

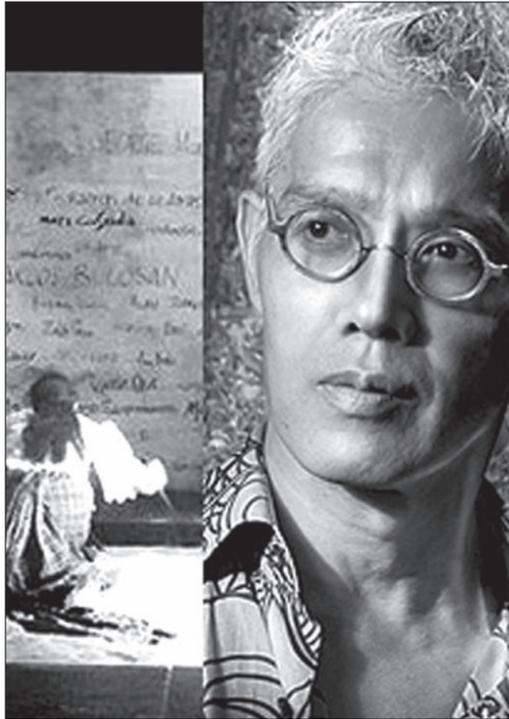
Niño A Loy Arcenas Film -A Cinemalaya 2011 Film Festival Finalist

By Ed Mercado

Take the liberty of publicizing the first film of my high school classmate, Loy Arcenas, an award winning set designer and a stage director who has made it big in New York and San Francisco in various off-Broadway shows and regional American theatre companies. He is based in New York but travels frequently to London, Philippines and San Francisco. Kudos on his accomplishment and best of luck in the Cinemalaya Film Festival this coming July 2011.

The Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival is a film competition and festival that aims to encourage the creation of new cinematic works by Filipino filmmakers – works that boldly articulate and freely interpret the Filipino experience with fresh insight and artistic integrity. It also aims to invigorate the Philippine film-making by developing a new breed of Filipino filmmakers. Each year, ten fresh talents are given a seed grant in order to create the film of their dreams. These films in the New Breed Full Length Category are then featured in festival at the Cultural Center of the Philippines every July and compete for the coveted Balanghai Award. Awards are also given in the other categories.

Synopsis The once illustrious Lopez-Aranda family has faded. Celia, once the darling of Philippine opera, and Gaspar, a distinguished ex-congressman, lacked the shrewdness to maintain their once elegant status. Saddled with a failed marriage, a vanishing career and mounting debt, Celia sold her share of their house to Gaspar, now bedridden. She managed to stay for free in exchange for being Gaspar's caregiver. Gaspar loves listening to Celia's arias. This idyllic arrangement is shattered when he slips into a coma. His daughter, Raquel, comes home from the US, determined to sell the house to salvage her own economic woes abroad. This signals Celia's impending homelessness. With only a few heirlooms to sell, she is at her wits' end. A fervent believer of the Sto. Nino, she hopes for a miracle. She dresses up her grandson, Antony, in Sto. Nino robes to prepare him for the coming fiesta. She insists this will invoke a miracle that will awaken Gaspar and stop Raquel from selling the house. Antony's father, Mombic, while processing his travel papers to work in Dubai, tries to strike a deal with Raquel in selling the property without his mother Celia's knowledge. Merced, Mombic's sister, reluctantly takes on the burden of taking care of Celia and a household sliding to ruin. The family members clash in a confrontation that reveals their weaknesses and their hopeless ideals. Mombic leaves his son to the care of his mother and sister, Merced, the only family member who quietly accepts her fate. As a final ditch to awaken Gaspar, Celia holds a tertulia, inviting her aging opera singer friends.



Director Loy Arcenas

They sing arias, oblivious to the ravages of time, crippled reminders of a glorious past. In the middle of a chorus, Gaspar quietly dies, sealing the fate of his sister and the mansion that once was called Villa Los Reyes Magos. Celia looks out into her once beautiful garden. She sees Antony, still in his Sto. Nino robe, playing in the garden, offering a little illusion of hope to a past that can never be rekindled.

Director's Profile Based in New York, Loy Arcenas has designed sets for Broadway shows that have included *Once on this Island*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, and *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*. He has also designed the sets for the off-Broadway and major American regional theater companies of the United States. He has collaborated with some of the most exciting American directors and playwrights including Joe Mantello, George C. Wolfe, Anne Bogart, Robert Falls, Terrence McNally, Craig Lucas, Paula Vogel. For his design work, he has received the Obie for Sustained Excellence of Scenic Design, the Bay Area Critics Circle Awards, the Jefferson Award, the L.A. Drama Critics Circle, and the Michael Merritt Award for Design Collaboration. His directing work in New York includes his collaboration with Lonnie Carter, *The Romance of Magno Rubio*, for which he received his second Obie and Ralph Pena's Flipzoids. His New York directing work is very much associated with the Ma-Yi Theatre Company. In the Philippines, his directing work includes productions for Tanghalang Pilipino, including *The Romance of Magno Rubio*; *Golden Child*, which received the Gawad Buhay awards for best direction, best production, best set design and best ensemble work; and *Tatlong Mariya* which has been nominated for 8 Gawad Buhay awards this year.

