

sine ni Lav Diaz

# Isang Salaysay ng Karahasang Pilipino

PRESS KIT

With the imminent death of his autocratic grandfather, coinciding with the burgeoning oppressive regime of Ferdinand Marcos, Servando Monzon VI, inheritor of the hacienda and businesses of his powerful clan, agonizes on becoming the new feudal lord and capitulating with Marcos' designs to control the Philippines. He is aware of his clan's long history of violence; he knows the very violent history of his county; and he foresees a very violent future with the Marcos dictatorship.





412 minutes

DCP

Black and White

# Cast



**John Lloyd Cruz**

Servando/Hector



**Bart Guingona**

Servando Tres



**Agot Isidro**

Tiya Dencia



# Cast



**Hazel Orencio**

Belinda



**Noel Miralles**

Tang Inciong



**Noel Sto. Domingo**

Tang Mercurio

# Cast



**Earl Ignacio**

Lt. Leon Andres



**Topper Fabregas**

Lt. Susano Villaronte



**Gio Gahol**

Delio

## Director's Statement

This is a film made for television, or I 'constructed' a film from a commissioned television series; my first. I did write for television before, just a few teleplays for a drama anthology and a sitcom, and some skits/scenes for an educational show for children. So, the nature of things coming from the idiot box at least I have some understanding despite ignoring its existence for forty years now. But during my intermittent travels, in spaces called hotel rooms and Airbnb apartments, I do open CNN or BBC to check the news and the time of day (I don't have a watch or a cellphone).

I accepted the challenge to write and direct a television series because it was an adaptation of my favorite Filipino short story, Servando Magdamag, a classic of Philippine literature, and written by Ricardo Lee, the venerable giant of Filipino scriptwriting. It was a chance to crack on an impregnable work. Nobody ever dared to adapt the piece; that's how fortified the nature of the work is. My version will surely run the risk of being seen as sacrilege.

From the short story and a script written by Ricardo Lee, with his blessings ("You have to own it, Lav."), I wrote and filmed a material designed to suit an eight-part television series. Part of the deal, when I agreed to do it, was that I can make a film version and it will be shown first ahead of the television schedules.

Television writing in the Philippines, especially dramas and telenovelas, is so detail-oriented and is allowed and expected to go haywire with its plot, subplots, tropes, arcs, and character developments. Melodrama is a given, too. I worked on these attributes and challenges while writing and shooting. Part of the challenge, of course, was that we shot the work during the height of the pandemic.

The short story is a deep treatise on the agrarian issues and feudal setup of Filipino society. My adaptation, while being true to its vision, discoursed further on the issue of trauma and fractures on the psyche as caused by interminable violence (in all its forms).

The film version is called *Isang Salaysay ng Karahasang Pilipino* (A Tale of Filipino Violence) and the television series will be called *Servando Magdamag*.



Lav Diaz



Lavrente Indico Diaz aka Lav Diaz is a filmmaker from the Philippines who was born on December 30, 1958 and raised in Cotabato, Mindanao. He works as director, writer, producer, editor, cinematographer, poet, composer, production designer and actor all at once. He is especially notable for the length of his films, some of which run for up to eleven hours. That is because his films are not governed by time but by space and nature. His films are about the social and political struggles of his motherland and through these, he has garnered the admiration of the international festival circuit.

Since 1998 he has directed twelve films, and won several international awards. His 2002 film *Batang West Side* won Best Picture at the Singapore International Film Festival, plus awards at the Independent Film Festival of Brussels, Gawad Urian, and Cinemanila International Film Festival. He also received a Gawad Urian for his 2005 film *Evolution of a Filipino Family* and Special Jury Prize at the Fribourg International Film Festival in 2006 for *Heremias, Book One*. His film *Death in the Land of Encantos*, was the closing film of the Orizzonti section of the Venice Film Festival 2007, and was awarded a Golden Lion Special Mention. His 2008 eight-hour film *Melancholia*, a story about victims of summary executions, won the Orizzonti Grand Prize at the 65th Venice International Film Festival in 2008, and *Florentina Hubaldo, CTE* has received Best Film at Images Festival, Toronto and Jeonju International Film Festival in 2012. In 2010 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship and in 2011 joined the Board of Directors for Cine Foundation International. The Venice Film Festival calls him “the ideological father of the New Philippine Cinema”.

In 2013, his film *Norte, The End of History* is presented at Un Certain regard Cannes Film Festival and considered as “one of the most beautiful film seen in Cannes” (Jacques Mandelbaum, *Le Monde*) or even “quite possibly the best film there” (Daniel Kasman, *Mubi*), a “superb piece of focused narrative” (Jonathan Romney, *Screen*) –a broadened international recognition that earns him to be invited at FID Marseille to be part of the Official Competition Jury and eventually at the 2013 Locarno Film Festival as the President of the Jury. His film “*Mula sa Kung Ano ang Noon*” (From What is Before) won the Golden Leopard in Locarno Film Festival. The following year, his eight-hour film “*Hele sa Hiwagang Hapis*” (A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery) won the Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize in Berlin International Film Festival and “*Ang Babaeng Humayo*” (The Woman Who Left) bagged the Golden Lion Prize in the Venice International Film Festival, the oldest film festival in the world.





- (Serafin Geronimo: Kriminal ng Barrio Concepcion) - Criminal of Barrio Concepcion, 1998
- (Burger Boys) - 1999
- (Hubad sa Ilalim ng Buwan) - Naked Under the Moon, 1999
- (Batang West Side) - West Side Kid, 2002
- (Hesus Rebolusyunaryo) - Jesus, Revolutionary, 2002
- (Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino) - Evolution of a Filipino Family, 2004
- [Heremias (Unang Aklat: Ang Alamat ng Prinsesang Bayawak)] - Heremias (Book One: The Legend of the Lizard Princess), 2006
- (Kagadanan Sa Banwaan Ning Mga Engkanto) - Death in the Land of Encantos, 2007
- Melancholia, 2008
- (Babae ng Hangin) - Woman of The Wind, 2011 Century of Birthing, 2011
- Florentina Hubaldo, CTE, 2012
- Norte: Hangganan ng Kasaysayan, 2013
- Mula sa Kung Ano ang Noon (From What is Before), 2014
- Hele sa Hiwagang Hapis (A Lullabye to the Sorrowful Mystery), 2016
- Ang Babaeng Humayo (The Woman Who Left), 2016
- Ang Panahon ng Halimaw (Season of the Devil), 2018
- Ang Hupa (The Halt), 2019
- Lahi, Hayop (Genus, Pan), 2020
- Historya ni Ha (History of Ha), 2021
- Isang Salasay ng Karahasang Pilipino (A Tale of Filipino Violence), 2022













# Stills



For more information, visit and contact:

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