

Republic of the Philippines

Department of Education

Region VII, Central Visayas

DIVISION OF CEBUPROVINCE

Sudlon, Lahug, CebuCity



January 6, 2018

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No.. 020 , s. 2018

**THE FILM BOSES AS AN ADVOCASY TOOL FOR CHILD RIGHTS AND
CHILD PROTECTION**

To: Assistant Superintendents
Education Supervisors/Coordinators
District Supervisors/OICs
Elementary and Secondary School Heads

1. For information and guidance of all concerned, attached is a letter from the **Marketing Officer of the Road Shows Unlimited, Mr. Brian Jason F. Miras**, inviting the students, administrators/school heads, teachers and DepEd personnel to watch the film "**Boses**" which will be shown in Cinemas and Gymnasiums. The film is about the importance of children to be cared for and protected from all forms of abuse and exploitation committed by irresponsible parents, citizens, guardians or adults in authority whom children trust and look up to.
2. The movie was endorsed by the **Executive Director** of Philippine Commission on Women, **Emmeline L. Verzosa**, Chairman of the Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), **Bishop Joel Z. Baylon** and Manila Archbishop **Cardinal Tagle**.
3. For details, refer to the attached communication.
4. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


RHEA MARIA ANGTUD, Ed. D., CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent

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January 3, 2018

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D5150804

DR. RHEA MAR A. ANGTUD, Ed.D., CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent
DepEd – Division of Cebu Province
Lahug, Cebu City

Dear Madam:

Road Shows Unlimited in cooperation with Erasto Films Production together with Origin8 Media Corp. present for special screenings of an advocacy film **"BOSES"**. The film is about friendship, compassion, the strength of the human spirit and the healing power of music. It is about communicating that only the deepest parts of our human soul can discern. It is equally important for children to be cared for and protected from all forms of abuse and exploitation sadly committed by irresponsible citizens, guardians, or adults in authority whom children trust and look up to. The movie also tackles social issues rampant nowadays - poverty, child abuse and responsible parenthood. Lead by the country's most popular stars *Ricky Davao, Meryll Soriano, Cherry Pie Picache, Coke Bolipata and Julian Duque.*



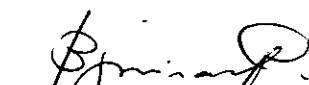
"Boses" is made through grants from **Cinemalaya**, the *National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA)*, the *Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP)*, *United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*, the *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)* and the *Council for the Welfare for Children (CWC)*. It has been made part of the campaign on **Child Rights** and **Children Against Violence** as an advocacy tool. It is also aligned with **DepEd Order No. 40, series of 2012** or the **Child Protection Policy**.

In this regard, we would like to invite your students to watch the film. The film will be shown in Cinemas & Gymnasiums. For bookings and inquiries, please text or call: Mr. Francis-09151447933 / (032)4213209.

Administrators, School Heads, Faculty/Teachers and DepEd personnel will be admitted for free, their ID's shall serve as their complimentary pass.

Please find herewith are reading materials, DepEd Memo and other film details.

Daghang Salamat!


Bryan Jason F. Miras
Marketing Officer
#0915-9661671



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON WOMEN
"National Machinery for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment"

ENDORSEMENT

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) is honored to endorse the film **BOSES** which was produced by the ERASTO Film Production (ERASTO). The film was one of the most-applauded films exhibited in the Cinemalaya film festival last 2008. It garnered numerous awards from different award-giving bodies. Also, the film enjoyed positive reviews from its screenings in various festivals abroad, and in different schools and community in the country.

It is a must-see film. The story revolves around a 7-year old battered child who could not speak because of the abuses he received from his father but was able to overcome it through music. **BOSES** echoes a call for the protection and promotion of children's rights. It examines how issues in the families and communities affect child's welfare and upbringing. It also thumbs through matters concerning women such as migration and girl child abuse.

PCW supports the advocacies being reflected in "**BOSES**" as the Commission believes that children's rights should be promoted, protected and fulfilled. No child, whether boy or girl, deserves discrimination and violence.

