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11th International Silent Film Festival Manila

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The much awaited yearly International Silent Film Festival Manila (ISFFM) is back! Hold on tight as ISFFM promises to bring more Manila film buffs and music aficionados an extraordinary experience. Established in 2007 as the very first of its kind in Asia, ISFFM enchants everyone by the magic of watching soundless images on the screen accompanied by live music played by different performing artists.



This year, the Philippine-Italian Association, the Japan Foundation Manila, Goethe-Institut Philippinen, the Embassies of the United States in America, France, and Austria. The film festival will begin on August 31st and end on September 3rd at the Shang Complex, Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City.

The 2017 ISSFM brings together the best of silent cinema from its nine member-countries, to be accompanied by the best Filipino musicians in the scene and a French-Vietnamese guest artist.

Instituto Cervantes will start the festival at 8 pm with the classic action-comedy *El Golfo* (1918), directed by José de Togores. Starring Irene Heredia, Mariano Ozores and Ernesto Vilches, the film tells the story of Enrique Villar, a tramp, who goes through much trouble to win the heart of his lady love. The rock band Talahib will accompany this film with a live performance.



El Golfo (1918), directed by José de Togores

On Friday, September 1st, at 7:30 pm, the British Council will present a unique offering. Thanks to the discovery of an alternative print at the Brussels Cinematheque Royale, and advancement in photochemical and digital techniques, the British Film Institute has restored the magnificence of Anthony Asquith's *Underground*, a 1928 silent romance that reveals 1920s London life in the underground tube system. A live musical performance by dub band Goodleaf will accompany the film.



French-Vietnamese harpist Heloïse LaHarpe, beside her is Tom's Story Band

At 9:30 pm, also on September 1st, the Embassy of France in the Philippines will present *L'Inhumaine* or *The New Enchantment* (1923), a story of love and deceit directed by Marcel L'Herbier. The film will be scored by the French-Vietnamese harpist Heloïse LaHarpe, together with Ryan Villamor on piano and synthesizer and Aldous Castro on percussion and handpans.

On Saturday, September 2nd at 3 pm, the Philippine-Italian Association together with the Embassy of Italy will screen the world premiere of an experimental silent film by Filipino-Italian director Ruben Maria Soriquez: *Una Famiglia Perfetta* or *A Perfect Family* (2017). The movie will be live-scored by the instrumental rock trio Tom's Story.



Hijosen no Onna or Dragnet Girl (1933) by Yasujiro Ozu

At 5:30 pm, the Japan Foundation, Manila will feature *Hijosen no Onna* or *Dragnet Girl* (1933) by Yasujiro Ozu. This screening will feature a rare performance by Ichiro Kataoka, a noted *benshi* or silent film narrator/actor/storyteller from Japan, who will provide a live interpretation of the silent film. The screening and narration will be accompanied by *The Celso Espejo Rondalla*, a group which plays Filipino music on traditional native string instruments.

Ending the night will be an 8 pm screening will be the Philippines with Gym Lumbera's 2-person drama *Taglish* (2012), which started as a damaged film entitled *Tagalog*, then *English*, and finally the present title *Taglish*. The film will be accompanied by the stoner-metal quartet Kapitan Kulam. On Sunday, September 3rd at 3 pm, the Embassy of Austria will feature *Café Elektrik* (1927) directed by Gustav Ucicky. *Café Elektrik* was the last film made and released by Sascha-Film, the first major film studio in Vienna. The live score will be played by one of the most established Filipino bands, Rivermaya.

At 5:30 pm, Goethe-Institut Philippinen will screen one of silent cinema's masterworks, *Pandora's Box* (1929), by George Wilhelm Pabst. Based on the controversial plays of Frank Wedekind, the film features the dazzling Louise Brooks in her classic bobbed hairstyle as Lulu. *Pandora's Box* will be accompanied by the band Sandwich, led by local rock icon Raymond Marasigan.



THE GENERAL (1926). Co-directed by Clyde Bruckman and Buster Keaton

Closing the festival at 8:00PM will be the U.S. Embassy's screening of one of the most-revered comedies of the silent era, *The General* (1926). Co-directed by Clyde Bruckman and Buster Keaton, the film also stars the iconic Keaton as an ill-fated railroad engineer. The film will be scored by a band of veteran musicians — exponents of Motown, Stax, Funk, Blues and Soul – the Flippin Soul Stompers.

This year's film's festival experience will have a unique addition, an exhibit at The Atrium of the Shangri-La by partner organization Para sa Sining, from August 31st to September 3rd. This community of creative collaborators will also present contemporary films of the silent film genre by their member-filmmakers. On September 3rd at 2:00 PM, 7:15 PM and 9:30 PM, the group will present *Musika x Pelikula*, during which their films will be scored by live musical performances from young and upcoming Filipino artists.



Filipino Rock Band, Rivermaya

The 11th International Silent Film Festival is made possible in partnership with Shangri-La Plaza, *Para sa Sining*, the National Film Center of The Museum of Modern Art of Tokyo, the Embassies of Italy, Japan, and Spain, Filmoteca de España, Institut Français, JEC Philippines and Marks & Spencer London. All screenings will be open to the public on a first come, first served basis. Watch and listen as we score the silents again!

Admission is free! For more information on the schedule and inquiries, please check out their Facebook Page, [International Silent Film Festival Manila](#)

Images Source: Silent Film Festival



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