



16 September 2017

**Cine Europa opens with French Film "Souvenir"
Public screenings start on 17 September**

A love story from France, "Souvenir", is this year's opening salvo for Cine Europa 20 on 16 September at Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City. Public screenings of Cine Europa start on 17 September.

"Souvenir" is directed and co-written by Bavo Defurne. It stars Isabelle Huppert, Kévin Azaïs, and Johan Leysen and is the story of a forgotten European Song Contest singer, fading away in a pâté factory, and falling in love with a young aspiring boxer. Together they decide to attempt her comeback.

Mattias Lentz, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of the EU Delegation to the Philippines will be joined by Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Laurent Legodec of the French Embassy, Liza Diño, Chairperson, Film Development Council of the Philippines and Johnny Rios, Head of Operations, Shangri-La Corporation in inaugurating the film festival.

After the screenings in Shangri-La Plaza, Cine Europa will travel for four months to the cities of Baguio, Cebu, Iloilo, Tacloban, Baybay, Puerto Princesa and back to Manila. For the first time, Cine Europa is also appearing at the Ateneo de Naga University.

Cine Europa boasts of being the fact that is the oldest only film festival in the Philippines country which is the longest and has the widest potential of reaching the largest as many audiences as it screens in a variety of venues from theaters to malls and to universities, and in a wide selection of cities.

Cine Europa is presented by the European Union Delegation to the Philippines, the Embassies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and Norway, Alliance Francaise de Manille, British Council, Instituto Cervantes of Manila, Goethe Institut Manila, Philippine-Italian Association, Consulates of Bulgaria and Slovakia and its partner organisations from the private sector, academe and government agencies.

Mattias Lentz said that Cine Europa owes its strong position in the field of films in the Philippines to its partners and collaborators including Shangri-La Plaza, the Film Development Council of the Philippines, Arts Council of Cebu, Ayala Center in Cebu, the University of the Philippines- Visayas in Tacloban, the Visayas State University in Baybay Leyte Liceo de Cagayan in Cagayan de Oro City, Palawan State University and recently, Ateneo de Naga University.

"We also say our special thanks to our Filipino moviegoers who have supported Cine Europa for the last 20 years since the European Union started the film festival as a gift to the Philippines for the latter's centennial celebrations", said Mr Lentz.

Cine Europa which is on its 20th year offers the ultimate fusion of the best of classical and contemporary films from the European Union. The film festival has become stronger and bolder as it brings to the Philippines 24 films from 16 European countries including from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and Norway.

Education Component

On 17 September, Sunday, Brillante Mendoza, Best Director at the 62nd Cannes International Film Festival will speak about film appreciation and his venture into making television movies. Two of his recent works for TV 5, "Kadaungan" and "Everlasting," will be screened at 1pm.

On 23 September, Saturday, the Cinema One Original film "2 Cool 2 Be 4gotten" by director Petersen Vargas screens at 1 pm. The education component ends with a "double treat" on 24 September, Sunday. Showing from 1pm to 6:30 pm is "Mula Sa Kung Ano Ang Noon" by director Lav Diaz. This film about the horrors of Martial Law won the Grand Prize Golden Leopard Award at the 67th Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland. Lav Diaz and the film's lead actress, Hazel Orencio, will be at the screening, together with film critic and educator Adrian Mendizabal. While at 7 pm also on September 24 is the work-in-progress documentary "Journeyman Finds A Home (The Life Story of Simone Rota). Filmmakers Albert Almendralejo, Maricel Cariaga and Clodualdo "Doy" del Mundo will discuss filmmaking.

Venue of all screenings and forums is at the Premiere Theater of the Shangri-La Mall Cineplex. Admission is free on a first-come, first-served basis.

Website: <http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/philippines>

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