about Joaquin featuring interviews with the biggest names in Filipino literature. The Nick Joaquin double feature screens Saturday, April 9 with a mini-reception, introductions, and Q+A's with Joaquin's niece Cecile Joaquin Yasay.

Among the festival circuit hits is [Above the Clouds](#), which takes place in the wake of the real-life disaster Typhoon Haiyan. The film follows 15-year-old Andy as he comes to terms with the loss of his parents by retracing their steps together with his estranged grandfather through the Philippine countryside. If *Above the Clouds* is a meditation on man's relationship with nature through the lens of a young boy, [An Kubo san Kawayanan](#) (*The House on the Bamboo Grove*) is a meditation on a woman's relationship with nature through the lens of a young girl. The film tells the story of Michelle, a virtuoso in *calado* embroidery—a traditional style of needlework—who tries to hold on to her home, and the natural splendors that surround it, in the face of a community pushing her to embrace a coming urbanization. In addition to their riveting stories, both films showcase the beauty of the Philippines countryside through breathtaking cinematography.

The festival begins with an opening-night reception April 2 at 6 p.m. followed by the screening of *Bonifacio: Ang Unang Pangulo*. In honor of the revolutionary hero, the museum is throwing the inauguration party that should have been—in anticipation of the Philippine elections in May. Max's of Manila is recreating the dishes served at the 1898 inauguration ceremony based on an actual menu from that day. Guests can also enjoy traditional dance performances by the [Bulacan Circle](#) and live [Eskrima demonstrations](#).

After the Filipino Film Festival the museum showcases two of the hottest new films out of Southeast Asia. [Cemetery of Splendor](#) is the most recent film by Apichatpon Weerasethakul, who is at the forefront of contemporary Asian cinema. The film revolves around Jen, a hospital volunteer trying to solve the mystery behind the spreading epidemic of sleeping sickness among soldiers. The film screens exclusively at Doris Duke Theatre—this may be Hawai'i filmgoers' only chance to it on the big screen.

[The Last Reel](#) is a groundbreaking film out of Cambodia. The film—which marks the re-emergence of Cambodian cinema—looks at the legacy of trauma that families suffered under the Khmer Rouge, and the lasting impact it had on future generations. While foreign filmmakers have told before the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge, *The Last Reel* is a sign that Cambodian filmmakers are beginning to tell their own stories.

Full Schedule

Bonifacio: Ang Unang Pangulo

Directed by Enzo Williams. Philippines. 2014. 100 min. Tagalog with English subtitles.

April 2 at 7:30 p.m.

April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

April 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Revolutionary Andrés Bonifacio was the founder and leader of the Katipunan, the late 1890s liberation movement. Told through the eyes of three Manila high school students on a museum tour, the objects in the museum become windows to Bonifacio's dramatic armed revolt against Spanish colonial rule. The interweaving of time periods illustrates how a historical figure can continue to inspire in the modern world.

Best Picture 40th Metro Manila Film Festival Awards

Official Selection Seattle International Film Festival

See the [trailer](#).

Kid Kulafu

Directed by Paul Soriano. Philippines. 2015. 109 min. Tagalog with English subtitles.

April 5 at 7:30 p.m.

April 7 at 7:30 p.m.

April 15 at 1 p.m. + 7:30 p.m.

Before he became one of the world's greatest boxers Manny Pacquiao lived a hand-to-mouth existence, trying to survive from one day to the next. Director Paul Soriano turns "the nation's fists" life into a beautifully shot feature film that doesn't shy away from the grit. When Pacquiao discovers his natural talent for boxing, he embarks on a brutal and intense journey that takes him from the mountains of the Philippines to the streets of Manila. He must risk everything to become a champion—for himself, his family, and his country.

Official Selection 35th Hawaii International Film Festival

Official Selection 28th Tokyo International Film Festival

Official Selection Raindance Film Festival

See the [trailer](#)

Above the Clouds

Directed by Pepe Diokno. Philippines. 2014. 90 min. English and Tagalog with English subtitles.

April 6 at 7:30 p.m.

April 8 at 1 p.m. + 7:30 p.m.

