

## WIP S Verdict



**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Philippines

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

**DIRECTOR:**

Raymund Ribay GUTIERREZ

**PRODUCERS:**

Brillante MENDOZA

Carlo VALENZONA

**HAF GOALS:**

Funds

**BUDGET:**

US\$ 200,000

**SECURED BUDGET:**

US\$ 10,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

First Feature Director

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

A story of a battered wife who finally files a case against her husband.

## SYNOPSIS

Joy, in her 30's and the mother of a 4 year-old, Angel, finally gathers her strength to file a case against her abusive drug-peddler husband, Dante. But as her complaint goes through the process of hearing, she realizes that her cry for justice will be tedious and convoluted. Joy is not only physically bruised, but her determination is also battered by the huge cost of pursuing the case and the unfair judgment that she receives from the system. In the end, Joy receives more than the justice that she is asking for.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Our vision is to portray the actual procedure of filing a case using real lawyers and court employees as actors. Mixing it with real actors as the main characters, we aim to achieve spontaneous and authentic scenes. Our main character, Joy, has to be shot with prosthetics to show the physical pain and the process of healing. After the wounds are healed, though, the emotional pain remains. Non-professional actors are cast to achieve unrehearsed and impromptu movements and action; likewise, the actions and movements of real-life lawyers and staff members will be spontaneous during the procedures. Actual locations make up the overall production design, which reflects the milieu and the natural environment of the characters. It gives strong density to the story. The script is the product of a compilation of found stories based on research and interviews with people involved with domestic violence in the Philippines. As they file their cases, they feel more emotional abuse from the procedure. In telling this story, we resort to the cinéma-vérité style of filmmaking; we go to where the action is, where the action is taking place, the people involved.

## DIRECTOR

### **Raymund Ribay GUTIERREZ**

A Filipino director and screenwriter. He was trained well throughout of his career by Brillante Mendoza and became his protégé. Gutierrez' first short film, *Imago* (2016), received a nomination for Palme d'Or Best Short Film in Cannes and won Best Short Cuts in Toronto International Film Festival (2016), Best Short Film Award in Stockholm International Film Festival (2016), Best Short Film in London Short Film Festival (2017), and Best Film in Minimalen Short Film Festival (2018). In 2018, his second short film, *Judgement*, again was nominated for the Palme d'Or Best Short Film in Cannes (2018).

## PRODUCERS

### Brillante MENDOZA

One of the most prominent Filipino filmmakers today, the first to win in Berlin, Venice and Cannes. In Berlin, *Tirador (Slingshot)* won the Caligari Film Award (2007); *Captive* competed in 2012. *Thy Womb* won La Navicella Venezia, Venice (2012); *Lola* was nominated for the Golden Lion (2009). In Cannes, he won Best Director for *Kinatay* (2009) and *Ma' Rosa* won Best Actress (Jaclyn Jose, 2016).

### Carlo VALENZONA

Worked with Brillante Mendoza's projects *Taklub* (2015), *Underground* (dir. Daniel Palacio 2017) *Imago*, (dir Raymund Gutierrez 2016), and *Ma' Rosa* (2016). His latest works include *Amo* (2017) and *ALPHA, The Right to Kill* (2018).

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### Center Stage Productions

Center Stage Productions (CSP), is an independent film production outfit that aims to rethink and rebrand Filipino cinema by producing meaningful and relevant films.

Brillante Mendoza established Center Stage Productions in 2005. Since then he has produced a body of work that has garnered awards and recognitions from local and international film festivals. One of the most prominent and important Filipino filmmakers today. He is the first Filipino to compete and win in 3 major international film festivals Cannes, Berlin and Venice.