



Philippine premiere of 'The family that eats soil'

Khavn de la Cruz, festival director of .MOV International Digital Film Festival, president of Filmless Films, and spokesman of the Philippine digital revolution, will premiere his latest full-length film *Ang Pamilyang Kumakain ng Lupa (The family that eats soil)* at the UP Film Center, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, on January 21, 7 pm. The film, which clocks in at 75 minutes, has received a Palanca Award for Future Fiction and a Hubert Bals Fund grant, an award to independent and innovative filmmakers in developing countries. This February, it will be shown in the 34th Rotterdam International Film Festival, one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world, and the 28th Goteborg International Film Festival in Sweden, the biggest film festival in Scandinavia.

The family that eats soil, as shown by its ultraviolet treatment, critiques the brutalized Filipino psyche. Three times a day, a surreally dysfunctional family partakes of their usual feast: soil. The peaceful impression created by their routine is shattered by the nightmarish individual stories of the family members which serve as verses to the meal's chorus. The film seeks to paint a dystopian portrait, a phantasmagoric reversal of Filipino values. It is an allegory for people still walking and breathing under an unending nightmare. A fantastic farce on familial ties and the current Philippine situation, *The family that eats soil* is chockful of violence and non sequiturs, absurd situations and disturbing images.

Shoot Movies 2004, the new short films of Khavn, will be shown beforehand comprising of *Lata at Tsinelas* (Can and Slippers), *Small Ali* and *Mondomanila: Institute of Poets (Institusyong ng Makata)*.

Lata at Tsinelas will compete in Shoot Goals! Shoot Movies, the Football Short Film category of the 55th Berlin International Film Festival, and the Tiger Cub section of the 34th Rotterdam International Film Festival 2005. Khavn's two-minute short on Third World soccer will also be part of the Official Cultural Program of the 2006 Fifa World Cup in Germany.

Small Ali, a homage to Manny Pacquiao and Charlie Kaufman, will be shown in both Goteborg and Rotterdam filmfests.

Mondomanila: Institute of Poets, starring Marvin Agustin, was supposed to screen last year at Greenbelt during the Cinemanila International Film Festival, but was slapped with an X rating by the MTRCB due to extreme violence and graphic nudity, preventing its exhibition in commercial theaters. The UP Film Center, a censorship-exempt cinema, will host its Philippine premiere. *Mondomanila: Institute of Poets* was shown in the Third Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting as part of the Sixth Jakarta International Film Festival last December.

Other Shoot Movies short films by Khavn that will be shown in Rotterdam are *Greaseman* (starring Eric Quizon and Lou Veloso), *Pugot (Headless)*, *Barong Brothers* and *Amen*, the original *Mano Po*.

The family that eats soil and Shoot Movies are part of Rotterdam's special program Southeast Asian Eyes, curated by programmer and critic Gertjan Zuilhof. Khavn earns a place of his own in the international foreign legion of experimental extremists and cult filmmakers such as the Japanese Takashi Miike, the German Jörg Buttgereit, and the South African Aryan Kaganof/Ian Kerkhof, remarks Zuilhof.

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