

OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2024

Sunshine

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ANTOINETTE JADAONE

PROJECT

ANIMA

HI
HAPPY INFINITE



FILM
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL OF THE
PHILIPPINES



FULL
CIRCLE
LAB

AFiS
Busan Asian Film School
부산아시아영화학교



CONTACT PERSON

Geo Lomuntad

geolomuntad@project8projects.com

Project 8 Projects

www.project8projects.com

A young woman with dark hair tied back in a bun, wearing a dark tank top, is shown in profile from the chest up. She has a thoughtful or concerned expression, looking towards the left. The background is a blurred crowd of people, suggesting a public event or competition. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is cinematic.

LOGLINE

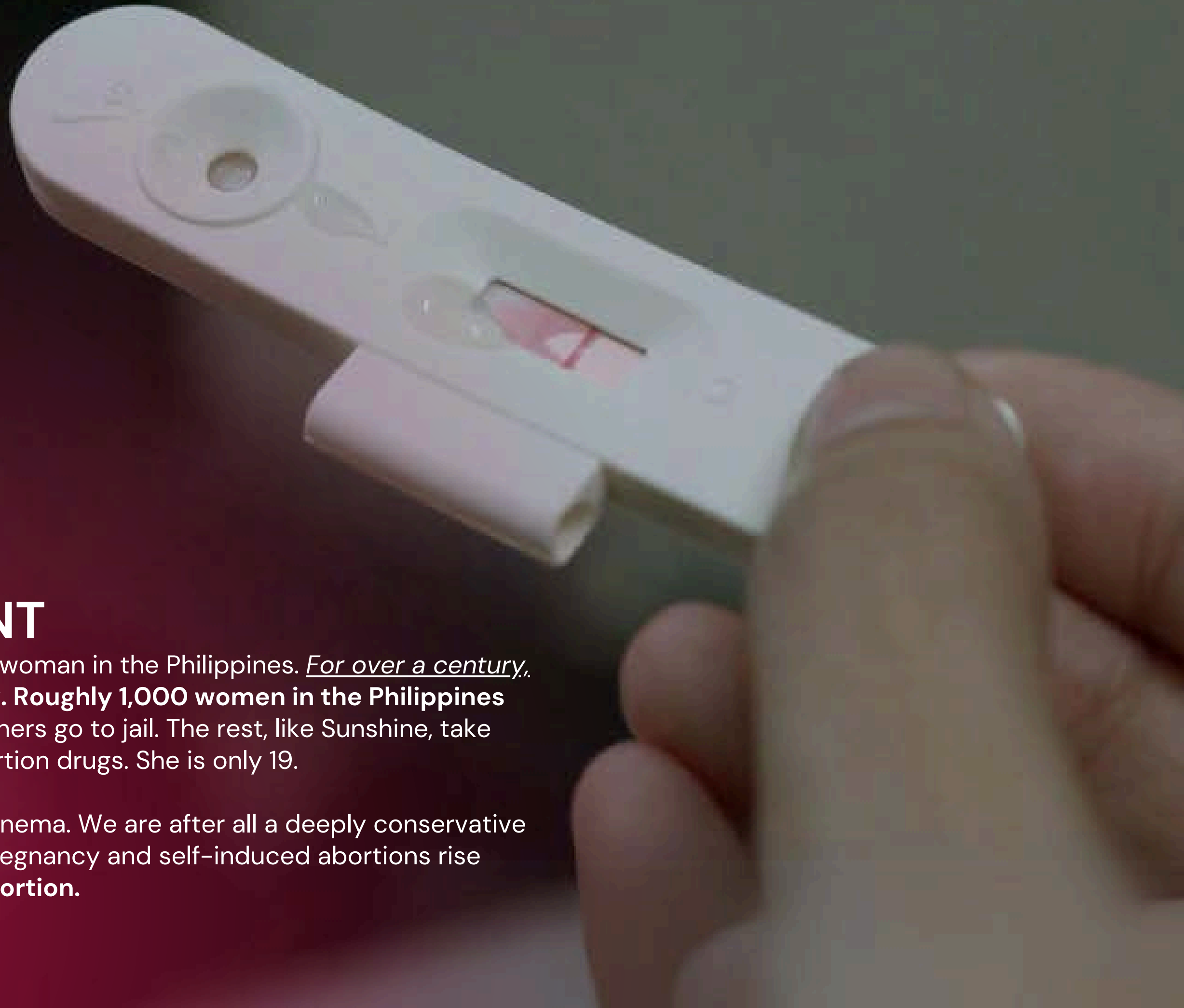
A young gymnast finds out she is pregnant on the week of the national team tryouts. On her way to a seller of illegal abortion drugs, she meets a mysterious girl who eerily talks like her.

