

HAF 08 The Grandstand



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Philippines

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Crime, Drama | Digital Format | Filipino, English | 90 mins

DIRECTOR:

Mikhail RED

PRODUCER:

Pauline ZAMORA

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$ 1,000,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2018 *Eerie*

2017 *Neomanila*

2016 *Birdshot*

2013 *Rekorder*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

The Grandstand is loosely based on the events of the tragic 2010 Manila hostage crisis, where a disgruntled police officer took a tourist bus hostage and demanded an audience with the national media.

SYNOPSIS

Loosely based on true events, *The Grandstand* is a retelling of the tragic 2010 Manila hostage crisis, told through the perspective of four individuals. The Daughter, a Hong Kong tourist, is vacationing in the Philippines with her mother, traveling by bus with a tour group. Later, The Hostage Taker, a decorated yet disgruntled police officer, hijacks the bus, ordering the driver to take them to the Quirino Grandstand, a renowned landmark where Philippine presidents are inaugurated. There, he makes his stand, demanding national media attention. Meanwhile, the Negotiator is summoned to the crisis zone. Despite police actions against media interference, the media arrive in storm to cover the sensational event. Also, unbeknownst to the police, one of the reporters, the Journalist, interviews the Hostage Taker through a private cellphone line, landing the story of the year. The police also violently apprehend the Hostage Taker's Brother while breaching the perimeter. The media televises the arrest, without realizing that the Hostage Taker is watching through a television onboard the bus. The Hostage Taker loses patience and kills several hostages, forcing the SWAT team into a deadly assault on the bus. Several hostages lose their lives and the Hostage Taker is ultimately killed. Some passengers survive, including the Daughter and her mother. Meanwhile, a messenger arrives with the Hostage Taker's reinstatement letter—tragically, too late.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I was a teenager, in bed rest with high fever, when I witnessed the Manila hostage crisis spiral out of control on live television in 2010. The coverage started early that morning and ended in tragedy on a rainy evening. With obvious mishandling by both the inept police and interfering media, the world saw how a flawed system that had failed one disgruntled man, failed again at a larger scale, with innocents paying the ultimate price. I was not the only one watching—the world saw this. I felt even more sickened when the night ended and the memories stayed with me as I grew and embraced filmmaking as a medium to voice my ideals. As a filmmaker, I believe a timely and truthful retelling of this event as a narrative film will reach a wide audience, including those too young to remember the events that inspired that night. I hope that *The Grandstand* will serve as a testament to the triumph of the human spirit amidst tragedy, honouring the brave survivors and, more importantly, will serve as a call for change so the lives lost that day were not in vain.

DIRECTOR

Mikhail RED

Mikhail Red is a Filipino filmmaker and director. At 21, he directed his first feature, *Rekorder* (2013), which had its international premiere at the Tokyo International Film Festival and won Best New Director at the 2014 Vancouver International Film Festival. His sophomore film, *Birdshot* (2016), won the Best Asian Future Film Award at the 29th Tokyo International Film Festival. His third film, *Neomanila* (2017), had its international premiere at the International Film Festival Rotterdam and won the Most Promising Talent award at the Osaka Asian Film Festival. His fourth film, *Eerie* (2018), premiered at the 29th Singapore International Film Festival.

PRODUCER

Pauline ZAMORA

Pauline Zamora is a Filipino filmmaker and producer. Starting with TBA Studios, a film development and production company based in Manila, she held prominent positions in the production of multiple critically-acclaimed films including *Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral* (2018). She was also the Assistant Editor of the award-winning documentary *Sunday Beauty Queen* (2016), which won the Best Film and Best Editing awards at the 42nd Metro Manila Film Festival. She has also produced digital advertisements and documentary show for Nick Asia and ESPN5. Pauline Zamora is currently producing Mikhail Red's fifth feature film, *Dead Kids*, slated for completion in 2019.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Globe Studios

Globe Studios is the long and short form content production division under the creative marketing and multimedia business department of Globe Telecom, Inc., a major provider of telecommunications services in the Philippines. Globe Studios is headed by producer and director Quark Henares.