Through **BOSES** film showing, ERASTO intends to raise funds for the production of another film that will feature the life of Gregoria De Jesus (**LAKAMBINI: The Life and Times of Gregoria De Jesus**), who is dubbed as the Mother of Philippine Revolution. PCW is one with ERASTO in emphasizing the need to enlighten every Filipino on the life of Gregoria De Jesus as a Filipino heroine.

PCW is exerting all out support for its target exhibition on 2015 Women's Month Celebration as the Commission believes that it is high time to highlight the roles and contributions of women in the records of Philippine history through film.

Thus, we encourage you to watch and be moved by the message of healing which **BOSES** is able to convey making it a memorable film, at the same time help in the making of **LAKAMBINI**.

For the film showing details and arrangements, you may contact Gio Topue or Bel Blanca of ERASTO at 332-7485, 236-4347, 0916-635-2228 or email at info@erastofilms.com

Thank you very much and we hope you are with us in making this undertaking possible.

EMMELINE L. VERZOSA
Executive Director

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM



"The Film, as it has been used in various schools and communities in the Philippines, can be utilized as a powerful advocacy tool in the campaign for Children Against Violence."



DepEd ADVISORY No. **141**, s. 2013
In compliance with DepEd Order No. 39, s. 2009
this advisory is issued for the information of DepEd officials and personnel
visit DepEd website at www.deped.gov.ph
March 4, 2013

**THE FILM *BOSES* AS AN ADVOCACY TOOL FOR CHILD RIGHTS
AND CHILD PROTECTION**

The film *Boses* is a film made possible through grants from Cinemalaya, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the Film Development Council of the Philippines, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Council for the Welfare for Children (CWC). It has been made part of the campaign on Child Rights and Children Against Violence as an advocacy tool. It was hailed the Best Film, the Best Direction and the Best Screenplay by various awards-giving bodies in year 2008.

The film, as it has been used in various schools and communities in the Philippines, can be utilized as a powerful advocacy tool in the campaign for Children Against Violence.

Participation of both public and private schools shall be subject to the no-disruption-of-classes policy as stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 entitled *Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith*.

More information may be inquired from:

Ms. Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil
Boses Film Director-Producer
Telephone No. (02) 552 7421
Mobile Phone No. (0927) 210-6357
Email Address: emmarfil@deped.gov.ph

DepEd
The Power of Learning

DepEd ADVISORY No. **141**, s. 2013
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More information may be inquired from:

Ms. Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil
Boses Film Director-Producer



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

EPISCOPAL COMMISSION ON YOUTH

*I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way.
Show them all the beauty they possess inside. Give them a sense of pride to make it easier.
Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be...
(from the song, "The Greatest Love of All")*

These lines communicate how children must be seen and valued. But reality shows us that it is otherwise for a great number of children. Their being young, weak and helpless places them in a disadvantaged position: sometimes unheard, even taken advantage of.

As such, one of our society's paramount concerns must be the protection of our young and the healing of families, undertaken by the community as a shared responsibility. Lending focus and inspiration on this is the film "BOSES". Slated for screening in SM Cinemas starting this 31 July 2013, "BOSES" is a film about child protection and family transformation.

A poignant tale of a boy made mute as a result of his unbearable experiences meets his emotionally damaged mentor in a refuge. Through the redemptive power of music, they find their voice.

"BOSES" is the collaborative work of acclaimed artists: director *Ellen Ongkeko-Maafil*, scriptwriters *Froi Medina* and *Rody Vera*, cinematographer *Nap Jamir*, music director *Coke Bolipata* with score from *Jourdann Petalver*. It stars Bolipata himself, renowned violinist and educator, along with child prodigy *Julian Duque* and with support from artists *Cherry Pie Picache*, *Meryll Soriano* and *Ricky Davao*. Erasto Films produced the film thru grants from Cinemalaya, Unicef, DSWD, CWC NCCA and FDCP in cooperation with Casa San Miguel and equity sharing with its cast and creative staff.

We believe that by helping films like "BOSES" gain traction in mainstream cinema, we are starting a trend towards positive, educational, independent films into mainstream. It is our hope that through the film's success, more production outfits will be encouraged to make movies that truly uplift and create awareness in the wider community about conditions that call our attention, discernment and collaboration.

The CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Youth enjoins all the young along with their families, and those who work among the young: those in education, our lawmakers, law enforcers, those in media, guidance counselors, social workers, church workers and those involved in family ministries to watch and support "BOSES".



