

2024

TAIPEI · PAS X TAICCA WORKSHOP

PLEASE BEAR WITH ME

PHILIPPINES

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama, Sci-Fi
Length	80 mins
Language	Filipino, English
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	Philippines, Taiwan/Singapour
Shooting dates	May 2025
Expected date of completion	Q1 2026
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	545,000 €
Financing in place	12.56%
Production company	Archipelago
Workshop & platform attended	Southeast Asian Film Lab, Full Circle Lab Philippines

SYNOPSIS

In a near-future Philippines where people have lost the ability to dream, Elenita, a middle-aged call center agent, is paid in "dream-time". She uses this to relive her glory days as a rising pop diva. As she immerses deep into her fantasies, guilt and regrets from her past begin to emerge while her waking life unravels, straining her relationship with her daughter. Elenita must choose between chasing her lost dreams and confronting reality, or risk losing the person dearest to her.

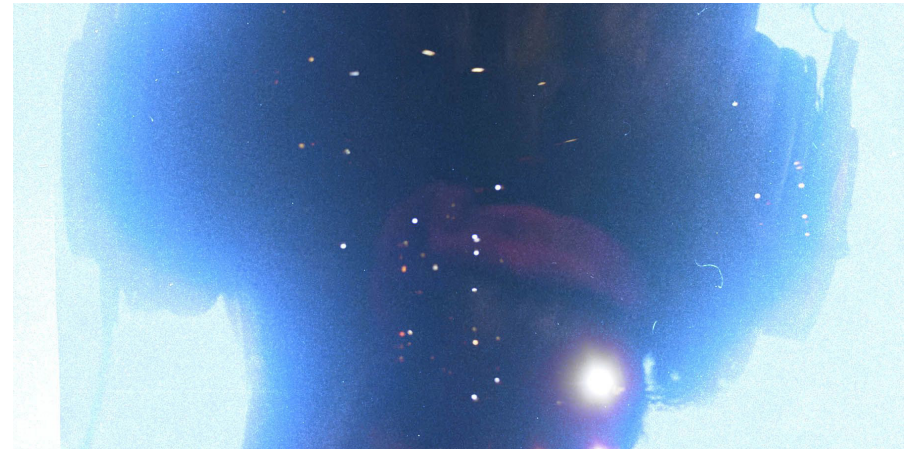
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A psychological drama that reimagines reality while focusing on the very real repercussions of outsourced labor exploitation on family dynamics in neocolonial Philippines. Using elements of science fiction to frame a deep character study of a woman reconciling her present self with lost ruminations of her past, this film is my processing of a complex feminine identity within the microcosm of imperialism that is the Third World call center. As the daughter of a real-life call center agent, I saw the toll production-via-performance and confined corporate spaces could take on a woman's psyche, driving her to compromise her self-worth and ambition as I, too, reckoned with my place in a Filipino society generationally conditioned to constantly apologize. Please Bear With Me becomes, at its core, a declaration of love and solidarity to my mother and countless others like her: invisible workers with dreams so deserving to be seen.

CONTACT

Producer - Gale Osorio - galeosorio.ph@gmail.com

Director - Gabriela Serrano - studio.dalaga@gmail.com



PRODUCER GALE OSORIO



Gale Osorio is a film producer and co-founder of Archipelago, a film boutique under Binisaya Movement Inc. An alumni of Berlinale Talents, Busan Asian Film school, and TFL ScriptLab Story Editing, Gale is known for her close collaboration with Director Keith Deligero, producing his films ISKALAWAGS, LILY, A SHORT HISTORY OF A FEW BAD THINGS, and BABYLON, which was acquired by ZDF Arte. Her short IT'S RAINING FROGS OUTSIDE premiered in Berlinale International Film Festival main shorts competition and has been programmed in over 50 festivals worldwide. Gale has presented her films at Link of Cine-Asia, All Genres Project Market, Torino Short Film Market, Hong Kong Asian Film Financing Forum, BIFAN NAFF It Project Market, FNC Nouveau Marche, Sitges Fanpitch, Docs By The Sea, Taiwan Creative Content Fest, and others. In between producing, she helps run the BINISAYA Film Festival in Cebu.

