

# **NONO** by Rommel Tolentino

115minutes Color/Black&White

In Competition 7<sup>th</sup> Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival

In Exhibition, 16<sup>th</sup> Busan International Film Festival

In Competition, 62<sup>nd</sup> Berlin International Film Festival, Generation K-plus Section

Winner, Special Jury Prize, 9<sup>th</sup> SKIPCITY International D-Cinema Film Festival

## **Short Synopsis**

*Toto, a very outspoken, highly opinionated eight-year-old born with a cleft lip and an open palate, sets off to join his school's Creative Declamation Competition – a contest of narrative drama and eloquence set on the very high-profiled Philippines' National Language Week celebration. Speech impediment or not, Toto, armed with iron-clad determination and a desire to be treated like everyone else - no more, no less, takes on the challenge with the help of his lovelorn mother Glenda, an emotional bully [Badong] and a stray, deaf boy [Ogoy] from his neighborhood.*

## **Long Synopsis**

TOTO was born with a cleft lip and an open palate and is teased as Ngongo - a local term used to call anyone with his type of speech impediment. But despite this, the eight-year-old boy is very outspoken and opinionated.

Oblivious to the attention his speech gets, Toto juggles his days criticizing his mother's transient love life and providing moral support to her ailing aspiration to become a *Japayuki* -- a female entertainer in Japan.

The boy must also, on a day-to-day basis, try to elude the neighborhood bully, BADONG, and help a chronic stray, deaf boy [ OGOY ] find his way home.

There's also this struggle with his class adviser, MISS DIMACULANGAN, who fully believes that the boy needs to be protected by merit of his facial & verbal malformation which resulted to the boy being excluded from his class' song – a form of segregation Toto didn't take sitting down.

This conflict is further aggravated when the boy jumps on the prospect of competing on his school's Creative Declamation competition - a contest of narrative drama and eloquence set on the very high-profiled *Linggo ng Wika* [ National Language Week ] celebration.

While Ms. Dimaculangan convinces herself that this new development poses a a

big problem, Toto's mother sees this as an opportunity for her son to shine.

With the help of his mother's new fling, Dindo, & her Japayuki friends, plus the support of the boy's newfound friends - a stray boy & a bully, Toto does manage to shine, quite brilliantly, in more ways than one.

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

TOTO

Axl Aeiou Samson

BADONG

Russel Abulad

OGOY

Allen Dimaunahan

GLEENDA

Ian Galliguez

MS. DIMACULANGAN

Sigrid Andrea Bernardo

RUBY

Xyris Beatingo

DINDO

Joemar Sustento

LOLA BESTRA

Alejandra Gloriano

ISING

Arcele Fernez

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

ROMMEL TOLENTINO

Writer

Director  
Producer  
Editor  
Cinematographer  
Production Designer

TOTI REYES  
Line Producer

DIWA DE LEON  
Musical Scorer

EIREENA MARIE LOS BAÑOS  
Production Manager

EMMANUEL EVAN ALBA  
Assistant Director

CLYDEE TAMAYO  
Soundman  
Wardrobe Master  
3<sup>rd</sup> Cameraman

DUSTIN GAPASEN  
Technical Assistant  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cameraman

MARK FRANCIS JESALVA  
Assistant Production Designer  
Prop Master  
Photographer

## FILMMAKER'S BIO:

ROMMEL TOLENTINO *AKA MILO*, is a visual artist who excels in fine-art and commercial photography, graphic design and filmmaking. He is a Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival multi-awardee, and the creative mind behind the short feature film **ANDONG** which won in the Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival in 2009, and took the SONJE Award in the Pusan International Film Festival in South Korea in 2008.

He is a recipient of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Award in 2008 [ through the Cinemanila International Film Festival ], a Kidlat Tahimik's Bamboo Camera Award in 2009, and a Special Citation from the National Council For Children's Television and the Philippines' Department of Education in 2010 for his contribution in creating child-friendly and child-focused films.