SYNOPSIS

Young, promising champion gymnast Sunshine is a shoo-in for a slot at the national team — until she finds out she is pregnant on the week of the tryouts. Her life-long dream and college scholarship on the line, she contemplates abortion. On her way to a seller of illegal abortion drugs, she meets a mysterious girl — her future child. She confuses an already very unstable Sunshine as she can't help but speak her mind about her future mom's decisions— from as petty as her name to as life-changing as if she actually wants to be born.

GENRE **SOCIAL DRAMA**
LANGUAGE **FILIPINO**
COUNTRY **PHILIPPINES**
ASPECT RATIO **16:9**
COLOR/B&W **COLOR**
RUNNING TIME **90 MINUTES**
RESOLUTION **4K DIGITAL DCP**





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It is difficult to be a young unplanned pregnant woman in the Philippines. *For over a century,* **abortion has been criminalized in our country. Roughly 1,000 women in the Philippines die every year from lack of safe abortions.** Others go to jail. The rest, like Sunshine, take the risk and spend least \$100 to buy illegal abortion drugs. She is only 19.

Abortion has been a taboo topic in Philippine cinema. We are after all a deeply conservative Catholic country. But when cases of teenage pregnancy and self-induced abortions rise every year, it is clear: **we need to talk about abortion.**



Sunshine represents the hundreds of thousands of girls who became pregnant in their teens. About 500 Filipino teenagers become mothers every day. I interviewed poor, young mothers who contemplated abortion but decided to continue with their pregnancy. Their chilling stories mirror a reality we don't face. The abortion ban may be protecting the unborn, but it's killing our women too— both literally and figuratively.



As a woman who acknowledges her middle-class privilege, I want to tell the story of those who are not as fortunate. In a third world country, choice is a privilege. It's true that it takes a village to raise a child, but who will raise the young woman forced to be mother because she had no choice? The Philippines is in a dire political, economic and social turmoil. **This story goes beyond abortion. Behind every pregnant teenager after all, is a society that let this happen to them.**

Antoinette JADAONE | DIRECTOR

Antoinette Jadaone is an award-winning Filipina filmmaker who is a household name in both the art-house and mainstream film industry. Her debut feature, *Six Degrees of Separation* from Lilia Cuntapay (2011) has traveled to several international film festivals, including the Busan International Film Festival. She directed one of the highest-grossing independent films in Philippine cinema history, *That Thing Called Tadhana* (2014), which was also invited to big genre festivals like Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival. She has then helmed romantic comedies and romantic dramas and supported by the biggest studios in the Philippines. Her recent film, *Fan Girl* (2020) has premiere in Tokyo International Film Festival and Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival Main Competition.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Fan Girl (2020)

Producer: Bianca Balbuena, Dan Villegas

- Tokyo International Film Festival
- Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Main Competition
- International Film Festival Rotterdam
- Netflix

That Thing Called Tadhana (2014)

Producer: Bianca Balbuena, Dan Villegas

- Cinema One Originals Digital Film Festival
- Osaka Asian Film Festival
- Bucheon International Film Festival
- Netflix