DIRECTOR GABRIELA SERRANO



Gabriela Serrano (b. 1996) is a Filipino director, editor, and audiovisual artist. She is interested in deeply introspective stories that deconstruct form and reimagine futures in her native Philippines. Her award-winning directorial debut DIKIT, a split-screen depiction of Filipino folklore, feminine anger, and dreams, has screened in festivals worldwide and joins the Criterion Channel this May. She continues her exploration of dreams in women's spaces through the call center sci-fi drama PLEASE BEAR WITH ME, her first full length film in development, recipient of the SGIFF Southeast Asian Film Lab Fellowship, the BIFAN NAFF Asian Discovery Award, a Sitges FanPitch selection, and the FNC Prix du Nouveau Marché. She is working on two new shorts: a companion piece to PLEASE BEAR WITH ME spanning three decades, and a tropical mystery that takes place over the course of three days.

2024

TAIPEI · PAS X TAICCA WORKSHOP

BING.BONG.BANG.

PHILIPPINES

MAIN DATA

Category	Dark Comedy
Length	90 mins
Language	Tagalog
Shooting format	Digital 4K
Shooting location	Philippines
Shooting dates	January - February 2025
Expected date of completion	May 2025
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	264,469.46 €
Financing in place	0
Production company	Create Cinema
Workshop & platform attended	SGIFF Southeast Asian Film Lab

SYNOPSIS

BONG, a young man deprived of means to give a decent burial for his wife, robs a small rural bank where BING works as a teller and takes her as hostage, unaware that she desperately wants to die. While the authorities scramble to resolve the crime and the townspeople transform the area into a marketplace, Bong succumbs to the thought of surrender, but Bing stops him. They proceed to ask for the burial of Bong's wife. The town chief informs Bong that they are ready to fulfill his demands, while Bing and Bong reach a new agreement. As Bong raises his hands to surrender, a shot is fired. As the town celebrates the rescue of Bing, she fulfills her dream of flying.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

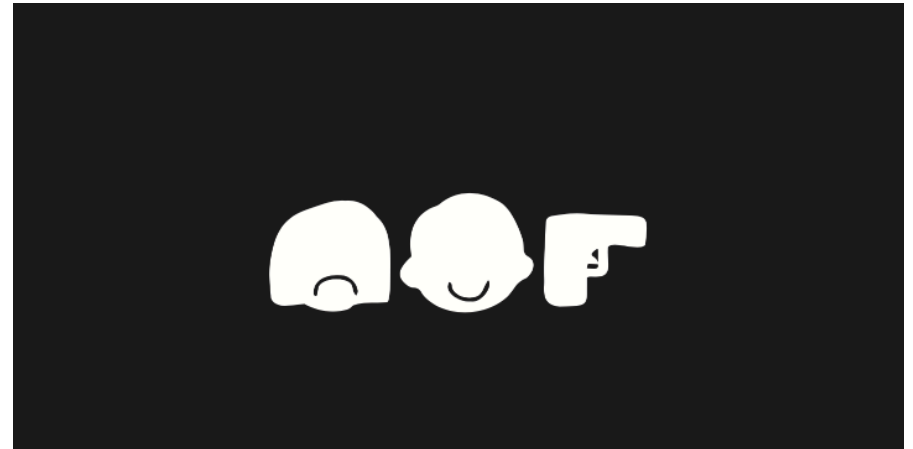
BING. BONG. BANG. started out as an outlet — a rush of confusion of feeling and thought that needed to manifest itself and come to form. It came at a time in my life when nothing made sense except the thought of disappearing, but my mind wanted one final attempt to make sense of things before giving up on existence. This film is that attempt, and I would like to believe that writing this story saved me. Bing and Bong are polar opposites — the former a symbol of defeat, and the latter an image of persistence. Both are admirable and pitiful at the same time, and they both acknowledge this in each other in a moment of understanding and connection that makes life worthwhile, however temporary. This film is my attempt at understanding life as a constant attempt at understanding, and with this film, I hope to try and make sense of life and all there is that keeps me here.

