

## Omnibus Film Production Project *Asian Three-Fold Mirror* 2016 Main Cast Announced



\*Please refer to pp.2-3 for each actor's profile

The Japan Foundation Asia Center and the Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) jointly launched the omnibus film co-production project *Asian Three-Fold Mirror* in 2014, to deepen interactions between neighboring countries within Asia, as well as enriching cultural understanding and providing chance for people to search identity and ways of life as individuals in Asia.

Three directors selected for its first implementation, Brillante Ma. Mendoza (Philippines), Isao Yukisada (Japan), and Sotho Kulikar (Cambodia), announced the synopses of their productions and their main cast. Having actors represent their own countries, the directors will portray life stories of people in Japan, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Malaysia under the theme "Live together in Asia."

The omnibus film will have its world premiere at the 29th edition of the Tokyo International Film Festival, held from October 25 to November 3, 2016, and will then hopefully be shown on the international film festivals.

All shootings will be completed by the end of April 2016, and then the three directors will work at Imagica South East Asia in Malaysia during post-production of their films.

### The Japan Foundation Asia Center x Tokyo International Film Festival Omnibus Film Co-production Project *Asian Three-Fold Mirror*

#### Theme: Living Together in Asia

Episode directed by **Brillante Ma. Mendoza** (Philippines)

Internationally acclaimed Filipino director Mendoza has been known for deftly portraying stories of ordinary Filipino men bravely and proudly overcoming extraordinary situations. For this project he plans to grapple with the issue of "loss of one's national identity" through an intimate portrayal of an illegal Filipino immigrant in Japan who returns to his homeland for the first time in decades after being deported. The main role is played by one of the most respected actors in the Philippines Lou Veloso, who also appeared in Hollywood films, including Tony Gilroy's *The Bourne Legacy* (2012).

Episode directed by **Isao Yukisada** (Japan)

Painting on a variety of canvases from coming of age dramas to mature love stories, Yukisada has depicted diverse characters and their interrelations. For this project, he sets the story in Malaysia, the land that was once invaded by the Japanese army but now where many Japanese retirees relocate to spend their remaining years. The story will revolve around a man who has relocated from Japan and his relation with a young Malaysian woman who has come to take care of him. Masahiko Tsugawa, who is a prominent actor in Japanese cinema, plays the main role, alongside Yasmin Ahmand's muse Sharifah Amani and Masatoshi Nagase.

Episode directed by **Sotho Kulikar** (Cambodia)

Sotho Kulikar's directorial debut *The Last Reel* was a glimpse into the history of Cambodian cinema that was almost entirely eradicated by the Khmer Rouge, but a film that yet managed to end on a hopeful note. This work will be her second directorial film. Set in two periods, the film threads a love story that begins in Cambodia against the backdrop of the nation's civil war and the Cambodia-Japan Friendship Bridge. The film starring Masaya Kato, who is active in not only cinema but also theater and TV drama, and Chumvan Sodhachiv, who currently appears in Amon Miyamoto's play *Terrace of Leper King*.

Actors' profiles

◆ Episode directed by **Brillante Ma. Mendoza**



**Lou Veloso** (Actor)

Lou Veloso is a Filipino actor, comedian, director and politician. He is known for his supporting roles in over 30 popular comedy films. In 2009, Veloso appeared in *Colorum* which earned him nominations for numerous awards and won for five other Best Actor awards including at FAMAS (The Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences Awards) and the Brussels International Independent Film Festival. Veloso also established a community theatre in Santa Ana, Manila where he teaches professionals, dropout students, and children who want to be actors. In 2010, Veloso received the Lou Salvador Sr. Memorial Award from FAMAS for his great career and astounding comedic prowess on screen and in 2012, he achieved even greater success when he appeared in the Hollywood film *The Bourne Legacy*. Veloso has worked with director Brillante Ma. Mendoza in *Kinatay* (2009) and Mendoza's latest feature film, *Trap* (2015).

**Comment:**

I am proud to participate in the *Asian Three-Fold Mirror Project*, and am especially happy to come to Japan, where the landscapes have beauty and discipline. It is my favorite country.

◆ Episode directed by **Isao Yukisada**



**Masahiko Tsugawa** (Japan)

Born in Kyoto in 1940. Tsugawa made his debut in 1956, starring in a Nikkatsu film *Crazed Fruit* directed by Ko Nakahira. He is known for his wide range portraying both leading men and villains, appearing in works including Kichitaro Negishi's *Hitohira no Yuki* (1985), Juzo Itami's *A Taxing Woman* (1987), Kaneto Shindo's *The Strange Tale of Oyuki* (1992), Kinji Fukasaku's *Crest of Betrayal* (1994), Shunya Ito's *Pride* (1998), and Momoko Ando's *0.5 mm* (2014).

**Comment:**

It's a wonderful script. I think it depicts a wonderful contrast between the way of the pigeon and the way of the old man. In the end, the old man entrusts the pigeon with everything. Whether the pigeon will meet the old man's expectations is for everyone to see.



**Masatoshi Nagase** (Japan)

Nagase is a Japanese actor and best known in the West for his roles in Jim Jarmusch's *Mystery Train* (1989) and Fridrik Thor Fridriksson's *Cold Fever* (1995). Nagase has also starred in films such as Sion Sono's *Suicide Club* (2001), Shinji Aoyama's *Mike Yokohama: A Forest with No Name* (2002), Yoji Yamada's *The Hidden Blade* (2004), and Naomi Kawase's *An* (2015).



