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## Three simple truths that “My Brother Simple” reminds all of us

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### **Warning: May contain spoilers.**

After the successful launch of the first-ever German Film Week last year, **Goethe-Institut Philippinen** once again presents a diverse roster of contemporary German films to the Philippine audience this **2017 German Film Week**.

German Film Week 2017 - Philippines - Trailer



Last  
with  
directed by **Markus Goller**.

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(<http://pop.inquirer.net/files/2017/09/German-Film-Week-2017.jpg>)

The film follows the story of two brothers, Ben and Barnabas, who found themselves in an adventure as they search for their father whom they haven't seen for 15 years. But Barnabas, who is often referred to as **Simple**, is no ordinary person. He is a 22 years old mentally challenged guy that has the mind of a three-year-old.

As the film expounds on the relationship of the two brothers, the viewers are reminded of these three simple truths in life:

**1. You need to take care of yourself too.**



(<http://pop.inquirer.net/files/2017/09/My-Brother-Simple-German-Film-Week-2017-3.png>)

Screenshot from YouTube

Ben has been taking care of his brother for the longest time and he didn't realize that since all his attention was on his brother, he didn't get to have a life of his own. People keep pointing this out to him — particularly his father.

When he reconnected with his father to seek help, his father was willing to take him in and lend him money until he's able to establish himself. But the only draw back was that he can't bring his brother along.

This posited a complication for Ben since he couldn't and wouldn't want to part with Simpel.



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## 2. Sometimes the best solution is to just let go.

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(<http://pop.inquirer.net/files/2017/09/My-Brother-Simple-German-Film-Week-2017-2.png>)

Screenshot from YouTube

The dilemma of the whole film was when Ben wasn't granted legal guardianship over Simpel after their mother passed away. It means that Simpel needs to be sent to a care home. Despite Ben's attempt to appeal for reconsideration, it was still rejected. But Ben doesn't want to part with Simpel so they ran away to search for their father who may help them out.

It is understandable that Ben is skeptical about sending his brother to a facility. But what he has forgotten was that his brother needs round-the-clock attention. If left alone, he can either hurt himself or cause a disaster.

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(<http://pop.inquirer.net/files/2017/09/My-Brother-Simple-German-Film-Week-2017.jpg>)

Screenshot from YouTube

It is normal that Ben and Simpel will turn to each other after their mom passed away suddenly. But since Simpel has special needs, it was obvious that Ben cannot do it alone. With no money, he had to ask strangers to take care of his brother while he finds their father. And he even had to steal from groceries in order to have something to eat.

Clearly, Ben failed to recognize his limitations. Aria, one of the strangers who helped them, had to point that out to Ben several times. In the end, Ben realized the things he can't do for Simpel and started doing something about it.

All of us have limitations. It takes courage to admit it and ask help from others. But it is also wise to recognize it right away.

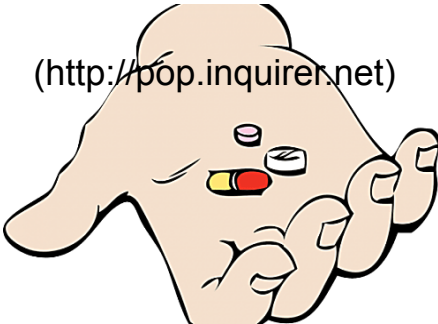
Ben and Simpel's relentless love for each other in My Brother Simple will always remind all of us of the value of brotherhood and taking care of each other unconditionally.

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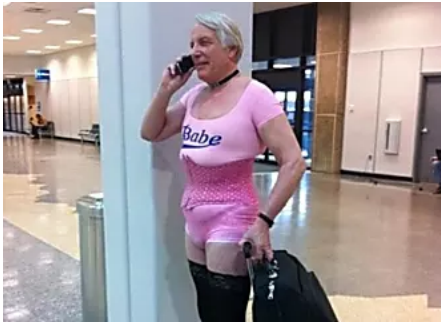
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