



Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines

NEW YORK

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Classic Film “Noli Me Tangere” featured at the Opening of Sinehan sa Summer 2019



Consul Arman R. Talbo welcomes film enthusiasts and guests during the opening of the *Sinehansa Summer 2019* held on 1 August 2019 at the Kalayaan Hall of the Philippine Center.

1 August 2019, New York – *Sinehan sa Summer 2019*, the 8th edition of the Philippine Consulate General in New York's flagship program, opened with the 1961 multi-awarded film “*Noli Me Tangere*” on 1 August 2019 at the Kalayaan Hall of the Philippine Center. The classic film was produced by Antonio Riva and directed by Gerardo de Leon, National Artist for Film.

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More than 120 guests attended the first day of screening which was co-sponsored by Knights of Rizal -New York, Metropolitan New York, and Long Island Chapters and the Handang Tumulong Foundation, Inc. (HTFI).

The film *“Noli Me Tangere”* is an epic screen adaptation of the Philippine National Hero Jose Rizal’s novel of the same title. The film was released 100 years after Rizal’s birth. Professor Luis Francia discussed the background of the book and expounded on how Rizal’s two novels helped spark the 1896 Philippine revolution against oppressive Spanish colonial rule. He said the novels had an enormous impact on the burgeoning national consciousness of what it meant to be Filipinos during the time of the Philippine struggle to become a nation. He stressed how the novel certainly influenced the thinking of the revolutionaries in the Katipunan and inspired the Katipunan founder Andres Bonifacio. Professor Francia enumerated Rizal’s array of characters in the novel, whose lives Rizal depicted in order to illustrate the abuses committed by the Spanish-backed colonial regime. Professor Francia emphasized that Rizal’s works live on, proving that the pen is always mightier than the sword.

Consul Arman R. Talbo introduced the multi-awarded film which garnered the 1962 FAMAS awards for Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor and Actress, Best Director, Best Story and Best Musical. The film, he said, is fitting to open this year’s *Sinehan* which also coincides with the celebration of 100 years of Philippine Cinema. He thanked the screening committee members - Mr. Gil Quito, Ms. Fiel Zabat and Mr. Paolo Bitanga - for their continuous support of the annual event and also expressed gratitude to the many Fil-Am organizations that have supported the *Sinehan* through the years.

The Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) facilitated the permission for the rights to screen *Noli Me Tangere* in New York.

Sinehan sa Summer will showcase two Indie films, **“Mamang”** and **“Kung Paano Siya Nawala”** that are scheduled for screening on 15 and 29 August, respectively. *Mamang*, a Denise O’hara film, was the 2019 Gawad Urian Best Direction Winner and also won Best Feature Film at the 2019 Dhaka International Film Festival. *Kung Paano Siya Nawala* won the 2019 FAMAS award for Outstanding Achievement in Editing and was a nominee for Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role, Actor in a Leading Role and Achievement in Directing.

A line of 25 short films from Cinemalaya, Victory Liner, and selected entries from young film makers will be screened during the two short films nights scheduled on August 8 and 22.

Different Fil-Am groups and organizations co-sponsor each viewing night. *Sinehan sa Summer* runs every Thursday of August from at 6:30 P.M. at the Philippine Center. Admission is free. END



The Members of the Screening Committee (2nd and 3rd from L) Ms. Gil Quito and Ms. FielZabat (sans Mr. Paolo Bitanga) and the Cultural and Community Relations Team of the Philippine Consulate General in New York led by Consul Arman R. Talbo (Center).

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