He took up Communication Arts at the UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS and later took film classes at the UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES FILM INSTITUTE, DILIMAN. He made his first film in 2004 and hasn't stopped ever since. He directs, writes, photographs, edits, designs, and produces most of his films.

NONO is based on his 2009 Busan International Film Festival – Asian Cinema Fund, Script Development Grant screenplay. This is his second feature film.

## FILMMOGRAPHY

### **NINO BONITO** 16MINS 2010

BEST DIRECTION

CINEMALAYA PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2011

BEST DIRECTION, BEST SHORT FILM

CINEPAMBATA FILM FESTIVAL 2011

### **"P"** 20MINS 2010

BEST DIRECTION, SPECIAL JURY PRIZE AWARD,

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD, BEST FILM FOR CHILDREN

CINEMALAYA PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2010

OFFICIAL SELECTION, WIDE ANGLE SECTION

15<sup>TH</sup> PUSAN INTERNATIONAL; FILM FESTIVAL 2010

OFFICIAL SELECTION

JOGJA-NETPAC ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL (JAFF ) 2010

### **SI BANING, SI MAYMAY AT ANG ASONG SI BOBO**

100MINS CINEMA ONE ORIGINALS 2009

WINNER

BEST ACTRESS : MISS RIO LOCSIN

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR : JAN HARLEY HICANA

CINEMA ONE ORIGINALS 2009

### **BLOGOG** 17MINS 2009

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE AWARD

CINEMALAYA PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2009

OFFICIAL SELECTION

14<sup>TH</sup> PUSAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2009

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
NEIL GEIMAN GRAPHIC FICTION AWARDS 2010

**LAN-AY : CANDLES BURNING ON STILL WATER** 17MINS 2008

RECIPIENT  
UNITED NATION MDG'S AWARD FOR SHORT FILM 2008  
CINEMANILA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2008

**ANDONG** 20MINS 2008

BEST DIRECTION, BEST SHORT FILM, BEST SCREENPLAY  
CINEPAMBATA FILM FESTIVAL 2010  
WINNER, BEST SHORT FILM  
GAWAD URIAN 2009  
WINNER, BEST SHORT FILM & BEST SCREENPLAY  
CINEMALAYA PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2008  
SONJE AWARD, BEST SHORT FILM  
13<sup>TH</sup> PUSAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2008  
AUDIENCE AWARD & PRESS PRIZE AWARD  
CLERMONT FERRAND INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2009  
OFFICIAL SELECTION  
35<sup>TH</sup> SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM 2009  
ARTFILMFEST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2009, SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
INDIELISBOA INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2009,  
PORTUGAL  
WORLD COMEDY FILM FESTIVAL, BANGKOK, THAILAND  
SAN SEBASTIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL 2009

**SI PEPE AT ANG MGA BULAKLAK**

THE BOY WHO LOVES FLOWERS 05MINS 2007

**SA KANLUNGAN NG IMPIYERNO**

ON HELLS CRADLE 35MINS 2007  
IN EXHIBITION  
CINEMANILA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2007

**BUOG/SLEEP** 30MINS 2007

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
CINEMANILA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2006

**ORASYON**/ANGELUS 30MINS 2006

WINNER, BEST SHORT FILM  
CINEMALAYA PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2006  
NOMINEE, BEST SHORT FILM  
GAWAD URIAN 2007

'**APAK**/BAREFEET 05MINS 2006

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE

CHINH INDIA KIDS FILM FESTIVAL 2009

SPECIAL MENTION

SEDICICORTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FORLI, ITALY 2007

IN EXHIBITION

CINEMANILA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2006

BEST SHORTFILM MADE FOR/ABOUT CHILDREN

20<sup>TH</sup> GAWAD CCP FOR FILM & VIDEO, 2008

**ALIMUOM** 23MINS 2005

OFFICIAL SELECTION

CINEMALAYA PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2005