DIRECTOR KRISTIN PARREÑO BARRAMEDA



Kristin Parreño Barrameda is a Filipino filmmaker. She worked as a copywriter for advertising, before eventually moving to film work as a screenwriter and post-production supervisor. She is a fellow of the Ricky Lee Scriptwriting Workshop and the TBA Writers' Room.

Her works have been screened in a number of international film festivals, including Cairo, Busan, Pyongyang, Osaka, and New York, to name a few. She participated in the 2019 SGIFF Southeast Asian Film Lab and received the Residency prize for her first feature film project BING. BONG. BANG. She also recently participated in the first edition of FLY Post Lab spearheaded by the Busan Film Commission.



PRODUCER E DEL MUNDO



E del Mundo is the recipient of the Philippine National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Ani ng Dangal Award for Cinema. While at Studio Operations in Warner Bros., she was among the women selected for the Women in Film's Mentor Circle in LA. Upon returning to the Philippines, she transitioned to becoming one of the most respected film producers in the country, helping create films like Filipino Auteur Lav Diaz's THE HALT which had its world premiere at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival. She produced Netflix Philippines' first animated film by Avid Longren, HAYOP KA!, then the Netflix Original by Alessandra de Rossi, MY AMANDA, and the platform's first Filipino series, Antoinette Jadaone's REPLACING CHEF CHICO. She most recently produced Sigrid Bernardo's NOTHING LIKE PARIS for Amazon Prime.

CONTACT

Producer - E del Mundo - e@createcinema.org

Producer - Mica Oliveros - mica@createcinema.org

Director - Kristin Parreño Barrameda - kristinbarrameda@gmail.com

PRODUCER MICA OLIVEROS



Mica is a filmmaker hailing from the Philippines, where she delves into the intricate world of cinema. Her journey commenced in the realm of color grading, but her passion soon led her to production. Armed with a bachelor's degree in Communication Arts from De La Salle University Manila, she now pursues her MA degree specializing in Cinema Studies from the University of the Philippines Film Institute. Mica is an alumna of the Rotterdam Producers Lab, NAFF Fantastic Film School, Platform Busan and Full Circle Lab. She has represented projects across prestigious platforms, including the European Film Market in Berlinale, the Marche du Film at the Cannes Film Festival, and the Asian Contents Film Market at the Busan International Film Festival. Mica currently serves as the General Manager and key Associate Producer at Create Cinema Inc.

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MIDNIGHT INN

深夜旅館

TAIWAN

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	90 mins
Language	Mandarin
Shooting format	4K RAW
Shooting location	Taiwan
Shooting dates	January 2026
Expected date of completion	November 2026
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	382,353 €
Financing in place	14,206 €
Production company	Volos Films
Workshop & platform attended	Locarno Match Me! 2023 MIA Film Co-Production Market & Pitching Forum

SYNOPSIS

In the quiet realm of a hotels' night shift, a college dropout observes intimate moments on surveillance: from lovers' embraces to sex-workers retouching makeup in the elevators. Amidst this voyeuristic routine, his loneliness deepens, shared by countless twenty-somethings worldwide. His interactions with a mysterious woman, who frequents the hotel with different companions, add complexity. Discreetly supplying condoms to her room, he earns tips, forging an unspoken connection. A COVID outbreak in Wanhua leads to a Level 3 alert, shutting the hotel. She disappears. Jobless, he isolates himself, shedding silent tears as he stares at his reflection in the mirror.