After losing his parents in a flood, 15-year-old Andy (Ruru Madrid) is forced to live with his estranged grandfather (Pepe Smith). Disconsolate, he withdraws from everyone around him until his grandfather shows him old photographs of his parents on a hike. Together, they embark on an arduous trek, retracing his parents' steps in a spirited effort to overcome grief. Director Pepe Diokno's sophomore feature is a breathtaking journey that reveals the resilience of the human spirit.

Arte Prize from the Berlin International Film Festival
Official Selection 27th Tokyo International Film Festival
Official Selection 25th Singapore International Film Festival

See the [trailer](#).

Read *The Hollywood Reporter* [review](#).

Filemon Mamon

Directed by Will Fredo. Philippines. 2015. 94 min. Tagalog with English Subtitles.

April 3 at 4 p.m.

April 7 at 1 p.m.

April 10 at 4 p.m.

A family film for all ages, Filemon Mamon is based on of the popular children's book of the same time. Filemon is a high school student who desires two things: to win the heart of the girl he loves and to be the lead in a musical play about his hero Andrés Bonifacio, "the Father of the Philippine Revolution and Filipino Nation." But he has a big problem—his weight. With his dad fighting for worker rights at the factory where he works and his mother working overseas, Filemon is left with his grandmother who loves to cook and believes that "to be fat is to be healthy, and to be healthy is to be fat." Over the course of this endearing musical comedy about loving food and loving yourself, Filemon learns that his lola's adage isn't quite true.

Don't forget: Films are FREE for everyone age 17 and under!

See the [trailer](#).

Dahling Nick

Directed by Sari Raissa Lluch Dalena. 2015. Philippines. 180 min.

April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

This docudrama explores the life and works of National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin, who only accepted the National Artist Award on the condition that the Marcos administration release a well-known writer who was being unjustly detained during Martial Law. This unabashed homage to one of Philippine literature's greatest figures weaves surreal reenactments of Joaquin's masterpieces with candid interviews from National Artists for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera, F. Sionil Jose, Charo Joaquin Villegas, Elena Roco, and Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison.

See the [trailer](#).

Read *Film Police* [review](#)

A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino

Directed by Lamberto V. Avellana. Philippines. 1965. 90 min. Tagalog with English subtitles.

April 9 at 4 p.m.

April 12 at 1 p.m. + 7:30 p.m.

Based on the celebrated play by Nick Joaquin, Lamberto Avellana's absorbing drama is a commentary on the degeneration of Manila's former arts district, reflecting the struggle between the old Filipino identity and the onslaught of western influence. Sisters Candida and Paula have taken it upon themselves to care for their father Don, a renowned painter. Dependent on financial support from their brother and sister, Candida and Paula are steadfast in their ways, refusing to sell and leave their family home amidst the decline of their surroundings. To make ends meet, they rent a room to the modern, westernized Tony Javier. When Paula elopes with Tony, it sets off a series of events, resulting in the emancipation of not just the sisters, but the entire family.

Patintero: Ang Alamat Ni Meng Patalo

Directed by Mihk Vergara. 2015. Philippines. 90 min. Tagalog with English subtitles.

April 3 at 1 p.m.

April 5 at 1 p.m.

April 10 at 1 p.m.

A young neighborhood *patalo* (underdog) named Meng assembles an unlikely team of losers to join her in the ultimate battle for the streets: patintero. Action packed, hilarious and heartwarming, the film reminds us that a good game with friends is more important than just winning. Don't miss this fun family film.

Don't forget: Films are FREE for everyone age 17 and under!

See the [trailer](#).

Ang Kubo sa Kawayanan • The House by the Bamboo Grove

Directed by Alvin Yapan. Philippines. 2015. 83 min. Tagalog with English subtitles.

April 6 at 1 p.m.

April 9 at 1 p.m.

April 16 at 1 p.m.

Michelle, a talented calado embroiderer, lives in her own world in a house by the bamboo grove. The film tells the intimate story of how Michelle's beloved home, along with the things around her—a river stone, a June beetle, and a can of sardines—would help her preserve the ecology of joy and peace she nurtures. Meanwhile, everyone around Michelle is trying to convince her to abandon the house. The film is a meditation on the virtue of staying during a time of migration, of permanence in a land of cultural erosion.

