

Philippine films at fore at 17th New York Asian Film Festival

Written by Philippine Consulate General - New York
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At the Talk Back following the screening of Buy Bust during the Closing Night on July 15, 2018 of the New York Asian Film Festival are Director Erik Matti (2nd from left) and cast of Buy Bust, Anne Curtis and Brandon Vera (2nd and 1st from right, respectively). Deputy Director of NYAFF Stephen Cremin facilitated the Talk Back.

Six Philippine films showcasing the immense talent of Filipino filmmakers and artists headlined the 17th New York Asian Film Festival (NYAFF) held at New York's Lincoln Center and the School of Visual Arts in New York from June 29 to July 15, 2018.

New York film enthusiasts and the Filipino-American community were on hand during the five nights that featured the Filipino films both to enjoy the movies and also to meet the filmmakers and artists who shared their unique vision with the public.

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The Philippine Consulate General New York, headed by Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville Tate, attended the screening the films.

This year, the Philippines has the largest line-up at the Festival since 2013.

The films shown included *We Will not Die Tonight* directed by Richard Somes; *Neomanila* directed by Mikhail Red; *On the Job* directed by Erik Matti; *Respeto* directed by Treb Monteras II; *Sid and Aya (Not a Love Story)* directed by Irene Emma Villamor and *Buy Bust* directed by Erik Matti.

The hip-hop film *Respeto* (2017) bagged the festival's Tiger Unleashed Award for Best Feature Film.

During the talk back which was attended by the whole cast, Corren Jimenez revealed that the film was shot and finished in only three months, but the storyline was conceived by rapper-director Treb Monteras seven years ago.

The film was also the first ever of hip-hop artist Abra.

Buy Bust, which stars Anne Curtis and Brandon Vera, was the festival's closing night feature and also the film's world premiere.

Director Erik Matti said the story was developed during the filming of *On the Job* and added that *Buy Bust* was two years in the making.

Stephen Cremin, Deputy Director of NYAFF, led the Talk Back of the featured Filipino films on July 14 and 15, 2018.

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Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville Tate (far right), together with Mrs. Marilou Cristobal (far left), spouse of Consul General Claro Cristobal with Buy Bust Cast during the Closing Night on July 15, 2018. Right photo: Consul Arman Talbo (center) during the screening of *Respeto* on July 14, 2018 with Director Treb Monteras (3rd from right). Also in photo are the members of local media and Filipino film enthusiasts.