+ JOEL Z. BAYLON

Bishop of Legazpi

Chairman of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Youth

Boses: Movie Review



Ang Buod:

The trailer explained the entire premise. Onyok (played by Julian Duque) is an abused kid. His father, Marcelo (Ricky Davao), decided to unleash all his rage against Onyok's mother towards him. Kaya ayun, quoting one of the shelter kids, "parang ashtray ang likod niya."

With the help of a neighbor, Onyok was rescued by the police and brought to a shelter managed by Amanda (Cherry Pie Picache). Dito magsisimulang magbago ang buhay ni Onyok.

Dahil di nakakapagsalita, hindi madali para kay Onyok ang mag-adjust sa buhay sa shelter. The transition was made easier when he found a friend in Shirley (Tala Santiago), one of the other kids. Kung si Onyok ay di nakakapagsalita, si Shirley naman ay kayang magsalita ng sapat para sa dalawang tao.

Kapatid ni Amanda si Ariel (Coke Bolipata). Pero dahil sa isang trahedya sa buhay nito ay pinili niyang iwanan ang successful na karera bilang premiyadon biyolinista at mamuhay mag-isa sa kubo niya malapit sa shelter.

A series of events led to Ariel's discovery that Onyok is a music genius. So, he decided to mentor the kid. Complications arise dahil sa pagbalik ni Marcelo sa eksena. Dahil nakalaya na ito, gusto niyang bawiin si Onyok sa shelter. The story moves along as Marcelo struggles with impatience, Onyok struggles to forgive, and Ariel struggles with moving on.

Ang Maganda:

1. **The music.** The violin is not an easy instrument to learn, much less to master. Ang makita at mapanood si Ariel at si Onyok na tumugtog ay sapat nang motivation to see the movie. Affirmation sila that Filipinos are really gifted. With him being just a tiny kid, Onyok was very remarkable. Ibang klase. I'm not talking about August Rush cut-away scenes kung saan obvious na hindi na yung bata ang tumutugtog. Dahil nga indie ang pelikulang ito, the shots are raw and wide. Di pwedeng pekein.

2. **The theme.** Ang tema ng pelikulang ito ay di madali. Hindi madaling pag-usapan, hindi rin madaling isapelikula. I loved how bold it was in showing the violence without it being overly violent to the point na ito desensitizes the audience. I loved how the neighbor was key to Onyok's rescue. Dahil ganoon naman talaga ang kadalasan (at kailangang) mangyari. I bet kung mapapanood to ng kahit na sinong may kapitbahay na nambubugbog ng anak e it will motivate them to report the abuse. This strikes up a conversation. It opens doors. It gave a name and a face to the victims.

3. **The actors.** I will not go into detail sa kung gaano kahusay ang marami sa kanila. I mean, they have Cherry Pie and Ricky Davao! What do you expect, di ba? Pero I'll take time to commend Julian. The kid is real. To think na wala siya ni isang dialogue sa pelikula pero naipahiwatig niya ang tamang mga emosyon sa mga sitwasyon ay talagang kamangha-mangha. There was enough emotion in his eyes that he didn't even have to open his mouth. Unang eksena palang, pumatak na ang luha ko.

4. **The shots.** Now, hindi ako fan ng shaky cam na trademark ng Indie films. Una, dahil malabo ang mata ko at nahihilo ako pag may ganitong shots. Pangalawa, dahil most of those shots, I found unnecessary. Pero I like most of the framing sa pelikulang ito. That first scene was just... *sigh* You have to see it. I knew something was up when the perspective was kind of funny, pero it still blew me away when it was revealed kung bakit. Yun nga lang, yung eksena sa beach kung saan we had almost 2 minutes (which felt like forever) ng shaky cam shots ay masyadong matagal para sa akin. I had to look away.



"I think it's significant to note that the movie is titled 'Boses,' but Onyok, its main character, doesn't say a single word in the movie," Bolipata said.

"Music was able to reach Onyok and Ariel. A nonverbal kind of healing," he said.

Music is also central to the enjoyment of the film. Viewers will find themselves carried away by pianist Jourdann Petalver's score. Under Bolipata's musical direction, familiar pieces like "Ang Pipit," "Ugoy ng Duyan," and Vivaldi's "Spring Concerto" were woven into the story together with Petalver's soulful original compositions.

