

## INAUGURATION OF CINEMATHEQUE MANILA



**A**t long last, the country's capital of Manila has its very own Cinematheque: an historic first.

Located in the heart of Ermita district, the newly inaugurated Cinematheque Manila stands as a highly anticipated addition to a number of cultural landmarks, joining the likes of Rizal Park, the National Library of the Philippines, National Museum of the Philippines, and the walled city of Intramuros, among many others, in conserving and sharing the rich cultural heritage of the Philippines.

A line-up of activities is set to mark the inau-



Facade of Cinematheque Manila

guration of Cinematheque Manila and celebrate the country's cinematic legacy. The statue of the great Filipino filmmaker Gerardo "Gerry" de Leon will be unveiled; the Museo ng Pelikulang Pilipino adjacent to the Cinematheque Manila theater will be inaugurated. At long last,

the restored version of eminent director Manuel Conde's "Genghis Khan" will have its formal DVD launch.

Main features for the Cinematheque Manila opening proper include "Genghis Khan" and the new documentary on the life and works of Gerry de

Leon, "Salamat sa Alaalala," directed by famous photographer and filmmaker Dik Trofeo, both to be screened in DCP. Soon after the inaugural ceremonies, the renowned screenwriter Ricky Lee will conduct a three-day master class.

**SEE PAGE 2**



FDCP Chairman Briccio Santos paying tribute at the Place de la République in Paris

## FDCP in Solidarity with France

The Film Development Council of the Philippines stands in solidarity with France in the condemnation of the recent terrorist attacks in Paris and deep mourning for its victims. Owing much to France and being firm in its conviction for human rights, the FDCP's thoughts are one with the

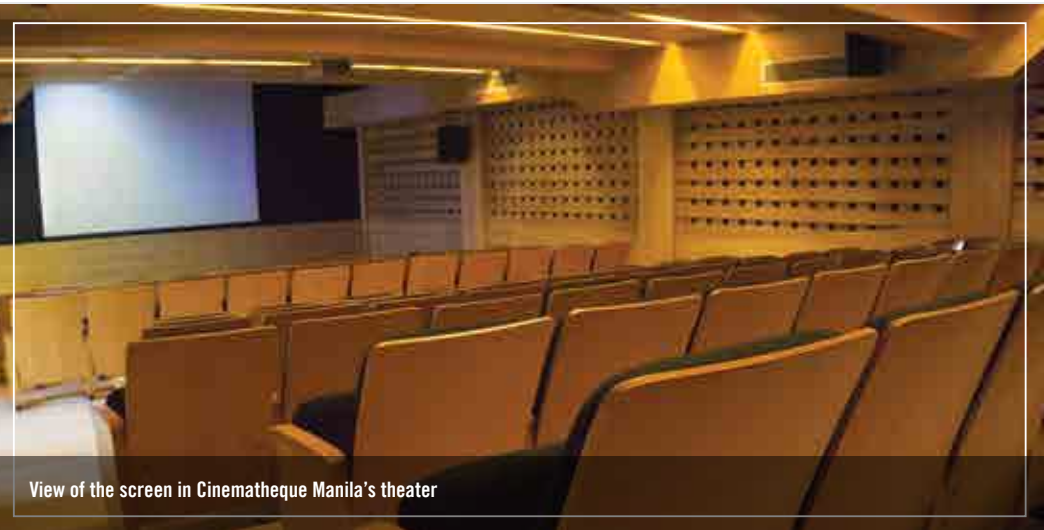
country's, with Chairman Briccio G. Santos himself having recently visited the Institut National de l'audiovisuel, Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée, and the Place de la République in Paris to offer his condolences.

The whole world was shocked

**SEE PAGE 8**



Interior of the Cinematheque Manila theater



View of the screen in Cinematheque Manila's theater



### MUSEO NG PELIKULANG PILIPINO

Just outside the cinematheque theater doors is the Museo ng Pelikulang Pilipino. An object-based film museum, it has special focus on six Filipino directors who have deeply impacted the development of cinema in the Philippines: Jose

Nepomuceno, Manuel Conde, Gerardo de Leon, Lamberto Avellana, Ishmael Bernal, and Lino Brocka. Along with the directors' resins, personal effects, and memorabilia, the museum exhibits film equipment and, by next year,

plans to put on display miniature film theaters in Manila from years past. The Museo ng Pelikulang Pilipino will not only honor the greats of Philippine cinema but also root the younger generation to its rich Filipino film heritage.



Lino Brocka resin



Manuel Conde resin



Lamberto Avellana resin

### GERARDO "GERRY" DE LEON STATUE



A special ceremony will unveil the statue of Gerardo de Leon who is the most awarded film director in the history of the country's oldest existing industry award giving body, the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (FAMAS). He was posthumously named National Artist for Cinema in 1982. The director's statue is to grace the entrance of Cinematheque Manila in the same manner that the statues of National Artists Lino Brocka and Manuel Conde stand at the entrances of Cinematheque Davao and Cinematheque Zamboanga, respectively. Artist Jonas Roces is the sculptor of every statue.