Never Not Love You (2018)

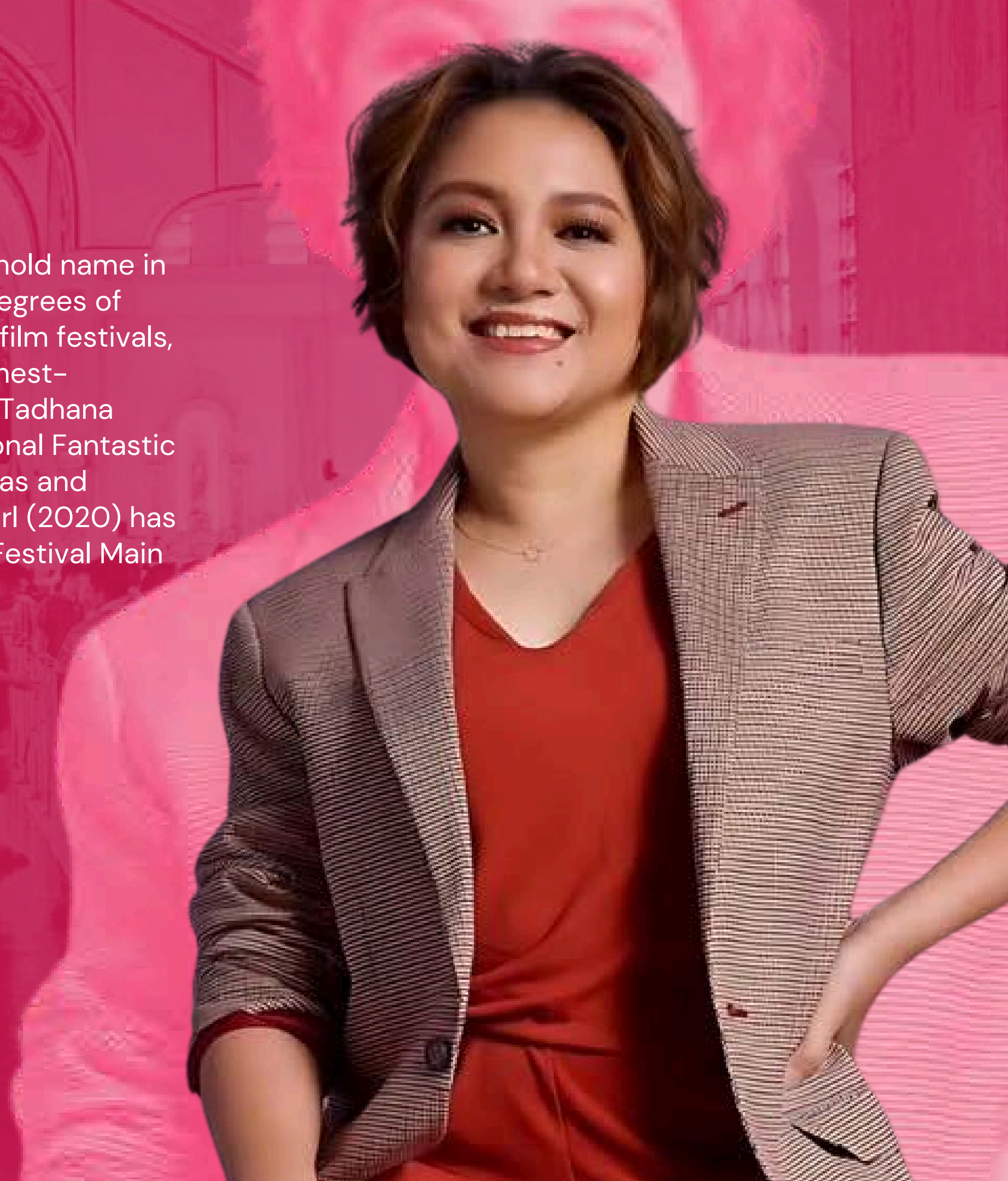
Producer: Dan Villegas

- International Film Festival of India
- Netflix

Six Degrees of Separation From Lilia Cuntapay (2011)