"On a personal level, the film also opens up a way for me to deconstruct my own process as a performer," Bolipata said.

"In music, the connection to your emotions is not as direct as acting. In music, it's more abstract, more sublimated through movement, though vibrato," he said, adding that the experience has added depth to how he connected with his audience. "You become more aware on the stage."

Poor kids' house

The film was shot in and around the main house of Creative Alternatives for Social Action (Casa) San Miguel in Zambales.

Established by Bolipata, Casa San Miguel is a foundation that brings music and the arts to underprivileged children. Many of the students at Casa San Miguel come from farming and fishing families. "Children need to be able to express themselves—and sometimes, their vocabulary is not enough to effectively communicate their emotions. This is where the arts come in," Bolipata said.

Directed by Marfil and written by Froilan Medina and Rody Vera with cinematography by Nap Jamir, "Boses" also stars veterans Meryll Soriano, Cherry Pie Picache, and Ricky Davao.

Duque said Bolipata's participation in the film bolstered his confidence. "I was very young when the film was shot. But Sir Coke was there, I was not afraid," he said.

Duque, now a scholar for music at De La Salle Zobel School, was only 7 years old when he did "Boses." He said the experience whetted his appetite for acting.

"If I'd become an actor. I want to be like Ricky Davao," he said in an interview during a recent cast reunion.

For Davao, who plays Marcelo, Onyok's father, that's "flattery." He said Duque acted so well and with so much heart. He added, in jest, that at some points the boy might have upstaged him.

Resonant themes

"Boses" pushes the issue of child abuse without being vulgar or too visual. The sensitive treatment of the subject has given the film an A rating from the Cinema Evaluation Board and a following from different sectors as well.

The film has enjoyed a groundswell of support, from child-focused organizations, religious groups to government agencies, mainly because of the hopeful theme that shines through despite the bleak situation portrayed in the film.

Recently, "Boses" was presented to the members of the Vienna International Centre (VIC) Club Filipino, an organization put up by Filipinos working at the United Nations in Vienna, youth leaders from Ang Mananampalatayang Gumagawa (AMG), and to teachers invited by Ortigas Library Foundation.

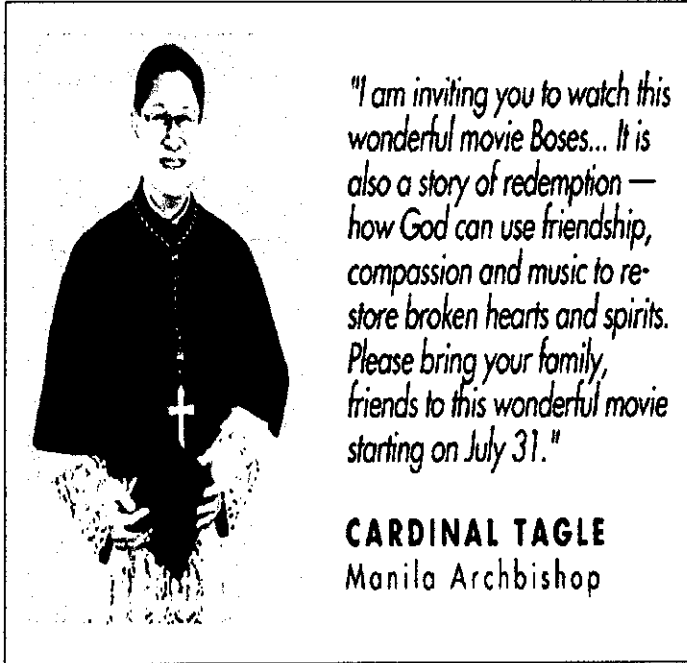
The film has garnered endorsements from the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education and the CBCP's Episcopal Commission on Youth. It was also included in a seven-film series for officers and employees of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) who may later be posted overseas. The screenings were sponsored by the Cultural Diplomacy Unit of the DFA.

"We're thankful for all the support we are getting. It's unlikely that an indie film gets to be released commercially so long after it was first put out there," Marfil said.

