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The Japan Foundation Asia Center presents  
**“CROSSCUT ASIA #02 The Heats of Philippine Cinema”**  
at Tokyo International Film Festival

The Japan Foundation Asia Center and the Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) together launched “CROSSCUT ASIA” last year to showcase Asian films at the festival focusing on particular countries, directors, actors, and themes. This year, as our second year, we will focus on Philippine films.

Following the success of the last year’s CROSSCUT ASIA #01 Thai Fascination, we are turning our attention to the cinema of the Philippines as it boasts a rich history and is said to be in the Third Golden Age\* at this moment.

This year’s CROSSCUT ASIA features a noteworthy lineup, including a special program of the works of director Brillante Ma. Mendoza, who won the Best Director award at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival with *Kinatay*. His new film *TAKLUB* is selected for Un Certain Regard section in the Cannes Film Festival this year. For more information, please contact us via any of the means as shown below.

\*The lineup of CROSSCUT ASIA #02 The Heats of Philippine Cinema are to be announced on the official website. (<http://2015.tiff-jp.net>)

■ **The Title:** The Japan Foundation Asia Center presents  
**“CROSSCUT ASIA #02 The Heats of Philippine Cinema”**

■ **CROSSCUT ASIA**

A showcase of Asian films focusing on particular countries, directors, actors, and themes. This unveils hidden gems of Asian films that portray what Asia is facing now.

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**The 28th Tokyo International Film Festival** <http://www.tiff-jp.net>

【Dates】 Thursday, October 22 – Saturday, October 31, 2015

【Venues】 Roppongi Hills (Minato-ku), and theaters, halls, and other facilities  
in the Tokyo metropolitan area  
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**\*The Third Golden Age of Philippine Cinema**

In the long history of Philippine cinema, the first Golden Age arrived in the 1950s, after the World War II. It is when major studios mass-produced entertainment films using popular stars and virtuosic directors created masterpieces. After a period of stagnation in the 1960s, the cinema of the Philippines entered its second Golden Age from the 1970s to 1980s, producing a series of hard-hitting masterpieces that concealed rebellious attitude. Indie filmmakers without ties to the film industry also appeared on the scene, including directors such as Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal, as well as the ‘father of Asian independent cinema,’ Kidlat Tahimik. Now, in the 21st-century era of digital filmmaking, young independent creators are appearing one after another, gaining worldwide attention through the Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival and other indie screenings. Brillante Ma. Mendoza, director of *Captive*, and Lav Diaz, director of *From What Is Before*, are regulars at major international film festivals, including Cannes. The third Golden Age of Philippine Cinema began around 2005, about the same time as Mendoza’s debut, and has continued up to the present.

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## ■ Profile of Brillante Ma. Mendoza

**Brillante Ma. Mendoza** is a living national treasure of Philippine independent cinema. He is one of the most prominent and important Filipino filmmakers today. He is the first Filipino to compete and won in three major international film festivals, showing authentic Filipino stories to the world. His film, *Captive*, competed in coveted the Berlin International Film Festival in 2012, while *Tirador* (Slingshot) won the Caligari Film Award in 2007 of the same festival. *Thy Womb*, on the other hand, won the La Navicella Venezia Cinema Award in the equally prestigious Venice Film Festival in 2012, while *Lola* was selected in competition for the same festival in 2009. But his most notable achievement is when he won the elusive Best Director in the well-renowned Cannes Film Festival for the film, *Kinatay* in 2009. The year before, his film, *Serbis* (Service) was selected in competition for the same festival. Known to his peers as 'Dante,' he started as a Production Designer in various films and Television advertisements. In 2005, he founded Center Stage Productions (CSP), an independent film production outfit that aims to rethink and reinvent Filipino cinema by producing meaningful and relevant films. His debut film, *Masahista* (The Masseur) immediately won the Golden Leopard Award in the 2005 Locarno International Film Festival in Switzerland and paved the way for the rise of Alternative Cinema in the Philippines.



Brillante Ma. Mendoza (Director)

## ■ A message from Director Brillante Ma. Mendoza

I am delighted to be a part of this year's Tokyo International Film Festival where my film as well as other works from the Philippines are shown. The Tokyo International Film Festival is a great occasion for everyone as it showcases not only movies from the Philippines but variety of works from around the globe that are not available at everyday cinemas. I hope everyone will have a chance to appreciate these works.

The Japan Foundation Asia Center [www.jfac.jp](http://www.jfac.jp)

At the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting in December 2013, the Japanese Government announced a vision statement on a new policy for Cultural Exchanges in Asia – “WA Project ~Toward Interactive Asia~.” Serving to achieve two-way art/cultural exchanges and supporting Japanese language learners, the Japan Foundation launched a new department, the Asia Center in April 2014. The Asia Center carries out various projects to foster deeper, mutual understanding and further develop relationships between Japan and our fellow Asian countries.

Tokyo International Film Festival [www.tiff-jp.net](http://www.tiff-jp.net)

The Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) started in 1985 as Japan's first major film festival and the only Japanese film festival accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF). Since then, TIFF has grown to become one of the largest film festivals in Asia.

Every year in October, filmmakers and film fans of all ages gather in Tokyo to enjoy excellent films from around the world and TIFF's many colorful events. These include TIFF's multi-content market TIFFCOM, seminars for students, professionals, and business people, and symposiums and workshops for networking with the world film industries, developing international co-productions, and promoting the global film business.