

For immediate release

Filipina filmmakers showcase their documentaries at the Filipino Film Festival

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 16, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Doris Duke Theatre at the Honolulu Museum of Art, 900 S Beretania St, Honolulu, HI 96814

Filipina filmmakers, Maribel Apuya, Producer and Director of *The Sakada Series* (35min), and Sunshine Lichauco de Leon, Co-Producer and Director of *Curiosity, Adventure & Love* (60min), will showcase their Filipino-themed documentaries at this year's Filipino Film Festival at the Honolulu Museum of Art's Doris Duke Theatre on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. & Friday, June 16, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

The Sakada Series is a series of three short films capturing the personal stories and successes of the Sakadas and of the second-generation. Sakadas are Filipino contract workers who immigrated to Hawaii between 1906-1946 to work as laborers for Hawaii's sugar and pineapple plantations.

The first film, *A Sakada Story* (9:25min), introduces us to Cipriano Erice, who immigrated to Hawaii in 1946 to work for the Waiialua Sugar Plantation. Starting off by cutting grass and hauling cane, Mr. Erice rose to the highest position in trade as a Journeyman – and sent all of his children to college, proudly giving them the education he never had. [subtitled]

The second film, *Living Treasure* (10:37min), captures the unique life story of Angel Ramos, who immigrated to Hawaii in 1946 to work for the Kahuku Sugar Plantation. Honored as a “Living Treasure” by the Honolulu City Council, Mr. Ramos regales us with his storytelling talent and rare personal photos and artifacts from his days on the plantation. [subtitled]

The third film, *Filipina* (14:35min), portrays the life story of Apolonia Agonoy Stice, a second-generation Sakada descendant, who grew up in the pineapple plantation town of Lanai City in the 1940's. Holding true to the values her parents impressed upon her, Mrs. Stice paved her own path to attain an education, serve her country and raise a family, realizing through her experiences what it means to be a Filipina.

For more information on *The Sakada Series*, please visit: thesakadaseries.com | Facebook: thesakadaseries.

The award-winning film, *Curiosity, Adventure & Love*, chronicles the life of an extraordinary 105-year-old American, Jessie Lichauco, who travels to the Philippines alone in the 1930's and marries Marcial Lichauco, a prominent lawyer who she met while he was lobbying for Philippine independence from the USA.

The film – a blend of history, biography and humanity – highlights Jessie's life lived of love and service from the lens of one who has lived through war, occupation, reconstruction and

Philippine independence. It also shares the insights and wisdom of a woman who has literally seen the world “grow up”, and who was eventually granted Philippine citizenship by the Philippine government for everything she has done to help the Filipino people. [Tagalog with English subtitles.]

Curiosity, Adventure & Love has received festival awards in the Philippines, Asia and the USA. It debut in theaters across Manila and the Philippines on January 2017, and has been broadcasted across Philippine television media.

Jessie Lichauco’s granddaughter, *Sunshine Lichauco de Leon*, the film’s co-producer, co-director and co-writer, as well as a Manila-based freelance journalist, will be present to do an introduction and Q&A following the June 16th screening.

For more information on *Curiosity, Adventure & Love* and to view the film’s trailer, please visit: www.curiosityadventureandlove.com | Twitter: @nanafilm | Instagram/Facebook: curiosityadventureandlove

June 13 screening is hosted by the Filipino Association of University Women

The Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is a sponsor of the Filipino Film Festival and will hold a reception for the Tuesday, June 13th screening, which will include: a Sakada-themed exhibit, complimentary refreshments and a Q&A with *The Sakada Series* Producer and Director, Maribel Apuya, along with the documentary stars. *The June 16th screening will be moderated by Grace Alvaro Caligtan, a member of FAUW and Decolonial Pin@y.*

June 13 screening schedule (only for June 13th):

7:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Doors open. Sakada-themed exhibit.

7:30 – 7:45 p.m. – Introduction of *The Sakada Series* and acknowledgements.

7:45 – 8:15 p.m. – *The Sakada Series* screening.

8:15 – 8:30 p.m. – Q&A with the filmmaker, Maribel Apuya, and documentary stars.

8:30 – 8:50 p.m. – Reception with complimentary refreshments.

8:50 – 9:50 p.m. – Screening of *Curiosity, Adventure & Love*.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public and \$8 for museum members. *Admission is free for 18 and under.* Guests can purchase tickets at the door or online at:

https://honolulumuseum.org/16346-filipino_film_festival_2017

Please spread the word to your family and friends! We especially welcome the young generation to attend. For more information, please email: maribel.apuya@gmail.com.

Major grant funding and sponsorship for *The Sakada Series* has been provided by the Honolulu Mayor’s Office for Culture and the Arts, the Atherton Family Foundation and Boutique de Voile (NYC).