"I have seen the film connect with all kinds of audiences: young and old, rich and poor, from Tondo to New York—they shout, cheer and cry. I draw my strength and confidence from these reactions," she said.—With a report from Tish Martinez, Contributor

Piling Pelikula Pili Ka Na!

Cardinal Tagle endorses 'Boses' as story of redemption



"I am inviting you to watch this wonderful movie Boses... It is also a story of redemption — how God can use friendship, compassion and music to restore broken hearts and spirits. Please bring your family, friends to this wonderful movie starting on July 31."

CARDINAL TAGLE
Manila Archbishop

MANILA, Philippines—Is the archbishop of Manila now a publicist for indie films?

But "It's a wonderful movie."

That's how Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle finds the independent film "Boses" and, according to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), he is endorsing it to the followers of the Church.

CBCP News, the CBCP's official news service, said on Wednesday that Tagle was urging Catholics to see Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's 95-minute movie that became one of the best films in the Cinemalaya festival of indies.

"It is not only reflective of some of the important concerns we are facing in families, especially the plight of the children, it is also a story of redemption, how God can use friendship, compassion and music to restore broken hearts and spirits," CBCP News quoted Tagle as saying.

The film, starring Julliard-trained violinist Afonso "Coke" Bolipata and child actor Julian Duque, is about the friendship born out of the love for music between a battered child and a reclusive violinist.

First shown in the fourth Cinemalaya and screened in local and international film festivals, "Boses" ("The Voice") is set for commercial release through SM Cinemas across the country on July 31.

"It is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the human will," Tagle said.

"I am inviting you to watch it ... please bring your families and friends to this wonderful movie," he added.

Also for students

Aside from Tagle, Fr. Gregg Banaga, the head of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), also endorsed the film to students.

In a memo to CEAP member schools, Banaga pointed out that the movie tries to deal with the problem of child abuse suffered silently by many Filipino children.

"The educational aspect of the movie, which can be used as an instructional tool for students from upper grades to college, prompted [us] to support it wholeheartedly," said Banaga, whose statement is posted on the CEAP website.

"Watch this movie. It may be used as [teaching tool] in Christian living, makabayan (civics) and other related subjects," he added.

"Boses" garnered six Golden Screen awards, including best director, breakthrough performance by Duque, best original screenplay, best musical score and best motion picture for drama. It won a movie child award of the year for Duque's performance at the Star Awards for Movies.

Music's healing power

In the film, Duque plays the role of Onyok, a young boy who forms an unlikely friendship with reclusive musician Ariel (Bolipata). Made mute by unbearable experiences with his own father, Onyok is brought to a children's shelter where he suffers another form of bullying until a plucky girl, Shirley, becomes his protector. An encounter with the shelter's "mad man," violinist Ariel, changes the course of Onyok's life.

Guilt-ridden and traumatized over a girlfriend's death, Ariel initially terrorizes Onyok until he discovers the boy's gift.

Such a plot may seem to demand too much acting from first-time performers Bolipata and Duque, but viewers who know them are in for a surprise, as both perform like pros, they can immediately get hooked into the reel characters.

cont....

