

Technical Information

Title: Ria
Director: Arvin Belarmino
Screenplay: Arvin Belarmino & Kyla Romero
Nationality: Philippines
Genre: Drama
Duration: 100 min
Shooting location: Philippines

Production: Clayshop Inc. (clayshopinc.com)
Producers:
Kristine de Leon (kristinejadeleon@gmail.com)
August Espino (augustlye828@gmail.com)
Alemberg Ang (alem@daluyong.ph)
Partner:
Film Development Council of the Philippines

Director's Information

Arvin Belarmino was born in the province of Masbate, Philippines in 1987 and raised in Cavite and Manila City, where his passion for cinema started young. His fascination with Filipino films led him to pursue filmmaking himself – and without a formal film degree, Arvin managed to create several experimental and narrative short films which garnered both local and international critical acclaim.

In 2017, his short film ***Nakaw (Steal)*** won the Best Fiction Film award at the 3rd Minikino Film Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In 2020, his most recent short film, ***Tarang (Life's Pedal)*** was awarded the Berlin-Brandenburg Short Award for Best Film at the 36th Interfilm Berlin Short Film Festival.

He is working on his feature ***Ria***, which was part of the Seapitch (Southeast Asian Project Pitch) Program and Talents Tokyo 2021, and is being developed for the 2022 Festival de Cannes La Résidence.

Ria

a film by Arvin Belarmino



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
LA RÉSIDENCE

Arvin Belarmino

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

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Synopsis

Ria is a 22-year-old musician who grew up at Vachel's Cave, a punk commune. Surrounded by hunger and oppression, Ria takes part in mutual aid events where she plays along with a folk-punk band. To help solve the struggles of the commune, she works as a hotel housekeeper in the day and porn shoot assistant at night – providing for the family she knows while making ends meet for herself. Soon, the surrounding violence closes in on Vachel's Cave. Ria obliges herself to harder labor and is forced to become a porn actress just to survive. Before long, the community comes to ruin as they fall victim to senseless killings. As Ria nurses grief, regret, and anger, she starts to use her music against the social injustices around her.

Statement of Intent

The punk scene has been alive in the Philippines since the late 1970s. It is a radical response to the country's inequities that persists to this very day. As a Filipina punk woman, Ria lives a life of resistance against a violent system that pushes the underprivileged down to the brink of survival. While pursuing her art, she works as a cleaning lady, a porn assistant – and soon, a porn actress – just to provide for her foster mother's medical needs. My friend, Pong, who started this story with me, also fell victim to the failed medical system, which led to his death. It is a life that many Filipinos are familiar with, an experience that drives anyone towards defiance.

Anyone can resist violence. Anyone can be a punk.

Synopsis

Ria est une musicienne de 22 ans qui a grandi à Vachel's Cave, une commune punk. Entourée par la famine et l'oppression, Ria participe à des événements d'entraide où elle joue avec un groupe folk-punk. Pour aider à résoudre les problèmes de la commune, elle travaille comme femme de ménage dans un hôtel le jour et comme assistante de tournage de films porno la nuit – subvenant aux besoins de la famille tout en se débrouillant pour elle-même. Bientôt, la violence ambiante se rapproche de Vachel's cave. Ria s'astreint à un travail plus dur et finit par devenir actrice porno juste pour survivre. En peu de temps, la communauté tombe en ruine, victime de meurtres insensés. Alors que Ria surmonte son chagrin, ses regrets et sa colère, elle utilise sa musique pour lutter contre les injustices sociales qui l'entourent.

Note d'intention

La scène punk existe aux Philippines depuis la fin des années 70. Il s'agit d'une réponse radicale aux inégalités du pays qui persistent encore aujourd'hui. En tant que femme punk philippine, Ria mène une vie de résistance contre un système violent qui pousse les défavorisés à la limite de la survie. Tout en poursuivant son art, elle travaille comme femme de ménage, assistante porno – et bientôt, actrice porno – juste pour subvenir aux besoins médicaux de sa mère adoptive. Mon ami Pong, qui a commencé cette histoire avec moi, a également été victime de l'échec du système médical, ce qui a conduit à sa mort. C'est une vie que beaucoup de Philippins connaissent, une expérience qui pousse tout le monde à la défiance.

Tout le monde peut résister à la violence. Tout le monde peut être un voyou.