Official Selection Cinemalaya (2015)

Best Picture for Filipino New Cinema at World Premiere's Film Festival (2015)

Nominated Best Picture at Singapore International Film Festival (2015)

See the [trailer](#).

Sleepless

Directed by Prime Cruz. Philippines. 2015. 120 min. Tagalog with English subtitles.

April 13 at 1 p.m.

April 14 at 7:30 p.m.

April 16 at 4 p.m.

In this offbeat rom-com, stressed out, insomniac call-center agents Gem (Glaiza de Castro) and Barry (Dominic Roco) develop an undefined relationship, quite possibly a romance, under the guise of friendship, over several sleepless nights. Drawn together by their nocturnal loneliness, they talk about love, zombies and everything in between.

See the [trailer](#).

All You Need is Pag-Ibig

Directed by Antoinette Jadamone. Philippines. 2015. 116 min. Tagalog with English subtitles.

April 13 at 7:30 p.m.

April 14 at 1 p.m.

April 16 at 7:30 p.m.

A heartwarming family movie, which also has a touch of romance, *All You Need Is Pag-Ibig* explores the complexity of human relationships in all their forms. The movie features varied forms of love: family love, sibling love, puppy love, unrequited love, ruined love, prospering love, in denial love, jaded love, and true love. After all, what the world needs now is love, sweet love.

See the [trailer](#).

Related Programming

Encounters—Sunday Tours

Free

Thanks to the generous support of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the Honolulu Museum of Art presents for the first time its rare Philippine artworks in connection to the Museum's larger collection of art. The Museum's educational tour 'Encounters' compares Philippine artworks to Renaissance and Baroque artworks, such as the exquisite painting of St. John the Evangelist by Piero Di Cosimo, which recently returned from major retrospective exhibitions in Galleria Degli Uffizi Florence and

the National Gallery of Art. The motive is to allow viewers to discover the most unexpected ties between Philippine and European artworks.

Master Storyteller Lopaka Kapanui: Tales of Ghosts and Legends Withheld
April 27 at 7:30 p.m.

\$15 general admission, \$12 museum members

One of Hawaii's most popular storytellers, Lopaka Kapanui, shares tales of some of Hawaii's local people who have become entwined in the supernatural and ghostly realms of different cultures around the world. Following the Doris Duke Theater's monthly programming spotlight, Lopaka weaves his stories around the museum's collection spinning tales that are sure to give you chicken skin. Indian, African American and Jewish stories set the stage for the beginning of the year.

Next, let us bring you to the Philippines and Southeast Asia as Lopaka shares secrets of things only whispered about in *Tales of Ghosts and Legends Withheld*. Follow us throughout the year, every last Wednesday of the month, as we bring you *Around the World in Mysterious Ways*.

Also in April

Southeast Asian Cinema

Cemetery of Splendor

Directed by Apichatpong Weerasethakul. Thailand. 2015. 122 min. Thai with English subtitles.

April 17 at 7:30 p.m.

April 19 at 1 p.m. + 7:30 p.m.

April 21 at 1 p.m. + 7:30 p.m.

April 22 at 1 p.m.

Thai soldiers who have succumbed to a mysterious sleeping sickness are taken to a hospital in a remote city. Jen, a middle-aged, lonely hospital volunteer, along with a team of doctors and psychics, tends to the ailing soldiers. While trying to find a cure for the comatose men, the medical team discovers that there may be a connection between the soldiers' condition and the mythic ancient site that lies beneath the clinic. Magic, healing, romance and dreams are all part of Jen's tender path to a deeper awareness of herself and the world around her.

Affectionately known as "Joe," director Apichatpong Weerasethakul's *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* won the Palme d'Or at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival. He continues his streak of cinematic success with *Cemetery of Splendor*, which the British Film Institute picked as one of 2015's top 20 films.

Official Selection Sundance Film Festival (2016)
Official Selection Un Certain Regard Cannes Film Festival (2015)
Official Selection 53rd New York Film Festival

Watch the [trailer](#).

Read the *Hollywood Reporter* [review](#).
Read the Guardian [review](#).