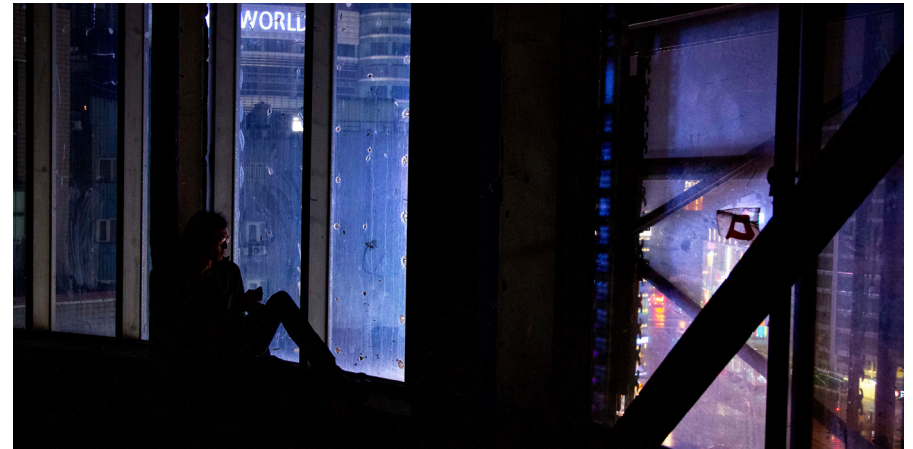
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I once worked at a late-night hotel in Ximending. The choice was simple - higher pay, the freedom to do my own things during the night shift, be it reading or watching movies with the manager's approval. There was minimal interaction with colleagues, and occasional conversations in English foreigners sparked the imagination of leaving Taiwan to explore the world. As time passed, I found myself gradually confined by this job. Perhaps it was the result of constant night shifts, where moments of clarity coincided with the majority's slumber. There were no one to talk with, no friends, spending most of the time in solitude and silence – a time when youth was devoted to making ends meet. It seemed that the opportunity to appreciate the beauty of youth was lost, aging prematurely, diverging from the mainstream trajectory of society. Now, at the age of thirty-four, I attempt to revisit this past memory and use film to resurrect it, questioning within: Why?

CONTACT

Producer - Ping-Yu Chiu - pingutopia11@gmail.com

Director - Wang Chun Wong - wangchinhong@gmail.com



PRODUCER PING-YU CHIU



Ping-Yu CHIU, a National Taiwan University sociology graduate, worked on several feature films before becoming a producer at Volos Films in 2023. She was with the Taipei Film Commission during 2017-2023, focusing on international promotion Film Academy. Ping-Yu is an alumna of the International Film Business Academy at Busan Asian Film School (AFIS) in 2021 and APostLab Luxembourg in 2023. She has also been selected for the 2023 Match Me! program, a networking platform for upcoming producers at the Locarno Film Festival. Her recent in-development project, where she served as the co-producer, HOLD MY GAZE, was pitched at the TAICCA TCCF 2023.

DIRECTOR WANG CHUN HONG



Born in Taipei in 1990, graduated from the Film Department of Shih Hsin University. His short film DOUBLE REFLECTION also making it to the FID Marseille Film Festival in France. In 2021, he completed his first feature film, FAR AWAY EYES which was nominated at the Vision du Réel Film Festival and screened at the Golden Horse Film Festival. His works employ the camera to document the connection between individuals and images. Treating the camera's perspective as a third party, the films blend fictional personal experiences with real performances, blurring the boundaries between roles and reality.

THE ISLAND

一座島嶼的假設

TAIWAN

MAIN DATA

Category	Magical realism, Absurd drama
Length	110 mins
Language	Mandarin, Taiwanese
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	Taiwan
Shooting dates	June-May + Nov-Dec 2026
Expected date of completion	December 2027
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	1,200,000 €
Financing in place	20,000 €
Production company	N/A
Workshop & platform attended	Festival de Cannes - Focus COPRO; Cinéma de demain 2023

SYNOPSIS

Hao (22) is propelled into a military island for a year of mandatory service. The wimpy schoolboy needs to find his place and establish his authority in this barbaric and Kafkaesque world, even if it means betraying his best friend, Xiang (19). After Xiang's disappearance, the island slides towards a mysterious world, haunted by the ghosts of the Civil War.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In Taiwan, the war has never ended since 1927. To this day, we're still preparing for an illusory war, to "reclaim China" and "defeat the communist thugs". The historical remains exist in the Taiwanese military world and continue to corrupt with time. During a year of mandatory service, Taiwanese young men are propelled into this absurd, Kafkaesque world. Disconnected from our original identity, we have to write down our own destiny within one year. Military service has thus become a hypothesis of a parallel life. And so, *The Island*, based on my personal experience and fantasy, is a summary of my youth. I create an absurd, magical world and a character, Hao, to bring together intimate themes that have stuck with me for a long time, including shame, ambition, friendship, cowardice and oblivion. Between boys and men, between two realities, I try to dig deeper into the character, questioning him what meant the most to him, and how an inexistant war can affect a young mind forever in the reality.

