

HAF 08 I'mPerfect



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: The Philippines

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama, Romance | HD | English, Tagalog | 100 mins

DIRECTOR:

Sigrid Andrea P. BERNARDO

PRODUCER:

Alemberg ANG

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$310,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$120,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2014 *Lorna*

2013 *Anita's Last Cha Cha*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Jiro and Jessica share a world of their own. Both with Down syndrome, they have to fight against other people's prejudices. Can they love each other just like everyone else?

SYNOPSIS

This is a story about two special people, Jiro and Jessica. Both have Down syndrome, already in their 20s but highly functional. They may be different but they love each other. Because of their condition, their families and society think they can't live a life just like everyone else.

Jiro's parents often fight and his mom has become overly protective, always fearing his condition will degenerate. Raised by a single mother, Jessica has become very sociable and active in school, where she works at the canteen.

One day, Jiro arrives as a new student in Jessica's class. He immediately notices Jessica's enthusiasm and independence while Jessica is attracted by Jiro's somewhat anti-social demeanor. Days pass and their fondness for each other grows.

Jiro plans the perfect date with Jessica. Their classmates know of their blossoming relationship and help them escape during their sportsfest. Jiro and Jessica conquer the streets together and do things other people do like taking public transportation, buying street food and going to the mall. They realize that not all people are nice and that there are people who look down on them.

After a day of independence, their parents find them. They get separated from each other.

But Jiro and Jessica's love cannot be stopped. They run away a second time to live on their own in the province away from their parents' supervision and interference. Nobody can stop them from discovering how life is outside their sheltered lives. They accept the outside world and want to try to live in it. They make choices and decisions on their own and they are happy to do things with the one they love.

Not for long. Their parents eventually find them. But it might be late for one of them.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I had a cousin who had a disability. He always stayed in a corner and whenever someone approached him, he would pull his hair. He eventually passed away. I almost forgot about him until a mother of a girl with Down syndrome approached me to direct a fashion show featuring people with disabilities as models.

I prepared myself by immersion: I did an acting workshop and tried directing them to do some scenes. It was tough at first but it was one of the most meaningful experiences in my life. I learned so much in the brief moment I was with them. They may seem different in demeanor

but people forget that they have feelings, too. They just express themselves differently and unlocking the way they express themselves is key to understanding them better.

I would like to share their stories, their capacity to love. At the same time, I'd like to help showcase their talents and capabilities. A lot of them are already adults and can be highly functional. It is interesting to find out how people around them relate to them. When two people with disabilities fall in love with each other, are others ready to accept their relationship?

It is easy to see their imperfections and their inability to live a perfect life. But I hope that my film will go beyond these imperfections and prove that love is indeed universal. I hope to take my audience in this heartwarming journey of two special souls in love but had to continuously fight for their right to be with each other. I'd like people to understand that people with DISABILITIES do have ABILITIES. And ultimately, it's these imperfections that make us perfect. We are all created unique and no one is created by mistake. I'M PERFECT by all means.

DIRECTOR

Sigrid Andrea P. Bernardo

Sigrid Andrea P. Bernardo has crafted a name for herself making award-winning films on women and LGBT issues. Her first short, *Woman* (2010), participated in Imageout, Frameline, Pink Apple, Iris Prize among others. It won Best Director at Cinemalaya and Best Short Film at Festival Internazionale di Cinema Gaylesbico e Queer Culture di Milano. Her other shorts include *Au Revoir Philip* (2011, support grant from One Country One Film Festival); *Waiting to Whisper* (2012); Honorable Mention at Exground; and *Dungkoy* (2015), finalist at the New York Festivals.

Her first full-length film, *Anita's Last Cha-cha* (2013) was selected for the Produire au Sud. It won Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress and Best Ensemble at Cine Filipino, Special Mention at Osaka Asian Film Festival, Volunteers Choice Award at Frameline, Honorable Mention at Mix Film Festival and Best Screenplay and Gender Award at Zinegoak LGBT Film Festival. The film continues to travel around the world with 30+ film festivals to its belt. Her second feature, *Lorna*, won Best Supporting Actress at Cinema One Originals, Audience Award at Yerba Buena Film Festival and nominated for Best Actress at Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

Sigrid's passion for her causes continues to shape the films she makes.

PRODUCER

Alemborg ANG

After a career in teaching, Angshifted into film producing with Alvin B. Yapan's directorial debut *The Rapture of Fe* (2009), which won the Special Jury Prize at Cinemalaya and Best Digital Film at the Cairo International Film Festival. He further collaborated with Yapan in several other projects including *Pilgrim Lovers* (2011), competing in Warsaw and *The Dance of Two Left Feet* (2011), competing in Cinemalaya, Bogota and Hawaii and winning the top prize at the country's national

critics association's Gawad Urian.

Aside from Yapan, he has collaborated with filmmakers like Dennis Marasigan (*Vox Populi*, 2010; *The Anatomy of Corruption*, 2011; *Free Range*, 2016), Leo Abaya (*Instant Mommy*, 2013), Antoinette Jadaone (*Beauty in a Bottle*, 2014), Dan Villegas (*English Only*, 2014; *Please*, 2015), King Palisoc (*Tandem*, 2015), Petersen Vargas (*#2Cool2Be4gotten*, 2016) and Loy Arcenas (*The Portrait*, 2016). His films have competed in local and international festivals winning awards in Dubai, Taiwan, Portugal, Vancouver and Manila, among others.

With Alembert's filmography he was invited to attend the UNESCO International Meeting of Independent Producers in Iqualada, Spain, IFFR's Rotterdam's Lab, Berlinale Talents, Network of Asian Fantastic Films and Talents Tokyo.

Alembert's filmmaking is shaped by his passion for teaching, socio-civic issues, and Philippine arts and literature. He dreams of one day making literature mainstream.

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

VYAC Productions

VYAC Productions aims to produce films that are sensitive to the ethical handling of third world issues such as the exploitative depiction of poverty and exoticism of indigenous cultures. We seek to give minorities a voice in world cinema.

VYAC Productions started with *The Rapture of Fe*, which competed in film festivals in Cairo, Chicago, Manila, Osian's Cinefan, etc. With the success of its first feature, VYAC Productions produced six more films and a television series through collaboration with companies like Johnsons & Johnsons, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Quantum Films and GMA News TV. It is currently developing projects with filmmakers like Whammy Alcazaren, Petersen Vargas and Loy Arcenas.

Ekweytor MC

Ekweytor, or Equator in English, symbolizes the line from the Philippines that connects to different parts of the world open to all forms of collaborations in various forms of art.

Ekweytor MC produces award-winning feature, short, and documentary films promoting various advocacies. Inspired by the imaginary line that cuts through borders across the globe, Ekweytor MC connects and collaborates internationally to create and generate innovative and moving artistic work with a global lens.

Different Cultures. Different Ideas. Different Films. Different kinds of Art. In every Difference, there is Brilliance.