Producer: Joenathan Alandy

- Cinema One Originals Digital Film Festival
- Far East Film Festival



Geo LOMUNTAD | PRODUCER

Geo Lomuntad is a young producer, who started out as a script supervisor in Manila, Philippines. In 2018, he was an associate producer for Bianca Balbuena in co-production films *Fan Girl* (Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2020) and *Boldstar* (CJ Entertainment Prize, Asian Project Market 2019, and Berlinale Co-Production Market 2020). He has attended Berlinale Talents Tokyo and Busan Asian Film School, where he developed his feature project, *Me and Lilibeth* (now titled 'Sunshine'). In 2021, his produced short film "I Get So Sad Sometimes" has won Best Short Film at QCinema International Film Festival. His first produced feature film *The Missing* (Iti Mapukpukaw), which competed and won Best Film, NETPAC Jury Award and Best Supporting Actress for Dolly de Leon in Cinemalaya IFF 2023, is the Philippines' official entry to the 96th Academy Awards.

His mission is to champion more Filipino films around the world.



Dan VILLEGAS | PRODUCER

Based in Manila, Philippines, Dan Villegas started as an award-winning cinematographer before directing his first feature film, the coming-of-age *Mayohan* (Maytime) in 2010. In 2014, Dan co-produced *That Thing Called Meant-to-Be* with Bianca Balbuena, one of the country's highest grossing independent films of all time. This began Dan's love for producing, having helped create a film that shaped the modern romance genre in the Philippines.

In 2017, with fellow filmmaker and *That Thing Called Tadhana* director Antoinette Jadaone, he founded Project 8 Projects, which first produced *Changing Partners*, and then followed that up with the blockbuster *Never Not Love You*, which not only garnered box office success, but also critical praise. Dan has since produced quite a few films like *Lucid*, *The Hospice*, *Kitty K7*, *Mang Jose*, *Cuddle Weather*, *Alone/Together* and *Heaven's Waiting*.

He also produced a few series, *I Got You* for TV5, *The Seniors* for Vivamax, *The Kangs Show* for WeTV, *Drag Den* for Amazon Prime, *Suntok sa Buwan* for TV 5 and the LGBTQA series *Sleep with Me*. He also co-produced 2023 Cinemalaya hits *The Missing*, and *Rookie*.



