

## The First Reel: Philippine Film Festival in Berlin 2017 "Breaking Boundaries"

November 3 – 5, 8 – 12

Kino Movimiento (Kottbusser Damm 22, 10967 Berlin)

Screenings starts at 19 Uhr



Philippine  
Studies  
Series  
Berlin



A coming-of-age crime drama about a young girl and an endangered bird; an unlikely friendship between a man and his dog, and coming out gay; indigenous Manobos' struggles against environmental plunder and the militarization of their communities; a middle-aged woman's adventures with love and desire; young men in the throes of fraternity hazing violence that mirrors the fascism of martial law; and a documentary about Filipina migrant workers' beauty pageant to gleefully reclaim their dignity in the diaspora: these are just some of the stories that make up this year's The First Reel: Philippine Film Festival 2017. The festival brings together award-winning and critically acclaimed films and breakthrough performances from Philippine cinema to the Berlin audience.

Following its successful launch in 2015, the 2017 **The First Reel** is currently the only festival of Philippine films to be held in Berlin. It is a non-profit bi-annual festival that endeavours to not only provide an international platform for both established and independent Filipino filmmakers, but to also provide a space for dialogue on pertinent issues affecting Filipinos at home and abroad.

The festival will run for eight days (November 3 to 5, & 8 to 12) at the historic Kino Movimiento ([www.movimiento.de](http://www.movimiento.de)) in Kreuzberg, and will show seven feature-length films and a collection of short films. Each screening night will be followed by a discussion on a topic relevant to the film. The 2017 festival theme *Breaking Boundaries* is a nod to the myriad ways in which this year's films portray going beyond, challenging, confronting, and struggling against individual, economic, political, and societal boundaries. Thus, as the festival curator Trinka Lat notes, these are films on discovering one's self, asserting one's identity and rights, fighting for equality, struggling against oppression, and of reclaiming dignity.

**Festival schedule:** Screening begins at 19:00 and the Roundtable Discussions will take place at the cinema lounge after the screening. Please click the film title to view the trailer.

**November 3, Friday** – "Bwakaw" (2012), directed by Jun Lana

*Roundtable Discussion:* Queer experiences in the Philippines and Germany

**November, Saturday** – "Batch '81" (1982), directed by Mike De Leon

*Roundtable Discussion:* Drawing parallels: Martial law in the Philippines

**November 5, Sunday** – "Lorna" (2014), directed by Sigrid Andrea Bernardo

*Roundtable Discussion:* Aging and Desires

**November 8, Wednesday** – collection of Short Films by up-and-coming Filipino directors

*Roundtable Discussion:* 100 Years of Philippine cinema

**November 9, Thursday** – "Patintero: Ang Alamat ni Meng Patalo" (Patintero: The Legend of Meng Patalo) (2015), directed by Mihk Vergara "

*Roundtable Discussion:* Childhood Nostalgia

**November 10, Friday** – "Birdshot" (2016), directed by Mikhail Red

*Roundtable Discussion:* Our endangered planet: The state of the Philippine environment and the global climate change

**November 11, Saturday** – "Tu Pug Imatuy" (The Right to Kill) (2017), directed by Arnel Barbarona

*Roundtable Discussion:* Indigenous peoples' rights struggle: The case of Lumads

**November 12, Sunday** – "Sunday Beauty Queen" (2016), directed by Baby Ruth Villarama

*Roundtable Discussion:* Philippine migrants' desires and struggles

The First Reel is created and organised by the Philippine Studies Series Berlin, a platform founded by anthropologist Rosa Cordillera Castillo for lectures, discussions, and art and film events on the Philippines, Filipina/o/x, and the diaspora. The First Reel festival founder and organizer is visual and media anthropologist Lola Abrera and filmmaker Trinka Lat is curator. This year, the festival is being held in cooperation with Mauerpark Institute e.V., a Berlin-founded organization that combines independent, critical and emancipatory social research with concrete socio-political engagement.

*The First Reel: Philippine Film Festival in Berlin 2017 is supported by Umverteilen Stiftung für eine solidarische Welt and Philippinenbüro e.V., and assisted by the Philippine Embassy in Germany. Special thanks to the Asian Film Archive for the restored copy of Mike de Leon's film Batch '81. The screening of Tu Pug Imatuy and the roundtable discussion Indigenous peoples' rights struggle: The case of Lumads are held in partnership with Bildungswerk Berlin der Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung and made possible through funding from Stiftung Deutsche Klassenlotterie Berlin.*