

## HAF 04 Between Sea and Sky



**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Philippines

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:** Drama | Digital Format | Tagalog | 100 mins

**DIRECTOR:**

Jun Robles LANA

**PRODUCER:**

Ferdinand LAPUZ

**HAF GOALS:**

Funds, Co-producers

**BUDGET:**

US\$ 1,400,000

**SECURED BUDGET:**

US\$ 40,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2018 *Ang Dalawang Mrs Reyes*

2016 *Die Beautiful*

2015 *Shadow Behind the Moon*

2013 *Barber's Tales*

2012 *Bwakaw*

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

The astonishing true tale of survival of Roland Omongos, a Filipino fisherman who was rescued in Papua New Guinea after drifting at sea for 56 days.

## SYNOPSIS

Twenty-one-year-old Roland and his uncle Reniel are fishing on separate boats when a violent storm hits them unexpectedly. Swept away by giant waves into the open sea, they spend weeks together battling thirst, hunger and the elements. Roland, who was abandoned by his father as a child, looks up to Reniel as a father figure. Now facing a seemingly hopeless situation, Roland once again depends on Reniel, who teaches him to be skillful and resourceful in order to survive. But when they find themselves in the middle of another storm that eventually kills Reniel, Roland is overcome with so much sorrow that he almost gives up. In his darkest hour, Roland finds comfort in the company of exhausted seabirds that drop in on his boat to rest. Roland remembers a folk tale that says that seabirds are the souls of seafarers who are dead and gone. If that is true, then one of the seabirds must be Reniel himself, giving him hope. Despite being weak and frail from starvation, Roland decides to hold on for as long as possible. On 9 March, 2017, his fifty-sixth day in the ocean, he is finally rescued by a Japanese vessel.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I met Roland Omongos several times to interview him about his 56-day ordeal at sea and I just knew I had to secure the rights to his story. What I found most interesting was his character – quiet, shy and unassuming. It is easy to underestimate him. If you heard that he was swept out to sea, part of you would just assume that he would not survive. But he did. And that is what is unique about him. It is precisely his being a simple man that saved him. In a society that overcomplicates everything, where people overestimate their time in this world and take life for granted, here is someone who battled with nature's fury and survived through instinct, resilience and sheer will to stay alive. He represents the best of us and yet, he is just one of us.

## DIRECTOR

### **Jun Robles LANA**

Jun Robles Lana is an acclaimed Filipino screenwriter, producer and filmmaker. *Die Beautiful* (2016), one of his latest films, is a HAF project that had its world premiere at Tokyo International Film Festival, where it won Best Actor and Audience Awards. His other films include *Bwakaw* (2012), *Mga Kwentong Barbero (Barber's Tales)* (2013), *Anino Sa Likod Ng Buwan (Shadow Behind the Moon)* (2015).

## PRODUCER

### **Ferdinand LAPUZ**

Award-winning producer Ferdinand Lapuz migrated to Canada in 1990 where he promoted Filipino films until he returned to the Philippines in 2005. Lapuz attended HAF for Brillante Mendoza's *Serbis* (2008) and *Kinatay* (2009), Francis Xavier Pasion's *Sampaguita* (2009), Jeffrey Jeturian's *Bisperas* (2011), Eduardo Roy Jr.'s *Lola Igna* (2012) and Jun Robles Lana's *Barber's Tales* (2013), *Ama Namin (retitled as: Son of God)* (2014) and *Die Beautiful* (2015). His films have been exhibited in festivals around the world including the Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Locarno, Cairo, Toronto, and New York Film Festivals.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### **The IdeaFirst Company**

The IdeaFirst Company is a creative content company in the Philippines, led by filmmakers Jun Robles Lana and Perci Intalan. Established in 2014, the Philippine-based company has already produced over 20 feature-length films and numerous series for free-to-air and pay television. It is also now managing a multi-awarded roster of film directors and performing artists.