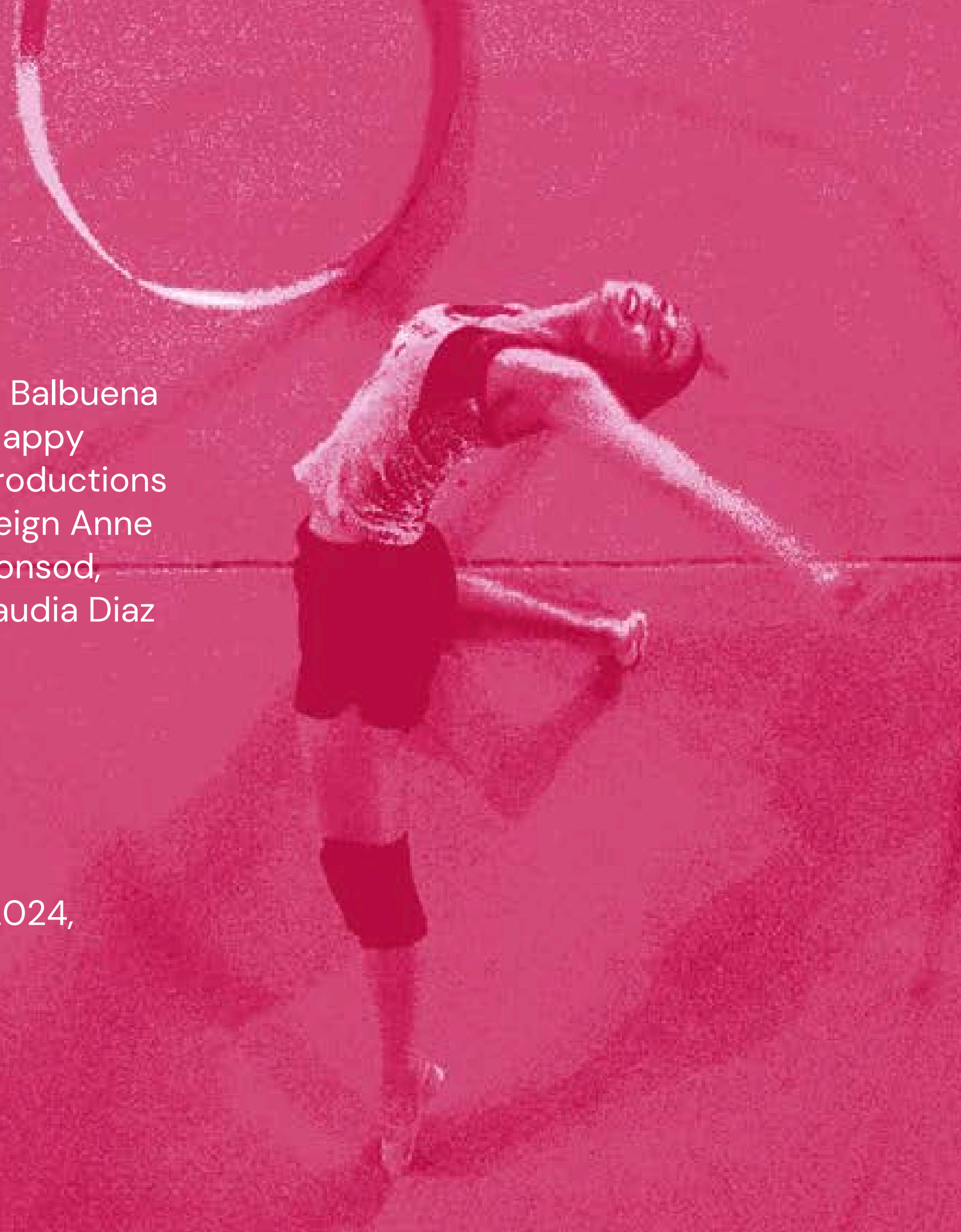
Bianca BALBUENA | PRODUCER

Bianca Balbuena is a producer, educator and co-founder of Epicmedia, which has produced Cannes Un Certain Regard's "Viet and Nam", Berlinale Silver Bear "A Lullaby To The Sorrowful Mystery", Venice Lion of the Future "Engkwentro" and the first Filipino film at the Sundance Film Festival Midnight "In My Mother's Skin".

She is the recipient of the Asian Film Commissions Network's Producer of the Year and the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards. She has served as jury at Busan, Karlovy Vary, Sydney, Durban, Seashorts and Fribourg film festivals. She is the European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs Ambassador for Asia.



WRITER/DIRECTOR Antoinette Jadaone
PRODUCED BY Geo Lomuntad, Dan Villegas, Bianca Balbuena
PRODUCTION COMPANIES Project 8 Projects, Anima Studios, Happy
Infinite Productions, Cloudy Duck Productions
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS Dan Villegas, Antoinette Jadaone, Reign Anne
De Guzman, Bianca Balbuena, Ian Monsod,
Anthony Isais, Grace Mariel Isais, Claudia Diaz
Cojuangco
CINEMATOGRAPHY Pao Orendain
SOUND Vincent Villa
PRODUCTION DESIGN Eero Yves S. Fransisco
EDITOR Benjamin Tolentino
MUSIC Rico Blanco
WORLD PREMIERE Toronto International Film Festival 2024,
Centerpiece





MARIS RACAL as SUNSHINE

Maris Racal is a rising Filipino film and television star, who had her first big break as the “Singing Sunshine ng Davao” housemate in the Philippine version of Big Brother.