CONTACT

Producer - Chen Hou-Ting - vincent.chen@injectaipei.com

Director - Liang Hong-Kai - lianghk7854@gmail.com



PRODUCER CHEN HOU-TING



CHEN Hou-Ting is a Taiwanese producer with years of experience in script development and project management. Chen has worked with renowned directors including Chang Tso Chi and David Verbeek. Now based at inJECT Films Co., he develops original content for feature films and series, working closely with emerging directors and writers. His feature project, "Straight Outta Fishtown" was selected at the Golden Horse Project Market in 2023, and his series project, "Seven Sins: Greed Kills", is selected at SERIES MANIA Forum 2024. His other feature project "Heaven in a Wild Flower" is selected at the 2024 Taipei Film Festival - New Director Workshop.

DIRECTOR LIANG HONG-KAI



LIANG Hong-Kai was born in Kaohsiung, Taiwan in 1989. He graduated from National Taiwan University of Arts in 2012, and La fémis - director section in 2019. He now lives in Taipei and participates in several Franco-Taiwanese co-productions, while developing his first feature film. His short film "Winter Sun" was selected at Clermont-Ferrand in 2019. His latest short "Longest Night", co-produced between Taiwan and France, is selected at Premiers Plans FF d'Angers in 2024.

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TASTE OF EXCEPTION

JAPAN

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	100 mins
Language	Japanese, Korean
Shooting format	Digital
Shooting location	Japan
Shooting dates	Summer to Autumn 2026
Expected date of completion	May 2027
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	447,502 €
Financing in place	None
Production company	Kisami, Inc.
Workshop & platform attended	Asian Pacific Screen Lab 2023

SYNOPSIS

Hoon, a 38-year-old Korean living in Tokyo, and his Japanese wife Anna struggle to balance their cultural differences while raising two daughters on one income. They often argue about whether to have a third child or move to a more affordable neighbourhood. Meanwhile, Hiromi, a successful businesswoman, is unaware of Ken's loneliness as a full-time househusband and is puzzled when he disappears one day, but tries to maintain her own job and lifestyle instead of going looking for him. Hun and Hiromi meet by chance at a cider pub where foodies gather in Tokyo, and are reacquainted in Aomori, an apple-growing region, where they unexpectedly complement each other's stuck lives.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This work explores real happiness in today's society, which for me, is crystallized in a bottle of apple cider. My fascination with cider began in 2007 while studying in the UK, where I tasted it for the first time. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I bought cider to support a Japanese importer and connected with cider makers worldwide. This sparked my interest in how they live modestly, in harmony with nature, and within tight-knit communities. Tasting cider is like a journey, and this film mirrors that journey, delving into the protagonists' minds as they navigate tough emotional conflicts and make life choices.

CONTACT

Producer - Yu Kisami - yu@kisami.co.jp

Director - Yoshimasa Jimbo - ma.ligne.de.chance@gmail.com



PRODUCER YU KISAMI



After earning a Master's degree in Global Affairs in the United States, he deepened his interest in social issues while engaging in research and analysis at a Japanese government institution in New York City. Upon returning to Japan, he worked as a journalist and consultant before joining creative agency imageMILL where he engaged in various facets of production (including film), addressed social issues through the lens of advertising, and explored the potential for companies to implement social transformation. In 2021, he founded Kisami, Inc. as a window to the wide range of activities he's involved in, from cross-disciplinary direction to video production, copywriting, product design, and community development. He's currently based in Tokyo and Nara.

