

## HAF 25 Some Nights I Feel Like Walking (HAF-SEAFIC Award winner)



**REGION:** The Philippines

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

**DIRECTOR:**

Petersen VARGAS

**PRODUCER:**

Alemberg ANG

Jade Francis CASTRO

**HAF GOALS:**

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

**BUDGET:** US\$ 745,525

**SECURED BUDGET:** US\$ 245,175

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2016 *2 Cool 2 Be 4gotten*

2014 *Swirl*

2014 *Lisyun qng Geografia*

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

A rich teenage runaway joins a band of street hustlers on a road trip to fulfill their dead friend's final wish: to go home.

## SYNOPSIS

Zion, a rich teenage runaway, is looking for a place to belong. A rendezvous with the half-brother he has never met fails. When he sees a group of four boys cross the street, he drops everything and follows them, especially Uno, whose casual appeal stirs hidden feelings within Zion. It turns out the boys moonlight as hustlers, and when the youngest, Miguelito, disappears with a client and dies of an overdose, Zion becomes entangled into their troubles. He is cajoled into a mission to fulfill the dead boy's final wish: to go home.

Over the course of one night, Zion and the rest take the dead body from city to countryside, to relatives and a former girlfriend, via buses and highways.

When they arrive at Miguelito's hometown, they are struck by his family's apathy and rejection. Amidst the town's noisy festivities, the boys throw Miguelito's body into a bonfire, claiming him as their own. They have become forged into a singular pack of brothers, belonging to nowhere and no one, except with each other.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Since I moved to Manila five years ago, a sense of restlessness, of being alone and lonely, has kept brewing inside me. This made me start going out in the middle of the night into the unlikely corners of the city. I started walking.

During these walks, I have met young men in the midst of their own walking, living, existing. Despite our differences in age, class, sexuality, and roots, I have forged fleeting but meaningful bonds with them. These encounters were a way to connect with myself. This act of connecting with anyone who could make me think that I am not the only one outside looking for something.

Like the youths portrayed in this film, I walk and walk hoping I arrive at a version of family and home I can envision. To walk Manila by night offers a revelatory peek into Filipino youth on the fringes of society. Employing characteristics of the road movie, this film is an exploration and meditation on socio-political spaces. Unfolding in a metamorphic night, the camera will embody Zion's sense of mystery, confusion, and self-discovery. I want to capture life-as-it-is for our invisible characters to be truly made visible.

## DIRECTOR

### Petersen VARGAS

Petersen Vargas is an alumna of the University of the Philippines Film Institute and the Asian Film Academy. His short *Geography Lessons* (2014) won Best Direction at Cinemalaya. His feature debut *2 Cool 2 Be 4gotten* (2016) won Best Picture at Cinema One Originals and Audience Award at Torino LGBTQI Film Festival.

His second feature in development, *Some Nights I Feel Like Walking*, won the SEAFIC Award at the Southeast Asia Fiction Film Lab 2019, presented at the Locarno Open Doors Hub 2019 and will participate at the Cannes Cinefondation Atelier 2020. He lives with his cat, Wong Kat Wai.

## PRODUCER

### Alembert ANG

Teacher turned producer, Ang's filmography include Alvin Yapan's *The Rapture of Fe* (2009, Best Digital Feature, Cairo), Petersen Vargas' *2 Cool 2 Be 4gotten* (2016, Audience Award, Torino LGBTQI), and Loy Arcenas' *The Portrait* (2017 Asian Future Competition, Tokyo). He has participated in Berlinale Talents, Locarno Open Doors and Tribeca Film Institute.

### Jade CASTRO

A director, writer, and producer, Castro's filmography includes blockbusters and award-winners like *Endo* (2007, Cinemalaya Jury Prize), *Remington and the Curse of the Zombadings* (2011, Best Asian Film, Neuchatel), and *LSS* (2019, Jury Prize, Pista ng Pelikulang Pilipino). He started producing with the short, *Contestant #4* (2016).

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### vy/ac Productions

vy/ac Productions produces films that explore the richness of Third World culture while uplifting cultural minorities, giving them a voice. Over the past two years, the company has participated at Busan's APM, Golden Horse, Cinemart, SEAFIC, and the Tribeca Film Institute Network, developing projects with rising filmmakers.

### Origin8 Media

Founded by storytellers, Origin8 produces and distributes meaningful yet commercially viable content. Its filmography includes *Remington and the Curse of the Zombadings* (2011, dir. by Jade Castro, Best Asian Film, Neuchatel), and *Norte: The End of History* (2013, dir. by Lav Diaz, Cannes Un Certain Regard). It distributed *Ilo-Ilo* (2013, dir. by Anthony Chen) in the Philippines.