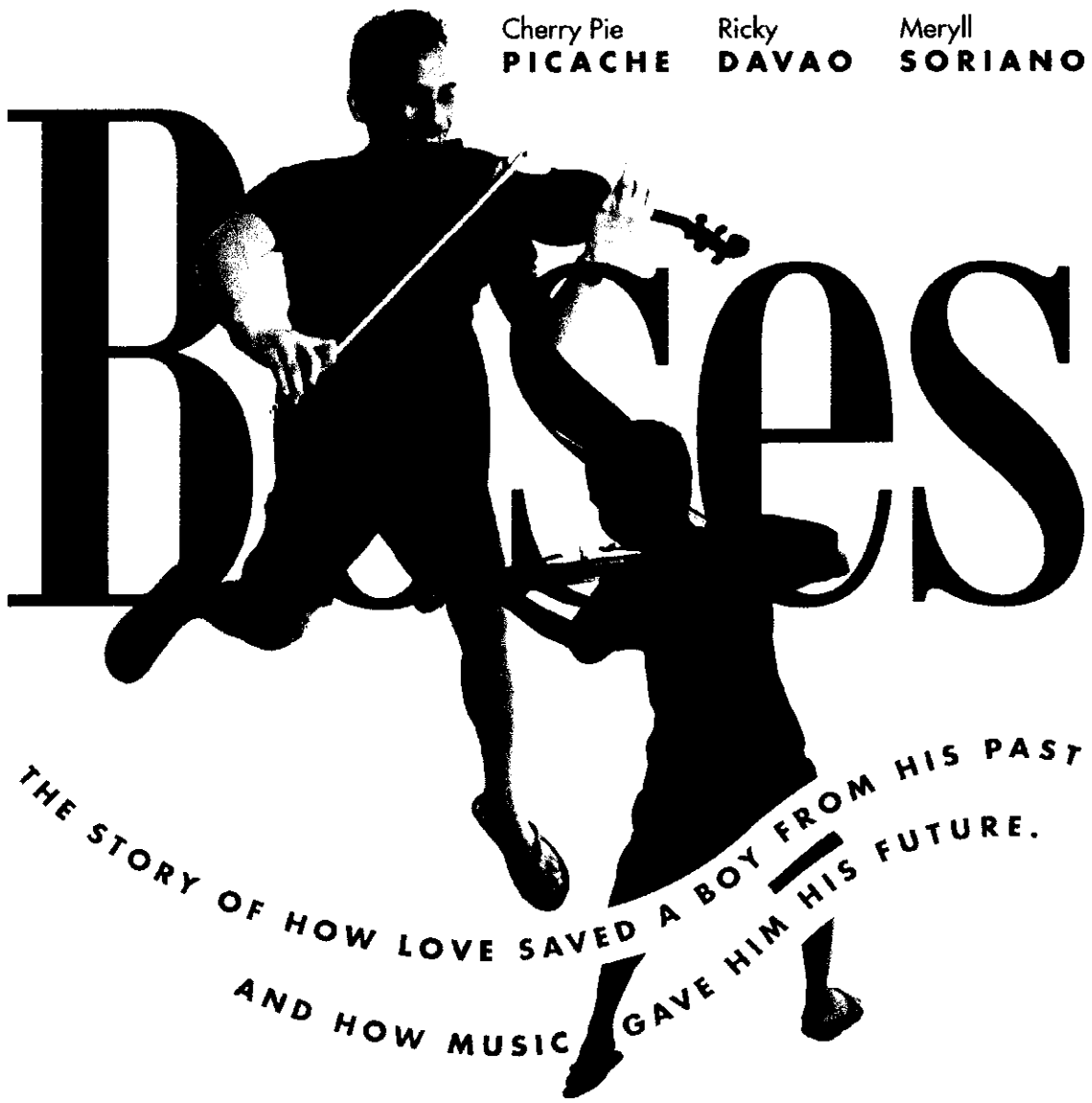


"One of the best films I have seen na nasa puso ko pa hanggang ngayon." —BOY ABUNDA

Cherry Pie
PICACHE

Ricky
DAVAO

Meryll
SORIANO



THE STORY OF HOW LOVE SAVED A BOY FROM HIS PAST
AND HOW MUSIC GAVE HIM HIS FUTURE.

INTRODUCING **Coke Bolipata** AND **Julian Duque**

Directed by Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil

An Erava Films Production in cooperation with UNICEF, Casa San Miguel, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Council for the Welfare of Children, National Commission on Culture and the Arts, Film Development Council of the Philippines

Consultant for Screenwriting: ARMANDO LAO, Consultant for Child Psychology: PEACHY FERNANDO, Sound Supervision: ALLAN MARCELO NILADO, Editor and Sound Design: OREAN TAN, Colorist: JOHN TAN, Production Design: BIANCA GONZALES, Musical Score: JOURDANN O. PETALVER, Musical Direction: COKE BOLIPATA, Director of Photography: NAP JAMIR, Co-Director and Technical Supervisor: MILO ALTO-PAZ, Supervising Producer: CYNTHIA PAZ, Executive Producers: MARTIN P. MARFIL & ELLEN ONGKEKO-MARFIL, Screenplay: FROILAN MEDINA and RODY VERA, Director: ELLEN ONGKEKO-MARFIL

Based on Froilan Medina's "Inig sa D'Am, 2nd prize winner at the Cinemawala 2007 screenwriting competition.

facebook.com/BosesTheMovie