

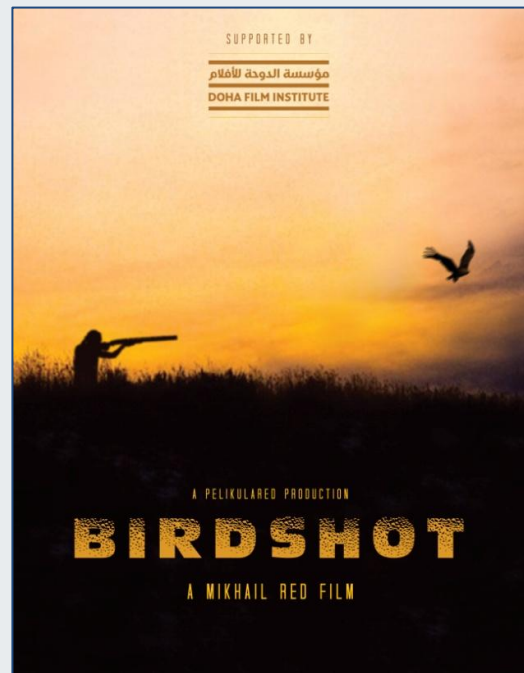


# BIRDSHOT Philippines

PAS Bangkok 2015

**Category :** Drama, Mystery  
**Length :** 110'  
**Language :** Filipino  
**Shooting format :** HD 2K  
**Shooting location :** Philippines  
**Shooting dates :** December 2015  
**Expected date of completion :** March 2016  
**Stage of production :** Development stage

**Budget :** 212 000 €  
**Financing in place :** 186 900 €  
**Financing supports :** Doha Film Institute, CJ Entertainment  
**Workshop or markets attended :** Asian Project Market 2015  
**Current situation :** Seeking for European co-producer, International sales agents, Distribution, World premiere, film festival contacts



## Pamela REYES – PRODUCER (PelikulaRED)



Pamela L. REYES is a Filipino Film Producer. Pamela graduated at the Philippines' top university with Latin Honors earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Visual Communications. All of her films have competed and exhibited locally and internationally, earning recognition worldwide. With her knowledge in independent filmmaking, Pamela started producing both short films and feature films including Mikhail Red's critically acclaimed debut feature film *Rekorder* (2013). Pamela is currently producing Mikhail Red's second feature film *Birdshot*.

## Mikhail RED – DIRECTOR



Born December 11, 1991, Mikhail Red is a Filipino filmmaker based in Manila, Philippines. At 21 years old, after making several short films, he wrote and directed his first full-length feature film *Rekorder* which had its international premiere at the 2013 Tokyo International Film Festival. The film screened in more than 15 international film festivals and won five international awards including the Best New Director prize at the 2014 Vancouver International Film Festival. At 23, Mikhail Red is set to direct his second feature film *Birdshot*.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (extracts)

« Back in 2008, a news article about a man shooting, cooking, and eating a critically endangered Philippine Eagle began circulating. [...]

As a storyteller and filmmaker, the news article fascinated me and had me pondering on the layered problems that modern Philippine society faces. It forced me to question our priorities as a third world nation and how conserving the wildlife and protecting a national symbol, a national bird, fit in the whole picture. [...]

As I pondered on the idea of creating a film that revolved around the dying breed of Philippine Eagles, an even bigger and more sensational news story caught the entire nation by surprise. The very next year, in 2009, the horrific and Infamous Maguindanao Massacre took place. Thirty-four journalists and other innocent civilians were slain due to a political rivalry and dispute. Their bodies were covered in an isolated shallow mass grave; a construction excavator was even used by the culprits to bury the bodies. [...]

I started to develop the idea for project, a film that would tackle both the near extinction of the Philippine Eagle paralleled with the darker social issue beneath the surface plot - the hypocrisy and collapse of the system itself, the system that is supposed to conserve these animals, which are also national symbols. [...]

In the film I wanted the main character, Maya's struggle to represent the Filipino people, we sometimes lose our way as we navigate through the wilderness of the world, but we always find a way back and find ourselves, sometimes we may feel that we are the last of our kind as believers for a better future for the nation, but our strength will help us endure, and just like the eagles, we are still here struggling, perhaps endangered but never extinct.»

## SYNOPSIS

Maya, a naïve 14-year-old girl is tasked to watch over cornfields with her caretaker father Diego. Their isolated farmland is situated in the valley of the Sierra Madre in Isabela Northern Luzon. Often at conflict with her world-weary father, Maya dreams of an escape from her rural life. One day Diego entrusts Maya with his birdshot shotgun after teaching her how to hunt in the wilderness. Maya ventures on her own into the nearby protected forest, she later mistakenly shoots and kills an endangered Philippine Eagle in hopes to prove herself to her father. Upon discovering her crime, Diego decides to bury the shotgun and consume the carcass of the eagle to conceal the evidence. Later, authorities begin a manhunt to track down the eagle's killer. Diego is ultimately apprehended as he surrenders himself to protect his daughter. Towards the end of the film Maya comes face to face with the consequences of her crime.

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