The Last Reel

Directed by Kulikar Sotho. Cambodia. 2014. 106 min. Khmer with English subtitles.

April 22 at 7:30 p.m.

April 23 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. + 7:30 p.m.

April 24 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. + 7:30 p.m.

Sophoun, the rebellious daughter of a hardline army colonel, lives her life for the moment, hanging out with a local gang. But when her father returns home with yet another arranged-marriage proposal, Sophoun flees her imploding home and seeks refuge in a derelict cinema. There, she is shocked to discover an incomplete 1970s melodrama that stars her now desperately ill mother as a glamorous young woman. A story from pre-Khmer Rouge times.

The Last Reel looks at the legacy of the trauma and terror that families suffered under the Khmer Rouge and the impact it has had on subsequent generations. The dark past is like a shadow that stalks the characters in this film. Parents, haunted by the horrors they witnessed, bear psychological scars that shape their children. This honest portrait of contemporary Cambodia depicts a beautiful and beguiling country that is home to a people in need of speaking, in need of sharing, in need of healing.

Winner Best Actor (Sok Sothun) Asean International Film Festival (2015)
Spirit of Asia Award Winner Tokyo International Film Festival (2014)
Black Dragon Award Winner Far East Film Festival (2015)

Watch the [trailer](#).

Read the *Hollywood Reporter* [review](#).

Doris Duke Theatre information:

The Doris Duke Theatre opens its doors on Kina'ū Street one half-hour before each film screening and concert.

Concert tickets: Available at the theater door on the day of the concert, beginning on half-hour before the performance, or online in advance.

Concert admission: Varies; free for children 17 and under

Film tickets: Available at the theater door on the day of screening, beginning one half-hour before each showing, or online in advance.

Film admission: \$10 general admission; \$8 museum members; free for children 17 and under

Matinee Rewards Card: Pick one up at the theater box office. When theatergoers attend three matinees, they receive free admission to a fourth screening. Or they can bring three friends to a single matinee and receive free admission to a future screening. The free screening pass is valid for three months.

Concession stand: In the lobby, visitors can purchase bags of glazed pecans, coconut ginger, chocolate- and Kona coffee-coated macadamia nuts, and butter crunch vanilla macadamia nuts, for \$6 per bag. Also on the menu are handmade desserts and baked goods from Yummy Tummy, including peanut butter-oats-and-cranberry energy balls, green tea rice crispy treats and mini cookies (\$3-\$7). Drinks: coffee, hot tea, Arizona Green Tea, Vitamin Water, and bottled water (\$2-\$3).

About the Honolulu Museum of Art

One of the world's premier art museums presents international caliber special exhibitions and features a collection that includes Hokusai, van Gogh, Gauguin, Monet, Picasso and Warhol, as well as traditional Asian and Hawaiian art. Located in two of Honolulu's most beautiful buildings, visitors enjoy two cafés and gardens, alongside films and concerts located at the theater. In 2011, The Contemporary Museum gifted its assets and collection to the Honolulu Academy of Arts and in 2012, the combined museum changed its name to the Honolulu Museum of Art.

Locations:

Honolulu Museum of Art: 900 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu Museum of Art Spalding House: 2411 Makiki Heights Drive

Honolulu Museum of Art School: 1111 Victoria Street

Honolulu Museum of Art at First Hawaiian Center: 9999 Bishop Street

Honolulu Museum of Art Doris Duke Theatre: 901 Kinau Street (at rear of museum)

Website: www.honolulumuseum.org

Phone: 808-532-8700

Hours:

Honolulu Museum of Art: Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m.; closed Monday.

The Honolulu Museum of Art Café: lunch only, Tues.-Sat., 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Honolulu Museum of Art Spalding House: Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. noon-4 p.m.

Spalding House Café: lunch only, Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Admission (permits entry to both museums on the same day):

\$10 general admission; children 17 and under are free.

Admission is free to: shop, cafés, Robert Allerton Art Library, and the art school

Free days: First Wednesday of every month

Bank of Hawaii Family Sunday: The museum is free to the public on the third Sunday of the month, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., courtesy Bank of Hawaii.