DIRECTOR YOSHIMASA JIMBO



Born in 1986 in Tokyo, Japan. Based in Tokyo and Fukuoka. A father of two children (7 and 3 years old). Started the life as a film director in 2013, he has directed 2 feature films and 4 short films. They are mainly fictional ones, although most of the films include documentary essences. Now he's shooting his first documentary "Double Selfie - Our Soundscape", which will be expected to be completed within 2024. He has been transforming and applying knowledge and experience in the field of film to the field of urban planning through Fukuoka Architecture Foundation, Green Infrastructure Establishment NPO and a Local community hub with a craft beer brewery at its core. He worked for a travel agency specializing in unexplored destinations before doing film, and still wishes to get people to travel through his productions and works.

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BUBBLE ERA

VIETNAM

MAIN DATA

Category	Dark Comedy
Length	90 mins
Language	Vietnamese
Shooting format	Digital
Shooting location	Vietnam
Shooting dates	N/A
Expected date of completion	January 2026
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	276,000 €
Financing in place	15,000 €
Production company	Indigo Pictures
Workshop & platform attended	Southeast Asian Film Lab, Autumn Meeting - Arthouse Pitching, HIFF Project Market Arthouse Projects

SYNOPSIS

Hung, a stuck-up filmmaker, returns home for his high school reunion. On the way back, Hung meets the old artists of a struggling Film Studio, who offer advice and empty promises of help to him. Frustrated, Hung wanders around and follows a mysterious girl to an abandoned movie studio. They witness magical scenes through the studio's void like a large movie screen. At the reunion, where an event is happening; cars created a giant map of Vietnam on the beach. Hung gets drunk and wanders off. Wakes up on a beach full of trash. Hung meets a famous director but he can't recognize him. In the distance, prostitutes are riding bicycles gracefully. These surreal experiences challenge his creativity.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My cinematic journey began with black and white movies on family TV, mostly from Socialist Republics including works by Vietnam Film Studio (VFS). VFS's war and post-war films often serve propaganda and educational purposes. However, with the advent of video and alternative entertainment options in the late 90s and early 2000s, VFS struggled to maintain its audience. In 2017, the government sold 80% of VFS to a logistics company, worsening unemployment among filmmakers. Pursuing independent filmmaking in Vietnam is challenging amid economic and cultural changes. The main character Hung embodies the young artist's struggle against a changing landscape. The story explores themes of purpose, blending historical and cultural elements with a chaotic urban setting. Characters like the Cowboy and the Swordsman add mystery, while humour infuses portraits of Vietnamese artists caught between tragedy and comedy in their quest to find relevance in a changing world. grow rapidly.

CONTACT

Producer - Nguyen Trung Nghia - nghia.t.nguyen17@gmail.com

Director - Vu Minh Nghia - kingnghia84@gmail.com



PRODUCER NGUYEN TRUNG NGHIA



Nguyen Trung Nghia is a self-taught filmmaker. He has known the Director, Minh Nghia for over 15 years and has collaborated with Minh Nghia in nearly all of his films. Through his company, Indigo Pictures, he produced short films that participated in international festivals around the world, including: LIVE IN CLOUD IN CLOUD-CUCKOO LAND (Venice Film Festivals – 2020), U OI! (Singapore International Film Festival - 2019), GALLERY (Singapore International Film Festival - 2019) and THE GRADUATION OF EDISON (Singapore International Film Festival – 2019 – As Assistant Director). He also produces his own films. As a director, his newest short film: MULBERRY FIELDS (2024) has been selected to premiere at the Cannes International Festival, in the Quinzaine des cinéastes (Director Fortnight) section.

DIRECTOR VU MINH NGHIA



Vu Minh Nghia is a Vietnamese independent filmmaker.

- Graduated from HCM University of Theatre and Cinema, majoring in Film Directing.

- 2017 KAFA Workshop In Vietnam

- Director Workshop Tran Anh Hung – AM 2018

Participant of Southeast Asian Film Lab (SGIFF 2023); Art-house Project Market HCM International Film Festival 2024 (HIFF)