Major Credits
 Cast: Fides Cuyugan Asensio, Shamaine Buencamino, Tony Mabesa, Raquel Villavicencio, Art Acuna, Diana Malahay, Joaquin Valdes and introducing Jhizhelei Deocareza
 Creative & Production Staff:

Director-Loy Arcenas, Screenplay-Rody Vera, Loy Arcenas, Producer-Daniel Arcenas, Philippe Shambon, Director of Photography-Lee Meily, Line Producer-Krisma Fajardo, Assistant Director-Issa Lopez, 2nd Assistant Director-Ed Lacson Jr., Production Designer-Laida Lim, Production Managers-Philip Buena, Ron Capili, Editor-Danny Anonuevo, Sound-Mike Idioma, Music-Jerrold Tarog
SHOWTIMES in Metro Manila Theatres
 16 July/Sat, 11:00AM at the Greenbelt 3 - Cinema 5
 16 July/Sat, 6:15PM at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theatre)
 17 July/Sun, 9:00PM at the Bulwagang Pambansang Alagad Ng Sining (CCP MKP Hall)
 18 July/Mon, 1:30PM at the Greenbelt 3 - Cinema 5
 19 July/Tue, 12:45PM at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theatre)
 20 July/Wed, 6:30PM at the Greenbelt 3 - Cinema 3
 21 July/Thu, 12:45PM at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute
 21 July/Thu, 3:30PM at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (CCP Little Theatre)
 22 July/Fri, 12:45PM at the Bulwagang Pambansang Alagad Ng Sining (CCP MKP Hall)
 23 July/Sat, 9:00PM at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute

Ed Mercado wrote the highly entertaining book "BALIK-BAYAN BOXES - FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE." A new 2010 Edition, Revised and Expanded is now available. The book is available single copy or bulk purchase at KAMISETA inside SD discount Mall on Mack Road. The book is available from all online stores like Alibris (seller ecmart), Amazon, Powell's, Ingram, etc. You can also order the book from your local Borders or Barnes & Noble and any other bookstore. A copy of the book is also available for check out at all branches of the Sacramento public library system including Sacramento, Sutter, Woodland, Folsom, Colusa.

Caroline Aducayen Kang Celebrates 50th Birthday



By Carle and Sarah Enloe

The Aducayen family, from near and far, along with Caroline's friends; fellow Lions and families; and many more, gathered on Saturday, June 25, 2011 in the main Ballroom of the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento, CA, to celebrate Caroline Aducayen Kang's BIG 50th Birthday Celebration.



The ballroom was exquisitely decorated with matching table clothes and chair covers tied with large bows. There was an open bar in the back with two separate areas for hors d'oeuvres and fresh fruit on each side of the ballroom. In the front center of the ballroom was a stage to accommodate the live band Synthesis and a large dance floor awaiting all those who lived to dance the night away. A beautifully decorated three-tier birthday cake with a large 50 on top was staged by the entrance door to the ball room.



Eddie Aducayen, Caroline's brother, and Maria Kang Casler, Caroline's daughter, Master and Mistress of Ceremony (MCs) for the evening's event, opened the program by welcoming everyone. After MC Eddie briefly outlined the evening's schedule of events, he introduced the birthday celebrant, Caroline Aducayen Kang, who was resplendently beautiful in a gold chiffon evening gown. Following her introduction, Caroline and Francis, her husband, took their first Golden Dance to the delight of the guests. After their dance, MC Maria gave a brief welcome address. Then MC Eddie gave the invocation. Afterwards, a delicious dinner was served.



Following dinner, there was a whole evening of entertainment and testimonials lined up for Caroline and her guests. First up was MC Eddie, who sang a couple of solos – "Sweet Caroline" and "Oh Carol". Then the "Mah Jong Ladies" led by Beth Velasco, performed an entertaining dance exhibition. Next up was a very interesting Tae Kwan Do Exhibition by Tahjai and Danielle, a young gentleman and lady, who even broke boards held by the Master. Afterwards, Sarah Sy, accompanied by her friend, Dawn



Sabrio on the ukulele, sang "Somewhere over the Rainbow".

Following the entertainment, there were testimonials from Caroline's relatives and friends. The ones giving testimonials were: Caridad Aducayen, her Mother; MC Eddie, her brother; Linda Greenway, her sister; Maria, her cousin; Cora Ramirez, her friend; and Ambassador George Aducayen, Jr., her Father. After the tributes, there was a photo montage

of Caroline's more memorable events in her life shown to the guests. Following the photo montage, Caroline gave a brief and moving speech to include thanking everyone.

Afterwards, there was a cake cutting ceremony and a moving candle ceremony that all the guests participated in. Then the dance floor was opened for general dancing to the great sounds of the live band, Synthesis. Everyone continued to dance the night away.

We send our personal congratulations; best wishes for continued good health and happiness for many, many more years to come for Caroline Aducayen Kang and her family!

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The Miss Asia Arizona Pageant 2011

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Miss Asia Arizona is now accepting applications for the 8th Annual Cultural Pageant. A Showcase of Culture, Beauty, Elegance and Talent. An Opportunity to win cash/scholarship, gifts and prizes, a chance of a lifetime for press & media appearances, travel, community & charity events, and represent our state for the national Miss Asian America Pageant in San Francisco.

Contestant Qualifications:

1. Must be 17 to 28 years old - never been married nor never had any children.
2. Must be at least 25% of ancestry in any 58 countries in the Asian Continent and South Pacific Rims.
3. NO height requirement - good morale character.
4. Must be Arizona Resident.

Entry Deadline: July 31, 2011. For application form and info, visit www.missasiaarizona.com,
 email: info@missasiaarizona.com or call (602) 509-9019