

Adolfo ALIX, Jr.



Genre: Drama
Format: 35mm
Estimated Running Time: 90 min.

Budget:
US\$300,000
(HK\$2,320,000)

Producers:
Arleen CUEVAS

Writing Credits:
Adolfo ALIX, Jr.

Production Company:
Bicycle Pictures

HAF Goals:
Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents,
Pre-sales

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INTRODUCTION

Three intersecting lives - all connected by porn - one who works for porn, one who acts in porn and one who buys porn – showing that life is a series of criss-crossing lines that connect strangers to one another with a merciless geometry.

SYNOPSIS

THE LONELY DUBBER

Aleks, 22, works as a dubber for porn videos, which have been illegally shot in third class motels around Manila. To earn a living, he mimics the moans of the characters in the videos. Outside the dubbing studio he lives a lonely life in a small room in an old crowded house in the illegal DVD center of Quiapo. He is inexperienced, he's never been in love, he barely even knows what love is. But he has his eye on Lani, his landlady's daughter although she's barely aware of his existence.

One day, in a public toilet, Aleks reads the graffiti on the wall supposedly written by a woman, who scrawls that she wants love too and she even leaves her number. He takes it as a sign and begins trying to find this mysterious woman, desperate to meet her. Aleks becomes obsessed with this idea. Every day, he sets aside time to look for her. Aleks' search will take him on a journey that will test his emotional and sexual extremes.

THE WILLING VICTIM

Xander, 31, is making love to a prostitute in a third class motel. Unbeknownst to them, a camera is recording their tryst. A policeman opens the door and asks Xander to get going. They have to be back because their chief is waiting. Xander is a prisoner in a local city jail and every night he is illegally released to work for the chief of police. After his missions are carried out, he is brought back to his cell with some cash.

Now, the chief, Mentiroso, is angry because Xander's latest mission isn't as clean as it was supposed to be - there's an investigation regarding the near death of an archbishop who's the whistleblower in the jueteng (illegal numbers game) scandal. He orders his men to clean up the mess by eliminating Xander before everything blows up. Xander now struggles to survive a jailhouse hit.

THE WANDERER

Alessandra, 35, is a dancer in the prostitution district of Patpong, Thailand. She is a post-op transsexual who loves to collect porn videos. Lately, she's been feeling that having her full operation might have been the wrong decision. Now she wants to have a kid of her own but she doesn't know what to do.

One night she sees an 11-year old boy crying because he is lost. Alessandra promises to take the boy to the police although she's nervous because her stay in Thailand is illegal. As the two walk across a dark street, a group of

men suddenly start following them. The boy says that he needs help. His name is Phya and the men are part of a syndicate that Phya wants to escape from. Alessandra decides to help, and the two run.

The men catch them and they rob and beat Alessandra to a pulp. The boy gives a high five to one of the guys, saying, "The bitch fell for my act." One of the guys points a gun at Alessandra. Phya looks at Alessandra. Alessandra blankly stares back at the boy. Phya tells the man to spare her and they leave. Badly beaten, she takes a taxi. As they drive through the bright lights of Patpong, she quietly cries.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This topic might be deemed controversial but I want to deal with the dilemma that these characters are facing. It will feel like a documentary, following the lives of these very lonely and desperate characters. In order to survive, they have chosen to do what others might judge as immoral but I am interested in understanding their psyche.

In that sense, *Porno* will be structured in non-chronological fragments that form a fascinating puzzle. Scenes will not be linear. The movie unfolds as a series of nonlinear moments: the dubber voices a part of the sex scene starring the prisoner and the prostitute who are having sex in the cheap motel which becomes a porno DVD later watched by Alessandra.

This is a raw drama about love, guilt and redemption exploring the stories of these three principal characters. Their lives are simultaneously explored, shifting between the past and present, and pieced together by the unexpected ways in which they intersect - through porn.

DIRECTOR

Adolfo Borinaga ALIX, Jr. was born in Makati City, Philippines in 1978. He started as a scriptwriter for various films and television programs including Carlos Siguion-Reyna's *Yesterday Children* (1999), *Gil Portes' Small Voices* (2002) and *Homecoming* (2003). His first film, *Donsol*, was a finalist in the 2006 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival where it won the Best Actress and Best Cinematography awards. The film was also the Philippines' official submission to the Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film category. His third feature, *Drumbeat* (2007) was featured at the Rotterdam Film Festival. *Adela*, his latest feature, was screened at the Toronto, Pusan and Rotterdam Film Festivals. He is now in pre-production on his new movie *Freedomland*, a recipient of a

Hubert Bals grant from the Rotterdam Film Festival.

PRODUCER

Arleen CUEVAS is part of the new breed of independent filmmaker-producers in New Philippine Cinema. Born June 1980 in Manila, she worked her way up the ladder, starting as a production assistant/video editor at Industria Productions, then becoming a videographer for the United Nations Development Program in Manila for two years. She went on to produce music videos and commercials, and produced the film *Batanes*. Working closely with Filipino independent filmmakers like Raya MARTIN and Adolfo ALIX Jr. She co-produced MARTIN's first feature, *A Short Film* about the *Indio Nacional* and their latest project is *Independencia* which won several supporting grants. Her latest project is Raya MARTIN and Adolfo ALIX Jr.'s collaboration entitled *Manila*.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Bicycle Pictures was founded in 2006 by director Adolfo. ALIX, Jr. to produce his independent feature film projects. The company's first film project, *Donsol* (2006) was screened in various international film festivals and was the Philippines' official submission to the Academy Awards' Best Foreign Language Film category. Within two years, it has also produced acclaimed films like *The Goat*, *Drumbeat* and *Adela*. The company is now working on two projects: *MANILA*, a collaboration by Raya MARTIN and Adolfo ALIX, Jr. and *FREEDOMLAND*.