### "GENGHIS KHAN" DVD LAUNCH

Sixty-five years since its premiere at the historic Times Theater in Quiapo, the restored version of "Genghis Khan" is to have its DVD launch in the Cinematheque Manila theater

centennial taking place this year. A monumental film in many ways, the film introduced Philippine cinema to the world with its selection for the main competition at the 1952 Venice Film Festival.



SEE PAGE 4

**SALAMAT SA ALAALA**  
a film by Dik Trofeo

**National Artist for Cinema  
GERARDO DE LEON  
@ 100**

Produced by FDCP & NCCA



Film still from Manuel Conde's Genghis Khan

## INAUGURAL SCREENINGS

The first films to be screened in the cinematheque are Dik Trofeo's "Salamat sa Alaala" and Manuel Conde's "Genghis Khan" on the inauguration day with continued screenings until the end of December, to be joined by Henry Francia's "On My Way to India Consciousness, I Reached China" starting December 16. The screenings are to take place in the 101-seater theater, which has LCD projector and DCP projection capabilities.

Thereafter, Cinematheque Manila looks forward to screening award-winning foreign films, internationally acclaimed contemporary, independent and mainstream Filipino features, and last but certainly not least, cultural heritage films. It aims to elevate our national identity and heritage, all the while furthering exposure and appreciation for Filipino and world cinema.

## RICKY LEE MASTER CLASS

The Cinematheque welcomes the award-winning scriptwriter Ricky Lee to head a three-day master class. Lee, with hundreds of scriptwriting projects under his belt, was the writer behind films such as Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Moral," "Karnal," and "Salome," as well as Ishmael Bernal's widely acclaimed "Himala" starring the legendary superstar Nora Aunor. Also a writer of short stories, essays, plays, and novels, Lee was named a Gawad CCP Para sa Sining honoree for Literature last September as his most recent triumph. The master class serves as the initial offering under FILM ASEAN with its FILM ASEAN Systems Training (F.A.S.T.) program to be at the Cinematheque. F.A.S.T.'s mission is to develop the film production capabilities of the film industry of each of the ten member states of ASEAN.



The new film scanner, the Golden Eye 4, to be installed in NFAP laboratory



**NATIONAL  
FILM  
ARCHIVES OF THE  
PHILIPPINES**

The National Film Archives of the Philippines (NFAP) shares integrated offices with Cinematheque Manila. Part of its collection is situated on site. With the installation of a new

film scanner in the NFAP laboratory in the first quarter of 2016, the digitization of NFAP's holdings is a major step forward furthering the archive's accessibility.

## FILM ASEAN KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT CENTER

Soon to be put up also at Cinematheque Manila is a library under FILM ASEAN to be named the FILM ASEAN Knowledge Management Center. Researchers, students, filmmakers, and anyone else interested in learning about the cinema from ASEAN countries are invited to avail the library's resources. Still in its planning stages, the library will be established by the first quarter of 2016.



Preview of the FILM ASEAN Knowledge Management Center to be complete by early 2016

The Philippine cinematheque was born out of the need for an alternative and accessible venue for exhibiting Filipino and world cinema. Preceded by four cinematheques in Baguio, Iloilo, Davao, and Zamboanga were established between 2011 and 2013, Cinematheque Manila continues their mission to serve and enrich the film-going public by screening heritage and contemporary Filipino films, and the best of foreign cinema through our partners in the Film Cultural Exchange Program and Festival Partnership Program.

It also seeks to broaden film literacy and the education of future film professionals by hosting talks, workshops and symposiums on

directing, scriptwriting, editing, and cinematography. Film advocates and leaders in the industry from Manila and beyond continue to gather at the cinematheques to share their knowledge about film and its production. Cinematheque Manila furthers this mission with the addition of the Museo ng Pelikulang Pilipino, integrated offices with the NFAP, and FILM ASEAN Knowledge Management Center.

Cinematheque Manila will not be the last in the capital, according to FDCP Chairman Briccio Santos, who said: "FDCP envisions Cinematheque Manila as the first of multiple Cinematheques to be established in the great metropolis of Manila in the coming years."



Casino Español de Manila, one of the first places to go to view films

# CINEMA IN MANILA

The Philippines has one of the oldest film histories in Asia, beginning at the end of the Spanish colonization. At the heart of its film history lies Filipinos' love of visual spectacle and performance. Before the arrival of the conquistadors, ritual dances were part of everyday living, and the country's ideal location for trade and commerce would open it up to many different societies and arts, with Manila being the optimal hub of activity.

