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12th International Silent Film Festival Manila – Scoring the Silents Again

by: INQUIRER.net BrandRoom

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Bereft of sound but brimming with feature films accompanied by live musical performances, the much-anticipated annual International Silent Film Festival Manila (ISFFM) is back!

Established in 2007 as the first of its kind in Asia, the ISFFM promises to bring once more to Manila film buffs and music aficionados an extraordinary experience. From the 1890's to the 1920's, audiences around the world were enchanted by the magic of watching soundless images on a screen accompanied by live music played by different performing artists.



The poster for the 12th International Silent Film Festival Manila features a large, stylized '12TH' at the top left. Below it, a collage of black and white film stills is arranged in a circular pattern. The central text reads 'INTERNATIONAL SILENT FILM FESTIVAL MANILA'. Below the collage, the text 'Free Admission 30 Aug - 2 Sept 2018 Cinema 2 SM Megamall Mandaluyong Metro Manila' is displayed. At the bottom, a row of logos for sponsors and partners is shown, including the Austrian Embassy Manila, Instituto Cervantes Manila, Goethe Institut, Japan Foundation Manila, Embassy of Italy, Embassy of France, Embassy of the United States of America, Film Development Council of the Philippines, SM Cinema, CARES, Amici, Barista Coffee Academy of Asia, and SUNNY16.

This year, the Philippine-Italian Association, the Film Development Council of the Philippines, the Embassy of France, the Goethe-Institut Philippinen, the Japan Foundation Manila, the Embassy of the United States of America, the Instituto Cervantes, and the Embassy of Austria, are extremely proud to present the 12th iteration of the International Silent Film Festival in Manila. Scheduled from August 30th to September 2nd at Cinema 2 of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, the 2018 ISFFM brings together the very best of silent cinema from its eight member-countries, to be accompanied by the best Filipino musicians in the scene.

The Festival reels off at 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 30th with the Philippine-Italian Association, the Italian Embassy and the Italian Chamber of Commerce presenting the most important of those stylish melodramas made-in-Italy, *Rapsodia Satanica* (Satanic Rhapsody 1915-1917), directed by Nino Oxilia. The film tells the story of ageing Italian aristocrat Dame Alba d' Oltrevita who discovers a particular and special solution for her beauty by forging a pact with the devil. The blues band Miles Experience will accompany this film with a live performance.

On Friday, August 31st, at 7:00 pm, the Film Development Council of the Philippines will present a unique offering in *The Lost Film Trilogy* which is composed of "Filipiniana", "Aswang (1933)," and "Juan Tamad Goes to the Moon (1898)"; and an excerpt from "Nitrate: To the Ghosts of the 75 Lost Philippine Silent Films (1912-1933)." A live musical performance by Khavn & the Kontra-Kino Orchestra will accompany the film.



by the multi-awarded pianist and versatile musician Dingdong Fiel, alongside Andrew Constantino (Clarinet) and Kyongmin Nam (Cello).

On Saturday, September 1st at 4:00 pm, the Goethe Institut will screen *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920), dubbed as “the first true horror film”. Directed by Robert Wiene, the film tells of a mad doctor suspected of sending a corpse on a killing spree. The movie will be live scored by Kontemporaryong Gamelan Pilipino, widely identified as Kontra-GaPi.

At 6:00 pm, the Japan Foundation, Manila will screen *A Straightforward Boy* (1929) by Yasujiro Ozu that tells a story of Bunkichi who kidnaps a boy, Tetsubo, who has an appetite for sweets. This screening will feature Silent Film Narrator Tito Genova Valiente, who will provide a live interpretation of the silent film. The screening and narration will be accompanied by contemporary pop folk/ethnic sound group Tanikala Tribe.

Closing the night at 8:00 pm will be the U.S. Embassy’s screening of the film *Our Hospitality* (1923), considered to be a groundbreaking work for the comedy film genre. Directed by and starring Buster Keaton, the film tells the story of Willie McKay, who gets caught in the middle of the infamous “Canfield”–“McKay” feud, an obvious satire of the real-life Hatfield–McCoy feud. The film will be scored by Brass Munkeys, a band of veteran musicians known for their lively and bold performances on stage.

On Sunday, September 2nd at 5:00 pm, the Instituto Cervantes will present the musical comedy *Frivolinas* (1926). Directed by Arturo Carballo, *Frivolinas* is about a widower who loves the nightlife, and a comedian who falls in love with the old man’s daughter. Tapati, a collaboration of artists embracing influences of rock, reggae, blues, jazz, pop, folk and Philippine Neo-ethnic tribal music will accompany the film.

Culminating the festival at 7:30 pm will be the Embassy of Austria’s *Die Kleine Veronika* (1929), directed by Robert Land. The film tells the story of Tyrolean mountain girl, Veronika, who travels to Vienna to visit her aunt, only to find out that the city experience she has been dreaming of is not all the fun and glamorous life she had previously imagined. The live score will be played by avant-pop electronica solo Joee & I. The Embassy of Austria presents this year’s entry in partnership with Hearlife Foundation, Inc., a non-stock, non-profit organization created to champion the Filipino deaf, and MED-EL Philippines, an affiliate of cochlear implant provider MED-EL WorldWide from Innsbruck, Austria.

This year’s film festival experience will have a unique addition, an exhibit at the SM Cinema lobby. The exhibit will be presenting a visual installation of this year’s participating films.

#ISFF2018 Festival Trailer
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The 12th International Silent Film Festival is made possible in partnership with SM Cinema, SM Cares, Amici, Sunny16 Lab, Cineteca Bologna, Institut Français, Embassy of Japan, Embassy of Spain, Filmoteca Española, Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, HearLife Foundation, Inc., Med El, Fringe Creatives, and the Barista & Coffee Academy of Asia.

All screenings will be open to the public on a first come, first served basis.

For more information on the schedule and inquiries, please check our [Facebook Page](#).