She is known for her astounding roles and acting prowess in *Where is the Lie* (2023, Far East Film Festival), *Can't Buy Me Love* (2023–2024, Netflix), and *Simula sa Gitna* (2023, Amazon Prime Original).

Pao ORENDAIN, LPS CINEMATOGRAPHER

is an award-winning Filipino cinematographer known for *Catleya Killer* (Amazon Prime Original), *Side&Aya Not a Love Story*, which one of the highest-grossing Filipino film of 2019, and *Almost Paradise*, an American-Filipino crime drama series shot entirely in the Philippines, produced by Dean Devlin.



Eero Yves FRANSISCO PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Eero Yves Francisco is a renowned young Filipino production designer whose exceptional work has garnered critical acclaim in the Philippine film industry. Eero's most notable achievement includes winning the Gawad Urian Award for Best Production Design for Babae at Baril (2019). His ability to enhance narratives through his meaningful production design has made him a key figure in Leonor Will Never Die (2022) and Sunshine (2024).



A close-up portrait of Vincent Villa, a man with a shaved head, a full beard with grey hair, and round glasses. He is wearing a dark t-shirt and looking slightly to the left. The background is a vibrant red with faint, semi-transparent images of film strips and posters, including one with the text 'TGP' and another with 'ALAWAN CINEMA'.

Vincent VILLA SOUND DESIGNER

Vincent Villa is a French sound designer who has over 80 film and TV credits to his name since 2008.

His collaboration in Southeast Asia is most known for Davy Chou's *Diamond Island* (Cannes Critics Week 2016), and the action film *The Prey* (2018) by Jimmy Henderson. Other titles for which he is recognised are: *Last Night I Saw You Smiling*; *A Million Years*, *D'un château l'autre* and *Le film de l'été*, and Antoinette Jadaone's *Fan Girl* (2020) and Cannes Film Festival Un Certain Regard film *Viet and Nam* (2024) among others.

A close-up portrait of Benjamin Tolentino, a man with dark hair and a light beard, wearing a white sweater. The background is a vibrant pink with faint, overlapping images of film strips and logos, including 'TGP' and 'ALAWAN CINEMA'.

Benjamin TOLENTINO EDITOR

is an award-winning Filipino film editor who attended the Berlinale Talent Campus with the support of the Berlin International Film Festival. He has edited features that have premiered in festivals such as Festival de Cannes (Death March, Official Selection 2013), Venice Film Festival (Blanka, La Biennale di Venezia 2015), and Transit, the 2014 Academy Awards Foreign Language entry of the Philippines. He was named one of 100 luminaries in 2019 as Philippine Cinema celebrated its centennial year. His latest project, *The Missing*, is the Philippines' entry to the Academy Awards International Feature category.