**Sharifah Amani** (Malaysia)

Sharifah Amani is an award-winning Malaysian actress, director, and writer, and is best known as the late famed Malaysian film director Yasmin Ahmad's muse in *Sepet* (2004), *Gubra* (2006), *Mukhsin* (2006) and *Muallaf* (2007). Amani's film roles also include *Psiko: Thief of Hearts* (Dir: Namron), which won her third Best Actress award after *Gubra* and *Muallaf*; *Terbaik Dari Langit* (2009) and the yet to be released, *Pekak*. She has also starred in a Japanese film, *Redemption Night* (2013), directed by Takato Hosoi.

**Comment:**

To be part of this short film is such an honor for me. I love Japan and its rich culture. I have been blessed to be able to visit, work, and learn from some wonderful people there. The Japanese people have embraced Yasmin Ahmad films with much love and appreciation. For that I am eternally grateful. It was a pleasure to be part of *Redemption Night* and I can't wait to be part of Isao Yukisada's *Pigeon*. May our two countries continue to work together in the future.

◆ Episode directed by **Sotho Kulikar**



**Masaya Kato** (Japan)

Kato started his career as a model for fashion magazine *MEN'S NON-NO* and the Paris Collection. He has enjoyed a wide-ranging career appearing in numerous television programs, theater productions, and Japanese and international films including Takeshi Kitano's *Brother*(2000), Takashi Miike's *Agitator*(2002), Tung-Shing Yee's *Shinjuku Incident*(2009), Gordon Chan's *Okinawa Rendez-vous*(2000), and Christophe Gans' *Crying Freeman*(1996). The latest film he appears, Takashi Miike's *Terra Formars*, will be released in April 2016.

**Comment:**

I am very happy to have the opportunity to team up with a Cambodian filmmaker for the first time. I hope to bring a certain pathos and sadness to Sotho Kulikar's film as she brings her unique vision to a story about two lovers of different countries and tongues. Much like Fukuda, the protagonist in the film, I shall strive to build a bridge of friendship between the filmmaking communities of Japan, Cambodia, and Asia through this endeavor. I am already looking forward to working on set with our Cambodian crew.



Photo by Takahiro Watanabe

**Chumvan Sodhachivy** (Cambodia)

Sodhachivy began practicing Cambodian classical dance in 1994 focusing mainly on the male role of the all-female classical court form but is also proficient in Cambodian folk dance and shadow puppetry. She was accepted into Robert Wilson's Watermill Center 2006 International Summer Arts Program. Since then, Sodhachivy has participated in numerous contemporary dance workshops around the world and has been a featured dancer in works toured internationally. Sodhachivy has choreographed many of her own works and most recently was a featured dancer in Stravinsky's *Persephone* directed by Peter Sellars at the Teatro Real in Madrid.

**Comment:**

It is a great thrill and honor to have this opportunity to play in the international film. As a Cambodian classical and contemporary dancer, I feel this story is somewhat connected to my life, as we can see a piece of Khmer history that formed our today. I will be playing a strong Cambodian woman who is a genuine Khmer that knows the beauty of her own country and the significance art has in our world.

**Omnibus Film Production: *Asian Three-Fold Mirror***

The Asian Three-Fold Mirror is a series of collaborative filmmaking project between the Japan Foundation Asia Center and the Tokyo International Film Festival, bringing together three accomplished directors from Asian countries, including Japan. Just like a three-fold mirror, the omnibus films will reflect society and culture in today's Asia from three different angles, highlighting each director's unique vision.

**[Directors of *Asian Three-Fold Mirror 2016*]**

**Brillante Ma.Mendoza** (Philippines)

Brillante Ma. Mendoza, who founded an independent film production Center Stage Productions, won the Golden Leopard Award in the 2005 Locarno International Film Festival for his debut film *Masahista* [The Masseur]. He won the Caligari Film Award at the 2008 Berlin International Film Festival for *Tirador* [Slingshot] (2007) and the La Navicella Venezia Cinema Award at the 2012 Venice Film Festival with *Thy Womb*. He also won the Best Director Award at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival for *Kinatay*. His latest film *TAKLUB* [Trap] was selected for Un Certain Regard section of the 2015 Cannes Film Festival.

**Isao Yukisada** (Japan)

Isao Yukisada made his feature film directing debut with *Sunflower* (2000), which won the FIPRESCI Award at the 5th Busan International Film Festival. He also won numerous awards for *Go* (2001), including the Japan Academy Prize. He has cemented his status as a hit filmmaker with a box-office hit *Crying Out Love, in the Center of the World* (2004), *Year One in the North* (2005), *Closed Note* (2007), *Parade* (which won the FIPRESCI Award at the 60th Berlin International Film Festival; 2010), and other films. He made *Camellia* (2011) in collaboration with directors from Thailand and South Korea. His latest film *Pink and Gray* was released in January, 2016 and made a big hit.

### Sotho Kulikar (Cambodia)

Sotho Kulikar was born in 1973 and grew up during the Khmer Rouge regime and the long-running civil war. She worked as line producer for various films including *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* (2001). Through her production company Hanuman Films, she has produced many films and documentaries, including *Ruin* (which won the Special Orizzonti Jury Prize at the 2013 Venice Film Festival). She made her directorial debut with *The Last Reel*, which won the Spirit of Asia Award by the Japan Foundation Asia Center at the 27th Tokyo International Film Festival in 2014 and the Black Dragon Award at the 2015 Far East Film Festival.

### Co-produced by:

**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 affiliated media 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.

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