



**EUROPEAN UNION
Delegation of the European Union to
the Philippines**

5 May 2016

**Multi-awarded Filmmaker Mendoza recognised
during Europe Day Reception;
to co-launch the mobile application PHor EU**

Multi-awarded filmmaker Brillante Ma Mendoza will be recognised by the European Union Delegation to the Philippines at the Europe Day Reception on 5 May. Mendoza is a living treasure of Philippine independent cinema and is one of the most prominent and important Filipino filmmakers today.

He is the first Filipino to have won in three major international film festivals showing authentic Filipino stories to the world.

EU Ambassador Franz Jessen said that Mendoza is one of the great Filipino filmmakers who has honed his craft and has helped strengthen the cultural co-operation between the EU and the Philippines.

"Filmmakers such as Brillante Ma Mendoza is a source of inspiration not only to Filipinos but also to Europeans for his craftsmanship, dynamism and innovation", Ambassador Jessen said.

Mendoza was invited by Ambassador Jessen to co-launch the mobile application which is aimed at bringing EU closer to the hearts of the Filipino people.

Mendoza is the perfect ambassador of goodwill between the EU and the Philippines mainly because of his significant role in bridging the cultural divide between and among the peoples of Europe and the Philippines.

His recent film "Ma' Rosa" is one of the more difficult movies that he has done so far because of the sensitivity of the topic – the corrupt police system. The movie will be shown in Cannes Film Festival this May 2016.

"Ma' Rosa" is Brillante's 4th film to be shown at Cannes, the first one being *Serbis* in 2008, which was nominated for the coveted Palme d'Or (Golden Palm). In 2009, Brillante won Best Director at Cannes for his film *Kinatay*, and in 2015, his movie "Taklub" was given the Ecumenical Jury-Prize Special Mention.

Mendoza's film, "Captive", competed in the Berlin International Film Festival in 2012, while "Tirador" (Slingshot) won the Caligari Film Award in 2007 of the same festival.

"Thy Womb" won the La Navicella Venezia Cinema Award in the equally prestigious Venice Film Festival in 2012, while "Lola" was nominated for the best film screened in competition for the same festival in 2009, also known as the "Golden Lion".

But his most notable achievement was being awarded Best Director in the well-renowned Cannes Film Festival for the film "Kinatay" in 2009. The year before, his film, "Serbis" (Service) was nominated for the acclaimed Palm d' Or Award or the Golden Palm, the most prestigious award given to the best film of film festival.

Mendoza started as a Production Designer in various films and television advertisements. In 2005, he founded Center Stage Productions (CSP), an independent film production outfit that aims to rethink and reinvent Filipino cinema by producing meaningful and relevant films.

His debut film, "Masahista" (The Masseur) immediately won the Golden Leopard Award in the 2005 Locarno International Film Festival in Switzerland and paved the way for the rise of Alternative Cinema in the Philippines.

His works launched a yearly retrospective in Europe, Asia and Russia where the world's film critics regard him as a "neo-realist" for depicting social realities and lives of ordinary people in extraordinary situations.

Recently, the French government decorated Brillante Ma. Mendoza with the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres or Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters. No Filipino director has been accorded the singular distinction of being ranked with the likes of renowned filmmakers Bernardo Bertolucci and Dario Argento.

Mendoza's films are commercially shown in Europe, providing the cinema-loving European audience a glimpse of contemporary Philippine society.

Today, Mendoza continues to make socially relevant films and documentaries that depict the lives of the Filipinos and the marginalized sectors of society, cultivating an audience for Alternative Cinema by showing films in different schools all over the country. One of them is his film, "Manoro", which is now part of Philippine Department of Education's formal module for Grade 8 students.