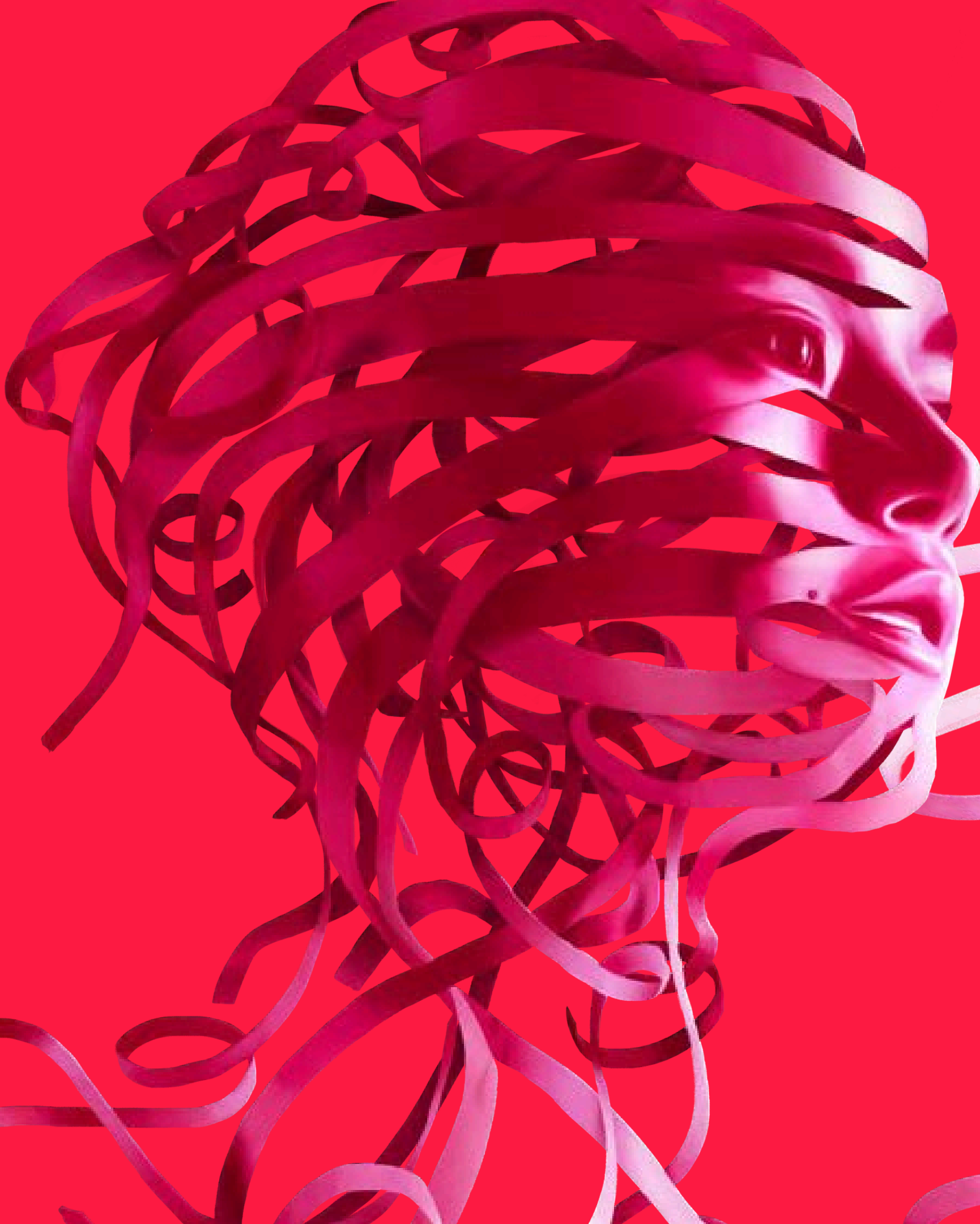


ABOUT PROJECT 8

Project 8 Projects is a Manila-based box-office film production. Only seven years young, **the production house was founded by three of the Philippines' most respected and multi-awarded filmmakers with over two decades of experience from its key founders.** Their partnership started with the sleeper hit *That Thing Called Tadhana* (2014), one of the highest-grossing independent films in Philippine cinema history (budget: 40,000 USD; gross: 2.6M USD). **Since then, Project 8 Projects has produced both top-grossing box-office hits and critically acclaimed films that have traveled in film festivals abroad.**



From romantic comedies and coming-of-age films to women-centric to LGBTQIA+ narratives, Project 8 Projects puts the spotlight on Filipino storytellers' unique voices. *The Missing*, the Philippine entry for the Academy Award Best International Feature 2024; *Alone/Together* which grossed over 6.8 million USD and is the fifth highest-grossing Filipino film; and *That Thing Called Meant to Be* which grossed over 2.4 million USD and is the highest grossing Filipino independent film, are all Project 8 projects.



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