The arrival of the Spanish brought in numerous dramas and plays that gained prominence in the capital, such as the komedya and zarzuela. European thought and sensibility would also add to the already growing melting pot that was Manila. The growth in wealth and opportunity paved the way for artists and intellectuals to congregate in a meeting of minds and cultures, eventually forming the backbone of the revolution for Philippine Independence.

The arrival of the first film projector in 1897 marked the birth of the national pastime, as it



The Capitol Theater in Escolta, established in the 1930s

was brought to Manila's Salon de Pertierra, which shared the space of Casino Español. What began as a screening of several French short moving pictures grew into a huge demand for European and American film. Theaters that were once venues for localized Spanish plays were turned into movie houses. Cinema theaters sprouted across Manila and the provinces as well, many designed by renowned artists such as Juan Nakpil and Pablo Antonio.

Before and after World War II the industry flourished despite stiff competition with Hollywood and terrible ruin from the war. Even at the start of harsh censorship in the '70s and '80s, we produced our greatest work with Filipino directors such as Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal using cinema to fight against the dictatorial regime, wresting back Filipinos' rights and freedom. The opportunity to create freely and openly was won back and, despite artistic decline in the '90s, would allow filmmakers to experiment and usher in a rebirth in cinema with the arrival of new media and technology in the 2000s.

At present, the Philippine denizen has a multitude of options for films. Many Filipinos still see movies in a mall or shopping center, with mostly Hollywood or standard commercial studio films filling the box office. Media digitization in the age of wireless Internet connection has made it easy to view content online, with the unfortunate result of piracy teeming in the country as well. The digital age has further given rise to prolific independent filmmaking and cinema, laying the groundwork for film festivals in the metro and around the Philippines to thrive—in Manila alone, there are the Cinemalaya, Cinema One Originals, Cinemania, QCinema, and Cinema Rehiyon festivals, and many more highly anticipated throughout the year. Schools

and their student organizations create spaces and events for budding filmmakers, the most notable of which is the UP Diliman Cine Adarna, a school theater that regularly has films open to the public. Many bars, cafes, and restaurants also serve as occasional screening venues, and several embassies and foreign cultural organizations, like the Instituto Cervantes and Alliance Française, often host their own small showings of their countries' films as well.

It is following this rich cinematic past and the exciting present that the Cinematheque

SEE PAGE 8



Interior of University of the Philippines' Cine Adarna



The Ideal Theater, a popular movie house until its closure in the 1970s



Cinematheque Baguio



Cinematheque Zamboanga



Cinematheque Iloilo



Cinematheque Davao

## CINEMA IN...PAGE 7

Manila makes its home in the historic city—coincidentally enough, being housed beside the Casino Español in its current Kalaw location.

Supplementing our need for permanent centers for cinema, Cinematheque Manila joins neighboring cultural sites in the area like the Rizal Park, the National Library, and the National Museum, as well as vital film agencies in Manila such as the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Alongside these valuable Philippine institutions, the Cinematheque Manila aims to preserve interest in cinema, providing an alternative venue that caters fully to local cineastes. The new theater will give just space and limelight to films—not just to esteemed foreign movies, but more so to the products of the

local festivals and filmmaking, from the classics to contemporary cinema, from mainstream fare to independent work. The fifth cinematheque in the Philippines,

alongside those in Baguio, Iloilo, Davao, and Zamboanga, Cinematheque Manila will serve to further the growth of the arts and culture in the country.

## FDCP Solidarity...PAGE 1

by the tragedy which struck this November 13, 2015, at the Stade de France, Bataclan theater, and other sites in Paris, a coordinated strike against innocent civilians, the deadliest incident in France since the Second World War.

France has also sent its sympathies and lent a hand when the Philippines faced great catastrophes, the most recent of which was the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. Just this February, French President François Hollande made a visit to Manila, strengthening agreements and development between both countries. This is testament to more than sixty-five

years of fruitful diplomatic relations between the two countries. The French arts have also been a fixture in our local consciousness, with the FDCP partnering with French institutions—notably the Embassy of France, Institut Français, and Alliance Française—in bringing French culture through cinema to moviegoers in the country.

“With Paris being the most important cultural capital in the world, a tragedy of this magnitude affects us all,” expressed Chairman Santos. “We must be strong in unity and solidarity, supporting France amid these dark times. Today we are all Parisians.”

## FILM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES

855 T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila, Philippines 1000

Telephone: +(632) 708-7920 and +(632) 256-8331.

Website: [www.fdcph.ph](http://www.fdcph.ph) | [www.filminthephilippines.ph](http://www.filminthephilippines.ph)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FDCPSinengPambansa](http://www.facebook.com/FDCPSinengPambansa) | Twitter: [www.twitter.com/FDCP](http://www.twitter.com/FDCP)

